

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Islanders Recognized for “Spying on Cancer Cells”

By KAREN NANI

The City Island husband-and wife scientist team Drs. John Condeelis and Joan Jones are working hard to track the spread of cells in breast cancer patients. John’s “espionage work” was recognized in February 2016 by the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Joan’s work may soon help determine metastatic (spreading) risk among patients with breast cancer.

John and Joan have lived on Horton Street for 30 years and work at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine nearby in the Bronx. Their short commute from City Island every day brings them to their work on Morris Park Avenue. Joan is a professor of pathology, structural biology and population health at Einstein, as well as an attending pathologist at Montefiore Medical Center. John has a PhD in biophysics and is professor of anatomy and structural biology. He is also the Scientific Director of the Analytical Imaging Facility at Einstein.

John’s special research interests are in optical physics, cancer biology and mouse models of cancer. He and his collaborators developed the multiphoton imaging technology and animal models used to identify invasion in mammary tumors. Imaging of live breast tumors at single cell resolution reveals how tumor cells spread.

This led to what NIH director, Dr. Francis Collins, called a “cool video” that was featured at the American Society for Cell Biology’s 2015 Celldance video series (note the word play on the popular Sundance Film Festival), produced by MD/PhD student Edison Leung and research fellow Allison Harney in John’s lab. You can watch the video at <http://directorsblog.nih.gov/2016/02/04/cool-videos-spying-on-cancer-cell-invasion/#more-5730>.

You don’t have to have a medical or biology degree to find the video fascinating. Dr. Collins describes it this way: “If you’re a fan of the ‘Mission: Impossible’ spy thrillers, here’s a potentially life-saving mission that [Ethan Hunt’s] force has yet to undertake: spying on cancer cells. Never fear—some scientific sleuths already have!”

Joan’s clinical work is in the final stages of commercial development as a clinical test for metastatic risk in breast cancer. The reality of this disease remains staggering. According to the National Cancer Institute, 232,340 American women developed breast cancer last year, and 39,620 women died from the disease. It is the most common cancer among women in the United States. Death from breast cancer is mainly caused by distant metastasis, when cancer cells in the primary tumor invade blood vessels and travel via the bloodstream to form tumors elsewhere in the body.

“Currently marketed tests assess risk for breast cancer metastasis by looking for changes in gene expression or in levels of proteins associated with growth of tumor cells,” said Joan. “But those changes don’t reflect the mechanism by which individual tumor cells invade blood vessels, a necessary step for metastasis. By contrast, our



test is based on what Einstein researchers learned from biological processes deep within the tissues of a living animal. Using this technology, we determined how breast cancer tumor cells spread in rodents.”

Her colleague Thomas Rohan, MD, PhD, explains the important implications for all women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. “Tests assessing metastatic risk can help doctors identify which patients should receive aggressive therapy and which patients should be spared.”

To measure the test’s effectiveness, the researchers used it on about 500 breast tumor specimens that had been collected over a 20-year period. The test proved more accurate in predicting the risk of distant tumor spread than a test closely resembling the leading breast cancer prognostic indicator on the market.

So how did these two dedicated cancer researchers come to City Island? Joan told *The Current*, “We met at Einstein. Our first date was at Artie’s Restaurant.” They then discovered that they both had an interest in living on City Island because of their common love of sailing. Once they became a couple, they moved to Schofield Street, then Fordham Street, and finally settled on Horton Street. They miss their longtime Horton Street neighbors who have passed on, including Skippy Lane, Ducky and Lorraine Rauhauser and Oliver Sacks, another dedicated medical researcher.

John and Joan hosted many memorable beach parties on the Horton Street beach and took neighbors for cruises around City Island on the *Command Boat*, an abandoned 28-foot Thompson that had washed ashore and was refurbished under the mentorship of Skippy Lane. They were members of the Morris Yacht Club for 26 years and are now in a slip at the South Minneford Yacht Club.

Thankfully for many of us who donate, pray and walk for a cure for cancer, Joan and John continue to dedicate themselves tirelessly. John has authored more than 290 scientific papers on various aspects of cell and cancer biology and biophysics. Joan



Longtime Horton Street residents Drs. John Condeelis and Joan Jones (photo left), researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, are dedicated to tracking the spread of cells in breast cancer patients. They share a love of science, as well as boating, and often take friends around City Island in their *Command Boat* (photo above).

leads a team of pathologists who apply imaging observations in living rodents to identify markers in human breast biopsy specimens.

John and Joan have many friends on City Island who wish them fair winds and continued success in their collaborations in cancer research.

The New City Island Bridge— Caught on Camera

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



James and Tommy Breen have been filming the City Island Bridge construction for three years and posting the videos on their Facebook page, The New City Island Bridge. James poses in front of the bridge with his drone camera, which has produced some amazing aerial views (top photo), and Tommy stands in front of the soon-to-be-no-more Welcome to City Island sign (bottom photo).

On January 3, 2015, a new page appeared on Facebook featuring a photograph of the holiday wreaths attached to the signs on the City Island Bridge. As still photographs were augmented by video footage, “The New City Island Bridge” page became increasingly popular and now claims more than 1,200 followers and tens of thousands of views from people all over the world.

The creator of the page, and of the videos and photographs that make it so popular, is James Breen, 37, along with his brother, Tommy, 32, both of whom grew up on City Island. James followed his father into the



Continued on page 14

BRIEFLY...

MANOR CLUB FUNDRAISER called "Broadway on the Esplanade II," featuring singer Natalie Douglas, will be held on Saturday, March 5, at 8 p.m. in the club's theater at 1023 Espanade in Pelham Manor. Natalie is an acclaimed vocalist who has been widely admired for her unique mix of jazz, blues, standards, pop, folk and country music. Tickets are \$100, which includes the show and a reception with an open bar and elegant edibles; \$70 of the ticket price is tax-deductible. Call The Manor Club at 914-738-1528 or e-mail themanorclubofpelham@gmail.com.

P.S. 175 NEEDS YOUR HELP! When the walls were built on the second floor to create the library, they did not receive funding for books, so the school has started a campaign to raise money for the cause. Please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/PS175CityIsland> and show your support by making a donation. And share this campaign with friends and family on Facebook and Twitter.

THE 45th PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will honor Islander Brenda Prohaska this year at its annual breakfast, which will be held on Wednesday, May 11, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway. Other honorees include Archbishop Angel Rosario (Church of God's Children, CEO Bronx Clergy Task Force), Lynn Gerbino (Throggs Neck community activist), Hanna Acampora (Westchester Square community activist), Father Grippo of St. Theresa Church, and Al Carena (Country Club community activist). To make a reservation, send a check for \$15 payable to the 45th Precinct Community Council to Annie Boller, c/o Abalon, 717 South 3rd Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. For information call: Robert Bieder at 718-828-4400 or Joe Boiko at 718-320-3300, ext. 3409.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH will be the subject of a gathering sponsored by the Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. at Scavello's on the Island, 101 City Island Avenue, on Thursday, March 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The featured speaker will be Coline Jenkins, a great great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton; she will devote part of her talk to Anne Hutchinson as 2016 marks Hutchinson's 425th birthday. Admission is free; lunch will be served, RSVP is required. Please call 718-590-3522.

ST. MARY, STAR OF THE SEA TOWN HALL MEETING will be held in the church on Sunday, March 6, at 12 noon, to address issues about the current status of the church and its future, and to answer any questions people may have regarding the parish. Everyone is invited to attend this important meeting.

EASTER EGG HUNT at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 26. All ages are invited.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH will host an event on Thursday, March 3, 2016, that will feature a speaker who will explore the relationship between the Puritan rebel Anne Hutchinson, the Dutch commercial colony of New Netherland and the local Lenape Indians in the area near the church during the 1640s. The event will be free; the church is located at 897 South Columbus Avenue in Mount Vernon.

"THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK" will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on the first two weekends in March: Friday and Saturday, March 4, 5, 11, and 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 6 and 13, at 3 p.m. On March 6, after the matinee performance of the play, written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and adapted by Wendy Kesselman, the audience is invited to join a discussion group on the relevance of Anne Frank then and now, led by Rabbi David Markus of Temple Beth-El on City Island and Donna Torres, a public school English teacher who specializes in Holocaust literature. There will be a champagne reception for members of the audience and cast after the opening night production on Friday, March 4. All performances will be at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. For tickets call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line at www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

A CRUISING SEMINAR will be presented by Maria Caruso at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, on Thursday, March 31, together with Greg Fraher of SeaDream Yacht Cruises and Elyse Reilly of Uniworld River Cruises. Cocktails at 7 p.m., followed by a 30-minute presentation with a video and slide show and a question-and-answer period. All are invited, and those who attend will receive discount certificates to be used toward a cruise if booked with Maria within two weeks of the event. Please RSVP to maria.caruso@frosch.com or call 917-797-4524 by March 17.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP AUDITIONS for "Love, Sex and the IRS," written by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore and directed by Joe Burck, will be Friday, March 18, at 7:45 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m. at Grace Hall. Production dates are May 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22. "Love, Sex and the IRS" is a comedy about two out-of-work musicians living in New York City. In an effort to save money, Jon has filed their income tax returns as a married couple. Leslie, his roommate, is unaware of this until the IRS informs the "couple" that they are being audited and that an agent will be visiting their apartment.

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PRE-K APPLICATIONS OPEN. All children born in 2012 are eligible to attend free, full-day, high-quality pre-Kindergarten in the fall, where they will learn to solve problems, ask questions and work together. The Pre-K application deadline is Friday, March 4. Apply in one of three ways: online at schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK, or call 718-935-2067 or e-mail pre-k@schools.nyc.gov.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – GRAFFITI VANDALISM
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Jan. 20 to Feb. 20, 2016.

1/30 – A female Islander reported an incident of criminal mischief at 4:40 p.m. The victim stated that she parked her vehicle on Belden Street and returned to find the rear driver side tire slashed. A male perpetrator was observed leaving the scene.

2/2 – At 2:45 p.m. on Carroll Street, an Island male told police that he had been verbally threatened by an Island female in an act of harassment.

2/7 – On Carroll Street at 4 p.m., an

off-Island female reported an act of petit larceny. She told police that her vehicle had been towed away because both license plates had been removed without her permission while the car had been parked for several days.

2/9 – Police are investigating a burglary at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 4:30 a.m. Unknown persons entered through a side door and removed U.S. currency from an ATM and a cash register.

2/10 – An Island male resident of Pell Place reported an incident of aggravated harassment at 12:15 p.m. He told police that he received a threatening phone call from an unknown number.

2/12 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 24, and charged him with petit larceny at 2 a.m. The victim stated that the defendant entered a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue and removed merchandise without paying.

2/17 – Officer Malafronte, Graffiti Coordinator at the 45th Precinct, reported graffiti vandalism on a seawall on City Island Avenue. The tag is under investigation and the graffiti has been scheduled for cleaning.

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COUNCIL HEARING HELD ABOUT HART ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BEATRICE SHANDLEY

The transfer of jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Parks and Recreation is being debated and a hearing was held in January 2016. In a historical note, there are two current City Islanders who actually lived on Hart Island! Anna Shandley and Rosetta Shandley Woods were residents of Hart Island for four years in the early 1950s, when their father, Francis Shandley, was employed by the New York City Department of Welfare. Rosetta and Anna shuttled back and forth by ferry from the same dock that exists now on Fordham Street (top photo) and are shown in front of their house on Hart Island (bottom photo).

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016, members of the City Island community testified at a public hearing held by the City Council regarding a bill introduced by Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley that would, if approved, transfer jurisdiction of nearby Hart Island from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks).

Hart Island is the location of New York City's only potter's field, and nearly one million people have been buried there since the city took possession of the island in 1864. Also on the island are a number of historic buildings, now in poor condition, as well as remnants of a Nike missile site and a ferry dock, the only access point, which the DOC uses to transport prisoners

to bury the bodies of unidentified or indigent New Yorkers.

Although the island has been used as a prison since the 1860s, it was always accessible to the public, but the DOC closed it in the mid-1880s and refused to allow visitors without special permits. Even those who wished to visit the graves of relatives were never allowed to access the actual gravesites until a recent lawsuit filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union overturned that rule. Nevertheless, access is still limited to those who obtain special permission, and no one is allowed to take their cell phones or cameras to the island. In addition, DOC jurisdiction has allowed the island's buildings and landscape to suffer considerable damage from storms and

neglect.

