

The Island Current

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One Dollar

City Island by the Numbers

By KAREN NANI

COVID & Vaccine Data for the Bronx by Zip Code—Aug.15

| Zip Code | Bronx Neighborhood | COVID % Positive | Dose1 | Dose2 | Total Deaths |
|----------|--|------------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 10451 | Concourse/Lefferts | 3.70% | 58% | 51% | 248 |
| 10452 | Concourse/Highbridge | 3.90% | 55% | 48% | 311 |
| 10451 | Morris Heights/Mount Hope/University Heights | 5.05% | 52% | 45% | 101 |
| 10454 | Yankee Haven/Port Morris | 5.62% | 51% | 44% | 186 |
| 10455 | Mount Haven | 4.78% | 51% | 45% | 155 |
| 10456 | Claremont/Morrisania | 3.05% | 48% | 41% | 446 |
| 10457 | Belmont/Claremont/Mount Hope/Treasure | 4.25% | 51% | 43% | 318 |
| 10458 | Belmont/Farman University/Kingsbridge | 3.63% | 51% | 44% | 236 |
| 10459 | Charlotte Gardens/Hunts Point | 5.72% | 51% | 44% | 262 |
| 10460 | Charlotte Gardens/Tremont/Van Nest/West Farms | 3.87% | 48% | 41% | 240 |
| 10461 | Morris Park/Pelham Bay/Westchester Square | 3.41% | 48% | 42% | 220 |
| 10462 | Parkchester/Pelham Parkway/Van Nest/Westchester Square | 4.51% | 64% | 57% | 255 |
| 10463 | Kingsbridge/Marble Hill/Riverdale/Spuyten-Duyvil | 3.38% | 67% | 59% | 368 |
| 10464 | City Island | 5.41% | 69% | 64% | 76 |
| 10465 | Country Club/Throgs Neck | 5.81% | 54% | 48% | 188 |
| 10466 | Edgewater/Wakefield | 5.73% | 46% | 40% | 258 |
| 10467 | Allerton/Bronxwood/Pelham Bay/Williamsbridge | 4.11% | 52% | 45% | 528 |
| 10468 | Fordham/Kingsbridge/University Heights | 3.47% | 53% | 46% | 331 |
| 10469 | Allerton/Daycheste/Pelham Gdns/Williamsbridge | 4.50% | 50% | 44% | 500 |
| 10470 | Wakefield/Woodlawn | 5.27% | 50% | 51% | 45 |
| 10471 | Fieldston/Morris Heights/Riverdale | 3.02% | 71% | 66% | 118 |
| 10472 | Spuyten-Duyvil | 4.41% | 57% | 46% | 308 |
| 10473 | Castle Hill/Class Point/Spanish Water | 4.06% | 57% | 46% | 255 |
| 10474 | Hunts Point | 4.63% | 46% | 40% | 40 |
| 10475 | Loxton City/Edgewater | 3.46% | 57% | 51% | 244 |

<http://www.bronx.gov/ia/index/misid/covid-19-data> page Data from August, 15, 2021

What do approximately 70 percent of Island residents have in common? It depends on which results you look at—the 2020 U.S. Census, the Covid and Vaccine Data for the Bronx or the 2021 Primary Election results. Lots of data has been released recently providing snapshots of the population of City Island, including good, interesting and bad news.

2020 U.S. Census

The federal government's 2020 Census was completed last year under more difficult conditions than usual. Reaching people and households during the pandemic caused delays and political controversy. Nevertheless, some results by country, state, city and zip code are now available on the United States Census Bureau website if you are willing to navigate the many maps and categories.

The 2020 Census shows that the resident population of the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia, was 331,449,281 as of April 1, 2020, an increase of 7.4 percent since the 2010 Census.

John Doyle of City Island Rising zoomed in on our Island home in the Bronx and provided many interesting facts about the population of City Island. From 2010 to 2020, the total population increased from 4,026 to 4,445, an increase of 10 percent, higher than the national increase. The total number of "occupied households" increased from 1,777 in 2010 to 2,065 in 2020 (+16 percent).

Like the rest of the country, City Island is becoming more diverse in terms of race. In 2010, 71 percent (2,860) of residents

identified themselves as "white alone." In 2020, that number dropped to 67 percent (2,976) with "Hispanic or Latino" accounting for an additional 26 percent, Black/African American totaling 9 percent, and Asian 6 percent. (The numbers add up to more than 100 percent because those who answered can identify with more than one ethnic group in combination.)

In 2010, there were more women than men on City Island (51 percent vs. 49 percent). In 2020, 84 percent of Islanders were over the age of 18. Data is still being released in order to draw comparisons between 2010 and 2020 in these categories.

City Island's median income is \$94,519, according to early data published by the Justice Map (<http://www.justicemap.org/index.php>). (Remember, the median is the midpoint of the income data range compared to the average.)

If you want to scour through the U.S. 2020 Census data about City Island and other parts of the city or country, go to <https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2566121a73de463995ed2b2fd7ff6eb7>.

Covid and Vaccine Data for the Bronx

As the return to school looms near, the Bronx Borough President's office has been looking at the Covid positivity and vaccination rates very closely. According to Islander Nancy Kheck, Bronx Director of Health and Human Services, City Island has the second highest vaccination rate in the Bronx, surpassed only by Riverdale. Sixty-nine percent of Islanders have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and 64 percent are fully vaccinated

(see chart).

However, with the rise of the Delta variant, every few weeks the infection rates have been increasing. "Less than a month ago, most of the zips reported 1% to 1.5% positive for Covid-19. Now we're above 5% on City Island," Ms. Kheck told *The Current* based on data through Aug. 15, 2021.

While new mask mandates are coming from the mayor's office, the borough president also recommends caution. "For all my beloved senior friends, please keep masking and stay safe and well."

2021 New York Primary Election

It was another (primary) election unlike any other with 628 Island residents in 2021 voting in person on June 22 wearing masks or sending in absentee ballots.

In addition, New York City used ranked-choice voting for the first time in 2021 for Primary and Special Elections for the offices of Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council, owing to an amendment in the City Charter approved by voters in 2019.

According to the Board of Elections, this meant that voters could rank up to five candidates in order of preference: "your first choice candidate, your second choice candidate, and so on up to your fifth choice candidate."

Although the absentee ballots have not been included in these counts, Island residents voting in person chose Kathryn Garcia as the Democratic candidate for mayor, and the citywide winner was Eric Adams. Mr. Adams received 19 percent of Islanders' Democratic votes.

The following table indicates some of the tallies, based on the Primary Election Day in-person* vote total from City Island's four Election Districts (60, 61, 62 and 63).

| Race/Candidate | # C.I. Votes* |
|--|---------------|
| Mayor | |
| Kathryn Garcia (D) | 182 |
| Maya Wiley (D) | 104 |
| Eric Adams (D) | 102 |
| Andrew Yang (D) | 57 |
| Scott Stringer (D) | 45 |
| Curtis Sliwa (R) | 66 |
| Fernando Mateo (R) | 38 |
| Projected Citywide Primary winners: Eric Adams (D), Curtis Sliwa (R) | |

Bronx Borough President

| | |
|--|-----|
| Fernando Cabrera (D) | 164 |
| Nathalia Fernandez (D) | 142 |
| Vanessa Gibson (D) | 118 |
| Projected Borough Primary Winner: Vanessa Gibson | |

Continued on page 5

Seashore School in Summer: What Oysters Can Teach Us

By BARBARA ZAHM and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

This summer the City Island Yacht Club's Summer Sailing Camp made a visit to one of the sites on City Island where cages filled with oysters have been suspended in the water in order for the City Island Oyster Reef volunteers to evaluate their growth over several months. Here, Sally Connolly, chair of CIOR, and adviser Christine Frohner explain to the campers how the oysters are measured and what other marine species have been found in the cages.

The City Island summer experience was greatly enhanced this year by two programs designed for the benefit of young people in our community. First, City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) teamed up with the summer school program offered at P.S. 175 to provide a hands-on educational experience for students interested in learning about our local marine environment. Additionally, the City Island Yacht Club hosted a junior sailing program, which introduced the joy of sailing and

love of Long Island Sound to the next generation of sailors. Both of these wonderful programs gave participants the opportunity to explore their interest in our local natural environment and to make the most of summertime on City Island.

City Island Oyster Reef understands the importance of educating and involving the community in its programs, and has received grant funding from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund to develop

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BRIEFLY...

MARK WHITCOMBE EXHIBITION is on view at the City Island Nautical Museum, open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The museum requires masks and vaccination proof, but don't let that stop you from enjoying this wonderful collection of City Island scenes.

VIVA LA SOUND EDUCATIONAL FESTIVAL: City Island Oyster Reef will host a special free event for families and friends of the environment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2 (rain date Oct. 3), at Ambrosini Field. There will be many hands-on activities, including a marine touch tank, diving demonstrations and a creative arts program, with live music and delicious food from the City Island restaurants.

THE 2021 CITY ISLAND FALL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR will be held on Sept. 11 and 12, rain or shine. In addition to arts and crafts, the Chamber of Commerce will provide music in the late afternoon both days and the annual clam chowder contest on Sunday afternoon.

"ROYAL TENENBAUMS" and a short video about movie making on City Island will be shown on the lawn at 21 Tier Street on Friday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. as a fundraiser for City Island Oyster Reef. Bring your own chair, drinks and supper; water and popcorn provided! Donation: \$10 per person.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during June, July and August 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 - ATTEMPTED BURGLARY
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - STRANGULATION
- 1 - RECKLESS ENDANGEMENT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from June 23 to Aug. 21, 2021.

6/23 - An off-Island female, 31, was walking on City Island and Shore Road when an unknown male approached her from behind around 3:30 p.m. The perpetrator pushed her to the ground and put his hands around her face and neck, then removed her cell phone, which was later recovered by police from the 45th Precinct. The case remains under investigation and no arrest has been made. The victim survived the attack.

7/9 - On Bridge Street at a commercial establishment at 8:30 p.m., an off-Island male employee was slapped by an unknown person who became angry at the valet service.

7/12 - A female Islander, 53, was a vic-

tim of grand larceny at 11:18 a.m. on Pell Place. The victim told police that she received a phone call claiming to be from Con Edison explaining that her account was past due and that her power would be shut off. The victim transferred two cash payments of \$998 each before calling Con Edison, which confirmed that this was a telephone scam.

7/24 - On Carroll Street at 1:15 p.m., a male Islander reported an attempted burglary. An unknown male was seen on a ladder looking into the window of a second-floor residence, but left the scene before forcing entry.

7/25 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 3 a.m., a male Islander told police that he was assaulted by three unknown people, who hit him with a glass bottle and then damaged his vehicle by throwing a rock through the windshield.

8/4 - A power boat docked at a restaurant at the north end of City Island caught fire. According to witnesses, there were more than 20 people on board and reports of 10 injuries, including three that required hospitalization.

8/7 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 25, at 7:39 p.m. for reckless endangerment and DWI. Police observed the vehicle driving recklessly on City Island Avenue and attempted to apprehend the driver. After being stopped in the fire lane, the defendant came out of the car and was irate and combative. There were two children in the car with the defendant, who admitted to police that he had been drinking.

8/21 - At 12:20 p.m., an off-Island male was riding his bicycle in the fire lane on City Island when he was struck by a moving vehicle, which then fled the scene of the accident.

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Photos courtesy of THE SCHALLER FAMILY

On June 29, 2021, the family of Islander Joseph Schaller (top photo) attended a ceremony held by the New Rochelle Police Department to honor Commissioner Schaller (saluting above), who retired after nearly five decades in the department.

Water Project Nears Completion

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Department of Design and Construction has finished installing the two 20-inch subaqueous water mains that now serve as the sole water supply to City Island. Before activating the new water mains, the pipes were disinfected and flushed, and the quality of water was tested. The quality of water did not change through this project, and if residents are experiencing any changes in quality, they should contact 311.

