

The Island Current

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One Dollar

ISLANDER'S LONG JOURNEY OF ACTIVISM

By MARIA CHRISTINA SWIECIKI



Photos courtesy of the EMERICK FAMILY

MaryAnn Emerick (top left) with her sister, Samantha, and their mother, Rosaria Emerick, who suffered from Huntington's Disease. MaryAnn's activism to spread awareness of the disease and raise money to find a cure led her to an interview on Fox News and participation in various fundraising events, including Tough Mudder obstacle courses.

For one City Island resident, the summer of 2014 was both incredibly busy and exceptionally rewarding. Inspired by her family's long struggle with Huntington's disease, Bay Street's MaryAnn Emerick, 26, has been working tirelessly for the past several months as an activist for this horrible disease, hoping to spread awareness, to raise money and to make a difference.

The website for the Huntington's Disease Society of America (www.hdsa.org) describes Huntington's as a hereditary neurodegenerative disease that causes "the progressive death of nerve cells in the brain" and severely affects the bodies, minds and emotions of its victims. Although symptoms have occasionally appeared in young children, adolescents and the elderly, the disease most often shows up in adults between the ages of 30 and 50 and steadily progresses for 10 to 25 years. At present, there is no treatment or cure for Huntington's disease, which afflicts about 30,000 Americans who live with it and more than 200,000 Americans who are at risk. Unfortunately, MaryAnn and other members of her family can be counted in these statistics.

According to MaryAnn, her aunt and grandfather were both victims of Huntington's disease, and her uncle is currently battling the disease in a nursing home. In addition, MaryAnn's mother, Rosaria Emerick, was also a victim. She passed away in 2011,

at the age of 51, after a long struggle with the disease, which left her hospitalized for over a decade.

In 2001, as her mother's health declined, MaryAnn and her sister, Samantha, moved to City Island to live with their father, Joseph Emerick, and MaryAnn has been a proud Island resident ever since. In addition to juggling her job at an insurance company and pursuing a degree in child psychology at SUNY Old Westbury, MaryAnn has been working as a Huntington's disease activist both locally and nationally. Her efforts include serving as secretary for the HDSA's Greater New York chapter, attending and hosting various charity events, and participating in numerous walks and races throughout the year to raise both money and awareness. She also maintains an online blog that chronicles her journey through the testing process, which she is currently undergoing, since there is a 50 percent chance that she has inherited the disease from her mother.

Most recently, MaryAnn and the HDSA have been fighting for passage of the Huntington's Disease Parity Act, which aims to alter the Social Security Administration's inaccurate definition of Huntington's disease in order to waive the two-year waiting period that victims must endure before they are eligible for Medicare. MaryAnn's inter-

est in advocacy on behalf of the Huntington's Disease Parity Act first began in June of this year, when she traveled to Louisville, KY, to attend HDSA's annual convention. She met with hundreds of other Americans affected by the disease, including Jason Gromley, the head lobbyist in Washington, DC, for the HDSA and the Huntington's Disease Parity Act.

After the convention, MaryAnn was informed by her chapter president, Tracy Toscano, that City Island's Congressman, Joseph Crowley, had yet to sign on to the act. Although she had doubts that Congressman Crowley would respond, MaryAnn took the initiative to reach out to him via email. Much to her surprise, he answered her and set up a meeting in August. He was deeply moved by MaryAnn's story and activism and agreed to support the legislation. Impressed by MaryAnn's success with Congressman Crowley, Jason Gromley invited MaryAnn to join him and several other advocates in Washington in September to lobby on behalf of the act. During her two days in Washington, which MaryAnn refers to as "life changing," she met with numerous government officials and attended about 25 meetings, where she shared her family history and struggle with Huntington's disease and stressed the importance of the Huntington's Disease Parity Act.

Although not everyone MaryAnn met with was as enthusiastic as Congressman Crowley, her trip was nonetheless a success. Not long afterward, MaryAnn was contacted by a producer at Fox News who had heard

about her recent advocacy trip and asked her to appear on the show. Surprised, honored and nervous all at once, MaryAnn accepted the offer, and on Oct. 3, she took part in a televised interview with Fox News correspondent Lauren Green. MaryAnn discussed what Huntington's disease entails, what is being done regarding awareness and action and, of course, her personal connection to the disease.

Although MaryAnn claims that her interviewer threw her a curveball by deviating from the questions provided to her before the segment was filmed, she remained poised, well-spoken and knowledgeable throughout the interview. Since the interview aired, MaryAnn has received nothing but positive feedback, whether it was a neighbor congratulating her on the street or a friend sharing her interview video on Facebook. It is clear that many are moved and impressed by her efforts and accomplishments. Although one would assume that she might take a break after such a busy summer, MaryAnn does not plan to take a break from her advocacy efforts anytime soon, because, as she firmly states, it is her passion in life.

Readers interested in helping to raise money for Huntington's disease awareness and research may visit MaryAnn's fundraising page at <http://www.gofundme.com/cjvezo>. To watch MaryAnn's full interview on Fox News, visit <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/10/06/advocate-fights-for-new-huntingtons-disease-legislation-in-mothers-memory/>.

BRIDGE UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The giant cranes next to the City Island Bridge are installing piers in the water that will eventually support the temporary bridge, which is under construction at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Eight of the 10 piers have been installed, and the contractor is on schedule to have the bridge in place by the end of the year, weather permitting.

Roland Regos, the community liaison for the Department of Transportation (DOT), reports that the scheduled repair to the seawall along the Catherine Scott promenade will not begin in 2014 and has been shifted to a later phase in the project. The plan is to have the parkland accessible to the public as much as possible during construction, and DOT could not be certain that the area would be ready by spring if work on the

seawall were to begin this year.

Notices have been sent out and signs have been posted by DOT warning of the new traffic pattern in Pelham Bay Park, which is necessary because of work taking place on the conduit under City Island Road at Turtle Cove. The old conduit is in very poor condition and is being replaced with a new one that will improve the flow of salt water into the freshwater pond. Because one of the water mains to City Island is located close to the conduit, it is necessary for a new main to be installed in another position.

Those with questions about the bridge construction project are encouraged to email Roland Regos at cityislandbridgehb1164@gmail.com or to call his office at 718-885-1251 or 917-626-8391.



Can anyone identify the location of this handsome work of art, which is in plain view on City Island? In our haste to get from one place to another, we all too often overlook what is right in front of us. This is the first in a series of photographs that will put a spotlight on special City Island features that shouldn't be missed.

BRIEFLY...

COAT AND CLOTHING DRIVE sponsored by the Bronx Masons will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 241 City Island Avenue on the corner of Schofield Street. The Masons can accept only winter coats and clothing for men, women and children. All donations are going to POTS (Part of the Solution), 2759 Webster Avenue in the Bronx. Please separate the clothing into individual bags marked "men," "women" or "children" for easier distribution.

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

A THANKSGIVING FEAST open to members of the community will be offered by Trinity United Methodist Church after its annual Thanksgiving service. This year's dinner has been generously donated by Sammy's Fish Box Restaurant on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27, from noon to 3 p.m. in its Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to bake or volunteer for this wonderful event may call the pastor at 718-885-1218.

THE NY RISING COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM committee for the East Bronx waterfront will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Providence Rest, at 3304 Waterbury Avenue. Proposals for the waterfront will be made and public input is welcome. Please visit www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-program for more information.

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in two locations. Gently used items will be in the Thrift Shop, and new items will be in St. Mary's gym. Mark your calendars and don't miss many great holiday gifts.

EVITA, by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group the first three full weekends in November at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday, Nov. 7; Saturday, Nov. 8; Friday, Nov. 14; Saturday, Nov. 15; Thursday, Nov. 20; Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m. Matinee performances will be Sunday, Nov. 9 and 16, at 3 p.m. For reservations please call 718-885-3066 or email tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line through the group's website, www.cityislandtheatergroup.com. Eva Perón was dedicated to doing charitable work for the poor and established a foundation to care for orphans and impoverished women. This year, as part of CITG's Give Back program, the group will collect coloring books and crayons for POTS (Part of the Solution), a multi-service center that provides for needy Bronx residents. Please bring a coloring book and crayons to any of the "Evita" performances and help put a happy rainbow of color in the life of a needy child!

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLING, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, in Hawkins Park. A reception will follow in Kaleidoscope Gallery.

CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. in Hawkins Park. A reception will follow in Kaleidoscope Gallery.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September and October 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 4 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 2 – HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from September 24 to October 20, 2014.

9/28 – On City Island Avenue at Rochelle Street, at 1 a.m., an Islander complained that there was a large crack on the windshield of his car. There were no witnesses to this act of criminal mischief.

10/4 – An off-Islander complained that at some point between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.,

on Bowne Street, his vehicle suffered serious dents on the front quarter panel. There were no witnesses to this act of criminal mischief.

10/7 – At 7:30 a.m., an Islander reported an incident of harassment when an unknown individual rang the apartment doorbell numerous times and yelled profusely.

10/8 – On City Island Avenue at 12 noon, an off-Islander reported that his car was stolen from its parking space. Police are investigating this act of grand larceny auto.

10/10 – On King Avenue, an Islander reported that a neighbor had threatened her and screamed profanities, causing her to suffer fear and alarm. No arrest was made.

10/11 – On Reynolds Street, at 2:50 a.m., an Islander complained that an unknown individual had broken the driver's side window on his parked car.

