

The Island Current

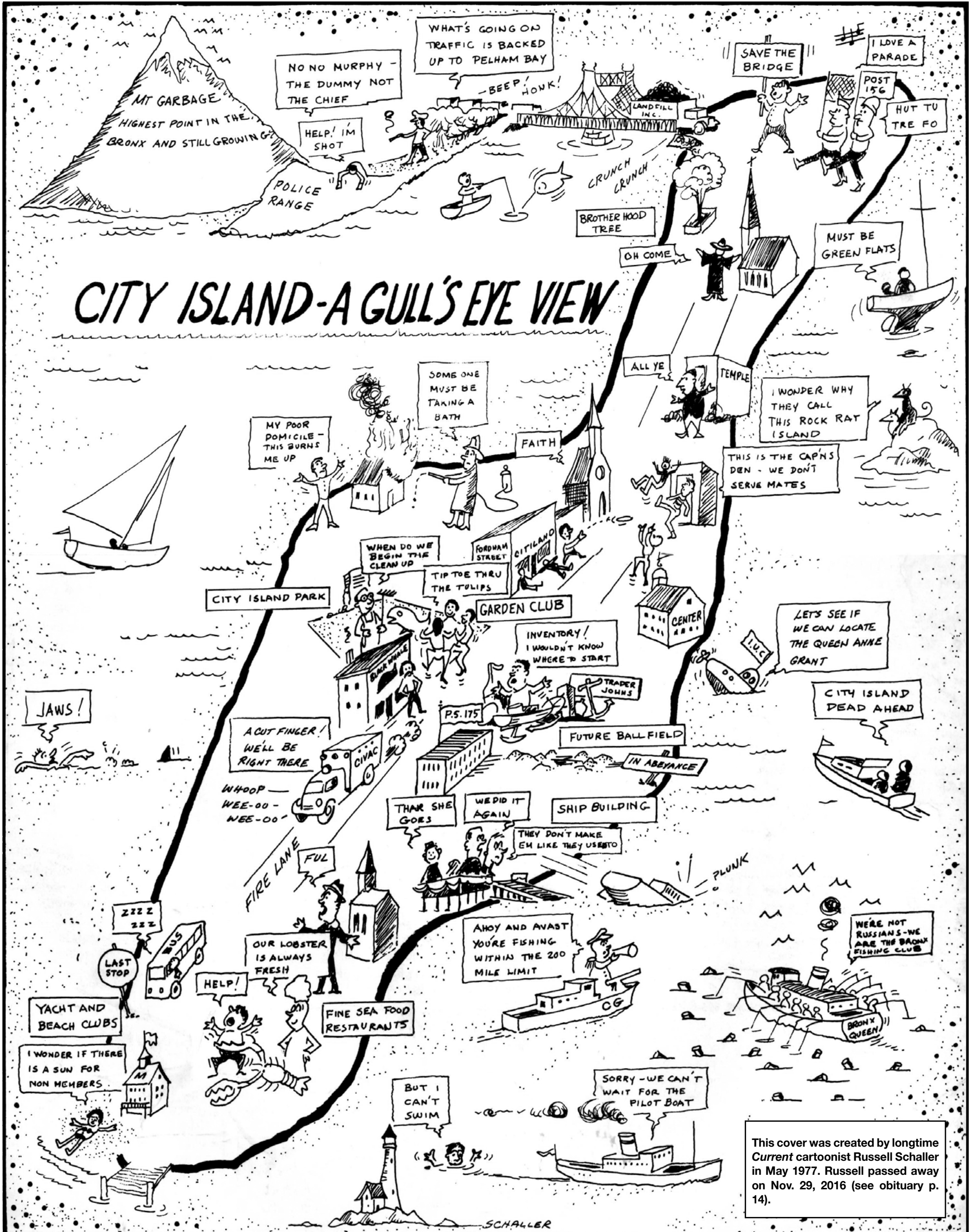
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One Dollar



This cover was created by longtime Current cartoonist Russell Schaller in May 1977. Russell passed away on Nov. 29, 2016 (see obituary p. 14).

BRIEFLY...

VALENTINE'S CRAFT FAIR & FLEA MARKET, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue. Donations for the flea market are being accepted at the Post; the deadline is Feb. 5. Contact Joanne Valletta at 646-321-8902 if you would like to become a vendor or for further information.

THE ART OF MARK WHITCOMBE will be celebrated at the City Island Nautical Museum in the spring with a retrospective exhibition of his work, ranging from tiny etchings to large paintings. All who are fortunate enough to own works by Mark are invited to lend one or more to the museum for the show, which will extend from March 1 to June 30. If you are willing to participate, please contact the curator, Ron Terner, at the Focal Point Gallery (718-885-1403), who will be curator of the exhibition, to ask for more details.

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS: The City Island Nautical Museum will be mounting an exhibition devoted to the City Island Bridge and all artists (painters, photographers, print makers, etc.) who have created images of the bridge over the years are invited to submit their work for the show, which will be on view from May 1 to June 30. Please call Barbara Dolensek at 718-885-0507 for more information or e-mail images to barbara@barbaraburn.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2016 and January 2017. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - ROBBERY/HOME INVASION
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 - PETIT LARCENY
- 2 - BURGLARY
- 1 - HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Dec. 1, 2016, to Jan. 17, 2017.

12/3 - On Carroll Street, an off-Island male told police that he was harassed by an Island male at 11:30 a.m. The complainant states that after painting the heaters in the resident's apartment, the perpetrator threatened him, and he feared for his safety.

12/7 - At 10 a.m. on Reynolds Street, an Island male told police that a delivery truck hit the Verizon wire attached to his residence causing damage to the side of

his house. The Fire Department came to the scene and tied off the wire. The driver of the delivery truck left the scene of the accident.

12/11 - Detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating a burglary on City Island Avenue at 9:45 p.m. An employee at a commercial establishment returned to the business to find the rear door open and property removed without permission. There was no damage, but the unknown perpetrators drank alcoholic beverages while on the premises.

12/16 - An Island male told police that unknown persons entered his residence on City Island Avenue and removed property without permission. The burglary has been referred to the detective squad, but no arrest has been made.

12/28 - A home invasion/robbery was reported at 30 Pilot Street (see article this page).

12/30 - On Earley Street, an Island resident parked his car and left it unlocked. In the morning, he returned to his vehicle to find that a Samsung phone had been removed without permission in an act of petit larceny.

1/2/17 - At 3 p.m., a Hawkins Street resident reported damage to the screen on the window in the rear of his residence in an act of criminal mischief.

HOME INVASION AT PICKWICK TERRACE



Photos courtesy of PICKWICK TERRACE

The alleged perpetrator of the home invasion at Pickwick Terrace on Dec. 28, 2016, can be seen carrying a safe, a duffel bag, and wearing a skull mask in these stills from the lobby security camera.

On Dec. 28, 2016, a robbery at an apartment in Pickwick Terrace on Pilot Street had City Islanders worried about safety during the week following Christmas.

According to a spokesman for the New York Police Department, an unknown male wearing a ski mask entered the apartment building at 30 Pilot Street at 7 p.m. armed with a silver handgun. A 43-old resident was struck in the face with the barrel of the gun. The unknown perpetrator then removed two safes containing money and jewelry from the apartment without the owner's permission.

The home invasion was covered by various news sources, some of which reported that the victim had been "pistol-whipped and dragged by her hair into her apartment."

According to News12, the victim received a buzz from a person claiming to have a package for her inside the lobby of the building. When she walked down the stairs, there was no one in the lobby. When she returned to her apartment, she was greeted by a man wearing a skull mask and holding a handgun.

Paul Gjonaj, who owns and manages the

building, told *The Current* that he was working with law enforcement to help find the perpetrator. He was disappointed that none of the security cameras along City Island Avenue had recorded a suspicious vehicle driving off the Island.

The case has been referred to the detective squad at the 45th Precinct and is actively under investigation. A spokesperson from the 45th Precinct said that few details could be released, so that the investigation is not jeopardized. However, it is hoped that an arrest will be made soon.

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2016 RECAP: A Year of Firsts and Lasts

By KAREN NANI

The year 2016 ran the gamut of historic events on City Island. Islanders were witnesses to the first resident inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame and the final demolition of the 115-year old City Island Bridge.

Filmmakers James and Tommy Breen captured the dismantling of the original City Island Bridge throughout 2016, including the removal of the decorative finials in September, followed by the fall of the familiar green arch in December. Their Facebook page, The New City Island Bridge, features hundreds of still photos and many videos that the brothers meticulously filmed, using ladders and drone cameras to record aerial and ground views of the massive construction project.

But the Breen brothers, who were raised on City Island, wanted to do more than record the construction and destruction processes. They want to express the context in which the bridge represents the Island as a whole. What they have produced is far more than the record of a construction project. They have filmed interviews with many Islanders and off-Islanders and attended many Civic Association meetings to capture the sensitivity to the issues that surround the bridge. Their documentary work will become an important aspect of City Island history as well.

In May, longtime resident Vincent Pastore was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame, a first for City Island. He was honored for his many acting roles in the theater, movies and television and is probably most famous for this role as the mobster "Big Pussy" in the HBO series "The Sopranos."