The contractor is now installing 150 feet of new storm sewers to carry storm-water runoff into Eastchester Bay through

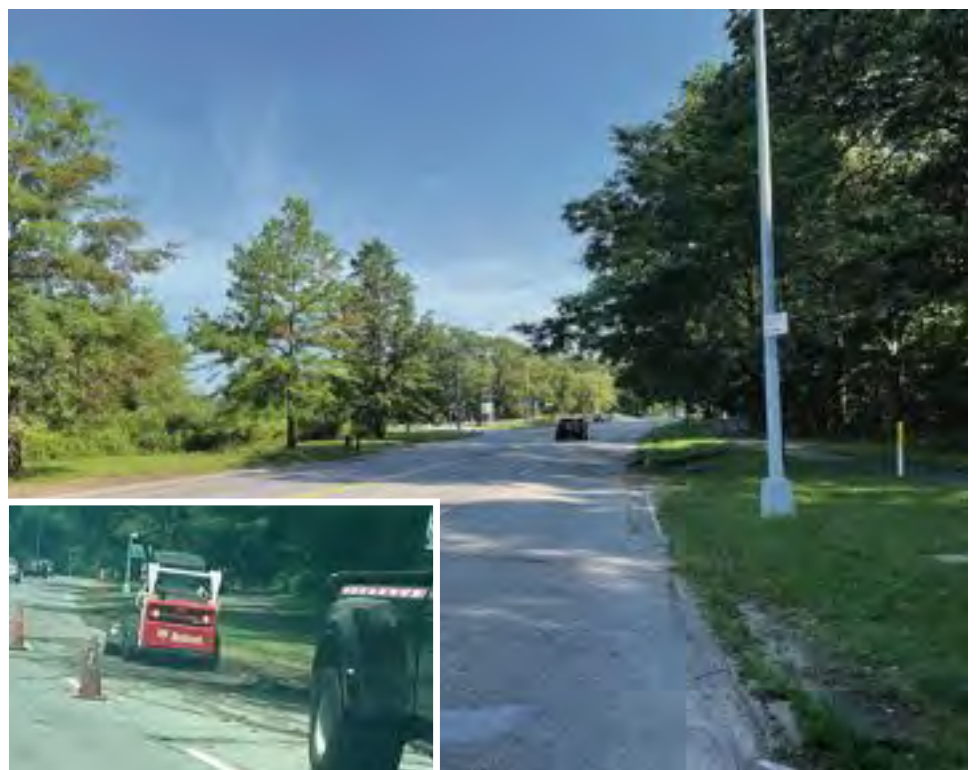
the outfall that will be installed at City Island Avenue and Kilroe Street.

The land build out by the Seashore parking lot is now being removed and should be gone by the end of the summer. The old water main on the bridge is also in the process of being removed and is anticipated to be fully removed during the fall.

The project, including the work in Pelham Bay Park and the restoration of City Island Avenue near the work site, is anticipated to be completed during the coming winter.

“Lake Orchard” Drained, for the Moment

By KAREN NANI



Photos by JOHN DOYLE and BARBARA DOLENSEK

“Lake Orchard,” as some have nicknamed the spot on Park Drive which repeatedly flooded whenever it rained, was drained and fixed in July 2021, at least temporarily.

For years, many Island drivers, joggers and cyclists have navigated around the ever-present puddle on the road to Orchard Beach. The low spot floods whenever it rains, freezes during the winter and creates a muddy mess, despite numerous requests from Islanders asking the city to fix the problem.

Finally, “Lake Orchard,” as some have nicknamed the spot on Park Drive, was drained and fixed in July 2021, at least temporarily. Miguel Rondon on the mayor’s staff brought the agencies together in May to figure out how to finally fix the problem, and work began within a couple of months. DEP worked on the drainage problem and the Parks Department placed logs around the area to control the flow of water. And so far it has worked, even after the deluge on Aug. 23 and 24.

“Lake Orchard was not being fixed because of a lack of coordination and bureaucratic mismanagement,” John Doyle of City Island Rising told *The Current*. He attended the meeting in May, along with Luisa Benedetto, and Barbara Dolensek and Adjie Henderson from the City Island Oyster Reef and the Hutchinson River Restoration Project.

Three New York City agencies are involved in the maintenance of the roads around Orchard Beach: Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). All were aware of the problem but bureaucratic finger-pointing prevented any long-term solution.

“It’s a complicated issue,” Ms. Dolensek explained. “A DOT commissioner told me a few years ago, ‘If you build a road in a swamp, that’s what happens.’ The problem with that site is that Parks, DEP and DOT share responsibility, which means that it is rare when they actually get together to work on this problem.” One of the DEP representatives explained to Ms. Dolensek that when the park was built in the 1930s by Robert Moses, he essentially ran all those departments!

The same situation exists with Shore Road, which floods regularly and requires the joint participation of Parks, DEP and DOT. According to Tommy Breen, who has been pushing for the improvement of the road for several years, Councilman Mark Gjonaj was recently given a briefing on the preliminary design for the Shore Road capital project and plans to make this a priority. The design was to have been completed and presented to the community in August 2019 with the final design completed by the end of that year. However, the pandemic caused the preliminary design to become delayed, so the Department of Design and Construction, along with DOT and Parks, will not be presenting the preliminary plan to the community until the fall of this year.

Frustrated Islanders hope this latest remediation holds. Cleanup and repairs to the flooded area in the past have not lasted, and cones that were placed to alert drivers wound up frozen in the ice once the temperatures dropped.



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

City Island Land Use

To the Editor,
Thank you for publishing the City Island Civic Association's response to my article in the May issue of *The Current*. I appreciate the group's shared interest in improving the issue of City Island land use.

However, I would like to address some of the objections to the ideas in my article and express the hope that all Islanders will work together to change outdated land use provisions to make our land work for City Island in the 21st century.

The Civic letter indicated that the sample size for the land use survey I administered was too small and that the Civic will create and administer another. I wish the suggestion had been that we could all work together on increasing the sample size.

As I wrote in my article, my survey went through multiple tests, received support from two university professors and leveraged my expertise in public administration. With additional support, we could re-launch the survey and get more responses to the questions I developed and designed to help City Island begin unpacking our land use direction and potential.

Rather than focusing on the preservation of City Island's nautical flavor (which is not at risk), we need to center our conversation on the fact that City Island will never have the level of boat manufacturing we once had. My questions about new housing, new commercial spaces and new land use designations are the questions we need to be asking, no matter how complex and challenging they might be.

I believe that revisiting existing land designations is necessary, not, as the Civic letter puts it, "well intentioned, but not practical." If we let manufacturing zones continue where they are, we will not be able to prevent other non-nautical industrial businesses from coming into our manufacturing designated areas (i.e., 220 Schofield Street and U.S. Crane at Pilot Street). This is where the market for manufacturing spaces in New York City is right now, competitive and seeking any available space. And, worse, not revisiting our land use will continue to leave us with vacant storefronts.

I know change is hard, and I acknowledge that we have many different positions on what is needed to make City Island best, but I believe that we must work together on the challenges we need to address right now if we are to make any progress. We have an opportunity with the next City Council and Mayoral administration to make some of these changes, and I hope we can come together to strategize and operationalize our vision for that opportunity.

I remain committed to bringing in as many community members as possible to

this conversation. If the Civic, the Department of City Planning or other interested parties are interested in re-launching the survey as a next step to get more City Islanders' opinions on next steps for our land use designation, please let me know.

Lauren Nye

Blessing of the Fleet

To the Editor,
The City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 hosted City Island's annual Blessing of the Fleet held on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at Barron's Boatyard dock. This is a traditional, multi-denominational ceremony in which clergy and lay ministers bestow blessings on boats and boaters for a safe boating season. The ceremony opened with a blessing and floating on the water of a wreath of flowers in memory of shipmates who have passed.

This year, 35 boats of all sizes and shapes passed by the dock to be blessed. Thank you to the entire City Island community for contributing to the success of this event, in particular the American Legion Post 156 and Jason Barron and Fred Chandler from Barron's Boatyard; Dennis Gormley and Steve Kornspun for coordinating the on-water parade of boats; Noelva Vigoya for food setup and serving; Michael Croce for photography and videography; and Angela Croce for photography.

Barbara Mandarano

Developing Alerts for CI Re: Rodman's Neck Activity

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

To: Commissioner John Scrivani
NYC Emergency Management

We write to you today on behalf of the residents of the 45th Precinct concerning conditions at the Rodman's Neck Shooting Range. In past years, our community has worked closely with your agency to provide Notify NYC notifications for bomb detonations at the range. We are seeking to build upon that success by providing additional notifications to help people understand operations at this facility. With this in mind, we would like to work with your agency and the NYPD to develop the following alerts concerning the range:

Bomb Delivery: Over the years, particularly in 2018, when explosive devices were being driven to the range, roads were closed with Island residents and visitors left stranded. Many residents found out explosives were on route to Rodman's Neck by watching chopper footage on the news. As Notify NYC already informs residents of unexpected road closures due to traffic crashes, we hope we can develop a system to notify residents when roads will be closed due to explosives being transported to Rodman's Neck.

Shooting Schedule/Increased Activity at the Range: Our discussions with the NYPD indicate that heavy use and increased volume at the range or the use of louder weapons is usually well known in advance. Likely causes include the need to train graduating classes of police cadets at the range (meaning increased and intensified gunfire) or specialty units like the sniper teams that need to train at night (which indicates louder weapons). We understand that the NYPD may be limited in the information shared in advance that can be helpful to residents to



Photo by MICHAEL CROCE

The City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 hosted City Island's annual Blessing of the Fleet held on June 27, 2021, at Barron's Boatyard dock. Shown above are (l. to r.): Victor Anderson, Peter Del-Debbio (Commander), Joseph Goonan, Michael Jawski, Peter Booth and Robert Neglia from the Hawkins Post; Barbara Mandarano, Gary Mandarano (Commander), and Edward Shimansky from City Island Sail & Power Squadron; Deacon William Mueller (St. Mary, Star of the Sea), Father John Covington (Grace Episcopal Church), Stuart Sorell (Temple Beth-El), and Pastor David Jolly (Trinity United Methodist Church).

plan their lives accordingly. Increased and clear communication can allow everyone to live together peacefully.

Public Announcement System: Right now, many residents on City Island are awakened some mornings hearing the range's P.A. system clearly from their bedrooms. This is unacceptable. Perhaps NYCEM and the NYPD can work together on integrating a new technology to easily communicate on the range without disrupting the surrounding communities.

45th Precinct Community Council

Questions Concerning Rodman's Neck

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

To: Deputy Commissioner Ernest F. Hart
Deputy Inspector Joseph Notaro
New York City Police Department

We appreciate NYPD leadership taking the time to meet with our Council and Bronx Community Board 10 on June 9, 2021, to discuss Rodman's Neck. Following up on our discussions and our last series of correspondence, we are writing to you, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), to request additional information regarding our environmental concerns at your facility.

Per your last letter, we understand you conduct various testing of the range including soil samples, groundwater monitoring wells and air monitoring. As we have shared with you in past correspondence and meetings, there are deep concerns among the neighboring communities about the environmental conditions

surrounding the range. With this in mind, and pursuant to FOIL, we are respectfully requesting any and all readings that were captured from soil samples, groundwater monitoring wells, air monitoring stations or any other environmental report issued in the last ten years.

Additionally, we have been told by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that Albany hasn't assigned a project manager to review this site. Is this true? Can your agency please specify each agency the NYPD works with to ensure environmental compliance at this site and what their role is in this process? We have asked questions before concerning environmental conditions and we are told to FOIL the findings (which we have done again here) but we also believe that we need to see these findings to understand the full context of historical testing and within the environmental quality at the range itself. The more information you can provide about environmental monitoring, oversight, and compliance the better.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and should you require any further information, please contact either Robert Bieder, Community Council President, or John Doyle, Community Council Vice President, at rbieder@yahoo.com or doylejc1@gmail.com. We look forward to working with the NYPD and our partners in the community to provide answers to the questions outlined above.

45th Precinct Community Council

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Photo by SALLY CONNOLLY

Tanasia Swift from the Billion Oyster Project worked with P.S. 175 summer school students about the importance of oysters to marine ecology. Here she is showing them what marine organisms can be found in the water just behind the school.

