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One Dollar

ISLANDERS TO ISLANDERS OUTREACH

By MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER



Photo courtesy of AMIR ASADI

Pictured in the remains of the Chati home on Staten Island are (l. to r.): Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Amir Asadi, Nicole Chati, Mia Chati, Steve Chati and Rick Sherman.

The story of the Chati family of New Dorp Beach in Staten Island is just one of many stories of devastating loss as a result of Superstorm Sandy. Water rose above the windows of their one-story home, and the violent surge bent two of the four supporting columns in the basement of the structure, rendering it unstable.

I met 8-year-old Mia Chati and her mother, Nicole, on Dec. 23, when I was face-painting for the children in the tent city at New Dorp Beach. I was part of a group trying to bring some holiday cheer to these hard-hit victims of Sandy, an outreach organized by Charlene Pateman of Yorktown, New York. Charlene, the owner of a hair salon, had signed up for the on-line "Adopt a Family" program and was matched to a young family with four children whose home had suffered devastating damage. Her commitment was to raise funds to replace household goods for the family and to buy them Christmas presents.

One of Charlene's customers, former City Islander Laura Yorburg, learned about the effort and wrote a story for *The Journal News*. As a result, donations flooded

into her salon, so much so that the family finally said they had had enough and asked if the overflow could be used to buy gifts for the children in the nearby New Dorp Beach area. Our group of about 15 volunteers purchased about 200 toys and paired them with personal items such as shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We then sorted them into age-appropriate bags, loaded them onto a rented school bus and left Yorktown for Staten Island.

We were all shocked into silence when the bus rounded the corner into Cedar Grove at New Dorp Beach. It is one thing to see photos or video from the comfort of your own home, but quite another to see the "war zone" at first hand. A young man with our group, who was dressed as Santa, and Laura and I dressed as elves went into the tent city that had been set up in the park across from the remains of the neighborhood. Santa and the volunteers distributed gifts as Laura and I painted faces.

After I heard Mia and Nicole tell their story, I was inspired to pitch "adopting" the Chati family to the Bronx Rotary Club. On Jan. 27, I returned to New Dorp Beach

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Dragons Path Students Rock the World Cup Martial Arts Tournament

By JOSEPH PLAZA



The City Island Dragons Path team celebrated its victories at the World Cup Martial Arts Tournament, which took place in Reston, Virginia, on Jan. 26, 2013. Back row (l. to r.): Dima Berezniuk, Valentin Salas, Coach Tasia, Samuel Rosa, Dylan Bernard, Master Edwin Castro, Cristine Rice, Manual Oquendo, Serena Balassi; second row: Arjun Mastry, Ezra Oquendo, Joseph Plaza, Owen Kenna, Rosie Kotlowics, Christopher Tomsen; front row: Gabriel Toribio, Haylynn Richardson, Samantha Hernandez, Lily Pecoraro, Krish Mastry, Joseph Burton.

On the cold and snow-flurried late afternoon, Jan. 25, 2013, students and their parents from the Dragons Path Academy on City Island, led by Master Edwin Castro, embarked on a journey to attend their first World Cup Martial Arts Tournament, which took place in Reston, Virginia. These 21 young and ambitious future black belts were about to compete, very successfully, in various types of martial arts, including sparring, forms and weapons, in an event that hosted many other Tae Kwon Do schools, which came from around the world, including Russia.

Many of the schools represented were a tough match for the City Island warriors, but they were determined to put Dragons Path Academy on the map, and that is exactly what happened! The highlight of the night was watching Master, or Sensei, Edwin Castro do forms and spar against two formidable opponents and win first place. But the highlight of the weekend was the great success of the City Island students, who received top honors for a total of 19 trophies awarded, 7 first places, 4 second places, 8 third places and 2 finalists!

When the City Island group arrived at the Sheraton Hotel, the crowds of children and adults made it clear that this tournament was going to be a challenging one. The huge convention room walls were draped with flags of numerous nations, and the loud grunts and yelps of "KIYA" from three separate rings could be heard over and over again, followed by thunderous applause.

The next morning everyone rushed to prepare for the scheduled events. The hallways were filled with many competitors stretching, kicking, jumping or sparring. Vendors were selling their martial arts t-shirts and equipment, and officials were checking for proper registration. The City Island contingent met with the great Master John Chung and with their own fearless leader, Master Edwin Castro, and his loyal assistant, Ashley Torres, who led the way.

The anticipation of watching their children, their warriors, competing in such a

professional tournament had many parents nervous. But one look into the eyes of these courageous warriors made it clear that they were ready. The rings filled with competitors as their names were called, and the matches began simultaneously, with parents and students cheering on their comrades. Match after match, it was dramatic and exciting to see how well they performed.

After celebrating its first official year on City Island, it was exciting for the students to attend their first World Cup Martial Arts Tournament. The next tournament will be in Rhode Island in April, and everyone is ready to compete. City Island can be very proud of all the children and adults who attend Dragons Path Academy. The program has trained many children who also attend the martial arts after-school program, the summer camp and their regular martial arts programs.

After receiving the disappointing news about St. Mary's School, this triumph in Virginia was welcome news. Dragons Path is very grateful indeed to Ashley Torres, all the parents and the students for their support and for putting City Island on the martial arts map!

World Cup Martial Arts

Tournament Results

Master Edwin Castro - 1st place sparring champion
Joseph Burton - 1st place sparring champion
Christopher Tomsen - 1st place sparring champion
Manual Oquendo - 1st place sparring champion
Jalynn Richardson - 1st place sparring champion
Cristine Rice - 1st place sparring champion
Dylan Bernard - 1st place sparring champion
Valentin Salas - 2nd place sparring
Krishn Mastry - 2nd place sparring
Lily Pecoraro - 2nd place sparring
Samuel Rosa - 2nd place sparring
Joseph Plaza - 3rd place sparring
Ezra Oquendo - 3rd place sparring

Continued on page 15



Photos by HELEN ANDERSON

Here is the beautiful new Ladder 53 that was recently delivered to the City Island firehouse. Its arrival coincided, oddly, with the Mayor's annual threat to cut back on 20 firehouses in order to save money in the new budget. At least it provides Island residents with even more reason than ever to mount protests to keep it on the job!



BRIEFLY...

WOMEN'S "HERSTORY" MONTH CELEBRATION: On Sunday, March 24, between 1 and 4 p.m., City Island women and girls are invited to attend the annual celebration of women's history month at City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Bring stories, skills, interests or just yourself to this annual friendly gathering. For more information and reservations, call Maria Meli at 347-293-6814.

FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Come and help the Friends clear water bars and drainage channels along the Bartow Woods bridle trail on Saturday, March 23. Meet at the Bartow-Pell Mansion parking lot at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch and wear sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes. Gloves and tools will be provided. For more information, e-mail cl.robinson@verizon.net.

EASTER FLOWER SALE: Boy Scout Troop 211 will hold its annual flower sale at Trinity United Methodist Church on Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29, and Saturday, depending on flower availability. The flower sale will go on rain or shine but will be inside the church in case of rain. Support the troop and send a scout to summer camp.

PELHAM BAY PARK FUND-RAISER: The annual Friends of Pelham Bay Park fund-raiser will take place on Thursday, March 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Pelham-Split Rock Golf Clubhouse. Please join us and help raise funds for outdoor exercise equipment to provide people of all ages and abilities an opportunity to get fit, have fun and stay healthy. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, raffles prizes and more. Tickets are \$40 at the door. For more information, call 718-430-4685 or e-mail friendsofbbp@yahoo.com.

YACHT CLUBS OF CITY ISLAND are the subject of a new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, which will reopen its doors after the winter recess on Saturday, March 16, with a reception on Sunday, March 24, from 1 to 5 p.m. Historical documents and artifacts, as well as special events will explore the significance that these clubs have had for City Island since the early 20th century. The Museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. or by special appointment (call 718-885-0507).

ANNUAL PTA CARD PARTY FUND-RAISER: This year's card party with its pirate theme will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8, at the Lido, and everyone is invited to come and join the fun. The PTA at P.S. 175—which is funded by the notoriously cash-strapped NYC Department of Education—works hard to raise money to cover expenses and enrichment programs for our children. The fund-raising goal for school year 2012-2013 is \$40,000. We need every cent to maintain the kinds of programs that set our school apart. Donated prizes and services will be raffled off to raise money that goes right to the school.

THE METROCARD VAN will be parked in front of Trinity Methodist Church on City Island Avenue at Bay Street on Thursday, April 11, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., thanks to the AARP with the assistance of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. Seniors and disabled individuals may apply for reduced-fare MetroCards and ask questions related to their use. Please bring your Medicare card and a valid photo ID.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present its new production of Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie" over two weekends at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 3, at 3 p.m., as well as Thursday, March 7, Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. Free valet parking is available for all performances at Sammy's Lot #3 just south of the Chinese restaurant on City Island Avenue. For reservations, please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

IRISH MUSIC AT GRACE CHURCH: On Sunday, March 10, Irish fiddler Brian Conway will perform at Grace Church along with Brendan Dolan on piano and Deirdre Connolly, vocals. Mr. Conway has won numerous awards in the United States and Ireland for his distinctive and elegant Sligo style fiddling. Mr. Dolan has studied with some of the top Irish musicians and maintains his own Irish music school in the New York City area. Ms. Connolly has sung with the all-female group Cherish the Ladies and is a favorite with audiences across the country. Concert begins at 4 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at the door or by PayPal at www.gracecityisland.org. E-mail music@gracecityisland.org with questions or to reserve tickets.



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Tawney-Joy Bedkoper and Basia Zak star as daughter and mother in City Island Theater Group's production of Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie" on the first and second weekends in March. The cast also includes Nic Anthony Calabro and Denis Zepada. For tickets, please call 718- 885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January and February 2013. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2013.

1/22 – At 4 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a complainant told police that she returned to her parked vehicle to find that her laptop computer had been removed without her permission.

1/22 – On Bay Street at 12 noon, a complainant reported that he lost his wallet in a store.

2/8 – At 6 p.m., a resident discovered that her car had been struck while parked on Tier Street and William Avenue by an unknown person who fled the scene of the accident. There was property damage only.