He moved to City Island in 2000 and continues to work as an actor, writer and even producer. He appeared on Broadway in 2014 in Woody Allen's "Bullets Over Broadway," and he has his own theater company, which produced shows in 2016. As an enthusiastic mussel sucker who belongs to the Fordham Street Beach Club, he also now has his name on the Walk of Fame street signs on the Grand Concourse.

For the first time, Belden Point at the south end of City Island Avenue became a pocket park open to pedestrians. The renovation was completed in March after having been a decade in the works. The City Island Civic Association and Senator Jeff Klein pressured the Department of Parks and Recreation to finally finish the work using the funds allocated by former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión and the current president, Rubén Diaz Jr. The project includes a seating area, decorative pavers and rails, and attractive landscaping. Although some of the plants on the site were damaged by waste water, the Parks Department and a nearby restaurant quickly worked out a solution.

The first-year moderator of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program, Islander Bill Whelan, oversaw the completion of a successful season in April. Three of the four teams made it to the championship round in the Catholic Youth Organization playoffs and the Girls Debs team won the Junior Varsity B Division championship.

City Island Little League also started

the 2016 season with a new president, Dom Esposito, who took the ball from retiring president John Tomsen.

For the first time in many years, City Island Avenue once again had a barbershop with the opening in February of City Island Cuts, owned and operated by clam digger Michael McMahon.

The City Island community was joined for the first time by other Bronx neighborhoods in complaining about the noise from the police firing range at Rodman's Neck. The sound of gunfire was even heard in the classrooms at Villa Maria Academy in the Country Club neighborhood. In March, the Civic Association and Councilmember James Vacca received a letter from then NYPD Commissioner William Bratton reaffirming the NYPD commitment to sound abatement.

But in April, Mayor Bill de Blasio released his 2017 budget and the capital funding for Rodman's Neck had been removed. Civic Association officer Barbara Dolensek called the Brian Lehrer radio show on WNYC and spoke directly with the mayor and complained about the failure of the city to provide soundproofing for the range. Surprisingly, the mayor claimed to know nothing of the sound issue, and he promised to look into it. At a town hall meeting in the Bronx in August, the mayor promised that funding for sound abatement would be in the next capital budget, but subsequent meetings with the NYPD have made it clear that sound abatement, only one aspect of the range renovation, was likely to be at least four or five years away.

Rat Island off the east side of City Island welcomed a new resident as a statue of Swiss hero William Tell was unveiled in July by the owner of the island, Alex Schibli, who was born in Switzerland, as part of the celebration of Swiss National Day.

Several Island residents achieved special recognition for the first time in 2016. Congratulations went to Islanders Drs. John Condeelis and Joan Jones, whose work on breast cancer was recognized in February by the director of the National Institutes of Health.

Clam digger Michael Bellocchio achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in June, but the event sadly marked the last ceremony for longtime scoutmaster Waldo Persteins, who moved with his family to Florida last fall.

David Carman, who has run Carman's Service Station for 40 years, was among several Islanders who received first-time awards for community service from the City Island Chamber of Commerce in November.

Cross Street residents Chiara and Leonard Ajkun became U.S. citizens and continued directing their successful company, the Ajkun Ballet Theater.

Islanders Jo Heck (Democrat) and Fred Ramftl Jr. (Republican) were selected as delegates for the first time and attended their respective presidential conventions during the summer of 2016.

Finally, the life of fireman John Daly of NYFD Engine 70 was commemorated in September at the City Island firehouse. Firefighter Daly succumbed to injuries from a fire on City Island Avenue in 1954 and a new plaque in his honor was dedicated on Schofield Street.

Islanders bid tearful farewells for the last time to many clam diggers and longtime residents who passed in 2016, including the Reverend Henry Douglas Coleman, Maurice Folliot, Nancy Fontana, Eileen Hess, Miriam Kleinberg, Peter McConnell, Robert Owens, Fred Ramftl Sr., Conal Schaller, Russell Schaller, Donald Schmahl, Vera Wright Thompson, and Stephan Vaughan.

In December, the driver who killed Shrimp Box worker Gabriela Anguilar-Vallinos in 2015, was finally convicted and sentenced to two to six years in prison for criminally negligent homicide and leaving the scene of an accident.

On a happy note, first-time wedding



Photos by JAMES BREEN, RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

Highlights from the year 2016 featured many firsts and lasts, including the final dismantling of the original City Island Bridge, the achievement of Eagle Scout by Michael Bellocchio (second photo, center) and the induction of resident Vincent Pastore into the Bronx Walk of Fame (photo below).



bells rang in 2016 for Islanders and their new spouses: Casey Quinn and Michael Higginbotham, Justin Rodstrom and Nicole Lindemann, Krystle Corredor and Frank Rocci, Michael DeRosa and Izzi Maria, Samantha Pecoraro and Travis Cummings, Alaura Mancuso and Bowie Stivala, Cait Hennessy and Richard O'Dwyer, Sam Casey and Nicole Glennon, Zachary Mirabito and Heather Falletta, and Larry Berger and Kristie Cernuto,

The Island Current was there to cover these events and more. We continue to be grateful to you, our readers, and our advertisers, whose support will keep The Current flowing into 2017, our 46th year!



Photo by RICK DeWITT


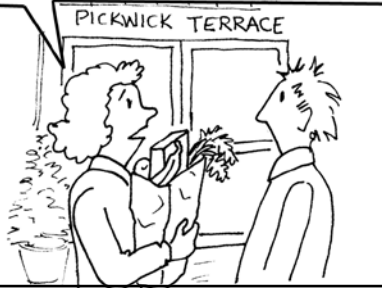
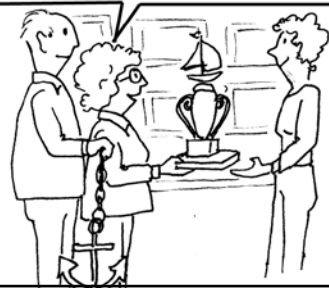

On Dec. 3, 2016, members of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 commemorated the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in front of the Legion Hall on City Island Avenue. It was the 25th anniversary of holding the ceremony by the Sons of the American Legion.

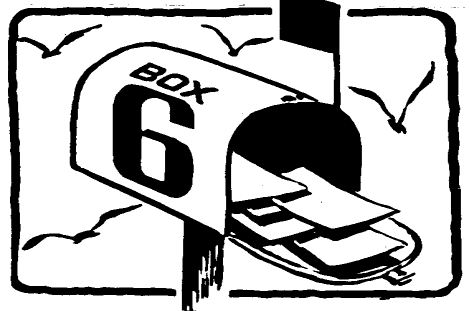
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<p>WE BID A SAD FAREWELL TO ISLAND CURRENT CARTOONIST RUSSELL SCHALLER</p>	<p>HOME INVASION AT PICKWICK TERRACE PROMPTS QUESTIONS</p>	<p>STUYVESANT YACHT CLUB DONATES MEMORABILIA TO THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM</p>	<p>LOCAL BOY SCOUT CONTINUES TRADITION OF SUPPORT FOR PELHAM CEMETERY</p>
<p>ARE THERE ANY OPENINGS IN THE iCLOUD? I HAD EXPERIENCE IN KEEPING LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN WORKING WITH MA BELL.</p> 	<p>A ROBBER GOT IN AND OUT UNSEEN? JUST WHEN YOU COULD USE A NOSEY NEIGHBOR, THERE'S NONE TO BE FOUND!</p> 	<p>WELL, IN TERMS OF PRESERVING THE GLORY DAYS, WE ARE IN STELLAR COMPANY... JACOB'S, MINNEFORD'S, NEVINS, ETC., ETC.</p> 	<p>GREAT JOB RESTORING THE FLAGPOLE PLACED BY THE LEGION, BOYS! YOU MAKE US PROUD!</p> 



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

Grateful Thanks

To the Editor:

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors for being so kind to our mom, Josephine, in her later years. We appreciate all the big and little things that helped her immensely, such as when her scooter broke down, calling one of us when she was in need, reaching for things off the grocery store shelves, stopping their cars when she insisted on crossing the street wherever and whenever, fixing her helmet for her and so, so much more.

Many Islanders recognized our mother by her bright red scooter. In her later years, Mom found it very difficult to get around on foot, and that scooter offered her mobility and independence. She enjoyed scooting around, seeing and talking to neighbors, visiting and shopping in the stores. Sometimes she wreaked havoc on her scooter. We know

this because we would get loving comments from friends and neighbors saying, "Boy, your mom moves fast on that thing" and "she really stops traffic on her scooter."

One year during the Memorial Day Parade, as the procession was passing Hawkins Street and turning into the park, along came Mom. Where was she, you might ask? Mom was in the parade, of course, proudly waving the American flag on her scooter. More importantly, as she scooted by, friends, neighbors and strangers alike clapped and cheered for her. That's City Island!

The old adage stills holds true, it takes a village to raise a family and, we would like to add, it takes Islanders to keep our seniors safe and happy. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Mom, we love you and will miss you terribly, always and forever in our hearts and minds.