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Chamber Honors Islanders and DOT Commissioner

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the City Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its 104th Annual Awards Dinner Dance at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course. A number of Island residents will be honored, and a special certificate of appreciation is being given to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT), for her role in changing the design of the new bridge to one that was more acceptable to the community than the original cable-stayed version.

Polly Trottenberg was sworn in as Mayor Bill de Blasio's DOT Commissioner on Jan. 27, 2014. One of the first issues to be brought to her attention was the City Island community's objections to the design of the bridge to replace the existing 113-year-old struc-

ture. The NYCDOT had turned a deaf ear to the community for over a decade, but having grown up in nearby Pelham, Ms. Trottenberg was very familiar with City Island, and her immediate response to the issue was to see if there might not be a solution.

Her success in providing the community with an acceptable bridge design is all the more remarkable when one considers the extent of her responsibilities. Ms. Trottenberg oversees 4,500 employees who maintain a state of good repair on 6,000 miles of the world's busiest streets and highways, one million street signs, 315,000 street lights, and 12,700 signalized intersections. Her team operates the Staten Island Ferry and manages 789 bridges, including the iconic East River

bridges. She is also a member of the board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA).

Commissioner Trottenberg graduated from Barnard College and received her MA in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government. Her 22 years of government experience include more than four years at US-DOT, most recently as the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. During her 12 years on Capitol Hill, Ms. Trottenberg served with U.S. Senators Charles Schumer, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Barbara Boxer. Before her work in Congress, she also served at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Catherine Scott Achievement Award will be presented to Ron Terner for his leadership in establishing City Island as an artistic community. Ron marks his 40th year on City Island as founder and director of the Focal Point Gallery, where he has put together more than 300 exhibitions. For over 20 years, Ron taught black-and-white photography in the Focal Point Visual Workshop at the City Island Community Center; he now teaches digital photography on a one-to-one basis and continues to photograph the many different projects in which he is involved. Ron and his wife Susan Lamantia Terner, who helps operate the gallery, are always looking for new artists in all disciplines to exhibit.

Ron's own work has been in numerous exhibitions in the United States and abroad and have been published in many magazines and books. His photographs are in the permanent collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Fotofactory in Oslo, Idaho State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, and numerous private collections throughout the United States and abroad.

Virginia Gallagher will receive the Tom Cereta Award for Community Service. She moved to City Island more than 40 years ago and very quickly became active in the City Island community. She was a founding member of the City Island Community Center and the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps. During her tenure as president of the Civic Association from 1962 to 1981, she worked with other Islanders to pressure the city to build a new school, P. S. 175, on the former site of Nevins Shipyard.

Virginia Gallagher has also served outside City Island as a vice president of the Bronx County Historical Society, and in 1990 she received the society's William C. Beller Award for Excellence and Achievement. She was the first elected chair of Community Planning Board 12 during the period when Co-op City, the largest Mitchell-Lama development in New York State, was built. In 1977 she was appointed to Community Board 10, where she served as a volunteer chairman and is currently head of the Parks Committee. She helped create the Thomas Pell Wildlife Refuge Sanctuary in Pelham Bay Park. She is best known on City Island today for her continued management of Pilot Cove Manor on Pilot Street. Along with Rev. Richard Smith of Grace Episcopal Church and other community representatives, she worked hard to obtain federal and state funding to purchase the property next to Consolidated Shipyard and made it possible for Pilot Cove Manor to become a reality in 1981.

Barbara Dolensek will be given a Community Service Award for her ongoing work on behalf of the City Island community, most recently her decade-long efforts to get the city's attention regarding the design of the new bridge and her efforts to defeat inappropriate development on the Island. Barbara moved here in 1976 and has been active in the

City Island community for many years. She has been on the staff of *The Island Current* since 1985, an officer of the City Island Civic Association since 1992, a trustee and administrator of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum since 1995, a board member of the City Island Theater Group since 2009, and a board member of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum since 2011. She also served on the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church for three years. Barbara has worked for many years as an editor and writer, including 15 years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and is the author of 14 books. She and her late husband restored a shingle-style Victorian house on Tier Street, now a designated NYC landmark; she has lectured locally on the history of City Island and leads regular walking tours of the island for the Municipal Art Society.

Maria Caruso will receive the Sam Bierman Award for Business & Community Service for her positive impact on the business community over the past three years and for her efforts to bring tourism to City Island through Concierge Day. She was also the moving force behind the popular Clam Chowder Contest held in September. Maria was born in East Harlem but grew up in the Bronx. She always had a desire to travel the world, so she became a luxury travel consultant in the early 1980s and has spent the last 33 years traveling to exotic places. In 2002 she met Stephane Kane, a restaurateur, in New York City, and they were married a few years later. In February 2011, they realized their dream of both owning a business and residing on City Island when they opened Bistro SK, the only French restaurant in the Bronx! Bistro SK became a member of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, and Maria accepted a board position as Director of Tourism. Since then, she has been fulfilling her tourism goal of getting the word out to the world about CIA—the City Island Area—the best-kept secret in NYC! Her love of travel, however, remains as strong as ever, and she continues as a full-time independent luxury travel consultant at Frosch Travel in Manhattan. Now, thanks to her increased knowledge of the restaurant business, she specializes in food and wine tours throughout the world!

A certificate of appreciation will be presented to Edwin Gonzales, owner of City Island Auto Body, for his help in preparing the City Island Shuttle Bus project, which will be launched by the Chamber in the spring. Born in Panama, he has been a resident of City Island for the past 17 years. After graduating from high school, he took on many different jobs but eventually gravitated toward the automobile industry, working at an auto-body repair facility and obtaining his tow truck license at the age of 18. Ed and his wife, Arlette, moved here in the late 1990s, and he became involved with community activities. He opened City Island Auto Body in 2005 and expanded his tow truck enterprise from one truck to a fleet of nine operating 24 hours a day. He appreciates a healthy mix of family time, community service and a successful business venture here on City Island.

Certificates of Appreciation for New Businesses will be awarded to Amanda Bear Party Rentals, Don Coqui, Ray's Café and Remi Upholstery.

For reservations to this community celebration, which will take place at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course on Saturday, Nov. 15, call 718-885-9100. Tickets are \$75 per person, and the festivities will start with cocktails at 7 p.m., the award ceremony at 8, and dinner at 8:30.

GOURDS GALORE!



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Pumpkins and other fall favorites were flying off the tables at the Legion Pumpkin Sale on Oct. 3 to 5, 2014. The annual fundraiser was again successful, thanks to the hard working legionnaires shown above (l. to r. Joe Goonan, Bob Salerno, Ed Shipp, Keith Shipp, Jack Grogan, Jim Livingston, Maureen Grogan and Rita Salerno). Enjoying his first pumpkin sale was Christopher Vecchio. Also contributing to the success of the event were the two kindergarten classes at P. S. 175 and the Ladies Auxiliary Juniors, who held a bake sale.



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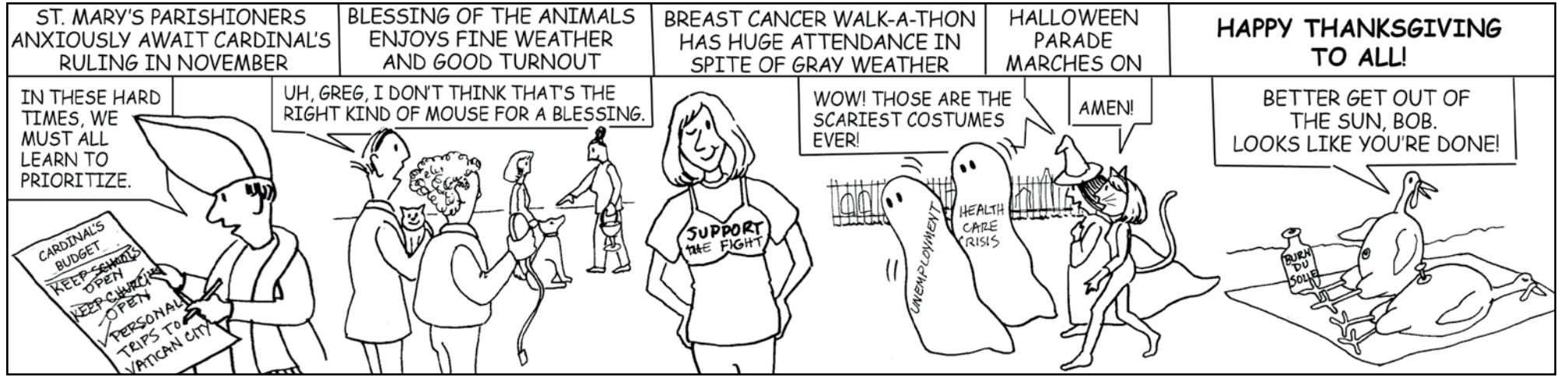
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**As We Knew Her:
Adele DiChiara**

To the Editor:

This brief memoir is an appreciation of my friend Adele DiChiara, a longtime teacher at P.S. 175, who passed away in September 2014. She was a District 11 leader and mentor of the open classroom model of education, and we at P.S.175 were very fortunate to have her teaching our young children and mentoring our faculty.

She was above all a teacher who refused to quantify the child as a number or statistic. She saw children as beings who learned by interacting with life. How much science and math and language and social skills were learned in her almost weekly cooking sessions? We all remember the quails and ducks and chickens that marched proudly down the corridors (much to the chagrin of the custodians). There were always music and laughter amid the flowers and vegetables growing in her area. And she was happy to take time to share strategies with her colleagues that could be used to further individual learning for specific children.

