

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

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

Volume 46 Number 6

July-August 2017

One Dollar



Photo by LIFETOUCH

Members of the graduating class of Public School 175: bottom row (l. to r.) graduates Robert Samboy, Leslie Vazquez, Jasmine Mariette, Angelyn Almedina, Marisol Santiago, Angelina Sciara, Maria Leni, Jaydalin Torres, Lianne Taclibon, Aiden Sanchez. Second row: faculty Karen Heil; graduates Alexa Forliano, Joseph Goonan, Taylor Henry, Yu Xin Chen, Carlo Fragola, Sklyer Clifford, Ivonne Clara, Miracle DiMartini, Louis Almodovar, Crystal Mariette; faculty Guiliana Adesso, Morgan Daley. Third row: Frank Rizzo, Cole Wiehler, Isabel Whelan, Ava Ferro, Jenna Feliciano, Kaltrina Rugova, Praisia Ortiz, Emily Cordova, Sebastian Rodriguez, Arjun Maystry. Top row: faculty Jaclyn Shea; graduates Cameron Chertoff, Samuel Rosa, Ginutis Sipas, Oludotun Shodeinde, Omar Abdou, John Bernardo, Joshua Rosario, Daameon Kong, Carmine Testa, Frankie Lubelli, Francis Padagas; faculty Michelle Hinkley.

## PROUD GRADUATES SPREAD THEIR WINGS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

A beaming P.S. 175 principal Amy Lipson announced awards for the 2017 eighth-grade graduating class. "We are so proud of the Class of 2017! They have cared about and supported each other through all their years at 175, which was most evident at our Awards Night Dinner when they all enthusiastically applauded each other for their accomplishments."

At the Awards Dinner on June 14, the following presentations were made. The New York State Senator Jeff Klein Civic Award for Student Leadership was given to Kaltrina Rugova and Frankie Lubelli; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Award for Academic Achievement went to Francis Padagas; the City Council Citation for Achievement was presented to Jenna Feliciano and Oludotun Shodeinde, and Maria Leni was the recipient of the City Council Speakers Achievement Award for Academic Excellence.

The NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement went to Arjun Maystry; the City of NY-Commission on Women's Issues Junior High Leadership Award was given to Isabel Whelan; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was presented to Aiden Sanchez and the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort went to Robert Samboy.

The NYC Public Advocate Award for Academic Achievement was given to Angelyn Almedina and Cole Wiehler; the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement was presented to John Bernardo and

Joseph Goonan; the Alice Persteins Award for Community Involvement went to Jaydalin Torres; Miracle DiMartini received the Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* and Yu Xin Chen was given the P.S. 175 Young Scholar's Award for Fairness and Involvement.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: English Language Arts, Maria Leni and Joshua Rosario; Mathematics, Angelyn Almedina and Cole Wiehler; Regents Math, Isabel Whelan; Regents Math Certificates, John Bernardo, Yu Xin Chen, Maria Leni, Frankie Lubelli, Arjun Maystry, Kaltrina Rugova, Oludotun Shodeinde, Jaydalin Torres and Isabel Whelan; Science, Yu Xin Chen; Regents Science, John Bernardo and Maria Leni; Regents Science Certificates, Angelyn Almedina, John Bernardo, Jenna Feliciano, Maria Leni, Frankie Lubelli, Arjun Maystry, Kaltrina Rugova, Oludotun Shodeinde, Jaydalin Torres and Isabel Whelan; Social Studies, Joseph Goonan and Jasmine Mariette; Computers and Technology, Francis Padagas and Miracle DiMartini. The Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award went to Emily Cordova.

The UFT also presented awards in music and art. Music, Arjun Maystry; Vocal Music, Miracle DiMartini, Praisia Ortiz, Sebastian Rodriguez, Joshua Rosario, Aiden Sanchez and Marisol Santiago; Instrumental Music, Angelyn Almedina,

Continued on page 3

## SAILING INTO SUMMER



Photos by JANE PROTZMAN and KAREN NANI

Clergy, color guard and sailors alike look forward to the annual Blessing of the Fleet, which took place this year on Sunday, June 25, off Fenton's Dock. The City Island fleet consists of boats of all sizes, including cabin cruisers, sailboats, kayaks and dinghies, all of which received an individual blessing for fair winds and smooth sailing in 2017. Members of the City Island Power Squadron, assisted by the American Legion color guard, hosted the event (inset, l. to r.): Commander Troy Sill, Past Commanders Ed Shimansky and Jerry Simotas. Clergy and representatives from all City Island's houses of worship led the blessings (top photo, l. to r.): George Cavalieri (Trinity Methodist), Fr. John Covington (Grace Church), Deacon Bill Muller (St. Mary's, Star of the Sea Church) and Steve Gottlieb (Temple Beth-El).

# BRIEFLY...

**BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE** will take place on July 11 from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Refreshments, including pizza, will be provided. Please come and give the gift of life. Pizza will be served at the blood drive.

**THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING LAWN PARTY** will be held at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club on Saturday, July 22, at 2 p.m. For more information, please check Facebook.com/gilderscholarship or e-mail Jack.Jokinen@gmail.com. So far in 2017, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in the memory of Islander John Gilder, has awarded a scholarship at Fordham University and an annual scholarship to a student at Greenwich High School. The fund also sponsored a City Island Little League team for the seventh year and will be sponsoring the summer travel team. The price for admission will be \$60, which includes food, beer, wine, water, desserts, and raffles from 2 to 6 p.m.

## 45 BLOTTER

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

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
- 1 – DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from to May 24 to June 20, 2017.

6/1 – Police arrested Islander Frankie Beqiraj on Pilot Street at 7:15 a.m. during the service of a federal arrest warrant (see story on page 3).

6/2 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 59, and charged him with DWI at 7:37 a.m. The defendant was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Fordham Street and City Island Avenue. There were no injuries.

6/2 – Police are investigating the theft of a vehicle on Pilot Street at 2 p.m. An Island male parked his car and found it missing upon return.

6/4 – On Bay Street at 1 a.m., an Island male was driving his vehicle when it was struck by an unknown person. The driver of

the vehicle fled the scene of the accident.

6/5 – An Island female reported an incident of harassment at 2 p.m. on Fordham Street and City Island Avenue. While she was driving in a vehicle, an unknown male driver cut her off, screamed at her and threw a metal object at her.

6/9 – An Island male, 35, was arrested for driving a vehicle without a license on Carroll Street at 11 p.m. The defendant was initially stopped by police for loud music from the vehicle.

6/14 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 45, and charged him with assault of an off-Island male, 36. The incident occurred on June 12 at 7 p.m. at a commercial establishment on Bridge Street.

6/16 – Two incidents of criminal mischief occurred on Pilot Street around 11 p.m. Unknown person(s) broke the windows of two parked vehicles owned by Island females.

6/18 – A female Islander was sitting in her car on City Island Avenue at Fordham Street when it was struck by an unknown person driving a Chevy Suburban at 3:50 p.m. The driver of the Chevy fled the scene of the accident. There were no injuries.

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CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Stephanie Ribaud, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika and tribute to Russell Schaller Sr., originator of *The Island Current* cartoon.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571  
Printed by JB Offset Printing Corp., 475 Walnut Street, Norwood, NJ 07648  
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0760. Copyright 2017 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.



With the increased summer traffic on City Island, accidents and reckless driving are also on the rise, like this incident on June 2, 2017, when one driver appeared to miss the turn onto the temporary bridge and slammed into the barricade. Oops!

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# Drug Dealer Charged With Heroin Overdose Deaths

Island resident Frankie Beqiraj was arrested on Pilot Street and charged with conspiracy to distribute heroin, cocaine and oxycodone. The indictment, issued by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York on June 1, 2017, alleges that heroin distributed by Mr. Beqiraj and his co-conspirators resulted in the 2016 deaths of Islander Robert Vivolo, 25, and New Rochelle resident, Leonides Madrid.

Acting U.S. Attorney Joon Kim stated, "Frankie Beqiraj worked with others to sell a whole range of drugs...two young people are dead, victims of Beqiraj's alleged heroin dealing and of the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the country."

The arrest was made possible by the cooperation between the New York City Police Department, the New Rochelle Police Department and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. NYPD Commissioner, James O'Neill, praised the joint effort: "The defendant in this case faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum of life behind bars, after investigators linked the heroin that he distributed to two overdose deaths, one in the Bronx and one in New Rochelle."

Mr. Beqiraj had previously been arrested in May 2009 following a dramatic police chase on City Island. During that incident, police officers, one in plain clothes, noticed a man giving money to Mr. Beqiraj in exchange for a small object. Suspecting a drug deal, the officers approached him and saw what appeared to be a gun in his waistband.

The suspect started to run away, and the police officers followed him as he raced into a nearby driveway on Bay Street and disappeared. The officers canvassed the area, and when a bystander told them that a neighbor on Fordham Street had seen Mr. Beqiraj climb over his backyard fence and

enter a shed on his property, they went to the site and found the suspect hiding inside the shed.

In an effort to resist arrest, according to the police report, the suspect hit Police Officer Carlos Martinez of the 45th Precinct several times with a closed fist and continued to struggle until he was finally subdued and placed in handcuffs.

