

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH TREES

By SUSAN STRAZZERA



Photo by KAREN NANI

City Island's many trees bring beauty and richness to our neighborhood, including the cherry blossom and magnolias along King and Minneford Avenues.

There is no doubt that our summers are getting hotter. Last summer was brutal with temperatures in the 90's day after day.

There is a way, however, that we can help this serious situation right here on City Island, simply by having a tree planted in front of your property.

Trees bring coolness and beauty to our neighborhoods by providing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide from the air. Each tree takes in carbon dioxide, cools and filters the air and then releases up to 60 cubic feet of oxygen into the air every day. If you stand under a tree on a hot day you will find that it is 10 to 20 degrees cooler there.

A home or a business that is shaded by a tree can cut down on air-conditioning

costs, thereby saving money and energy and reducing the amount of fossil fuel used.

A tree can add 10 to 15 percent to the value of your home, so a tree-lined street is a big asset when selling your home. To request a tree, just call 311 and wait for the next tree planting season.

An inspector from the Department of Parks will look at the site, and if it is approved a tree will be planted. People who have trees planted are making a serious contribution to the environment.

Most of all, trees bring beauty and richness to a neighborhood. After a long barren winter, what a joy it is to see all the trees come into leaf, and how glorious they are in autumn when the leaves turn to all shades of red and gold.

safe, punctual, scenic and comfortable, with beverage services and clean bathrooms. For passengers who board in Manhattan, the ride is a spectacular, scenic experience. Children especially love the outdoor seating option. The easy-riding, stable, large catamarans deftly handle the East River currents.

Disadvantages of Ferry Point include the fact that a car is needed to get to the pier, which is in a relatively deserted spot in an isolated neighborhood with few nearby homes and no bus or subway services. The nearest bus, Q44-SBS goes from Devoe Avenue in Queens and to the Bronx, ending a mile away from Ferry Point at the junction of Lafayette Street and the Hutchinson River Parkway Service Road. The two closest Bronx buses, BX42 and BXM9, end well east of the ferry pier in Throggs Neck, and the nearest subway is the number 6 train, which

ends three miles away at Pelham Bay Park. This problem could be ameliorated by commencing a new bus route that would include residential areas and the subway station.

For Bronx residents, the Soundview Ferry terminal has more abundant access. It is in the midst of a large active community, which enables many commuters to simply walk to the ferry; it is also the final stop of two bus lines. But there is no parking lot for those who travel by car.

In spite of all of these pro's and cons, travel by ferry is definitely an option that City Islanders should consider as an alternative to driving in town or taking the bus or subway. Not only will we never get stuck in traffic, but we can also travel safely, coffee in hand, and admire the shoreline of our beautiful city, as we enjoy a great boating adventure through Hell Gate and beyond.



Photos courtesy of TEMPLE BETH-EL

On March 16, 2022, there was a joyous celebration of Purim at Temple Beth-El of City Island. This was the first holiday celebrated back at the temple since the pandemic began. Dancers from the Irish Free School of Irish Dancing choreographed by Caitlin Kelly joined in the celebration (top photo). Purim is the story of Esther, who foiled plans of an evil man named Haman, the king's counselor, who wanted to destroy the Jewish people of Persia. Thanks to Queen Esther, the Jewish people survived. Every year Esther's story (the Megillah) is told, and people celebrate with costumes, games, laughter, dancing, drinks and cookies called hamantaschen. Congregants included Violet Smith, Stu Goldstein, Olga Berde Mahl, Rabbi David Evan Markus and Stuart Sorell (bottom photo), and Rachel and David Stark.

## GETTING THERE BY FERRY

By HERBERT SCHAUMBURG and LUCY BROWN

At a Zoom meeting on Jan. 24 with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the general consensus was that, once Hart Island becomes fully open to the public, the Fordham Street ferry dock and nearby streets on City Island will be inadequate for the inevitable increase in parking. The nearby Ferry Point Park Ferry terminal in Throggs Neck was suggested as the best alternate site for visitors to Hart Island, where several ferries could dock each week at one of the two active ferry slips there.

This proposal led us to explore the advantages of ferry travel, and a recent ride on the NYC Ferry to Manhattan highlighted the many advantages of this method of transportation, not only for future visitors to Hart Island but also for residents of City Island who commute to work or want to visit Manhattan for any reason.

Ferry Point Park is the most recent addition to the public network of ferry

routes in New York City connecting 25 ferry piers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. The many advantages of Ferry Point Park include the fact that there is a parking lot, unlike Soundview, with a small van that is available during commuter hours to carry passengers to and from the ferry ramp. Getting there is easy via a clearly marked exit off the Hutchinson River Parkway.

As a commuter service, the ferries, which have either 150 or 350 seats, run on a half-hour or hour schedule from early morning until after dark and take 57 minutes to reach the last stop at Wall Street. Stops include Soundview, 90th Street, 34th Street, 20th Street (Stuyvesant Cove), and Wall Street. Each stop has nearby crosstown and uptown/downtown bus service. The Wall Street pier is also the termination for the ferries from Queens and Brooklyn (which would provide access to Hart Island from other boroughs). The fare is \$2.75, and the rides are hailed as

## BRIEFLY...

**SPRING FAIR** at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with luncheon served from 11:30 to 1:30. Come and join your friends to welcome spring.

**BLOOD DRIVE** will be held by the Bronx Masons on Tuesday, April 12, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Masks are required at all times while donating, and you will need to show a photo ID before you can donate. The life you save may be your own!

**AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE**, a one-day eight-hour boating and water safety course that meets NYS PWC and boat operating laws will be held by the City Island Sail & Power Squadron on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The course covers boat handling and terminology, navigational rules of the road, sail and motor boating, emergencies and both state boating and personal watercraft certifications for both New York and New Jersey. The course is open to the public over the age of 16. Instruction is free; the cost of supplied materials and food is \$50. Make reservations and submit payment by April 29. To register online, go to [cityislandpowersquadron.org](http://cityislandpowersquadron.org) and select "Take a Boating Course."

**ANNUAL EASTER PLANT SALE** will be held by the Boy Scout Troop 211 from Wednesday, April 13, through Saturday, April 16, in front of Trinity United Methodist Church on City Island Avenue at the corner of Bay Street.

**PASTA FUNDRAISING DINNER** will be held by Boy Scout Troop 211 on Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church at the corner of Bay Street. Suggested donation: \$10. Everyone is invited to enjoy a wonderful dinner served by the Scouts.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SPRING FAIR** will take place on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue. Offered at various booths will be baked goods, jewelry, candles, Pampered Chef goods, chocolates, fitness by Ria and bicycles. Don't miss it!

**THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP** will present Rick Abbot's "Play On!" at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 22; Saturday, April 23; Friday, April 29; and Saturday, April 30, and at 3 p.m. Sundays, April 24 and May 1. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street. For ticket information, go to [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com) or the Facebook page for the City Island Theater Group.

**ARTISTS' CHOICE** will be the next exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, with an opening on April 2. Music from Days of Wild will be playing outside the gallery starting at 1 p.m.

**CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE:** The opening day is Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m., on a refurbished field. Covid precautions will be in place, as player safety is the top priority. For more information, email [cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com).

## 45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – MENACING
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Feb. 22 to March 21, 2022.

2/27 – At 7:50 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a male Islander stated that his dog got loose and ran into the street. The dog was struck by an unknown vehicle which left the scene of the accident.

2/28 – On Carroll Street at 12 p.m., a female Islander told police that she legally parked her vehicle and upon return found damage caused by an unknown vehicle that left the scene.

3/7 – An Island minor was approached and harassed on City Island Avenue at 2:20 p.m. Victim stated that as she was walking home from school, the perpetrator approached her and asked where her mother was. Victim told the police that the perpetrator said, "If you keep talking to my daughter, she will beat you up." Victim attends P.S. 175, and the school will conduct mediation.

3/10 – On City Island Avenue at 5 p.m., a male off-Islander parked his vehicle and upon return found the front license plate missing.

3/12 – A male Islander, 21, was ar-

rested and charged with menacing on City Island Avenue at 8:20 a.m. The victim, a female Islander, told police that she heard loud banging from her upstairs hallway. She checked and observed defendant banging her neighbor's ring camera with a bat. She asked him what he was doing since he didn't live there. Defendant then chased her with the bat, causing her to fear for her safety.

3/13 – A male Islander reported an incident of petit larceny on Centre Street at 2 p.m. The complainant stated that the catalytic converter was removed from his vehicle without permission or authority to do so.

3/13 – At 9 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a female Islander parked her vehicle in a legal parking space. During the night, an unknown person sprayed black paint all over the body of her car and windows in an act of criminal mischief.

3/16 – On Carroll Street at 8:15 p.m., a male Islander was a victim of grand larceny. The complainant told police he parked his vehicle inside the garage and upon returning noticed that his vehicle had been broken into and items taken. Victim states he left his vehicle unlocked.

3/16 – Another incident of grand larceny occurred on Carroll Street at 6 a.m. A male Islander left his e-bike inside the garage. Upon returning, he noticed it was missing, taken by unknown perpetrators.

3/18 – A male Islander reported an incident of petit larceny on City Island Avenue and Fordham Street at 6:45 a.m. Complainant stated he parked his vehicle and went to work. Upon return, he found both his license plates were missing.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in criminal activity on City Island, especially relating to automobiles. Residents are advised to lock the doors of their cars and to remove any valuable items from view.

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# HIGH ISLAND, PEARL OF THE SOUND: PART 1

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

This 18-acre island off the northeast coast of City Island has never received the attention that is paid to Hart Island a few hundred feet away. Even tiny Rat Island seems to get more press coverage. But High Island is at least twice as interesting as either of those two, and for many years it was a far more popular place to visit, although now it is on the other side of a locked gate, no visitors allowed.