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COMPTROLLER LIU VISITS CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



John Liu, comptroller for the city of New York, addressed the Civic Association at its January meeting, which was held in the library of the City Island Nautical Museum on Jan. 27, 2013.

The comptroller of New York City, John Liu, addressed members of the City Island Civic Association on Jan. 27, explaining his role as the city's chief financial officer and taking questions about issues of specific interest to this community.

Since he took office in 2010, Mr. Liu, whose job it is to eliminate wasteful spending, has enabled the city to save a great deal of money, including \$4 billion in the current budget. He believes that the city must reduce its debt in order to fund necessary improvements and pay for schools and other critical services. He suggested that residents access the website *checkbooknyc.com* to see where the city is spending its money and on what.

In 2000, the city contracted with Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) to develop a city employee payroll system called City Time for the sum of \$73 million, which eventually ballooned to nearly \$700 million. Mr. Liu was highly

critical of the project, and eventually, in 2012, in order to avoid federal prosecution, SAIC agreed to pay the city \$500.4 million to resolve claims that it conspired to defraud the city.

The comptroller's office has also found that the city was inappropriately billed for over \$2.5 million by the 911 project, and he told the Civic group that his office will continue to vigorously audit previous contracts and scrutinize new contracts to identify and prevent this type of runaway spending.

The Civic members asked whether he had any authority regarding the replacement project for the City Island bridge, and he said that he had met last year with members of the community about its inflated budget and understood their concerns. He said that he had joined with Councilmember James Vacca and the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr., to insist that the Department of Transportation (DOT) obtain a necessary permit from City Planning, which had not been obtained. Mr. Liu said that he would review the bids submitted by contractors (which were due to be submitted to DOT in February) and not sign off on them without close scrutiny and perhaps a public hearing.

He is also familiar with City Island's annual efforts to fight for Ladder 53 in light of the Mayor's proposed budget cuts, and he said that the total saving from shutting down or cutting 20 firehouses would be about \$40 million, funding that could be found elsewhere.

Carmine W. DeDonato Certified Public Accountant

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Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week Schedule

March 24th, Palm Sunday:
Liturgy of the Palms and
Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM

March 28th, Maundy Thursday: 7:00 PM

March 29th, Good Friday: 7:00 PM

March 31st, Easter Sunday: 10:00 AM

The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia,
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Valentine's Day Traffic Control

By PAUL NANI

As Islanders know all too well, only one day in the winter causes traffic jams comparable to the summer levels, and that's Valentine's Day. This year, in an attempt to achieve better control, a new plan was conceived during a meeting on Feb. 5 between officers from the 45th Precinct, Skip Giacco and Paul Klein of the Chamber of Commerce, representatives of several restaurants and Paul Nani of the Civic Association.

Lieutenant Paul Trapani of the 45th Precinct, who chaired the meeting, is well aware of the traffic issues facing City Island, and he has been instrumental in making sure that officers and traffic agents are assigned to the Island for traffic control on holidays and summer weekends. Members of the Chamber were especially concerned about traffic this year, since Valentine's Day fell on a Thursday and preceded the Presidents Day holiday weekend.

The precinct reviewed the 2012 plan, which included having police officers and traffic agents stationed at the circle and at traffic lights along City Island Avenue. However, everyone at the meeting agreed that, despite this effort, there was still a backlog of traffic onto the Island, which affects residents trying to get home and causes congestion along much of the avenue, which invariably leads to fire lane violations.

The group decided to add two new components to the 2012 plan. First, officers and agents at traffic lights would keep vehicles moving through red lights in both directions when it is safe to do so. This would also help prevent vehicles leaving the Island from causing a backup of vehicles coming onto the Island.

Second, it was decided to create holding areas for vehicles waiting to enter certain restaurant parking lots, in order to avoid backups in the driving lane that encourage other vehicles to pass them in the fire lane. These areas would be created by placing No Parking signs on several spaces near the parking lot entrances in order to keep traffic flowing. It was agreed that these no parking zones would run from the bridge south to



Tier Street, because traffic generally clogs up to that point and moves well thereafter. Parking was therefore prohibited in these locations from Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 14-17, between 2 and 11 p.m.

The results were both good and bad. The traffic moved well all along City Island Avenue on Valentine's Day and did not back up over the bridge, but the No Parking signs posed a problem for Islanders who could not park when shopping. Also, some residents misread the signs and thought that parking was prohibited all day long. These issues were brought to the attention of the Civic, the Chamber and the 45th Precinct on Friday, Feb. 15, and on Saturday Lt. Trapani directed officers to remove some of the signs. The precinct also agreed to review the No Parking zones and times for the future.

To their credit, the officers and agents were present when they promised to be, and they did their job well. Lt. Trapani was on City Island all four days during this period supervising the operation, and Captain McGeown, commanding officer of the 45th, was also on the Island Friday night to review the implementation of the plan.

Residents and business owners who have suggestions for future traffic control plans are invited to attend the meetings of the Civic Association or the Chamber of Commerce or to send e-mail messages through the organizations' websites: www.cicivic.org and www.cityislandchamber.org.

BRIDGE UPDATE

As *The Current* was going to press, the Tutor Perini Corporation, a major construction company, sent out a press release indicating that it had been listed by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) as the low bidder for the \$102.7 million replacement of the City Island bridge. Although the total is lower than the \$150 forecast by DOT, the bid includes the construction and removal of a temporary bridge and approach roadways, demolition of the existing bridge, the construction of a single steel tower cable-stayed bridge, reconstruction of approach roadways and the rehabilitation of Catherine Scott promenade and Pelham Bay Park. According to the firm's press release: "The new bridge will be the first cable-stayed bridge built in the State of New York. Work is expected to begin in April 2013 with substantial completion expected by July 2016." Tutor Perini has done major bridge work in New York City, including the Verrazano Bridge, and has been appointed as one of four qualified firms to bid on the replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Although DOT has not obtained appropriate permits from the Department of City Planning for the City Island bridge, the project is apparently scheduled to move ahead without it.

Adult Care Facility Explained

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Joyce White, representing the NY State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), attended the January meeting of the City Island Civic Association to explain that the adult facility on City Island Avenue near Cross Street will open in February. Clients will

come into the office to register and then go out into the community to perform jobs as volunteers; the program is for learning and training. Clients are strictly supervised and are never sent out on their own or during periods of inclement weather. The group of clients has been selected from the existing populations at other locations and will be bused in and out daily. There will be a staff of eight.

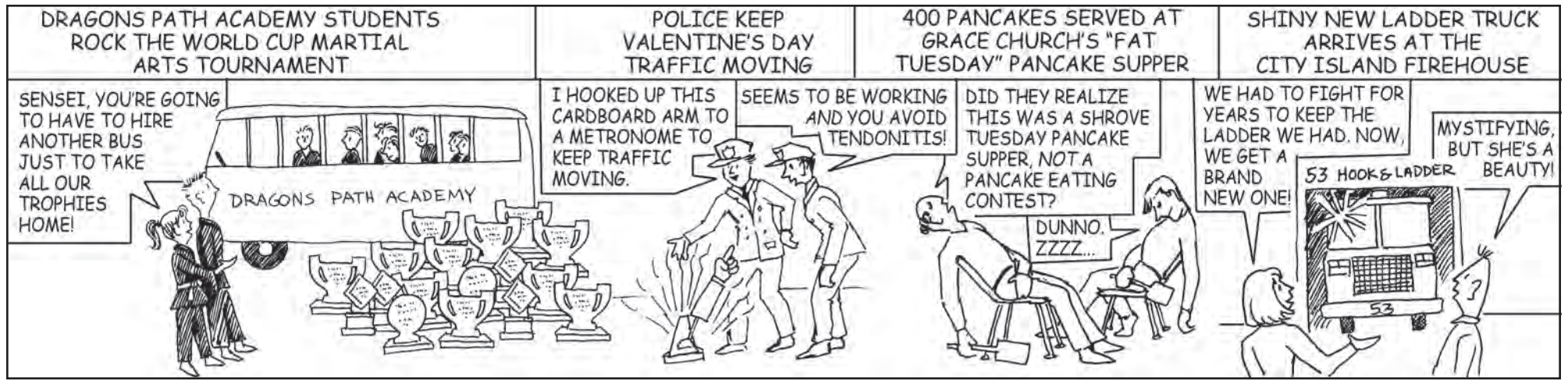
No Parking signs have been posted in front of the building because there is no way to safely discharge clients at the side street and because clients are dropped off or picked up at various times during the day. The American Legion was not approached for parking accommodation but may be in the future. It is hoped that some clients or staff may eventually be drawn from the City Island community.

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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.

Addressing Donation Concerns

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

Dear Members of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea community:

Varied concerns over the impact of the closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, particularly given the generous donations to the "Save St. Mary, Star of the Sea Fund" in recent weeks, have been brought to my attention. Please allow me to explain some background information, which may have been misinterpreted in light of the sad announcement of the school's closure.

No one from the Archdiocese of New York has requested payment of Inter-Parish Fund (IPF) support from the parish using school funds raised to save the school. The funds raised to save the school in your campaign will be returned to the donors. In addition, any scholarship funds donated to the parish may remain with St. Mary's to fund scholarships for your parish families planning to attend a regional Catholic school. If the parish cannot use these funds for scholarships, they too will be returned to the donors.

IPF grants have recently converted to IPF subvention agreements. A subvention agreement is a loan from the Archdio-

cese of New York to the parish. Parishes will be provided the support needed for an emergency capital project or operational needs. Payment of a subvention agreement will occur when the parish receives funds that afford it the means to do so, such as a large bequest or proceeds from the sale of air rights. Payment of a subvention agreement will not be due before such a receipt of funds. All the pastors in the Archdiocese were notified of this policy change in November of 2012.

Recently, all parishes and schools that received support from IPF received a letter from the IPF office informing them that the IPF board approved their IPF subvention agreement for 2013. Included with this letter was the certificate of agreement to be signed by the pastor and returned to the Archdiocese.

Please know any statement indicating school funds are going toward repayment of IPF support is incorrect.

You may find Cardinal Dolan's article from the Jan. 10th publication of Catholic New York on finances and transparency useful.

I hope this information is useful. While I know it in no way eases your distress at the closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, I hope it will aid in your understanding of the financial situation at hand.