Oysters

Continued from page 1

a Living Shoreline and Education Center behind Ambrosini Field and P.S. 175. The City Island Living Shoreline will include a pilot oyster reef, a restoration of the wetlands and an outdoor learning center where students and the City Island community can learn about the importance of marine and shoreline ecosystems. This summer CIOR partnered with the summer school program at P.S. 175 and the Billion Oyster Project to officially launch the educational center, where middle-school students were immersed in learning about oysters, marine biology and the significance of environmental restoration and protection.

Karen Heil, the P.S. 175 summer session science teacher, ran an outstanding six-week pilot oyster program for the middle school, which incorporated a curriculum developed by the Billion Oyster Project for indoor classroom work. Included, among other activities, were a review of the history of City Island and its historic connection to the oyster business and a study of the external and internal anatomy of oysters through observation and dissection. Students also learned about the importance of the shell in protecting the soft body of an oyster by designing and creating their own oyster shells and testing them in the school auditorium. And in coordination with CIOR team members, students visited the shoreline on multiple occasions to learn about different plant species in the area and to help remove invasive plants, such as Japanese knotweed, mugwort and oriental bittersweet. During these sessions the students came across many interesting insects, including praying mantises and dragonflies, as well as insect larvae.

Tanasia Swift from the Billion Oyster Project came out to City Island on July 29 to work with the P.S. 175 students. She explained the importance of oysters to marine ecology and why her organization is trying to bring back the oyster population to New York Harbor. Going out to the Living Shoreline area and using a seine net, the students were able to observe some of the living organisms found in the water right behind the school, such as mud crabs, shore shrimp and small killifish. They also were able to help put the oyster research station cage filled with tiny oysters (spat) in the water just off the shore. With the

support of the CIOR team, the students will be able to continue monitoring the growth of these oysters through the coming year.

On the west side of City Island, CIOR volunteers were involved in helping campers at the City Island Yacht Club's sailing school learn about shoreline ecology on July 23 and Aug. 6, when the youngsters came by boat to the float at the end of the dock off the City Island Wetlands at Tier Street.

After explaining that Eastchester Bay was once rich in oyster reefs and many different marine species, the CIOR group explained the life cycle of the oyster and what the oyster does to clean the water and to protect shorelines with its reefs made up of generations of shellfish. An oyster research station cage hanging from the float was pulled up, and the kids learned how the group regularly monitors the oyster growth, as well as recording the variety of other organisms in the cage. The reasons for water-quality monitoring were explained, along with the process and its importance in establishing scientific protocols. Then the group went ashore to examine the ribbed mussels that hold spartina grass in place and to see the rich variety of shells along the beach. Several of the campers and their counselors were clearly fascinated by this experience and have already started volunteering in CIOR activities.

CIOR will host an education festival, "Viva La Sound," on Saturday, Oct. 2 (rain date Oct. 3), in Ambrosini Field. All Island residents are welcome to attend this free event, whose purpose is to engage the community with hands-on activities that will foster a deeper understanding and enjoyment of Long Island Sound's shoreline. Food from City Island restaurants will be available, and entertainment will be provided. Island residents of all ages will be able to learn more about the programs being developed by the City Island Oyster Reef at the Viva La Sound Festival in October. Funding for this event is from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Future Fund.

In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to visit the CIOR website at www.cioysterreef.org to see what the group has been doing since it was established in 2019 and to learn how the City Island community can contribute to the efforts to clean the Island's surrounding waters and to restore its important marine ecology.



Photos by RICK DEWITT and MELISSA PIKE

On Aug. 7, 2021, City Island Oyster Reef held its second annual Water Jubilee fundraiser, which started off the dock at 21 Tier Street and was a great success. More than 30 contestants turned out for the kayak/paddleboard race, won by Jonathan Trambert and Beatrice Weinberger (he won the community race and she won the high performance group), and Andy Giaccon won the paddle board race. *Panic Attack* helmed by Ellen Murphy and Roy Smith won the Nautilus Sailing Trophy.

CI By Numbers

Continued from page 1

City Comptroller

Brad Lander (D) 152
Michelle Caruso-Cabrera (D) 113
Projected Citywide Primary Winner: Brad Lander

New York City Council District 13

Marjorie Velazquez (D) 341
Monique Johnson (D) 65
Projected Primary Winner: Marjorie Velazquez

In-person primary votes were also registered for 12 Democratic Delegates to the Judicial Convention 82nd Assembly District (D). City Island votes went to the following: Marjorie Velazquez, Michael Benedetto, John Doyle, Brenda Brown, Marilyn Soto, Linda Werner, Mary Williams, Leah Richardson, Iris Rosario, Rodney Saunders, Nicole Fernandez, Eric James.

Source: NYC Board of Elections Unofficial Results

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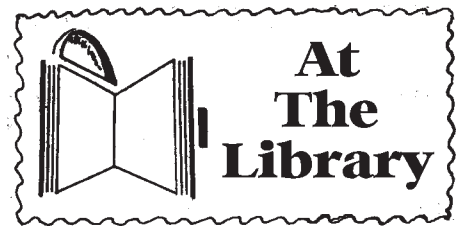
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Photo courtesy of KATHARINE WOOD
Katharine Wood's jewelry will be featured in the display window at 282 City Island Avenue near Kaleidoscope Gallery.

During the month of September, Katharine Wood will display in the large display window at 282 City Island Avenue, next to Kaleidoscope Gallery, necklaces made from stones and pebbles that were found entirely on City Island and Orchard Beach.

To celebrate its 47 years, Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) will have an exhibition of City Island artists from Sept. 4 through Sept. 29. A wine and cheese opening reception will be held on Saturday, Sept. 4, from 1 to 5 p.m.



CITY ISLAND LIBRARY

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SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at the City Island branch. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Online registration required. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Star Sand Art: Create star keychains with colorful sand! Limit of 10: first come, first served. Friday, Sept. 3, 3 to 4 p.m.

Teens Talk Books—Summer Reading: Talk over all the books you read—or

were forced to read!—over the summer. Friday, Sept. 10, 3 to 4 p.m.

Welcome Back Button Making: Teens and tweens will be welcomed back to the library after summer vacation with the chance to make buttons (pins!) using images from NYPL's Digital Collections. Friday, Sept. 17, 3 to 4 p.m.

Get Involved: Write to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus: Teens and tweens will celebrate National Hispanic American Heritage month while learning about the process of writing to Congress. Write a letter to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus encouraging them to look at a certain issue, or thanking them for their work. Friday, Sept. 24, 3 to 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

City Island Book Club: Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, Sept. 13 and 27, at 5 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're searching for a place to stimulate your brain or join in on some friendly competition, then why not join our Scrabble Club? Come on in and flex those vocabulary muscles! Learn some new words, and maybe even make some new friends. Limited to 8 participants, registration required. Thursday, Sept. 9 and 23, at 5 p.m.

Waves and Words: Using NYPL's vast catalogue of resources and unique writing prompts, this in-person program will allow writers of all experience levels to challenge themselves while riding the waves of creativity. Thursday, Sept. 16 and 30, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

One-on-One Job Support: Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter, or job search? Our trained staff can help you write/format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Wednesday Sept. 1, 8, 15 and 22, at 10 a.m., will be virtual. Register at <https://www.nypl.org/adults/career-employment/virtual/support>. Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. will be in person at the library.

What Are You Reading? Calling all avid readers! Let's come together as a community to discuss what you've been reading and what you may want to read next! This is an open discussion for all genres, but each session will also include a presentation of titles related to a particular topic. Saturday, Sept. 11 and 25, at 3:30 p.m. in person. On Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m., this program will be presented virtually with registration required.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register.

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MARSHA TREIBER: A MOVIE MANIAC?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Marsha Treiber, the *Current's* Movie Mania columnist, with Andy Garcia, star of the movie "City Island," photographed in 2010 during an interview for the paper.

If one were to take a look at Marsha Treiber's professional resumé, one would have difficulty believing that she has been a movie critic for over 30 years, the author of Marsha's Movie Mania for *The Island Current* since 1989. In "real" life, she served for many years as a pediatric disaster preparedness consultant and administrator, but as she tells it, her vocation was

what actually directed her toward films.

In 1980, Marsha went to Bellevue Hospital to meet with a potential employer about a part-time job, but the interviewer never showed up, so Marsha took advantage of a free afternoon in Manhattan by going to see "Resurrection," a recently released film starring Ellen Burstyn. Her second scheduled interview a week later also failed to pan out, so Marsha headed

to "The Jazz Singer," starring Neil Diamond. Eventually, of course, she landed the job at Bellevue, becoming a full-time employee as her children—Josh and Dan—grew older, but she never found a cure for the movie addiction.

In due course, Marsha became known as a frequent moviegoer at a number of local theaters and was asked to write reviews for Bay Plaza and related theaters, obtaining for her services free tickets and a \$5 gift certificate for refreshments. Sally McPherson, then editor of *The Current*, asked Marsha to write a column featuring the video stores on City Island, especially Anthony's Video Ventures on the Avenue. The theme of the column was "What to rent when the blockbuster you want to see isn't out yet?" Marsha went to work with gusto, reviewing four videos a month in two categories rather than reviewing the video stores: thrillers with a twist and kidvids for grownups.

Coincidentally, Marsha became acquainted with the well-known film reviewer Leonard Maltin, who married her cousin. Marsha was matron of honor at their wedding but eventually their relationship changed somewhat, when Maltin asked her to write some reviews for his book "Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide," which was published annually from 1969 to 2014. Marsha contributed about 30 reviews a year from 1993 to 1999, and learned to condense her thoughts in only three sentences. For many years Marsha enjoyed the privilege of a critic's pass to first-run movies, and in some cases she was even able to attend pre-release screenings.

During all those years, Marsha continued to write for *The Island Current*, and she found it made sense to review films that were 1) available on videotape and 2) revolved around specific themes, which ranged from cops in love to environmental crime. She also likes to focus on the careers of movie stars and on binge-worthy television shows, but one of

her favorite columns was called "The Best Movies You Never Heard Of."

In 2000 she collaborated with this reporter on a video featuring excerpts from films made on City Island, which has been a popular location for film makers since the silent era. In fact, the oldest known five-reel film, based on Shakespeare's play "Richard III," was actually filmed in 1912 in the basement of Harry Carey's house at the north end of King Avenue. Bits of it appear on the video, along with extracts from "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "Butterfield 8," among others. The final film in the video was "Love Is All There Is," a comedy orchestrated by Joe Bologna and Renée Taylor and set on City Island, featuring two warring catering families whose children fall in love, Romeo/Juliet style. Many Island locations and residents appear in the film, which is remembered today as having been Angelina Jolie's first starring role. Marsha managed to be on the set every day to observe the shooting and for two days was engaged by Joe Bologna to take photographs of the filming. Her favorite shot was of Paul Sorvino, one of the stars, which made it onto the front page of the October 1996 issue of *The Current*.

When Raymond De Felitta and Andy Garcia made their film "City Island" in 2009, Marsha watched much of the action and, after it came out in previews, she was granted an hour-long interview with the two men and given the privilege of attending a screening in Manhattan.

For the October issue this year of *The Current*, which is celebrating the paper's 50 years, Marsha has selected her 50 favorite films, most of which can now be watched on various television and video channels. Although film making has slowed down somewhat during the pandemic, there is little chance that Marsha Treiber will ever run out of movies to watch, review and share with the rest of us.

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Going Back: Let's Get Ready for School Again

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Here we go again! September is here, and school is about to start. Let's remind ourselves of what we already know and consider what we need to especially remember this year in the wake of Covid-19 school changes.

What we always know:

- Get back on a school schedule for sleep and meals before school starts.
- Start having enjoyable school-like activities be a part of each day: reading aloud, keeping a journal, cooking as a science experiment, going for a nature walk, putting on a play, and the like.
- Pay close attention to all communications from school: preparation is always a good idea when it comes to our children.
- Take advantage of all the supports available to families: we have learned a lot about leveling the playing field in schools, and you have a right to all of the benefits now available to our children. (You might

check out The Early Childhood Family Toolkit (<https://growingupnyc.cityof-newyork.us/early-childhood-family-toolkit/>) and NYC DOE Additional Resources for Families (<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/additional-resources-for-families>) for starters.)