The Department of Corrections, the Medical Examiner's Office and the Department of Parks sent representatives to the hearing to object to the transfer of jurisdiction. Carleen McLaughlin of DOC claimed that the department was happy to perform the burial duties on the island, although Ms. Crowley was quick to question her budget for the burials as understated. She noted that DOC has many problems with Riker's Island and that Hart Island drained personnel that could undoubtedly be better used elsewhere in the system.

When questioned about the condition of the landscape as a result of recent storms, Ms. McLaughlin announced, to the committee's surprise, that FEMA had allocated some \$14 million toward restoration of the island.

Matt Drury, representing Parks, was quick to point out that the department is not equipped to manage a cemetery and had insufficient funds to take on the responsibility. To this Ms. Crowley and Mark Levine, a cosponsor of the bill and chair of the Council's Parks Committee, responded that the city would be obligated to cover costs involved in managing the island and in carrying out the burial services.

Melinda Hunt, founder and president of the Hart Island Project, which has worked for several years to gain access for relatives, to find lost records and to move for the transfer of jurisdiction, spoke in favor of the transfer, along with one of the relatives who was part of the lawsuit against DOC. Along with other testifiers, they expressed deep concern that a cemetery was being administered as a prison without sufficient respect for the deceased.

Cathy Cebek, a City Island resident, gave testimony expressing the concerns of many Island residents regarding public ac-

cess to Hart Island. She worries that City Island would suffer from excessive traffic and insufficient parking should access continue through the Fordham Street dock. Her concern was also expressed by Councilman James Vacca, a cosponsor of the bill, although Councilman Levine pointed out that there was no plan to make Hart Island a recreational facility and that Parks has jurisdiction over a number of islands where there is little or no public access at all.

Barbara Dolensek and John Doyle spoke on behalf of the City Island Civic Association, which has voted to support the transfer of jurisdiction, largely because its designation as parkland would protect Hart Island from inappropriate development by New York City. During the 1970s and '80s, the island was proposed as the location for an incinerator, a power plant and a homeless shelter and was actually used as a drug rehab facility and a prison.

Ms. Dolensek, also an officer of the City Island Historical Society, expressed concern that one of the city's most interesting historical sites was being allowed to deteriorate without appropriate supervision and care. Mr. Doyle suggested that if the legislation passes, an ad-hoc committee of City Island stakeholders (supporters and opponents alike) should be assembled to work out operational issues with Parks. Also discussed were alternative sites for launching boats to Hart Island, which City Islanders would definitely support.

Before the bill can go for a vote to the City Council, it must be passed by both the Criminal Justice and Parks committees. As of press time, 24 of the 50 members of the Council currently support the bill, as do the City Island Chamber of Commerce and Community Board 10.

"JANET'S LAW" MAY BECOME A REALITY

By KAREN NANI

One year ago this month, longtime Islander Janet Hickey died tragically after the ambulance transporting her between hospitals crashed. Since then her husband, John Kuchta, and her brother Jay Hickey have been working to prevent accidents like the one that claimed her life.

Janet was a well-liked clam digger who attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea's elementary school, became an accomplished equestrian and eventually worked for many years at Artie's Restaurant on City Island Avenue. Family and friends have had a difficult time recovering from the series of events that led to Janet's death.

She had undergone successful brain surgery on Feb. 24, 2015, at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in which doctors removed 99 percent of a benign tumor behind her ear. On March 4, an ambulance was taking her to Phelps Memorial Hospital, where she was scheduled to spend a week in rehab working to regain her walking skills.

According to her older brother, Jimmy, "She was alert and doing great." Police said the 19-year-old driver somehow lost control of the ambulance, slamming into a pole on Route 9 in Sleepy Hollow. According to her family, the teen driver allegedly failed to properly strap her into the stretcher.

Janet was declared brain dead two days later, and she was taken off life support on March 9 at the age of 60.

Her husband, John, told *The Current*, "everyone loved being with Janet, and we all miss her very much. Everything has been upside down since then." John still lives on City Island and explained that there has been a lot of red tape since her passing and that lawyers are involved.

"There is legal action pending that I can't talk about," he explained in an inter-



Janet Hickey

view in February of this year. "Meanwhile, Janet's brother Jay and I met with Senator Jeff Klein and talked about a law requiring better training and certification for ambulance drivers. If it passes, it could be known as Janet's Law."

Senator Klein acknowledged his involvement and told *The Current*, "We are currently researching the best legislative remedy to put in place so families can avoid the tragic and senseless death and pain that Janet and her family had to endure. We look forward to working with Janet's family to introduce this legislation in the coming weeks and pass it in both houses of the state legislature."

Co-workers from Artie's Restaurant, where Janet worked for 20 years, still miss her. Manager Laura Vandenberg expressed the feelings of many, saying "I can't believe it's a year since she has been gone. Many still expect to see her behind the bar when they walk through the door of Artie's."

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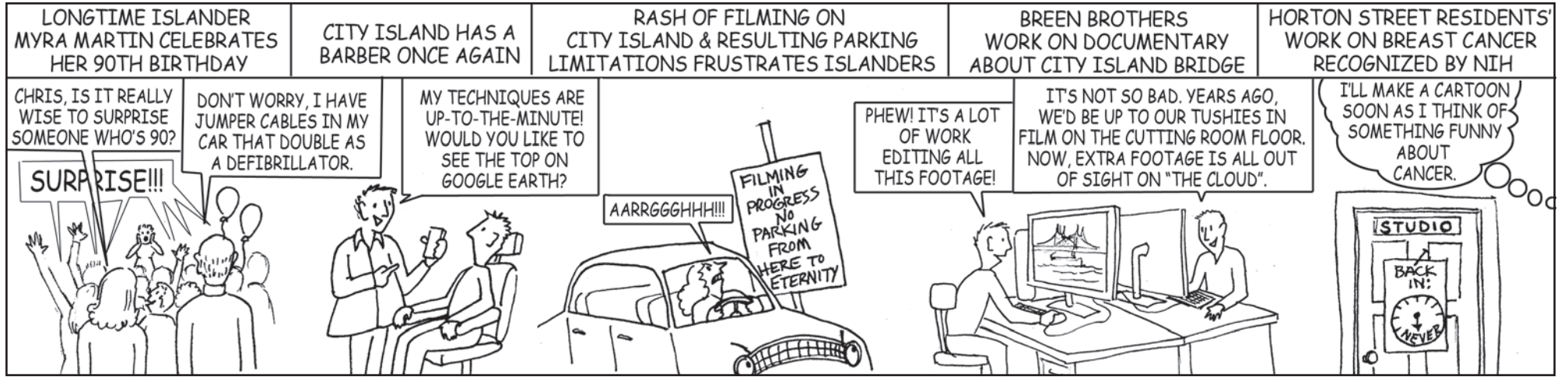
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I have been chosen as a 2015 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner. Less than 5% of agents receive this award From Westchester Magazine.



A Thousand Points of Light An Editorial Column

Although it was not planned in advance, this issue of *The Island Current* contains a number of stories about Island volunteers, and in putting the paper together we realized how many people there are here who contribute to the community in which we live. We are well aware of the parents who devote their energy to coaching Little League and St. Mary's Basketball or organizing the various scout troops and the PTA, and we know that *The Island Current* itself—along with the Nautical Museum, the Community Center and the City Island Theater Group—is staffed entirely by volunteers. But there are many other residents who give their time and energy to programs on and off the Island yet are rarely celebrated in print. We don't have the space, nor would it be appropriate, to list everyone we know who donates time and effort to organizations in need, but we can encourage all of our readers to think about what it is they do for the community and what their neighbors might be doing without our even being aware of it.



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.

Saving the Spires

To the Editor:

I had a few thoughts about saving parts of the City Island Bridge as reminders of its more than 100 years of service to our community. Perhaps the finials atop the highest part of the bridge could be used to flank the stairs at the entrance to the City Island Museum. The sections of the iron fence on each side of the walkway could be removed and sold to Island residents with the proceeds going to the museum or other worthwhile causes on City Island. Small pieces could be cut from the structural steel and also be sold for the same purpose.

Finally, thanks for taking the time to read this letter and keep up the good work at *The Current*.

Vincent J. Ventura

Editor's note: The Department of Transportation (DOT) has made it clear

to the community that since the city is responsible for these pieces, many of which are corroded, there would be serious liability issues if they were placed where people could climb on them or if pieces were sold to the general public. We do know that DOT is planning to incorporate stones from the bridge in the new design for the Legion Triangle, and that the Nautical Museum has offered to accept small pieces that can be safely stored inside. In the meantime, DOT is planning to store all of the bridge parts and will make a decision after the new bridge is completed.

Questioning SYC's Future

To the Editor:

I am a long-term resident of Centre Street and have concerns about the future of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club. I am writing in response to the article in the December issue of your good paper. In it we learn that any recommendations made by the Island community need not to be taken

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into account by those mostly non-Island club members who will be making the decisions here. Not mentioned are the many expensive issues with the building, bulkhead, docks, floats, etc. that will have to be addressed. As many of our hard-earned tax dollars will have to be spent, I think we must be careful.

I do not believe the proposed bar or restaurant concessions will be viable if they are limited to the proposed membership cap. At the present time, non-members are allowed access to the dining facilities at the other clubs, and they do offer catering services to non-members. Perhaps this can be done, with careful planning to assure on-site parking.

A better restriction on the general public's launching of small boats would be to allow only oar, paddle and human ballasted sail craft under 12 feet. This would include most small boats. I do not think undecked canoes are suitable for our often turbulent waters.

Years ago the club took over the west end of Centre Street and incorporated it into its property. As compensation, Centre Street residents have always enjoyed free access to the yard and docks of the club, which has allowed us to enjoy the spectacular sunsets there. May we have some assurance that this will continue?

Leonard C. Smith

Film Frustrations

To the Editor:

I just tried emailing the Mayor's office and 311 with no luck to complain about the filming that took place on Feb. 3. I was very aggravated to be told to move my car at 8 p.m. the night before the filming only to find that the cones were not put down until 10 a.m. the next morning. Then I found that one of the crew (not an actor) had parked his car right in front of my house. So basically they are using our streets for parking for their crew. That's not right; they should take public transportation. At least six blocks were affected. When I tried to pick up kids at school, I had to park three blocks away. Some parents actually triple parked, which caused a dangerous situation.

Fran Browning

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ISLANDER PLANNING A RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL

By KAREN NANI

“Don’t make any political figure the rock your church is built on; make it about a cause.” Islander John Doyle learned this lesson early on in his career, and he is now thinking about taking the causes he cares about to the New York City Council.

John has been active in local politics for years, having worked for New York State Senator Jeff Klein and serving as an officer of the City Island Civic Association. Now he has begun a fundraising campaign to become a Democratic candidate for City Council in 2017.

“I am exploring this run for office, but I haven’t finalized the decision yet,” he told *The Current*. He is very encouraged by the success of his first fundraiser held at the DA Beach Club in the Bronx, which raised \$23,000 from 250 contributors. In fact, his campaign was recognized by the NYC Campaign Finance Board for having the most small-dollar donations citywide.

John’s grass-roots movement is based on the solid blue-collar wisdom he gained from his parents, Jim and Teresa, who moved to City Island from Pelham Bay in 1991 when John was in the first grade. Jim is an operating engineer, and Teri worked at Jacobi as a respiratory therapist. He has two sisters, Caitlin and Julia, and one brother, Jimmy.

“My mother is very resilient and has always looked for opportunities for her children to be well rounded. Dad gave me advice that has helped me so far in politics: ‘You never need another enemy; you always need another friend.’”

John attended P.S. 175, where his first teacher was Mrs. Miriam Kleinberg, who passed away in January this year. He went to high school at Fordham Prep in the Bronx and then to Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York. He majored in history and political science in college and feels he was lucky to find a job in politics after graduating in 2007.

“I was fortunate to have been a part of Senator Klein’s staff for five years. I worked my way up the ranks and dealt with every type of community issue in the east Bronx. Luckily, the senator’s district overlaps with the City Council district, so I am just reintroducing myself to the constituents in the district.”

He is proud of the work he did on be-

half of City Island while on Senator Klein’s staff. “We obtained a new van for Pilot Cove Manor, led the construction and renovation of the park at Belden Point at the south end of City Island (see photo), and helped local businesses such as Bistro SK obtain their liquor licenses.”