Timothy J. McNiff
Superintendent of Schools

Boating Tradition Continues

To the Editor:

Greg Clancy's "Boat Show" article was very well written and such enjoyable reading! Like his dad, Bill, whose articles I always enjoyed, Greg interjected humor with facts, making it a fun article to read! I am sure his dad is smiling down and very proud of him. Thank you, Greg, for continuing the family tradition.

Mary Lou Lachman

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Nautical Museum to Honor CI Yacht Clubs

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

The City Island Nautical Museum proudly unveils its refurbished Walsh Room and Library on Saturday, March 16, 2013, when it reopens with an exhibition focused on the yacht clubs of City Island.

The boating community of City Island owes much to the longtime existence of many yacht and boating clubs, of which at least six are still in existence, two of them more than 100 years old. To acknowledge that debt, the City Island Nautical Museum has chosen to reopen on Saturday, March 16, with a major new exhibition in its newly refurbished library space focused on the contributions that these clubs have made over the years.

Archival photographs and vintage artifacts will highlight the history of the clubs,

which have participated in many international sailing competitions, provided educational programs for young people, offered training facilities for local universities and otherwise contributed greatly to New York City, City Island in particular.

Included in the exhibit, which is curated by Island resident and sailor Rich Coer, are the City Island Yacht Club, the Harlem Yacht Club, the Island Boat Club, the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club and the Touring Kayak Club. In addition to objects, videos of sailing races and other events will be shown, and a special evening devoted to a panel discussion will be held in April. Much of this material will never have been seen outside the walls of the clubs themselves and will provide a rich display for the general public.

An opening reception will be held at the Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, March 24, from 2 to 5 p.m. The exhibition will remain in place until July, and the museum will be open each Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For special appointments during the week, please call 718-885-0507.




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4 - 6 p.m.**

**Full program details, prices & photos:
www.huguenotyc.com**

The HYC is located at @ Harbor Drive West, New Rochelle
(914) 636-6300 (near Glen Island Park)

THE GIFT OF LIFE COMES TO CITY ISLAND

By MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER



Photo by JIM ROMEO

Host Roko Markolovic (l.) attended the Gift of Life annual fund-raiser on Feb. 2, 2013, at Beckwith Pointe in New Rochelle. He is pictured with (l. to r.) Gift of Life child Dea Haxhiu, Albana Krasniqi and Dea's mother, Asjhe, on the day after they arrived in the United States.

Her name is Dea Haxhiu. She is 9 years old and has a life-threatening hole in her heart. She arrived in this country on Feb. 1, 2013, after lengthy flights from her native country, Kosovo.

Dea is the latest child brought to New York for cardiac surgery by the Rotary District 7230 Gift of Life program. The program provides heart surgeries for children in desperate need from countries all over the globe where necessary advanced surgical techniques, technologies and equipment are not available. The program was started by Manhasset Rotarian Robbie Donno in 1975, when he brought 5-year-old Grace Agwaru from Uganda to the United States for heart surgery.

Rotary District 7230, which includes the Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, lower Westchester and Bermuda, has participated in the Gift of Life program for 19 years. The Bronx Club, which meets weekly on City Island, has sponsored 13 children since 2001.

Rotary Clubs in the District raise \$6,000 for each child they sponsor in order to cover hospital costs. The surgeries are performed by two surgeons who, along with their teams, volunteer their services. One is Dr. Samuel Weinstein at the Montefiore Children's Hospital, and the other is Dr. Suvro Sett at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. Dr. Sett will be performing Dea's surgery.

A host family is found for each child and one parent in advance of their arrival, and in Dea's instance, her host is City Island resident Roko Markolovic, an English teacher, independent filmmaker and playwright. Roko volunteered to act as a host after hearing about the Gift of Life program from Lilyanna Pekic of the Albanian Women's Association. Ms. Pekic has

been very involved with Gift of Life since a mission that Albana Krasniqi and Rob Raylman made in 2012 to Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro, where they identified 27 children in need of heart surgery.

Roko originally hails from Montenegro and is capable of conversing fluently with Dea and her mother, Asjhe. He has also served as a translator for them, since they speak almost no English. His small home is also his working space, and it is under renovation, so he has found hosting to be a challenge. However, he says, "It is an awesome cause and I am proud to be a part of it."

Former Islander Lyn Roth-Jacobs has been a host to a Gift of Life child three times and says that the rewards far outweigh the challenges. In most cases Lyn did not speak the language of the hosted family, nor did they speak much English, but they managed to get along very well. Her biggest challenge was her latest recent hosting, which was for Chizzy Ndibe and her mother, Catherine, from Nigeria. Hurricane Sandy knocked out power at Lyn's house in Pelham for days during Chizzy's recovery period, and Lyn had to move them to her sister's house in Rockland County.

Hosts are not left to fend for themselves. Rotarians and other volunteers visit the Gift of Life family regularly to translate and to take them to doctor appointments and to the hospital, as well as taking them out for meals and entertainment during the course of their stay.

After a postponement of more than a week due to a strep throat infection, Dea finally had her surgery on Feb. 13. She came through the surgery with flying colors in spite of the fact that Dr. Sett found more complications to her heart than what was first anticipated. She had a second hole and muscle tissue was growing on both sides that, left untreated, would have caused her to go into congestive heart failure. Her post surgery stay at the hospital was only 6 days after which she was moved to the home of an Albanian family in Riverdale for the recuperative period. Her mother says she is deeply grateful to the Gift of Life program, to Dr. Sett and his team, Roko and all the many people who have helped make her daughter's health a reality and held her hand through the most anxious hours of surgery.

So, if you see Dea and Asjhe walking along City Island Avenue, say hello to this charming little girl and her mother, who came so far and have been through so much, and wish them well. If you see Roko, shake his hand and thank him for his kindness and care to strangers in need.

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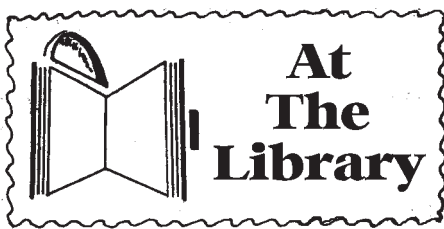
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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The **Lickety Split Band** will be playing at the Montauk in New Rochelle, 108 Center Avenue, on Saturday, March 2, at 9 p.m. This will be a video party, so the band will need a lot of energy in the audience. Come one, come all! Call 914-235-5252 for information.

March at **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) is filled with songwriters, jazz, blues, and one "Lucky" Lando. Songwriters taking the stage include ReW STaRR (Friday, March 1, 8 p.m.), Allan Chapman and the Rhythm Riders (Friday, March 8, 8 p.m.), Fred Gillen Jr. (Saturday, March 9, 8 p.m.), and Carolann Solebello (Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.). There's also a "Saturday Night Blues Party" with Bennett Harris on March 23 at 8 p.m., as well as acoustic jazz with Thieves and Poets on Sunday, March 24, at 3 p.m., and a jazzy duo—Lynn Stein and John Hart—on Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m. Regular features include our first Sunday of the month, "Elliott & Friends Songwriter Series," on March 3, featuring John Guth, broadcast live on the internet (www.Ustream.TV/channel/starvingartisttv) beginning at 3 p.m., and our last Friday of the month "open mic" night on March 29 at 8 p.m. City Islanders are on the playbill: Chris Wertenbaker and two songwriting friends (Joel Kammer and Steve Elliot) on Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m., and Freddie "Lucky" Lando for a St. Patrick's Day afternoon show on March 17, at 3 p.m. For more information, and complete schedule, visit www.StarvingArtistOnline.com.



City Island Branch Library Events for March 2013

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March Children's Programs

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Every ongoing Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Dr. Seuss: Rollicking Tales: "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Cat in the Hat," "Horton Hatches an Egg" and "Yertle the Turtle" all brought to life with props, puppets and lots of audience participation. Presented by award-winning storyteller LuAnne Adams. Ages 4-6. Friday, March 29, at 3 p.m.

March Young Adult Programs

"Yu-Gi-Oh": Every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

Sneak-A-Snack and other after-school activities: Weekdays at 3:30 p.m.

March Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Ongoing Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Microsoft Word will be briefly touched upon. Please register in advance.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Ongoing Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance. A flash drive to save your work is highly recommended.

Special Event: Sandy Disaster Financial Relief Program: The NYPL is partnering with the NY Chapter of the Financial Planning Association, a professional organization comprising mostly Certified Financial Planners, lawyers, insurance professionals and other financial advisors. Its pro bono committee is looking

to give back to the community. The FPA frequently holds workshops and seminars to teach the public about finances. All services are free of charge, and there will be no attempt to sell any products or services. Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

Special Event: Ms. Gail Hitt Presents: How to Write Your Memoirs. Memoirs are very popular topics for reading. Just check any biography section in a library or bookstore, and there are always some memoirs on the bestseller list. Why not write about your own experiences? This creative writing workshop will give you ideas and tools to create a unique memoir of your life, in the form of a lively story. Saturday, March 23, at 2 p.m.

Adult programs still in the planning stage: Film of the Month: James Bond 007's "Skyfall" (rated PG-13, 145 minutes, Sony-Columbia Pictures 2012). Please check our fliers or call the branch for exact Saturday date and time.

Professor Victor Mastro presents the Bronx Salutes Women's History Month. Famous Bronx women who achieved greatness, from Anne Hutchinson to Sonia Sotomayor. Please check our fliers or call the branch for the exact Saturday date and time.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue & Bay Street. Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

Bartow-Pell Events

Beginning on March 4 and ending March 24, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will host a public art installation by Bronx-born artist Dianne Smith called "Organic Abstracts," which consists of two large-scale, outdoor sculptures. The installation showcases her minimalist approach to large, abstract works made from repurposed materials that are incorporated into the landscape. Registration is requested; call 718-885-1641. Admission free.

Roll up your sleeves and don your gardening gloves on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day to help keep the garden and grounds of BPMM looking beautiful! Light breakfast will be available. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Registration requested. No charge.

On Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. join the Pysanky Workshop and 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 are used, so please dress accordingly. Recommended for mature 14-year-olds and up. Bring a bag lunch, only light refreshments are offered. Space is limited, so registration is required. The cost \$15; members \$10.