Like City Island, to which it is now attached by a steel bridge, High Island was included in the treaty that Thomas Pell signed with the local Native Americans who deeded about 50,000 acres to the British. Historian Blake Bell has reported that High Island was originally called Shark Island, probably because of sand sharks in the surrounding waters, but by the early 19th century it was mapped as High Island, perhaps because it was considerably higher than nearby islands. Like City Island, High Island was part of the town of Pelham, and both of them were annexed by New York City in 1895.

High Island was not considered private property until it was purchased from the town of Pelham in 1829 by Elisha William King. He was a wealthy attorney and New York City alderman who quarried the island in order to construct the foundation for Hawkwood, a beautiful Greek Revival mansion in what is now Pelham Bay Park just northeast of the road leading away from City Island. After his death in 1836, the estate was bought by a southerner named Levin Marshall and became known as the Marshall Mansion, until the house was leased by New York City in 1913 and renamed the Colonial Inn. The building was demolished in the 1930s when Robert Moses redesigned Pelham Bay Park in order to create Orchard Beach.

Although Elisha King's property on the mainland was sold after his death, the King estate held on to High Island. Legend has it that stone was quarried from its east side for local construction, including parts of Fort Schuyler on Throggs Neck and parts of the fort at Willet's Point (later Fort Totten) during the first half of the 19th century. But eventually the little island held a great deal more appeal as a vacation spot than as a quarry, a place to get away from it all.

During the mid-19th century, an eccentric oysterman named Jim Murphy settled on High Island and lived with his family for several years in what he described as an "ancient home." Calling himself the King of High Island, Murphy was interviewed by several New York newspapers decades later, in 1910, when he claimed that the infamous Captain Kidd had buried treasure there in the 17th century. He described how some Native Americans came looking for the gold but reported that he himself was too busy digging clams to start looking for it himself. Although Kidd does seem to have buried treasure in Long Island Sound, there is no evidence that he chose High Island, just as there is no evidence that Murphy ever owned the island. It is more likely that he was either a tenant or a tolerated squatter who made his living digging for the shellfish that were plentiful along the island's beaches.

### A Summer Resort

By the 1860s, High Island had become a summer retreat for New York City residents who walked there from City Island at

low tide or traveled from the mainland by boat. In 1865, the New York Herald advertised a "clam roast and chowder" to take place on Sunday, June 11, enticing visitors to take a ferry from Manhattan to City Island, where "Captain Murphy" will be ready to take them to High Island by boat.

A Beers map of 1872 shows High Island as part of the King Estate but a curious label "Multum in Parvo" also appears there. A Latin phrase meaning "Much in Little," this term referred to a club organized in 1869 by a group of prominent actors and entertainers from New York City who signed a 10-year lease with Elisha King's son Peter for use of the island as a summer clubhouse. Only men were allowed on the island (their wives apparently stayed on City Island), and they enjoyed dinners and a great deal of drinking, often while wearing costumes. According to a sporting magazine of 1872, "The rules of the club, the means of enjoyment, the actions of the members themselves—in fact, everything surrounding the 'encampment'—point unmistakably to the objects in view, to wit, an entire freedom in actions and dress, and an utter disregard of uncomfortable customs and stilted formalities." The club made plans to build a grand clubhouse, but by 1878 the club had dissolved, although its 10-year lease had not yet expired.

The New York Times, which published a long, glowing article about the charms of City Island as the "Pearl of the Sound" on August 25, 1878, reported that Peter King's boyhood associations endeared him to High Island. He had been heard to say that "There is not money enough in New-York to buy it. There is an excellent spring of cold and pure water upon it, and the western half of it might, with some little trouble, be made productive. A man of means could establish here a most enjoyable Summer residence." In the summer of 1882, the "Hotel de Knapp" was operating on the island, probably in the farmhouse. Although the hotel was small and could accommodate only a few guests at a time, Curtis allowed additional guests to erect tents on the island in which they lived, while taking their meals at the hotel, where there was "good food and plenty of it," according to the Mount Vernon Chronicle.

Apparently, however, there was enough money in New York to buy High Island, because in 1882 a businessman from Mount Vernon, David C. Curtis, bought the island, where he and his friends had enjoyed many a summer. As the Chronicle reported on July 14 of that year, "The good people of Mount Vernon have at last secured a watering place of their own. They are to be congratulated not only on having secured such a place, but upon having secured such a delightful one. It is not a thousand miles off, or a hundred, or even fifty, or ten. It is one of the prettiest and coziest islands in Long Island Sound—it is High Island. The scenery anywhere on the Long Island shore is beautiful, but no one can form an idea of how very beautiful it is as viewed from High Island, unless he has been there. After all, a beautiful island and beautiful scenery go for little at a summer resort unless the inner man be well cared for. Salt sea breezes whet the appetite, and no one cares to have his appetite whetted unless he has something wherewith to take



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The house in the picture above stood on High Island for over a hundred years, according to a man who worked on the island as a boy for his relatives who ran a summer camp there until the 1920s. The house may have been built by the estate of Elisha King, who bought the island in 1829. The building served as headquarters for an actors' club called "Multum in Parvo" during the 1870s, as noted in this 1872 map, and as the "Hotel de Knapp" during the 1880s.

off the edge thereof."

Soon after he bought High Island, David Curtis applied for a permit to build a dock on the south side of the island, for which he was prepared to spend \$1,000. No dock exists today but we know that Curtis owned the Island until 1902 and used it as a summer resort for bathing, fishing and boating. It was reported at the time that there was a "surprisingly robust and healthy freshwater spring that was easily accessible via a deep well dug for that purpose." However, when Curtis was approached in 1902 by a syndicate headed by August Belmont Jr., he was persuaded to sell High Island for \$80,000. Belmont's syndicate had already bought a great number of lots on City Island and planned to make it an elegant community like Tuxedo Park. A Mount Vernon newspaper reported that "a handsome club house will be built on High Island for the use of the sojourners at this new resort." However, as the prices City Islanders were

asking became too high, the syndicate gave up and decided to sell the lots it had purchased. After Belmont's death in 1924, most of these properties were sold off at auction, including 112 lots on High Island, which was purchased by Nan Jeffreys, later Nan Miller. She had been a summer visitor to the island and in 1929 built a large Tudor-style house on King Avenue, which still stands.

High Island's history doesn't stop there. In next month's issue, Part 2 will cover the rest of the 20th century—from the island's role in silent movies to its radio towers that are the highest structures in the area today.

The author would like to acknowledge the important contributions to the history of High Island made by Blake Bell, the Pelham historian, whose blog, [historicpelhamblogspot.com](http://historicpelhamblogspot.com), is an invaluable reference for information about City and High Islands while they were part of the town of Pelham.

## SERENE EMPTINESS



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Islanders were relieved to see the water-main relocation construction crews, and all the accompanying equipment, finally depart during March 2022 from City Island Avenue near Catherine Scott Promenade. There are a few remaining chores, such as pavers to be fixed in the promenade, and some seeds and trees will need to be planted in Pelham Bay Park. Con Edison is getting ready to begin its replacement of the gas main from the mainland to City Island, but work won't start until late this year, so we will have a few months of peace—except, of course, for the usual summer traffic!



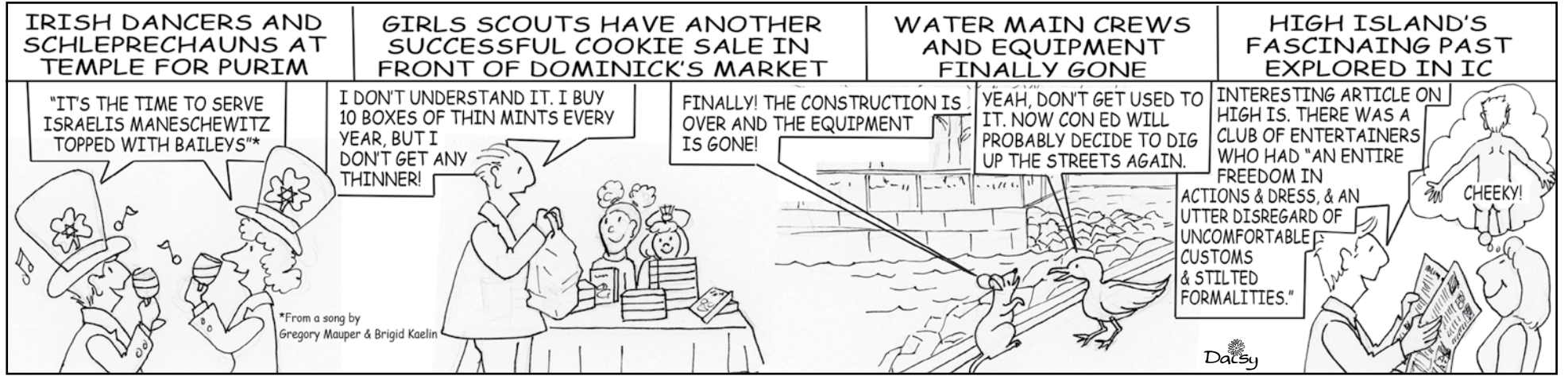
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**Plea to Fund Shore Road Capital Project**

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

To Elected Officials

I am writing regarding Shore Road in the Bronx, specifically the 1.4 mile stretch of road located between the Bartow-Pell Circle and the border with Westchester County. In February 2016 my brother and I made a short film highlighting the dangerous conditions that plague this area. The story was shared by the media and viewed by the de Blasio administration, local politicians and all relevant city agencies.

This ultimately led to a Capital Project Scoping Development (CPSD) Study for Shore Road. The study began in August 2018 and concluded in November 2021. The issues on Shore Road have been chronic and very dangerous for decades. A reconstruction of Shore Road has the full support of Bronx Community Board #10 and the City Island Civic Association.