Mr. Beqiraj was charged with assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, obstructing governmental administration, trespass, criminal trespass and harassment. According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, Mr. Beqiraj pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and was sentenced on Nov. 8, 2010 to 90 days in jail.

Another arrest followed the tragic death of Mr. Vivolo. On Feb. 3, 2017, Fabrice Diaz, 24, of City Island was charged with narcotics dealing that resulted in the overdose death of Mr. Vivolo, 25, also of City Island.

The complaint, issued by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, alleged that Mr. Diaz participated in a conspiracy to distribute heroin and that the heroin he distributed resulted in the death of Mr. Vivolo on Oct. 21, 2016.

Preet Bharara, the U.S. Attorney at the time, stated: "Once again, we are confronted with the lethal effects of the opioid abuse epidemic. As alleged, Fabrice Diaz sold the heroin that sadly killed Robert Vivolo."

Referring to the recent arrest of Mr. Beqiraj, Commissioner O'Neill thanked the NYPD and the New Rochelle PD for their work on these cases. "It is the latest example of our commitment to holding drug dealers criminally responsible."

According to a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney, Mr. Beqiraj has been remanded and remains in jail. His pretrial court appearance is scheduled for July 19, 2017.

## Graduation

*Continued from page 1*

Jenna Feliciano and Jaydalin Torres; Musical Conducting, Emily Cordova and Kaltrina Rugova; Choreography, Daameon Kong; Musical Technical Assistant, Frankie Lubelli; Art, Ivonne Clara and Skyler Clifford.

Physical Education Awards went to Joshua Rosario and Isabel Whelan.

The Christine Jorgensen Hansen Award for Community Service was given to Maria Leni; the Alice Connolly Award for Service went to Skyler Clifford; the AARP #318 School Service Award was presented to Kaltrina Rugova.

Students on the honor roll were: (Gold) Angelyn Almedina, John Bernardo, Yu Xin Chen, Jenna Feliciano, Maria Leni, Arjun Maystry, Kaltrina Rugova, Isabel Whelan, Cole Wiehler; (Silver) Joseph Goonan, Frankie Lubelli, Francis Padagas, Joshua Rosario, Robert Samboy, Aiden Sanchez, Oludotun Shodeinde and Jaydalin Torres.

The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to Louis Almodovar, John Bernardo, Yu Xin Chen, Cameron Chertoff, Miracle DiMartini, Joseph Goonan, Maria Leni, Arjun Maystry, Praisia Ortiz, Francis Padagas, Kaltrina Rugova, Aiden Sanchez, Oludotun Shodeinde, Ginutis Sipas, Jaydalin Torres, Isabel Whelan and Cole Wiehler.

The P.S. 175 Effort Awards were given to Omar Abdou, Louis Almodovar, Cameron Chertoff, Ivonne Clara, Ava Ferro, Alexa Forliano, Carlo Fragola, Taylor Henry, Daameon Kong, Crystal Mariette, Sebastian Rodriguez, Marisol Santiago, Angelina Sciara and Leianne Taclibon.

P.S. 175 Improvement Awards went to Cameron Chertoff, Samuel Rosa and Ginutis Sipas.

The Citizenship Award was given to Frank Rizzo and Leslie Vazquez.

At the graduation ceremony on June 23, Ms. Lipson told the parents, "I, and the rest of the P.S. 175 faculty and staff wish the graduates much good luck as they spread their wings and explore the world beyond City Island." She then made the following presentations.

The City Island School Principal's Award for Excellence was presented to Kaltrina Rugova; the City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence was given to Maria Leni; Arjun Maystry was the recipient of both the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence and the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement. The Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance went to Francis Padagas.

Congratulations and good luck to all the 2017 graduates!



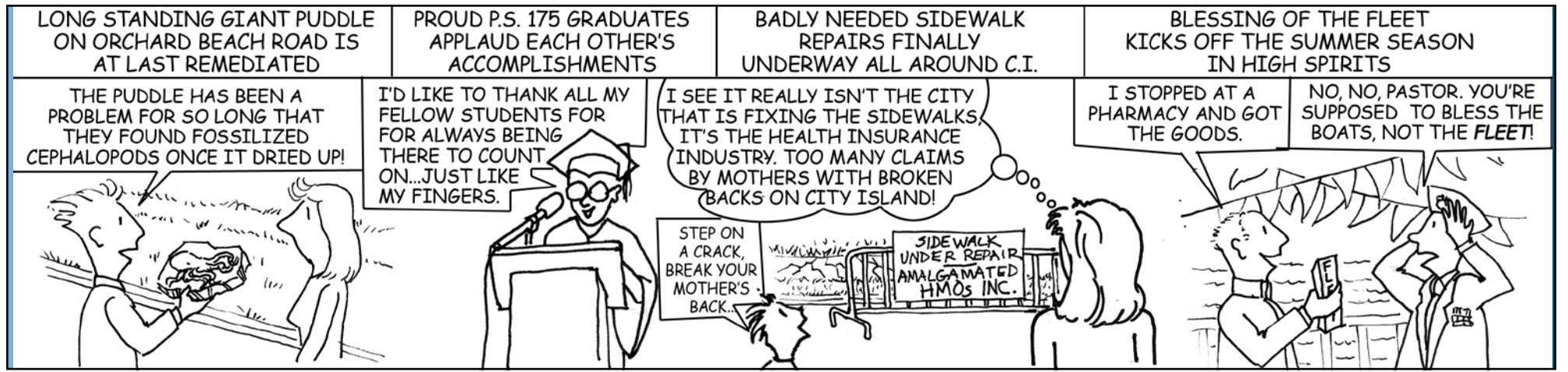
Photos by KAREN NANI

A flurry of sidewalk repairs on City Island, including on Schofield, Beach, Ditmars and Fordham Streets, as well as Minneford, King and City Island Avenues, took place during June 2017. The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued violations to a number of homeowners for sidewalks in disrepair. The owners are then given the opportunity to fix them on their own or the Department of Design and Construction does the work and bills them for it. Sidewalk damage from trees is repaired for free, as it is not considered the fault of the homeowner. Shown above are some of the before and after photos.

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**Support the Lawn Party!**

To the Editor

This past year, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Trust (JGMST) sponsored a City Island Little League team, as well as offered a scholarship to a student at John's alma mater, Fordham University. Our mission remains to have the name of a dearly missed son, brother, grandson, nephew, and friend live on in a positive manner, while giving back to a community that meant so much to him. We are reaching out to Islanders now, seeking your support to make our eighth annual Lawn Party on Saturday, July 22, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, a success, so that we may continue these activities and more in the coming year. Specifically, we hope you will consider making a charitable raffle donation of your choice, helping generate funds during our annual summer lawn party.

During 2016, the staple program funded by the JGMST was the Gilder Scholarships City Island Little League team. As in years past, the Gilder Scholarships team found great success, finishing second overall in the regular City Island Little League season. This past year, we were able to support the team to travel and compete in two post-season tournaments. This program continues to be one of the most fun efforts for us to support, offering City Island kids the opportunity to connect with one another, and learn about teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

The 2016 John Gilder Scholarship Award went to Alessandra Colasacco, Gabelli School of Business, class of 2018. Alessandra was the recipient last year as well, and we made the decision to continue sponsoring her studies as she was

the applicant who most fully embodied many of John's qualities (a Bronx native, a raving Yankees fan and invested in giving back to her community). This year, Alessandra served as a Teaching Assistant for freshman business students, served on the Academic Integrity Committee, and was a member of the Boyle Society, which recognizes demonstrated service and leadership in the Gabelli School. We are thrilled to support her continued studies with John's Scholarship.

The work of the JGMST continues to strengthen each year, as a direct result of the funds we are able to bring in through our various fundraising efforts. The 2017 Gilder Scholarships team started its season, and Coach Dominic says there is a good chance they will finish strong again, both in season and in the post season tournaments we look to sponsor. We will also once again offer the scholarship to a student at Fordham University who reminds us of the qualities John exuded. At this time, we are also excited to announce a new, special project that we are moving forward with, as a result of increased funds secured last year.

In 2017, the JGMST is working to help address an issue we have seen impact too many of our City Island community members: drug addiction. While we are still finalizing our full plan of action, we are working with local organizations and stakeholders to make sure more young adults in need have access to the support and resources that will help them avoid battles with substance abuse. We have seen too many friends and families suffer from the loss of a loved one at a young age, and with this special initiative, we hope to make a small impact in addressing the situation.

With these activities in mind, we are reaching out to you for your help in our largest fundraising event—our annual summer lawn party. The lawn party brings together 100+ family members, friends and supporters to celebrate the life of John, and raise funds to sustain the important work we do throughout the year memorializing John's life and the community that shaped him. Last year, with help from sponsors like you, we raised \$6,000, and the overwhelming majority of funds came through raffle ticket sales. In the past, sponsors have offered amazing prizes to raffle, including: gift certificates to their stores,

gifts and gift baskets, and cash prizes. We hope you will consider making a donation of this type for this year's lawn party.

Regardless of your capacity to make a donation, we extend the invite for you to attend the lawn party on Saturday, July 22, at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. During the event, we will speak more on our plans for 2017, including our special initiative to provide more young adults with access to substance abuse supports and resources.