The popular Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the one day when it's okay to put all your eggs in one basket! Children 2 through 12 hunt for eggs in the formal garden, tap their talent at arts and crafts tables, and have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Please bring your own basket. Light refreshments are offered. Registration is requested. Cost \$12 children 2-12, members \$10. The rain date is Sunday, March 24, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Parking is available across Shore Road at the Split Rock/Pelham Bay Golf Courses.

The March lecture series at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will focus on groundbreaking women, literally and figuratively. Three insightful women—editor and gardener Margaret Roach, award-winning author Kim Todd, and pioneering lawyer and gardener Barbara Paul Robinson—will talk about women with unique connections to the natural world.

On Thursday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Roach will speak on "Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days." After 15 years at *Martha Stewart Living* and a decade each at *Newsday* and the *New York Times*, Margaret walked away from "success" for a quieter life lived closer to nature. She writes the nationally acclaimed blog "A Way to Garden" and her new book, "The Backyard Parables," has just been released.

Award-winning author Kim Todd will give a talk on Maria Sibylla Merian on Thursday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. Merian (1647-1717) was an artist-turned-naturalist known for her stunning butterfly and botanical images, and her work broke ground and barriers in many arenas. At the age of 50 she sailed from Europe to the New World on a solo scientific expedition to study insect metamorphosis—an unheard-of journey for any naturalist at that time, much less a woman. Science and environmental writer Kim Todd is the author of "Chrysalis, Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis Sparrow."

Barbara Paul Robinson will speak on the renowned English gardener Rosemary Verey on Thursday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. Barbara worked as a gardener for Rosemary Verey in Gloucestershire, England. Verey (1918-2001), the last of the great English

garden legends, was a self-taught amateur who turned to gardening late in life. She was the acknowledged apostle of the "English style," the "must have" adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John, and a popular lecturer in America. Barbara Robinson wrote a chapter in Verey's "The Secret Garden." Her own gardens at Brush Hill, created with her husband in northwestern Connecticut, can be viewed at www.brushhillgardens.com.

There will be a book-signing and reception after each talk. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461. Cost for each lecture: \$10 adults; \$7 seniors and students; members free.

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St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

Holy Week Schedule 2013

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY-March 23
4:30-5:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY-March 24

VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.
SUNDAY-8:00 A.M., 10:00., & 12:00 NOON
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

HOLY THURSDAY-March 28

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

GOOD FRIDAY-March 29

8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-4:00 P.M.
Confessions 5:00-6:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY-March 30

8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
Confessions 9:00-10:00 A.M. & 4:00-5:00 P.M.
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M.
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY-March 31

Masses- 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A. M., & 12:00 Noon



BRENDA'S HOUSE CLEANING

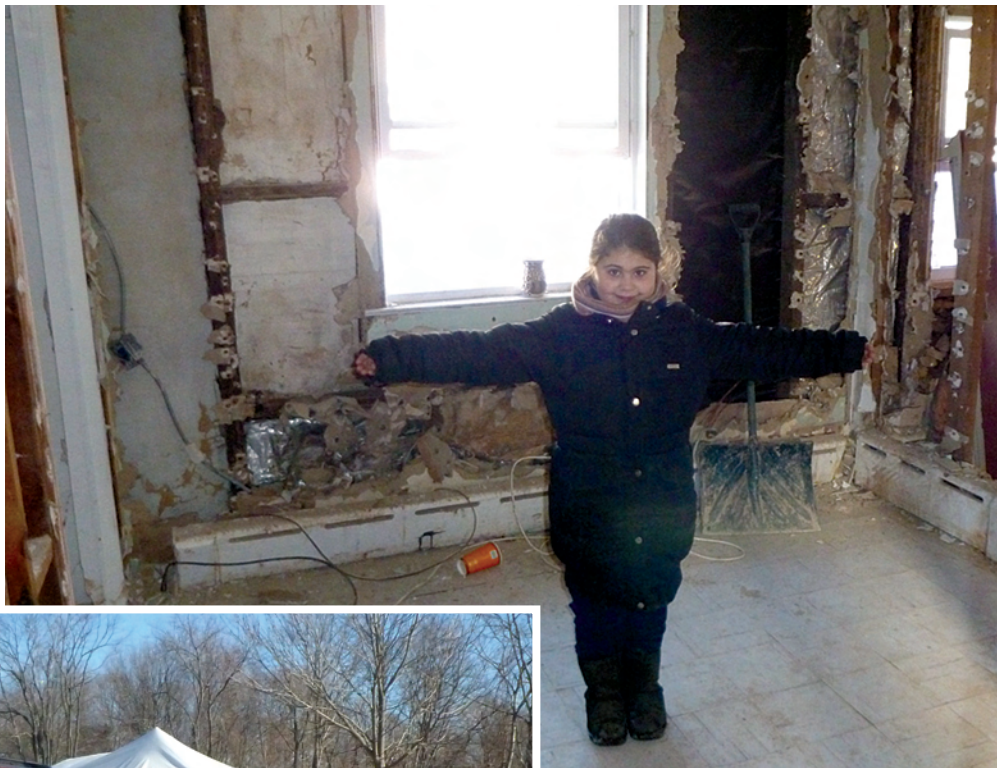


- ✿ Able to clean one room or an entire house
- ✿ No job too small or too large

Please contact Brenda at:

718-885-1728
917-519-9093





Photos by AMIR ASADI

Mia Chati shows where her room used to be before Superstorm Sandy (photo above).

Inset: The tent city at New Dorp Beach on Staten Island is greatly reduced in size now from what it

was in December of 2012, when it provided temporary housing for residents displaced by Superstorm Sandy.

Islanders to Islanders

Continued from page 1

with Rotarians Rick Sherman, director of Unitas Therapeutic Community, and Amir Asadi, vice president of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. We met with the Chatis at their house on Topping Street. Our goal was to assess their needs and figure out how we could help.

The family has homeowner's insurance and FEMA flood insurance, but coverage is anything but simple to understand or implement. Navigating paperwork, determining the severity of the damage and deciding which entity will pay for what may take up to six months, Ms. Chati said. Because of the house's brick veneer, mold remediation is complex and more expensive than completely tearing down the house and rebuilding. No matter what the outcome, the Chatis will not be compensated for the total costs of the restoration of their home, and the most optimistic estimate for moving back into the house is 18 months.

Because none of the contents of their house are covered in the Chatis' policy and because they lost everything, we determined that this may be where we could make a difference.

In spite of her own problems, Ms. Chati is worried about everyone else in her neighborhood, and she advocates for

the whole community. She has organized a "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" march through New Dorp Beach and invited the media and politicians to attend in order to keep public focus on the problems in the area. She has been interviewed several times and in fact took a call from CNN as we were meeting with her. She is also helping neighbors who are elderly or too intimidated by the insurance process to fill out paperwork and stand up for their rights.

As of Feb. 1, only two homes on Topping Street have been repaired and are now occupied. Ms. Chati is not deterred, however, and says that most of her neighbors plan to return, as this is a tightly knit, safe community.

The foundation of a home is built one block at a time, and so it will be with the restoration of the neighborhood. The Chati family is a cornerstone of that project. City Islanders interested in joining in the "adoption" of this family by making contributions to restore the contents of their home can donate gift cards or gift certificates made out to the Chati family or checks made out to the Bronx Rotary Foundation. Please write "Chati family" in the memo line of the check and send to the Bronx Rotary Club, P. O. Box 49, Bronx, NY 10464. Checks to the Bronx Rotary Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law, and any amount is appreciated.

LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Question: What is your reaction to the closure of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School on City Island?

Tracy Tomsen

I feel that this is a big loss for the community. Not only are the students and staff of St. Mary's being displaced but also so are many other people in the community that use the facilities for sports and other youth programs.



Jeremy McCue

I taught in Catholic schools for 17 years. The parochial school system gives our children an excellent education. If we can find a way to continue, I'm in favor of it.

ViVi McGuire

I'm very upset. We are on an island and the only school now available is the public school, which is overcrowded. Now the children who live here have to go off the island and this is not a good move for very young children.



Gaeton Esposito

I went to the school there, and so did both of my sons. My wife and I love St. Mary's Church and School and participated in all the events. We feel badly about its closing but realize it is out of our control. In reality we cannot do much about it. It is in the hands of a higher power and we are not part of that power structure.

FRIDAY NIGHT HOOPS WILL CONTINUE AT ST. MARY'S




Photo by LEWIS LAMONACO

The Friday Night Hoops basketball program got off to a great start on Feb. 1, 2013. This program was the idea of Tommy Orzo and is now in its second year, thanks to adult volunteers and community sponsors. Above is Coach Mark Amos getting his team, Awnings Unlimited, ready for a game. Other sponsors include Bistro SK, Coals Pizza and Seafood City. For more information, contact Lewis Lamonaco at 718-885-3393. The community has been assured that, despite the announced closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, St. Mary's gym will continue to be available for Friday Night Hoops and the SMSS basketball program (see next month's issue for the season recap).

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Steve

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 8, **P.S. 175 Card Party**, Lido Caterers, 101 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., March 17, **St. Patrick's Day Dinner**, American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue, from 1 to 3 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Thurs., March 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, Lido, 101 City Island Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., March 23, **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, potatoes and onions.

Sun., March 24, **Women's History Month**, City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, 1 to 4 p.m.

Tues., March 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., March 28, 29 and 30, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

APRIL

Thurs., April 11, **MetroCard Van**, 1 to 2:30 p.m., in front of Trinity Methodist Church on City Island Avenue at Bay Street.

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.

The Sunday School held its annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Jan. 27 and raised over \$260, as well as donating lots of food items. Congratulations to the children and their teachers for a job well done.

A group Bible study for Lent has begun and will run for five consecutive Sundays, concluding on March 17. The sessions begin at 11:30 in Trinity's Fellowship Hall; all are welcome. This year's study of the New Testament, Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul's magna carta of the Christian faith. It is called the letter that changed the world and continually reforms the church. The letter to the Romans is timeless and relevant for the church and all peoples.

These studies consist of round table discussions on the text of the scripture being studied, under the leadership of George Cavaleri, one of Trinity's lay leaders and speakers.

Mark your calendars now for a special Trinity Church Memorial Concert on May 18 at 7 p.m. A special dinner before the concert will be served at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Free tickets will be given and free will offering will be accepted.