- Teachers are allies. Form a positive relationship early on with these professionals and create the school-home alliance that allows children to thrive.
- Take a deep breath and realize that our children grow into goodness with the right nurture, care, and love.

What's different this year:

- Children who are extroverted are looking forward to returning to the classroom, but children who are naturally introverted have had a reprieve from the stressful social laboratory of school. Our more inward-looking young friends will need some extra loving care to get back in the routine.

- There is much information—as well as much misinformation—about safety and the virus. Be an active and informed parent when questions come up about mask protocols and what is safe.

- Children who learn differently, especially those with Individual Education Plans (IEP's), will benefit from close observations about what accommodations are working in this new reality of our world. You can always ask for a review of an IEP or a 504 Plan if you see a need.

- Anxiety has been a part of our daily lives for quite some time. Take care of yourself and your children with three simple practices: a) take a moment to breathe and sit quietly together, maybe as "grace" before a family meal; b) share what you are grateful for. You might even make a family-gratitude list and post it on a whiteboard with daily revisions; c) have a moment before bed for a hug, an appreciation for one another and a heartfelt "I love you."

Resilience is a quality all of us can aspire to: that capacity for bouncing back from adversity. There are many available resources for resilience and wellness support for parents: check out NYC DOE Parent University for starters: <https://parentu.schools.nyc/home/resource>.

Take a breath and recognize the good work you are already doing with your children. With kindness, laughter, presence, shared activities and the daily reassurance of love we can make this a good school year.

SUMMER 'SEENS'



Photos by JAMES MOHN and KAREN NANI

The summer of 2021 featured City Islanders and other New Yorkers enjoying the outdoors more openly as Covid restrictions were relaxed, including beachgoers at Orchard Beach on July 4 (top photo). There were some spectacular sunsets (second photo), but also a number of rain-soaked weekends, especially Aug. 22, when tropical storm Henri dumped inches of rain on the tristate area. One King Avenue toddler enjoyed the many puddles, nevertheless, and deer seemed unfazed by the joggers and cyclists on the walking path near Orchard Beach (bottom photos).

Stop waiting for the City Council to lower its budget; we still need more TOUCHSCREEN SUBWAY KIOSKS.

Stop waiting for Albany to lower the state annual budget; they need to deal with the rising costs of the TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE.

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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.

City Island Rising

A key question for any organization is how it is using its collective strength to achieve tangible results. As we close on the Summer season, I'm pleased to report that City Island Rising has used its collective voice and strength to improve our community on several important issues:

Many in our community have been affected by the tragic passing of Lizbeth Mass, the construction worker who was killed in April of this year. Many voiced their desire to do something to honor her memory. I'm pleased to report that over \$2,500 has been raised for a memorial in her honor, as well as plans to donate a bench and a tree at Bridge Park. We also recently heard from Lizbeth's daughter who was very touched by this effort and will be assisting us with this memorial. If you're interested in donating, please reach out.

It recently came to our attention that Trinity Methodist Church was in need of a freezer for its food pantry. We were able to partner with Home Depot to have a brand new freezer donated toward this effort. This will allow them to distribute perishables like meat to neighbors in need. Special thanks to David Diaz and Rev. David Jolly for all they do behind the scenes to feed our neighbors.

Our Electronics Recycling Event in June was a tremendous success with approximately 5,000 pounds of electronics collected and saved from landfills. Thank you to EcoTech Management and all the volunteers who made this event successful, including Beverly Jones, Kim Woodruff and Luisa Benedetto.

A few meetings have taken place over the summer that should improve the lives of all City Islanders. In late May, Rising, along with representatives of Bronx Community Board 10, the City Island Oyster Reef and the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, hosted representatives from the Mayor's Office, along with several City agencies, to address flooding and climate conditions on City Island. As a direct result of that meeting, "Lake Orchard" has been improved to prevent the near-constant flooding that existed there for years beforehand. Additional improvements will be announced in the coming months. A special note of thanks to Miguel Rondon, Mayor de Blasio's Bronx Community Affairs Director, for all of his help in addressing these issues.

Finally, we are all aware of the safety concerns within Pelham Bay Park. There are already two white Memorial Bikes dedicated to the lives lost in the Park. In an effort to save lives, we hosted a meeting with the NYC Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives and State Senator Alessandra Biaggi to discuss safety issues and improvements that can be made. Some are short-term fixes while others will require long-term solutions. That said, we're pleased to announce that the wrong way signage within the Park is slated to be improved and railings will be installed on the new Pelham Bay Bridge to protect pedestrians and cyclists. A full report will be given at our next meeting.

There is more to announce, and even more to do. We hope you will join us at our September meeting, which will be at Calientes, (414 City Island Avenue), on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. Also, we will be hosting "Bronx Bound Books" at Clipper Coffee (274 City Island Avenue) on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you'd like to share your ideas for how to improve our community or join in on any of these efforts, please e-mail us at CityIsland-Rising@gmail.com or call/text to 917-765-7968.

Temple Beth-El

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

All Temple offerings will continue to also be available online via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer for the community meditation, yoga, qi gong/tai chi and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

Sept. 3: Community-led services (on Zoom)

Sept. 10: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi David (live and on Zoom)

Sept. 17: Community-led Services (on Zoom)

Sept. 24: Kabbalat Shabbat and Sukkot with Rabbi David (in-person services at TBE) (You must provide proof of vaccination.)

High Holidays Schedule

Monday, Sept. 6, 7 to 9:30 p.m.: Erev Rosh Hashanah and Seder. Rabbi David via Zoom.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Rosh Hashanah Day 1 and Tashlich. Join Rabbi David and Rabbi Shohama and the Band for services as we journey deeper into the Days of Awe. Services will be held live at the Morris Yacht Club, 25 City Island Avenue. and via Zoom. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Rosh Hashanah Day 2. Join Rabbi David and Rabbi Shohama and the Band for services as we journey deeper into the Days of Awe. Services will be held live at the Morris Yacht Club, 25 City Island Avenue. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6 to 8 p.m.: Kol Nidre. Join Rabbi David, Rabbi Shohama and the Band for the holiest time of the Jewish year with a profoundly moving service of spiritual release and purification for Yom Kippur. In honor of Yom Kippur's themes, many of us will wear white and refrain from wearing leather, jewelry and other ornaments. This is the only evening in which it is traditional to wear a tallit (prayer shawl). We invite you to join us in these observances. Services will be held live at the Morris Yacht Club and via Zoom. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday Sept. 16, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Yom Kippur, Day of Holiness. Join Rabbi David, Rabbi Shohama and the Band for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jewish year. There will be prayer and music combined with midday mystical learning and rest periods. Service will conclude with traditional Neilah,



Photo by JOHN DOYLE

On July 16, 2021, City Island Rising facilitated the donation of a new large freezer to Trinity Methodist Church on City Island. The freezer will allow the church's food pantry to give meats and other perishable goods to those in need. City Island Rising thanks both Home Depot for their generosity and Pastor David Jolly of Trinity Methodist Church (shown above) for his efforts to feed the hungry.

Havdalah and catered Break Fast. Services will be held live at the Morris Yacht Club and via Zoom, Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 26, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Shmini Atzeret/Yizkor. Join Rabbi David via Zoom.

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Simchat Torah. Rabbi David will lead in person services at TBE and via Zoom. We will spiral dance the hakafot (circuits) of our soul journey (bring your dancing shoes), receive Torah's blessings and begin our timeless journey again. (Proof of vaccination is required.)

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., then let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends and family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.). To sponsor one or to find more information, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Jodie Sadovsky

City Island Civic Association

The Civic Association meeting on June 29 was called to order at 7:35 by Bill Stanton. In his opening statement he offered to give local homeowners and businesses a safety and security assessment.

The Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) are running the Build a Block program and will provide statistics on crime, which has increased across the city. Police Officer Neil Anderson of the 45th Precinct is the Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) for Co-op City and City Island; his telephone number is 929-371-5308.

We will be joining an effort with our neighboring community Co-op City to advocate for each community to have its own NCO sector, since we now share one. This will benefit our community and theirs. Co-op City community leaders will be at our September meeting. This summer we have had the best traffic control in many years. City Island is cleaner and safer because of these efforts.

The NYPD reports that temporary baffling for noise abatement at Rodman's Neck will be in place between April and June 2022. Overall renovation of the range will proceed, to be completed in 2026.

The Municipal Committee awaits results from the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) studies for a traffic light at Pilot Street and speed bumps on Minneford Avenue, as well as the timeline for resurfacing the City Island Circle. Thank you to all those who called 311 and emailed DOT and other agencies to remove the giant puddle outside Orchard Beach.

Sanitation compost pickup is coming back. If you are interested, you will need to sign up, and DOS will notify you when there are enough local pickups requested to restart the program on City Island. During the past year DSNY has provided pickups seven days a week on City Island Avenue, and Councilmember Gjonai provided trashcans.

Please note that we will be having a community cleanup with the Sanitation Department on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 8 to 10 a.m.

City Island Strong began working as the pandemic arrived and it continues. We as a community helped one another before government agencies could, feeding, shopping and caring for one another. The Wildcats and the restaurants provided the best cleanup possible during that time, and we provided many resources to our community, including how to get vaccinated and obtain government resources. Members helped get seniors vaccinated and provided rides to appointments. If you know of a continuing resource need, contact city.island.civic@gmail.com.

A member of our Unity and Solutions committee helps weekly with the food pantry at Trinity Methodist Church, which is grateful to the community for all donations. We encourage people to donate non-perishable food items this fall. There is a real need here on City Island. Volunteers are welcome to join this effort.

The next Civic meeting will be on Sept. 28, location to be determined.

To become a member of the Civic, send your annual dues (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership) to City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464, or pay online at paypal.com to city.island.civic@gmail.com, the "friends and family" option. Please note that joining the Civic Facebook page does not represent membership in the association.

Jane Protzman



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

Hello and happy September to all! The board of the City Island Community Center hopes that everyone had a fun and safe summer!

Our City Island Community Center is still open and operational. We plan to continue our programming in a safe way, following all updated CDC and NYS protocols. In addition to our existing programming, this fall we plan to bring continued Covid safety programs and vaccine access. We also plan to offer seasonal flu information sessions and pop-up community flu clinics.

Please see our full program schedule below for all confirmed dates and times. As always, if there is a program or service that you would like to see offered at the City Island Community Center, please share your suggestion with us via our Facebook page. We welcome the recommendations of our members so that our center is serving your needs!

APPROVED PROGRAMS:

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Yoga with Joann: Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Aerobics with Mary: Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

AA Meeting: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Zumba: Saturdays, 10 a.m.

High intensity interval training exercise class: Sundays at 10 a.m.

Please check our Facebook page for any changes in class schedule.

Friendly Reminder: You can help support the City Island Community Center through an official membership. Our Membership Drive continues! If you need a renewal form, please call 718-885-1145 and we will mail one. We greatly appreciate all those who have already renewed or have made a generous donation on behalf of a group or business.

For up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook!

Melissa Cebollero

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m. (note time change), our first meeting back after the summer break. We will be opening nominations and finalizing the election of officers. It is vital you attend this meeting! Dues (\$55) are due for the 2021–22 year. Please drop your dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability. All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox by the Post's flagpole.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

The Legion Family invites the City Island community to join us for the Sept. 11 (20th anniversary) remembrance at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Mass at 8 a.m. At 8:30 we will proceed to the Legion Triangle for a reading of the names of those from the Bronx who were killed and to hold moments of silence for the stages of

attack.

Post 156 will be the host post for the Bronx County Visitation, an opportunity to meet with fellow legionnaires of Bronx County and the Department of NY Leadership for the 2021–22 year. Please consider attending the Visitation Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156. Social hour will be from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner (with beer, wine, soda, coffee and dessert, from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person. RSVP by e-mail to Leonardhawkinspost156@gmail.com or call Peter at 914-760-2588.