If you have any questions, or would like to make a contribution, please reach out to Lauren Nye (646-530-2128, [lnye610@gmail.com](mailto:lnye610@gmail.com)), or Mallory Byrnes (914-819-7561, [mbmallorybyrnes@gmail.com](mailto:mbmallorybyrnes@gmail.com)). We

hope you will consider connecting with us. You can also visit our Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/gilderscholarship>.

Lauren Nye and Mallory Byrnes

**Beautiful Pots!**

To the Editor,

I'd like to make a shout out to the City Island Garden Club's Beautification Committee. When I leave for work every morning, it is so nice to see the planters with beautiful flowers planted on Hawkins Street's corner and on several other corners. They do a magnificent job trying to keep our community pretty.

Thank you to all who help out.

Nancy Lotrionte



# City Island Theater Group Recognized for "Sweeney Todd"

By MARY MCINTYRE

Every year *OnStage Blog*, an American, British and Canadian group of actors, directors, designers, writers, fans and critics, recognizes extraordinary productions and performances on local stages in the Greater Connecticut-New York region. Their nominees for the 2017 OnStage Theatre Awards were announced in the beginning of June. The nominees were selected by their Connecticut and New York critics as well as a select group of previous OnStage award winners and nominees. High school productions and community theater productions as well as select Equity productions are considered for nomination. One phase of the process is a public vote conducted on line and then added to the vote of the critics.

The City Island Theater Group (CITG)

is proud to announce that OnStage nominated "Sweeney Todd," produced in the fall of 2016. The production itself was nominated in the category of best musical production, Nick Sala for outstanding director of a musical, Heather Edwards for outstanding music direction, Katy McAllister for outstanding actress in a musical and Joe Burck for outstanding lighting design. It was announced on June 18 that Heather and Katy won awards in their categories.

Congratulations all around to the CITG for their wonderful production. You can read more about the production in the review, "The Demon Barber of Pilot Street," featured in the December 2016 issue of *The Island Current* (archives at [www.theislandcurrent.com](http://www.theislandcurrent.com)).

# THE "PUDDLE" DRIES UP

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and MARK NANI

After many weeks of a giant puddle on Orchard Beach Road, DEP agreed to take a look at the drain. The agency was able to clear an exceptionally clogged drain, and in spite of torrential rains on June 19, the roadway remained relatively dry.

Islanders who take the Orchard Beach Road to head north to the Hutchinson River Parkway or Shore Road are familiar with the annoying puddle that usually lies in the road between the City Island circle and the entrance to Orchard Beach. But the relentless rain storms in May turned the puddle into a reservoir, posing a serious traffic hazard comparable to the one on Shore Road last year.

The water entirely covered the two eastward lanes and the bike lane, encouraging drivers and bikers to veer into the westbound lane in order to avoid the deep water as well

as a nasty couple of pot holes. When the water refused to subside, Islanders began airing their complaints and photographs on line, and officers of the Civic Association started a series of phone calls and e-mails to ask for remedies to this potentially dangerous situation.

A call to the Parks Department resulted in a referral to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which claimed the flood was not their responsibility. The Department of Transportation (DOT) accepted responsibility for the potholes but could do nothing until the water subsided. "That's what you get when you build a road in a marsh" was one response. A photo sent to the Mayor's office and e-mails to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation were circulated around to various agencies, but Mother Nature kept sending more rainstorms, and the situation continued.

Finally, DEP agreed to take a look at the drain, and miraculously, before the DEP truck even showed up, the puddle disappeared, apparently because the sun had dried it up. However, the agency was able to clear an exceptionally clogged drain, and in spite of torrential rains on June 19, the roadway remained relatively dry.



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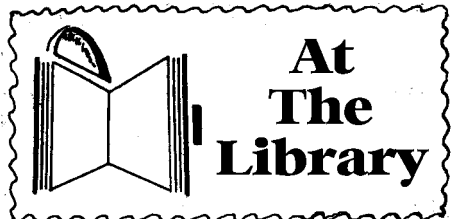
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**What is Transportation?** In this four-session series, Pre-K and Kindergarten-age children will learn about transportation and how we get around by land, by air and by water. They will engage in hands-on activities, including creating boats and airplanes! Ages 3 through 5 years old. Tuesday, July 18, and 25 and Aug. 1 and 8, at 3:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, July 21, and Aug. 11 at 11:30 a.m.

**Celebrating Children:** Tales of children from around the world, who think out of the box and push the envelope and whose stand-alone spirits unite, fight and stand up for other and folks in their communities. LuAnn Adams will be using puppets, visuals, sound effects, music and LOTS of audience participation. Ages 5 and older. Thursday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m.

**JULY-AUGUST TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Build-A-Puppet Workshop for Teens:** Join Nicola the Puppeteer to make your very own puppet from simple materials, such as you might find around the house or at a craft store. Ages 13 through 18. Monday, July 10, at 3 p.m.

**City Island Chess Club:** Chess is widely considered the oldest game in the world, and has been played by people of all cultures for centuries. Now we're encouraging families, friends and people of all ages to come and learn how to play like a professional. Saturday, July 15 and 29, at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** On Fridays, at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! July 7: Pop-sicle Challenge; July 14: Wii and Board

Games; July 21: Watercolor Studio; July 28: Wii and Board Games.

**JULY-AUGUST ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Animal Adoption Van:** Saturday, July 15, from 12 to 4 p.m.

**Pedestrian Safety for Elders:** This workshop will educate seniors about risks at the intersection, safety tips and understanding the DOT safety tools. Open discussion at the end of the workshop for comments and ideas from the seniors. Friday, July 14, at 1 p.m.

**Thursday Writing Club:** Where have all the good stories gone? They are lurking at the City Island Library. Come in to see what the weekly themes will be. Gail Hitt leads the adventure. No registration required. Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

**Growing Together:** A group for people who want to improve and develop themselves and help others to do the same by providing motivation and support as a group to the individuals in it. Wednesday, July 5 and 19 and Aug. 2, 16 and 30, at 2 p.m.

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, July 13 and 27 and Aug. 10 and 24, at 1 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Monday, July 17 and 31 and Aug. 14 and 28, at 5 p.m.

**The Island Writers:** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Intro to Computers:** Come to the library, ask questions about how to use computers and sharpen your skills through computer use. "How do I turn the computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Résumé Workshop:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resume. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Wednesday, July 5 and 19 and Aug. 2, 16 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** at 1 p.m. July 1: "American Pastoral"; July 8: "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"; July 15: "Billy Lynn's Halftime Walk"; July 22: "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them"; July 29: "Operation Avalanche"; Aug. 5: "Live by Night"; Aug. 12: "The Light Between Oceans"; Aug. 19: "Impe-rium"; Aug. 26: "Priceless"

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

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**NEW ON MARKET:** 295 City Island Ave. The Old G.W. Ford Building and Home to Lickety Split Ice Cream Shoppe

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**PROGRESSIVE**



# CULTIVATING AN INVESTMENT IN CITY ISLAND

By BILL STUTTIG

The following is another in a series of profiles of City Island businesses and long-time Island Current advertisers.

When Robert (Bob) Carmody first purchased his real estate agency 27 years ago on June 6, 1990, business could not have been worse.

"I got my broker's license a year before that and frankly in the beginning, I wasn't very good at it," he recalled. "In a business where everyone gets an award, I won 'most congenial'. That is not the award you want to win."

But Bob stuck with it in the late '80s selling real estate during the day and tending bar at night to make ends meet, all the while being encouraged by friends who believed he could be a success in the competitive business because of his personality, his drive and his dedication to the City Island community.

In early 1990, after some limited success in selling and leasing properties on the Island, he was offered the chance to purchase the PAR Realty agency which at the time was co-owned by long-time City Island realtor, the late Betty Lacina.

At the time, Betty and Bob went way back – perhaps as far back as two people can go. Betty, who in an earlier career was a nurse -- helped deliver baby Bob into the world. Now more than 30 years later, their relationship was renewed, and it started a partnership and friendship that lasted for well over a decade with Betty working for Bob until her passing more than a decade later.

"In the beginning, business was horrible," Bob recalled. "It was the worst possible time for real estate but I spoke to friends in the business who told me that the worst times were the best times to start a business because you can't go down." And in a few short months, business started improving and within three years' time Bob said "I was making really good money."

After moving the business from one Island location to another, the business, which now runs under the name of Atlantic Emeritus Realty Inc., moved to 300 City Island Avenue near the southeast corner of Fordham Street, thanks to a storefront spruce up made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, the assistance of local elected officials and \$15,000 of the business' own capital.

Bob now runs the agency, along with three other agents, from that central Island location. "We can see the whole community pass by our window. We are the watchdogs for the Island." He said that in recent weeks business has never been better. "This is going to be our best month ever – seven houses in one month!"

Asked for the secret of their success, he said "City Island is the secret to my success."



All my business – one third of it rentals – comes from City Island. But that does not come easy. You have to cultivate that. You have to be involved. I am very passionate about making City Island better by working with this community. In this business, with so much of your success dependent on the quality of the community – if you don't get involved, frankly you are a jerk."

Bob has a long history of community involvement from helping to organize countless community events for both adults and children, to working with the local precinct, elected officials, the community board and Island civic groups to identify quality of life concerns before they turn into major problems.