The Kolb, Lotrionte and Fernandez families

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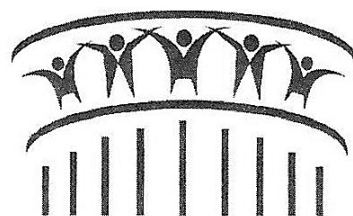
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LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

What were some of the highlights of 2016 for you?



Mark Nani

I was asked by a producer from John Oliver's HBO show, "Last Week Tonight," to say what I didn't like about 2016. I told them the Jets suck and the Yankees didn't make the playoffs. They included my remarks in a feature that ran in late November last year. It included other words about 2016 that can't be repeated here in *The Island Current*.

Mike Rauh



The highlight of 2016 would have to be the 21-day trip that Judy and I took to China. We saw some incredible sights, particularly the centuries-old terra-cotta warriors in Xian and the Great Wall. At the end of the trip, it was quite a thrill for me to return to Hong Kong after 48 years. I had last been there on R&R leave from Vietnam, when Hong Kong was still under British rule. Most of Hong Kong had changed, but I got to ride the Star Ferry in Victoria Harbor again, as well as the tram to Victoria Peak. The boat and the tram were still the same, but the view had changed tremendously. So many tall buildings, and so much modernization.



Sarah Goonan

2016 was a great year for me even if I am only 9. I am so excited that I got picked to be in the School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center. I can't wait for my first real big dance show!

Bob Sweicki



I retired after a combined 37 years in military and government service and I'm looking forward to enjoying my retirement.



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Some more great news from City Island's local Boy Scout Troop 211! Scout Joseph Kramer completed his Life Rank project by repairing the flag pole at the Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue in December 2016. Shown above are the scouts and leaders who supported him (l. to r.) Brandon McGaughan, Brian Kenny, Joseph Goonan, Angelo Bellocchio, Joseph Kramer and Colin Kenny. Not shown, but who also helped, are Matthew McGaughan and Joe Kramer Sr.

THE STUYVESANT YACHT CLUB LIVES ON—IN A WAY

By SALLY SMALL



Photo by JUDY RAUH

Former members of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club presented donations to the City Island Nautical Museum on Dec. 11, 2016 (l. to r.): Sally Small, Barbara Dolensek, Mike Rauh and Commodore Kurt Krimphove.

Many Islanders were very sad to learn that the Stuyvesant Yacht Club on City Island was sold and the club disbanded. However, some of its historic artifacts and treasures were donated to the City Island Nautical Museum in December to help remind the nautical world of the club's long history.

The club was originally founded in 1890 by a small group of young men in Manhattan who loved the water and boating. They pooled their resources and bought a small rowboat, which they launched in the Harlem River. When the group grew larger, they rented an empty store near 125th Street, where they held regular meetings.

In 1904 the excursion boat *General Slocum* caught fire while in the Hell Gate area not far from the clubhouse, and club members used every available vessel to ferry surviving passengers ashore, saving about 110 people that day. The club eventually chartered a sloop named *Seabird*, and once, while anchored in Manhasset, the sailors noticed the dismantled ferry boat *Gerard Stuyvesant*. They bought it and had it towed to Port Morris in the Bronx, where it became their home, and the club called itself the Stuyvesant Yacht Club (SYC).

The club eventually moved from Port Morris to a site in Pelham Bay Park near Jack's Rock. In 1934 SYC's fortunes were running out, mostly due to economic conditions. On short notice, the members abandoned their new home, because the land was being taken over by the Parks Department, and many members gave up hope for the club and quit. The oldtimers responded "Never! Stuyvesant, a veteran of the storms of 45 years will never founder."

The club members found a property at the west end of Centre Street on City Island; it was purchased by Gus Galowitz Sr. in 1935 and the club paid him back. SYC had many great years at that location until in 1968 a devastating fire brought them back to square one. Undaunted, the club members again raised money to rebuild, giving of their time

and effort to do the construction. The new clubhouse was dedicated in 1969.

Just like the ebb and flow of the tides, there are ebbs and flows in every life, including the life of a club. In 2011 the northeast was hit by Hurricane Irene and the club sustained some damage, but that was nothing compared to the devastation caused by Hurricane "superstorm" Sandy on Oct. 29, 2012. Although the clubhouse got some flooding, there was not much damage done, but the yard suffered major destruction. All of the summer house was washed away along with the docks, and tremendous damage was done to the bulkheads surrounding the yard. About 20 boats were totally destroyed and many others were damaged.

The owners of the boats that were totaled decided to get out of boating and quit the club. Membership had been decreasing for several years, and the loss of so many members at once was a disastrous blow. With costs and inflation on the rise, SYC just wasn't able to recover and it had to be sold. In spite of its best efforts, the club foundered because of a tremendous storm in its 122nd year.

During its "golden" years, the club was very active. It ran a junior program; it had a frostbite series; several races were run by members; there were parties, rendezvous, cruises, and so on. Unfortunately, all those good times survive only in memories and old photographs.

Former SYC members were pleased when the City Island Nautical Museum officers, Tom Nye and Barbara Dolensek, kindly agreed to keep the club's memory alive by storing memorabilia, trophies, history books and the like. To help them with the costs of doing this, Stuyvesant donated some of the proceeds of the sale to the museum, and Kurt Krimphove and Sally Small also donated some money to maintain the exhibits. A history book is in the works and should be completed by springtime and will be on display at the museum for those who wish to read more about our beloved club.

While going through the historical information that I gathered for this article, I found a poignant piece written by City Islander Catherine Scott, who lived next door to the club: "[Stuyvesant] is the memory of cool summer evenings on the breeze-swept summer house, where across the water, the bridges sparkle like stellar necklaces. It is a history of dinners and gay revelries, of a quiet drink, game of cards, or a good place to read a book, to drowse in the sun, even to dream."

It is sad but true that all good things must come to an end. Stuyvesant will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all past members, and in that respect, it will never die.

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Another Neighborhood Activist Running for NYC Council

By KAREN NANI



Former Community Board 10 chairman and candidate for New York City Council John Marano listened to the concerns of Islanders, including Cathy Cepek on Jan. 12, 2017, at a fundraiser at Paddy's on the Island. Shown above at the event are (l. to r.) Pat Branley, Jimmy Mantzaris, Janine Mantzaris, Billy McGee, Frank Cepek and Mr. Marano.

In the Democratic primary on Sept. 12, Islanders will have several choices for New York City Council District 13 who are pro-City Island. The former chairman of Community Board 10, John Marano, announced his candidacy, and highlighted his contributions at a fundraiser at Paddy's on the Island on Jan. 12, 2017.

Mr. Marano joins four other candidates running for the council seat from the Bronx, among them Island resident John Doyle (see profile in the March 2016 issue of *The Current*) and Mark Gjonaj, currently State Assemblyman and owner of several Island properties. District 13 includes City Island, Throggs Neck, Pelham Bay and the Zerega sections of the Bronx.

"I am preparing to run for Councilman for the 13th District because I feel it is a natural extension of my life's work," Mr. Marano told *The Current*. "Public service has been my life. I love helping people and surrounding myself with great people. This is why I continue to live in Throggs Neck with my family and work for communities like City Island. I want to do everything in my power to keep the 13th District vibrant for all families to live for years to come."

Mr. Marano has a multi-faceted public service resumé. After early years working at his father's bakery in Throggs Neck, he entered the New York City Police Academy at the age of 20. He was a police officer for 10 years, assigned to the 23rd Precinct in East Harlem and eventually to the Narcotics Division in Manhattan. Then in 1998, he decided to serve New York City in a different capacity.

He became a New York City firefighter until his retirement from the FDNY in 2006. After his retirement, John had a strong desire to serve the community and an opportunity arose. In 2007 he was asked by New York City Councilman James Vacca, to serve as a volunteer board member on Community Board 10 in the Bronx. Two years later, he was appointed to chair the Municipal Services Committee, and in June 2010 he was elected chairman of Community Board 10, a position he held for four consecutive years.

He never regretted the decision to volunteer. "I continued to serve as a public servant when I was appointed as a volunteer to Community Board 10. It allowed me to work very closely with adjoining community boards and the leaders that represent NYC agencies. It also allowed me to build a close working relationship with our elected officials, who taught me how important it is to listen to your constituents and look out for your neighborhoods best interests."

As a member of Community Board 10, Mr. Marano has taken a special interest in City Island. "The City Island community is very passionate and it's great to have such a large group involved in the future of the neighborhood." He worked with the City Island Civic Association and Senator Jeff Klein to pressure the city to change the design of the new bridge "that fit in with the

community landscape."

He has also personally helped Officer Malafronte from the 45th Precinct with graffiti removal and cleanup on City Island. Mr. Marano is also a frequent marcher in the Legion's Memorial Day parade along City Island Avenue.

"I try to 'walk the walk' and get involved directly to solve neighborhood problems," he explained to the group of Islanders and others who gathered to meet Mr. Marano at Paddy's on Jan. 12.

Islander Cathy Cepek was among those who wanted to learn more about John Marano. "It was a very successful evening. Many City Islanders came out to meet John and the feedback from those who attended was all positive. Many have contributed to his campaign," she told *The Current*.