As the youngest member of the Civic Association’s executive committee, John has worked hard on various community issues, such as extending the BX29 bus service hours, fighting City Hall when the fire house was threatened, helping bring universal pre-kindergarten to the old St. Mary’s school building, and, of course, working with Barbara Dolensek to persuade the Department of Transportation to modify plans for the new City Island Bridge.

John has also been active on Governor Andrew Cuomo’s New York Rising East Bronx Waterfront Planning Committee and has worked to allocate some of the Hurricane Sandy funds to City Island. In addition, he has served as Sergeant-at-Arms on the 45th Precinct Community Council.

So why run for City Council? “I want to change the trust of those in public office,” he told *The Current*. He is aware that many politicians have violated the public trust, including Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, State Senator Dean Skelos and former governor Eliot Spitzer, among others. The theme of John’s campaign is “Together we can shake up the system!”

“It’s important that someone from City Island who can deliver tangible progress be sent down to City Hall.” He explained that the job of a New York City Council Member is threefold: to advocate for the community and bring grievances to the forefront, to appropriate funds for the community and to democratize the process through legislation.

John noted that City Island has had an excellent supporter in Jimmy Vacca, who is retiring from the City Council after 12 years, because of term limits. “Like Jimmy, I would represent all the communities in the East Bronx, including Throggs Neck, Country Club, Morris Park, Van Nest, Westchester Square, Allerton, Pelham Bay, Edgewater and Silver Beach, along with City Island, of course.”

John acknowledges that he will have



Islander John Doyle (top photo, center with his parents, Teri and Jim) has begun a fundraising campaign to become a Democratic candidate for New York City Council in 2017. John is an active volunteer on City Island and serves as an officer of the City Island Civic Association. One of the projects he has supported is the renovation of the park at Belden Point at the south end of the Island (bottom photo).

competition for the Council spot from the East Bronx and that he must continue fundraising before he finally throws his hat in the ring. His next fundraiser will probably be on City Island in late April. If he decides to run, the first hurdle is the September Democratic primary this year, followed by the election in 2017. There are 51 members of the New York City Council (not all up for election in 2017), and each member currently earns \$148,500 per year.

His political ambitions are also tempered with the reality that not everyone always agrees with his positions. For example, he acknowledged the differences among Islanders regarding the plan to transfer jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Corrections to the Parks Department (see article this issue).

“I believe in transparency in government, but I also know it’s easier to oppose than to propose.” John supports the transfer to Parks, first and foremost so that there is increased

access to the graves of loved ones buried in the potters’ field on Hart Island. He understands the concerns of Islanders who worry that eventually the transfer might result in more traffic and visitors who might want to go by ferry to Hart Island for recreation.

“I hear the concerns, but I feel we as a community have to look 20 to 30 years down the road and come up with a plan for Hart Island we can live with and support.” He is concerned that the city is poised to do something with the island, and he feels that the Parks Department option is the most acceptable compared to some other possibilities.

“I think we can develop a common-sense approach to access to Hart Island that doesn’t have a negative impact on City Island.”

John hopes to bring his common-sense approach to the New York City Council, and he is very grateful to the many City Islanders and other Bronxites who have supported his campaign so far. To learn more about his campaign, go to his website johndoyle.nyc.

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Island Vet Featured in Film

“Died on the Fourth of July” is a short film made by Christian McGuire about an American soldier named Robert Leupp Jr., who died in France during World War II when he stepped on a land mine on July 4, 1944.

Robert Leupp was born on City Island and served in the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division, as a U.S. Army Private First Class. The film by Mr. McGuire, who also has roots on City Island, was inspired by a letter written in 1998 by Helen Leupp, who told the story of her brother-in-law “Robby,” a hero who rests in peace amid perfectly aligned headstones in the World

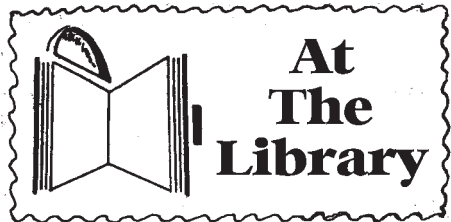
War II Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium. Robert Leupp is one of 405,399 Americans who sacrificed their lives during World War II.

The film can be viewed on Youtube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdr133WrvxA). Robert Leupp Jr. can also be found in the registry on the website www.wwiimemorial.com.

This is Christian McGuire’s first film. Educated in Europe, he has earned a master’s degree in film directing and worked extensively in live television broadcasting on four continents for Alfacam, a Belgian company specialized in multi-camera productions.



Louise Del Giudice of Century 21 recently earned the firm's Centurion Producer Award following her sales success in 2015. According to Anthony Marciano of Century 21, "Louise is a leader and innovator in delivering powerful home buying and selling choices to her clients because she knows the community she serves." She has been an independent sales affiliate of the Century 21 system for 10 years.



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**MARCH CHILDREN'S
PROGRAMS**

Designing A Dream City: If you could create your own city, what would it have? Would there be a playground? How would you get from place to place? Where would you live? Let your imagination run wild and create your very own city in this four-session workshop series using LEGO® bricks! Thursdays, March 3, 10 and 17, all at 3 p.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. Every Tuesday at 11 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. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. Every Friday at 11 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 1 through 4. March 18 from noon to 1 p.m.

**MARCH TEEN AND TWEEN
PROGRAMS**

Ceremonial Origins of Salsa: This program presents instruments, music and lyrics used in the African, Taino and Spanish Catholic rituals that provide a basis for salsa. Presented by Jose Obando. Recommended for ages 12 to

18 years old. Friday, March 11, 3 p.m.

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

Friday After-School Activities: 3 p.m. March 4: Women's History Letter (The kids will write a letter describing any important woman in their life, and we can retype them and make them into a display.); March 18: Agar.io Competition; March 25: Wii and Board Games.

Homework Help: Every Wednesday, from 3 to 5 p.m. John Konrath will be available to assist students with basic tutoring. There will be two one-hour sessions; each with a limit of four students. Registration in person is required.

MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW PSS Circle of Care: Caregivers Support Group: Please join us for our new Circle of Care Lounge, a six-week support group for family caregivers. Participants will share tips, ideas and challenges, while offering each other encouragement. Monday, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Afternoon Computer Lab: These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics, and are ready to begin tackling more specific questions. Every Thursday from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Island Writers-Creative Writing Group. This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out. It's free and special! Meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Computer Q & A: Tuesday mornings are all about the basics: "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I use a mouse?" "How do I get on the Internet?" If you have asked yourself any of these questions, then we can help you! Every Tuesday from 10 to 12 p.m.

Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

One-On-One: Computer and Tablet Assistance. Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

Saturday Afternoon Movies/Lectures: 1 p.m.: March 5: "Frida"; March 12: "Evita"; March 19: **Women's History Presentation:** The Anne Hutchison Year. Has a woman been a positive role model in your life or are you a great woman with a story to tell? Come on in to the City Island Library and share your stories. This presentation, led by local historian Toby Liederman, will be followed by a documentary on Anne Hutchinson; March 26: "Selma."

Please check flyers or call in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at www.nypl.org.



Bartow-Pell Events

Saturday, March 5, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pysanky Workshop. Learn the time-honored art of creating intricately patterned Ukrainian Easter eggs, and make your own using a wax-resist technique at this hands-on workshop. Hot wax and permanent dyes used; please dress accordingly. Ages 14 and older. Bring a bag lunch, as only light refreshments are offered. Registration required. Cost \$20; members \$15.

March Lecture Series: The Garden Resurgent. Celebrating the centennial of the formal garden this year, BPMM presents a series of talks about historic local gardens of the early 20th century that have undergone a renaissance in recent years. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free. Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. landscape historian Joseph Dispozio will discuss the sunken garden at Bartow-Pell, the International Garden Club that created it, and the remarkable journal the club published from 1914 to 1918. On Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. Sofia Blanchard will tell the story of Greenwood Gardens in New Jersey and its remarkable transition from private to beloved public garden. On Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Stephen Byrns, founder and president of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, discusses the revival of this extraordinary walled Persian garden in Yonkers.

Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day will

take place on Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Light breakfast available. Please bring gloves and wear boots. Rain date Sunday, March 13. Registration requested. Free.

Smithsonian Museum Day Live! Saturday, March 12, 12 to 4 p.m., with special guided tours at 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, and 3:15 p.m. Celebrate Women's History Month with a special guided tour focusing on the social roles of women in the 19th century and the women who challenged them. Free.

Winter Chamber Music Concert on Sunday, March 13, 4:30 p.m. will feature the trio Broadwood Junction—Sarah Stone, Francis Liu, and Patrick Jones—all graduates of the Juilliard program in historical performance; they will perform Haydn, Beethoven, George Onslow, and more accompanied by an 1810 Broadwood square piano. Tickets may be purchased online at bpmm.org or at the door. Cost \$20. Registration requested.

Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children 2-12 hunt for eggs, tap their talent at arts and crafts tables and have photos taken with the Easter Bunny. Light refreshments offered. Please bring your own basket. Tickets may be purchased in advance at bpmm.org. Registration required. Cost \$15 children 2-12; member children \$10. Rain date Sunday, March 20, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Free parking across the street in rear of Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course parking lot.

Member Morning: Exhibition Tour and Pastries in the Parlor on Friday, March 25, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sarah Pickman, co-curator of the current exhibition "Gilded Age Glamour: Fashions from the Bartow-Pell Collection," will give an in-depth look into fashion of the late 19th century through the clothing on display. She will also discuss the process of researching historic garments, including tips for dating and caring for your own family heirlooms. Free for members.

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There has been a frenzy of filming on City Island in recent months. Several network and cable productions have used City Island locales as backdrops for their story lines, including the new Showtime series "Billions" which airs on Sundays at 10 p.m. In February, members of the cast and crew used Artie's Restaurant for a scene from Episode 7 which aired on Feb. 28. Shown above with Artie's owner Spiro Chagaris and manager Laura Vandenberg is the star of the show, Damian Lewis (right), who plays billionaire Bobby Axelrod. Although some businesses and churches have benefitted from all the filming activity, other residents have complained about too many days with "No Parking" restrictions and the cones that appear in advance of the filming (see Letters to the Editor this issue). Among the other shows recently filmed on City Island are "Law and Order: SVU" (NBC), "The Family" (ABC) and "Mysteries of Laura" (NBC).

A Native Neighborhood Barber Returns to City Island

By BILL STUTTIG



The barbershop has returned to our neighborhood with the opening of City Island Cuts, owned and operated by clam digger Michael McMahon.

The barbershop, once a key part of City Island Avenue's small storefront businesses community with as many as three operating here successfully several decades ago, returned to the Island's central business district in February with City Island Cuts, owned and operated by City Island native Michael McMahon.

Michael, known as "Mikey the Barber" to his friends and many regular customers, is actually moving his barber business from Scarsdale, where he operated a barbershop called the Brook Street Barbers for three years.

A licensed barber since 2004, Michael, now 32, said he first became interested in the profession by watching a close friend cut hair at his barbershop. So he started picking up a few tricks of the trade and began practicing on trusting friends and family.

"It was just something that I loved to do, and I took to it naturally," Michael said. Shortly afterward, he enrolled at the American Barber Institute on West Side of Manhattan and took a six-month course that prepared him for his test as a New York State certified and licensed barber. Michael said he had to perform for the state regulators several key barber functions, including a men's haircut using only scissors, a hot towel shave, a shampoo and a facial massage, all within 45 minutes. "It is all timed, and you have to perform each task perfectly in order to pass," Michael remembers. "Actually, for the test I made my dad grow his hair out so I could cut it for the test. He was my guinea pig, and it worked!"

It was not long before Michael landed his first full-time job as a barber, at a shop called Shortcuts on Fifth Avenue in Pelham. "I worked there for eight years, and that is really where I built my local client base, many that are still with me today."

In 2012 he branched out to own and operate a barbershop called the Brook Street Barbers in Scarsdale. He ran that business for three years, and although the clientele remained steady through those years, so did the bills, including the high rents that come from operating a business in tony Scarsdale. "The overhead was just too high and my lease was up. My dream was to always operate a business here on City Island where I grew up, so I said to myself 'Why not come home where most of my clientele was from anyway?'"

Michael says his only concern and the reason he delayed opening the business until now was another barber shop already operating on City Island Avenue near Ditmars Street. He said he felt that there was not enough room for two barbers on such a small island. But when that business closed, the opportunity to lease a small storefront at 312 City Island Avenue just north of Fordham Street came up and he jumped on it. He grew up as a Boy Scout, an altar boy

at St. Mary's and a member of the City Island Little League. He recalls that "I always loved cutting hair and I have always loved City Island, so it is the ideal situation for me. I figured that cutting hair was something I could do the rest of my life. It is a skill that will never get replaced by technology, and whether the economy is good or bad everyone always needs a haircut."