With the value of real estate increasing significantly with each passing month, Bob says he sees a lot of competition coming from off-Island realtors and added, "But we are crushing them." He explained. "You can be nice but you have to be tough at the same time. This is our backyard."

His agency -- a long-time time advertiser in *The Island Current* -- thrives largely on word of mouth, he said. He gives a lot of the credit to his long-timer partner Maria Swieciki and the other agents who work the community very hard. "They know the Island and its people better than anyone."

"It is a seasonal business. You can go months without making any money and then you go on fire. When business is slow it is no one's fault. It is just the nature of the business and the important thing is to keep working hard whether times are good or slow."

"The greatest part of our job is that priceless moment when you turn over the keys to a new homeowner and getting paid to make that happen makes it even better. At that point, life is good for everyone," he said.



On Friday, June 2, 2017, Ron Turner hosted a reception at the Focal Point Gallery for a new exhibit entitled "Architectural Sculptures from the Bronx and Around the World," by Island architect Robert Arthur King, shown in top photo, left, with Matt Panza and Mr. Turner. Poet David Ellis and his son (bottom photo, center), along with Barbara Dolensek, Matt Panza and Luis Menchaca (aka Lifeboat Louie) were among the many attendees.

# Lone Republican Running For NYC Council

By KAREN NANI



The only Republican who has thrown his hat in the race for District 13 of the New York City Council is John Cerini, 47, and he will be holding a fundraiser on City Island in July.

Because Mr. Cerini is, to date, the only Republican candidate for District 13, he does not have to run in the Sept. 12 primary that will feature Islander John Doyle and former Islander Mark Gjonaj (both Democrats; see profiles in the March 2016 and April 2017 issues of *The Current*). Mr. Cerini's name will go directly on the ballot for the Nov. 7 general election.

Born in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx, Mr. Cerini attended P.S. 14, I.S. 192, Lehman High School and Lehman College graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. His parents were Italian immigrants who came to the U.S. in the 1950s and opened an accounting business on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx.

Mr. Cerini is currently an Enrolled Agent of the Internal Revenue Service, as well as a licensed insurance broker and real estate agent. He has been active in the Pelham Bay community where he now resides, as well as Throggs Neck. In 2005, he started the Throggs Neck Merchant's Association. He has fought against overdevelopment and for school improvements in those areas of the Bronx.

"I am not a politician and I feel like the politicians are not listening to us," he told

*The Current*. He cites the city's decision to reduce the number of car lanes on Tremont Avenue, which he claims the community was against.

Islander Fred Ramftl is among those supporting Mr. Cerini's candidacy. "I am supporting John because we need a change at City Hall. Furthermore, we need to restore the two party system in the Bronx to get new ideas to solve our problems. He can also help fill our vacant stores on City Island since he is a businessman and therefore knows the struggles of operating a small business." Mr. Ramftl has been going door to door with Mr. Cerini introducing him to residents.

In terms of City Island, Mr. Cerini shares the frustration of Islanders over the noise from Rodman's Neck. "I am an advocate for more police in the 45th Precinct, but the NYPD has to figure out a way to soundproof the firing range. We can hear it in Pelham Bay, so I can imagine how annoying it must be to City Islanders."

He would use his years of accounting expertise to review the NYC budget and make cuts in other areas to come up with funds to soundproof Rodman's Neck.

Mr. Cerini also has ideas to ease the traffic concerns of City Islanders. "I don't see why residents can't have stickers on their cars that allows them to bypass traffic on summer weekends. They could use the fire lane if it is available, understanding that they would have to move over to allow emergency vehicles to pass."

Mr. Cerini has also been endorsed by the Conservative and Reform parties. If elected to the City Council, he would be one of only three or four Republicans on the council compared to the current total of 48 Democrats.

He has been married for 23 years "to his high school sweetheart" and they have three sons and one daughter, ages 16 to 21.

Mr. Cerini's fundraiser will be at Scavello's on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street on Thursday, July 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. A donation of \$50 is requested and the evening will include a full dinner with wine, beer and soda.

You can email Fred Ramftl for more information ([repcn5@aol.com](mailto:repcn5@aol.com)) or call Mr. Cerini at 917-498-3909.

Kalie was my baby sister.  
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# LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Question: What does graduation mean to you?



**Maria Leni**

“Graduation means that I have successfully completed K-8th grade and that I have grown as a student as well as a person. It means a new chapter in my life is about to begin.”

**Briana Lotrionte**

“Earning my Doctorate of Physical Education from New York Medical College is a milestone that I will remember forever. At 24 years old, I have accomplished so much, yet my future is just beginning. Growing up, there have been many people who have helped me with whatever I have needed and now, I will be able to help others in a positive and meaningful way.”



**Joseph Mancuso**

“What graduating high school means to me is that it’s like the transition from one chapter in a book to the next. Life is this book, and at every milestone, every chapter, more is revealed to us. Through this revelation we are exposed to more freedoms and decisions that we must take responsibility for. “

**Reagan Leddy**

“I graduated kindergarten because I learned to read and write. I worked nicely and was kind and respectful of my whole school. Now I get to be a first-grader!”



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The City Island Poem

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 as you climb the bridge rise,  
 temperature falling,  
 an earthy whiff of a  
 salty ebb tide.

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 ... Sanctuary.



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## FOOD, FASHION AND FUN FOR ALL!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The grills were hot and the music hotter at the 2017 Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, held on June 3 and 4. Artists, craftspeople and local organizations lined City Island Avenue offering jewelry, clothing, baked goods and handmade crafts. The Chamber looks forward to the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, scheduled for Sept. 9 and 10, 2017.

## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### JULY

Tues., July 11, **Bronx Masons Blood Drive**, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Sat., July 22, **Gilder Scholarship Fundraising Lawn Party**, Morris Yacht & Beach Club, 2 p.m. Contact Jack Jokinen at [jack.jokinen@gmail.com](mailto:jack.jokinen@gmail.com).

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

Sat., July 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: ziti or rotini with meatballs or meat sauce.

#### AUGUST

Sat., August 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chicken with rice and beans.

Tues., Aug. 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

### City Island Garden Club

The City Island Garden Club is blooming with summertime activities. Our June 5 meeting was very busy. Club members nominated officers for those positions expiring in July.

At the meeting, Jack Rothman, author of the "City Island Birds" website, gave a talk on birds of City Island and Pelham Bay Park. Club members were treated to Jack's interesting stories and beautiful photo collection of birds that live in or make their way through the park. The park is a migratory stopover that peaks around May 15 each year. Jack is well known for his guided bird walks in our area.

On June 8, members toured the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the museum's gardens with tour guides Barbara "Boo" Dennis and Alice Dean. The tour was followed by a beautiful tea complete with cake and scones in the Orangerie.

In return for use of the City Island Yacht Club for club meetings, club members refurbished the yacht club's entrance plantings on May 6. As part of the joint project, garden club members installed two beautiful variegated boxwood shrubs outside the front entrance and shade-loving perennials in the border at the front entrance. The plants were paid for by member dues. Thanks go to Susan Strazera for picking out the plants and organizing the installation. She was assisted by Kathy Gibbons, Boo Dennis, Gail Hitt, Maggie Higgins, Linda Kyriakos, Elaine Waltz, Ethel Lott, and Judy Judson. They were joined by City Island Yacht Club members Rob Engle, Merima Nokic, Joe Lizarazo, and Patrick Smith. CJS Property Care cleaned out the weeds and old plants in preparation for the new planting. It looks great and the perennials will fill in and come back next year.

The meeting for the installation of the new officers will be held on Friday, July 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. The cost is \$10.

If you have an interest in gardening and promoting civic beautification, do join us on the first Monday of each month (except August) at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Annual dues are \$35. You will enjoy informative presentations put together by our program chair as well as day trips to nearby private and public gardens. Meetings conclude with coffee and fresh baked goods served by our Hospitality Committee.

Enjoy the summer.

Carol Hansen

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's thrift shop is closed for the summer. Will reopen on Sept. 21 with our Fall collection. Have a great summer.

Arlene Byrne

### Temple Beth-El

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

Temple Services Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea and celebratory *oneg* after the service.

July 7: Community-led

July 14: Clergy

July 21: Community-led

July 28: Clergy

Aug. 4: Clergy

Aug. 11: Community-led

Aug. 18: Rabbis Shohama and David (will start at 7 p.m.)

Aug. 25: Community-led

Join ALEPH's weeklong retreat in nearby Rockland County with Renewal leaders. July 10-16 in Stony Point, NY. For information, visit ALEPH's website [www.aleph.org](http://www.aleph.org).

July 31, Monday, Tishah B'Av service led by Rabbi Shohama.

Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. will be our Shabbat by the Sea, graciously hosted by Ken Binder and Steve Roth at 2 Bay Street. We look forward to this joyous occasion all year. We celebrate the Sabbath with a sunset view of Manhattan. Music provided by Your Band by the Sea. Prayer, song and dance prevail. Refreshment provided by the generous hosts. Please leave plenty of time to get to City Island if you are coming from off island. There is a lot of summer traffic.