Looking ahead, the annual Pumpkin Sale will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1 through 3. Details can be found on the Post 156 website, Leonardhawkinspost156.com, where you can find the latest information and direct e-mail directly to the Post.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church will continue 10 a.m. in-person worship in the Sanctuary. Every effort is being made to thoroughly clean the facility after the service. Trinity understands that these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will be live streamed and recorded for YouTube. To request information about the live stream, e-mail Pastor Dave at david.jolly@nyac-ucm.com.

Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, from 10 to 2 in Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m., Trinity will have its annual Worship at the Beach and picnic at the Fordham Street Beach Club.

The Budget Shop will reopen on Sept. 18. Donations will be accepted starting Sept. 1.

Sunday School will reopen Sept. 19.

The annual Fall Food Sale will be held Oct. 2 from 9 to noon.

Trinity has added the safe electronic giving option of "Givebutter." The web address is givebutter.com/trinitydonations. A screen will give you many choices. All former ways of giving remain available and much appreciated, and this is one more option.

The Food Pantry, now named The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, is expanding its hours. The new times are Sunday and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thank you to the many generous people who have stepped up to help those in need.

Rick DeWitt

PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island Center is partially open at this time. If you'd like to attend any class, lunch or event you should call the center (718-885-0727) to reserve a spot. A mask needs to be worn at all times (except when eating). At this writing only 21 members are allowed in the center at one time.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information.

Below is the current schedule:

Mondays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy in person

10 a.m. Blood Pressure Monitoring

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in person)

1:00 p.m. Nutrition or Health Classes, a different topic each week; remote or at the center

Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. Tech Class. Call the center for information for each week.

11:00 a.m. Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy Q, Scrabble, cards, mah jong, or Monopoly.

Wednesdays

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote and in person)

9 to 1:30 Social Worker available to help with Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, SCRIE and more. Call for an appointment.

1:30 p.m. Coffee Klatch. An open hour to socialize, share and provide support

Thursdays

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (in person)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

Fridays

9:00 a.m. Zumba with Maria (remote)

12:30 p.m. Singing Group with Napat (remote)

Transportation: Transportation is available daily. Please call Alex at 347- 834-6466 for the September trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Only three people are allowed per trip, and masks are to be worn at all times. Temperatures will be taken when boarding, and you must sit in the assigned seats. The windows will remain open to circulate air.

If you have any class suggestions, now is the time to speak up! We're still deciding programming for the coming months.

More vigorous exercise classes will be coming once senior center restrictions are lifted.

Stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street. You can also watch our service on Youtube via a link that is distributed weekly. To be added to the distribution of this link, please contact us at gracecityisland@gmail.com. The link is also found on the Grace Church website, <https://www.gracecityisland.net/>.

Father John Covington is retiring from Grace at the end of September. Please join us in the Parish Hall on Sunday, Sept. 12, following the 10 a.m. service, for a light brunch, as we show our appreciation for his ministry and wish him a long and relaxing retirement. RSVP by Sept. 2 to geccimusic@gmail.com.

Members of the Sunday School met intermittently and safely during the pandemic and prepared special services, including the Father's Day Service on June 20. We look forward to resuming regular church school classes the first and third of the month starting after Labor Day. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

The Grace Church booth will be located in front of Lickety Split during the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find out about the founders and the history of our church and the services we provide, while buying some scrumptious home baked cookies, cupcakes, banana breads, brownies, pies and more! All proceeds go to Grace Church ministries.

As of July 4, everyone attending Sunday morning services has been invited to sing. There is plenty of space to do this safely, and the choir leads the singing from their pews and from in front of the congregation. Our music ministry is always welcoming new members. Anyone who would like to sing for our worship services or play hand chimes on special occasions should contact Caroline Coppola, Minister of Music (geccimusic@gmail.com). No prior musical experience is necessary.

The GraceTones have resumed singing for the community again, and our first two shows this summer were at the Music in the Park Series in Hawkins Park on Aug. 8 and 29, where we were well received. In September, you can catch us at Clipper Coffee on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. we'll sing for the residents of Pilot Cove, outside near

the pier. If you'd like to sing with us, and for information on upcoming rehearsals, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Thursday, Sept. 9, we will have an overstock sale. Fill a bag for \$1.00! Hurray! On Thursday, Sept. 16, at 10 a.m. we will be moving back to our regular location (downstairs behind the church). Come by and see us.

Arlene Byrne

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at 7 a.m., on Saturday at 8 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.; and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program will begin in September. An e-mail will be sent to parents of current students very soon. For new students, please send an e-mail to smsreled@yahoo.com and you will be added to the e-mail distribution.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will hold an overstock sale on Thursday, Sept. 9, at St. Mary's school gym. Fill a bag for \$1.00. The Thrift Shop will officially reopen on Thursday, Sept. 16. Come and check out all the fall selections.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, we will hold our Annual Outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's school yard. Our catechists will be commissioned at this Mass. This is always a very special occasion, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Rosette Dietz

Quilters by the Sea

In late July Quilters by the Sea held its third Quilts of Valor Sew Saturday of the year. We are grateful to the American Legion Post 156 for allowing us to use the Post for our modern sewing bees. Contact Harlan Sexton at harlan.sexton1@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in the next Sew Saturday in November.

On July 2, QBTS-QOV awarded Korean War veteran and City Island Legionnaire Frank Rosa a Quilt of Valor. On July 17, we awarded Korean War veteran and City Island Legionnaire Tom Lyons a Quilt of Valor. Over the summer, we also awarded three other QOVs made by other NYS groups: one to a Bronx Operation Enduring Freedom veteran, and two others on Long Island to a female Navy veteran and a Vietnam War veteran.

Harlan Sexton

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club held its July general membership meeting and installation of officers at the City Island Yacht Club on July 8. The meeting was followed by a lovely informal members luncheon catered by the yacht club steward.

Garden Club projects continue. Members weeded and mulched the local Post Office garden and brought in more color by planting red begonias. We are supported by the Post Office supervisor, who waters the garden. The plants that were added to the club's 30 containers on City Island Avenue in the late spring are now full to overflowing, and members are kept busy watering the containers. Thanks go to the businesses and residents near the containers who help us by watering the containers and removing trash. In the hot weather each container needs at least five gallons of water a week.

Our annual fundraiser luncheon,

Continued on page 13



Chess

With the advent of the pandemic shut-down and the popularity of the Netflix limited series **The Queen's Gambit** (reviewed this past March), the game of chess has experienced a huge increase in attention. Sales of chess sets have jumped a whopping 87 percent, and on-line players on *Chess.com* increased 66 percent. Therefore, movies about chess seemed to be a good topic for this month.

Films Based on a True Story

Searching for Bobby Fischer (1993) focuses on the true story of seven-year-old chess prodigy Josh Waitzkin (Max Pomeranc). When his mother (Joan Allen) takes him to the park, he becomes enthralled with watching the chess players and is taught how to play by Vinnie (Lawrence Fishburn). Recognizing his aptitude for the game, Josh's father (Joe Mantegna) recruits chess master Bruce Pandolfini (Ben Kingsley) to teach his son the conceptual game and how to compete. This film has excellent acting and is very thought-provoking, especially in the way it touches on how parents live through their children.

The made-for-television **Knights of the South Bronx** (2005) is an uplifting drama based on the experiences of real-life schoolteacher David MacEnulty. Called Richard Mason (Ted Danson) in the film, he is an out-of-work businessman who accepts a job as a substitute teacher of a fourth-grade class in a tough Bronx school. Mason finds it virtually impossible to motivate his students, the children of drug addicts and people in jail, until one of them sees Mason in the park playing chess in a simultaneous exhibition where he beats all 14 opponents at once. The student asks to learn the game, and soon the entire class is interested. The story traces the way in which Mason (MacEnulty) trained several young children from Elementary School 70 and set them on the road to play in the New York state championship. He teaches them that chess is a great equalizer: It doesn't matter how much money you have or where you come from; it's only the moves you make, then and there, that count.

Director Edward Zwick's riveting **Pawn Sacrifice** (2014) stars Toby Maguire as notorious chess prodigy Bobby Fischer and Liev Schreiber as his Russian counterpart Boris Spassky. The biographical drama revolves around the 1972 World Chess Championship, which pitted Fischer against Spassky during the peak of the Cold War. A series of flashbacks focuses on Fischer's family ties to Communism, which led to a lifetime of FBI surveillance that weighs heavily on his mind as he tries to compete in chess at the highest level. The film depicts Fischer in his prime, winning many championships, but increasingly suffering delusions that portend his spiral into mental illness.

Queen of Katwe (2016) is a G-rated Disney movie that the whole family can enjoy. Directed by Mira Nair, the film follows 10-year-old Phiona (Nadina Nal-

wanga), an impoverished Ugandan girl whose entire outlook on life changes when she discovers the game of chess. Life in Katwe, a slum in Kampala, Uganda, is a constant struggle for Phiona, along with her mother, Nakku Harriet (Lupita Nyong'o), and younger members of her family. On a missionary event, Phiona meets Robert Katende (David Oyelowo), who becomes her mentor. He teaches her the ins and outs of the game and soon becomes the top contender in the Katwe village. The movie isn't so much about chess as it is a timely reminder that imperiled individuals have to struggle to pull themselves out of poverty—and that sports and game mastery can sometimes be their only avenue.

Set in 1998, **Critical Thinking** (2020) tells the story of Cuban-American teacher Mario Martinez (John Leguizamo), known as Mr. T. to his students, and his national championship-winning chess club at Miami Jackson High School. The team includes Sedrick (Corwin Tuggles), an African-American student living in a single-parent household; Ito (Jorge Lendeborg Jr.), a student who works after school to support his education; Rodelay (Angel Bismark Curiel), the class clown; and Gil (Will Hochman), who is of Spanish descent. Mr. T. deals with opposition from Principal Kestel (Rachel Bay Jones), who believes that the class is made up of academic misfits and that the chess club brings little credit to the school. However, Mr. T. is relentless in his quest to improve the lives of these young people.

Foreign Films

Set in Geneva, **Dangerous Moves** (Swiss, 1984) tells the story of two very different men competing in the final match of the World Chess Championship. The two players are Akiva Liebskind (Michel Piccoli), a 52-year-old Soviet master who comes to the competition with an inflated ego and an ailing heart, and Pavius Fromm (Alexander Arbatt), an unpredictable 35-year-old Soviet dissident who fled to the West five years earlier and is determined to make Russia look bad. Since a loss would be an embarrassment for Russia, Liebskind's assistant comes up with a scheme to derail Fromm: they bring Fromm's estranged wife, Marina (Liv Ullmann), from behind the Iron Curtain to see him. At the same time, Liebskind's struggle to win the championship becomes a race against the faltering beat of his heart. This unusual Swiss movie was the surprise winner of the 1985 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

Queen to Play (French Canadian, 2009) is the story of an intimate bond that is forged between French housemaid Hélène (Sandrine Bonnaire) and American

ex-patriot Kroger (Kevin Kline) over their mutual love of chess. Although Hélène is devoted to her family, she lacks any passion in her life. When Kroger starts to teach her chess, she becomes obsessed with the game, much to the consternation of her working-class husband (Francis Renaud) and her spoiled daughter (Valerie Lagrange). Hélène and Kroger compete with one another every Tuesday, slowly recognizing how valuable their friendship has become along the way.

The Dark Horse (New Zealand, 2014) is based on the true story of Genesis "Gen" Potini (Cliff Curtis), a Maori man who might be the greatest chess player in New Zealand's history but who also suffers from severe bipolar disorder. As we often see in chess movies, Gen coaches youngsters to play chess to keep them out of gangs. However, the twist here is that Gen is breaking down mentally while still trying to keep his team of kids together. A massive hit in New Zealand, the film won Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Actor, Supporting Actor and Score at the 2014 New Zealand Film Awards. It was a Critics' Pick of both the New York Times and Time Magazine and was labeled by leading New Zealand critics as "one of the greatest New Zealand films ever made."