City Island Cuts caters almost exclusively to men and offers haircuts, hot towel shaves, eyebrow trimming, ear piercing and facial massages. The barbershop is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week, but Michael will do after-hour haircuts by special request. The telephone number at the shop is 718-885-3850.

"I love going to work every day and I love what I do," the young barber says, but he admits the job comes with its pressures. "Hair styles are changing faster than ever, and with the Internet there are a greater variety of styles that all barbers have to keep up with. It is not like it was 40 years ago, when every man basically walked around with the same haircut. Now in today's world, when somebody sees something different they want it fast, so we have to stay on top of that and learn how to do different haircuts."

He went on to explain that "loyalty is a major part of this business. When people find a barber that they like they stick with him for decades. That is why I like City Island. People are loyal to each other, and everyone has each other's back. I now have a decent-sized client base, people who have been following me wherever I have gone over the years. Many of those clients are from City Island, so that makes me confident; the business has a good base from which to start."

Michael has already begun marketing the new business, first the old-fashioned way, through the distribution of flyers door-to-door, but also by using social media and establishing City Island Cuts Facebook and Instagram pages. An official grand opening of the business will be announced in early spring, when the weather gets warmer and the shop is decorated exactly to his liking.

But for now the sign is painted on the front window and the Island's new barber is open for business. Regular haircuts are \$20 with \$5 discounts given to children, men over 60, veterans, police officers and fire fighters, he adds. He says that his services also include house calls to those who are housebound.

"I am hopeful because I think City Islanders realize that we have to support each other," Michael says. "We have to support small mom-and-pop businesses such as this if the Island is going to survive as the small tight-knit community that has always made it special. We have to keep that spirit alive, and the only way we can do that is by supporting and taking care of each other."

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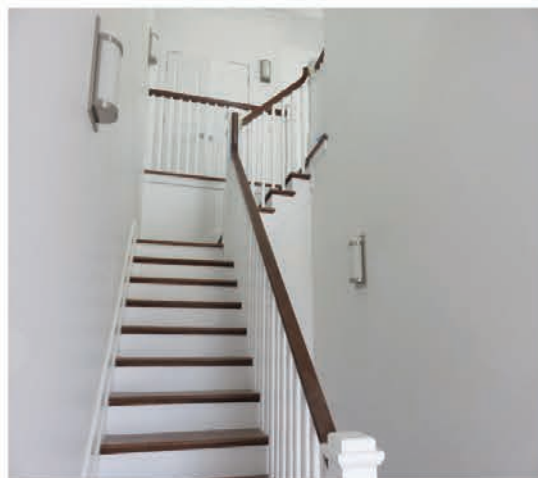
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THE BOAT SHOW 2016

By GREG CLANCY



Every year as winter's grip seems unbearable, the New York Boat Show offers some respite to clam diggers and mussel suckers alike. Sometimes whimsical, sometimes informative, the Boat Show is always entertaining and never very predictable. But this year I did something unthinkable: I researched which vendors would be there and I attempted to plan my trip in advance. So boring, I know, and there were in fact no surprises as I first began my research. All the old standbys would be there—Boston Whaler, Carver, Grady, the German Glue exhibit and so on and so forth.

And then, behold! A name I knew but had never before seen in these annals. A white whale had appeared, one that many a mariner hath heard of, and some hath even seen, but few mere mortals have ever walked her decks or grasped her helm. This was Hinckley, in their first-ever appearance at the New York Boat Show. For those who don't know, Hinckley is the Rolls Royce of power boats, or maybe the Ferrari—or maybe both—because even a baby Hinckley is better than (and worth more than) a Rolls and a Ferrari put together, times two. This is not the boat one sees in the waters of City Island, and she had never before been displayed in New York. This is the boat that makes the most obnoxious Chris Craft look like a child's plaything, and I wondered what her appearance could portend. A Hinckley is, to put it mildly, every power boater's dream, and I couldn't wait to set foot on one!

This year I planned to visit the show with my brother Bill. The beautiful Meaghan and her four junior Clancys were otherwise occupied, but Bill decided to make a long sought-after return. Cat troubles and small craft advisories had kept Bill away the past few years, but he was raring to go this year. We made a plan to meet at 5, and by the time Bill showed at a very predictable 6:30, I had managed to cover most of my pre-planned route. I searched for all things new and different, and I managed to find a few. In a way, I thought of myself as Bill's advance party. After two years, I suspected he might be in a buying mood so I worked to prepare the field.

The first thing I noted was that classic dark blue hulls, long the trademark of many brands, seem to have been shelved in favor of earth tones—olive green and several hues of brown. Even Formula had abandoned its trademark blue for bronze. Despite my training as a staunch traditionalist, I actually liked the effect, until I got to Mastercraft. Their shiny metallic coating reminded me more of a Master Chef frying pan than a Master Craft Boat, but it is a ski boat so I shouldn't have expected too much.

From Mastercraft I hit several of the monster center consoles—ahem, sorry, Saltwater Offshore Fishing Boats. The

craze this year seemed to be four engines: Everglades, Scout, Regulator and Boston Whaler all sported queens over 40 feet with quad 300+ hp engines. Four engines used to be a demo boat, now it's a production boat. Whaler even had an Outrage with four engines, a center console and a fly bridge! A Boston Whaler with a fly bridge, preposterous! Whaler is one of the great icons of boating, and the Outrage is, well, outrageous, but I'm not sure they pulled this one off. It makes the outrage look like a poorly done knock-off of a Cobalt or Tiara, and those brands don't even have fly bridges!

As for those engines, Yamaha and Mercury dominated the outboards at the show, but Yamaha seemed to be the overwhelmingly preferred choice for big outboards. I think Yamaha is getting a bit cocky, however. Some of their engines no longer say Yamaha; instead they only sport the Yamaha logo, a Toyota-like logo which, quite frankly, I didn't recognize. I remember reading a case study in business school about a time when Hershey's Chocolate stopped advertising Hershey's kisses. They figured that everyone knew about Hershey's kisses, and they would save the advertising money. Instead, Hershey almost went out of business. I'll bet Sally McCheap two beers and my parking expenses that Yamaha puts its name back on all of their engines by the spring of 2017. I was so annoyed by Yamaha's presumption that I marched over to the Mercury dealer and bought an engine. No kidding! But I doubt that my brand new 2.5 horse four-stroke compares to the Yamaha 350's adorning the Saltwater Offshore Fishing Boats formerly known as big honking center consoles. Still, the four Greg Clancy kids and two Bill Clancy kids will like their new engine just the same!

Next stop, Carver and Jeanneau, the beautiful condominium-like Clorox bottle boats that had long been derided by my deceased Dad (who wrote this article for decades). But he would agree that if you have a high-maintenance significant other who doesn't like boating, and you don't really care about classic lines—this could be the boat for the both of you. They are also priced inside of this stratosphere. But, alas, for a traditionalist young clam digger who grew up listening to stories of the Nevins that probably never was, I have a hard time loving these boats. Nevertheless, as a practical advocate of all things nautical, I have to say that Carver and Jeanneau are well thought out for a certain niche. If you are an inside-the-boat boater, they are worth a look.

By about this time I was getting thirsty, and at long last my brother Bill arrived. With a wave of his hand, he simultaneously hit block on all calls from his wife, Kurstal, and waved me over to the bar. Two quick beers later, Bill and I decided that it



Photos by GREG CLANCY

Islanders at the 2016 New York Boat Show included (left): Bill Clancy, Roger Karlebach, Jill Rubenstein and Philip Swanton; (top right): Gary and Vicki Cottam with Bill Clancy; and (lower right) Bill Clancy surfing at the Cobalt exhibit.

was time for us to climb our ivory tower. It was time to visit Hinckley, our Rolls Royce Ferrari dream boat. With trepidation, we neared our objective. A bead of sweat trickled down my face, and we slowly turned the corner to find a 36-foot Sea Green Hinckley Picnic Boat, perfection itself. We stepped up to the austere entry, trying not to tremble when we noticed an impassable rope wall and a sign saying, Closed for Private Party. What? What party? They did have their own bar inside, and everyone looked happier than the fourth of July, but were they seriously closed? Didn't they know that Bill was a prospective buyer? Having found the Hinckley exhibit an impregnable fortress of New England wannabes, we skulked off. I wanted to shake my fist, but instead I vowed to return like MacArthur leaving the Philippines—defeated but unbowed.

So instead of Hinckley, we visited City Island's own Harlem Yacht Club, where we received warm greetings from Roger Karlebach, Jill Rubenstein and Philip Swanton. They reported a good turnout and lots of interest from prospective members. The HYC team also reported that they would be having open houses on Feb. 20, March 19 and April 10. Our chat with the members of the HYC reminded me of the recent fallout from the failure of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club. I am reminded of how fragile a community we live in. If we truly value our nautical legacy, then we should all be mindful to support our yacht clubs, boatyards and nautical shops—the few that are left!

Bill and I shared a few deep thoughts like this throughout our day, but mostly we chose to dwell on the positive, except for Hinckley. I couldn't get over that one, but Bill held me back and dragged me instead to investigate some new electronics for our own boat, *Kitty Clyde*. While pursuing the likes of Furino and Ray Marine, we ran into City Islanders Gary and Vicki Cottam. Gary's interests don't just include heating and air conditioning, it seems. He is also a longtime sail boater. We inquired if the Cottams were in the market for a new yacht, but they assured us that they were quite happy with their longtime family sloop. Maybe next year!

Speaking of big brand new boats, we spotted a new brand that I had never heard of before—Zurn. Zurn was not actually at the show but was represented by one of the brokers present. The Zurn we saw on paper looked a lot like a Hinckley (seriously, not just because I was still seeing red Hinckleys). More impressive was the fact that this 50-foot-deep V cruiser had twin 1,550 hp Rolls Royce jets and topped out at 60 knots. For the casual landlubber, I will tell you that 50-foot luxury yachts don't go that fast. In fact, aside from a high-end Jet Ski or



a cigarette boat, nothing on the water goes that fast. Going 60 knots in a luxury yacht would be like going 250 miles per hour in your BMW 7 series. We'll have to keep our eye on Zurn.

From the heights of Zurn, we took a tour of a more attainable 33-foot Cobalt bow-rider. Most comparable bow-riders split the cabin into two halves, one on either side of the breezeway from the helm up to the bow cockpit. But Cobalt's new 336 keeps the cabin combined. To do this, the ceiling of the middle of the cabin drops down to leave about 30 inches clear. The catch is that you can only enter the cabin from one side, so you have to crawl to get to the other half. I like to see new innovations, but having to crawl through the cabin isn't too appealing, unless of course one has had too many gin and tonics on a hot afternoon. Maybe the younger crowd wouldn't mind this, but I'm not sure how many millennials are ready to drop \$255K on a brand new 33-footer. The other snag, for me at least, is that Mercury and Volvo were the only power selections. Volvo makes a great car, and Mercury makes a great outboard, but if you are going for a gasoline inboard, you might want to stick with something like Crusader with its Chevy block and simple time-tested design.

From here, Bill needed another couple of beers, so I obliged him before demanding a trip back to Hinckley. This time we marched up to the desk with decisiveness. Private party? Humbug. "We're in the market!" I announced, without further greeting. That must have been the password, because with no further fuss Bill and I were invited to join the private party. It may have helped that I was in a suit and Bill looked like someone with money.

Once inside, we were greeted by a team of sales people dressed in their Cape Cod finest. They apologized for the private party signs explaining, "would you believe we had guys in work boots try to come in here earlier?" Oh boy. That was it for me. When the lead salesman started to give me the pitch I cut him off and explained, "hey, I just manage the business, my older brother over there owns it. You have to sell him." By the time they got to scheduling

Continued on page 14

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

MARCH

Fri., March 11, **P.S. 175's Card Party**, Scavello's On the Island, 101 City Island Avenue, 6:30 p.m. Call 718-885-1093 for tickets.

Thurs., March 17, **Community Board 10 meeting**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Wed., Thurs., Fri., and Sat., March 23, 24, 25 and 26, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

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

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

APRIL

Sat., April 2, **Temple Beth-El Gala Dinner Dance**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, 7 to 11 p.m.