Aug. 19: Saturday morning Shabbat at the New York Botanical Gardens from 9:45 to noon. Join Rabbi David and TBE congregants for a Shabbat morning experience in the New York Botanical Garden at the heart of summer. Guests are welcome. We will begin gathering at 9:45 a.m. for an authentic journey of mindfulness, chant and reflection, mapping to the spirituality of a traditional Shabbat morning. Free to all. Participants must be inside the Main Gate of the Botanical Garden by 10 a.m. for free admission. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

Adult Education: TBE invites the City Island community to our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Daniella Haney (Patreesha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served after sessions. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at [kycnyc@aol.com](mailto:kycnyc@aol.com).

Looking Ahead: High Holy Days: Sept.



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

At the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 11, 2017, four new altar servers were commissioned at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The new servers, pictured above (l. to r.) are Sonja Doyle, Jordyn Knapp, Mae Rose Caruso and Abigail Hayes. The senior servers are Aran Glynn and Johanna Doyle.

16 (Saturday night /slichot); Sept. 20 (erev Rosh Hashanah), Sept. 21 (RH 1), Sept. 22 (RH2), Sept. 29 (Kol Nidre) and Sept. 30 (Yom Kippur).

*Oneg* sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, *yahrzeit* or memorial) can be a joyful moving community celebration as we warmly invite you to sponsor a Friday night *oneg*. To sponsor an *oneg* or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For additional information, check out our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

### American Legion Post #156

The next meeting will be in September.

Dues are past due. They are \$50 and can be dropped off at the Post.

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

Remember to play the Queen of Hearts game each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The Jackpot grows each week until someone hits. The game is open to all. Proceeds from the game helped fund the refurbishing of the flagpole out front.

Just a reminder: please place your cigarette butts in the posted cans to help keep the Post clean.

It's time to cool off this summer at City Island's unofficial cooling center by stopping by the Post for a nice cold drink in a frosty glass.

The annual clambake will be held on Saturday, September 9. Details will follow. The Ladies Auxiliary raffle will be pulled that night too.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately we cannot do it all ourselves anymore.

Tom McShane is currently going for rehabilitation at the NYS Veterans Home in Montrose, New York.

Thanks go out to Dave Stewart, Diane Lott, Judy McCormick, Ed Shipp and Scouse McIntyre for helping to stuff the raffle envelopes.

Thanks to all those who helped out, marched and watched the parade. It would not be successful without you. We also want to thank the Morris Yacht Club for the use of their golf cart in the parade.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post contact John Muhlfeld at 718- 885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

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

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

John Muhlfeld

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

Our thrift shop will be closed during July and August and will reopen in September.

On Tuesday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation. Masses are 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

Registrations forms for the 2017/2018 Religious Education Program here at St. Mary's have been distributed to current students. Additional forms as well as registration forms for new students are available in the vestibule of the church. Anyone registering by Aug. 31 will receive an early bird discount.

Have a happy and safe summer!

Rose Dietz

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

##### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

##### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Register now for the innovative fun filled Summer Art Camp for children 7 to 12 years of age, featured below. The camp begins July 10.

Some classes are off for the summer. Please be sure to contact the instructor.

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

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

#### COMING EVENTS

**City Island Indivisible:** Tuesday, July 11, and Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 30 and Aug. 27 at 5 (Sunday sessions with pot luck dinner) Join other concerned citizens to discuss actions such as letter writing, marching and phoning that can help preserve American ideals. For more information, "Like" City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**Art Camp:** July 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 7 to 12 register now for this innovative summer camp program and explore drawing, painting and sculpture. To enroll contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or e-mail [ceasardante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasardante@optonline.net).

**Dance Party Workout:** Mondays, 7 p.m. Have fun working out to your favorite dance music. It is an unstructured dance class with Eva. For more information, call 646-954-7410.

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Off for the summer, but now's a good time to enroll for September. In this educational program for children grades K-5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For more information, call 917-889-4938 or visit [www.espanolexperience.com](http://www.espanolexperience.com).

**Yoga with Ryan:** Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. In this class expect a series of yoga poses with emphasis on alignment, coordinated with breath to build strength, increase flexibility and balance, and ending with deep relaxation to integrate the practice. Good for new students or students with limited experience. For information, contact Ryan at 914-356-6673 or [ryangillyyoga@gmail.com](mailto:ryangillyyoga@gmail.com)

**Healing Service:** Francesca Vitale, Board Cert/Registered Polarity/CranioSacral and Raindrop Practitioner formerly of the NY Open Center, is offering healing. A person can heal and become empowered receiving clarity of mind and balance within. A portion of services given back to the Community Center. Visit [www.thehealingforce.net](http://www.thehealingforce.net). For free consultation or an appointment call 914-837-6830.

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

**Bollywood Dance:** Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more infor-

mation call 646-269-2033 or e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Irish Dance for Children:** Mondays, off for the summer. Register for the fall step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517

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

**Jill's Playgroup:** Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Off for the summer. Register for preschool children's group. Call Jill 917-330-0922 for information.

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

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

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

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

**City Island Community Supported Agriculture:** Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m. The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables. It will begin again June 5. For information, contact [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Mondays at 7 p.m. Off for the summer. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Pick up some new cooking skills as well. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with Deborah Weiss. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Now is a good time to join. For more information, call Emily at 718-885-3420 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

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

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

**Zumba with Lettie:** Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### American Legion Auxiliary

Many thanks to all American Legion Auxiliary members who walked proudly in the Memorial Day Parade and those who supported us. Congratulations to Anthony (Buddy) Pontecorvo, our second "Quilts of Valor" recipient. Buddy was born and raised on City Island. He was drafted at the age of 18 years old and served in the Army, working as a patrol officer, MP and transporter of the motor pool at Fort Dix for two years. We could not think of a more deserving veteran to represent our community on Memorial Day. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Special thanks to Ron Terner who donated his time and expertise in photographing all the festivities for the American Legion and the Auxiliary.

Our annual Poppy Drive was a major success, thanks to volunteers who crocheted poppies for our unit. Many thanks to the ladies who worked tirelessly to crochet 80 poppies in time for Memorial Day. As Americans, we wear a poppy to honor our military service members. It was wonderful to see so many on display. This

year Meaghan Clancy, Auxiliary member, volunteered to assist in our poppy drive by reaching out to her school, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and its principal, Paul Henshaw. Poppy kits were given to children in the pre-K through eighth-grade classes. More than 1,000 poppies were made. Children were taught the history of the poppy program, were instrumental in getting donations for their finished craft and successfully raised about \$140. We were touched and honored by their enthusiasm and patriotism. We hope to continue this program next year.

Congratulations to Susan Vaughan, who was nominated as Bronx County President.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be selling 50/50 raffles on July 10 in support of our veterans. The drawing will be held on Sept. 9 at the American Legion. Please donate to this great cause.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer.

**Joanne Valletta**

#### Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

**Sunday School:** It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays of each month from September to June and is led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. Sunday School will take a break during July and August and resume in September. The students finished off the Sunday School year with a Youth Service on June 18, during which they rang the bells, carried the cross, delivered all the readings, and even gave the sermon! Congratulations to Christine, Marcus and Rachel Lopez-Pierre, and Emilio and Sophia Aponte. See you all in September!

**Music Ministry:** The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is well into the second year! Comprised of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Our next performance will be at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel; you just need the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or email [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

**Sandy Dunn**

#### PSS City Island Center

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

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

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org).

#### Highlights

Reserve a table! Gather five or more friends and reserve a table for lunch especially for you.

Please call the office at 718-885-0727

for updates of events in July and August.

July 4: closed for Independence Day  
Aug. 4 or 11: 12:30 Emergency Preparedness Presentation

Aug. 17, at 12:30: Nutritionist Presentation on Hydration

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

**July/August Programs:** Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Blood Pressure Monitoring from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; July 11 and 25, Aug. 8 and 22: Crafters Corner at 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: 1 p.m.: Board Games, Rummy Q and more; Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda at 1 p.m. July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party on July 14, Aug. 24 with music at 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

**Patty Attis**

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m.

At last month's meeting we swore in several new members.

Don't forget that dues (\$30) are past due. The SAL is conducting a 50/50 raffle to raise money for Bill Clancy's state commander campaign. Chances are \$5 per ticket or \$20 per book. Stop by the Post to pick some up. Chances are due back by July 1.

Thanks to Wes Rodstrom from Consolidated who donated the other golf cart for the parade.

Thanks to all who helped with and attended the Spring Fling and the Golf Outing. These proceeds will go toward supporting Bill Clancy campaign for state commander.

Thanks to all who marched and helped with the parade, which was a success.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

**Fred Ramfl Jr.**



## Women Who Made a Difference

**Madame Curie** (1945) is a fact-based biographical portrait adapted from the biography by Ève Curie, a Polish and naturalized French physicist and chemist, who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences, and was part of the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. Set in 1890s Paris, it stars Greer Garson in the title role, as she begins to share a laboratory with her future husband, Pierre Curie (Walter Pidgeon).

**Norma Rae** (1979) is based on real-life feisty union organizer, Crystal Lee Sutton, a factory worker from a small town in North Carolina who becomes involved in the labor union activities at the textile factory where she works, after the health of her father and her co-workers is compromised. Sally Field won her first Best Actress Academy Award playing the title role. The film also features Beau Bridges as Norma's husband Sonny, and Ron Leibman as union organizer Reuben Warshowsky.