Documentaries

Bobby Fischer against the World (2011), a documentary version of the Fischer story, examines the tragic and bizarre life of the late grand chess master, from his troubled childhood through his rise to fame and subsequent life as a fugitive. It includes interviews with chess players Anthony Saidy, Larry Evans, Sam Sloan, Susan Polgar, Garry Kasparov, Asa Hoffmann, Friðrik Ólafsson, Lothar Schmid and others and incorporates never-before-seen footage from the World Chess Championship in 1972. The film isn't so much about chess as it is about the man who was driven in his search for perfection on the chess board and piece by piece lost his own mental health.

Brooklyn Castle (2012) follows students in inner-city Intermediate School

318, a public school in Brooklyn whose chess team turns out to be, against all odds, one of the best in the country. At IS 318, the after-school chess program, supported by both dedicated educators and the community, triumphed over deep budget cuts to build the most winning junior high school chess team in the country, and to become the first middle school team to win the United States Chess Federation's national high school championship. The film follows five of the school's chess team members for one year, from April 2009 to June 2010, and documents their challenges and triumphs both on and off the chessboard. It's basically a sports movie, culminating in the Big Tournament.

Magnus (2016) is the story of Sven Magnus Øen Carlsen, a Norwegian chess grandmaster who is the current World Chess Champion, World Rapid Chess Champion and World Blitz Chess Champion. At age 19, Carlsen first reached the top of the FIDE world rankings in 2010 (a system used in chess to estimate the strength of players based on their performance against other players), and trails only Garry Kasparov in time spent as the highest rated player in the world. This fascinating documentary traces the prodigy's rise to fame, his turning pro at age 13 and his winning the world championship in chess in 2013 at the age of 22.

And until next time, be healthy and safe, and happy viewing...



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Clam chowder contest Sunday Sept. 12 in Hawkins Park
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Organization News

Continued from page 11

originally scheduled for Sept. 30, has been rescheduled for next May. After much research and discussion, Garden Club officers made the decision based on the rising cases of Covid-19 around the country and the spread of the new, more transmissible Delta variant. We always enjoy this event, and we want to make sure that everyone who attends is safe.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the beautification fund this year. We are moving ahead with using those donations for community projects. Future donations can be sent to the Garden Club, P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

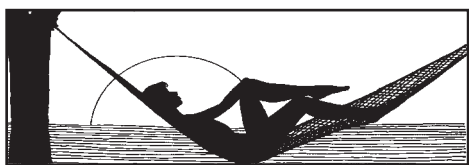
If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, send an e-mail to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. We hold meetings the first Monday of every month (except July and August). The next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m. on the City Island Yacht Club porch. Please remember to bring a mask with you.

Judy Judson

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Unit 156 will resume monthly meetings beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Post. We intend to focus briefly on American Legion activities on Saturday, Sept. 11, which marks the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11. Members will receive a separate e-mail regarding the details. We will also discuss the Pumpkin and Bake Sale and the Children's Winter Clothing Drive for Fort Drum military families. All donations of NEW winter clothes (newborn to teenagers) will be accepted by the Legion family at our post beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, through Tuesday, Oct. 5. Fort Drum thanks you in advance for years of generosity and support from City Island's Unit 156. See you at the Pumpkin Sale on Oct. 1, 2 and 3!

Harlan Sexton



AARP 318

I was hoping to announce that we would be having our first meeting in September, but the latest regulations from the National AARP stipulated that no more than six people can attend a meeting, and that proof of vaccination will be required and possibly masks worn by all. So for the foreseeable future there will be no meetings. As soon as the six-person regulation is lifted, we will make an announcement. In the meantime, if you haven't gotten vaccinated, please do so.

Carroll A. Reid

City Island Oyster Reef

Our second annual Water Jubilee in early August was a smashing success. Thirty-one kayaks and paddle boards entered the four-mile challenge around City Island, and six sailboats competed in the Nautilus Cup Regatta in Eastchester Bay. Winners of the Kayak Challenge were Beatrice Weinberger in the High Performance Division, Jonathan Trambert in the Community Paddle Kayak Division and Andy Giaccon in the Paddle Board Division. The sailing race was won by Ellen Murphy and Roy Smith on *Panic Attack*. The races were followed by a reception at the Morris Yacht Club, where a 24-foot Carolina skiff purchased with the proceeds from last year's Jubilee was on display. We extend our appreciation to the Morris for allowing us to use their facilities

and for their great hospitality, to the City Island Yacht Club for allowing us to use their course marks and sailing instructions, and to the Harlem Yacht Club for lending equipment to the race committee. We are grateful to our many volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to make sure that this event was a success.

The Malcolm Campbell Summer Movie Series has been a lot of fun this summer! The best part of this event is the strong feeling of community spirit as everyone comes together to support CIOR's work while enjoying a movie under the stars. "Jaws" was featured in July, and next was a double feature of "Awakenings" based on a memoir by City Island resident Oliver Sacks, followed by Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" on Aug. 20. The fourth event will be "The Royal Tenenbaums" on Sept. 10 at 21 Tier Street.

The design for the Living Shoreline and Education Center behind P.S. 175 is moving forward. With funding from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, CIOR hired Filomena Riganti, a landscape architect and project manager, who is overseeing surveys of the site and completing an initial design of the site. The Parks Department's Natural Resources Group is also collaborating on this project, and we have had help from the New York Restoration Project.

CIOR will continue to hosting Sunrise Paddling twice a month around City Island to learn from our scientists how water quality affects the growth of oysters while enjoying the tranquility of being on the water in the early morning! Kayakers and paddle boarders are welcome. Meet at 89 Horton Street for a 6 a.m. launch on Sept. 11 and 25. And get hands-on experience (and muck) with our Oyster Research Station Monitoring on Sept. 25. Learn how to measure oysters in cage, see interesting sea creatures and gain a better understanding of how oyster reefs contribute to the health of an ecosystem. Great for all ages!

Now that our City Island restaurants are in full swing, CIOR has started to collect shells again. We are looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from local restaurants. Although the work does not take long, it is strenuous and a little dirty at times. Volunteers need to be available to help on Mondays or Thursdays between 4 and 6 p.m. or on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m.

If you are interested in participating in any of these community engagement activities, please reach out to Cody Carroll, CIOR's Volunteer Coordinator at codylee71@gmail.com.

And don't forget to put our Viva La Sound Educational Festival on your calendar for Oct. 2 (rain date Oct. 3). See Briefly on page 2 for details.

Sally Connolly



Photo by HARLAN SEXTON

Frank Rosa, Leonard Hawkins Legionnaire, wrapped in his Quilt of Valor, along with daughter Diane Rosa.



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Tom Lyons, Leonard Hawkins Legionnaire, being wrapped in his Quilt of Valor, alongside a granddaughter.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

The Walled Garden at the Untermyer Park and Gardens in Yonkers

Untermyer Park: An Extraordinary Garden

A few months of maskless bliss took me inside to dine, shop and visit friends. For a while we were out of the woods, but now we are plodding our way back in. As long as the light and the weather prevail, I will be looking at and reveling in as many great gardens as I can find, and that is what took me to the extraordinary garden of Untermyer Park on the banks of the Hudson.

In 1899 a New York lawyer purchased 150 acres in Yonkers called Greystone. Alas, there are only 43 acres left, and that is part of the story. Samuel Untermyer was a prominent, wealthy Jewish attorney who married a Christian and supported women's suffrage. Wildly successful and idiosyncratic, he wore to court an orchid in his lapel for he was a lover of gardens and flowers.

Gardening eventually became Untermyer's obsession. He hired Welles Bosworth, who was the landscape architect for Rockefeller's estate, Kykuit. Together with a small army of gardeners, stone masons, sculptors and contractors, they created a garden that is loosely based on the idea of the Garden of Eden. Towers flank the crenellated walls, and once you are inside, it is easy to see the Persian and Islamic influence in the form of the waterways laid out in rills that represent the four ancient rivers.

One waterway stretches down to a pool of waterlilies, where Greek columns seem to magically grow. Two sphinxes, one atop each column, guard over the canals and watch as two people in wading rubbers clean and prune the lotus in knee-deep water.

At the entrance to the garden are two weeping beeches that were planted 100 years ago. Their trunks muscle and flex skyward as they wave their leafy arms in

arabesques that hang down and envelop the visitor. It is so dark beneath them that the vista ahead seems all the more flooded with light. There is an amphitheater and a Greek temple with a mosaic swimming pool that describes circular eddies of water with fish, crabs and stingrays.

But the crowning glory is the newly restored Temple of Love, which is a tour de force of engineering. Even John Lennon was amazed back in 1975. A grotto of stone rises high in the air and one can climb to its filigreed dome. From here a waterfall spills down to the rivers and pools that lace their way through exceptional gardens.

What visitors see now is the result of a massive restoration project that has been under way since 2010. Samuel Untermyer died in 1940 but did not leave a trust, although he could well have afforded it. He wanted to leave it to his children but none would have it, nor would New York City, although the city of Yonkers took over 16 acres in 1946. However, the estate gradually declined and by the 1960s the gardens had been destroyed by invasive vines and brambles. The waterways and fountains had dried up and the swimming pool was filled with mud and weeds. Parcels of land had been sold off to the hospital and commercial builders. Graffiti covered the walls and statues were stolen or sold at auction.

There was a restoration project in the 1970s but it was short-lived and the property continued to deteriorate; in the 1990s, the city of Yonkers was persuaded to acquire more acreage, bringing the total to 43 acres.

It wasn't until the arrival on the scene of Stephen Byrns, a Princeton graduate in history and architecture who was commissioner of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission from 2004 to 2010 and on the board of Wave Hill in Riverdale from 2000 to 2010. During the

1990s while living in Riverdale, he discovered the Untermyer property when the fountains had been turned on, revealing that the gardens were alive under all the rubble. Marco Polo Stufano, the founding director of horticulture at Wave Hill, asked Stephen to help him restore the gardens, a task he accepted when his tenure at Wave Hill came to an end. And the rest is history. In 2011 Stephen Byrns established the non-profit Untermyer Gardens

Conservancy and still serves as its president.

For more detail about this extraordinary garden, visit www.untermyergardens.org, but better yet visit the gardens soon and often. It is open seven days a week and admission is free!