Garden Club

Garden Club members have been busy planning an exciting year ahead. In January our committees met to plan the annual Beautification Fund drive for April and the Garden Club's Annual Luncheon. Funds to be collected for the Beautification Fund will go toward purchasing fresh colorful flowers and plants for the planter boxes on City Island Avenue. Club members, along with the Garden Club Helping Hands, clean and maintain the planters throughout the growing season. Other civic beautification projects are being planned as well. In past years, residents and local businesses have been very generous, and all contributions are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

The theme for our annual luncheon this year is "Lilacs," and the Garden Club invites each and every one of you to attend. This is a very enjoyable event, so be sure to get your reservation in to Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 and join the festivities at noon on Thursday, May 19, at the City Island Yacht Club. You can expect the usual abundance of wonderful gift baskets, prizes and gift certificates. A fine lunch will be provided by Bistro SK of City Island.

The Garden Club now has a beautiful Facebook page, which features glorious photos taken by members, many from past trips, such as Kykuit in Pocantico Hills.

If you have an interest in civic beautification and promoting gardening, please join us the first Monday of the month (with the exception of August) at the City Island Yacht Club at 10 a.m. and meet like-minded people. We often have special presentations at the meetings, which are followed by refreshments supplied by members.

Carol Hansen

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. 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.

Our Easter schedule is as follows:

March 24, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service

March 25, 7:30 p.m. Good Friday worship service

March 27, 6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, at the Pelham Cemetery, on King Avenue.

The Souper Bowl of Caring held on Sunday, Jan. 31, was a huge success with the children raising \$573 and many nonperishable items for City Harvest.

A Lenten Disciple Bible Study will be held in Fellowship Hall after the worship service, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; it began Feb. 14 and will run until March 13. The topic is the New Testament letter written by Jude to believers to join him in contending for the faith once delivered to the Christian Church. Followed by the letter written by Apostle Paul, as a prisoner in Rome, to the Colossian Church in Asia Minor. His themes to them are the Supremacy of Christ and how Christ within us is our Hope for future Glory. All are welcome to come and join in the study.

"The 7 Deadly Sins" is the topic of a discussion group led by Jay Howard in Fellowship hall at 7 p.m. on Sundays, March 20, April 24 and May 22. All adults are welcome.

The Budget Shop is now open on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 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. The congregation is led by our clergy, Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus, with music by Your Band by the Sea. 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 are on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea.

March 4: Kabbalat Shabbat, with Rabbis Shohama and David, in celebration of women's HERstory month. Celebratory oneg to follow sponsored by TBE's women.

March 11: Community-led Shabbat.

March 18: Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi David. Oneg to follow.

March 25: Community-led Shabbat.

Classes and Activities:

Sunday, March 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. Join your Temple Beth-El family for the City Island Theater Group's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," followed by a panel discussion with Rabbi David. Production and panel discussion at Grace Episcopal Church Hall. For tickets and information, please visit the City Island Theater Group website (tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com).

Monday, March 7 and 14, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Daniella Haney for a weekly journey into the fusion of breath, body, mind, heart and spirit. These sessions, led by a 500-hour expert certified teacher, are appropriate for all ages and stages of physical strength; no extensive twisting or movement is required. Sessions followed by yogic tea and teaching. Please wear loose fitting clothing; all other materials are



Photos by MATTIA PANZA

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, was Scout Sunday at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Members from City Island's Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops participated in the service led by Father Knapp and Deacon Mueller.



David via yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Computer geek. TBE is seeking a congregant or City Island resident experienced in website and database management for volunteer support. To offer assistance, please email us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Oneg sponsorships. Anyone with a special occasion to honor for yourself or another (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, recovery, achievement, *yahrzeit* or memorial) is warmly invited to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor or for more information, please contact Violet Smith (718-885-0978, violetsmi@aol.com).

Outreach:

Enrollment continues for TBE's Hebrew School partner, Sinai Free Synagogue, in nearby Mount Vernon. To enroll a child or obtain more information, please contact Rabbi Shohama via youshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Ellen Ruth Topol

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be closed from Feb. 26 until March 17, when we open with our Spring Collection featuring new and used clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories, plus new and used bric-a-brac. Come and enjoy refreshments and some conversation,

Arlene Byrne

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.

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

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provided. Open to all. Suggested donation \$10.

Tuesday, March 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David for this third session of our 2016 Adult Education Series entitled "Mitzvah and Mysticism," a deep dive into the traditional roots and mystical wings of the mitzvot (sacred acts) of Jewish spiritual life. With study, discussion along with spiritual experience, we will explore deeply where core mitzvot of Jewish life come from and how mystical tradition reflects on and engages with those traditions. Free for members; \$10 for non-members. Sessions will continue on third Tuesdays of each month (April 19, May 17, June 21).

Wednesday, March 23, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Come celebrate with your TBE family and friends and join Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David, Your Band by the Sea and a veritable cast of characters for our annual celebration of Purim, the festival of the unexpected. Come in costume and wear dance shoes.

Looking Ahead

Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 11 p.m. Annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. Join your TBE family for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea and honor our former interns, Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder, Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper, Rabbinic Pastor Aliza Erber and the Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative. A highlight of our year! If you can offer auction items, volunteer or support the dinner dance in other ways, please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, or stop by the Kaleidoscope Gallery at 280 City Island Avenue.

Saturday, April 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. Join Rabbi David and your Temple Beth-El family for a community seder in honor of Passover. With tradition, song and imagery, we will honor the four promises of liberation of ancient days and today. Stay tuned for RSVPs and service opportunities for the Festival of Freedom.

Seeking

Musicians. If you are an instrumental musician interested in supporting TBE's spiritual music, Rabbi David would love to speak with you. We are especially looking for high-quality string, wind, brass and percussion players. For more information or to express interest, please contact Rabbi



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

Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs below and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please think about it and consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

COMING UP

Summer Art Camp for Children: In July children ages 7-12 will meet 20 hours a week to draw, sketch, paint on canvas, and work with papier mâché with artist/teacher Lorraine Cantori. The children will explore the work of William Hopper, Mary Cassatt and Amedeo Modigliani. There will be a special City Island landmark painting, an exhibit and reception and more. To register or for information, call Lorraine at 914-552-5268 or e-mail her at ceasardante@optonline.net.

SPECIAL EVENT

Pysanki Egg Craft: Sunday, March 20, 4 p.m. Young people are invited to join Jay Howard in creating beautiful decorated eggs on the first day of spring. Materials fee is \$5.

NEW PROGRAMS

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. In March the featured dances will be ballroom tango and rumba 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 Indian films. To register or for more information email lalithadance@gmail.com.

Kickbox Aerobics: Saturdays at 10:15 a.m. following Zumba. Note: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 will resume in the spring. Cardio for all levels plus an ab workout with Maria Marino. Call 347-267-0591 for more information.

Natural Tones Meditation: Thursday at 7 p.m. Nada Yoga, the yoga of sounds relieves stress and promotes wellness with John Martino. Classes will resume when participants contact John at www.natural-tonesmeditation.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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 taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com. or call 914-262-4517.

Jill's Playgroup: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

Hip Hop, Jazz and Ballet: Fridays, ages 4-5, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. ages 6-8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 9 and above, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Have fun with professional dancer Kara Tremel. For information, e-mail kara-tremel@gmail.com or call 281-799-9869.

Art for Children: Saturdays 10:30 to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, paint-

ing and sculpture. Study art from the 15th to 21st centuries with Lorraine Cantori. Try one session, \$20. Register for winter sessions at ceasardante@optonline.net or call 914-552-5268.

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

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, Sundays, 3:30 p.m. \$20 per class. Call Kristin Amezquita 646-625-1575 for information.

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.

Chess Club: Meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. 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 CSA: Sign up now for Community Supported Agriculture providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. Monday, March 7: Explore Irish recipes; March 21: Enjoy Irish foods. 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.

Orchard Beach AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Open meetings. All are welcome.

Parenting Group: Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey through parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 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 / Kickbox with Maria: 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 917-601-5514.

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

Patty Grondahl

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6, at 11:45 a.m. Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

The Post is in need of a webmaster. Anyone interested should contact the Post.

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

We have several members on sick call. Brian Sullivan is currently going for cancer treatment. Buddy Pontecorvo is recovering from a recent fall after leaving church, and Doctor Chris Cococcia is in the hospital for tests resulting from a recent accident.

Save the date. The St. Patrick's Day party will be held on Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. The price is \$30 per person. It will

be the usual Irish setup which also includes beer, wine and soda.

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

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

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

John Muhlfeld

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. 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:

PSS Circle of Care Station @ City Island. Are you caring for a frail or chronically ill family member or someone with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia? PSS Circle of Care is hosting a caregiver support group in your community free of charge. Please join us on Mondays at the City Island Library beginning March 7 at 1 p.m. Caregivers are welcome to meet with a care consultant after the group sessions for information and assistance, counseling and other resources. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727 for more information.

New: Radio Theater. Quench your interest in acting. Participate in all aspects of radio theater, such as sound effects, writing scripts for radio, auditioning for parts, rehearsing, performing and recording plays. Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.

March Events:

March 7: PSS Circle of Care. Are you a caregiver for someone over 60? Join the group for support, training and resources. Mondays at 1 p.m. at the City Island Public Library.

March 9, 12:15: Nutrition presentation
March 17: St. Patrick's Day celebration with corned beef, cabbage and potatoes, and a DJ offering Irish music

March 28: Easter meal and birthday party
March 31: Westchester Dinner Theater, "Man of La Mancha"

March 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: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Learn Tai Chi at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 and Yoga Stretch at 10:30 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch and Tai Chi classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

March Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Wednesdays: Radio Theater at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on March 9 and 23 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; History Club at 10 a.m.; Calligraphy at 1:30 p.m.; St. Patty's Day Celebration March 17; Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on March 10; Birthday Party on Monday, March 28; Fridays, Radio Theater at 1 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 Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Holiday Services

Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Sunday, March 20, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 25: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 26: Community Easter Egg Hunt, 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday, Festival and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street
Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday service, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 24, Maundy Thursday worship service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 25: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:45 a.m. Easter Celebrative Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge
Saturday, March 19: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m. Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 20, Palm Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m. Blessing of Palms at all Masses.

Thursday, March 24: Tenebrae, 9 a.m., Holy Thursday psalms and readings. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, March 25, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 9 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 4 p.m. Confessions, 5 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 26, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Confessions, 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. to be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Sunday, March 27, Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue
Wednesday, March 23: Purim Party, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 2, Annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, April 23: Passover Seder, 6 to 9 p.m.

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 1, during Lent, is held on Sundays at 10 a.m. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Grace Church plans to hold Sunday School lessons once again on the first and third Sundays of the month. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m.

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Enigma

Long before the beginning of World War II, the airwaves were full of coded messages as Hitler prepared for battle. Decoding the German encryptions became the priority of a special British Intelligence unit. The PBS Series **NOVA: Nazi Secrets Revealed** (1999) covers this fascinating story. In 1938, the unit, known as the Government Code and Cipher School, or GC&CS, moved into Bletchley Park, a mansion 50 miles north of London, where wireless operators received communiqués from stations all over Britain that were intercepting German messages. The Germans had developed a form of typewriter, called the Enigma machine, which was recalibrated on a daily basis and used to communicate with their submarines. The challenge of breaking the Enigma Code demanded a special kind of talent.

Another documentary on this subject is **Breaking the Codes** (2009). William Woollard directed, produced and narrated this fascinating history of code breaking and how it affected both World Wars. Included is how the codes of WWI led to the American involvement in that war, as well as authentic pictures and interviews with relevant people who worked in Bletchley Park in England and in Washington DC. There is also footage of many submarine battles not seen in other documentaries about the war in the Pacific.

Making the transition from non-fiction to semi-fiction we consider **Codebreaker** (2011), a docudrama that follows the life of Alan Turing, the pioneering computer scientist and code breaker, whose genius and dedication saved countless lives in World War II. Turing was also gay, which was illegal in Britain at the time. His shameful treatment by the British government led to a tragic conclusion that prevented Turing from developing more of his brilliant concepts that could have had a positive effect on civilization. The film tracks his extraordinary accomplishments until his tragic death in 1954. In the last 18 months of his short life, Turing (Ed Stoppard) visited a psychiatrist, Dr. Franz Greenbaum (Henry Goodman), and they explored the pivotal moments in his controversial life and pressures that may have contributed to his early death. The film also includes the testimony of people who actually knew and remember Turing, as well as interviews with contemporary technology experts, including Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. These interviews explain Turing's impact, which was the true beginning of present-day technology.