On 1/12/22 the results of the (CPSD) study were made public at a Community Board #10 meeting. The estimated cost for a future Shore Road Capital Project is \$52-60 million (in 2021 dollars).

Shore Road is a vital connection between the Bronx and Westchester, handling approximately 12,000 vehicles daily along with many pedestrians and cyclists. It is also the only access to the city owned Pelham Bay and Split Rock golf courses and Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum.

There have been many road related accidents on Shore Road in the past six years since we began advocating for reconstruction. On January 16, 2019, off-duty NYPD officer Brian Kessler was killed in a head on collision with a NYC Parks Department garbage truck. The cause of the accident was not made public, but it occurred at a blind curve in the road with a history of accidents.

I am strongly urging that a Shore Road Capital Project be funded in the upcoming NYC budget. I hope you will advocate for the inclusion of full funding for this important project. Along with this letter I am including a copy of the CPSD study. For additional information, I have a Shore Road Facebook page ([facebook.com/shoreroadbronx](https://www.facebook.com/shoreroadbronx)). All media stories, photos, videos and related information going back to February 2016 can be found there. If you have any questions regarding the problems on Shore Road or would like a personal tour, please let me know. Thank you.

**Tommy Breen**

This letter was sent to Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Mayor Adams, Senator Biaggi, Assemblyman Benedetto, Representative Ocasio-Cortez, Council Member Velázquez, Bronx Borough President Gibson, NYC DOT Commissioner

Rodriguez, NYC Parks Commissioner Donoghue, NYC DEP Commissioner Aggarwala.

**Missing Lou**

To the Editor

Lou Toupin, who passed away in March, was a text book teacher. I say this because he always started with the child and then worked his way to his beliefs and the values of this country. He was an historian, and he and Pete McConnell would discuss American history so intensely that you would sometimes wonder if you weren't right there living it as you listened to them.

Lou and his wife, Joan, had no children, but both of them lived their lives with a sharing sensitivity. Many years ago they both helped a local teenager who eventually came to live with them. There is no question but that this saved the young man's life, but neither he nor Joan saw it as anything but doing "what anyone would do."

We started out as young teachers and we grew up together, and life just inspired us. I am tired of reading about how we should "fix" education, all of it written by the pundits who have never been on the field, so to speak. The answer is simple. Find the Lou Toupins of the world, bring them back into the classrooms and listen to them.

He was a wonderful man who served his country and then continued to do so by working with our young people. He more than fulfilled his reason for being.

**Ena Ellwanger**



Photo by VINCENT PAULSEN

**Evelyn Berardo**

**Spirited Grandmother**

To the Editor

I want to add my grandmother, Evelyn Berardo, to the examples of City Island's community spirit (see March 2022 *Island Views*). She has lived on City Island for many years. Some of you reading this may have the pleasure of knowing her, but for those who don't, I would like to tell you why she should be celebrated.

Evelyn was born in Italy and lived in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. She had relatives living on City Island, and she really liked it when she visited, so she and her family moved here in 1968. My grandmother is a very Italian woman, and I was so lucky for the weekly expeditions to Grandma's house, where all too many relatives would gather in her warm, tiny kitchen to have dinner and then play cards or talk over coffee (she is deceptively good at gambling). I think in some ways I still do see the kitchen as a somewhat holy space, a place not just used for cooking, but a place for conversation, safety, love.

My grandmother is one of the most caring, funny and exceptional people I have ever met. She has an unlimited capacity for kindness, despite the hardships of her life. She has been active in the Catholic Church and was a treasurer of the PTA. She helped out with City Island Cub Scouts and the Catholic Youth Organization. Evelyn, I believe, was able to accomplish this because of how wonderful she is. It takes hard work, strength and an unquantifiable amount of love, all of which are attributes

my grandmother possesses, all of which are parts of her I respect and admire.

Evelyn likes that she can go for a walk around City Island and always come across someone she knows. She loves being near the water and the history of the Island. I hope that if you have the privilege to meet my grandmother around City Island, you will be able to recognize how lucky you are to know her.

**Vincent Paulsen**

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Thursday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday - Final Moments

Friday, April 15, 7:30pm  
Good Friday- Not What It Seems

*To Celebrate*

Sunday, April 17  
Sunrise Service Pelham Cemetery, 6 a.m.

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# BOAT SHOW 2022

By GREG CLANCY



Geir Clancy in front of a fully restored 1929 24-foot. Chris Craft.

I have always enjoyed reporting on the New York Boat Show. This column, originally written by my father, Bill Clancy, has been published in *The Current* for nearly 40 years and has become a bit of a tradition. However, the Boat Show might seem a bit trite when compared to the past two years filled with sickness, loss and the general disruption of our lives. With a news cycle now dominated by Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, this feeling has only intensified. But as I toured the floor of the Javits Center this year I could not help but feel good. Last year the Boat Show was cancelled because of Covid, and this year the show was smaller than I had

ever witnessed, filling only about 75 percent of one wing in Javits. But visiting the show still made me feel good! At the end of the day, I asked my kids what their favorite part of the show was and my oldest son, Patrick, said, "Dad, coming back to the show after the last two years of Covid felt like coming home." He was right; it did.

Accompanying me at the show this year were my wife, Admiral Meaghan, and my first-through-fourth mates, the wise sage Patrick (15), Matthew (13), James (11) and Jonathan (7). Also in attendance were my brother Bill and his wife, Kurstal, with their doughty companions, my nephews Geir and Stenn. Kurstal was hospitalized recently after an attack from a feral cat, but she's been much better lately and willing to get out into the world. It was great to have her out of the house and at her first-ever boat show!

After pre-paying a \$70 parking fee (which I will be sending to Appleton, Wisconsin, c/o Editor Emeritus Sally McCheap), we entered the show floor and quickly noticed a few major absences. Aside from the fact that the show was smaller than we ever remembered, there were also no sailboats. Not a one. Not even a 10-foot Hobie or a sailing dinghy. The lack of sailboats has been a trend in recent

years, but there had always been something. Not anymore. Nor were there any flybridge cruisers or down-easters. No Sabreline with a down-easter, no Carver or Beneteau with a flybridge. And no Cutwater with a combination of the two. Anecdotal reports from yards and yacht clubs across the country would suggest that Covid actually helped boating sales. Why? Boating is not just a fun family activity; it can also be enjoyed while keeping a family unit in relative isolation. My opinion on the absence of certain manufacturers is that sales have been good, attendance in traditional convention centers has been lousy, and New York is an expensive pain in the you-know-what. I hope this trend reverses in future years. I also wouldn't mind seeing a few sailboats come back to New York either—not for me, mind you, but rather to stop the yapping of my ragmen friends who prefer a piece of cloth to the rumble of a few hundred horses.

With that said, I will assert that any visit to the New York Boat Show must include two hunts. The first is the hunt for new innovations. The second is a hunt for the Queen of the Show.

In the innovation department, there were some great exhibits. First is the Mercury Verado, a 600hp outboard with a lower unit that rotates 360 degrees, allowing the captain to move the prop around in a full circle without being limited by the engine's ability to rotate. The fully rotating lower unit might be the more impressive engineering feat, but I was mostly blown away by the 600 horses! On an outboard! If only Joe Burck was still selling outboards, I wonder what he would do with a monster like that!

The second outboard innovation was a major upgrade in electric outboards. There have been small electric outboards for many years, but these were typically several horsepower motors for the like of bass boats. Volt Electric Boats is now offering a 180hp all-electric engine that can maintain cruising speed for four hours on a full charge. There were also several all-electric boats including a 22-foot Duffy launch-tender with a cruising speed of four knots. Four knots is a bit limited. So is a four hour "gas" tank, when your charge time is all night, but the progress in this arena has been tremendous, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future brings to the all-electric boating world.

There were also a few nifty gadget-like innovations. One included a fully submersible boom box radio. I'm not sure why one would need to fully submerge their radio, but I'll have to ask Maria Caruso of the City Island Oyster Reef if underwater tunes might help promote oyster growth.

My favorite gadget of the year was a set of "Spurs," a net and line cutting system that mounts permanently to the running gear of a traditional inboard and instantly slices any line or net that might find its way around one's shafts or props. I think I will be buying a set of Spurs, as my own battleship, the *Kitty Clyde*, once had its own run-in with an errant mooring line. I'm only happy to report that I was not at the helm at the time of this incident. I won't say who was, but he's married to someone who really likes cats. Ahem. (Bill).

As for the show Queens, Formula ranks high on the list with its 43-footer. The 430

SSC runs about \$1.4 million and sports four 450hp outboards. I think that's a lot of speed and power for a 43-foot family cruiser, and I don't personally like how the outboards kill the swim platform, but they are the most fuel efficient gas engines and they are cheaper and easier to maintain. Still, four 450-horse engines would consume a lot of gas. I often wonder where the line is at which point a boat owner makes the jump to diesel. Diesels costs twice as much up front, but their fuel costs are only half as much. I would have thought that four 450-horse engines would have crossed the gas-diesel line, but Formula didn't even come close to the most extreme gas engines at the show.

Cruiser Yachts 42-foot GLS comes with twin 520-horse input/output Mercurys. A 520-horse gas engine with outdrives! I wonder what Pat LaScala and Joe Caruso would think of that one. My own mechanic of many years, Shiek Bacchus, would simply tell me, "don't do it, poppy!" Maybe I'm just being too critical of large gas engines. Heck, even one of the Jet Skis, the RXP-X 300, had a 300-hp engine. For you landlubbers out there, that would be like putting the engine of a Dodge Charger on a motorcycle. It's totally ridiculous, but I wouldn't mind giving it a try. Maybe we can get Morris member Amy Breen to buy one for the kids. But like all true yachtsmen I turn my nose up at Jet Skis, so I will say no more.