Mary Colby is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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

| SEPTEMBER 2021 | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| DAY | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | DAY | |
| | HH:MM | FEET | HH:MM | FEET | HH:MM | FEET | HH:MM | FEET | | |
| 01 | Wed | 0213 | 1.67 | 0826 | 6.46 | 1332 | 2.05 | 2036 | 7.04 | Wed 01 |
| 02 | Thu | 0308 | 1.48 | 0918 | 6.72 | 1453 | 1.87 | 2125 | 7.28 | Thu 02 |
| 03 | Fri | 0355 | 1.19 | 1003 | 7.02 | 1547 | 1.53 | 2205 | 7.56 | Fri 03 |
| 04 | Sat | 0436 | 0.85 | 1039 | 7.34 | 1631 | 1.11 | 2236 | 7.84 | Sat 04 |
| 05 | Sun | 0511 | 0.50 | 1107 | 7.68 | 1710 | 0.65 | 2306 | 8.11 | Sun 05 |
| 06 | Mon | 0542 | 0.17 | 1133 | 8.02 | 1749 | 0.21 | 2341 | 8.33 | Mon 06 |
| 07 | Tue | 0614 | -0.12 | 1204 | 8.36 | 1829 | -0.16 | | | Tue 07 |
| 08 | Wed | 0020 | 8.44 | 0648 | -0.31 | 1242 | 8.61 | 1911 | -0.39 | Wed 08 |
| 09 | Thu | 0103 | 8.42 | 0726 | -0.38 | 1323 | 8.74 | 1955 | -0.46 | Thu 09 |
| 10 | Fri | 0148 | 8.24 | 0808 | -0.28 | 1408 | 8.72 | 2043 | -0.33 | Fri 10 |
| 11 | Sat | 0237 | 7.91 | 0853 | -0.02 | 1457 | 8.52 | 2138 | -0.04 | Sat 11 |
| 12 | Sun | 0330 | 7.48 | 0944 | 0.38 | 1550 | 8.20 | 2244 | 0.35 | Sun 12 |
| 13 | Mon | 0431 | 7.02 | 1043 | 0.85 | 1652 | 7.81 | | | Mon 13 |
| 14 | Tue | 0019 | 0.65 | 0553 | 6.68 | 1208 | 1.23 | 1815 | 7.50 | Tue 14 |
| 15 | Wed | 0143 | 0.66 | 0738 | 6.70 | 1355 | 1.25 | 2003 | 7.53 | Wed 15 |
| 16 | Thu | 0251 | 0.47 | 0850 | 7.01 | 1507 | 0.95 | 2114 | 7.78 | Thu 16 |
| 17 | Fri | 0350 | 0.20 | 0949 | 7.42 | 1608 | 0.54 | 2212 | 8.05 | Fri 17 |
| 18 | Sat | 0443 | -0.05 | 1040 | 7.79 | 1701 | 0.15 | 2303 | 8.23 | Sat 18 |
| 19 | Sun | 0531 | -0.20 | 1127 | 8.07 | 1749 | -0.13 | 2350 | 8.28 | Sun 19 |
| 20 | Mon | 0615 | -0.21 | 1210 | 8.21 | 1834 | -0.26 | | | Mon 20 |
| 21 | Tue | 0033 | 8.20 | 0656 | -0.09 | 1249 | 8.21 | 1916 | -0.22 | Tue 21 |
| 22 | Wed | 0112 | 7.99 | 0732 | 0.14 | 1325 | 8.09 | 1953 | -0.04 | Wed 22 |
| 23 | Thu | 0149 | 7.70 | 0801 | 0.45 | 1355 | 7.90 | 2027 | 0.24 | Thu 23 |
| 24 | Fri | 0221 | 7.38 | 0816 | 0.75 | 1419 | 7.69 | 2051 | 0.57 | Fri 24 |
| 25 | Sat | 0249 | 7.07 | 0831 | 1.01 | 1445 | 7.48 | 2110 | 0.89 | Sat 25 |
| 26 | Sun | 0318 | 6.81 | 0904 | 1.27 | 1518 | 7.29 | 2143 | 1.20 | Sun 26 |
| 27 | Mon | 0356 | 6.58 | 0945 | 1.56 | 1600 | 7.10 | 2228 | 1.48 | Mon 27 |
| 28 | Tue | 0445 | 6.41 | 1034 | 1.84 | 1649 | 6.94 | 2322 | 1.70 | Tue 28 |
| 29 | Wed | 0547 | 6.35 | 1130 | 2.04 | 1746 | 6.86 | | | Wed 29 |
| 30 | Thu | 0032 | 1.78 | 0725 | 6.47 | 1234 | 2.07 | 1854 | 6.91 | Thu 30 |
| OCTOBER 2021 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 | Fri | 0200 | 1.63 | 0827 | 6.76 | 1349 | 1.86 | 2010 | 7.13 | Fri 01 |
| 02 | Sat | 0259 | 1.30 | 0911 | 7.15 | 1502 | 1.42 | 2107 | 7.45 | Sat 02 |
| 03 | Sun | 0344 | 0.88 | 0946 | 7.58 | 1556 | 0.85 | 2152 | 7.79 | Sun 03 |
| 04 | Mon | 0423 | 0.43 | 1019 | 8.03 | 1642 | 0.26 | 2234 | 8.08 | Mon 04 |
| 05 | Tue | 0501 | 0.02 | 1055 | 8.45 | 1726 | -0.28 | 2316 | 8.30 | Tue 05 |

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WATERWORKS

City Islanders are now drinking water delivered by the new and improved water main. As might have been expected, the transition from the temporary pipeline on the bridge to the new one beneath Eastchester Bay has not been without its bumps in the road. For example, some residents have noticed unusual smells and tastes in their drinking water. Others have wondered if the project is taking more time than it has to. Be all that as it may, the water that is coming our way eventually is sure to be as new and improved as the system delivering it.

The water we use on City Island comes from the Croton Water Supply System in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties. It is the same system that supplies roughly 10 percent of the water used by residents of New York City. The rest of NYC's water is supplied by the Catskill and Delaware Water Supply Systems. One of the most interesting aspects of these three systems is how billions and billions of gallons of water get from there to here every day—gravity! Ninety-seven percent of NYC's usable water moves hundreds of miles like river water, which is to say, downhill.

Imagine the planning and effort involved in such a design. The chief engineer of the Croton Aqueduct was a man named John B. Jervis. His aqueduct opened in 1842 and still functions today. In 1890 a new Croton Aqueduct was completed to

meet the needs of NYC's rapidly expanding population. The engineer responsible for that project was a man named B.S. Church. It has been argued by many, including NYC's own unofficial historian, Kenneth T. Jackson, that NYC's rise as the great metropolis it is was made possible first and foremost by engineering feats of men such as Jervis and Church.

When you consider how the first New Yorkers after the natives obtained most of their water in the 17th and 18th centuries—from Collect Pond in what is now the Chinatown part of lower Manhattan—it is hard to disagree with that explanation of NYC's growth and development. The British introduced pumps and wells for the purpose of improving the water supply, but they were not nearly enough even for colonial times. Fires burned out of control for lack of water both before and after British rule, and salt water contamination was common. So were diseases such as cholera.

Another interesting tidbit to the story of water in NYC took place in the Catskill Mountains. Rip Van Winkle's time in the mountains is the stuff of legend. What happened to the villagers of Pepacton, Union Grove, Shavertown and Arena is fact. Their Catskill Mountain homes were purposefully (and legally) flooded to make way for some of the reservoirs of the Catskill Water Supply System.

Perhaps we City Islanders should consider ourselves lucky that all we have to complain about is the smell.



Photos courtesy of CI RISING

On June 19, 2021, City Island Rising hosted an electronics recycling event at 239 City Island Avenue, co-sponsored by EcoTech Management and the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board. Hundreds of items were collected from City Islanders and surrounding communities, totaling 5,957 pounds of electronic material that will be properly recycled by EcoTech Management and kept out of landfills. Shown above (l. to r.): Victoria Curcio of Ecotech Management, and Beverly Jones, John Doyle, Kim Woodruff and Luisa Benedetto of City Island Rising.



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CI ORGS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by SARA S McPHERSON

This photograph of the new ambulance recently purchased by the City Island Ambulance Corps (CIVAC) was published in the September 1979 *Current*.

During the half century that *The Island Current* has been in existence, many other Island organizations run by volunteers have continued to exist or have come and gone or come and stayed. Some of these were short-lived, some lasted a long time before dissolving, and many are still going strong, showing that the City Island community will band together in times of need. Below are brief comments on some of the organizations that been in existence here over the past 50 years. In the interest of saving space, we have not included religious institutions, clubs, and off-Island groups to which Island residents have long given their time and effort, but this in no way reflects on the enormous contributions made to them by residents.

Several ongoing organizations on the Island have been here longer than *The Current* and are still very active. Several of these groups were local chapters of national organizations that help to guide and support them. The Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 was founded in 1919, with the Sons of the American Legion in 1932 and the Auxiliary following suit in 1934. The Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and the Girl Scouts/Brownies were established on City Island long before 1971, the former group celebrating its 50th year in the spring of 1982 and the latter its 30th year in spring 1973. Unfortunately, one of the longest-lived organizations on City Island was the basketball group that began meeting in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea gym in 1932 but ran out of steam in April of 2019.

Happily, several older organizations unique to City Island have remained strong today. The Pelham Cemetery Association carries the honor of being the oldest group on the Island, having been incorporated in 1881. The Chamber of Commerce began as the City Island Board of Trade in 1899, and was joined briefly in 1970 by a group called the Belden Point Businessmen's Association, organized to work with the community before it disappeared from view in 1981. The Parents Association began at P.S. 17 and exists today at the Parent Teachers Association of P.S. 175, having struggled during the 1970s before and after the construction of the new school building on the old Nevins yacht yard site. The Garden Club of City Island was founded in 1961 by a group of enthusiastic Island residents and continues to beautify the Island today.

CIVICS

The City Island Civic Association celebrated its 70th anniversary last November and is the longest-lasting civic group, although it has been joined along the way by a number of other organizations, some of which disappeared without a trace. In 1971, one of the founders of *The Current* started a group called Pride Unlimited, whose original mission was to clean up the debris on the Avenue; the group lasted only a couple of years, but its long-lasting impact can be seen in the existence of the famous dolphin in Hawkins Park.

One of the most impressive civic efforts on City Island was the establishment of CIVAC, the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps, in January 1972 after a death of a young man caused by a delay in the city's EMS ambulance response time. Thanks to fundraising efforts, such as an Easter Flower Sale, the group was able to obtain its first ambulance within a few months, a 1967 Cadillac, which was replaced two years later by a new Dodge Care-0-Van. In 1973, the Bronx Borough President, Robert Abrams, designated the week of July 1973 as CIVAC week in the Bronx. As of press time for the November 1974 *Current*, CIVAC had answered 187 calls, including 33 cardiac calls. In 1983 CIVAC cut back its hours to weekend and pleaded for more volunteers to obtain the necessary medical training to keep the corps running. Sadly, it suspended its service to the community in January 1990 and closed its storefront headquarters in March.

After P.S. 17 closed, Island residents moved to establish a community group in the building, and in the fall of 1976 the City Island Community Center was officially formed, along with the Nautical Museum. Many different activities were offered throughout the building, including art classes, Civic Association meetings, gymnastics, and much more, but after the building was vandalized, the city offered it for sale, a process that took several years. Eventually the Center ended up in the basement, where it is located today, paying monthly rent to the developer who continues to own the space. Unfortunately, the Community Center has been beset by problems of all kinds from the very beginning, as documented by more than 200 articles in *The Island Current* over the years. However, it has remained in existence and is supported by many Island residents, who are grateful for space where meetings can take place, along with other community activities.

Volunteer groups designed for specific age brackets have also been founded by residents. The City Island AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) was established in September 1971 and later divided into two groups, 318 and 3303. The national AARP had been founded in 1958 by a retired school teacher who was determined to provide private health insurance for older Americans (Medicare was not introduced until 1965), and remains dedicated to encourage older people "To serve, not to be served." In June 1981, a group of Island organizations joined forces to form COLONY (Council of Leaders of Neighborhood Youth) in order to develop and coordinate local activities for young people. Members included the Boy Scouts, CIVAC, the Community Center, the Little League, Girl Scouts, and St. Mary's youth programs. *The Current* followed the progress, and successful fundraising, of the group until 2002 but then it disappeared from view.

As soon as P.S. 175 was completed in 1975, there was a movement on City Island



Photo by RENA HANSEN

The original members of the City Island Artists Organization (CIAO) shortly after the group was established in June 1995.

among parents to construct a playground in the adjoining field, and efforts continued for several years. In 1989, a group calling itself Mothers for City Island banded together to push for a playground in Ambrosini Field next to the school; by 1991 it had become Parents for City Island and its efforts were finally rewarded the following year. The City Island Alliance was formed in 1999 to develop a comprehensive vision for the future of City Island regarding maritime, environmental, historical, educational, cultural, commercial, and community issues, but it dissolved before accomplishing much. A small group calling itself City Island Community Pride helped clean up the Island for a couple of years starting in 2015, and a new group called City Island Rising was established in 2019 to deal with a variety of community issues and is still hard at work.

MUSEUMS

One of the organizations that started up after *The Island Current* published its first issue in October 1971 was the City Island Historical Society, which was an informal group during the early 1970s but founded the City Island Nautical Museum in 1976 after having organized a local celebration of the national bicentennial. The museum was granted a sizeable amount of space in the old P.S. 17 building on Fordham Street, and when New York City sold the building to a private developer in 1987, the museum was given a lease guaranteeing that its space in the building would be maintained by the landlord. The construction of new condominium units in the building forced the closure of the museum until the mid-1990s, but it has maintained an even keel ever since.