The Budget Corner is open and full of newly donated items. The winter schedule is: March 2, 8, 12, 16, 22, 26 and 30. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue, offers an exciting place for observance in the Jewish tradition. The spirited congregation gathers together with our stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Reb David Evan Markus, our associate spiritual leader. For 78 years, Temple Beth-El welcomes all

who come to celebrate and pray here.

Located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, the temple holds Friday night Sabbath services, which commence at 7:30 p.m. and use the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew. The Hebrew is presented using Hebrew letters as well as a transliteration, which allows words to be sung and read even if participants are unable to read this ancient language.

The temple's special events and services for March are as follows:

Friday, March 8: Kabbalat Shabbat (Herstory Shabbat) at 7:30 p.m. The theme of the service will be "HERstory of the Passover: Unsung Women HEROines." Refreshments following, sponsored by Toby Liederman and Violet Smith in honor of Women's History Month.

Friday, March 22: Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26: Community seder on the second night of Passover at 6 p.m.

All other Friday night services, starting at 7:30 p.m., are community led, usually with Bob Berent and his accordion. Please come celebrate Friday night Sabbath services!

A monthly class called "Spirit and Song: The Liturgy and Spirituality of Welcoming Shabbat" is led by Reb David and will be held on Thursday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. To register or ask questions, please e-mail Reb David at davidevanmarkus@gmail.com.

Save these dates: Saturday evening, May 4, our Annual Dinner Dance, celebrating the Temple's 79th anniversary, at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

Friday, April 5: Israeli Independence Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva.

Friday, May 10: Shavuot Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama.

Ellen Ruth Topol

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will be closed from Feb. 23 until Thursday, March 14. On Thursday, March 14, the shop's "Spring Collection" will make its debut. The shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays (March 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Be sure to come by to see all the Spring/Summer gently used men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, bags, linens and household appliances, CD's, tapes, records, books, toys, games and bric-a-brac. Enjoy the company of your fellow shoppers and a complimentary cup of coffee. And remember that donations are greatly appreciated.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Republicans

Our next meeting will be in March or April. Stay tuned for details.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that dues (\$30) are now past due. They can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL box.

We swore in our newest member, Thomas Flynn, last month. We are currently at 161 members and growing.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, at 8 p.m.

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

All old flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole. They will be retired with dignity.

Fred Ramftl Jr.



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 participated in the annual Klondike Race at Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey.

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting at the Legion will be on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. We will continue to discuss plans for our Cancer Bingo.

On March 17, the Legion will have two seatings for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the first from 1 to 3 p.m. and the second from 4 to 6 p.m. Enjoy.

Remember that the Legion Hall is available to rent for parties, celebrations and gatherings. Call 718-885-0639.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter to all. Spring is near.

Maryann Occhicone

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish, which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite I, Sundays at 10 a.m. Lambs Babysitting available first Sundays (March 3 at 9:50 a.m.) in Grace Church Hall.

Palm Sunday service March 24 at 10 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms.

Maundy Thursday service March 28 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday service March 29 at 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday service March 31 at 10 a.m.

March Events:

Hearts and Hands: Monday, March 11, 7:15 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. This knitting group provides caps, shawls and lap robes for Calvary Hospital patients.

Concert Series continues: March 10, 4 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Brian Conway will be fiddling for us again with accompanist Brendan Dolan and vocalist Deirdre Connolly. The price is \$25 per person.

Friday Night Fellowship: March 15, 7 p.m., Grace Church Hall. We will all be ready for spring! Come hear some tips from Han Yu Hung Sanderson of the New York Botanical Garden. Grace Church is promising some surprises that will benefit your garden at this meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt: Mar. 30. Please join us for this fun event. All are welcome at Grace Episcopal Church.

Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia

PSS Healthy Seniors

Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. We hope more people will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Dee, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street; **Cardio Fitness with Mary**: Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue; **Arthritis Exercise with Patty**: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Orchard Beach Walk**: Wednesdays. Leave Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. (must have three walkers); **Yoga Stretch with Michael**: Thurs-

days at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; **Fit for Life with Sarah**: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Note: To make ends meet a little better, all classes will be \$3, except Arthritis Exercise, which will continue to be free.

Senior Writing Group

Did anybody ever say to you "You should write that down" after you told a story about the good old days? Your friends laughed, they cried, they smiled. Come write your memories with us every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. No charge. Everyone is welcome.

Volunteering

Please think about volunteering for one of our senior programs. We need help in many areas including clerical and computer, reception, telephoning, visiting and help with parties and events to name a few.

Telephone Reassurance

If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Caregiver Support

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

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday, Bay Plaza or Stop & Shop; Thursday, Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross Country Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. Suggested contributions for round trips are \$1 on Island, and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van.

Program Services

The MTA MetroCard Van is scheduled to be on City Island Avenue at the corner of Pilot Street on March 28 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Please come and use the service.

Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts to shows such as "Guys and Dolls" on March 21 at the Westchester Dinner Theater. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Debbie Erosa

City Island Nautical Museum

After a winter recess, the Nautical Museum will open its doors again on Saturday, March 16, with a new exhibition focused on the yacht clubs of City Island, curated by Rich Coer with the assistance of Barbara Harrison and Darrell Smith.

Visitors to the Museum, which will be open until the end of the year on every Sat-

Continued on page 12



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityislandcommunity-center.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown Coffeehouse has brought traditional and contemporary folk music to the Bronx for 26 years. As we enter our second season on City Island, we present live performances from some of the very finest artists in the folk genre. We host a show on either the first or second Saturday of each month. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 unless otherwise noted. We are a 501(c)(3) organization run entirely by volunteers. Please visit www.uptowncoffeehouse.org or call 718-885-2955 for our latest schedule and details. April 7: to be announced; May 5: Tom Pacheco; June 2: Rod MacDonald.

City Island Parenting Group: An ongoing topic-oriented discussion group for parents with John Scardina. All are welcome; come once or every month. We try to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month in the dance studio at 7 p.m.

Teen Dances: The Community Center will be hosting a number of teen dances for grades 6 to 8 on Friday nights. The DJ will be Bowie Stivala and chaperones will be provided. There is no cost for these events. The next dance is Saturday, March 30!

NEW CLASSES

The Community Center is interested in hosting a Weight Watchers meeting, but in order to have a meeting we need to meet the minimum attendance. If interested in being part of the group, please call the Community Center at 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Jill's Playgroup: for pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Started Monday, Sept. 24. Taught by Geri Smith, former LaGuardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. \$90 for five-week session; \$25 material fee (after the session ends, students may bring materials home). For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!



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Zumba with Letti: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Letti is a fantastic Zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Classes are \$10 or a five-class card for \$40.

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These yoga stretch poses help remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, and it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected but are so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, yoga stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10 per class; call 718-885-0535.

Zumba Gold: A fun filled dance and exercise session with a salsa beat, geared for age 50 and up. Classes are \$3 each. Meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Walk-ins are very welcome, as are spectators interested in seeing what the class is all about. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels are welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Sarah Persteins

Cub Scouts Pack 211

What a busy and crazy season Cub Scout Pack 211 is having this year. Back in October, the Cubs went to SUNY Maritime College for "Scout Day." They enjoyed a great tour of the old Fort Schuyler and its buildings and absorbed a lot of its history. In November our trip to the Intrepid Museum had to be cancelled because of Superstorm Sandy.

In December the scouts performed their annual Sing-Along Christmas caroling at Pilot Cove, where they were joined by the Girl Scouts of City Island. Boy, did they sound terrific! Well loved by all.

In January they cut, carved, sanded, painted and polished their Pinewood Derby cars to perfection for their annual Pinewood Derby Race. The scouts had a pre-race car show, where they could display and show off their cars and do a little bragging, too, of course. Each den competed for first-, second- and third-place trophies. The scouts, as usual, displayed immense sportsmanship.

On Jan. 27, the pack participated in the annual Klondike Race at Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey. The Klondike Race is a very big event in scouting, and every year many scouts from the Greater New York area participate. The scouts are required to pull a Klondike sled through the woods to individual "towns." Each town has a theme, such as first aid, cooking, home safety, astronomy, archery and so on. The scouts were asked to demonstrate their knowledge and skills for that particular town. Scouts Brandon McGaughn, Jeremy Filomio, Jaiden Torrado, John Wilson, Jonathan Rodriguez, Jordan Rodriguez, Jaden Torres, Aiden Torres and Joseph Persteins called themselves the Clamdiggers. We are very proud to say that Team Clamdiggers came in fourth place to win the West Meridian trophy. An amazing achievement.

On Feb. 3, all scouts participated in the annual National Scout Sunday with a beautiful procession at St. Mary's 10 a.m. Mass, followed by a family breakfast in St. Mary's gym. On Feb. 15, the Cub Scout families enjoyed a sleepover at the Norwalk Aquarium, and they had a great learning and hands-on experience. They were able to see for themselves all the tremendous work that



Teen dances at the City Island Community Center (CICC) began in 2012 and have been a rockin' success. The CICC board voted to host free monthly teen dances during the school year and invested in sound and lighting equipment to enhance the atmosphere. Young people from the 6th, 7th and 8th grades turned out for the dances on Dec. 21, 2012, and Feb. 2, 2013. DJ Bowie Stivala volunteered his services and adult chaperones were always nearby. Willie, upside down in the photo above, was one of the winners of the dance contest at the middle school dance on Feb. 2. Donations and chaperone volunteers from the community are needed to insure the continued success of the dances. The next dance is on March 30 at 7 p.m. To support the teen dance, leave a message at 718-885-1145 or mail to P.O. Box 135, Bronx, NY 10464.

goes on behind the scenes to take care of all the fish and animals.

This spring the pack will join the Navy for a weekend at Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts, along with some great camping too. Stay tuned for some more fun-filled adventure.

Angelo Bellocchio

Holiday Services

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
City Island Avenue near the bridge

Saturday, March 23: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m. Vigil Mass, 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Blessing of palms at all Masses.

Thursday, March 28, Holy Thursday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. (no morning Mass), psalms and readings. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's supper, 7:30 p.m. Procession to the repository, adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, March 29, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. (no morning Mass), psalms and readings. 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 30, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. (no morning Mass), psalms and readings. Confessions, 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. (fulfills Sunday obligation).