Back to Cruiser for a moment. The 42 GLS is a beautiful boat despite my critique. It sells fully loaded at just over a million dollars, which isn't bad either (relatively speaking). But its marketing was geared completely toward the untrained landlubber. Some of the standard amenities were listed as an anchor, two bar stools, a wet bar and instrumentation. Hmm, an anchor and instruments. That's good to have with the bar stools. The sales poster giving an overview of the boat didn't include one word on the engines. Most curiously, when I looked underneath the boat at the props, they were filthy, as if she had just spent September in Eastchester Bay. I guess they never thought anyone would be interested in seeing the propellers. My brother Bill could have taken care of that. He always shines our props while I sand and paint the bottom, though I'm not really sure why. The Cruiser did have one nifty innovation, a multi-level swim platform that lowers down into the water. I bet you we'll see that on four other makes next year. With gas prices soaring, I bet you we'll see a Volvo diesel on Cruiser's boats next year too.

The Queen of the Queens was an Everglades "center console" selling for \$1.7 million. If you want to blast out to the canyon at mach 2, and you have \$1.7 million to spare, this is the boat for you.

Last year there was no Boat Show for me to report on. Instead, I reminisced about old Boat Show adventures, my Dad and many of the old characters and tales of City Island's maritime past. I also observed a contrast in generational attitudes toward boating on City Island. To the older generation, which remembers the days when we still built boats here, boating represents people's livelihoods and lives well spent mastering the craft of boat building. To the younger generation (mostly born in the '60s and beyond), boating represents a love of the water, the pursuit of the perfect day, and time well spent with friends and family. No matter which perspective you have, boating and everything related to it still feels like coming home. And so the sentiment voiced by my 15-year-old son underscored a vital mission for me: to help keep alive the traditions of our community, starting with us being a maritime community of boating, boatyards, boat building, sailing, etc. Our traditions, our community and our family and friends are the greatest treasure we have and talking about the nice things we do in life, like visiting the Boat Show, or spending the day sailing on Eastchester Bay, are just as important as the grand perils we face in this world. Happy spring to you all, and I look forward to seeing you out on the high seas!

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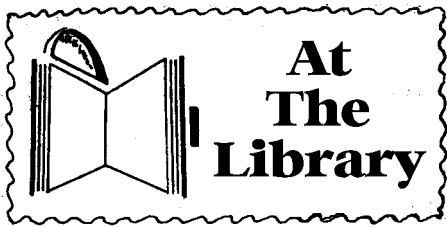
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# At The Library

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Hours: Mondays and Thursdays,  
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Tuesdays and Wednesdays,  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5  
p.m.

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### APRIL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Online registration required. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. April 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29, at 11 a.m.

### APRIL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

**Twisted Stitches:** A teen/tween knitting, crochet and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Thursdays at 3 p.m.

**Monday Meditation:** Start your week with a 30-minute meditation, and leave with guides and resources on resetting your mind. This program is a hybrid, in person and virtual - you must register in order to attend virtually. Monday, April 25, at 3 p.m.

**How Did Homestuck Happen?:** Virtual Discussion. Whether you loved it or hated it, the webcomic Homestuck took

over the Internet in the early 2010s. Join in the conversation about this prolific work, the fandom and how it impacts culture today. Wednesday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m.

**Teen Unwind:** On Fridays, at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us!

- **April 1: Black-Out Poetry**—Use book pages to create poetry, which will remain on display all during April, National Poetry Month!
- **April 15 and 22: Unplug and Relax**—Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles, coloring pages and anything else without a screen.
- **April 29: Intro to Podcasting**—Everyone and their mother has a podcast, but how do you start? Join us for a quick crash course on everything from topic selection to sound editing! Limit of 8, first come, first served.

### APRIL ADULT PROGRAMS

**City Island Book Club:** Every month, a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, April 11 and 25, at 5 p.m.

**Island Writers:** One of the City Island Library's most successful programs returns! This is a group for anyone interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to help one another in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so feel free to join in on the literary fun! Registration recommended. In Memory of Anne Hutchinson. Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**One-on-One Job Support:** Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you write and format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Wednesday April 6, 13 and 20, at 10 a.m. will be virtual. Register at <https://www.nypl.org/adultscareer-employment/virtual/support>.

Wednesday, April 27, at 10 a.m., in person at the library. No registration required.

**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, and each session will also include a presentation of titles related to a particular topic. Thursday April 21, at 5 p.m., in person at the library. On Saturday, April 23, at 3 p.m., this program will be presented virtually with registration required.

**Poem Breakdown—Allen Ginsberg's "Howl":** Join in a discussion of one of

the most controversial and influential poems of the 20th century, 'Howl' by Allen Ginsberg. This work laid the foundation for America's counter culture movement, demonizing American materialism, capitalism and mid-century McCarthyism while promoting the ability and the need to "transcend." This program is virtual; registration is required. Thursday, April 7 and 14, 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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# City Island Yacht Club

## 2022 WINTER-SPRING EVENTS

**Open House**  
Saturdays, 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 cityislandyachtclub.org](http://cityislandyachtclub.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@cityislandyachtclub.org](mailto:BigTomWNS@cityislandyachtclub.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:  
**City Island Junior Sailing**  
[www.cityislandyachtclub.org/JuniorSailing](http://www.cityislandyachtclub.org/JuniorSailing)  
[city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.jr.sailing@gmail.com), (347) 692-0696 (Junior Sailing Office)

**Learn more at the CIYC Open Houses**  
**April 23 and Apr 30 10:30am-3:30pm**



Photo by KAREN NANI

Members of City Island's Girl Scout Troop 1814 enthusiastically sold cookies in front of Dominick's market on March 20, 2022. Shown above (front row, l. to r.) are: Brownies Alexandra Quiles, Alexa Gierum, Hannah Elias and Junior Scout Alexa Taveras. Back row: Scout leader Naomi Rosado, Junior Scout Sophie Boughner and leaders Melissa Rosado-Taveras and Melissa Toribio.



Photo by LAUREN NYE

The City Island Roadies and P.S 175 PTA teamed up to host a 5k run on Sunday, March 20, 2022, which attracted nearly 100 registrants. The event was organized by Jackie Ciarletta, Lauren Nye and Rose Rodstrom. The adult winners were James Breen (1st), Rachel King (2nd), and Megan Mervilde (3rd), and the youth winners were Joshua Antelmi (1st), Kurt Richard Simon (2nd), and Lily Lakatos (3rd). Shown here are (l. to r.): Lily Lakatos, Megan Mervilde, Rachel King, James Breen, Jackie Ciarletta, Rose Rodstrom, Joshua Antelmi and Kurt Richard Simon.

# Talking to Our Children About the War in Ukraine

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

It's been a challenging two years. Pandemics tend to do that to our lives! And now we have a war in Ukraine that adds to our anxiousness and definitely impacts our families. Even when topics like this are not discussed openly in our homes, children have a tendency to pick up on random adult conversations, TV news, newspaper headlines and a general sense of heightened anxiety. Any of the images of children from the conflict would certainly inspire empathy and confusion: how can this be happening now in our world?

Best practices for parents would suggest a conversation to find out just what the kids are thinking. Here are some pointers for that discussion:

• Ask children what they have heard about the invasion, and correct any false information.

• Answer all of the questions your child might have, and use a simple level of detail that is age-appropriate.

• Ask about your children's feelings: are they worried/anxious/scared for their safety/angry? Remind them that feelings are real and acceptable, but they are not the truth since they change over time.

• Share your own feelings in a simple way. Show that the acceptance of feelings is a natural reaction to difficult news in the world.

• Find a way for your family to help out; choose an organization providing relief and get involved.

• Remind your child of the blessings we have and how we can share our blessings to make the world a better place.

Godspeed to one and all. May the spring bring an end to this conflict and a renewed sense of hope.



Photo by PAUL NANI

City Island Boy Scout Troop 211's Patrick Clancy (front row with paint can) is leading a group of scouts to repaint the rectory of Grace Episcopal Church. The 150-year-old two-story home consists of eight rooms, two hallways and a beautiful winding staircase. With the help of many different scouts from Troop 211, local Islanders and even a scout from Troop 1 in Bronxville, the project is coming along nicely. This volunteer painting will greatly benefit Grace Episcopal Church as it prepares to welcome a new Priest-in-Charge who will reside in the Rectory, and it will also help Patrick Clancy achieve his rank of Life Scout.

# CITG RETURNS TO PLAY ON!

By MARY MCINTYRE

No one realized that that the closing scene of "God of Carnage" on March 1, 2020, really was the closing scene. The stage lights went off in Grace Hall and remained off for the next two years.

But the City Island Theater Group is back! The first of six performances of Rick Abbott's "Play On" will open on Friday, April 22, reviving the inaugural production of the newly formed City Island Theater Group in May of 1999. As *The Current* review noted: "Anyone walking by the Grace Episcopal Church during the weekend of April 30 must have stopped in wonder at the sound of chuckles, giggles and downright guffaws coming out of the windows."

"Play On!" is a play within a play, telling the story of a small community theater group

attempting to stage a performance of "Murder Most Foul," in spite of constant interference by the playwright who is constantly changing, adding to and deleting from the script as well as the cast. Act I of "Play On" is a rehearsal of the play; Act II is a disaster of a dress rehearsal, and Act III presents a small part of the actual performance and all that goes wrong.

This new production will be directed by Nick Sala, and the cast includes Carol Dooner, Philip J. Garfinkel, Penelope Golden, Victoria Hernandez, Brian Keir, Phyllis Lindy, James Mohn, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh and Paula Rocheleau Hernandez.

To reserve tickets, go to [cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://cityislandtheatergroup.com) or City Island Theater Group on Facebook.

## St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Holy Week Schedule 2022

**PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY-APRIL 10**  
VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.  
SUNDAY-9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M.  
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

**HOLY THURSDAY-APRIL 14**  
8:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.  
Procession to Repository  
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

**GOOD FRIDAY-APRIL 15**  
8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON  
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-3:00 P.M.