There are three fictional films that explore this subject. **Breaking the Code** (1996) is Alan Turing's story, portrayed by Derek Jacobi, first as a stage play and

then on film. The film emphasizes Turing's homosexuality: particularly how it caused conflict with his government presenting problems for him, his family and his colleagues and ultimately motivated his suicide. Difficult to find at the current time, a version can be seen on YouTube.

Enigma (2001) is a film that totally departs from Turing's homosexuality. Rather it is an espionage thriller about Tom Jericho (Dougray Scott) a brilliant code-breaker who is summoned to Bletchley Park, Britain's top-secret intelligence site, where he is charged with cracking the Nazis' infamous Enigma codes. Obsessed with his missing former girlfriend, Claire (Saffron Burrows), he and Claire's roommate, Hester (Kate Winslet), also employed at Bletchley, work on unraveling the mystery of Claire's disappearance. Investigating Claire's life, they discover personal and international betrayals. Although the story is highly fictionalized, the process of encrypting and decrypting German messages during World War II is discussed in detail, and the historical event of the Katyn massacre is presented. The film was co-produced by Mick Jagger, who provided funding for the film, as well as access to his own Enigma machine.

The Imitation Game (2014) is based on the true life story of the impossibly arrogant, socially awkward mathematician and legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch). During the World War II, Turing joins a team of code-breakers that includes Hugh Alexander (Matthew Goode), John Cairncross (Allen Leech), Peter Hilton (Matthew Beard), Jack Good (James Northcote) and Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley) at the top-secret facility at Bletchley Park. They work under the watchful eye of the uncompromising Commander Denniston (Charles Dance) and are protected by head of Intelligence, Stewart Menzies (Mark Strong). After two long years, Turing and his team successfully develop their own machine to decipher the Enigma. The film touches on Turing's childhood and his ultimate tragic end when he is persecuted by the British government because of the disclosure of his homosexuality. This is a compelling film.

A little-known related story is presented in **U-571** (2000). In 1942 a group of American submariners undertakes a mission to steal an Enigma machine from a German submarine. Among those on the team facing these tremendous risks are Lt. Andrew Tyler (Matthew McConaughey), Lt. Cmdr. Mike Dahlgren (Bill Paxton), Lt. Pete Emmett (Jon Bon Jovi) and Chief Gunner's Mate Henry Clough (Harvey Keitel). Although this is a fascinating film and received positive critical acclaim in the United States, the British were outraged by the inaccuracy of the depiction, in that the majority of such efforts were not performed by Americans. The film's depth-charge sequences, which produce rumbling bass tones below 25 Hz, are widely cited as a way of testing subwoofers in a home theater set-up.

Set in 1952, **The Bletchley Circle** (2012) is a TV murder-mystery miniseries that tells of four women who have returned to normal lives after working

at Bletchley Park. Having served as code breakers in World War II, the four now focus their talents on catching killers. Susan (Anna Maxwell Martin) is a housewife and mother, but she continues to recognize patterns that surround her in everyday life. When a series of women are brutally murdered around London, Susan sees a pattern emerging, but the police don't believe her. She therefore enlists three former Bletchley Park colleagues: the world traveler and unconventional survivor Millie (Rachel Stirling); Lucy (Sophie Rundle), who has an extraordinary memory and suffers in an abusive marriage; and former Bletchley supervisor and current librarian Jean (Julie Graham). Susan knows they have little time to break this code before the killer strikes again.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Organization News

Continued from page 11

and leave with their teacher 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 first class is scheduled for March 6. All interested parents and children are welcome!

March 6, at 12:15 p.m. The Grace Church New Music Ministry meets on the first Sunday of each month with members of the church choir and singers from on and off the Island to rehearse hymns and popular music to perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. We had our first performance in January and have dates lined up for March, April and May! If you like to sing and want to lend your voice to this "feel good" cause, please e-mail Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com. Men and women, boys and girls of all ages are welcome. You don't have to sing like an angel; just bring your desire to lift others' spirits! Rehearsals are held at Grace Church in the sanctuary.

March 20, Palm Sunday Service at 10 a.m. Join us as we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem by the carrying of palms, which represent the palm branches the crowd scattered before Jesus as he rode into the city.

March 21, 7 p.m. Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crocheting Ministry for Calvary is a group of parishioners who create comfort items (hats, gloves, blankets) for use by patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in Grace Church Hall and invites other crafters interested in this project. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

March 26, 1 to 3 p.m.: Easter Egg Hunt. All ages are invited.

March 27, Easter Sunday Service at 10 a.m. If you have ever thought about visiting Grace Church, we welcome you to join us this Easter Sunday.

For more information about Grace, please visit our website at www.gracecityisland.org.

Sandy Dunn

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church on Bay Street. On Wednesday, March 2, we will have a regular meeting. Be sure to attend, because we will be planning our St. Patrick / St. Joseph luncheon to take place at our March 16 meeting. Tentative plans for our spring meetings include pizza, bingo, speakers, Mother's Day luncheon and possible day trips.

We look forward to seeing everyone on March 2. Come and bring a friend!

Rosetta Woods

City Island Republicans

Federal petitions for placing candidates on the ballot for Congress will go out in early March. Please sign to help us get our candidates on the ballot.

The presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, April 19. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

On March 4, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

The beautiful Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. except for Good Friday, when it will be held at 12 noon.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held on Sunday, March 13, in the rectory following the 9 a.m. Mass. Join us for light refreshments.

On Saturday, March 19, the children from our religious education program will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The ceremony will take place in the church at 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 20, marks the beginning of Holy Week with Palm Sunday, when there will be procession with the palms and subsequent blessing of the palms. On Thursday and Friday at 9 a.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m., we will have the Tenebrae, a solemn service that consists of psalms, readings, lamentations and chanting. The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday evening, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ will take place on Good Friday, March 25, at 4 p.m.

The Easter Vigil will be held on Holy Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Assumption Church. Our Masses on Easter Sunday, March 27, are at 9 and 11 a.m. Because of Easter Week, there will be no religious education classes on March 30. Our prayer and wish is that this Easter will bring us all a deeper awareness of our faith in God and our need to love one another. Happy Easter to all!

Rose Dietz

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2016 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

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.

Ladies Auxiliary

Hopefully everyone is staying warm over this winter season. Our next meeting is will be held on March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Post. Your attendance is needed.

Our Cancer Bingo will be held on April 22 at the Morris Yacht Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. This event is SOLD OUT but donations will be greatly appreciated.

Our TV raffle took place on Super Bowl Sunday and the winner was Katie McMahon. Thank to all for purchasing tickets.

Laura Booth



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LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Do you volunteer on or off City Island? Describe your activities and what you and those you volunteer for gain from them.



Fred Ramftl Jr.

Volunteering on City Island has been a major part of my life since the age of 12. Currently, my community involvement includes the City Island Civic Association, the City Island Historical Society and the Sons of the American Legion. Volunteering benefits everyone in our community, and it would be great if more City Islanders would stop complaining and get involved. Community service leads to a stronger community.

Deborah Erickson



For five years or so, I've been volunteering on City Island, weekly at St. Mary, Star of the Sea's thrift shop. It's fun to be one of a regular crew helping Arlene Byrne, who co-founded the shop 35 years ago and runs it to this day. My off-Island volunteering will again this year include spending a week of summer in Appalachia, at a Rural Area Medicine fair, which brings healthcare to uninsured people in one of the poorest areas of our nation. It was co-created by Sister Bernie Kenney, a colleague of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, who live on City Island and whom I am privileged to call friends. This year I have signed up to teach teens such skills as balancing a checkbook and effective job interviewing. I volunteer because I aspire to become more like these women who are kind and pleasant sources of direct, practical service in the world.



Waldo Persteins

As scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 211, I am entrusted with annually mentoring, teaching, and challenging more than 15 Boy Scouts ages 11 through 17. I plan, organize, and attend weekly scout meetings and monthly activities. With the support of other adult volunteers, I seek to give the boys a challenging environment where they can find something they might love to do for the rest of their lives, and in the process, I hope

they make memories that last just as long. Personally, it is deeply satisfying to see youth become responsible citizens and leaders over their seven years in the troop.

Ellen Badome



Sandy Dunn, a member of Grace Church on City Island, asked me to join their new singing ministry. They rehearse at the church and perform at local nursing homes and other care facilities. On Jan. 16, we sang at Workmen's Circle, a care center off Baychester Avenue. I was apprehensive and excited at the same time. We had a full house, and many residents were very engaged and talkative. We saw how music touched their souls. Once again, I was reminded of how much we owe to the people who volunteer every week, like those who helped my parents. Yes, I had done something in return, but there is always more you can do.



Mary MacIntyre

Volunteering is an opportunity for me to share the things that I love. It is the opportunity to help the Humane Society of Westchester find a forever home for an abandoned or lost dog, to encourage people to be a part of the City Island Theater Group and enjoy the magic of theater, and to learn more about the history of my community through the City Island Nautical Museum. It is also an opportunity to enrich my own life

by meeting and making friends with the most fascinating people who are also volunteers in these endeavors.

Stephen Swieciki



Currently I volunteer both on and off City Island. Here I'm active in the Civic Association, have cleaned up graffiti and served clam chowder at the annual competition the Chamber of Commerce runs in the park. I recently accepted an invitation to join the board of the Community Center. Off the Island, I volunteer for John Doyle's campaign for City Council, and I'm planning some grassroots organizing for Bernie Sanders here in the Bronx. I try to attend as many Community Board and 45th Precinct Community Council meetings as possible. I'm also active in my union, the UFT. It's rewarding to be involved with these causes and groups. They present an opportunity for me to help my friends, neighbors, and fellow teachers.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Hot cross buns (top photo) and pancakes were abundant at the annual Grace Church Shrove Tuesday supper on Feb. 9, 2016. The hardworking chefs and servers included Bruce Weis, Peter Klopfer (and his grandson Peter Luderman), Bill and Millie Allcot, Carlos and Kathy Pereira, Kathy Lonergan and Karen Nani.

SCHOOL NEWS

$2+2=4$

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Although it is a short month, February has been quite busy. Thanks to a another grant from Councilman James Vacca, we are able to provide an after-school musical arts program for students in grades 3 through 8. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a choral performance. Rehearsals have been going very well, and students will be putting on the performance for their families in the middle of March.

Our fifth-graders have also been busy working with the teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble and their classroom teachers on their March performance of "The Lion King, Jr." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! A portion of the grant from Councilman Vacca is also being used to subsidize this performance.

Exciting trips this month included the following. Kindergarten and grade 1: Queensboro College, Arts on Stage "Magic of Science"; Paperbag Players, "Popcorn"; grade 2: Bowling; grade 5: Queensboro College, Arts on Stage "I Have a Dream" and Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian; grade 6: American Museum of Natural History, Ecosystems.

The P.S. 175 tradition in which the sixth grade goes to Camp Greenkill will continue this May. Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun and educational trips that will take place in the coming months; in March they will be going to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social stud-

ies.

Our eighth-grade students are working hard to be ready for their momentous June event. This month they held a Valentine's Day bake and candygram sale, which provided an opportunity for their schoolmates to purchase Valentine's Day goodies for their family members. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Our Sports & Arts after-school program has been in full swing with students participating in art, music, athletic activities, ping pong and knock-hockey tournaments and homework help.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 3, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day as well. Families living on City Island with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2016, who have not already used the online tool to preregister their children for Kindergarten, may come to the school on Monday or Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 15, at 6 p.m. The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 23, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

February Citizens of the Month are: Jonni Bacelli and Emma Riordan (kindergarten); Thomas Cullen and Samantha Ruscigno (first grade); Khalin Cabrera (second grade); Gabriella Gierum and Shawn Williams (third grade); Sophia Amos (fourth grade); Thomas Forliano and Eva Marie Bellocchio (fifth grade); Kaden Roush and Christina Lachman (sixth grade); Jenna Feliciano and Jasmine Mariette (seventh grade); Jaden Torrado and Jessica Lachman (eighth grade).

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The Breen brothers faced inclement weather, traffic and other hazards to get their footage.

Bridge Filming

Continued from page 1

construction business, and Tom worked for several years in a country club as a cook, but film making is their true passion. They specialize in event filming, such as weddings and other important occasions, for which they are paid, but the bridge project, now in its third year, is their contribution to the community.