Mr. Marano addressed some of the ongoing issues facing City Island. "I know residents have been bothered by the gunfire from the Rodman's Neck police range for many years. We hear it in Throggs Neck as well, but not as bad as City Islanders have had to endure." He strongly supports soundproofing devices and measures to "muzzle the noise and gunfire. But I don't want to push the NYPD out of the area for safety reasons."

He points out that the police firing range at Rodman's Neck brings hundreds of NYPD and NYS Corrections and Court Officers into the area on a daily basis. "Looking at it from a safety point of view and the merchants' side, it's a win-win for City Island. Many of the officers go on to restaurants on City Island. They may be off duty, but they are still sworn to protect citizens and their presence adds a layer of safety."

He is also aware of the narcotics problems on City Island. As a former police officer, he knows that the NYPD is stretched thin and being asked to do more with less. "In the 1980s, there were about 40,000 cops in New York. Now there are about 8,000 less and they are asked to handle terrorism in addition to all their other crime fighting responsibilities."

He explained that when he was an officer in East Harlem, much of the drug dealing was done outside and it was easier to identify perpetrators and make arrests. In a neighborhood like City Island, more of the deals are done indoors in private homes. "Because of this, police rely more than ever on residents who see something, to say something and report suspected drug sales and use."

Mr. Marano was asked about our resident candidate, John Doyle. "I know and have worked with John for many years, especially when John worked for Senator Klein. If I am elected, I look forward to working with all elected officials, as I have in the past, and fighting for our neighborhoods, especially the small businesses throughout the district."

Mr. Marano currently resides in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx, with his wife, Luz, and their three sons, John "JC," Christian, and Andrew, who attend local community schools.



ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, CAROLERS AND LIGHTS!



Photos by BOB BERENT, RICK DeWITT, MATT PANZA and KAREN NANI

The 2016 holiday season was merry and bright at City Island's homes and houses of worship. St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church held its traditional concert of lessons and carols on Dec. 18, led by Ken Farnum (top photo). Then, on Dec. 21, the children of St. Mary's religious education program presented the "Twases of Christmas." Grace Episcopal Church resurrected its Christmas Pageant on Dec. 24 for the first time in eight years, featuring (second photo, first row, l. to r.) Adam Garforth, Marcus Lopez-Pierre, Sophia and Emilio Aponte, Tyler Bandler, and Christine and Rachel Lopez-Pierre. Back row: Eileen Marcus, Melvin Aponte, Roger Nani and Haley Bandler with Mark Nani, Emily Bandler and Chandra Menon. Trinity Methodist Church's pageant on Dec. 18 told the beautiful story of the nativity (third photo). Finally, Temple Beth-El's menorah lighting on Dec. 24 capped off a joyous festival of lights all over City Island including this front yard on King Avenue (bottom photos).

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

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 11, **Valentine's Craft Fair & Flea Market**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue.

Sat., Feb. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Baked ziti.

Tues., Feb. 28, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Sunday, Feb. 5, is Scout Sunday. St. Mary's will recognize the scouts at a liturgy at 11 a.m.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory on Sunday, Feb. 5, after the 9 a.m. Mass. Join us for light refreshments.

Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

Rose Dietz

City Island Republicans

We are ready for our 45th President, Donald J. Trump, to start his administration. The Bronx Republican dinner will be held March 8. Call 718-792-5800 for more details and reservations.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Garden Club of City Island

Members gathered at the City Island Yacht Club on Nov. 28 for the traditional decorating and distribution of holiday wreaths for community organizations. Under the direction of beautification chair Kathy Gibbons, club members also filled the 30 planter boxes along City Island Avenue with festive plantings, including fresh holiday greens and assorted pine cones. The boxes will be maintained throughout the winter months by the beautification committee.

The members' holiday luncheon on Dec. 9 at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club was well attended and included a holiday grab bag. Delicious appetizers, entrées and side dishes were served family-style and included a beautifully decorated holiday cake.

As we look forward to the coming year, our program co-chair, Carol Wilkinson, is planning a number of trips to nearby gardens. The next member trip will be in February to the Camellia House at Planting Fields and Arboretum State Historic Park to see the collection in bloom.

Our regular meetings, which are followed by refreshments provided by members of the hospitality committee, take place at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month. As always, the Garden Club welcomes like-minded people interested in horticulture and civic beautification. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. All are welcome; for those who wish to become members, annual dues are \$35. Check out our Facebook page maintained by publicity co-chair Charline Evers. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Carol Hansen

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: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Father John Covington. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome.

Sunday School: A new season of Amazing Grace's Sunday School has begun, but it's not too late to join our enthusiastic group of children. 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.

The Grace Tones, our music ministry made up of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. We sang Christmas carols at sunrise at Fleetwood Assisted Living in Mount Vernon on Jan. 2. If you'd like to join us, please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Please join us for Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sandy Dunn

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The Auxiliary held its annual "Trim A Tree Holiday Party" on Tuesday, Dec. 6. It was a fun-filled night filled with good will, music and laughter. Thank you to Monica and Elliot Glick of the Starving Artist for donating their talents to entertain the ladies.

This year we sponsored a new outreach program entitled "Pick A Veteran" for the holiday season. Active and non-active Veteran names from the Leonard Hawkins Legion roster were placed in a blind ballot and hand-picked by Auxiliary members. A letter of thanks and appreciation for their service and gift was personally delivered by each member. The event was well received by the women of the Auxiliary as well as the veterans and their families. We hope to continue this annual program of good will and honor.

The Auxiliary has also teamed up with the Quilts of Valor Foundation, whose mission is to cover service members and veterans affected by war with comforting and healing quilts. We will present our first quilt to Neil Carroll on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

We are sponsoring our first Valentine's Craft & Flea Market on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have a diverse group of vendors, baked items and raffle prizes. If anyone would like to donate items for our flea market, please contact Joanne Valletta at 646-321-8902. We hope to see you there.

The American Legion sponsored its mid-winter conference in Albany on Jan. 20-22. Laura Booth, President; Doreen Gallagher, VP Membership; Joanne Valletta, Secretary; and Susan Vaughan, 3rd VP, were in attendance.

The American Legion family has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans, helped military families through transition and produced many important programs for our country's youth. We are proud to be members of the Auxiliary and welcome all who would like to join and participate.

Joanne Valletta



Photo courtesy of the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary members celebrating at their annual Trim-a-Tree Holiday Party at the Leonard Hawkins Post on Dec. 6, 2016.



Photo by CARRICK FORBES

The Grace Tones of Grace Episcopal Church performed Christmas carols at Fleetwood Assisted Living on Jan. 2 (l. to r.): Giny Rosa, Francine Alheid, Peggy Mechmann, Sandy Dunn, Carol Serrano, Bruce Weis, Jeremy McCue and Ellen Badome.

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. Services are led at other times 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, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Temple Services: Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea. Feb. 3: Congregant-led; Feb. 10: Rabbi David will lead service celebrating mystical New Year for the Trees, spiritual precursor to spring, and our commitment to steward our living planet; Feb. 17: Congregant-led; Feb. 24: Rabbi David and Rabbi Shohama.

Winter and Early Spring Celebrations: Saturday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m. Tu B'shevat Seder; Sat., March 11, 6 p.m.: Purim Festival and Dinner; Saturday, April 8, 7 to 11 p.m.: Gala Dinner Dance; Tuesday, April 11, 6 to 10 p.m.: Passover Seder.

Activities: TBE invites the City Island community to our Monday evening yoga class, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Daniella Haney (Patresha 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 served after sessions. Suggested freewill offering: \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 8, 7 to 11 p.m. will be our 83rd annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, a highlight of our year. Join Temple Beth-El for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea. We will honor long-time Temple supporters David Stark and Rachel Singer in celebrating their upcoming marriage as well as giving a special Community

Service Award to Brenda Prohaska. Silent auction items are needed. To volunteer or support this event, please contact us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com or stop into Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

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 as 718-885-0978 or violetsmi@aol.com.

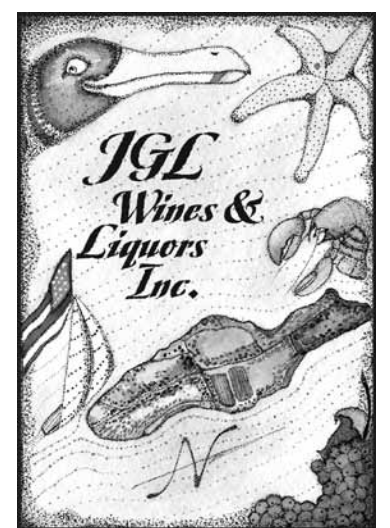
Condolences: TBE joins Barbara Gold in mourning the death of Carl Gold of blessed memory, who died Dec. 19 after a long illness. May Carl's soul rise high and shine as an eternal blessing for Barbara and all who cared for him.

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Happy Valentine's Day! Great selection of Valentine gifts, accessories, and decorations. We will continue our bag sales and special item sales during the month. Come join fellow shoppers and enjoy cake and coffee.