**HOLY SATURDAY-APRIL 16**  
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)  
Consists of Psalms and Readings  
(No 5:15 pm Mass)

**SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M.**  
WILL BE HELD AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH  
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

**EASTER SUNDAY-APRIL 17**  
Masses- 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A. M.



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## Organization News

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

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are now featuring our Spring and Easter Collections. 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, April 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Eight children in our Religious Education Program celebrated their First Penance on Saturday, March 26, here at St. Mary's; may this day be a constant reminder of Our Lord's readiness to forgive. On April 9, 25 of our children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (6 from St. Mary's and 19 from OLA) at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. The Mass's main celebrant will be the newly installed Bishop John Bonnici. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you in all you do.

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the Spring Collection. Come take a look.

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

Sunday, April 10, will begin the holiest week of the church year as we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. We will begin on Palm Sunday with the blessing and distribution of palms at all the Masses. Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have Tenebrae, consisting of psalms, reading and the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah. The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday, we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The solemn commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 3 p.m. The Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. Easter Sunday Masses are at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Happy Easter to all!

**Rosette Dietz**

### 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.

Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service about 11 a.m. Held on the second Sunday of the month; Molly will resume the readings after April.

Holy Week Services will be led by Father Wilfredo Benitez:

Palm Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday procession and Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. Presentation of the Passion of Christ

Maundy Thursday, April 14, Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15, Good Friday Liturgy at 7 p.m.

Easter Day, April 17, Easter Eucharist at 10 a.m.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on April 17, after the 10 a.m. service, for children and teens who attend church on Easter Sunday.

Sunday School: 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 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**

### Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.) and our Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for everyone. The greater focus of the Sunday morning worship (10 a.m.) is on how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, come and see what is happening. Come and see what our God can offer.

**Pastor Dave Jolly**

### Quilters by the Sea QOV

QOV met on March 19, annual National Quilting Day, to make another beautiful Quilt of Valor. This one and the three others we make this year will be awarded to a local Vietnam War veteran. If you are interested in making the quilts or donating, please contact [harlan.sexton1@gmail.com](mailto:harlan.sexton1@gmail.com). We welcome newcomers!

**Harlan Sexton**

### City Island Republicans

Thank you to all who signed our petitions. Our dues are \$20, payable to City Island Republicans.

The New York State convention nominated Lee Zelden for Governor, Alison Esposito for Lieutenant Governor, Paul Rodriguez for Comptroller and Michael Henry for Attorney General. Other candidates are trying to petition their way onto the statewide ballot.

We hope to have a meeting soon. We also need poll workers.

**Fred Ramftl**

### City Island Nautical Museum

Because of the damage caused by a burst water pipe in January, the museum has not yet made plans to reopen this spring. We are waiting for a go-ahead from the insurance company before starting reconstruction, so in the meantime, we are reevaluating our collection, updating the catalogue and preparing to write labels. We are delighted to have the expertise of our new part-time collection advisor, Stephanie Zambrana, along with the volunteers who are helping with the cataloguing, especially Elinor King, our hard-working archivist, and our newest trustee, Emma Zucker.

In the meantime, Natalie Rosario has been engaged to help Lauren Nye put together a series of webinars for the spring, which will help keep everyone engaged with the museum, even though it is online rather than actual. Tom Nye has kept interest alive through the museum's Facebook page, where he posts old photographs that help keep City Island's history alive.

Mary McIntyre and Barbara Harrison are making big plans for the launch of our oral history project, which gets better and better. Stay tuned for details. And Barbara Hoffman is busy working on items for the shop, which suffered severe damage in the flood.

We are exceptionally grateful to our supporters, who have renewed their mem-

berships, become new members, given generous donations, and otherwise helped us to carry on. Now we are asking for volunteers to help board members with various tasks, such as organizing our library, cataloguing items in the collection, moving things in and out of storage vaults and so on. If you feel you can give us a hand (or two hands), please e-mail [barbara@baraburn.com](mailto:barbara@baraburn.com).

**Barbara Dolensek**

### City Island Civic Association

The issue of sunken boats on the shores around City Island was raised at our February meeting, and many questions were asked about how to get assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers as well as political help. NYPD's Harbor Patrol Sgt. Alexis is expected to appear at our meeting on March 29 to talk about plans for the upcoming boating season. The noise from party boats and jet ski safety is a concern every summer. Captain Isaac Soberal, Commanding Officer of 45th Precinct is also expected to attend to discuss traffic and safety.

The Unity and Solutions Committee continues to work with the Food Pantry at the Trinity Methodist Church. Contributions can be left on the porch at 113 Bay Street. These are the suggested items needed at this time: tuna, Spam, sardines, chili, hearty soups, crackers, cereals, Parmalat milk, canned pasta and of course the staples, peanut butter and jelly.

**Save the Date:** ShipShape 22, a City Island spring cleanup day, will take place on Saturday, May 14, starting at 10 a.m. in front of Hawkins Park. Bill Clancy is leading this effort and is inviting other organizations to join the Civic, and the Sanitation Department will be providing tools for this community-wide event. After a day of cleaning, the Civic plans to hold a party in Hawkins Park.

Our next two meetings will be on Tuesday, March 29 and April 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of help. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). 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 or potholes 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. Our Community Police Officer can be reached at [Neil.Anderson@nypd.org](mailto:Neil.Anderson@nypd.org).

We are collecting dues for 2022 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464, or via 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**

### American Legion Post 156

The next meeting is Sunday, April 3, at 12 noon. This will be an in-person and Zoom meeting. Dues (\$55) for 2022 are past due; please drop off the dues at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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 base of the Post's flagpole.

The following are dates and upcoming events:

April 1: April Fool's Day to all!

April 3: Post 156 Regular Meeting at 12 noon. We will be conducting both the "Post-Everlasting" for our members that have gone before us and inducting our "Life Members," who have completed 50 years or more.

April 8: National Commander's Dinner at Antuns, 96-43 Springfield Boulevard in Queens NY 11429. Contact Commander Del-Debbio if you wish to attend.

April 17: Happy Easter.

April 18: IRS/NYS Tax Day.

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**

### Holiday Services

#### Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street  
Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ presented by members of the Church School.

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 15: Good Friday service, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday, Celebration of the Resurrection and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt following the service.

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Saturday, April 2: Spring Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Takeout lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday, Final Moments, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 15: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

#### St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge  
Saturday, April 9, Palm (Passion) Sunday, Vigil Mass 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday, 11 a.m. Blessing of Palms at all Masses.

Thursday, April 14, Holy Thursday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 15, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m.

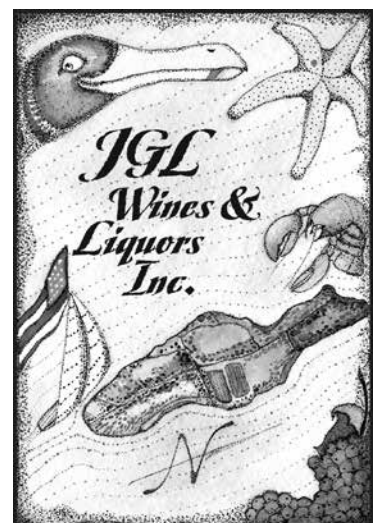
Saturday, April 16, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. to be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Sunday, April 17, Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

### AARP Chapter 318

Our welcome back meeting will be held on April 6 at 1 p.m. in the Trinity Church Hall at 113 Bay Street. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Carroll A. Reid**



358 City Island Avenue  
City Island, NY 10464  
[jgl358@verizon.net](mailto:jgl358@verizon.net)  
718-885-0200





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

Happy spring from the board of the City Island Community Center. We hope all of you reading this are in good health. The Center continues to work for the City Island community. This month several board members will be cooking to support Trinity Methodist Church's annual Spring Sale. This is a small way the Center can support the Trinity congregation and be a good community neighbor.

Speaking of cooking, the City Island Culinary Club is back in action. The Club meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. to prepare new recipes and share cooking tips. The members are always looking for new ideas to create delicious dishes.

The board is also working on a Kids Karaoke night event for April. Children of all ages are welcome to pick their favorite songs and sing along on their own or with their friends. Look out for our event flier with confirmed details coming soon!

Below please find our spring programming schedule:

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

**Culinary Club:** 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.

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

**Melissa Cebollero**

### PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island Center continues to be partially open at this time. A mask must still 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.

#### Special April Events

Starting April 4, a six-week, self-directed walking program. Must register to participate. You need to have e-mail, access to the Internet in order to report your weekly steps.

Thursday, April 7, 1 to 2 p.m.: Why You Need a Healthcare Proxy (also on PSS Life! University).

Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m. A History of Women in Comedy (remote). Register at PSS Life! University).

Wednesday, April 27, 11 a.m.: Cooking with DFTA – Chocolate Chip Banana Bread (remote).

Weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell.

#### 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. Tablet Instruction with Jose (must be registered)

##### Tuesdays

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

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

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

1:15 p.m. Bingo (April 12 and 19)

##### Wednesdays

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

11:30 p.m. Gardening Exchange

##### 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)

##### Fridays

10 a.m. Tech Class

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat (remote)

Transportation: Transportation is available daily. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the March 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.

Happy Easter and Passover. Stay safe and healthy.

**Susan Rosendahl-Masella**

### Sons of the American Legion

The pig's-knuckle party was successful as usual, and everyone had a great time. The St. Patrick's Day party was also wonderful. The Post is coming back to life. Fridays are especially fun, often with a different theme. Saturday is the weekly Queen of Hearts drawing. Stop by!

April 4 is our NCAA Championship party. The Post is also preparing for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Kentucky Derby party.

Our next SAL meeting is Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. Dues (\$30) are past due; make your check payable to SAL Squadron 156 and do it right away.