Adele's personal life was an extension of her classroom. In the summer there was always "art in her garden." Everyone came to paint or embroider or just sit among the myriad flowers that generated so much peace. There was talk of books and literature and current events. And there were her dinner parties. I personally cherish so many of her recipes. Christmas could not happen unless you attended her cookie parties. That was Christmas: the tree decorated with treasured ornaments, the decorations, the warmth and the friendship.

She and I shared favorite books and poems. I especially remember a line from A. E. Housman that reminds me of Adele DiChiara: "Our business here is not to live, but to live happily." When we lose friends, we realize that our lives have been filled with their grand, invisible gifts. She will be missed.

Ena P. Ellwanger



Photo by PETER QUINONES

Over 11,000 people, including many City Islanders and the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (above), packed Orchard Beach on Sunday, Oct. 19, to participate in the American Cancer Society's 11th annual walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, to raise awareness of the disease.

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Bartow-Pell Events

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum has a series of exciting programs for the month of November.

A Mini-Orchid and Air Plant Terrarium Workshop will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Calling all indoor gardeners! Join horticulturalist Maria Colletti to learn how to make a miniature exotic garden with tiny orchids and air plants. Registration is required as space is limited. Cost: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members, plus a \$25 materials fee.

Birding at Bartow on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 3:30 p.m. Vesper, white crowned, and savannah sparrows are frequent sightings in Pelham Bay Park as they migrate south. Bufflehead, mergansers and redhead ducks return to the lagoon. Accompany naturalist and photographer Debbie Becker on a walk to spot these treasures of the fall. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members.

Learn about Bartow-Pell's history at a "Centennial Talk: The IGC Founders" on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The International Garden Club (IGC), now known as the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, was founded 100 years ago by an illustrious group of horticulturally and preservation-minded women and men. Longtime member Barbara Bartlett presents her extensive research on them in this entertaining illustrated talk. Registration requested. Free.

November's First Friday with Music and Trolley will take place on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy music by the ChuLu Jazz Duo as guitarists Michael Heller

Chu and Luke Schwartz blend modern and traditional jazz styles to create a unique and wonderful gypsy jazz sound. Explore the mansion, stroll the garden and enjoy light refreshments. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members.

Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day will be on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Roll-up your sleeves and don your gardening gloves to help get the garden and grounds of BPMM ready for winter. Light breakfast available. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Registration is requested. Free.

Enjoy the stage performance of "The Little Flower" on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. BPMM is proud to co-sponsor with the Pelham Picture House this one-man show by Tony Lo Bianco about Mayor Fiorello La Guardia during his last days in office in 1945. La Guardia used Bartow-Pell as his "summer city hall" during the summer of 1936. Mr. Lo Bianco has been involved in numerous films, television programs and stage performances as actor, writer, director or producer. The Picture House (1921) is the oldest continuously running movie theater in Westchester County. Tickets \$30; available at thepicturehouse.org or at the box office, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham, NY 10803.

An Urban Park Ranger Hike to the estates of Pelham Bay Park will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m. Explore the area north of the Bartow mansion for foundations of outbuildings and estates that once existed north of the Bartow mansion. It is recommended that you wear comfortable shoes or boots for hiking and bring water. Meet at the BPMM parking lot. Free.

Local Author Spotlight on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. will feature BPMM docent Doug Hearle, who will draw on his background as a consultant to global governments and in CIA intrigue for the riveting elements of his recently published novel "Outsource." As the former president-CEO of Carl Byoir & Associates and vice-chairman of Hill and Knowlton, Hearle is regarded as one of America's leading authorities in crisis communications. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

"Don't Cry for Me, Argentina"

By MARY MCINTYRE



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Members of the cast of "Evita" in rehearsal under the direction of Nick Sala

Late one night in 1973, Tim Rice happened to hear the end of a radio show about Eva Perón, and he became totally intrigued. As a stamp collector when he was a child, Rice had been fascinated by her image on the Argentine stamps but did not understand her significance in the history of the country. He began to research her story, watching the television film "Queen of Hearts" at least 20 times, he remembers. The more he investigated Eva Perón, a project that include a trip to Buenos Aires to research her life, the more fascinated he became by the woman; he even named his first daughter after her.

The City Island Theater Group is pleased to produce Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's "Evita" during the first three full weekends of November. This production is directed by Nick Sala with music direction by Heather Edwards and choreography by Emily Bendler. "This is the most expensive costume extravaganza in 15 years," said Carol McCabe, who is in charge of costumes. "But Cheryl Brinker and I are meeting the challenge."

"Evita" premiered on Broadway 35 years ago and continues to be performed around the world in a variety of languages. We are still enchanted by the Cinderella story of Eva, her rise from poverty to become one of the world's most influential women, although as with most fairy tales, there is also a dark side. Bringing this won-

derful story to the stage requires the best performers and creative team. CITG's production will include a cast of 24 performers and live musicians. "Like Eva herself, it will seduce and dazzle the audience," Nick Sala told *The Current*.

The cast of "Evita" includes Angela Bermudez, Megan Bruno, Nic Anthony Calabro, Jason Damien, Hannah Glick, Sarah Harrold, Mya Henry, Alaura Imperoli, Keith Kucerak, Samantha Kucerak, Giovanni Lazu, Thomas Losito, Stephanie Lourenco, Hannah Ludemann, Lyla MacDonald, Nadine Muensterer, Robert Mulroy, Elizabeth Paldino, Cheyenne Phillips, Susan Rauh, Keith Rodriguez, Frank Siciliano, Lindsay Tabano and Ashley Wool.

Although Eva Perón was in many ways a controversial character, she was dedicated to her charitable work for the poor and established a foundation to care for orphans and impoverished women. This year, as part of CITG's Give Back program, the group will collect coloring books and crayons for POTS (Part of the Solution), a multi-service center that provides for needy Bronx residents. Please bring a coloring book and crayons to any of the "Evita" performances and help put a happy rainbow of color in the life of a needy child!

See *BRIEFLY* on page 2 for dates, times and information about tickets. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

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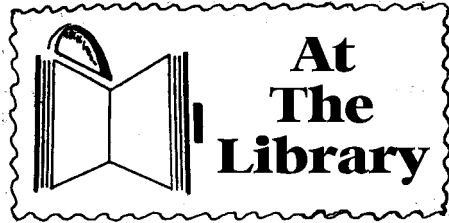
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What's Going On In There?
 City Islander **Mark Grant** is an ELA tutor available for students of all ages who wish to expand reading/writing/comprehension skills and cultural knowledge, in addition to prepping for the SAT. He is an experienced private tutor as well as an award-winning New York Times-reviewed book author quoted in college textbooks and a journalist with 30 years of experience. He successfully coaches students of all ages in English grammar and writing skills, literary comprehension, test prep, and cultural literacy, providing an educationally enriching experience beyond that of SAT tutoring. Expand cultural horizons with the kind of English instruction the schools used to provide but no longer do, privately tailored to each student's needs. All ages from preteens through adults. Call 914-819-2240 or email Markngrant@gmail.com.

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) is grateful for your support in this month of Thanksgiving and throughout the year. November's offerings include Theresa Sareo (Sunday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m.), No Stringz Attached (Saturday, Nov. 8, 8 p.m.), Intuition, formerly the Blues Mothers (Saturday, Nov. 15, 8 p.m.), and Freddie Lando (Sunday, Nov. 30, 3 p.m.). The Starving Artist himself will take the stage at month's end, Saturday, Nov. 29, 8 p.m., for the traditional Thanksgiving weekend show. Visit the Starving Artist website—www.StarvingArtistOnline.com—for the full November lineup and for news about Jewelry Making Classes at Starving Artist, just in time for holiday gift-giving!

City Island Physical Therapy will resume weekly balance classes on Monday, October 27. Balance Class will be every Monday from 12:30-4:00 pm. The class is designed to improve your balance and decrease your risk of falls. All are welcome. Suggested donation: \$3.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY- NOVEMBER 2014
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November Children's Programs
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Gifts of the Season: Storytelling by Robin Bady for children ages 4 and over. Thursday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m.

An Eric Wood Workshop, Animal Habitats: Children will create an animal habitat of their choice using a wide variety of non-traditional materials, such as zippers and bottle tops, along with pictures with animals. For ages 4 and over. Friday, Nov. 14, at 3 p.m.

Toddler Time: Every Friday at 11 a.m.
Thanksgiving Arts & Crafts: Friday, Nov. 21, all day.

November Teen and Tween Programs
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Beautiful Words, Beautiful Writing: Swirls and scrolls come to life as you learn to draw your own calligraphy. Learn about this elegant art form and create your own written treasures. From ages 12 to 18 years old. Thursday, Nov. 20, at 3:30 p.m.

After School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying, relaxing, doing homework, video gaming or just hanging out with your friends. Every weekday after school Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

November Adult Programs
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Lecture: The Civil War, How Close We Came to Becoming Two Countries;

Presented by Jeremy McCue, Saturday, Nov. 1, at 1 p.m.

Lecture: Multimedia Journalism Seminar: Presented by Roberto Soto. This program is to learn about creating interactive content with photos, audio and video. He will teach how to come up with stories that would be best told in multimedia format and create original content. Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m.

Lecture: Time to Spare-Strategies to Eliminate Clutter: Learn strategies to eliminate clutter, prepare for mishaps, save money and maximize time. Presented by Daphne Kohavy. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 11 a.m.

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the internet before. Gain proficiency in using e-mail, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Also on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, Pilot Street.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resumé into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

Tablet Group: Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Island Writers: The writing group's subject will be: "Adventures in storytelling and story writing." Facilitated by Gail Hitt. Every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 2 p.m.