Arlene Byrne



©JGL

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



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

Thank you to all of you who renewed your memberships, joined the CICC for the first time, or sent in a donation. We appreciate the support of our community and could not exist without it. Remember that we are a 501(C)(3) non-profit and your membership and donations are deductible, and it is never late to join.

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.cityislandcommunity-center.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. Think about it.

NEW PROGRAMS

AA: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. Open meeting; all are welcome.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesday after school and Saturday afternoon. An exciting new educational program for children at the Center. Taught by experienced school teachers, the Español Experience teaches conversational Spanish to children grades K-5 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 and/or to register your child, visit www.espanolexperience.com.

Spanish for Healthcare Professionals: This 10-week course is designed to empower you with literacy skills to communicate with your Spanish-speaking patients, their families, and healthcare providers. This course will first introduce basic Spanish grammar and vocabulary to provide the foundation for speaking intelligibly in Spanish in healthcare environments. Will meet once weekly for 2 hours. The fee is \$20 per class. Meeting day/time is to be determined. Contact: Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Story time with GP's Honey Tomes:

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

GP's Honey Tomes, publisher of children's books and materials, will present monthly readings for children ages 3 through 9, followed by health and literacy activities. Fee is \$20 for the 1.5 hour program and includes a copy of the storybook and a snack. Meeting day/time is to be determined. Contact Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Spanish Classes for Adult Learners: Always wanted to learn Spanish, but never did? These fun-filled and practical classes will set you on your path to becoming bilingual. Participants will learn songs, role play, watch videos, and engage in other activities that facilitate language acquisition. Will meet once weekly for 2 hours. The fee is \$20 per class. Meeting day/time is to be determined. Contact Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Healing Service: Thursdays by appointment, Rev. Francesca Vitale, Polarity/CranioSacral Practitioner, formerly of the New York Open Center, is offering healing. A person can heal and become empowered receiving clarity of mind and balance within. A portion of the suggested donation for the services will be given back to the Community Center. For further information, visit www.thevitalforcefoundation.org. For an appointment, call Francesca at 914-837-6830.

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Warm up winter with the cha cha and waltz 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, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 2:30 to 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. Teens/Adults, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. To register or for more information email lalithadance@gmail.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. For new students or students with limited experience, \$10 per class. For information, contact Ryan at 914-356-6673 or ryangillyoga@gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art for Children: Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study art from the 15th to the 21st century with Lorraine Cantori. For more information, e-mail ceasar-dante@optonline.net or call 914-552-5268.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., Beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes are taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail 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. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. Call Jill at 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.

Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves. Saturday or Sunday. To enroll, call Kristin Amezquita 646-625-1575.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Friday, 10 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For information, call Betty at 718-885-1095. Class is on hold until April.

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: The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables. It will begin again in the late spring. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

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. New group begins as soon as five more members 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 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

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. This season the children are studying the story of Joseph in Egypt and progressing through the story of Moses. All children are welcome to attend.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), where you will find all things Trinity, including the texts of Reverend Yew's sermons.

The Budget Shop is open! Stop in and see what is new. It is open the first and third Tuesday each month, and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Dues (\$30) are now due. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates established 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.

Bill Clancy Jr.'s campaign for state commander is moving forward. The election will be held this July.

The annual pig's-knuckle party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. It is limited to 70 people and is for men only.

The SAL in conjunction is conducting a 50/50 raffle to raise money for Billy Clancy's state commander campaign. Chances are \$5 per ticket or \$20 per book. Stop by the Post to pick some up.

Thanks to Gene Valesio, who made the food that went up to the hospitality suite at

the mid-winter conference. Also thanks to Gene Valesio and Tom Vivolo for preparing the foods for the NFL Championship weekend.

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 Ramftl Jr.

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.

Highlights

Feb. 1: Savvy Saving Seniors at 1 p.m. (PSS Life University)

Feb. 6: Nutrition Presentation at 12:15 p.m. (PSS Life University)

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day, with gifts and desserts

Feb. 20: CLOSED for President's Day

Feb. 22 and March 1: Wednesday, Palliative Care Presentation "Your Health Your Way" at 1 p.m. Attend both sessions and receive a \$25 gift card.

February 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 at 1 p.m. The suggested donation for the Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

February Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m., Jewelry Making at 1 p.m. Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15 a.m.; Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 7 and 21; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda at 1 p.m. for \$10; please call for February dates; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 9; Birthday Party Feb. 16; at 12:30 p.m.; Fridays: Bake & Tag Sale Feb. 10 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.

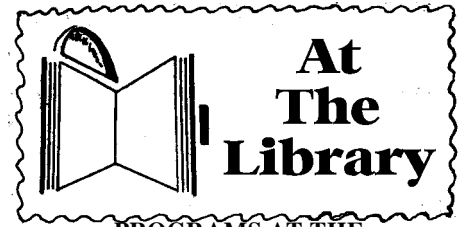
Caregivers Support. If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

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



BistroSK (273 City Island Avenue) is reopening after a brief holiday with these winter specials from Tuesday to Thursday: Half Cornish Hen roasted with rosemary and garlic; mashed potato for \$10.95; or moules marinières (steamed mussels) with French fries for \$9.95.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703
Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Mixed Aged Rock and Roll: A one-of-a-kind music shin-dig for mixed ages. Great for siblings! Bradley True and trusty pal Gus Guitar will perform original tunes and classic renditions that will serve your kid's developmental milestones and keep your repertoire at home fresh and exciting! Recommended for children of all ages. Monday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.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 pre-schoolers 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. Saturday, Feb. 4 and 18 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, Feb. 10, at 11:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays, at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's

events and come hang out with us! Feb. 3: The Get Down: Library Rap; Feb. 10 and 24: Wii & Board Games; Feb. 17: Anti-Valentine's Day Party.

Family Movie: Feature movie titles varying in length. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m.: "Finding Dory."

FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

The City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. You may even learn a thing or two while you're making some new friends. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Call 718-885-1703 or stop by the branch to reserve your spot! Thursday, Feb. 9 and 23 at 1 p.m.

NEW: City Island Book Club: Please call the branch or stop in for more information. Monday, Feb. 6 and 27, 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 resumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Every Wednesday 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. Feb. 4: "Sully"; Feb. 11: "Southside with You"; Feb. 18: "The Magnificent Seven"; Feb. 25: "Jason Bourne"

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



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
453 King Avenue	10/11/16	\$425,000	1 family
60 Tier Street	10/11/16	\$299,000	1 family
143 Bowne Street	10/11/16	\$5,000	garage
103 Carroll Street	10/19/16	\$419,000	multi-family
75 Ditmars Street	10/24/16	\$914,000	1 family
81 Rochelle Street	11/08/16	\$290,000	1 family
19 Deepwater Way	11/21/16	\$490,000	condo
89 Reynolds Street	11/29/16	\$512,000	1 family
85 Winters Street	11/29/16	\$522,500	1 family
14 Windward Lane	12/06/16	\$482,000	condo
152 Tier St., 104A	12/09/16	\$324,480	condo
314 King Avenue	12/13/16	\$397,000	1 family
217 Fordham St.	12/11/16	\$865,000	warehouse
176 Schofield St.	12/22/16	\$565,000	1 family
205 Kirby Street	12/27/16	\$415,000	1 family



Photo by KIMBERLY FUSCO

Masked attendees enjoyed the Murder Mystery Night held at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club on Friday, Jan. 13. Watch *The Current* for more fun events to be held at the Morris during 2017.

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Photo by FRANK FRAIOLI

On Friday, Jan. 6, Councilmember Jimmy Vacca visited P.S. 175 and joined students and staff to recognize the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation after-school program, which he funds with the New York City Council. Mr. Vacca is standing in the back row next to Principal Amy Lipson.



Public School 175

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten and first-grade students attended a performance of "Jack Frost," given by Arts on Stage at Queensboro College. Second-graders, as part of their work in social studies, visited the Skyscraper Museum and fifth-, seventh- and eighth-graders visited the American Museum of Natural History as an extension of the work they are doing in science.

We were excited to be chosen by Congressman Joseph Crowley to be one of 10 schools selected to decorate a Christmas tree at the New York Botanical Garden. Students in the fourth grade worked with a teaching artist from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to create their own sailboat and lighthouse ornaments, which they then brought to the Garden and put on our tree. Students were also treated to hot chocolate and cookies! We thank Congressman Crowley so much for this wonderful experience.

The "Hollyrock Game Show" returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Seventh- and eighth-graders continued their traditions of "Eight Plus 1 Equals Holiday Fun" and "7 Plus K Equals Happy Holiday," in which each of their classes teamed up with a first-grade or kindergarten class to do a holiday craft. Students in all four grades loved the experience, which will be repeated in years to come.

Finally, on Dec. 22, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in grades K through 8 all

sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition. This ended our year on a high note!

January has been just as exciting. Our fifth-graders are preparing for their spring performance of "Shrek, Jr." and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production. The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After-School Program has resumed for sixth through eighth graders. Students are participating in a variety of activities including computers, athletics, games and homework help. Teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble have been working with our school chorus, comprising grades 3 through 8, for their spring performance. They sound great!

We have also begun a music program for students in grades K through 4 and grade 6. Mrs. Joan Schwartz, a retired music teacher, joins us one day each week to provide students with wonderful opportunities to express themselves through music. We are very excited to have her with us.