**Tom Vivolo**

### City Island Oyster Reef

CIOR thanks Cheryl Brinker for displaying "Black Fish," a mixed-media sculpture by Marie Ucci and Tina Cooper, in her studio on City Island Avenue. The sculpture is made from marine debris and plastics collected from the living shoreline next to P.S. 175. Blackfish are common in Long Island Sound and integral to the health and quality of oyster reefs, but many fish species, including Blackfish, are eating plastics in our waterways. The sculpture is symbolic of the threat of pollution and plastics to marine life in the Sound and was featured at the Viva la Sound educational festival last fall.

The 12th annual Beach Clean-Up and Clambake at Orchard Beach—now hosted by CIOR—is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We need beachcombers and divers to clean up the beach and the Sound. All participants are invited to a clambake, and prizes will be handed out for most trash collected. For more information, call Mike Carew at 718-885-1588 or e-mail [mike@captainmikesdiving.com](mailto:mike@captainmikesdiving.com).

Our seasonal shell collection is starting soon! We are looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts), from local restaurants. Although the work does not take long, it is

strenuous but very fulfilling work. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

The Living Shoreline project behind P.S. 175 is moving forward! The initial design and surveying are completed, and the permitting process for a pilot oyster reef and education center is close to being submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). With funding awarded to CIOR from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, we hired Filomena Riganti, a landscape architect and project manager to oversee the project. CIOR is working closely with Karen Heil, a science teacher at P.S. 175, and Julie Porras, the school's principal, to develop hands-on educational programs about the marine environment. Recently, the students were taught about water quality parameters as well as indigenous and invasive plant species.

**Sally Connolly**

### Garden Club of City Island

Members of the Garden Club, like the rest of City Island, were deeply saddened to hear the news that Kathy Gibbons had passed away suddenly on March 14. Kathy, a former president of the club, was head of our Beautification Committee and responsible for many of the club's activities, the most visible one being the care of our 35 planters along City Island Avenue. Her energy, knowledge and passion for gardening will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

The Garden Club of City Island held its March general membership meeting via Zoom. Daryl Beyers, instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, gave a presentation on plant combinations for container gardens. He discussed choosing plants for their color, texture and form. Plants with contrasting features have interest whereas repetition of features is soothing and also encourages the eye to move around the plants. A balance of the two is important. Matching the size of the plants to the size of the container and considering from what perspective the containers will be viewed are also important. We are so pleased to have Daryl create presentations especially for our club. We will not have a presenter at its April and May meetings, since members will be busy working on projects.

We are in the process of removing the winter greenery in the club's containers on the sidewalks along City Island Avenue in preparation for spring. The daffodils, which over-wintered under the greenery, are now starting to come up and will complement the blue and yellow pansies which the Garden Club has ordered. These will be installed the first week of April. Don't worry: the containers will be bare for only a short period of time.

Keep an eye out for emerging bulbs that the Girl Scouts planted last fall at the Post Office Garden and at Belden Point. Thanks go to the businesses and residents near the containers and tree pits who help us by removing trash. And thanks also to everyone who contributed so generously to the beautification fund this year. Our current projects are possible because of those donations. Future donations can be sent to the Garden Club, P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

One of our most important projects is our Annual Luncheon, which we are excited to announce will be held on Thursday, May 19 at the Harlem Yacht Club.

After a two-year hiatus, we are thrilled to be back, and all are invited. We will be raffling off beautiful baskets created by our members and many gift certificates from local businesses. The amount for the luncheon this year is \$65 and is due by May 9. To make reservations, please call Barbara Harrison at 718-885-0868.

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, April 4, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street.

**Judy Judson**

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**Classic Sidney Poitier Films**

On Jan. 6, 2022, iconic actor Sidney Poitier died at the age of 94. Poitier became a movie star at a time when Black actors in Hollywood tended to have roles as servants with very little screen time. However, even at the start of his career he had leading roles, and his films depicted the ignorance of bigotry. His charm and refinement made him popular with white and Black audiences alike, and he played no small part in easing some of the racial tensions in America by giving controversial issues a likeable advocate.

Sidney Poitier arrived in New York from the Bahamas at age 15, homeless and illiterate. He made phenomenal strides because of his determination and persistence, and his efforts were rewarded. In 1964 Poitier was the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor. In 1982 he received the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award, in 1992 the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award, in 1994 a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in 1995 the Kennedy Center Honor, in 1999 the Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2009 the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama.

After a relatively short period as a New York stage actor, Poitier made a promising big-screen debut in 1950 in the film **No Way Out**. He appeared as Dr. Luther Brooks, a doctor struggling against the racism of his patients — including a career criminal named Ray Biddle (Richard Widmark). Poitier demonstrated to audiences what even accomplished Black Americans were facing every day.

In **The Defiant Ones** (1958) when a truck transporting convicts has an accident on the road, inmates John "Joker" Jackson (Tony Curtis) and Noah Cullen (Poitier) escape while being chained to each other. They share a mutual hatred but are forced to cooperate in order to succeed in going north to jump on a train and reach freedom. Meanwhile, the humane Sheriff Max Muller (Theodore Bikel) organizes a posse to track them while trying to maintain civility. Through a series of circumstances, the two convicts find themselves helping each other as their relationship evolves away from hatred to mutual respect and friendship.

**A Raisin in the Sun** (1961) is the story of a poor Black family living in crowded circumstances in an apartment in a city. The family includes Walter Lee Younger (Poitier); his wife, Ruth (Ruby Dee); their son, Asagai (Ivan Dixon), who sleeps on the couch; Walter's mother, Lena (Claudia McNeil), and sister, Beneatha (Diana Sands), who share the second bedroom. Every morning they hustle to get to the bathroom that is shared with their neighbors. Mother and son argue over how they should use a financial windfall, with the matriarch wanting to use her late husband's life insurance policy to buy a house in a white neighborhood. Walter's cynicism brings to light arguments that were being had by Black families everywhere in the '50s and '60s—except on the big screen.

Poitier won his only Oscar for his performance in **Lilies of the Field** (1963). Homer Smith (Poitier) is an exuberant, unemployed construction worker who is heading out West. When his car overheats, he stops at a farm in rural Arizona to get some water. There he is welcomed by a group of Roman Catholic nuns who have emigrated from Germany. Seeing how much work the farm needs, Homer takes on a number of repair projects for the women, who are led by the headstrong Mother Maria (Lilia Skala). Impressed by Homer's kindness and strong work ethic, the nuns come to believe that he has been sent by God to help build them a chapel. There are some delightful scenes, especially when Homer leads the nuns in singing the song "Amen."

**A Patch of Blue** (1965) is the story of the friendship that develops between Gordon Ralfe (Poitier), a thoughtful office worker, and Selina D'Arcey (Elizabeth Hartman), a poor, abused blind teenager. The two meet one day at a local park, and he becomes determined to teach her how to get along in the city. Accidentally blinded by her prostitute mother, Rose-Ann (Shelley Winters), at the age of five, Selina D'Arcey has spent 13 years confined in a tiny

Los Angeles apartment that they share with Selina's grandfather (Wallace Ford). The film is unusually wise in demonstrating how sometimes class matters as much as race in America.

A lesser known Poitier film is **The Slender Thread** (1965) which was Sydney Pollack's directorial debut. Set in a Seattle Crisis Center, Alan Newell (Poitier) is a college student staffing a suicide hotline. One evening, he is called by Mrs. Inga Dyson (Anne Bancroft), who has just taken a bottle of barbiturates. He must keep her talking until her call can be traced so that she can be found before she loses consciousness, when it would be too late to save her. As Alan tries to keep Inga on the line, Detective Judd Ridley (Edward Asner) and psychiatrist Dr. Joe Coburn (Telly Savalas) both become involved in the increasingly tense situation. Through flashbacks, the viewer begins to understand what happened in Inga's life to make her come to this decision. This is a taut psychological thriller with superb acting.

The Best Picture of 1967 was **In the Heat of the Night**, which stars Poitier as brilliant Philadelphia homicide detective Virgil Tibbs. While waiting for a train in a small racist Mississippi town, he is detained and mistakenly suspected of a local murder. After being cleared, he is reluctantly asked by the bigoted police chief Gillespie (Rod Steiger) to investigate the case. Refusing to show any deference to the prejudiced people around him, Tibbs carries himself as a truly free man in ways that audiences back in 1967 found thrilling. He went on to play the character twice more: in the lesser films **They Call Me Mister Tibbs!** (1970) and **The Organization** (1971).

One of Poitier's most famous movies is **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** (1967). When Joanna Drayton (Katharine Houghton), a free-thinking young white woman and Black doctor John Prentice (Sidney Poitier) become engaged, they travel to San Francisco to meet her parents. Matt Drayton (Spencer Tracy) and his wife, Christina (Katharine Hepburn), are wealthy liberals who must confront the latent racism aroused by the coming marriage. Also attending the Draytons' dinner are Prentice's parents (Roy E. Glenn Sr., Beah Richards), who vehemently disapprove of the relationship. While a bit heavy-handed in its messaging, this film offers a groundbreaking interrogation of some ostensibly open-minded white and Black families' conflicted feelings about interracial marriage. Poitier gave one of his most memorable performances, using his charisma and wit to peck away at the underlying prejudices of the older generation.

**To Sir, With Love** (1967) stars Poitier as American Mark Thackeray who recently received an engineering degree but cannot find work. To make ends meet, he takes a job as a teacher in a rough London East End school populated with troublemakers who were rejected from other schools because of their behavior problems. Although the students at first see Thackeray as just another teacher open for ridicule and bullying, his calm demeanor and desire to see them succeed gradually earn him their respect. While it's a bit dated and overly schmaltzy, it remains compelling because of Poitier's outstanding performance.