Introduction to Scanning: With Dr. Pepper Hedden. Learn how to scan in pictures so you can email them to friends and family all over the world, or learn how to scan articles so that when the paper fades, the computer file will remain. Every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Will be announced.

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



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
15 Windward #16	6/17/14	\$380,000	condo
412 City Island Ave.	6/18/14	\$650,000	commercial
691 King Ave.	6/19/14	\$365,000	single family
471 Minneford Ave.	6/19/14	\$310,000	single family
36 Fordham Street	6/24/14	\$295,074	multi-family
321 King Ave.	6/26/14	\$95,299	single family
662-666 City Is. Ave.	7/02/14	\$390,000	empty lots
69 Tier Street	7/03/14	\$760,000	single family
94 Pilot Street	7/08/14	\$560,000	multi-family
98 Carrol Street	7/23/14	\$430,000	single family
422 Minneford Ave.	8/18/14	\$481,500	single family
318 King Ave.	9/04/14	\$165,000	single family
165 Schofield Street	9/23/14	\$455,200	single family
175 Bay Street	9/24/14	\$398,200	multi-family

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The Most Important Holiday in November

By MICHAEL PROIETTI

Yup! It's that time again, the amazing holiday that revolves around food and America! The day you get to sit back and remember how this amazing country got its humble start. When I think of November, my heart skips a beat because I know it's time for that special day. Families gather and homes get just a little warmer with love and gratitude.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's National Indian Pudding day, Nov. 13! Okay, maybe only some of us celebrate this amazing holiday. If you don't observe this holiday, however, you are missing out!

What is Indian pudding, you ask? Well, I will tell you. Indian pudding is a mush made of corn meal and molasses, milk, eggs and spices, which is baked until it gets a crispy top and a creamy center! It is said that early American colonists did not have all the ingredients for plum pudding, so this was the next best thing. This dessert is full of history and flavor. It is important that we don't let the ice creams, cookies, brownies and other more modern desserts overshadow this classic early American culinary gem!

You can find a few great recipes online, but my favorite is the Longfellow's Wayside Inn Baked Indian Pudding. I can't leave well enough alone, so I add diced apples, dried cranberries and roasted pecans to my version, and top it with a huge scoop of vanilla ice cream. I usually make a large pudding that serves a dozen people but the recipe below can be cut in half to serve six.

I wish you all an awesome Indian Pudding Day!

Our next City Island Culinary Club meetings will be as follows: Nov. 5 and 19, 7 p.m. at the Community Center: Stews and slow cooker; Dec. 3 and 17: cookie exchange. For more information, check the Community Center calendar or email proietti.michael@yahoo.com.

Longfellow's Wayside Inn Baked Indian Pudding (Makes 12 servings)

- 2 quarts plus 2 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1 1/2 cups cornmeal
- 2 cups molasses
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1 1/2 cups of whole eggs (12 large eggs)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Bring 2 quarts of milk to boil in a heavy pan. Add cornmeal to the milk and blend with a wire whisk until it thickens. Add molasses, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger and bring the mixture to a boil. In a very large bowl, blend the remaining 2 1/2 cups of milk with the eggs. Add the hot milk mixture and stir. Pour into a very large casserole dish whose surface has been buttered and sugared. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about an hour. Test the pudding for doneness with a knife. If it comes out clean, the pudding is ready. Remove from the oven and let it stand for about 15 minutes, then serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PETS!



Photos by EYVONNE BAKER and VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, Islanders brought forth their beloved pets for the annual blessing on Oct. 5, 2014. Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia welcomed cats and dogs to Grace Episcopal Church (top photos), while Father Augustus Onwubiko presided over a blessing in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard (bottom photos).



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Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 Empire City

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Dinner & Party

Dec. 8 Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

Festive Holiday Musical Revue

Dec. 11 Rockefeller Center

Dec. 18 Christmas Special Dinner & Party

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 4, **Election Day Bake Sale**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat., Nov. 8, **Coat and Clothing Drive**, 241 City Island Avenue, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, **Blood Drive**, Trinity United Methodist Church, Bay Street at City Island Avenue, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 15, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, 7 to 11 p.m., Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course (see article this issue).

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

Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs., Nov. 27, **Community-wide Thanksgiving dinner at Trinity Methodist Church**, City Island Avenue at Bay Street. Free and open to all from noon to 3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 29, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Nov. 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 5, and Sat., Dec. 6, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6, and Sun., Dec. 7, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

Sat., Dec. 13, **Grace Church Holiday Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Tues., Dec. 16, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m.

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.

Save the following dates for upcoming Trinity special events: Nov. 27, Thanksgiving dinner; Dec. 5 and 6, Trinity Christmas fair.

Fall Bible Study began on Oct. 26. All are welcome to attend. The sessions start promptly at noon on Sundays in the fall.

The Budget Corner is open, and since the collection bin stayed open all summer, it is full of great bargains. The dates are Nov. 1, 4, 15, 18 and 29. The dedicated Budget Corner volunteers are hard at work keeping newly donated items on the shelf. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

Boy Scout Troop 211

Boy Scout Troop 211 did not waste any time getting active in the new scouting season. One week into our scouting year, Troop 211 welcomed the newest Eagle Scout to the Troop's "Nest of Eagles," Nicholas Bellocchio. In September, about 60 scouts, family and guests recognized Nicholas and his accomplishments while he was a Troop 211 scout. Nicholas had an exciting few months prior to his Eagle ceremony, being one of five Bronx youth recognized for community service on the field at Yankee Stadium and becoming a freshman at SUNY Maritime

College. Join the Troop in congratulating Nicholas and wishing him luck. Troop 211 looks forward to Nicholas coming back to Troop 211 to share his knowledge and skills with our scouts.

In October, 13 Troop 211 scouts enjoyed beautiful fall weather on their first of five scheduled camping trips. Scouts were challenged with building and sleeping in their own shelters, using twine, tarp, shower curtains, and pegs made from twigs. When you see a Troop 211 scout, ask him how he did. At the end of October, Troop 211 scouts raised money for and took part in the JDRF walk in Yonkers, NY, to raise awareness of juvenile diabetes.

Troop 211 is always looking for active youths from 11 to 17 years old to join. To learn more, stop by a scout meeting one Friday; meetings are held from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The first two days of November mark two special days: Nov. 1 is the feast of All Saints and Nov. 2 is the Commemoration of All Souls. We remember all those who have passed from this life to the next.

Nov. 7 is the First Friday of the month, and we will hold our monthly Holy Hour from 4 to 5 p.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, there will be a special Enrollment Mass at 10 a.m. for all those who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation on April 28, 2015. Parents and students will participate in this initial event in preparation for the sacrament.

That same day we will have our monthly coffee hour in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried goods, which will be distributed to the poor. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

The last day of the month, Nov. 30, marks the first Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the new church year and the season is a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as a man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our troubled world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

During the first weekend in December, the 6th and the 7th, we will hold our annual Christmas Fair in the gym and in the Thrift Shop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come, browse and shop for bargains.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL box.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran as 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 retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

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

The VA accepts clothing donations for



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

A very large crowd of Islanders enjoyed the spaghetti dinner hosted by the Community Center's Culinary Club and Chef Michael Proietti on Friday, Sept. 26, 2014.

our veterans (no books, please). Donations can be dropped off at the Post or taken to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed.

Thanks to Jimmy Livingston, Mike Jawski and Gene Valesio who have continued to renovate and rehabilitate the new squadron office.

Save the dates! Saturday, Nov. 22, is the 95th anniversary dinner. The price is \$75 per person, including an open bar. Once again chicken and pork will be served.

The Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be on Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon at the triangle.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

AARP Chapter 318

AARP 318 meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. On Wednesday, Nov. 5, we will begin our "Christmas Giving Thru POTS" program. We will join in the season of giving and help a needy neighbor. POTS (Part of the Solution), located on Webster Avenue in the Bronx, offers food and social services to needy men, women, children and families in the Webster Avenue area. Part of their program includes providing new, clean clothing to anyone who comes to them. Please help us replenish their supply. Needed in all sizes for men, women and children are warm hats, gloves, wool scarves, socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, underwear (t-shirts, briefs, boxers, etc.). Also needed are toiletries such as disposable razors.

Our giving campaign last year was impressive, and we would like to continue the spirit this year. We will be collecting your donations on Nov. 19 and Dec. 3, to be delivered to POTS before the holidays. We thank everyone in advance for their generosity. On Wednesday, Nov. 19, our members will enjoy an Italian luncheon and Bingo at the church hall. Luncheon will begin at 12:30 and the cost is \$15 per person. Please be sure to sign up for this great afternoon. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Christmas luncheon on Dec. 17 at 12 noon at the Lobster House Restaurant.

To recap, Nov. 5 is the meeting at 1 p.m.; Nov. 19 is the Italian luncheon in the church hall at 12:30 p.m.; Dec. 3 is the meeting at 1 p.m.; and Dec. 17 is the Christmas luncheon at 12 noon at Lobster House Restaurant.

Rosetta Woods

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island Avenue, 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 2, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 7 p.m. in the church.

Watch for announcements of our annual Christmas Fair, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grace welcomes all City Island residents to participate in our outreach program that brings turkey dinners to those in need. The parish of Iglesia San Andres, located in southwest Yonkers, holds a turkey drive each Thanksgiving, and we have supported it for the past seven years. The parish houses a food pantry and a soup kitchen throughout the year and is a real asset to the Yonkers community. The cost of a turkey dinner for a needy family is \$25. Each year, we here at Grace collect from our parishioners and the community and send the funds to Iglesia San Andres. If you wish to contribute to this worthy cause, please send a check to Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue, Bronx NY 10464. Mark the check "Turkey Dinner for Iglesia San Andres."