Our Character Education program continues to thrive. Jan. 23 through 27 is the Great American Kindness Week. All students will be doing "Acts of Kindness" in school to celebrate this week.

Community-service projects geared toward teaching students that we can all contribute in positive ways to our small City Island community and to the world as a whole will be taking place in all grades with eighth-graders once again doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-grade "Rewards Trips" program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits!

Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 school year has begun. This process is done only on line. Please visit the Department of Education website for more information (<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/NewStudents/default.htm>). Should further assistance be needed, please call the school at 718-885-1093.

December Citizens-of-the Month were Jason Sgobbo and Lucas Sipas (kindergarten); Isabella Kola and Michael Maiorca (first grade); Anthony Macagnone and Nicoleh Donascimento (second grade); Kylee Garcia (third grade); Isabel Quiles and Mikayla Murphy (fourth grade); Jordyn Knapp (fifth grade); Emily Sabina and Gwen Boyle (sixth grade); Jennifer Gjonaj and Julian Mc Elroy (seventh grade); Isabel Whelan and Joshua Rosario (eighth grade).

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Favorite Plants

It has been a mild winter so far here in the Bronx. My mind has almost been tricked into a false sense of spring. This morning I noticed a beautiful clove-scented carnation blooming out on the sea wall. Three small white fragrant blossoms on Jan. 12. Does this cause some anxiety? Global warming must certainly be a factor for the higher temps this winter. Here's hoping that protecting this planet would be paramount in the minds of our representatives.

But, of course, there are many weeks until spring, seven to be exact. So for the dreary month of February I have decided to list some of my favorite plants to give you and myself a green fix. With proper care and a good start, most are not very hard to grow. Key plants will define the style of your garden and provide year-round presence. These plants will also give you a base to plant around.

Winter and very early spring plants are to me one of the great pleasures of gardening. One can go outside when there is still a chill in the air, or even snow, and see plants blossoming or showing off their handsome evergreen branches. Here are some I could not be without.

Winter and early spring plants: 1, Camellia; 2, Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis' (the winter flowering cherry tree in white); 3, Viburnum x bodnantense; 4, Jasminum nudiflorum; 5, Clematis armandii 'apple blossom' or 'freckles'; 6, Witch Hazel (Hamamelis mollis or intermedia primavera); 7, Ivy (Hedera helix 'glacier' or 'golden heart'); 8, Cyclamen coum (just a few or a swath under trees); 9, Galanthus nivalis (snowdrops); 10, Helleborus orientalis or foetidus; 11, Viola odorata.

Key plants that can define a garden: 1, Box (Buxus sempervirens), which gives shape to any scheme; 2, Yew (Taxus bac-

Viola Odorata

catta, dark green and a perfect backdrop, prune to any shape); 3, Smoke bush (royal purple); 4, Viburnum plicatum mariesii; 5, Acanthus spinosus (the leaves are the classic foliage found on Corinthian columns); 6, Roses (Buff Beauty, Pearl Drift, Rose de rescht); 7, Grasses (Calamagrostis acutiflora 'karl forster' and Miscanthus sinensis 'yaku jima'); 8, Japanese anemone (pink or white); 9, Nepeta (Six Hill Giant); 10, Verbena bonariensis (tall, graceful, see-through plants); 11, any of the large Euphorbias (Euphorbia characias wulfenii 'lambrook gold'), from seed, a fantastic sub-shrub but only if you are by the water and you have poor sandy soil).

This is just a small list, but I am confident of the beauty and impact that these plants have in the landscape. Repetition is key to good design, so if you only plant a box or yew hedge with a few grasses out front or one specimen of, say, a winter-flowering cherry, it would be enough to start your garden off with a real sense of place.

I'm off to check what else is showing signs of life outside on this January day of 65 degrees. Yes, here are the euphorbias developing their characteristic crooks of imminent blossoms. Even now spring is not far off. Legend says that on St. Valentine's day birds begin to court, snowdrops and primroses begin blooming, and in our dreams flowery meadows appear.

Winter is still upon us and, like the animals, we are not expected to do anything very strenuous or heroic in the cold months. Kick back. There are still six weeks until the madness and the glory begin.

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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Coming to America

The immigrant experience in America is spread over an infinitesimal variety of cultures as vast as numbers of countries in the world. We begin with **The Godfather II** (1974), starring Al Pacino as Michael Corleone, who takes over for his father, Vito, as head of a crime syndicate. In this outstanding sequel, Robert DeNiro stars as young Vito as he begins his life in Sicily and comes to America, where he founds the family empire. The interweaving of the past and present stories makes for fascinating viewing.

The Jazz Singer (1980) stars Neil Diamond as Cantor Yussel "Jess" Rabinovitch, a first-generation American and the son of a long line of cantors. Jess is unhappy on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and yearns to create his own kind of music, much to the consternation of his wife, Rivvy (Catlin Adams), and his father (Laurence Olivier). When Jess takes his shot at fame by going to Los Angeles, he is befriended by Molly Bell (Lucy Arnaz), who helps get his career going. Diamond's wonderful song "Coming to America" both opens and closes the film.

Moscow on the Hudson (1984) stars Robin Williams as Vladimir Ivanoff, a Russian saxophone player in a circus. He is torn between a sweet home life and being oppressed by his society, and when the circus visits New York, Williams goes on a shopping trip to Bloomingdale's and impulsively decides to defect. He is given a place to stay by security guard Lionel Witherspoon (Cleavant Derricks) and falls for fellow immigrant Lucia Lombardo (Maria Conchita Alonso). It is interesting to note that virtually every character he meets in the film is from a country other than the United States.

Eddie Murphy stars in **Coming to America** (1988) as the pampered African Prince Akeem who rebels against a marriage arranged by his father (James Earl Jones) and heads to America to find a bride. With his best friend/personal aide Semmi (Arsenio Hall) at his side, the two pretend to be foreign students in order to avoid fortune hunters. Shari Headley is featured as Murphy's love interest. Murphy and Hall play multiple roles, and there are innumerable celebrity cameos peppered throughout the film.

Green Card (1990) stars the French actor Gerard Depardieu in his American debut as George Fauré, an immigrant who will do anything to remain in the United States. He is introduced to Bronte Parrish (Andie MacDowell), a horticulturist who is desperate to move into a building that has a phenomenal greenhouse. Unfortunately for Bronte, the landlord will rent only to married couples, so a marriage of convenience is born. It does not go too smoothly for the couple, however, when the immigration service decides to investigate whether or not this is a bogus marriage.

The Wedding Banquet (1993) is the story of Wai-Tung (Winston Chao), a gay Chinese man happily ensconced in New York with his lover, Simon (Mitchell Lichtenstein). Wai-Tung's parents, who are still living in China, constantly pressure him to get married, because they want grandchildren. To get his parents to stop hassling him, he decides to marry Wei-Wei (May Chin), a struggling artist who has no green card and wants to stay in America. When his parents decide to come to New York for the wedding, they turn his life upside down.

In America (2002) is about the struggle of an Irish immigrant family to start a new life in New York City. When Johnny (Paddy Considine) and Sarah (Samantha Morton) Sullivan move into Hell's Kitchen in the mid-1980s with their two daughters, Christy (Sarah Bolger) and Ariel (Emma

Bolger), they are grieving the death of their son. Although the parents do what they can to make ends meet, the girls befriend a reclusive neighbor named Mateo (Djimon Hounsou), who becomes their unlikely ally through further family crises. This semi-autobiographical film is dedicated to writer/director Jim Sheridan's brother Frankie, who died at the age of 10.

Spanglish (2004) is a quirky story of Flor (Paz Vega) and her daughter, Cristina (Shelbie Bruce), who move from Mexico to Los Angeles, where Flor goes to work for the Clasky family. Bernice Clasky (Sarah Steele) is the same age as Cristina, and her mother, Deborah (Tea Leoni), a drama queen of the highest order, is married to John (Adam Sandler), a chef whose restaurant receives four stars by the New York Times food critic. Flor is the voice of reason in a home of bedlam, although she barely speaks English. This is a story about assimilation and misguided good intentions of Americans toward immigrants.

Take Out (2008) is the story of Ming Ding (Charles Jang), an illegal Chinese immigrant who works as a deliveryman for a Chinese take-out place. Leaving his wife and son behind, he has come to the United States, where he intends to earn enough to eventually send for them. When he falls behind in his payments to the smugglers who brought him to America, he is given one day to put the money together. The camera follows Ming Ding as he bicycles in the pouring rain through Manhattan's upper West Side. His co-worker Young (Jeng-Hua Yu) helps him by "magnanimously" allowing Ming to take all of the deliveries that day. Harsh words occur between Ming and Wei (Justin Wan), the cook, but Wei has internal workings that are surprising. The restaurant is run by Big Sister (Wang-Thye Lee), who has to deal with all sorts of races in America's melting pot.