Poitier made some inexplicable professional choices during the '70s and '80s, when he rarely acted, by directing more than his share of duds. However, in 1992 he appeared in the very entertaining techno-thriller **Sneakers**. Robert Redford plays Martin Bishop, whose cadre of misfits are a formidable and hilarious techno-team. Its members are Poitier as Donald Crease, an ex-CIA agent; Dan Aykroyd as "Mother," who knows the real story behind every conspiracy theory ever conceived; David Strathairn as Whistler, a blind computer expert; and River Phoenix as Carl, his helper. This fine cast also includes Mary McDonnell as Martin's estranged wife, Liz, and Ben Kingsley as Cosmo the protagonist. The plot device that moves along all the action is the existence of an apparatus that can break every computer code ever devised, and, naturally, everyone wants it. The film represents one of the last sparks of '60s idealism in an increasingly synthetic age.

One of Poitier's last screen performances was in the 1999 TV movie **The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn**, in which he plays an intensely private, self-sufficient, elderly Georgia gentleman whose mental competency is questioned when he refuses to sell his land. Noah Dearborn is the kind of character Poitier played throughout his career—skilled, stubborn and deeply decent—but it says something about how the culture changed during his lifetime that his race is no longer the defining element in this story. That's a direct consequence of how Poitier spent his career defying stereotypes and fighting to bring multi-layered Black individuals to the

screen.

There are probably some generations of viewers who have never heard of him, but Sidney Poitier was a special kind of performer with

confidence, charisma and self-respect. For those familiar with his films, they are definitely worth a second look.

An until next time, happy viewing...

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

E-Mail Scam Alert!

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for several different types of scams these days:

- Rapid refund offers and fraudulent fee-based refund accelerators, thanks to the IRS backlog.
• Fake tax software deals—robocalls and text messages offering low-cost or no-cost "maximum refund" software...
• Extension for a fee—scammers offer to file automatic extensions for taxpayers,

even promising 100 percent acceptance and no penalties or interest.

• Windfall scams—investment opportunities to multiply your refund. In 2022, these can be linked to cryptocurrency scams that pose as legitimate decentralized finance exchanges.

• Intimidation—you owe money and must pay now or be penalized or get offered a discount with a credit card or gift card. This is harder to trace.

Not all robocalls or texts are a direct financial fraud. They may not ask you for any payment information, because they are in the process of collecting and confirming personal information—Social Security numbers, direct deposit information, etc.—for future identity theft.

The targets for these scams are tax-naive, including people for whom English is a second language, as well as immigrant communities less familiar with U.S. tax law. Fixed-income individuals and young adults

new to employment and the tax system are also at risk of being scammed, as are small businesses that lack accounting systems.

Taxpayers should understand that the IRS will never call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes money.

If you receive any of these kinds of unsolicited communications, you should hang up the phone immediately. You may

also report the call to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration using the IRS impersonation scam reporting form or by calling 800-366-4484. Or report the number to phishing@irs.gov and be sure to put "IRS Phone Scam" in the subject line.

Special Alert: Ukraine Scams

Be aware that threat actors are using the war in the Ukraine to scam people out of money. We have seen increased levels of malicious e-mails targeting users to make donations (especially using Bitcoin) or to purchase t-shirts (and other items) with pro-Ukrainian messaging.

It is very important that you stay vigilant, for the first line of defense is always preparedness. Once we understand the threats, we can safeguard against them. In addition, Caller ID and spam-blocking apps can be an added layer of security—they're free, they're updated dynamically to address the scale and agility of the fraudsters, and they can protect consumers from ever being exposed to clever criminals.

Complexion Science advertisement for City Island. Includes text: 'Unmask your beauty! COMPLEXIONS of City Island', contact info (718-885-0188), and services like facials, peels, botox, lash lifts, massage, reiki.

Tow Boat U.S. City Island advertisement. Includes contact info for Capt. Dan (718-885-3420) and address (P.O. Box 58, City Island, N.Y. 10464).

Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week Schedule. Includes dates for Palm Sunday (April 10th), Maundy Thursday (April 14th), Good Friday (April 15th), and Easter Sunday (April 17th). Includes image of Jesus and text 'He is Risen!'.

Large advertisement for Cormac McEnery, Esq. and Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq. Includes contact info (718) 885-1234, address (562 City Island Avenue), email (cormac@cormacmcenery.com), website (www.cormacmcenerylaw.com), and NAELA membership logo.

# 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.



### Louis J. Toupin

Louis J. Toupin of Dumont, NJ, died peacefully on March 8, 2022. He was 94.

Louis was born in Buffalo, NY, to Grace (McWilliams) and John Louis Toupin. He had one sibling, his sister, Margaret Freese. He was a proud Navy veteran of World War II.

After the war, he became a teacher and taught for many years at P.S. 17 and P.S. 175 on City Island. He taught mathematics and science and was remembered by his students as a man of great character and kindness. Several students quoted the "Teacher's Prayer" in describing him: "I want to teach my students how to live this life on earth, To face its struggles and its strife and improve their worth. . ."

Louis was predeceased by his parents and his wife, Joan Toupin. He is survived by his niece, Lynn O'Brien, and grand-niece, Margaret Struhar.

dresses to costumes for the City Island Theater Group—and was hanging a set of curtains in a friend's New York City apartment when she met her future husband, George Gibbons. They were married on June 18, 1977.

Kathy was a force, able to get things done through sheer will and a sharply written to-do list. She was an avid gardener, contributing her talents and hard work to the Garden Club of City Island, and an intrepid traveler, always looking forward to her next foreign adventure or trip to Vermont or Nantucket. She cooked with curiosity and abandon, never afraid to experiment and never achieving less than restaurant-quality results. Kathy also served as a dutiful, if reluctant, crew member of George's boat, *Persephone*. Above all, she was a loving grandmother who lived to spend time with her four grandchildren.

Kathy is survived by George, her husband of nearly 45 years; her brothers, Mark and Bill Milam, of Bath, ME; her son, Bo; her daughter, Caitlyn, and four grandchildren.



Photo by RON TERNER

### Edmund Norris "Red" Brennen

Edmund Norris Brennen, better known as Red, passed away at the age of 83 on March 14, 2022, at his home in Jupiter, FL, where he had lived for 35 years.

Red Brennen was born in New Rochelle to Beverly Reynolds and Edmund Brennen on May 17, 1938, and grew up on Sutton Manor, Davenport, in New Rochelle. He spent time in Clearwater, Florida, as a teen before returning north to live on City Island. He married Ulla Dalsgaard from Copenhagen, and they raised their children on City Island.

He owned and operated a marine towing and salvage business, Eastchester Towing Company, and worked as a captain for over 35 years. He was well known on City Island as the owner of Rat Island, which he sold in 2011, and of the building on the east side of City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Carroll Streets.

Red Brennen is survived by his daughters, Marcy Brennen, Brenda Prohaska and Amanda Libretto, and his grandchildren, Mitchell Santiago, Tracen Moran, and Dusty, Travis and Russell Prohaska.

A memorial gathering will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, on the *Riptide* on City Island.



### Kathryn Gibbons

Kathryn Milam Gibbons, a longtime resident of City Island, died suddenly while walking her beloved dog, Nico, on March 14, 2022. She was 68 years old.

Kathy was born in Evanston, IL, on March 4, 1954, to Virginia and Bill Milam. Raised in Califon, NJ, she earned a degree in fashion design from the University of Cincinnati. She applied her creative skills throughout her life—sewing everything from Halloween costumes to wedding

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*Wishing everyone Love, Happiness and most of all Good Health for 2022*

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City 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

**APRIL 2022**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET		
1	Fri	0029	8.23	0657	-0.84	1254	7.91	1913	-0.42	Fri 1
2	Sat	0107	8.18	0738	-0.74	1333	7.67	1948	-0.15	Sat 2
3	Sun	0142	8.02	0817	-0.47	1410	7.37	2015	0.19	Sun 3
4	Mon	0213	7.78	0851	-0.09	1445	7.05	2032	0.54	Mon 4
5	Tue	0241	7.53	0920	0.34	1518	6.76	2055	0.86	Tue 5
6	Wed	0312	7.27	0945	0.75	1554	6.50	2132	1.20	Wed 6
7	Thu	0350	7.02	1020	1.12	1640	6.31	2217	1.53	Thu 7
8	Fri	0436	6.80	1108	1.42	1743	6.22	2310	1.80	Fri 8
9	Sat	0531	6.64	1212	1.60	1907	6.29			Sat 9
10	Sun	0011	1.92	0641	6.60	1337	1.59	2009	6.51	Sun 10
11	Mon	0126	1.83	0807	6.73	1438	1.38	2057	6.81	Mon 11
12	Tue	0244	1.49	0902	6.96	1524	1.06	2134	7.16	Tue 12
13	Wed	0339	1.00	0942	7.22	1602	0.69	2203	7.54	Wed 13
14	Thu	0424	0.45	1019	7.47	1638	0.31	2234	7.93	Thu 14
15	Fri	0506	-0.07	1057	7.68	1714	-0.03	2310	8.30	Fri 15
16	Sat	0547	-0.50	1137	7.81	1752	-0.26	2350	8.58	Sat 16
17	Sun	0630	-0.77	1220	7.84	1833	-0.35			Sun 17
18	Mon	0032	8.72	0715	-0.85	1305	7.75	1917	-0.27	Mon 18
19	Tue	0117	8.69	0803	-0.72	1354	7.53	2004	-0.01	Tue 19
20	Wed	0206	8.47	0857	-0.40	1447	7.22	2056	0.38	Wed 20
21	Thu	0300	8.10	1003	0.02	1549	6.89	2158	0.84	Thu 21
22	Fri	0401	7.63	1128	0.38	1713	6.66	2332	1.20	Fri 22
23	Sat	0525	7.22	1249	0.51	1852	6.75			Sat 23
24	Sun	0111	1.15	0716	7.16	1358	0.44	2002	7.08	Sun 24
25	Mon	0224	0.79	0829	7.34	1458	0.24	2101	7.49	Mon 25
26	Tue	0325	0.32	0928	7.57	1552	0.03	2153	7.87	Tue 26
27	Wed	0419	-0.14	1020	7.74	1641	-0.13	2241	8.14	Wed 27
28	Thu	0508	-0.49	1108	7.80	1726	-0.18	2324	8.27	Thu 28
29	Fri	0554	-0.67	1152	7.74	1808	-0.11			Fri 29
30	Sat	0005	8.27	0636	-0.67	1233	7.60	1845	0.07	Sat 30
<b>MAY 2022</b>										
1	Sun	0041	8.15	0716	-0.50	1311	7.39	1916	0.33	Sun 1
2	Mon	0114	7.97	0752	-0.21	1346	7.17	1936	0.61	Mon 2
3	Tue	0139	7.76	0822	0.14	1417	6.96	1950	0.85	Tue 3
4	Wed	0202	7.58	0841	0.48	1413	6.80	2020	1.07	Wed 4
5	Thu	0232	7.42	0903	0.77	1514	6.69	2059	1.31	Thu 5
6	Fri	0309	7.26	0939	1.02	1553	6.63	2145	1.53	Fri 6