James reckons that his close friendship with Rajeev Turner influenced his interest in photography, since he spent a good deal of time at Ron Turner's Focal Point Gallery. He also recalls that his grandfather worked in an Army film lab and that his father, an enthusiastic home-movie maker, was proud owner of a camcorder as early as 1980. James recalls that in his late teens, he himself became fascinated with capturing moments in time. When the controversy over the bridge design came to his attention in 2013, he thought that the bridge replacement was an event that deserved to be documented.

For many people, the City Island Bridge represents the essence of the community in its role as gateway to and from the rest of the world. Rather than simply recording the construction and destruction processes, the brothers want to express the context in which the bridge represents the Island as a whole. As they began to amass more and more footage, they realized that there was a great deal more to this story than simply a construction project. They have filmed interviews with many Islanders and off-Islanders, including an artist named Rego, whose mural of the bridge is on a wall at the Bayview Food Mart near the bridge. They have also attended Civic Association meetings and spent many hours waiting by the bridge for the special moments that they wish to preserve.

James was at the bridge one morning last September when a section of the temporary bridge partially collapsed during paving operations. He was the first to share footage of the damage. The resulting news flurry undoubtedly angered the Department of Transportation (DOT), but he felt that the public deserved to be informed. His images of the collapse were used in stories by News 12 the Bronx, NY1 and the Bronx Times Reporter.

Although almost all of what the Breens have photographed is straightforward and unbiased, neither DOT nor the contractor has given them any access to the construction site, claiming issues of safety and insurance. This prompted James to invest in a drone that he has used to make several dramatic videos of the construction site from the air, although he has to wait for the wind and sun to be cooperative.

James and Tommy have also rented a boat from Jack's Bait in order to get good footage of the underpinnings of the bridge,



era, which James used to get a panoramic view of the bridge on the day it was closed to public transportation. The next big event, they feel, will be the removal of the central section of the bridge with the signs and the finials that Islanders believe are the essence of the bridge's appeal. In the meantime, the brothers were especially happy to be able to take photographs of the railings once the chain-link fencing and barbed wire were removed, recreating the original appearance of the bridge.

James feels that his experience in construction has given him a special insight into the construction process. He realizes that much of the project involves teamwork, so that while many people observe workers standing idle, they are actually waiting for the moment when they can work together to get to the next step.

In addition to Facebook, James, who does the editing of the videos, has recently started a Twitter "@CIbridge." Their latest short film, "City Island Bridge: End of an Era," covers the entire construction project up to the closing of the bridge last December.

The Breens figure that the new bridge may well be completed by the spring of 2017, but their job will not be done when Tutor Perini leaves the scene. At that point they will have to select and edit the best bits to make a coherent documentary film. At first James thought the theme of the documentary would be about the community fighting City Hall over the design of the new bridge. Being that City Island residents won that battle, a different story will emerge. The Breens are hunting for early footage of the bridge and talking to Islanders who remember it in the old days.

The Breen brothers have recorded for posterity a significant aspect of City Island's history, but what they have produced is far more than the record of a construction project. Thanks to their sensitivity to the issues that surround the bridge—especially the emotional response that many Island residents feel—their work will itself become an important aspect of City Island's history.

Shortly before *The Current* went to press, the Breens posted videos online of the bad road conditions on Shore Road; before long they were being interviewed by both Bronx12 and NBC New York and successfully caught the attention of city agencies, who must work together to remedy the situation.

Boat Show

Continued from page 9

Bill's visit to the Hinckley plant, I asked to see the engines. "That would take a bit of work," said the salesman. I was annoyed and said "I'm not going to sell my older brother on a million-dollar boat if I can't see the engines." Now Bill got annoyed (at me). He obviously thought I was taking things too far, and he told the salesman that it wouldn't be necessary. The entire sales team nodded. Seeing things like the engines was never necessary for their typical client.

Fortified by the thought of work boots, however, I snapped back. "Not necessary for you," I said, "because whenever you have a problem with the engines you call me!" That was enough. The Hinckley team now knew they had to sell the both of us, and they quickly cleared the decks. They

evicted all other visitors and removed all the cushions and furniture. We watched in awe as hydraulics popped open the entire aft deck of this million dollar "picnic boat." I was sold! The engine room, like the rest of the boat, were Nirvana. If only we could do without the pretense. My advice to Hinckley is to remember that this is New York, not Boston. Boston could fit between 14th and 42nd Streets, and in this town some of those guys with work boots have more dough than your finest Boston white shoes! Still, I loved the boat, and I will continue to work on Bill.

That's it for this year, and what a strange start to the year. With 50-degree days in February, I ponder global warming, but hey, if it's really happening, at least our boating seasons will get longer! See you on the high seas!

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

MARCH 2016									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0337	7.08	1002	0.96	1610	6.44	2217	1.07	Tue 01
02 Wed	0428	7.02	1059	1.06	1707	6.38	2314	1.17	Wed 02
03 Thu	0525	7.03	1203	1.03	1810	6.46			Thu 03
04 Fri	0016	1.11	0628	7.15	1319	0.79	1917	6.73	Fri 04
05 Sat	0124	0.85	0731	7.41	1433	0.36	2019	7.14	Sat 05
06 Sun	0234	0.40	0832	7.75	1528	-0.14	2112	7.60	Sun 06
07 Mon	0337	-0.14	0927	8.09	1616	-0.61	2200	8.06	Mon 07
08 Tue	0431	-0.66	1019	8.36	1701	-0.98	2247	8.47	Tue 08
09 Wed	0522	-1.06	1108	8.49	1746	-1.19	2333	8.65	Wed 09
10 Thu	0613	-1.28	1157	8.45	1831	-1.21			Thu 10
11 Fri	0020	8.69	0704	-1.28	1248	8.23	1918	-1.03	Fri 11
12 Sat	0110	8.55	0801	-1.07	1342	7.86	2010	-0.67	Sat 12
All times are Eastern Daylight Time beginning Sunday, March 13									
13 Sun	0304	8.24	1005	-0.71	1543	7.41	2212	-0.19	Sun 13
14 Mon	0405	7.83	1118	-0.32	1702	6.99	2331	0.26	Mon 14
15 Tue	0531	7.44	1231	-0.05	1829	6.79			Tue 15
16 Wed	0050	0.51	0659	7.30	1339	0.05	1941	6.84	Wed 16
17 Thu	0200	0.53	0809	7.36	1442	0.01	2043	7.06	Thu 17
18 Fri	0303	0.37	0909	7.53	1538	-0.11	2138	7.34	Fri 18
19 Sat	0359	0.13	1003	7.72	1629	-0.23	2228	7.61	Sat 19
20 Sun	0449	-0.09	1052	7.85	1716	-0.29	2314	7.80	Sun 20
21 Mon	0535	-0.24	1136	7.89	1758	-0.25	2356	7.89	Mon 21
22 Tue	0617	-0.28	1217	7.83	1836	-0.13			Tue 22
23 Wed	0033	7.88	0654	-0.22	1254	7.69	1909	0.06	Wed 23
24 Thu	0106	7.78	0726	-0.08	1325	7.50	1929	0.27	Thu 24
25 Fri	0126	7.66	0746	0.09	1343	7.31	1930	0.40	Fri 25
26 Sat	0135	7.61	0754	0.20	1355	7.20	1953	0.45	Sat 26
27 Sun	0159	7.62	0820	0.29	1424	7.13	2027	0.55	Sun 27
28 Mon	0233	7.62	0857	0.42	1501	7.05	2109	0.71	Mon 28
29 Tue	0314	7.58	0940	0.59	1545	6.96	2155	0.90	Tue 29
30 Wed	0400	7.49	1028	0.77	1634	6.87	2246	1.07	Wed 30
31 Thu	0452	7.39	1122	0.89	1730	6.84	2342	1.16	Thu 31
APRIL 2016									
01 Fri	0549	7.32	1223	0.90	1831	6.93			Fri 01
02 Sat	0045	1.09	0652	7.35	1330	0.74	1936	7.18	Sat 02
03 Sun	0156	0.81	0758	7.51	1444	0.40	2041	7.57	Sun 03
04 Mon	0312	0.32	0904	7.78	1550	-0.06	2140	8.03	Mon 04
05 Tue	0420	-0.27	1005	8.07	1646	-0.51	2234	8.46	Tue 05



An Exciting Sighting

We had a lot of good surprise sightings in February. There was a Cooper's hawk as we crossed the street with friends in Jackson Heights; a peregrine falcon on the ground in Drake Park in Hunts Point; and a colorful American kestrel out on a limb in a tree near the Bartow traffic circle. What was exciting about each sighting was not only how unexpected it was but how close—the falcon was no more than 10 feet away, making a messy meal of a pigeon.



Cooper's hawk

It got better from there. On a casual walk to meet with friends on City Island Avenue, we had our attention arrested by a strange but vaguely familiar sound. Upon closer inspection of a nearby evergreen shrub, we discovered its source: a monk parakeet. We had not heard from monks since their nests were removed from utility lines at the southern end of the Island. We thought maybe there was a new nest that we are unaware of. Or perhaps this specimen was scouting the area for new sites for new nests.

While we considered the possibilities, a mature American bald eagle flew just overhead. We were stunned! Absolutely stunned! And it was not all that high, either: no higher than the tallest tree on Fordham Street. We could clearly make out its white head and black body and wings, as well as its yellow talons, as it flew by in the direction of Rodman's Neck. The monk parakeet must have seen it too, because no sooner had the eagle passed than the monk was off in the same direction. We would have thought he'd be better off going the other way.

We were sure that it couldn't get any better than that, but we were wrong. Toward the end of the month, as we happened to glance out into the waters of Eastchester Bay, we noticed a small group of brant suddenly take to the sky. Obviously, something had disturbed them, but from below, not from above. With the aid of our binoculars, we were able to see the seal—probably a harbor seal—that had created the disturbance. He went underwater again almost immediately but was up a few seconds later examining a mooring near the end of the Fordham Street pier. He went up and down like this as he made his way north, passing Bay Street

and Tier Street. After that, we could not tell where he went.

Harbor seals are not all that uncommon this time of year off City Island's shores. But they are a lot more uncommon on the west side of the Island than on the east side. In fact, the rangers at Orchard Beach, off City Island's northeast side, will readily point out the rocks that seals like best. If you check the schedule of events for Pelham Bay Park, you can usually find a seal-watching event or two (or three) every winter.

Perhaps we should not have been as surprised as we were to see the seal as close as we did and where he was. We read on the City Island Birds website that there did not seem to be as many scaup as usual over by Orchard Beach. The scaup eat some of the same shellfish that harbor seals eat, and we have seen plenty of scaup feeding where the seal was seen. The conch fishing hasn't been all that bad lately, either.

Do you have an exciting sighting that you would like to share? Maybe you have an astounding sounding instead. If so, we here at "Sights and Sounds" would love to hear from you at jdsstrat@msn.com. Until then, keep those eyes and ears open, because here on City Island, hey, you never know!

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY
Lavender cultivars displayed at the Chelsea Flower Show, London.

Hedging Your Bets

With the emergence of boxwood blight (*clindrocladium buxiola*) in the Northeast, it is wise to consider some good alternatives. You might replace an old hedge that has become infected or plant a new one. Boxwood is a mainstay for forming low- to medium-height evergreen hedges; plant *buxus sempervirens*, which is less susceptible to blight than the other varieties. Frothy perennials and annuals planted behind or in front of formal hedging give structure and a sense of place to a garden.

The following substitutes respond well to pruning with dense finely textured growth:

Under two feet tall:

Euonymus japonicus "microphyllus" is great for low hedges; it tolerates most kinds of soil, prefers sun and part shade.

Lonicera nitida responds to hard prun-

ing, likes any type of soil, sun or part shade; this is best for topiary.

Teucrium chamaedrys is a sub-shrub for less formal applications; it likes well-drained soil and sun and is nice with roses.

Lavender, if kept tightly pruned each spring, forms a short hedge with fragrant flowers; it prefers poor soil and sun. Cut just above the old wood in early August.

Paxistima canbyi, or Canby's mountain lover, is a very useful plant but hard to find, so it is best to order it online from a good nursery. It is a low-growing, spreading shrub with tiny evergreen foliage and makes a great ground cover, if massed, for the seashore or semi-shaded borders. It thrives in poor soil, but I find it does well in most situations so long as it's not wet. I use it to edge a wall, where if not pruned it will cascade downward in a lovely fashion. If pruned, it can be a small hedge one foot high; it is hardy from zone 3 to 7.

Taller than two feet:

Ilex crenata tolerates most soils and likes sun or shade.