Eileen Marcus

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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BRONX, NY 10464



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

It was so much fun to see a mix of all ages of our community enjoying a delicious spaghetti dinner thanks to Michael Proietti and the CI Culinary Club on Sept. 26. I hear they have great plans for the holiday party. Our apologies about the Haunted House. We were sad to have to cancel this year, due to a lack of volunteers; maybe next year.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We need your help and support. To join the Center, to request our new brochure and for up-to-date information, visit www.city-islandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

City Island Film Club, Sunday, Nov. 16, 1 to 4 p.m. Contact cifilmsociety@gmail.com for more information and to find out about the upcoming films.

Family Bingo Night: Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games with outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

Teen Dance: Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Dances for sixth, seventh and eighth graders who live on City Island or attend P.S. 175. Come join your friends for a night of fun and music with DJ Bowie Stivala.

NEW PROGRAMS

The Art of Cursive Writing: Grades 3-6: Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m. Elementary school teacher Alaura Imperioli will instruct children in the art of cursive writing. For information, call Alaura at 347-755-3610.

City Island Culinary Club: Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and 19, at 7 p.m. It is the perfect time for slow cooker foods. Explore the many ways of preparing stews and one-pot meals with other people who love to cook and with Chef Michael Proietti. For information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

City Island Drawing Society: Fridays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Find your inner Leonardo da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call Josh at 917-721-1419.

Art Classes for Children: Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo da Vinci. For ages 7 to 12 with Lorraine Cantori; 914-552-5268.

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual will take you to a place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Rev. RPP, CRE, Board Certified Polarity/CS, is a Shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Journeying is the ability to travel to different spirits into the outer dimensions. Please bring a yoga mat, drum or rattle if you have one to the sessions on the second and last Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. For information or to register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or visit the website www.TheeVitalForcefoundation.org.

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Family Puppet Theater: Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. Have fun with Jay Howard and City Island puppeteers.

Annual Holiday Party: Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: See above.

The Art of Cursive Writing: See

above.

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

To Be Scheduled

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

Irish Dance for Children: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Dance teaches step dancing in a fun competitive environment for all ages. For information or to enroll, call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreamara.com.

After-school Introduction to Acting: Grades 3-6. Children learn to express themselves via theater, song and dance in a warm atmosphere. Call Eileen at 914-633-1695 to enroll.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Belly Dance / Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves: Sundays at 4 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Note new day. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

City Island Culinary Club: See above.

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming: See above.

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

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. This may be the best time of the year to get healthy and trim down. New sessions have just begun at a very good rate. Join a great supportive group! We can do this together! For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Mondays from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, call Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or email joannngny@aol.com.

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. Saturdays at 10 a.m. \$10 per class. For questions, call 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Letti: Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Letti at 917-292-4228 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This month's dates are Nov. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20. Come and browse our great selection of winter coats and jackets, sweaters, pants, blouses, shoes, bags and an assortment of bric-a-brac and appliances. Watch out for special sales. We will not be open on Nov. 22 and 29, in preparation for our Christmas Fair, which will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our Christmas Fair will be in two locations. Gently used items will be sold in the Thrift Shop, and "new" items will be sold in St. Mary's school gym. Mark your calendars, and don't miss the wonderful buys. Come and bring your friends. There is something for everyone.

Arlene Byrne

Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held on Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. We will be holding our "Baby Shower" that night. Please donate baby items or clothing (size 0-4T). Please gear all clothing for the winter months. And please bring a snack to share.

The Leonard Hawkins Post 156 95th Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held at the Morris Yacht club on Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Price is \$75 per person.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Laura Booth

Garden Club of City Island

Members toured Wave Hill in Riverdale on Wednesday, Oct. 8. We truly enjoyed experiencing nature and admiring the varieties of flowers, plants and trees in this beautiful public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River. Even if you are not horticulturally inclined, the views are well worth a visit.

Although fall is here and the pretty purple petunias in the planters along City Island Avenue are starting to become a memory, the sweet potato vines are still thriving. At our October meeting, we made plans to put Garden Club stickers on the planters and give them a cleaning before we prepare them for the holiday season. This year the planters will be filled with twigs, branches from evergreen and conifer trees and, of course, lots of pine cones.

Other plans for the club include the annual wreath making in late November for the public buildings and houses of worship on the Island; the annual holiday party for members arranged by Susan Bellinson and our Beautification Fund Drive to be held in early spring. That drive supports the planters, the maintenance of public areas on City Island and cleaning the tree pits along the avenue. Our Beautification Fund solicitation this year garnered less than in recent years, but our hope is that as the economy improves, so will donations to our annual drive, which will begin early in 2015.

As always, we welcome prospective new members to attend one of our meetings to learn what we do and how they can participate, and perhaps to join us in our City Island beautification efforts. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 3, when we will have a demonstration by Liz Leduc of Giordano Florists on holiday decorating and new ideas for embellishing Christmas trees. Our program committee plans for a plant swap in January. If you would like more information on the club, please email cityislandgardenclub@gmail.com.

Barbara Harrison

PSS City Island Senior Center

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families by providing information, services and support. Our goal is to promote independence by helping them remain healthy, engaged and connected. We are not your everyday senior center!

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 and over. A delicious lunch is served every day from 11:30-12:30, catered by Scavello's (IGA).

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

November Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Line Dancing: Mondays at 12:30; Cardio Fitness: Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m.; Yoga Stretch: Tuesdays at

12:30 p.m.; Arthritis Workshop: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.; Zumba: Thursdays at 9:15 a.m.; Fit for Life: Fridays at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch, Line Dancing and Arthritis workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

November Programs: Mondays: Men's Group, Cards/ Wii Games, at 12:30 p.m.; individualized computer instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15 a.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 12:30; Nov. 12 and 26; \$10 haircuts by Brenda; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting with Lois, 10:15 a.m.; Nov. 6, Piracy Bingo, Nov. 13, Birthday Party at 12:30 p.m.; Fridays, Photography at 10:15 a.m.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

Regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we are more than happy to provide information, referrals and assistance in filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Caregivers Support

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

Transportation Services

Off-Island shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Dues (\$50) are now due.

Lotto calendars are now on sale for \$20 each. Stop by the Post to pick some up. They make great stocking stuffers.

Save the date! Saturday, Nov. 22. In lieu of the annual Servicemen's Dinner we will have the 95th anniversary dinner at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. The cost is \$75 per person and includes an open bar with the usual menu of chicken and pork.

Football season is here. Come and enjoy the game and see what is happening at the post.

The VA accepts only clothing donations for our veterans (no books, please). Clothing can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed. Thanks to Mike McKenna for bringing the clothing donations over to the VA Hospital.

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

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

Thanks to all who volunteered their time at the Pumpkin Sale and a big thanks goes out to Jack and Maureen Grogan, who spent their Saturday drenched in the pouring rain. Thanks also to all who helped make the clambake a success.

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

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

We are now on the web. Our new website is Post156.com.

John Muhlfeld



Hotels

Since the advent of the motion picture industry, there has been a plethora of movies about or set in hotels. We begin with the classics. Set in Berlin, **Grand Hotel** (1932) is a melodrama starring Greta Garbo as the depressed Russian ballerina Grusinskaya, who falls in love with a jewel thief, Baron Felix von Geigern (John Barrymore). Subplots include the industrialist Preysing (Wallace Beery), who pursues ambitious stenographer Flaemmchen (Joan Crawford). There is also Otto Kringlein (Lionel Barrymore), a meek accountant who, having discovered he is dying, has decided to spend his remaining days in the lap of luxury. This is the only film ever to have won the Academy Award for Best Picture without being nominated in any other category. The film was remade as **Week-End at the Waldorf** in 1945 changing the occupations of the characters and the location to New York City. That film starred Ginger Rogers, Walter Pidgeon, Van Johnson and Lana Turner; it also featured Xavier Cugat, so that there could be a musical number at the Starlight Room. The remake is more fun than the original.

Another classic is **Key Largo** (1948). When army veteran Frank McCloud (Humphrey Bogart) comes to visit war-widow Nora Temple (Lauren Bacall) and her invalid father-in-law (Lionel Barrymore) at their Florida hotel, he discovers it has been taken over by gangster Johnny Rocco (Edward G. Robinson) and his men. Claire Trevor is featured as Rocco's alcoholic moll. While a hurricane rages outside, a different sort of storm rages within.

In a much lighter vein, there is the dated bit of fluff, **Come September** (1961), which stars Rock Hudson as wealthy American businessman Robert Talbot, who owns a villa in Italy, where he and his Roman mistress, Lisa Fellini (Gina Lollobrigida), spend September every year. When they arrive early, Talbot discovers, to his dismay, that in his absence his house manager, Maurice Clavell (Walter Slezak), has turned the villa into a hotel, currently hosting a group of teenage girls (including Sandra Dee). When the girls' departure is delayed, Talbot must also endure four teenage boys (including Bobby Darin), who set up camp right outside the villa and begin courting the girls.