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Trinity United Methodist Church
113 Bay Street

Sundays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24: Lenten Communion Service, 8:30 a.m. Lenten Worship Service, 10 a.m.

Sundays, March 3, 10 and 17: Lenten Bible Study for *Romans*, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 28: Holy Week Thursday Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday: Resurrection Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. at Pelham Cemetery. Easter Worship Service, 10 a.m. at Trinity Church

Grace Episcopal Church
116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 28, Maundy (Holy) Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 29, Good Friday: Service, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday: Festival Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. (with child care).

Temple Beth-El
480 City Island Avenue

Fridays, March 1, 8 and 15: Sabbath Ser-

vices, community led by Bob Berent, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 22: Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26: Community seder on the second night of Passover, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 5: Israeli Independence Kabbalat Shabbat with Reb David and Reb Eva, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4: Annual Dinner Dance celebrating the Temple's 79th anniversary, at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

On March 1, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

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

All are welcome to join us at our monthly Hospitality Hour on Sunday, March 10. It will be held in the rectory after the ten o'clock Mass.

On Monday, March 11, there will be an important meeting of parents and sponsors of all our students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It will be held in St. Mary's gym at 7 p.m.

After being closed for a few weeks, our Thrift Shop will reopen on Thursday, March 14. Come and see all our spring bargains!

On Saturday, March 23, 42 children from our Religious Education program and St. Mary's School will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The ceremony will take place in our church at 11 a.m.

The end of the month will bring us to the holiest week of the church year when we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. We will begin on Palm Sunday, March 24, when palms will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have the service of Tenebrae consisting of psalms, readings and the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah. The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 4 p.m.

After a day of silence and waiting on Saturday, the solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. that evening and our joyful Alleluias will continue on Easter Sunday at all our Mass—8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. . . Because of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, there will be no religious education classes on March 27 and April 3.

Happy Easter to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu



Transformations

Hollywood is replete with movies in which the main character undergoes some sort of transformation from uncouth to refined. We begin with the classic film **Pygmalion** (1938). It stars Leslie Howard as linguistics professor Henry Higgins, who makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering (Scott Sunderland) that he can turn a Cockney street vendor into a lady. Eliza Doolittle (Wendy Hiller) is their chosen subject. In 1964 the better-known **My Fair Lady** was released with Audrey Hepburn as Eliza, Rex Harrison as Higgins and Wilfred Hyde-White as the colonel. This Lerner and Loewe musical features the singing voice of Marni Nixon, and it won Best Picture, Actor and Director awards.

Born Yesterday (1950) is the story of a millionaire junk tycoon Harry Brock (Broderrick Crawford), who wants his dim-witted mistress Billie Dawn (Oscar-winner Judy Holiday) to stop embarrassing him in front of Washington congressmen. He hires writer Paul Verrell (William Holden) to give Billie some "class." Be sure to see the original, because the horrendous 1993 remake with John Goodman, Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson is completely unwatchable.

In **Educating Rita** (1983), Dr. Frank Bryant (Michael Caine) becomes a reluctant tutor to Rita (Julie Walters), a working-class British hairdresser who wants an education. With his help, she blooms and realizes that self-confidence is more important than education for her to improve her life.

Love Potion No. 9 (1992) is the story of Paul (Tate Donovan), an introverted biochemist, and Diane (Sandra Bullock), a shy animal psychologist, who find themselves

in possession of a love potion that works on chimpanzees. They agree to test it on themselves, with expected results—but both transformations are well done.

Sandra Bullock also stars in **Miss Congeniality** (2000) as Gracie Hart, an FBI agent with no friends except her partner, Eric Matthews (Benjamin Bratt). When she is assigned to go undercover at a Miss United States pageant after a terrorist threatens to bomb it, she is magically and comically transformed by Victor Melling (Michael Caine), a pompous consultant. The film features television icons William Shatner and Candice Bergen in supporting roles as the pageant directors.

Schindler's List (1993), for which Steven Spielberg won two Academy Awards (Best Picture and Director), is the story of a self-absorbed German businessman, Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), who initially uses cheap Jewish labor in his factory during World War II as the path to great wealth. When he hires Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley) as his bookkeeper and office manager, Schindler's reluctant transformation into decency begins. The counterpoint to Schindler's ambivalent goodness is the Nazi Amon Goeth (Ralph Fiennes), the head of a labor camp, who is evil incarnate. The final scene of the movie has each actor accompanying the actual survivor he or she played in the film to Schindler's graveside.

Working Girl (1988) stars Melanie Griffith as Tess McGill, an ambitious lower-class Wall Street secretary. When her boss, Katherine (Sigourney Weaver), is out of town, she discovers that Katherine has stolen an idea she had pitched. Tess transforms herself into a professional businesswoman and hooks up with investment broker Jack Trainer (Harrison Ford) in an attempt to make a deal that will hurl her into success.

Pretty Woman (1990) is the story of Edward Lewis (Richard Gere), a corporate raider who hires a hooker named Vivian (Julia Roberts) to be his companion for a week. When she is snubbed at a Rodeo Drive boutique, she is rescued by a hotel manager (Hector Elizondo) to help with her transformation into a stunning, refined woman. Edward also undergoes a transformation both because of Vivian's influence, and through the tutelage of company owner James Morse (Ralph Bellamy), he learns that love is more

important than greed.

In Woody Allen's return to slapstick comedy, **Small Time Crooks** (2000), Hugh Grant plays David, an opportunistic art dealer who tutors nouveau riche Frenchy (Tracey Ullman) in culture, language and art. Frenchy is married to Ray (Woody Allen), who is always scheming with get rich quick ideas. Elaine May has a hilarious role as Frenchy's cousin May.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002) was written by and stars Nia Vardalos as Toula, a frumpy unattractive 30-year old woman who works in the family restaurant. Wanting to better herself, she fixes her hair, puts on make-up, buys nicer clothes and takes classes. Eventually she goes to work at the family travel agency, where she meets non-Greek Ian Miller (John Corbett) and falls head over heels in love, much to the consternation of her parents (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan).

Hitch (2005) stars Will Smith in the title role as Alex Hitchens, a "date doctor" who helps make over lonely guys so they can romance the girl of their dreams. Hitch takes pride in his work, although he is thought to be disingenuous by newspaper gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes). Kevin James is hysterical as accountant Albert Brennaman, Hitch's clumsy rotund client, who is in love with the beautiful but shy heiress Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

In the true story **The Blind Side** (2009), Sandra Bullock stars as Leigh Anne Tuohy, a white Memphis decorator who takes pity on

homeless black high school student named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) and welcomes him into her home. She is supported in her efforts to help Michael by her husband, Sean (Tim McGraw); their daughter, Collins (Lily Collins) and scene-stealing son, S J (Jae Head). They hire a tutor, Miss Sue (Kathy Bates) and put the illiterate itinerant Michael on a path to football stardom and success.

In **Limitless** (2011), Eddie Morra (Bradley Cooper) is an unkempt and unmotivated struggling writer. When he takes a mind-altering drug that enables him to use 100 percent of his brain, he cleans up his act and is propelled down the path to success. At the same time that he encounters creepy businessman Van Loon (Robert DeNiro), the side effects of the drug begin to take their toll, and Eddie learns that intelligence does not correspond with wisdom.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Although a short month, February has been quite busy. Our students are once again working with a teaching artist from the Bronx Arts Ensemble who is exposing them to and teaching them about the many mediums used by visual artists. Kindergarten through third-grade classes have begun their second unit of study with the Lincoln Center Institute, which focuses on puppetry.

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. We are once again looking forward to having Han Yu-Hung, parent of seventh-grader Everett Sanderson, working with students to create beautiful animal pictures made from leaves.

Thanks to a another grant from Councilmember James Vacca, we are able to provide an after-school arts program for students in grades three and four. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a musical montage 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 "A Year with Frog and Toad." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! A portion of the grant from Councilmember Vacca is also being used to subsidize this performance.

The P.S. 175 tradition of the sixth grade going to Camp Greenkill will continue this June. Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun and learning-filled trips that will be taking place in the coming months. In March they will go to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what the students have been learning in social studies.

Our eighth-grade students are working hard to be ready for graduation, their momentous June event. This month they held a bake and candy-gram sale, which provided an opportunity for their school-mates to purchase Valentine's Day goodies for family members. The fund-raiser was a huge success and proceeds will go to Superstorm Sandy relief. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Tuesday, March 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day as well.

- Kindergarten registration is ongoing. Families with children turning 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2013, should come in to fill out registration paperwork.

- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 21, at 9:30 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will be the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m., and the Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 19, at 6 p.m.

- The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

February Citizens of the Month are Erin Crowe and Matthew DeSantis (kindergarten); Alexander Persteins and Sonya Doyle (first grade); Jhadelyn Castillo and Jayden Rogers (second grade); Michael Gierum and Joseph Persteins (third grade); Angelina Sciara and Joseph Goonan (fourth grade); Adrian Kuka and Rudy Etzel (fifth grade); Javier Caamano and Denise Cornejo (sixth grade); Olivia Albertelli and Gianna Cambria (seventh grade); Paige Brown and Sean Ramos (eighth grade).

Joyous Tu BiShvat Seder

by ELLEN RUTH TOPOL



Photo by BOB BERENT

Enjoying Temple Beth-El's Tu BiShvat Seder on Jan. 27, 2013, are (l. to r.): David Fletcher, Joseph Stern, Ellen Ruth Topol, Michael Eiron. Reb David Markus and Reb Eva Sax-Bolder (the two co-leaders of the seder) and Monty Renov (in the foreground).

On Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, 18 people gathered at Temple Beth-El of City Island to attend a Tu BiShvat Seder celebrating the festival of the trees. A seder is an organized festive service led this year by Reb David and Reb Eva.

Sitting at a C-shaped table, each participant was able to see each other's joy as the seder progressed, and members shared some of their own insights as the seder unfolded. The congregants brought a variety of foods to share that represented stops on a journey through time represented by the seasons. As the seder progresses, members discovered that the Kabbalists' intention of *tikkun*, to repair what is "shattered," out of place in our world, gave us the concept of the Tu BiShvat Seder.