The Namesake (2006) depicts the struggles of Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli (Irrfan Khan and Tabu), first-generation immigrants from Calcutta who attempt to integrate into the new world, with their American-born children, Gogol (Kal Penn) and Sonia (Sahira Nair), while not forgetting the old. The story focuses on their assimilated son, who works as an architect and dates Maxine (Jacinda Barrett), a Caucasian woman from a wealthy background, who is clueless about their cultural differences. Gogol is torn between finding his own unique identity and retaining his heritage.

The Visitor (2007) stars Richard Jenkins as Walter Vale, a widowed college economics professor whose life has become passionless and mundane. While attending a conference in Manhattan, he is surprised to discover that a young couple has moved into his seldom-used apartment in the city. Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend, Zainab (Danai Gurira), have fallen victim to an elaborate real-estate scam. Walter reluctantly allows the couple to remain in his apartment, and to repay this kindness, talented musician Tarek insists on teaching

him to play the African drum, which starts to rekindle Walter's spirit. When Tarek's life takes an unexpected negative turn, and his beautiful mother, Mouna (Hiam Abbass), arrives in search of her son, Walter is stunned to find himself smitten.

Mao's Last Dancer (2010) is the story of dancer Li Cunxin (Chi Chao), who comes to spend a summer with the Houston ballet, where he is seduced by the luxurious American lifestyle. It is also the story of the Cultural Revolution in China. The juxtaposition of the two cultures and scenery is accomplished with flashbacks combined with just the right amount of suspense. The dancing is spectacular, as is the cinematography.

In **The Immigrant** (2014) Ewa Cybulski (Marion Cotillard) and her sister, Magda (Angela Sarafyan), sail to New York from their native Poland in search of the American dream. When they reach Ellis Island, doctors discover that Magda is ill and put her into quarantine, and they release Ewa onto the mean streets of Manhattan. With no place to go, Ewa quickly falls prey to Bruno (Joaquin Phoenix), a charming but wicked man who takes her in and forces her into prostitution. The arrival of the dashing stage magician Orlando (Jeremy Renner) helps restore her self-confidence and her hopes for a brighter future.

Forgotten Ellis Island (2008) is a fascinating PBS documentary about the abandoned immigrant hospital on Ellis Island depicted in the previous drama. During the great wave of immigration that began in the 1890s, the hospital was America's first line of defense against contagious, often virulent,

disease. In the era before antibiotics, tens of thousands of immigrant patients were separated from their families, detained in the hospital and healed before they could become citizens.

Set in the early 1950s, **Brooklyn** (2015) tells the moving story of Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan), a young Irish immigrant lured by the promise of America. Initially she is terribly homesick; but when she meets Italian-American plumber Tony Fiorello (Emory Cohen), she falls hopelessly in love. When a death in the family takes her home, Eilis finds opportunities that weren't there when she left, including the interest of well-to-do bachelor Jim Farrell (Domnall Gleeson). Eilis is faced with the heart-rending choice of where, and with whom, she will spend the rest of her life.

And until next time, God Bless America, and happy viewing...



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

FEBRUARY 2017

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Wed	0136	7.94	0759	-0.35	1356	7.72	2020	-0.50	Wed 01
02 Thu	0224	7.89	0851	-0.19	1448	7.36	2110	-0.25	Thu 02
03 Fri	0317	7.73	0950	0.03	1546	6.95	2205	0.06	Fri 03
04 Sat	0416	7.52	1107	0.23	1653	6.58	2311	0.34	Sat 04
05 Sun	0524	7.35	1255	0.17	1821	6.40			Sun 05
06 Mon	0052	0.45	0653	7.33	1410	-0.15	1959	6.57	Mon 06
07 Tue	0220	0.23	0821	7.55	1512	-0.55	2105	6.91	Tue 07
08 Wed	0324	-0.12	0925	7.83	1607	-0.92	2201	7.27	Wed 08
09 Thu	0420	-0.47	1020	8.06	1658	-1.16	2251	7.56	Thu 09
10 Fri	0512	-0.72	1110	8.17	1745	-1.24	2338	7.75	Fri 10
11 Sat	0600	-0.83	1157	8.14	1830	-1.15			Sat 11
12 Sun	0023	7.82	0645	-0.78	1241	7.98	1912	-0.90	Sun 12
13 Mon	0105	7.76	0729	-0.58	1323	7.70	1952	-0.55	Mon 13
14 Tue	0146	7.61	0811	-0.27	1405	7.36	2027	-0.12	Tue 14
15 Wed	0226	7.39	0852	0.11	1446	7.00	2054	0.3	Wed 15
16 Thu	0306	7.15	0933	0.50	1530	6.65	2112	0.68	Thu 16
17 Fri	0348	6.91	1018	0.85	1625	6.35	2146	1.00	Fri 17
18 Sat	0441	6.72	1120	1.12	1733	6.17	2233	1.27	Sat 18
19 Sun	0552	6.62	1226	1.23	1838	6.14	2331	1.45	Sun 19
20 Mon	0657	6.66	1326	1.18	1936	6.25			Mon 20
21 Tue	0052	1.47	0752	6.80	1419	0.99	2028	6.46	Tue 21
22 Wed	0209	1.29	0839	7.01	1506	0.70	2112	6.72	Wed 22
23 Thu	0258	0.98	0916	7.26	1546	0.38	2149	7.00	Thu 23
24 Fri	0338	0.61	0942	7.52	1621	0.05	2214	7.30	Fri 24
25 Sat	0415	0.20	1009	7.79	1651	-0.27	2237	7.63	Sat 25
26 Sun	0453	-0.20	1044	8.03	1721	-0.55	2309	7.96	Sun 26
27 Mon	0533	-0.53	1124	8.18	1755	-0.75	2348	8.21	Mon 27
28 Tue	0614	-0.74	1207	8.20	1834	-0.82			Tue 28
MARCH 2017									
01 Wed	0030	8.35	0659	-0.79	1253	8.06	1916	-0.74	Wed 01
02 Thu	0115	8.34	0748	-0.67	1342	7.78	2002	-0.50	Thu 02
03 Fri	0204	8.17	0841	-0.40	1435	7.37	2053	-0.13	Fri 03
04 Sat	0258	7.86	0946	-0.04	1535	6.92	2153	0.30	Sat 04



Greater Numbers of Greater Scaup

This winter has been a bonanza for birders with an interest in waterfowl. Eastchester Bay hasn't seen sustained numbers like these in a long time. All of the usual suspects are present—swans, geese, brant, mallards, black ducks, mergansers, loons, grebes, buffleheads, and scaup. Especially scaup! We have seen rafts of scaup that sometimes stretch the length of the Island, north to south. At night, they make their way out into the deep water and huddle, it seems, for warmth. In daylight, they move closer to shore, where they can dive for food.

Greater scaup are distinguished from lesser scaup by size and a subtler roundness of the head. They are also the variety more likely to winter on salt water. Like their raft mates, the buffleheads, scaup are migratory birds who visit us from the Arctic. Their bluish beaks make them easy to identify. Their numbers, too! Scaup are inclined to stick together.

Why they have stuck together for as long as they have in our area has been the subject of some debate. While it is probably the case that the food supply figures prominently in this year's presence, exactly how it figures is unknown. So far, we are familiar with four theories: 1. The scaup are feeding on the same whelk (sometimes called conch) that local lobstermen have been catching lately. 2. Because of the whelk fishing, the smaller snails and crustaceans that would have been eaten by whelk are being eaten by scaup instead. 3. Last year's mild winter, in addition to the milder water temperatures in



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Scaup in Eastchester Bay

general that we've been reading about, have created conditions favorable for the increase of snail and crustacean populations. And 4. Scaup have had to adapt to a food supply in transition.

On this fourth point, we have noticed scaup, a diving bird by nature, scraping at the seaweed on exposed rocks along the shoreline for food. We have also noticed a few practicing the art of dabbling, which is a way of feeding that is usually considered distinct from diving. For example, mallards don't dive for food; they dabble. When mallards feed, they do it with their heads submerged and their rear ends pointing straight up into the air. That is dabbling.

The other thing that lends credence to this point about adapting is that ornithologists have been telling us since the 1980s that scaup populations have been decreasing. Some of the causes that they have cited include loss of habitat and water pollution. Of course, the truth about the scaup in our area probably lies somewhere in the middle of all the above explanations. Perhaps one of our readers has a different theory altogether that he or she would like to share. If so, send us an e-mail at jdsstrat@msn.com.

Teaching Civic Responsibility to Your Child

By JOHN SCARDINA

We have just witnessed the inauguration of a new president. Now that Donald Trump has taken office, don't we still have a responsibility as citizens to let him know what's on our minds?

Like being an informed voter and voting in every election, writing to our government officials is an act of good citizenship that we can practice at no cost to ourselves and of great benefit to our nation. These are also life skills that we can teach to our children, using the example of our active citizen life to encourage them to do the same as they grow older.

Why not have your child write a letter to the president, focusing on issues such as these?

- What is needed in our community that the president could help accomplish?
- What lessons have you learned at

school that would help the president do his job?

- What issues should be given priority during the first year and why? Examples might include the economy, education, immigration, refugees, health care, gun control, criminal justice and mass incarceration, foreign relations, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- If you were president, what are three things you would do?

- Recommend a book that you think the president should read and explain why.