Based on the true story of an employee at an Oklahoma nuclear facility, **Silkwood** (1983) is the sad account of Karen Silkwood (Meryl Streep), who died under suspicious circumstances while on her way to meet with a reporter to expose safety hazards where she worked, and generate a class action suit against the company. The excellent cast includes Kurt Russell and Cher as her co-workers Drew Stephens and Dolly Pelliker, with whom she shared a house. Expertly directed by Mike Nichols, this slow-paced drama garnered five academy award nominations.

**The Long Walk Home** (1990) is a fictionalized account of a troubled era in American history, set in 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, when one woman's actions set off a series of events that led to a changed future in the South. When Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, the ensuing boycott is a decided inconvenience for Miriam Thompson (Spacek), a well-to-do white woman and her maid Odessa Cotter (Whoopi Goldberg). Miriam realizes for the first time just how privileged, sheltered and self-centered her life has been, and she is representative of the many women who put themselves in danger by driving people to work during the bus boycott.

Demi Moore received a lot of attention when she shaved her head for the role of Lt. Jordan O'Neil in **G.I. Jane** (1997), based on the real life of Jane Parkhurst. When Senator Lillian DeHaven (Anne Bancroft) succeeds in having a woman enrolled in Navy SEALs training, O'Neil is chosen. Resentful for not being allowed to fight in the Gulf War, O'Neil is determined to succeed as an equal to the men. Viggo Mortensen is excellent as the enigmatic Master Chief Uragayle, who must prepare everyone for the realities of life in the field when a woman is included in the mix.

**Erin Brockovich** (2000) won an Academy Award for Julia Roberts in the title role. She portrays a divorced mother of three with few options to support her family. She talks her way into a job with a law firm, and winds up doing an investigation against Pacific Gas & Electric whose industrial chemicals may have polluted a town's water supply. Ed Masry (Albert Finney) is the owner of the law firm, and is continuously upstaged by Erin and her outrageous mouth and clothing. Yet, she is very bright and caring, and wins the respect of the clients involved in the class action suit and finally the grudging respect of her co-workers.

**North Country** (2005) is a film inspired by the first sexual harassment class-action suit in the United States. Josey Aimes (Charleze Thieron) is hired by a Minnesota mining company when it is forced to employ women. However, the abuse perpetrated by the resentful men on these women, who desperately need their salaries, is vile indeed. Frances McDormand gives an outstanding performance as Glory, a fellow mine-worker who is the only female on the union negotiating committee. Woody Harrelson plays Josey's lawyer Bill White, whose handling of the case ultimately is the basis for establishing new law. Sissy Spacek and Richard Jenkins play Josey's disapproving parents. Theron and McDormand received Oscar nominations for Best and Supporting Actress, respectively.

**The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler** (2009) is a fact-based TV docudrama with Anna Paquin in the title role as a Polish social worker who saved nearly 2,500 Jewish children during World War II. Using forged identification to present herself as a nurse to guards at the entrance of the Warsaw Ghetto, Irena had to convince parents to allow her to smuggle their young children out to safety, placing them with Polish families and in convents. She kept their names in jars that she buried and then unearthed when the war was over, in an attempt to reunite the children with their real families. Unfortunately, most of the adults had died in concentration camps.

Another film, also set in Warsaw during WWII, is **The Zookeeper's Wife** (2017), starring a wonderful Jessica Chastain in the title role as Antonina Zabinski. With her husband, Dr. Jan Zabinski (Johan Heldeberg), the Warsaw Zoo thrives under their care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, the Zabinskis come under the supervision of the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck (Daniel Brühl). Both husband and wife covertly begin working with the Resistance and put into action plans to save the lives of hundreds from what has become the Warsaw Ghetto.

The films I've selected are about women who made a difference primarily on a macro-level. However, one-on-one differences are significant too. Sandra Bullock won a very well deserved Academy Award for her performance in **The Blind Side** (2009). She stars as Leigh Anne Tuohy, a white Memphis decorator who takes pity on homeless black high school student, Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) and welcomes him into her home, with the support of her husband Sean (Tim McGraw), their daughter Collins (Lily Collins) and scene-stealing son, S J (Jae Head). They hire a tutor, Miss Sue (Kathy Bates) and put Michael on a path to football stardom. Seeing a TV interview with the real Tuohy family confirms what a spectacular job Bullock does with this role.

**Woman in Gold** (2015) is the noteworthy true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice for what happened to her family. Sixty years after she fled Vienna during World War II, an elderly Jewish woman, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis, among them Klimt's famous painting of her aunt, 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I.' Together with her inexperienced but dedicated young lawyer, Randy Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds), she embarks upon a major battle which takes them all the way to the heart of the Austrian establishment and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Inspired by true events, **Suffragette** (2015) is a moving drama exploring the passion and heartbreak of those who risked all they had for women's right to vote - their jobs, their homes, their children, and even their lives. Set in England in 1912, the film focuses on Maud (Carey Mulligan), a working wife and mother whose life is forever changed when she is secretly recruited to join the U.K.'s growing suffragette movement. Galvanized by the outlaw fugitive Emmeline Pankhurst (Meryl Streep), Maud becomes an activist for the cause alongside women from all walks of life. When increasingly aggressive police action forces Maud and her dedicated fellow suffragettes underground, they engage in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with the authori-

ties, who are shocked as the women's civil disobedience escalates and sparks debate across the nation.


Set in the 1960's, **Hidden Figures** (2016) is the incredible recounting of the brilliant efforts of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), intellectually gifted African-American women working at NASA. Facing discrimination of separate bathrooms, and even coffeepots, they each served as integral personnel in the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Their stunning achievements included the mathematical genius of Johnson, the engineering brilliance of Jackson, and the ambition of Vaughan in the IBM mainframe computer world. Without their contributions, the U.S. might have lost

their dominance to Russia. These visionary women crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to come.

While all the other films were based on fact, a fictional science fiction film, **Arrival** (2016) demonstrates how language can be the key to interplanetary communication, and a woman can be at the forefront of saving the world. When mysterious spacecraft touch down across the globe, an elite team-lead by expert linguist Louise Banks (Amy Adams)--are brought together to investigate. As mankind teeters on the verge of global war, Banks and the team race against time for answers--and to find them, she will take a chance that could threaten her life, and quite possibly humanity.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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# WHAT A SEASON!



Photos by CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY and KAREN NANI

The 2017 City Island Little League season included over 50 games played by more than 100 City Islanders. President Dom Esposito led off the closing ceremony on June 24 by presenting Congressman Joseph Crowley with a Certificate of Appreciation for his generous donation to purchase a new batting cage for Ambrosini field. Trophies were awarded to each team for Most Valuable Player, All Stars, Rookie of the Year, Most Improved and, even, Most Dirty. Gilder's Scholarship team won the majors title (shown top left and above with their trophies). The other proud teams were (clockwise starting top right): JPs, Local 79, Seafood City, Sammy's Fish Box, Jack's Bait & Tackle, American Legion, and the two t-ball teams sponsored by Crab Shanty, Sea Shore, Dugout Sporting Goods and Amanda Bear Party Rentals.

Remember When...



Photo courtesy of MALCOLM MILLIGAN

While June is now the month for grammar school graduation on City Island, for many years P.S. 17 held graduation ceremonies in both January and June. Above is the January 1948 graduating class featuring (to the best of Mr. Milligan's recollection, top row, l. to r.): Joseph Schultz, Robert Stacey, Fred Buelow, Joan Clements, Mae Mulligan (teacher), June Talbot, Fred Smith, Roger Belanger and Malcolm Milligan. Bottom row, seated: Kate Forlehrer, Eileen Steinman, Laura Klaube, Peggy Johnson, Adelaide Rosenfeld and Betty Delise.

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

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

JULY 2017

Table with columns: DAY, TIME HH MM, HEIGHT FEET, and corresponding values for each day from 01 Sat to 31 Mon.

AUGUST 2017

Table with columns: DAY, TIME HH MM, HEIGHT FEET, and corresponding values for each day from 01 Tue to 31 Thu.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Table with columns: DAY, TIME HH MM, HEIGHT FEET, and corresponding values for each day from 01 Fri to 06 Wed.



By JOHN SHEPIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

Our Presentation at the Nautical Museum, Part II

In last month's column, we shared evidence that we unearthed of an actual City Island street in the 1760s. Its name, not surprisingly, was Main Street, a name that was to remain valid until our part of the Bronx was officially annexed by the City of New York in 1895.

How other City Island streets acquired their names at that point was usually left to the developer, the actual creator of the streets. Remember, before City Island was the relatively urban place that it is today, it was quite rural. Large swaths of land were owned by families who had their family farms here and homesteads.



Unlike the Bownes, the Hortons began the development or urbanization of their property by creating streets and giving them names. One Horton, Rochelle Horton, that is, named four streets, two of which recall the Horton penchant for the sea: Marine and Pilot Streets.

was Buckley it was Franklin. (See John McNamara's book "History in Asphalt" for more interesting tidbits like this!)