Then there are two Neil Simon plays turned into movies, **Plaza Suite** (1971) and **California Suite** (1978). In the former, Walter Matthau stars in three vignettes set in room 719 of New York's Plaza Hotel. He plays a cheating husband with Maureen Stapleton as his wife; a Hollywood producer with Barbara Harris as a former girlfriend; and a father of the bride with Lee Grant as his wife. "California Suite" contains four plots set in Beverly Hills on the eve of the Academy Awards. The divorced Bill and Hannah Warren (Alan Alda and Jane Fonda) are in a bitter custody battle; an Academy Award-nominated actress Diana Barrie (Maggie Smith, who actually won for this role) and her gay husband, Sidney Cochran (Michael Caine); two feuding doctors, Dr. Chauncey Gump (Richard Prior) and Dr. Willis Panama (Bill Cosby); and Marvin and Millie Michaels (Walter Matthau and Elaine May) who are dealing with a scheme of Marvin's brother Harry (Herb Edelman), who sent a prostitute to their room.

A very creepy classic is the Stanley Kubrick-directed **The Shining** (1980), based on a Stephen King novel. The film stars Jack Nicholson as Jack Torrance, a writer and recovering alcoholic who takes a job as an off-season caretaker at the isolated Overlook Hotel. He brings his wife, Wendy (Shelley Duvall), and son, Danny (Danny Lloyd), with him. Unfortunately,

his son is a psychic who sees horrific happenings from the past and forebodings of a violent future.

There are four family films on this topic. **Eloise at the Plaza** (2003), based on a series of children's books, stars Sofia Vassilieva as Eloise, an independent six-year-old girl who lives with her nanny (Julie Andrews) in a penthouse at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Eloise is the nemesis of the hotel manager, Mr. Salome (Jeffrey Tambor).

In **Hotel for Dogs** (2009), two orphans, Andi (Emma Roberts) and her brother, Bruce (Jake T. Austin), must hide their dog from their nasty foster parents, Lois and Carl Scudder (Lisa Kudrow and Kevin Dillon). They find an abandoned hotel where they place their dog, who is subsequently followed by many other animals. Don Cheadle is featured as Bernie, a sympathetic social worker who is trying to keep the two from being separated. The best part of the film is the clever contraptions that the children construct to keep the animals fed and happy.

In the animated film **Hotel Transylvania** (2012), Dracula operates a high-end resort away from the human world. He goes into an overprotective mode when a human boy discovers the resort and falls for the count's teen-aged daughter. There is a lot of humor aimed at adults, so the film is probably more suitable for older children.

My Bodyguard (1980) is a delightful film about Clifford (Chris Makepeace), a sophomore at a new high school. He deals with Mooney (Matt Dillon), the local bully, by hiring the "psycho" Linderman (Adam Baldwin) to be his bodyguard. The development of the friendship between Clifford and Linderman is quite moving. Clifford's father, Larry (Martin Mull), is the manager of the Ambassador East Hotel, where they live along with Larry's 80-plus-year-old mother (the scene stealing Ruth Gordon), who keeps trying to pick up men in the hotel bar, including the hotel owner, Mr. Dobbs (John Houseman). Be on the lookout for Joan Cusack in her debut role as Shelley. Dave Grusin's musical score is a wonderful accompaniment to this poignant family film.

Dirty Pretty Things (2003) is an adult drama in which Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor) a kind-hearted Nigerian doctor, and Senay (Audrey Tautou), a Turkish chambermaid, work at the same West London hotel. The hotel is run by Señor "Sneaky" (Sergi Lopez) and houses such crimes as drug dealing and prostitution. However, it becomes apparent that immigrants are being exploited by trading body parts for passports.

The docudrama **Hotel Rwanda** (2004) stars Don Cheadle as Paul Rusesabagina, the manager of the Hôtel des Milles Collines in Rwanda. When violence erupts, he moves his wife, Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo), and their children to the hotel. The film, which has been called an African "Schindler's List," documents Rusesabagina's acts to save the lives of his family and more than a thousand other refugees by harboring them in the besieged hotel. Nick Nolte has a supporting role as Canadian Colonel Oliver, the helpless leader of the U.N. peacekeeping forces; Joaquin Phoenix appears as journalist Jack Daglish. Both Cheadle and Okonedo were nominated for Academy Awards for their stunning performances.

Dirty Dancing (1987) is set at the fictional Kellerman's, a Catskill Mountain resort, in 1963. There Frances "Baby" Houseman is on vacation with her father, Dr. Jake Houseman (Jerry Orbach); her mother, Marjorie (Kelly Bishop); and her sister, Lisa (Jane Brucker). To the great consternation of her father, Baby falls in love with dance instructor Johnny Castle (Patrick Swayze). Cynthia Rhodes is on hand as Johnny's dance partner, Penny; and Jack Weston is hotel owner Max Kellerman.

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 while he stays at a hotel in Beverly Hills. When she is snubbed at a Rodeo Drive boutique, she is rescued by hotel manager (Hector Elizondo), who helps her

find suitable clothing. Jason Alexander appears as Philip Stuckey, Lewis's smarmy lawyer; and Ralph Bellamy is company owner James Morse, who teaches Lewis that love is more important than money.

Set at the Beresford Hotel in New York City, **Maid in Manhattan** (2002) is a romantic comedy about a case of mistaken identity in which hotel maid Marisa Ventura (Jennifer Lopez) and senatorial candidate Christopher Marshall (Ralph Fiennes), a high-profile politician, fall in love. This horrifies both Marshall's assistant, Jerry Siegel (Stanley Tucci), and socialite Caroline Lane (Natasha Richardson). Ventura's son, Ty (Tyler Posey), a very bright young boy who idolizes Nixon, is taken under the wing of the hotel's head butler, Lionel Bloch (Bob Hoskins), and is instrumental in creating the predictable happy ending.

The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014) is a comedy with a very complex plot. It stars Ralph Fiennes as Monsieur Gustave H. the hotel's devoted concierge who relies on lobby boy Zero Moustafa (Tony Revolori) to prove his innocence after he is framed for murder. Set between the two world wars, the story involves the theft and recovery of a priceless painting, bequeathed by "Madame D" Desgoffe und Taxis (Tilda Swinton) to someone outside the family. Madame D's irate son, Dimitri (Adrian

Brody), hires J. G. Jopling (Willem Dafoe), a cold-blooded assassin, to retrieve the painting. Other various roles are held by Jeff Goldblum, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, F. Murray Abraham, Jude Law, Harvey Keitel, Tom Wilkinson and Owen Wilson.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2012) is a delightful story of seven financially strapped men and women of retirement age who are lured to spend their declining years at a hotel in Jaipur, India, run by the young and enthusiastic Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel). The splendid ensemble cast includes Judi Dench as Evelyn Greenlade, a widow whose husband has squandered their savings; Maggie Smith as Muriel Donnelly, a racist retired housekeeper in need of a hip replacement; Tom Wilkinson as Graham Dashwood, a gay high court judge with a haunting secret; Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton as Douglas and Jean Ainslie, a bickering couple who sank their life savings into their daughter's unsuccessful business venture; and Celia Imrie and Ronald Pickup as Madge Hardcastle and Norman Cousins, adventurous older singles on the prowl for romance. I am very much looking forward to the 2015 release of **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, which has added Richard Gere to the already awesome cast.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

NOVEMBER'S LAST HURRAH

Fiery and muted November is here. The smoke from the fire drifts in and out of the woods in Saugerties, where I am laying the garden to bed. The potting shed is filled with bales of peat, leaf mold, and my weathered tools, which are ready for sharpening before the first snow.

I am glad for all the plants that give the garden their last dying embers of color. The Japanese maple, the enkianthus, the molinia grass, the sargent crab apple flaring its sunburst colors, a garden in copper and bronze.

I pack my seven-inch terracotta pots with small narcissus, hyacinths and Siberian squill and bury them in the garden. I dig them out in March so I have early flowers come spring. I remind myself to wear gloves, for I love the feel of the rich earth. This is the time to mulch the garden with compost and farmyard manure.

When planting bulbs, swing your arm and let the bulbs roll to the ground so it looks natural. Or you can dig out small oblong ditches to fill with bulbs, creating drifts. This year white lily-flowered tulips, cammassias, allium graceful beauty and blue scilla will be planted.

The sun sinks lower in the sky and the shadows grow longer. Only the cyclamen looks fresh and the meadow saffron, tiny triumphs of the season. The last of the asters have been propped up and tied with string. Aster tartaricus measures six feet tall and is in full bloom this month, the last of the last. The hellebore leaves still look dark, shiny and lovely, so they are left until a day in February when it is not too cold to go out and cut them away. This accentuates the flowers, so ravishing without their tattered company. Hopefully you have planted an evergreen groundcover with them.

Berries adorn the hollies, and the fruit of the rosa rugosa are tomato red. The tea viburnum bends toward the ground, heavily laden



Photo by MARY COLBY

Chinese lantern (physalis alkekengi)

with fruit for the birds. The color of zinnias seems all the more intense as they await their death, and the red twig dogwoods are just beginning to flame rust. Beneath them mushrooms have sprung from the soggy ground.

My favorite small tree is the weeping pear, pyrus salicifolia pendula. It is covered with small pears that are so ornamental; the squirrels agree for they are hoarding them deep along with their acorns. Buy it from Greer Gardens.

It is time to cut down all that is brown and sad, but leave the grasses, as they look beautiful with evergreens that are now center stage. It is time to go inside by the fire. I pack up the seeds that have been collected for the coming year. I label and bundle them together with raffia before putting them in the fridge. The garden has been swept and dusted; there is a sense of competition and a satisfaction in finishing the related chores. It is a time for cooking, Thanksgiving and liniment for your back and wrist.

Mary Colby is available for consultation and for designing gardens. Call 917-804-4509.