**ANOTHER SPRING MIGRATION**

With the spring migration officially upon us, we thought we'd remind readers what to expect in the coming days and weeks. First the birds. By now, you may have noticed the increased activity among the most local of our feathered friends, an increase driven by the age-old need to breed. For example, the whinny of the robin is all of a sudden everywhere around us, or so it seems. So too the bright red of the cardinal, as males jockey for position, establishing mating rights. And then there is of course the ubiquitous house sparrow, whose noisy breeding habits sound a lot like a criminal offense.

A little farther away from the island, you may have noticed bald eagles and osprey. It's about that time of the year when eagles move out as osprey move in, which is quite convenient considering that some of these resident raptors appear to be sharing the same nests. Another early, easy to identify migrant is the red-winged blackbird. Look for these males first in the Turtle Cove marshy areas as they ready themselves and their territories for soon-to-be-returning females.

But it is the song birds that most birders think about first when it comes to spring migration. Some of the first to arrive are the golden and ruby crowned kinglets. These tiniest of songbirds, especially the ruby-crowned, exhibit the same frenetic behavior as the insects they hunt for food. Palm and pine warblers are two other early migrants to be on the lookout for. Palm warblers are the easier of the two to spot, as they are more likely to be observed on or near the ground, bobbing their yellowish tails. Pine warblers, as their name would suggest, are much more likely to be observed in pine trees.

As the birds move in and out of our area, it is easy to overlook the less conspicuous seals who are also on the move. Our spring is their time to migrate north. If you missed the opportunity to see some this winter, be sure to make a note of the seal walks that park rangers lead in our own Pelham Bay Park. Long Island Sound probably has more harbor seals than any other part of the city in winter, so there is a good chance of catching a glimpse next winter.

We caught a glimpse of what was probably a gray seal (like the one in the picture below) in Eastchester Bay in the middle of March.



Photo by MIRIAM WASSER

**Gray Seal**

Gray seals are much larger and less common than harbor seals in Long Island Sound. They are the horseheads of the seal family because of their elongated snouts, especially the males. It was the splashing that first alerted us to the seal's presence in the Bay. Then the size. We have seen harbor seals up close, and this one, even from a distance, was noticeably larger. It stayed in one place for about 20 minutes, perhaps digesting a meal, and then he was gone. Back to Cape Cod, maybe, where there is a year-round population.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Muscari and tulip shoots

### Finally It's Spring

Finally a miracle, spring is here. Out of the frozen soil come sheets of bluebells, daffodils fresh with buds, snowdrop pendants that a late frost will not damage. The sight of a hepatica flower twinkling on its wiry stem can leave the poet silent.

The world's time has been in slow gear. Blistering politics, war and a pandemic have left us all without season, but now once again we may breathe the earth's art, and rejoice, at least for a little while. So we compost our plots and mulch the garden in much the same way as we tend our souls. After a wintry blast, beyond all hope of recovery, life returns.

April and May are the busiest months. The gardener's work spreads out before him like the crowns of plants pushing through the earth or the buzz of the bee first out to inspect a newly open blossom. It's a prayer really, a meditation. When one is fully engaged in the garden, it is impossible to feel anxious or lonely.

It's time to feed and nourish the gar-

den. Holly-Tone should be spread, a cup full for each evergreen (rhododendrons and azaleas included) and watered in. For perennials and trees, use Plant-Tone. I find tomato food is excellent for flowering plants; feed them as they begin to bud. The sizes of the blossoms are bigger and better with tomato food. If leaves are on the yellow side, your soil may need a top dressing of blood meal which is pure nitrogen.

For a fresh-looking garden, sow flats of zinnia, sunflower and cosmos, which you can plant up after all danger of frost has passed. When there are children about, it is good to have them rake the soil and plant the seeds straight into the ground themselves. Love yellow or blue? Create a color-themed garden and punctuate it with its complementary color. Plant evergreens when in doubt (you will thank yourself come winter) and plant flowers in groups of threes and fives. I like to plant the sixth way over to the side, as in an isosceles triangle. This simple formation mimics nature's way. Yew and box await a trim, and the roses will be wanting copious amounts of water. Feed them Rose-Tone and a bucket filled with water, diluted Epsom salt, and, oh yes, weed. Pansies are nice in the cool weather as are violas, the diminutive pansy. Some yellow ones would look especially nice under a yellow witch hazel or a few violet ones scattered beneath a magnolia.

There is so much to take in and to do. Everything is shooting up green and in a rush. From a bird's-eye view, the picture of busy gardeners worldwide brings hope to my mind. A hope and a prayer for a healthier earth and peace above all else.

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

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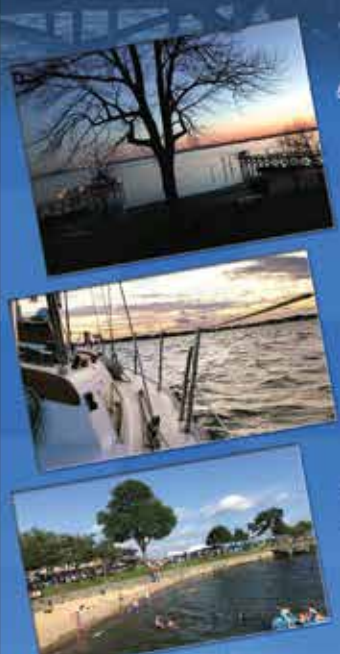
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Madeline Noelle Murphy

Welcome Madeline Noelle Murphy, who arrived a bit early on Christmas Eve. Her parents, Caroline and Matthew Murphy, are over the moon! Also elated are Madeline's grandparents Leanna and Dave Pristash and Regina and Dennis Murphy. Welcome, little one!

May God bless our son Thomas Rior-dan on his April 9 confirmation. Also, happy birthday wishes as you turn 14 on April 22. You are such a good young man. Love always, Mom, Dad, Grace and Emma.

Two more Rodstrom babies are turning one soon, to join their cousin James Philip Rodstrom: Benjamin Rodstrom, son of Lisa Ng and Matthew Rodstrom, will be one on March 30, and Henry Rodstrom Allen, son of Chelsea and Matt Allen, will have his first birthday cake on April 23.

Happy April 14 birthday wishes to clam digger Carol Gauss McKenna, who will celebrate the big day with her family in Pennsylvania. Also, cross-country birthday wishes to another clam digger,



Photo by LISA NG RODSTROM  
Benjamin Rodstrom



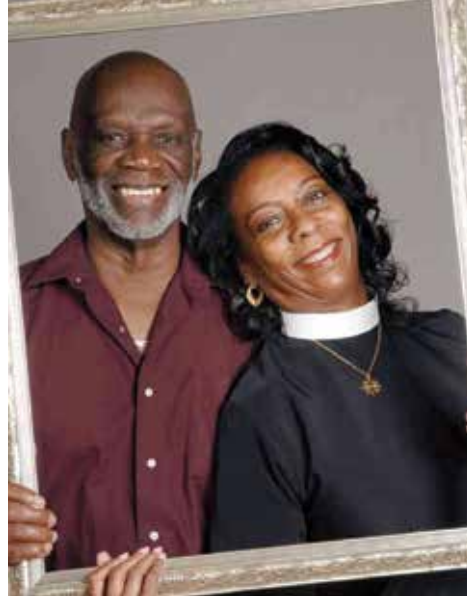
Photo by CHELSEA RODSTROM  
Henry Rodstrom Allen

Eric Rauhauser, on April 2. They both have many candles to blow out but they are up to the task!

Happy birthday to Leah Nani on April 30. Leah will be on City Island to celebrate with the rest of the Nani clan, including her husband, Roger, and son, Luke.

Congratulations to the Sailmaker's Dr. Enrique Davis, who retired in February. Dr. Davis practiced medicine for 54 years, serving low-income communities in the Bronx. We wish him well as he moves to South Carolina with his wife, Ella Roundtree, to begin a new adventure. Here's to a job well done!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, who will



Dr. Enrique Davis, shown with his wife, Ella Roundtree, retired from his practice in February.

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celebrate her big day on April 23. And also to her sister-in-law, Maria Swieciki, who will celebrate her birthday on April 25.

Happy birthday on April 22 to Anne McIntyre, with love from the Butterworths.

Birthday greetings from your family to David Butterworth who celebrates this month.

Happy Anniversary to Elizabeth and Ken Farnum on April 20 and special birthday wishes to Elizabeth on April 22. With much love from Mom and Deb.

Maria Swieciki

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