The Bowne property, on the other hand, was gradually acquired by developers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The story goes that one of the financiers behind that acquisition was August Belmont who had a plan to turn the Island into a racetrack.



Even today, developers are naming and renaming City Island streets. The Boatyard Condominium complex at the east end of Carroll Street added new streets officially to the map in the 1970s: Deepwater Way, for example, and Windward Lane.



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# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Field poppy - Papaver Rhoeas White Orlaya. Scatter seeds to sow.

## A Potpourri of Flowers

Summer has arrived with soaring temperatures. This is the time for hot-headed plants: zinnia, petunia, marigold and sunflower. Raised from seed sown in mid-May or bought now at a garden center, these plants are great for cutting. Even a late sowing in July will produce beautiful plants in September that are alarmingly colorful and are wonderful as accents.

Aside from all this color, wouldn't it be charming to have some fragrant flowers too? All of May and June I have seen small white carnations that smell of clove that perfumes the air when the sun is out.

In a small garden, phlox eventually grow to become large, but in a wide border nothing is more festive in late summer than these beauties. Phlox paniculata comes in pink, white, purple and magenta. Many revert to magenta as they age, and people dread this color, but on phlox it is, in my book, just the right shade. "Miss Lingard" begins blooming very early in July and is followed by "David," which is mildew resistant. Their flowers froth in pure white, and the fragrance is sweet with a hint of vanilla that wafts through the garden in the gloaming. They should be divided every three or four years for better blooms.

Now I'd like to say something nice about nasturtiums. They are entirely worth growing and easily had on the seed racks of hardware stores. The seeds are large and a delight to set out even by small children. Rich soil, the kind that roses, oriental poppies and peonies like, is their preference. Scrambling over pavement nasturtiums are suitable for edging. The flowers are edible and the aroma sweet. Ask Monet, his rose and iris allées are graced with nasturtiums whose leaves mimic his beloved water lilies.

On to lilies. The oriental, the Madonna, and the turk's cap all give off such heady perfume as to be almost overwhelming when brought into the house. Lilies bloom July and August. These noble flowers planted in spring also want rich, free-draining soil.

Lilacs, honeysuckle and roses join the cornucopia of the perfumers art. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Try these: Madame Alfred Carrière, At Last, Louise Odier, Constance Spry, Rosa Rugosa Alba or my favorite, Reine de Violettes.

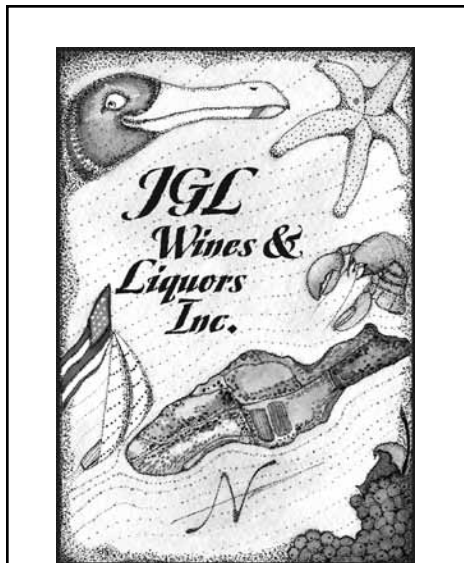
I'll end with lavender, whose fragrance lulls us to sleep and calms the tired mind. Flowers can be a comfort and a treatment for whatever ails. Here Shakespeare says it much better, from a *Midsummer's Night Dream*.

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows;

Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine.

There sleeps Titania, sometime of the night,  
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. www.theartistgardener.com.



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Photo by PAUL NANI

Members of Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School led the Youth Service on June 18, 2017 under the watchful eye of Fr. John Covington. Shown above are the proud students (l. to r.): Emilio Aponte, Marcus, Christine and Rachel Lopez-Pierre, and Sophia Aponte.

# A City Island Summer With Children: Learning Happens Year Round!

By JOHN SCARDINA

Children's brain development is a constant process – neurons don't know anything about summer vacation. There has been much good research about the benefits of year-round schooling (three months in school, one month off from school, repeat, etc.). Yet we as a culture seem to be wedded to our present school calendar (which was started to help families on farms deal with planting and harvest times – go figure). So – ten weeks off – how do we keep the learning process fresh and vital?

Here are some ideas that might be helpful:

1) **Read everyday:** make frequent trips to the library, have lots of books around, and make sure there is an equal amount of reading time as there is screen time (or at least a healthy fraction...). Have a family read-aloud book that everyone will enjoy, and sit together every evening you can and read together. Be a good role model and read in front of the kids – even if it's a magazine or a newspaper. Some families might pick the Bible to read together, others might pick the Chronicles of Narnia series, still others might pick *Pretty Little Liars*. The activity is more important than the content – reading is a habit you want to nurture.

2) **Do some everyday math:** Pay your kids for vacuuming the carpet by the square foot (and have them measure the whole house while they're at it!). Have

them weigh the recyclables every week and see if you can improve your family efforts to be green. Cook with recipes that you can double – or half – and teach fractions naturally. Help them learn money skills when at the store.

3) **Have you and your child pick one new activity** to try over the summer – playing the guitar, painting, jogging, sailing, birdwatching – and do it with them. There is good research on the Suzuki method of music instruction (where a parent and child start together as beginners playing the violin) that the learning rate improves when learning a new skill with a parent.

4) **Keep a journal of summer activities** – be transparent about how summer learning will help in school and use either a journal for each child or a family calendar that tracks summer activities on a daily basis. Journals can work with younger children, too – they can draw pictures and use inventive spelling to make captions. Send the journal in to school for show-and-tell in the fall – teachers will appreciate your efforts.

5) **Realize that you, too,** can be a life-long learner and a role model for a lifetime of exploration. What are you waiting for?

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

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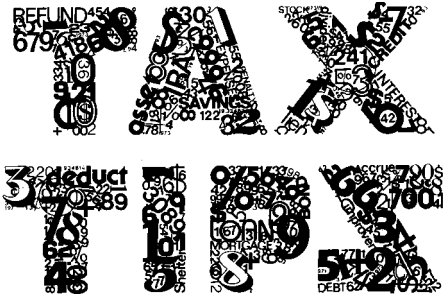
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I received the 2017 Five Star Award, and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for the third year in a row!



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

### What to Do If You Haven't Filed a Tax Return

Tuesday, April 18, 2017, was the tax deadline for most taxpayers to file their tax returns. If you haven't filed a 2016 tax return yet, don't delay. There's still time—and it's not as difficult as you think.

If your return is late, first gather any and all information related to income and deductions for the tax years for which a return is required to be filed, then call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) office.

If you are owed money, the sooner you file, the sooner you will get your refund. If you owe taxes, you should file and pay as soon as you can, which will stop the interest and penalties that you will owe. If you owe money but can't pay the IRS in full, you should pay as much as you can when you file your tax return to minimize penalties and interest.

Don't ignore a tax bill. The IRS will work with taxpayers suffering financial hardship. If you continue to ignore your tax bill, the IRS may take collection action.

There are several different ways to make a payment on your taxes, by credit card, electronic funds transfer, check, money order, cashier's check or cash. If you pay your federal taxes using a major credit card or debit card, there is no IRS fee for credit or debit card payments, but the processing companies charge a convenience fee or flat fee.

Taxpayers unable to pay all taxes due

on a tax bill are encouraged to pay as much as possible. By paying as much as possible now, the amount of interest and penalties owed will be less than if you do not pay anything at all. Based on individual circumstances, a taxpayer could qualify for an extension of time to pay, an installment agreement, a temporary delay, or an offer in compromise. Please call your accountant or the IRS if you have questions about any of these options.

When it comes to paying your tax bill, it is important to review all your options. The interest rate on a loan or credit card may be lower than the combination of penalties and interest imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. You should pay as much as possible before entering into an installment agreement.

For individuals, IRS Direct Pay is a fast and free way to pay directly from your checking or savings account. Taxpayers who need more time to pay can set up either a short-term payment extension or a monthly payment plan. Most people can set up a payment plan using the Online Payment Agreement tool on *IRS.gov*.

A short-term extension gives a taxpayer an additional 60 to 120 days to pay. No fee is charged, but the late-payment penalty plus interest will apply. Generally, taxpayers will pay less in penalties and interest than if the debt were repaid through an installment agreement over a greater period of time.

A monthly payment plan or installment agreement gives a taxpayer more time to pay. However, penalties and interest will continue to be charged on the unpaid portion of the debt throughout the duration of the installment agreement/payment plan.

Taxpayers who owe \$50,000 or less in combined tax, penalties and interest can apply for and receive immediate notification of approval through an online, IRS web-based application. Balances over \$50,000 require taxpayers to complete a financial statement to determine the

monthly payment amount for an installment plan.

A user fee will also be charged if the installment agreement is approved. The fee (effective Jan. 1, 2017) is normally \$225 but is reduced to \$107 if taxpayers agree to make their monthly payments electronically through electronic funds withdrawal. The fee is \$43 for eligible low-and-moderate-income taxpayers.

Individual taxpayers who do not have a bank account or credit card and need to pay their tax bill using cash are now able to make a payment at one or more than 7,000 7-Eleven stores nationwide. Individuals wishing to take advantage of this payment option should visit the *IRS.gov* payments page, select the cash option in the other ways you can pay section and follow the instructions.