Public School 175

Our school year is off to a wonderful start. In addition to the academic work that students do each day, teachers are planning wonderful trips to supplement the curriculum. Some of the exciting trips include kindergarten pumpkin picking at the American Legion, the second grade's trip to the Skyscraper Museum, the third and fifth grades going to the Botanical Garden, the fourth grade going to Ward Pound Ridge Reservation and the Bronx Zoo, and the sixth-grade trip to the American Museum of Natural History and Randall's Island Urban Farm. In addition, almost all of our seventh- and eighth-graders went on their first Reward Trip to Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach!

Student government elections have taken place in grades four through eight, and Penny Harvest is just getting started. Elected students from the fourth through eighth grades will work with our new student government leader Jonah Hammond to decide where to donate the money that is collected during the harvest.

Thanks to the generosity of Councilman James Vacca, we are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide musical and theatrical arts to our students. Fifth-grade students will put on a spring performance of "Aladdin." In addition, thanks to the generosity of our PTA, we are able to continue our work with the Lincoln Center Institute in grades

K through three. This year's units of study are "H'Sao: Oria," which is a study of Afrobeat music with a social justice tinge, and a theater study of "Sleeping Beauty." The PTA's generosity is also enabling us to provide an afterschool choral program for our many talented student vocalists!

The building continues to buzz after regular school hours. The Sports & Arts program, which serves students in grades six through eight, includes a sports component that changes throughout the year, as well as homework help, art and games. Another component of the Sports & Arts program is the many exciting trips that students attend during school holidays.

Several exciting events will be taking place in the weeks to come. These include our annual Halloween Fun Morning for students in grades K through three; Halloween movie and snacks for fourth- and fifth-graders, and the Halloween Dance for our students in grades six to eight. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale on Nov. 4. We hope to see many of you there! As always, we are greatly appreciative for all of the support we get from our community!!!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 4, Election Day; school closed for students; Nov. 11, Veterans Day; school closed; Nov. 13, Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

Citizens-of-the-Month

September Citizens-of-the-Month are Oisin Daly and Thomas Cullen (kindergarten); Ariana Jefferson (first grade); Mikayla Murphy and Antalya Rodriguez (second grade); Christopher Vazquez (third grade); Chris Crowe and Matthew McLaughan (fourth grade); Jackson Wepler and Marie Cullen (fifth grade); Aidan Sanchez and Jenna Feliciano (sixth grade); Kiana Cancel and Joseph Cruz (seventh grade); Kevin Ukaj and Leena Peloso (eighth grade). Criteria for Citizens-of-the-Month revolves around attitude and behavior, not academics. These criteria include showing respect for others, displaying a sense of cooperation, demonstrating friendship and helpfulness toward others and following school and classroom rules.



CITY ISLAND

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An Attitude of Gratitude Goes a Long Way!

By JOHN SCARDINA

In this month of Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday of the year, maybe we can each start some new traditions in our families.

- Create a "wall of thanks." Have sticky notes and pencils available, and designate a wall in the house as a place to display what we are thankful for. If you are hosting your extended family for Thanksgiving, have them join in. Then share the entire wall as part of your grace before the meal.

- Practice random acts of kindness and then pay it forward. Buy a drink for the person behind you at the coffee shop; pick a bouquet of flowers and hand them out one by one on the street; clean up the street in front of a stranger's house; help someone carry the groceries. And they said this would never work in NYC!

- Help to serve meals at a shelter; contribute to our own City Island Thanksgiving events; get the kids involved in

preparing the food, setting the table, etc. Service is the best way to develop empathy in young people and ourselves.

- Put on a Thanksgiving play or skit: get everyone involved! Explore themes of generosity, fellowship and community.

- Have each family member pick one person whom he or she knows personally and will honor on this day: a beloved relative who has passed away, a role model, a kind colleague at work. Share what you admire about this person and how you will try to carry on their good works.

- Be creative. Come up with your own ideas!

City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com. His parent discussion groups meet at the CI Community Center the last Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

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HH = hours; MM = minutes
Tide chart by Tom Smith

NOVEMBER 2014									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0054	0.59	0643	7.35	1338	0.74	1915	7.24	Sat 01
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 2									
02 Sun	0114	0.37	0711	7.66	1352	0.22	1945	7.41	Sun 02
03 Mon	0216	0.04	0814	8.05	1452	-0.34	2047	7.66	Mon 03
04 Tue	0311	-0.28	0909	8.40	1547	-0.83	2141	7.85	Tue 04
05 Wed	0402	-0.50	0958	8.63	1638	-1.14	2231	7.95	Wed 05
06 Thu	0451	-0.59	1045	8.71	1727	-1.25	2318	7.94	Thu 06
07 Fri	0537	-0.53	1130	8.65	1813	-1.16			Fri 07
08 Sat	0004	7.83	0620	-0.32	1213	8.45	1859	-0.88	Sat 08
09 Sun	0049	7.64	0703	0.00	1255	8.16	1944	-0.47	Sun 09
10 Mon	0135	7.42	0744	0.39	1337	7.81	2029	0.01	Mon 10
11 Tue	0223	7.20	0823	0.80	1422	7.44	2113	0.47	Tue 11
12 Wed	0314	7.01	0904	1.16	1513	7.09	2201	0.88	Wed 12
13 Thu	0411	6.89	0959	1.45	1621	6.81	2251	1.19	Thu 13
14 Fri	0510	6.86	1111	1.61	1730	6.66	2345	1.36	Fri 14
15 Sat	0607	6.92	1216	1.59	1830	6.63			Sat 15
16 Sun	0036	1.40	0659	7.05	1312	1.42	1924	6.68	Sun 16
17 Mon	0124	1.32	0746	7.22	1403	1.14	2012	6.78	Mon 17
18 Tue	0204	1.17	0827	7.39	1447	0.81	2054	6.89	Tue 18
19 Wed	0237	0.96	0856	7.58	1527	0.46	2127	7.01	Wed 19
20 Thu	0307	0.71	0914	7.80	1602	0.12	2151	7.15	Thu 20
21 Fri	0341	0.45	0943	8.06	1634	-0.18	2218	7.32	Fri 21
22 Sat	0420	0.22	1019	8.31	1708	-0.42	2255	7.49	Sat 22
23 Sun	0502	0.06	1101	8.47	1747	-0.57	2336	7.62	Sun 23
24 Mon	0547	-0.02	1145	8.52	1830	-0.61			Mon 24
25 Tue	0022	7.67	0635	0.01	1232	8.42	1916	-0.53	Tue 25
26 Wed	0110	7.65	0726	0.12	1323	8.18	2008	-0.34	Wed 26
27 Thu	0204	7.56	0824	0.31	1419	7.81	2107	-0.10	Thu 27
28 Fri	0303	7.43	0933	0.48	1522	7.39	2220	0.12	Fri 28
29 Sat	0414	7.35	1110	0.51	1639	7.04	2345	0.20	Sat 29
30 Sun	0545	7.41	1232	0.26	1823	6.94			Sun 30
DECEMBER 2014									
01 Mon	0056	0.12	0700	7.64	1340	-0.14	1936	7.05	Mon 01
02 Tue	0158	-0.05	0802	7.92	1439	-0.56	2035	7.22	Tue 02
03 Wed	0254	-0.24	0856	8.16	1533	-0.91	2129	7.38	Wed 03
04 Thu	0347	-0.38	0947	8.32	1624	-1.13	2219	7.48	Thu 04
05 Fri	0435	-0.43	1034	8.36	1712	-1.18	2306	7.52	Fri 05
06 Sat	0521	-0.37	1118	8.29	1757	-1.06	2350	7.48	Sat 06



BRIDGE TO THE PAST

The long history of the City Island bridge is about to get a lot longer. As many of us know, the present bridge was part of a package deal put together by representatives of the City of New York one hundred-plus years ago in their effort to convince City Island residents at that time to vote in favor of leaving Westchester County—specifically the town of Pelham—to become part of New York City via annexation. The new steel structure was to replace the older, wooden bridge, which had been standing since Dec. 1, 1873. The cost of building what was then the new City Island bridge was about \$200,000. The new bridge was opened to the public on July 4, 1901, about two and a half years after construction began.

For most of us, the history ends about there. But two interesting facts have come to light recently that we would like to bring to your attention. First, according to local historian Blake Bell, “in 1804 the [New York] State Legislature passed an act allowing the

construction of a bridge between the island [i.e., City Island] and the mainland, and subscriptions were started for its erection; but the attempt failed for want of support.” No doubt this came as a relief to the barge and ferry-men and women who were the beneficiaries of the bridgeless state of our island at that distant time.

Before that, even, in 1775, another act was passed with the same intention. A portion of the legislation is reprinted here:

Be it therefore Enacted by his Honor the Lieutenant Governor the Council and the General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That Samuel Rodman Senior, and Benjamin Palmer both of the said Manor of Pelham and County of West Chester shall be, and they are hereby empowered to erect and build a draw Bridge over the said Narrows from Rodman’s Neck to Minifords Island as aforesaid in such Place as they the said Samuel Rodman Senior and Benjamin Palmer shall judge most fit, Provided that in such Bridge there shall be two or more Apertures of at least twenty five Feet each, for the Convenience of navigating the said River by small Boats: And the said Bridge when so built shall be and is hereby declared to be a free and public Highway for the Use Benefit and Behoof of all his Majesty’s Subjects whatsoever.

The law went on to say that Rodman and Palmer had seven years to complete construction of their bridge, which we are convinced would have happened had it not been for the onset of the American Revolution.