The TuBiShvat Haggadah is the book that lays out the order of events, and as it is read, the intention of this holiday unfolds: "By eating the fruits and nuts of the trees with special blessings and awareness, we strive to repair our own spiritual brokenness and brokenness of a world that is not yet as we and God most wish it to be." (The Haggadah used is a compilation of materials written by Rachel Barenblat and Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser.)

The journey taken by the 18, with two rebs as their guides, led them through four levels of the world, which are Asiyah

(action), Yetsirah (formation), Briyah (creation) and Atsilut (essence). Four has been called a number of stability: the four directions, a square, and so on. The number four also reflects the seasons: winter, spring, summer and autumn.

Each participant engaged by eating and drinking with Kavannah, focus and intention, proceeding on a journey through the four seasons with different food and drink representing each season. Here the intent is to heal our world as well as each person individually, in other words, to heal the macrocosm and the microcosm. First, as in the Passover seder, four questions are asked. 1: Why do we celebrate the trees' new year in mid-winter? 2: Why do we celebrate Tu BiShvat with a seder? 3: How is this seder different from the Passover seder? 4: What is the order of the Tu BiShvat Seder?

Temple Beth-El of City Island hopes that by sharing some of the focus, intent and structure of the Tu BiShvat Seder more people will join us next year for this truly joyous and deeply spiritual event. Come experience the relationships the congregants are cultivating with each other as they explore their relationship to the Earth as well as their own inner longing to be more spiritual and whole. Participants reported, after attending this service, that the learning is as delicious as the food.

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Photo by NATASHA MOYNIHAN

The City Island Girl Scout Daisies of Troop 1165 and their leaders at their investiture ceremony on Jan. 31, 2013 (sitting, l. to r.): Jonna Wepler, Campbell Wepler, Vicki Weidemann, Isabel Quiles and Antalya Rodriguez. Standing are Violet Chadwick, Dana Moynihan, Genevieve Patzer, Abigail Weidemann, Sarah Goonan and Savannah Waters.

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Obituaries

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



Patricia Carroll (left) with her nephew, Michael, and her best friend, Jackie Kall.

Patricia Carroll

Patricia Carroll, who spent many childhood years on City Island, passed away on Feb. 14, 2013, at the age of 91.

She was born in New York City on Dec. 11, 1921, to Irene and George Carroll, who had been married at the City Island Yacht Club.

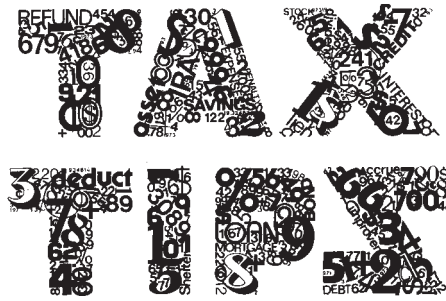
After spending part of her childhood in France, where her father worked for Cadillac, she moved with her mother and her brother, George, to City Island, where they lived in the house on Beach Street that was owned by Jacqueline Kyle Kall's father. Jackie and "Patsy" became lifelong friends.

Patricia attended Evander Childs High School, where her schoolmates included Islander Bob Branizza and a young Bronxite named Aaron Chwatt, who worked as an "entertaining barhop" at Ryan's Restaurant on City Island and later became famous as Red Buttons (named for the shiny buttons on his uniform).

After graduating from high school, Patricia attended Katherine Gibbs School and then embarked on a long career as an executive secretary, first at Grolier Publishing, then at Ladies Home Journal and the advertising agency Young & Rubicam, and eventually at the Weil Gotshal law firm, where she worked for 25 years before retiring at the age of 88.

Although she lived much of her adult life in Manhattan, she remained a member of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and spent a great deal of time on City Island visiting Jackie Kall and her family.

She was predeceased by her brother, George, and is survived by her nephew, Michael Carroll, and his wife, Mary. She was interred in her family's plot in Pelham Cemetery.



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

Don't Fall for Phony IRS Websites

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is issuing a warning about a new tax scam that uses a website that mimics the IRS e-Services online registration page. The actual IRS e-Services page offers web-based products for tax preparers, not for the general public. The phony web page looks almost identical to the real one.

The IRS gets many reports of fake websites like this. Criminals use them to lure people into providing personal and financial information that may be used to steal the victim's money or identity.

The address of the official IRS website is www.irs.gov. Don't be misled by sites that claim to be the IRS but end in *.com*, *.net*, *.org* or other designations instead of *.gov*.

If you find a suspicious website that claims to be the IRS or if you get an unsolicited e-mail that appears to be from the IRS, report it or send the site's URL by e-mail to phishing@irs.gov. Use the subject line "Suspicious website."

Be aware that the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by e-mail to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

The IRS has information at www.irs.gov that can help you protect yourself from tax scams of all kinds. Search the site using the term "phishing."

Organization News

Continued from page 8

urday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., will be pleased to find that the Walsh Room and Library has had a complete facelift, with new bookcases and shelves for the display of boat models. That facelift required a huge amount of work, not only from the contractor, Val Bruscajin, and his family but also from a host of volunteers, who lugged books and magazines out of the library and then lugged them all back in.

The heavy lifters included librarian Jane Protzman, library archivist Gail Hitt, intern Helena Curbelo, the four Barbara trustees—Hoffman, Dennis, Harrison and Dolensek—plus curator Tom Nye and associate curator Darrell Smith. One of our overcrowded storage vaults was cleaned

out and restocked with duplicate books, magazines, and documents; we have one more to do and hope to get to that project this spring. In the meantime, we are looking forward to redesigning the School Room with the help of the talented Joe Burck Jr. Tom Nye is reorganizing the old principal's office to include several new exhibits, and the front hall will get a makeover so that we can welcome visitors more efficiently.

The gift shop will be stocked with new items, as well as our very popular light-house coasters, and our education committee is at work preparing for school visits during the spring. Lectures have been scheduled for the first Sundays of each month, including another talk by Tom Casey on the City Island monorail. His first monorail talk was so popular in 2010 that the audience quickly outgrew the Walsh Room and inspired the renovation so that we can accommodate larger audiences.

Stay tuned for more news and information but in the meantime come to the Museum for a visit to see our new space.

Barbara Dolensek

AARP Chapter 318

The chapter meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Our first March meeting will be on the sixth at 1 p.m. Our March 20 meeting will be our St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's celebration, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the church hall.

Plans for future meetings include a pizza/bingo afternoon, tentative plans for a trip to Atlantic City and our wonderful Lobster House luncheon. On Thursday, April 11, AARP Chapter 318, with the assistance of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, will have the Metro card van parked in front of the Methodist church from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. New members are always welcome.

Rosetta Woods

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be on Monday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The Post's annual St. Patrick's Day party will be held on Sunday, March 17. There are two seating's, 1 to 3 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

The Veterans Administration accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital.

Vice Commander Mike Treat reports that membership dues (\$45) are past due. Anyone who has not yet paid should

drop the dues off at the Post.

Now that party season has arrived, we have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 100 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

Bob Mennona

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is pleased to present Tennessee Williams's "The Glass Menagerie" during the first two weekends in March, under the direction of Susan Rauh. Look for the display of Tennessee Williams's works at the City Island branch library.

We held auditions for our next production, Marc Camotetti's comedy "Boeing Boeing," which will be performed the first two weekends in May. The board of directors is already planning the 2014 season, which will include a celebration of 15 years of producing theater on City Island.

CITG is a proud new sponsor of the City Island Little League. Watch for our team!

Mary McIntyre

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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Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.



I have been in solo Internal Medicine practice in neighboring Co-Op City for over 35 years and have lived on City Island for twenty years. I am seven minutes away by bus and there is free parking available.

I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connolly's Book of "Top Doctors".

I am in the office 5 days a week and make rounds at Montefiore Hospital daily including weekends. I am also on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I provide a "Medical Home" for my patients (I am willing to help make all significant medical decisions). I have excellent consultants available whom I have vetted over the years and work well with them.

Good Primary Care requires the Primary Doctor to know his patient thoroughly and guide them through our chaotic medical system.

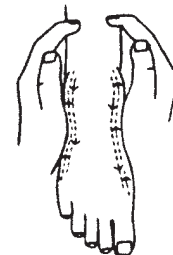
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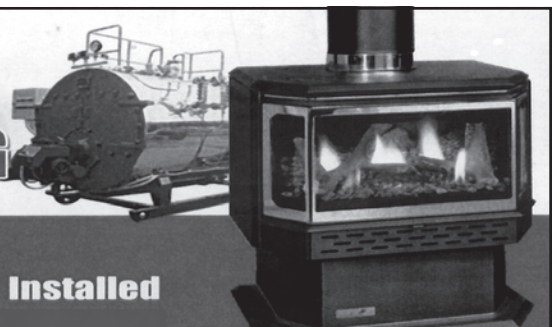


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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200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