It is very important to understand the ramifications of not filing a past due return and the steps that the IRS will take. Taxpayers who continue not to file a required return and fail to respond to IRS requests for a return may be considered for a variety of enforcement actions—including substantial penalties and fees.

### Tax Tips for Students with a Summer Job

Is your child a student with a summer job? Here's what you should know about the income your child earns over the summer.

All taxpayers fill out a W-4 when starting a new job. This form is used by employers to determine the amount of tax that will be withheld from your paycheck. Taxpayers with multiple summer jobs will want to make sure all their employers are withholding an adequate amount of taxes to cover their total income tax liability. If you have any questions about whether your child's withholding is correct, please call the office.

Whether your child is working as a waiter or a camp counselor, he or she may receive tips as part of summer income. All tip income is taxable and is, therefore, subject to federal income tax.

Many students do odd jobs over the summer to make extra cash. If this is your child's situation, keep in mind that earnings received from self-employment are also subject to income tax. This includes income from odd jobs such as babysitting and lawn mowing.

If your child has net earnings of \$400 or more from self-employment, he or she also has to pay self-employment tax. (Church employees with income of \$108.28 or more must also pay.) This tax pays for benefits under the Social Security system. Social Security and Medicare benefits are available to individuals who are self-employed, just as they are to wage earners who have Social Security tax and Medicare tax withheld from their wages. The self-employment tax is figured on Form 1040, Schedule SE.

Subsistence allowances paid to ROTC students participating in advanced training are not taxable. However, active duty pay--such as pay received during summer advanced camp--is taxable.

Special rules apply to services performed as a newspaper carrier or distributor. As direct seller, your child is treated as being self-employed for federal tax purposes if the following conditions are met: Your child is in the business of delivering newspapers; all pay for these services directly relates to sales rather than to the number of hours worked; delivery services are performed under a written contract, which states that your child will not be treated as an employee for federal tax purposes. Generally, however, newspaper carriers or distributors under age 18 are not subject to self-employment tax.

A summer work schedule is sometimes a patchwork of odd jobs, which makes for confusion come tax time.

### Filing an Amended Return

What should you do if you already filed

your federal tax return and then discover a mistake? First of all, don't worry. In most cases, all you have to do is file an amended tax return. But before you do that, here is what you should be aware of when filing an amended tax return.

Taxpayers should use Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return" to file an amended (corrected) tax return. You must file the corrected tax return on paper. An amended return cannot be e-filed. If you need to file another schedule or form, don't forget to attach it to the amended return.

An amended tax return should only be filed to correct errors or make changes to your original tax return. For example, you should amend your return if you need to change your filing status or correct your income, deductions or credits. You normally do not need to file an amended return to correct math errors because the IRS automatically makes those changes for you. Also, do not file an amended return because you forgot to attach tax forms, such as W-2s or schedules. The IRS normally will mail you a request asking for those.

If you are amending more than one tax return, prepare a separate 1040X for each return and mail them to the IRS in separate envelopes. Note the tax year of the return you are amending at the top of Form 1040X. You will find the appropriate IRS address to mail your return to in the Form 1040X instructions.

If you are filing an amended tax return to claim an additional refund, wait until you have received your original tax refund before filing Form 1040X. Amended returns take up to 16 weeks to process. You may cash your original refund check while waiting for the additional refund.

If you owe additional taxes file Form 1040X and pay the tax as soon as possible to minimize interest and penalties. You can use IRS Direct Pay to pay your tax directly from your checking or savings account.

Generally, you must file Form 1040X within three years from the date you filed your original tax return or within two years of the date you paid the tax, whichever is later. For example, the last day for most people to file a 2014 claim for a refund is April 17, 2018. Special rules may apply to certain claims. Please call the office if you would like more information about this topic.

You can track the status of your amended tax return for the current year three weeks after you file. You can also check the status of amended returns for up to three prior years. To use the "Where's My Amended Return" tool on the IRS website, just enter your taxpayer identification number (usually your Social Security number), date of birth and zip code. If you have filed amended returns for more than one year, you can select each year individually to check the status of each.



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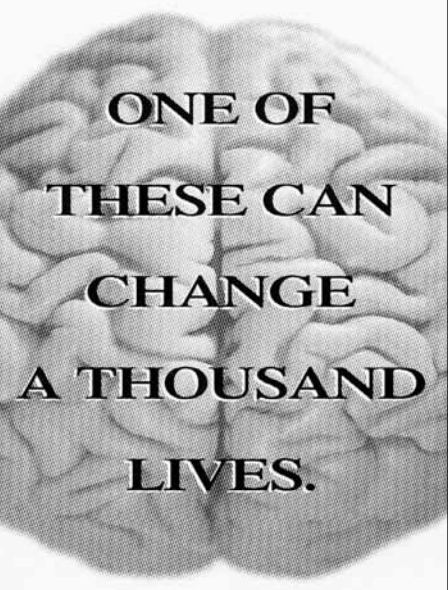
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Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Painters, photographers and filmmakers from on and off City Island have created many images of the original City Island bridge over the last century. To commemorate the end of an era, a selection of these is on exhibit at the City Island Nautical Museum. "Artists' Views of the City Island Bridge" has been curated by Cheryl Brinker (shown above) and will run through the summer. The museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

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Adam Zagajewski, a Polish poet

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**Jennifer Branley graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice on May 31 and celebrated with her grandparents, Mary and John Branley.**



**Islander Colleen Curran, flanked by her daughters Lauren and Amanda, graduated on June 15 from Empire State College.**

Happy Birthday on July 13 to "Proud Mary" Immediato, who keeps on rollin' every day. Best wishes from all her aerobics students at the Community Center and Grace Church.

Happy birthday greetings across the miles in St. Louis on July 9 to former Islander Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld with love from your City Island friends and neighbors.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Luisa Benedetto and Tommy Delaney who will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on August 26.

Congratulations to Centre Street's Jennifer Branley who graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice on May 31 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. We are very proud of all your accom-



**Alyssa Piranio graduated the University of Scranton with proud parents, Theresa and Jimmy Piranio, cheering her on.**

plishments. Love from Mom, Dad, Lauren, John and grandparents, Mary and John Branley.

Happy birthday on July 21 to Jennifer Carman with love from your family and friends.

Keep up the good work to Alyssa Piranio who graduated cum laude from the University of Scranton and will continue her studies at Scranton for her Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Alyssa is the daughter of proud parents Theresa and Jimmy Piranio and granddaughter of Buddy Pontecorvo.

Happy birthday to our dear mom, Barbara Henreckson of Pilot Cove, who will celebrate her big day on July 14. We love you so much! Deb, Elzie, Ken and all the boys.

Happy August birthday to the City Island Theater Group's, Liz Paldino.

The Swieciki and Iovieno families send a big birthday shout-out to Maria Christina Swieciki who turns 26 on August 22. We love you!

Happy birthday on August 16 to King Avenue's Nolan Quinn with love from your family and friends. Have a great day!

It's been a long, bumpy road but she did it! Kudos to Colleen Curran who graduated on June 15 from Empire State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Affairs Emergency Management. Celebrating in their mom's accomplishment were daughters Lauren and Amanda Hanglow.

Happiest of birthday wishes to our sweet granddaughter, Alana Ribaldo, who turns seven on July 9. You are growing up so fast! With hugs and kisses from Nonni and Pop.

Samantha Emerick of Bay Street will celebrate her big day on August 30. Your family and friends wish you a wonderful birthday!

She's a teenager! Happy birthday wishes to our granddaughter Kayla who turns 13 on the Fourth of July! Also, happy birthday wishes to our other sweet granddaughter Alyssa who will celebrate her tenth birthday on July 23. Lots of love to both of you from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Congratulations to clam digger Roger Nani who recently accepted a new position as



Photo by ARTURO MARI / L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

**During a meeting of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome in June, Islander Monica Glick, who has worked for that national office for 30 years, was blessed to meet Pope Francis. The Pope's mission societies support the work and service of the Church in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe.**



**Clam digger Roger Nani (above, center) will celebrate his birthday on Aug. 9. In May, he also attended the 15-year reunion of the Fordham Prep Class of 2002 with former Islanders Tom Cokeley (left) and Ethan Heben (right).**

Sr. Scientist Organic Chemistry at Quantum SI in Guilford, Connecticut. Roger and his wife, Leah, will be moving from Frederick, Maryland in July where he has been working at The National Cancer Institute. Roger will also celebrate his birthday on Aug. 9, so it will be a busy summer for the couple and their dog, Turley.

Happy fourth birthday to our special grandson Arlo Rota, with love from Grandma Judy and Grandpa Mike. We loved having you visit in June! Arlo loves Schofield Street beach and the Morris playground!

July birthday wishes also go to Arlo's

mom Beth Rota and Aunt Susie Rauh. The happy month closes out with Beth and Matt's anniversary on July 24.

Congratulations to Maria Leni on her graduation from P.S. 175. Maria received the City Island Chamber of Commerce award for the highest grade point average in the eighth grade class. She also received eight other awards at the P.S. 175 awards night. Maria will be attending The Ursuline School in September.

And wishing all our friends and neighbors a safe and happy summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki

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