Regular readers of this column will be familiar with the debt of gratitude we owe to Blake Bell, Pelham’s own town historian. We have often turned to his blog for inspiration, which we invite you all to do at www.historicpelham.blogspot.com. He hadn’t been posting for the last few years, but he’s back now, and, if recent posts are any indication, his reports are better than ever.

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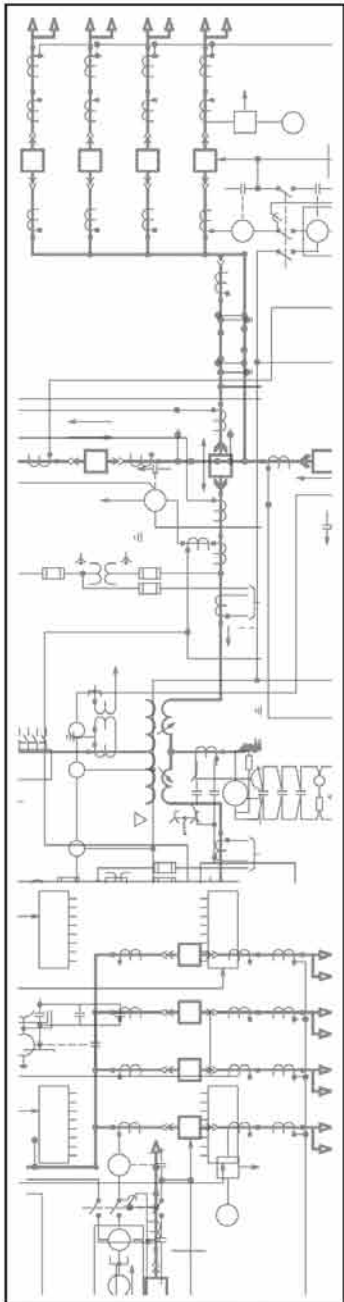
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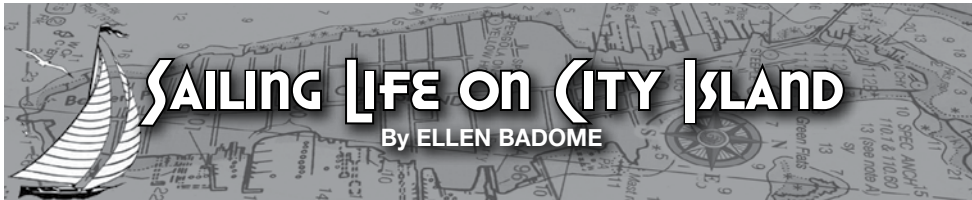


Photo by FRANCINE ALHEID

The Fleet 61 Hoxie One Design Regatta, on Aug. 23, 2014.

Fall for Racing Sailors

The fall season is an amazing time for sailors. Fleet 61's J24 sailboats move their Open Monday Night series to Sunday afternoons to take advantage of the daylight, and Wednesday night racing for both the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association and Fleet 61 finishes in mid-September. Another indication that summer sailing on City Island is winding down becomes evident when the Harlem Yacht Club Friday Night Twilight Series and the City Island Yacht Club Jam Series come to an end. One might think that the end is beginning, but not so. Fall racing, boat shows and awards ceremonies have only started!

Although fall racing on City Island is limited to September and October weekends for Fleet 61 and the City Island Yacht Club, many racers move off Island for weekend fall series racing at nearby Westchester and Long Island yacht clubs. The American Yacht Club Fall Series, which is extremely popular, ran for two consecutive weekends, Sept. 27 and 28 and Oct. 4 and 5. The weather for these races ran the gamut from sunny, windless days, or blowing stink as they call it, combined with rainy or cloudy blustery days. The day was not limited to one race; there were multiple races each day so stamina was required.

Captains needed to cajole, coerce and capture crew to take on races like this year's Indian Harbor Yacht Club's "Gearbuster," which was held this year on a rainy Oct. 11. This is an annual race with several divisions and two courses. Racers had the choice of the 19-mile course from Greenwich to Stratford Shoal and back or a shorter course to Eaton's Neck and back for boats without spinnaker. The 36th annual Manhasset Bay Fall Series was hosted by Manhasset Bay Yacht Club on Oct. 18 through 20.

There is one important race in November, and it is not for the faint of heart, that is if your boat isn't already hauled. Crews can work off Thanksgiving calories by entering the Turkey Day Reach on Nov. 29, held jointly by the New York Athletic Club and the Huguenot Yacht Club in New Rochelle.

If sailors weren't racing this fall, they were apt to be attending boat shows, where they could buy a luxurious Hanse 505, which was featured at the McMichael Boat show in Mamaroneck on Oct. 25 and 26. Or, if they felt the urge, they could have traveled farther south to Annapolis, which hosted an in-water boat show on Oct. 9-13 that was not to be missed. Sailors get great

deals on jackets, personal flotation devices and sail bags, and if the bank account allows, they can plunk down a few extra bucks and pick up an Island Packet 37.

November weekends find sailors with fading tans beginning to prepare for the onslaught of awards ceremonies. The anticipation of these events held on cold crisp days and nights when racers actually take off their hats, gloves and knee pads and dress up, sip wine and eat from china plates may help the feeling of melancholy that accompanies the end of the racing season. Sailors prepare speeches to accept trophies and pose for picture ops. Those last dark-and-stormies are imbibed as the sailors recount the close-hauled, nail-biting finishes of summer. As captains' names are called, they step up to receive gleaming silver trophies etched forever with the name of their boat, division and place.

Although hearing the words "...and the winner is..." never replaces the excitement of an actual race, a good party can take some of the sting out. The City Island Yacht Club kicks off the season by hosting the always delicious CIYC Regatta Awards Brunch on Nov. 2 at 1 p.m. This year, the chowder award-winning Morris Yacht Club will host the EBYRA Awards ceremony on Dec. 6, in the late afternoon. The Fleet 61 Awards are held in early January; details were not yet known at press time. For some pure laughs, Larchmont Yacht Club hosts the Moosehead Luncheon on Nov. 2, which is an annual meeting of the International Society of the Perpetuation of Cruelty to Racing Yachtsmen that recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of race *mismanagement!*

As the fall winds down and thoughts of holiday gatherings begin, there are some who start planning their winter vacations racing in exotic locals such as St. Maarten, and there are some brave racers who for the winter months participate in the Frostbite race series in Manhasset Bay. But for most, it is winterizing boats, cleaning out closets and dreaming of next season.

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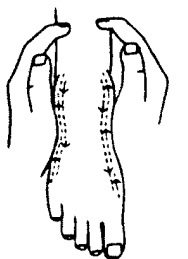
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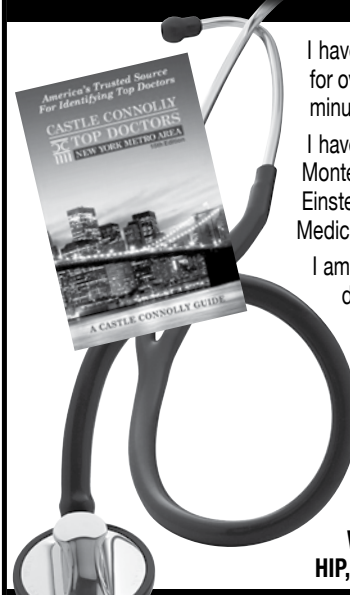
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Bruce Weiss and Tsuyako Sandy Dunn

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Bruce Alan Weis and Tsuyako Sandy Dunn, who were wed on a bright and sunny Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014, at Grace Episcopal Church. The Rev. Ruth Ann Garcia was the celebrant, and the wedding ceremony was well attended by family and friends. The celebration continued with a reception at the Harlem Yacht Club and a wonderful time was had by all.

Birthday greetings on Nov. 4 to Richie Ferris, with lots of love from your family. We wish you all the best!

Happy birthday wishes on Nov. 12 to Winter Street's Bobby Swieciki, with love from Mom and Dad, Stephen and little Maria.

Everyone had a wonderful time at Tony Pascazio's surprise 70th birthday party on Sept. 20 at the City Island Lobster House. Helping Tony blow out the candles were



Christopher Martin Cusmano Jr. (C.J.)

his grandchildren Anthony and Sarah, who came up from Florida to help celebrate their grandpa's big day.

Pilot Street's Christopher Hennessy married Erin Kuntz on Aug. 1, 2014, at St. Stephen the First Martyr Church in Warwick, NY. The couple met as undergraduate students at SUNY Geneseo. The bride is a recent graduate of Hofstra University School of Law, and the groom is a first year medical student at Hofstra North Shore – LIJ School of Medicine.

City Island's Chase Bank manager, Christopher Cusmano and his wife, Lisa, and son, Jack, are happy to welcome the newest addition to their family, Christopher Martin Jr., born Sept. 26, 2014.

Happy birthday to our wonderful son, Nick Ruggiero, who turns 20 on Nov. 21, 2014, with love from your proud parents.

A very grateful "thank you" on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11 (and every day), to all our veterans who have served proudly. We appreciate your service!

We wish all our readers, neighbors and friends a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Maria Swieciki

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Photo courtesy of the HENNESSY FAMILY
 Pilot Street's Christopher Hennessy married Erin Kuntz on Aug. 1, 2014, at St. Stephen the First Martyr Catholic Church in Warwick, NY.



Photo courtesy of the PASCAZIO FAMILY
 Tony Pascazio's surprise 70th birthday party was held on Sept. 20 at the Lobster House.

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