Lonicera nitida "Baggesen's gold" is good for hedging or topiary; likes sun.

Pittosporum tenuifolium is great for taller hedging with a fall leaf color; prefers light shade.

Ligustrum delavayanum is a small-leaved privet that is used for topiary and makes a fine hedge.

Carpinus (hornbeam) is a deciduous shrub that loses its leaves in winter; it can be clipped to form a large hedge or can be kept in mounds.

If you are thinking of planting a tall flowering hedge, I would recommend any of the *Hydrangea paniculatas*. These shrubs, which originated in Japan, are hardy and tough, and in July they delight for months with their pointed panicles of flowers. Choose the taller limelight or

tardiva, or the pinky winkly, which is of medium height. All can be kept to a suitable size through pruning. Top dress them with a slow-release fertilizer and mulch to hold moisture. Underplanting with large-leaved hostas, such as the blue sieboldiana, gives a nice effect; a purple-leaved shrub, such as the forest pansy (*cercis canadensis*), would make for a great and exciting combination in the garden.

March is here and with it come many chores to accomplish in the garden. Cut all perennials down to the new growth, and cut grasses from 6 inches to a foot high. Prune shrub roses and tea roses by one third, and

leave the climbers alone except for cleaning away the dead wood. I spread a layer of composted manure over the garden and add Plant-tone fertilizer and mulch.

Another winter has passed; break out your pitchforks and shovels. It is time to Spring ahead! If these tasks are accomplished before spring arrives, you can relax a bit and enjoy the emerging plants and flowers.

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.

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The Collapse of Parenting: So Who's in Charge at Your House?

By JOHN SCARDINA

Leonard Sax, a parent, physician, and psychologist from Pennsylvania, has written his fourth book, "The Collapse of Parenting," to sound the alarm that many of us have been hearing for some time now. How, indeed, did children start to rule our lives, speaking to us with disrespect and flaunting our rules to pursue their own immediate desires?

With the advent of cell phones, video games, increased childhood obesity and an "entitled generation" that we coddle with too much praise and too few reality checks, our lives have been literally turned topsy-turvy. Instead of parents being the reigning figures of love and authority in the home (see Wendy Mogel's "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee" for more on this), we are servants to the young. How often do you cringe in public when your child speaks to you like this: "Just shut up, Dad, you don't know anything. If you don't let me finish this game (OR have this sleepover OR go to this party), I will make dinner miserable for everyone!"

What can we do? Here are some simple tips for getting things back in line:

- Be firm about family rules. Post them on the refrigerator. Have family meetings to discuss the rules and accept suggested amendments. Have a family motto and decide as a group to live up to it.

- Teach humility. Instead of over-inflated praise, give feedback that is positive yet realistic. Effective praise is true, specific and helpful. Instead of "that's the best painting I have ever seen!" say "I really like the way you chose that color blue for the sky when it is next to the green of the trees."

- Let your child experience the pains of growing up. Do not micromanage every social situation that is difficult for them. Use this simple formula (from Fay and Cline's "Parenting with Love and Logic"): a) respond with empathy; b) pause; c) ask "what are you going to do about it?"; d) pause; e) say "You are a bright and competent kid and I love you. I am sure you will come up with a good solution. Let me know how it turns out"; f) walk away!

- Have family dinners. The family matters, and family dinners are a way to show that family matters. Insist on no electronics at the dinner table for everyone (you, too, Mom and Dad!) and have some simple exercise to share. Name one good thing about your day OR name one thing you are thankful for OR give one piece of positive feedback to the person on your left.

- Spend time with your child with no other agendas. Go for a walk (once again with no electronics), play an old-fashioned board game, go out for hot chocolate. Even if you watch a movie together, discuss the plot, name your favorite parts or best characters and ask what would be done better and differently if you were in charge.

- Teach the meaning of life. It's not all about achievement but instead about love, commitment and service to others. Make sure your family values service as part of giving back to the world. Most of us already have more than sufficient conditions for our happiness.

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



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

City Island's Boy Scout Troop 211 and Cub Scout Pack 211 participated in the challenging Klondike competition. The Boy Scouts took the North Pole (first place) and the Cub Scouts took the South Pole (second place). Congrats to the cool Scouts.

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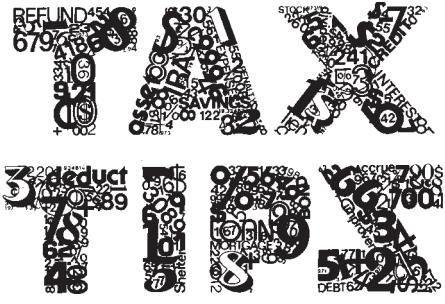
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

**WARNING:
Social Security Benefit at Risk**

The file-and-suspend option for collecting Social Security will end on April 30, 2016. If you are or will soon turn age 66 in the next few weeks, you can still pursue this major Social Security benefit, which enables you to file now for your Social Security but suspend your benefits and let your spouse collect them. While your spouse is collecting, your monthly benefit rises by 8 percent per year until whatever year you decide to collect. If you change your mind later about suspending your benefits, you can collect a lump-sum benefit going back to the date of your application.

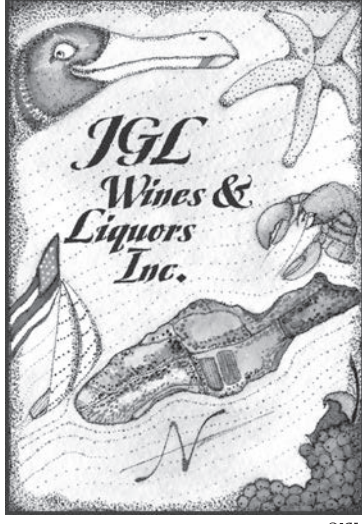
This benefit can be applied whether one or both of you have reached your full retirement age. The strategy varies a bit when only one of you has reached full retirement age, but the concept is similar.

Regardless, Congress has ended this benefit starting April 30, so you must act immediately. If your application is submitted to the Social Security Administration by 5 p.m. on April 29, 2016, you can still file-and-suspend.

Everyone's situation is different, and you need to look at the numbers to determine your best option. If you need help figuring which option is best for you and your spouse, or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or visit your local Social Security Administration office right away.

Increased Penalties for Failure to File Tax Returns

On Feb. 11, 2016, the Senate, by a vote of 75 to 20, passed H.R. 644, the "Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015." In addition to authorizing U.S. Customs and Border Protection and making permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act banning taxes on internet access, the bill contains a number of tax provisions, including stiffer penalties for failure to file returns. Under current law, unless due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, the minimum penalty for failure to file certain types of tax returns (including income, estate and gift tax returns) within 60 days of the due date (including extensions) is equal to the lesser of \$135 (for 2015 and 2016) or 100 percent of the amount of tax required to be shown on the return. H.R. 644 would raise the minimum penalty to \$205 or 100 percent of the amount of tax required to be shown on the return, effective for returns required to be filed in calendar years after 2015.



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

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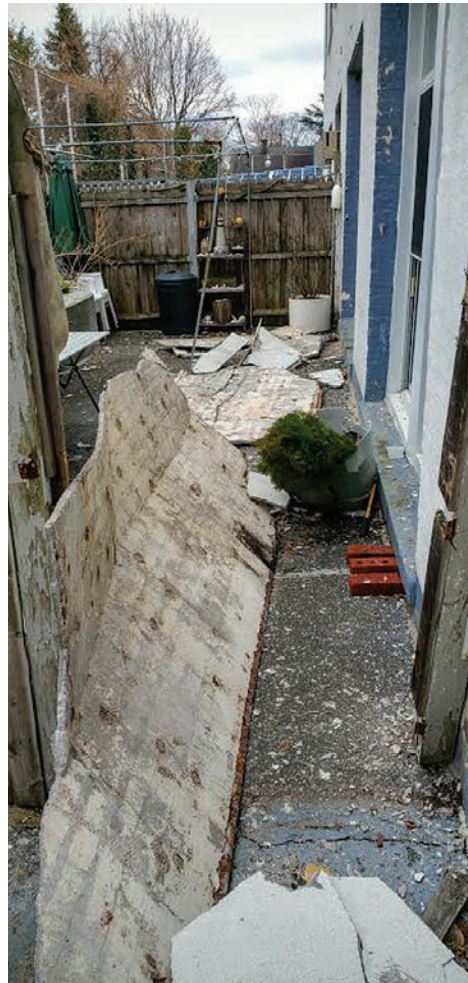


Photo by MATTIA PANZA

The wind and rain blew so fiercely on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2016, that a section of plaster covering the brickwork on the second floor of the old school building at 190 Fordham Street gave way and fell to the ground. The Fire Department was quick to the scene, and a Buildings Department inspector arrived soon after, but no one was injured, although warning signs were put up, as other sections of the plaster may give way in the future. The Nautical Museum, which is located in the front part of the building, was not affected.



Photo by CANDY MANCUSO

This sidewalk at the northeast corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue is nice and clean, but no thanks to the owners of the corner properties, whose responsibility it is to keep the sidewalk in good shape. This month's City Island Community Pride award goes to Carol Fitzpatrick of Fordham Street, who can often be seen sweeping and tending to the sidewalk, which would otherwise be a mess. She deserves the community's thanks for showing her commitment to City Island by caring for this highly visible corner at the center of the island.



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

Rehearsals are under way for the City Island Theater Group's new production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," which opens on Friday, March 4. The cast members in this scene include (seated, l. to r.): Penelope Golden and Phyllis Lindy and (standing): Robert Mulroy, Amanda Livingston, Martin and Emma Hennessy (who plays Anne Frank). See page 2 for information about times and tickets.



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Photo courtesy of THE HEBEN FAMILY Samuel Lawrence Heben was born Jan. 25, 2016.

Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 211 and Cub Scout Pack 211, which participated in the annual Klondike Competition. Troop 211 took the "North Pole" (first place) for their fourth year in a row, and Cub Scout Pack 211 took the "South Pole" (second place) for their second year in a row. Great job!

It's finally happened! Former Islanders Bette and Edward Heben are very proud to announce that, for the very first time, they have finally joined the illustrious ranks of grandparent status. Samuel Lawrence Heben was born on Jan. 25, 2016, in Mountain View, CA. Thrilled parents are Lisa Zoeller Heben



Still the "man of my dreams"....Happy Birthday honey, Love Angel.

and Benjamin Lee Heben, formerly of City Island and now working for Google and living in Silicon Valley. Beaming maternal grandparents are Adela and Lawrence Zoeller of Virginia Beach, VA.

Happy 80th birthday on March 5 across the miles in Florida to former Bay Street resident Paul Buhl, with love from your family and friends. Enjoy your special day!

Best wishes for a very happy birthday on March 8 to Marine Street's Chris Butterworth, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Birthday greetings to Hunter Avenue's Judy McCormick, who will celebrate her big day on March 18, with love from her family and friends.

It was a wonderful occasion as Islander Myra Martin celebrated her 90th birthday with her children and grandchildren, who surprised her with a party at the Morris Yacht Club. About 60 of her close friends and family were on hand to celebrate with the youngest 90-year-old we know!

A very happy birthday to Russell Prohaska, who will blow out his birthday candles on March 26 with a little help from his family and friends.

Happy birthday to Joseph Nelson on March 10 and to his dad, Joe, on March 28, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Birthday greetings to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene on March 31, with love from your family and friends.

Best wishes for a happy retirement to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki with love from your family.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by PETER CHADWICK

Myra Martin (third from left) is pictured with her children (l. to r.), Susan Winters, Debbie Martin, Cheryl Koller, Myla Martin, Chris Martin and Babette Martin. The family surprised her with a party on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Morris Yacht Club in honor of her 90th birthday.



Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week Schedule

March 20th, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM



March 27th, Easter Sunday: Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM

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Holy Week Schedule 2016

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March 19 4:30-5 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY - March 20

Vigil Mass- Saturday 5:15 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m. (Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

HOLY THURSDAY - March 24

9 a.m. - TENEBRAE (No morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:30 p.m. Procession to Repository Adoration to 10 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - March 25

9 a.m. - TENEBRAE (No morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 12 Noon COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS - 4 p.m. Confessions 5- 6 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY- March 26

8 a.m. - TENEBRAE (No morning Mass) Consists of Psalms and Readings Confessions 9 -10 a.m. & 4 -5 p.m. SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL - 8 p.m. WILL BE HELD AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY - March 27

Masses 9 a.m., 11 a.m.



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