Here's the mailing address (be sure to include a return address):

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

We often state that many people have fought hard and made great sacrifices to ensure that our democracy goes forward, yet during the last presidential election 48 percent of eligible voters (over 92 million people) did not vote. Let's do our part to make sure that the next generation will be better citizens.

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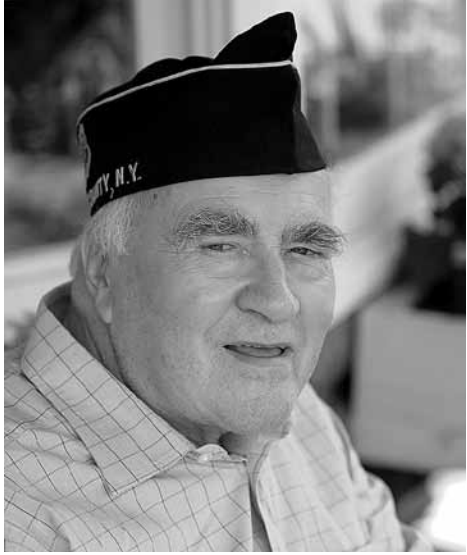
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Obituaries

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



Russell Schaller

Longtime Island resident Russell Francis Schaller passed away peacefully in his home on Nov. 29, 2016, at the age of 92.

Russell was born in Boonton, NJ on Dec. 7, 1923, to Barbara Katherine Reisch and Adam Joseph Schaller. Russell and his parents arrived on City Island in 1928, when Adam Schaller, who was a NYC corrections officer on Hart Island, decided it was time to relocate his family to City Island rather than commuting back to Boonton on weekends.

Russell attended P.S. 17 and Christopher Columbus High School, and he began his college years at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn before enlisting in the Army Air Force during World War II. As a member of the Greatest Generation, already having gone through the Great Depression, he joined the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron as a Topographic Draftsman/ Photo Interpreter, serving in England, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

After his war service, Russell joined Bell Telephone Company as a splicer and draftsman. Enrolling in night school at Iona College in New Rochelle, Russell completed his bachelor's degrees in engineering, and business administration, with a major in finance, in 1961, and a master's degree in business administration in 1969. He then became a plant engineer with Bell Telephone Company. He worked with the company for 44 years, retiring in 1989, and then immediately returned to work as an independent contractor.

During this time, Russell fathered six children, having married Eileen Corley on Sept. 24, 1949, and they created a multi-generational circus on holidays and at family gatherings and events, creating a cacophony of lively conversation and discourse.

Russell Schaller was a respected pillar of the community and served as a trustee of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, an officer of the City Island Civic Association, and a member of the Knights of Columbus and the now-defunct CIVAC. He was a columnist and cartoonist for *The Island Current*, a board member of Pilot Cove and the American Legion, Leonard Hawkins Post 156.

His cartoons in *The Current* would poke fun at the most staid denizens of his beloved Island who would regard the allusion as a badge of honor. He kept everyone in good spirits with his quick wit and funny stories. "Pop," as he was called by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their myriad friends, always kept his door open to all who were intent on good conversation, championing their recent sports conquests, discussing politics, relating their artistic performances or just wanting their fill of grandpa jokes. Russell's sense of humor was unparalleled;

one had only to call his house and wait for his voice message to provoke a good chuckle.

Russell is survived by his sons Joseph (m. Mary Degnan), Russell (m. Phyllis McManus) and Thomas, and his daughters Marie (m. William Kearns), Irene (m. Brian Callahan), Catherine (m. Vincent Mazzaro); 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Donations in Russell's memory may be made to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464.

After a funeral service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Dec. 2, 2016, he was interred at Pelham Cemetery. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



Josephine Lotrionte

Longtime Island resident Josephine Lotrionte passed away on Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, at the age of 89.

Josephine was born in New York on March 18, 1927, to Teresa and Onofrio Maiello, the youngest of 11 siblings, all whom passed away before she did. She was raised in the Arthur Avenue section of Bronx and attended Roosevelt High School on Fordham Road, where she developed her love of swimming.

Josephine moved to Hawkins Street on City Island in the 1940s. She was married in 1955 to Vito Lotrionte, who passed away in 1978, and they raised three children.

Josephine worked for Macy's for over 35 years, both in Herald Square and in Parkchester. In her retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, attending the City Island AARP meetings and going to City Island Senior Citizen Center.

Josephine loved to garden and cook and was most famous for her meatballs and "gravy." She was also an avid crafter. She enjoyed making Christmas balls and gifted them to family, friends and Island neighbors. In her later years, she found it difficult to get around, and one of her greatest joys was to travel around the Island on her scooter. She often commented how nice everyone was to her—helping her when her scooter broke down, reaching for items off the grocery store shelves, fixing her helmet and so much more.

Josephine is survived by her three children, Nicholas (Nancy) Lotrionte, Rosemarie (Donald) Kolb and Joanne (Mike) Fernandez; and eight grandchildren, Donny (Rob), Christopher, Lily, Nicolette, Jillian, Briana, Anna and Julia.

Donations in Josephine's memory can be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101.

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GOT WORK? TOO MUCH? I can help. Retired office manager, City Island resident, looking for part-time (1-2 days per week) office work, word processing, filing, spread sheets, computer. Reasonable hourly rates. Melanie 646-573-9826.

UNIQUE WATERFRONT PROPERTY FOR SALE: Lot size 50' X 320' facing Long Island Sound. Brick house + finished basement, HW floors, 1 car garage AND 3 cottages. Great investment property! \$1.250M. Call Agent Maria, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, 718/885-0088 (office) or 718/885-0017 (cell).

HOME FOR SALE: 100 Pilot Street. Fully attached home. 3 bedrooms, LR, Kitchen w/DA, 2.5 baths, HW floors, finished basement, large attic, ample storage. \$499K. Call Agent, Maria, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, 718-885-0088 (office) or 718-885-0017 (cell).

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

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APARTMENT WANTED: Retired couple, City Island residents, looking for studio apartment starting April 1. Minimal steps or elevator building. Melanie 646-573-9826 or Hank 917-754-0071.

CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

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FOR SALE: Four bedroom brick house on Earley Street, large living room, dining room, eat in kitchen, one car garage, beach access and street association. Call Kevin 845-216-0705



Photo by CAROL HANSEN

Wreaths decorated by the Garden Club of City Island were distributed to community organizations and sites, including the Pelham Cemetery.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Con Ed trucks were lined up along the east side of City Island Avenue between Bay and Tier Streets across from Trinity Church for several days, replacing a gas main after a nearby gas leak alerted them to the need for a new pipe.

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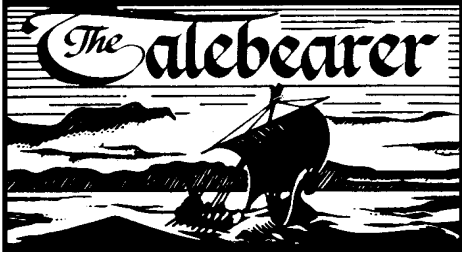
I received the 2016 Five Star Award, and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for a second year in a row!

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



David Mooney

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Zach Mirabito and Heather Falletta, who were wed on Nov. 11, 2016, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, with love always from their families.

Happy birthday wishes on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Anniversary wishes to Dave and Marjorie Kos with love from everyone!

Birthday greetings to Lisa Clarke, who celebrates on Feb. 26.

Congratulations to Pilot Street's David Mooney, who has been promoted to Flotilla Commander for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary—City Island Flotilla #014-05-04. The Flotilla has more than 50 members and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of service to the City Island community.

A big happy birthday shout-out to our son Anthony Ribaudo on Feb. 3, with love from Mom and Dad.

Lots of celebrating in February with the Booth family: Rose Booth on Feb. 4, Angela D'Allara on Feb. 14 and Laura Booth on Feb. 5.

Wishing all a very happy Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. Enjoy!

Maria Swieciki



Zachary Mirabito and Heather Falletta

for VALENTINES for him... for her... I love you balloons, of course 885-1834



The cold custom continues! The annual Polar Bear dip on Earley Street waded off on Jan. 1, 2017. Pictured are the hearty Earley Street residents Dan Treiber, Reina Mia Brill (first time doing the plunge), Rupert Deese, Natasha Reilly Moynihan and Brian Moynihan. They were joined by visiting friends Courtenay Long and Bridget Morgan.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Karen Nani and the staff of The Island Current gathered on Jan. 8, 2017 at the home of editorial board member Barbara Dolensek to mark the start of the City Island newspaper's 46th year. It was a bittersweet annual party, as the staff shared fond reminiscences of longtime cartoonist Russell Schaller, who passed away in November 2016. Shown are the best volunteers in the newspaper business (kneeling, l. to r.): Sandy Dunn, Mary Colby and Barbara Dolensek. Standing: Bill Stuttig, Bruce Weis, Bob Swieciki, Johanna Paciullo, Matt Panza, Jane Protzman, Mike and Judy Rauh, Karen Nani, Ginger Dannegger, Margaret Lenz, Tom Smith, Cathy Mazzaro, Maria Swieciki, John Sheridan, Maria Sutherland, and Frank and Cheryl Koller.

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