MARCH 2013									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Fri	0051	8.32	0721	-0.60	1317	7.69	1934	-0.42	Fri 01
02 Sat	0137	8.25	0809	-0.40	1406	7.40	2022	-0.14	Sat 02
03 Sun	0227	8.03	0904	-0.07	1501	7.04	2116	0.24	Sun 03
04 Mon	0324	7.70	1012	0.28	1604	6.68	2219	0.61	Mon 04
05 Tue	0429	7.36	1203	0.44	1729	6.48			Tue 05
06 Wed	0002	0.81	0559	7.17	1324	0.25	1917	6.68	Wed 06
07 Thu	0142	0.55	0744	7.33	1428	-0.11	2025	7.10	Thu 07
08 Fri	0248	0.08	0851	7.65	1524	-0.50	2121	7.55	Fri 08
09 Sat	0345	-0.42	0946	7.93	1615	-0.80	2211	7.92	Sat 09
All times are Eastern Daylight Time beginning Sunday, March 10									
10 Sun	0536	-0.82	1135	8.10	1802	-0.97	2358	8.16	Sun 10
11 Mon	0624	-1.05	1221	8.12	1847	-0.97			Mon 11
12 Tue	0041	8.25	0709	-1.08	1304	8.01	1927	-0.80	Tue 12
13 Wed	0121	8.20	0752	-0.92	1345	7.78	2005	-0.49	Wed 13
14 Thu	0159	8.02	0833	-0.60	1424	7.49	2037	-0.11	Thu 14
15 Fri	0234	7.78	0911	-0.17	1502	7.17	2057	0.30	Fri 15
16 Sat	0306	7.49	0945	0.29	1539	6.86	2117	0.67	Sat 16
17 Sun	0339	7.21	1013	0.73	1620	6.59	2153	1.02	Sun 17
18 Mon	0418	6.95	1046	1.11	1714	6.39	2239	1.35	Mon 18
19 Tue	0507	6.73	1140	1.39	1833	6.31	2333	1.59	Tue 19
20 Wed	0617	6.61	1317	1.51	1941	6.40			Wed 20
21 Thu	0038	1.69	0757	6.66	1420	1.42	2036	6.61	Thu 21
22 Fri	0213	1.55	0853	6.82	1510	1.19	2123	6.88	Fri 22
23 Sat	0317	1.21	0937	7.04	1552	0.88	2200	7.18	Sat 23
24 Sun	0403	0.77	1009	7.27	1627	0.53	2225	7.50	Sun 24
25 Mon	0443	0.30	1037	7.51	1658	0.17	2250	7.86	Mon 25
26 Tue	0521	-0.16	1110	7.74	1731	-0.16	2324	8.21	Tue 26
27 Wed	0600	-0.53	1148	7.91	1807	-0.40			Wed 27
28 Thu	0003	8.49	0641	-0.78	1230	7.98	1848	-0.51	Thu 28
29 Fri	0045	8.65	0724	-0.85	1315	7.93	1931	-0.47	Fri 29
30 Sat	0131	8.64	0811	-0.74	1403	7.76	2018	-0.26	Sat 30
31 Sun	0219	8.45	0904	-0.47	1455	7.48	2111	0.08	Sun 31
APRIL 2013									
01 Mon	0312	8.11	1007	-0.09	1555	7.15	2211	0.49	Mon 01
02 Tue	0413	7.68	1134	0.24	1710	6.88	2342	0.81	Tue 02
03 Wed	0531	7.29	1259	0.34	1856	6.88			Wed 03
04 Thu	0123	0.76	0726	7.22	1409	0.22	2010	7.17	Thu 04
05 Fri	0234	0.42	0839	7.41	1509	-0.02	2111	7.56	Fri 05
06 Sat	0335	-0.02	0938	7.65	1604	-0.27	2204	7.92	Sat 06



DON'T DUMP ON ME

These days when City Islanders talk about the old landfill in Pelham Bay Park, it is usually a conversation centered on what's to become of it. For example, there has been plenty of talk recently at the community board level about integrating the site into the park. Rumors have it that there may be trails, an observation deck with spectacular views and an American flag lit up through the night.

Some of us remember the foul odors that once emanated from "The Dump," as it was unaffectionately known in the 1970s and the tireless campaign that was waged to shut it down once and for all. Officially, the site was closed for waste disposal on Dec. 31, 1978. The story that no longer gets the attention it deserves, however, is the one about getting The Dump there in the first place and of the heroic efforts that were made to save City Islanders from an even worse fate at that time. It is a story involving a dentist, a wildlife sanctuary and a place called Tallapoosa Point.

The dentist was Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff (1914-1980), a fierce advocate for

the Bronx in general and the wilderness of Pelham Bay Park in particular. Dr. Kazimiroff spent much of his boyhood honing his skills as a Boy Scout in Pelham Bay Park, which he accessed by canoe. Over time, he amassed a world-class collection of both Indian and Revolutionary War artifacts, but his most interesting discovery by far was Joe Two Trees. For that story, readers should consult the book written by the good doctor's son, "The Last Algonquin."

Because of his time spent in the Park, Dr. Kazimiroff was as familiar with Tallapoosa Point as anybody, if not more so. Chances are he unearthed many an artifact on land that had been used since 1888 by the Tallapoosa Club, which was organized by Civil War veterans who fought in Tallapoosa, Georgia. Imagine his horror, then, when New York City decided to turn Tallapoosa Point into a new landfill in 1963. In Dr. Kazimiroff's own words, it was a "monstrous rape of Pelham Bay Park."

And it could have been worse!

In 1966 the city had plans to expand the landfill, not to make the original larger but to create new sites, new dumps. Imagine your own horror if today you drove past another garbage dump on your way onto the Hutch North instead of the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. That was what was being proposed. Because of widespread community opposition led by Dr. Kazimiroff and then Councilman Mario Merola, that sanctuary and another were designated. Mayor Lindsay made it official on Oct. 11, 1967. The dump's days were numbered.

Stories such as these are reminders of our own struggles with ideas for development that impact City Islanders of today and tomorrow. We forget them or we fail to share what we know at our own peril.

Please feel free to share what you know at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

SPRING ARRIVAL AND THE DIRT ON DIRT

Spring, the renewal of life! Surely if God does exist, he is in the garden, and if we are well out of one, we should be trying to get back in. Just ask Candide or Joni Mitchell. March marks the beginning of the gardening year, and if all is right with the soil, all is well. Top dressing with organic material, such as composted cow manure and composted leaves, will amend the soil be it too sandy or clay-based. Plants will reward you by being more robust and healthy, and the need for pesticides will be little or none. Also, it is a good practice, when setting out new plants, to add to the hole the above mixture and some wet peat mixed up beforehand in a wheelbarrow. Peat must be wet, as it will never absorb water if put in dry.

Once this is accomplished, you can direct sow annuals in May, and leave your new mulch thin, so that seeds can take off. If you have sandy soil and sun, there is an enormous number of beautiful plants you can grow by leaving the soil poor. Try morning glories, California poppies, rugosa roses and broom. For a detailed list, read Beth Chatto's book "The Dry Garden."

Sowing seeds in pots is an activity that can give you multiple plants for mass plantings on the cheap. To make a stunning garden, decide on an idea, simplify it and repeat a few well-chosen plants. Use a good seed-sowing mix and cover your seed lightly with a sprinkling of gravel to prevent fungus. Keep the pots moist but not too wet to aid germination. When the seedlings have two true leaves, prick them out and give them a new pot 3 to 4 inches in diameter. Sow your seed thinly outside, remembering that plants grow large and that if crowded they will never reach their intended size or bloom.

It is worthwhile growing perennials and biennials this way if you have the

patience. What is more lovely than a stand of white foxgloves or Clary sage even though they took two years to reach maturity? Or a small meadow of yarrow, white echinacea and grasses. Grasses come so easily from seed. When mulching, you might want to add some dried urea to the soil, as mulch robs the soil of nitrogen. You can tell if the leaves become lighter in color than they should be.

I know a friend who lived in upstate New York where it is rare to see a well-grown rose. Hers were so beautiful that they would have won her a medal at Chelsea. She dug a hole the size of half a bathtub and added 50 percent new soil. Now I know that this work is not for everyone, but if you love roses it is a practice worth doing if you are young or can afford to hire a digger. Roses can be an anchor plant, and they do look lovely among shrubs and perennials. David Austin has so many beauties to choose from. A friend on City Island placed his rose by the pipe that drained his sump pump. The rose "Westerland" grew enormous and gorgeous. Roses are hungry feeders, and a dressing of Epsom salts and manure will make them love you.

One of the highlights of spring must be visiting Stone Crop Gardens in Cold Spring, New York. By early April the woodland is jam-packed with spring ephemerals (plants that disappear), glorious sheets of them! I can only compare it to Botticelli's famous painting "La Primavera." It's exquisite. Go see!

Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.

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

PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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Dragon's Path

Continued from page 1

Georgi Melicharek - 3rd place forms, 3rd place sparring
 Arjun Maystry - 3rd place sparring
 Gabriel Toribio - 3rd place sparring

Samantha Hernandez - 3rd place sparring
 Rosie Kotlowics - 3rd place forms/finalist weapons
 Owen Kenna - 3rd place sparring
 Dima Berezniuk - finalist fighting and forms
 Serena Balassi - finalist

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

Happy belated birthday to Hawkins Street's Dan Barry, who turned 27 on Feb. 21. Love from the Gang.

March 1 birthday greetings go out to Marine Street's Todd Davis.

Reville Street residents Mary McIntyre and Liz Paldino are proud to announce the Jan. 29 birth of their granddaughter/niece, Charlie MacKenzie, at Brooklyn Lutheran Hospital. Proud parents are Nick Paldino and Janet Yuen-Paldino.

Happy birthday to Marine Street's Chris Butterworth, who celebrates his big day on March 8 with love from the But-



Charlie MacKenzie Paldino

terworth and Doyle families.

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

Happy 10th birthday wishes on March 7 to our beautiful grandchildren: Jenee, Jese and James. Also, happy birthday on March 15 to Eugene; fishing season is almost here! Birthday greetings to my brother Philip and his wife, Dottie. And to my sister Judy McCormick (who knows how to throw a great party!), happy birthday on March 18. Love to you all from Maryann.

Happy birthday wishes to the Fieldale family—Connor, who turns 9 on March 9, and his dad, Evan, who will celebrate on March 30.

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

Jeff and Desiree Hanlon are thrilled to announce the birth of Madeline Marra Hanlon on Jan. 23. Proud grandparents are City Island's John and Marie Hanlon and Joseph and Kathy Mattesi of Pelham. Madeline was welcomed into the world by her sister, Audrey, and big brother, Hunter, who adores his two baby sisters.

Islander John Scardina recently returned from El Salvador, where he facilitated two workshops for the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). The goals of the workshops were to teach the tools necessary for peaceful community. For more information, contact John at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.

And welcome to spring on March 20!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Trinity Methodist Church held its annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013, before the Ravens and 49ers kicked off. The children raised over \$260 and collected many food items. Shown above are (l. to r.): Miles Jung, Benjamin Chadwick, Jayden Clark, Vincent Howard, Alice Jung, Olivia Chadwick, George Melicharek, Laci Howard and Lydia Jung.



Photo by KAREN NANI

The indefatigable Grace Church men's group flipped and served more than 400 pancakes, as well as pounds of bacon and sausage, to Islanders and guests on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013. Shown above are the "Pancake Men" (seated, l. to r.): Peter Klopfer, Scott Meyer and Gregory Sexton. Standing are David Sexton, Bruce Weis, John Essen, Paul Nani and Eric Rauhauser.

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