The North Wind Museum was opened at 610 City Island Avenue in 1981 to educate young people about the plight of the environment. It offered a hands-on learning center featuring an exhibit called "The Undersea World of the Bronx," a 100-year-old tugboat; whale bones and life-size models of whales. For a while, two sea lions were rehabilitated in the museum's "rescurarium," but the museum closed down in the mid-1990s after the founder left the Island. The building, which before North Wind housed the New York Road Runners Club, is now a private house.

A number of organizations interested in art and architecture have sprung up (and fallen back) since *The Current* began publishing. City Island Artists Organization (CIAO) started up in 1995 when a group of Island artists joined together to present their work to the community and beyond. A gallery space and art center, staffed by volunteers, opened in the fall of 1996 at the southeast corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue, but unfortunately it closed a mere four years later. The good news, however, is that there are now a number of active art galleries on the Island, including Focal Point, Kaleidoscope, Janos and Theresa, Clipper Coffee, J.A. Foley Obscurities and Oddities, and more. The City Island Architectural Heri-

tage Preservation Foundation was established in the 2007 to help save structures of historical importance, and though it didn't last long, its goal of saving the William Scofield house at 65 Schofield Street was accomplished in 2016 when the house was restored and landmarked.

SPORTS

In May 1999, a cover story called "A Century of City Island Baseball!" described a tradition that dated back to 1900 when the City Island Athletic Club was organized, called by historian Alice Payne "one of the most active groups ever to operate on the Island." The club had an arena on the grounds of what is now the Morris Yacht Club, and in 1953 the Little League, a chapter of the national Little League organization founded in 1939, formed four teams, Clamdiggers, Civic Association, P.S. 17 and High Island playing on the ballfield at Rodman's Neck. During the 1960s and '70s, Anthony Ambrosini became profoundly influential for Island baseball, as well as basketball and football. He founded the City Island Athletic Association and led the fight to obtain a regulation Little League field constructed next to P.S. 175, although it took several years before the funding could be found and the land turned over to the Department of Parks & Recreation, which now owns the property.

THEATER

In 1998, the City Island Theater Group was founded by an enthusiastic group of Islanders, and although it has been on hiatus for over a year because of the pandemic, it continues to exist, with its base at Grace Episcopal Church. Since its first production in April 1999, the group has produced musicals, dramas, comedies, one-act plays, children's theater and even Shakespeare in Hawkins Park. However, CITG is by no means the first theater group on City Island. The Summer 1974 issue of *The Current* notes the 10th anniversary of a children's theater group called Little Players, and many Islanders will remember Patchwork, which started in 1976 in the auditorium of the P.S. 17 building but moved to Trinity Church in 1977 after an agreement with the Community Center could not be resolved. A spinoff group for youngsters called Patches, which later became Young Island Players, began in 1977. That same year, a group calling itself the Seagull Theater broke off from Patchwork (and argued in favor of its superiority in the November 1979 issue). However, Patchwork lasted far longer, until at least halfway through 1995, when *The Current* wrote an editorial in the July-August issue wondering "Where Are You?"

ENVIRONMENT

In July 1983, the City Island Preservation Association began a campaign to improve the environment and to fight pollution and storm damage on City Island, but after a decade of effort, it was replaced by other groups. In 1987 the CIPA sponsored a group calling itself the Clean Water Coalition to focus specifically on



Photo by DEBBY KALL

Anthony Ambrosini awards trophies to his basketball team at the St. Mary's Basketball Awards Dinner on April 4, 1992.



Photo by RENA HANSEN

Students from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School presented a Bicentennial banner to the City Island Nautical Museum in December 1981.



Photo by STEPHEN O'DONNELL

A large number of Island boys participated in a hike as part of a COLONY-sponsored water safety and outdoor skills program in late 1982.



Photo by RENA HANSEN

A group of Young Island Players in rehearsal for the production of "Grease" in October 1982.



Photo by RENA HANSEN

Susan Bellinson (center) cut the ribbon and officially opened the new office for SoundWatch at 300 City Island Avenue on Nov. 15, 1992, as friends, members and guests look on.



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

"Mamma Mia!" was the final production of the City Island Theater Group's 20th season, dedicated to the memory of Christopher McGowan.



Olin Stephens II (center) receiving the Maritime Heritage Award in 1998 from the Fleet Weekend team (l. to r.) Ena Ellwanger, Tom Nye, Rose Rodstrom and Pat Hennessy.

cleaning the waters around City Island with special focus on containing the Pelham Bay landfill, which had closed in 1978 but continued to spill leachate into Eastchester Bay. This group became an independent organization called Sound-

watch, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1998 after having successfully sued New York City to clean up and cap the landfill. A newly formed volunteer group representing several Island organizations has recently formed to explore community

use of the Gateway, a city-owned property next to the bridge. In 1997, IDEA (Innovative Directions, an Educational Alliance) was formed to teach children about the marine environment and succeeded in adding a marine wildlife ecology curriculum at P.S. 175. IDEA also sponsored and organized a Maritime Open House at the school and a maritime festival, Fleet Weekend, from 1998 to 2003. In 2004, the organization raised \$600,000 to build an educational/recreational facility on the Parks Department property adjacent to P.S. 175, but the Little League did not want to share its space and the idea was abandoned. Four years later the Little League did build a clubhouse next to the ballfield, but it was much smaller and less ambitious than the one IDEA had proposed. Not coincidentally, the formation of the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) in 2019 took up the environmental reins, and like IDEA has received grants to save the

shoreline behind the school and to introduce oyster reef restoration in Long Island Sound. It is perhaps coincidental that the Little League and CIOR are sharing the use of the clubhouse! Another group of environmental activists on City Island, the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, was formed in 2008 and continues to sponsor annual cleanups of the Hutchinson River. It is not at all surprising that *The Island Current* has spent a great deal of ink reporting on the ideas and accomplishments of these Island organizations over the past 50 years. In addition to articles describing achievements, events, disagreements and closures, *The Current* has since its early days devoted pages in each issue to Organization News, a section in which groups can make announcements, provide schedules and thank their volunteers. Needless to say, we hope that the next half century will be as rich in community spirit as the last one!

Obituaries

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



Photo by RON TERNER

Jerry Sloboda

Island resident Jerry Sloboda passed away on June 15, 2021, in Stone Ridge, NY.

He was born Gerard Francis Sloboda on Aug. 22, 1944, in the Bronx. From an early age, he had a profound connection with horses and would sell drinks on Orchard Beach to finance his passion to ride. This led him to compete in the East Coast rodeo circuit until an unfortunate disagreement with a bull he was riding ended that phase of his life.

He joined the Electrical Workers Union, like his father and brother before him, but most weekends he drove to Sullivan County, where he and his friends ran a semi-legal dude ranch. When work in the union was scarce, he became a chimney sweep to earn money and, as was his way, he did it with flare. He would arrive for each job in full regalia wearing a black top hat and tails.

City Island became Jerry's home in the late 1970s. He built a wooden sailboat at Royal Marina and later joined the City Island Yacht Club, where he excelled in the fine art of racing sailboats. The Black Whale and Floyd's Diner became his favorite hangouts, where close friends played chess outside and engaged in lively philosophical discussions about love, adventures

and politics on a diet of tacos and desserts.

Jerry met Joyce Meringolo in 1980 and they married in 1983. It was a union of kindred spirits, starting with a honeymoon rafting down the Colorado River, followed by racing and cruising sailboats and motorcycles, fly fishing in Montana, hiking in Alaska and spending every holiday with family and friends.

Retirement brought Jerry full circle when his love of horses resurfaced with a move upstate to the Spoiled Horse Farm in Stone Ridge and the delight of living with two lucky equine souls. While in this beautiful place, he became a drug and alcohol counselor, and his intelligence, empathy, humor and generosity helped many people find a new life of sobriety as he had done for himself many years earlier.

Jerry became a second father to many young people. Nieces, nephews and children of close friends had the privilege of receiving the heartfelt advice and guidance that he gave freely with all his heart.

He is survived by Joyce, his wife of 38 years, his brother Rickie, sister Toni and many family and friends who loved him dearly. He passed away with his wife by his side and his beloved horses grazing outside in the quiet hours of a beautiful summer morning. He had a wonderful life filled with purpose, love and happiness. He will be missed, but much more than that, he will be remembered.



Dorothy A. Martin

Dorothy Martin, a former resident of City Island, passed away on June 19, 2021, at the age of 93 at her home in Newton, NJ. Dorothy, known as Dot, was born in the

Bronx to Frederic and Frances (Creuziger) Leuck, and grew up on Earley Street. NY she grew up on Earley Street. As a teenager, she was a member of both the City Island Mariners and the Girl Scouts. She later moved to Queens, where she raised her family, before moving to Bristol Glen of Newton in 2019.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and enjoyed gardening, reading, bowling and traveling with her family.

She was predeceased by a grandson, Jesse Tedesco, in 2003, and is survived by her beloved husband, John A. Martin Jr.; her daughter, Suzanne and her husband, Michael Capps; her son, Steven J., and his wife, Eva; her cherished granddaughter, Jenny Tedesco, and great grandson, Cody Leisner, as well as her lifelong friend Rita Lynch.

Jeannine Galerne

Jeannine Galerne, widow of André Galerne, who owned International Underwater Contractors on City Island for many years, passed away at the age of 93 on July 25, 2021, in Scottsdale, AZ.

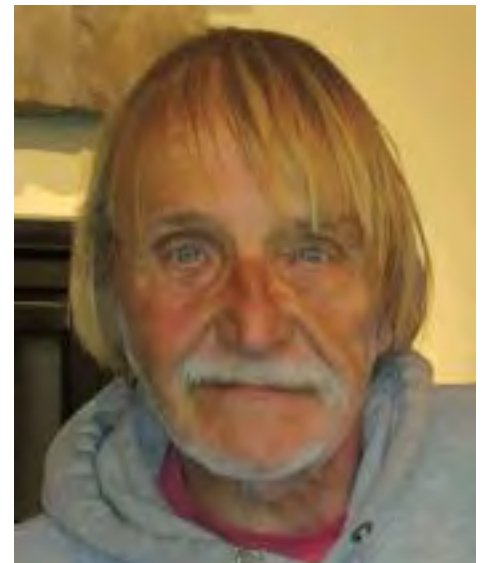
Jeannine Lucette Renaud was born on May 11, 1928, in Villeneuve Saint George, France, outside of Paris. Her early years included growing up in occupied France during World War II. She managed to continue her studies and her training in ballet, and she participated in early speulunking with France's combined boy and girl scout organizations, danced with the Paris ballet and knitted medieval-style tapestries.

In 1949 she married scouting sweetheart André Galerne, who became a professional diver and worked with Jacques Cousteau. He founded a commercial diving company in France in 1952 and moved to Canada in 1959, where he founded International Underwater Contractors. He moved the company to the United States in 1962 and purchased land at the east end of Fordham Street on City Island in 1970, where the company functioned as a diving facility and a hyperbaric center. After André retired in 1996, his son Lionel

managed the business until it closed early in the 21st century.

Jeannine Galerne was predeceased by her husband, who died in 2008; her daughter, Annie, and her son Olivier. She is survived by her sons Eric and Lionel, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She will be interred in Pelham Cemetery on City Island, alongside her husband.



William Robert Werner

Island resident William Robert Werner, known as Billy, passed away at the age of 77, on Aug. 18, 2021, at Montefiore Medical Center.

Billy was born on Aug. 1, 1944, to Han Kirt and Elisabeth Behun Werner. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service and retired in 2011 after 40 years of service, 20 of those years at the City Island Post Office. He also worked for the New York City Board of Elections alongside many other Islanders.

He is survived by Elise (Plumhoff) Werner, his wife of 38 years; his daughter, Dawn Werner; his son, William Michael Werner; his stepson, Eric Woods (Nicole); his great-granddaughter, Natalie Corbett, and his great-grandson, Logan O'Donnell.

A celebration of Billy's life was held on Aug. 21, 2021, at Trinity United Methodist Church.

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

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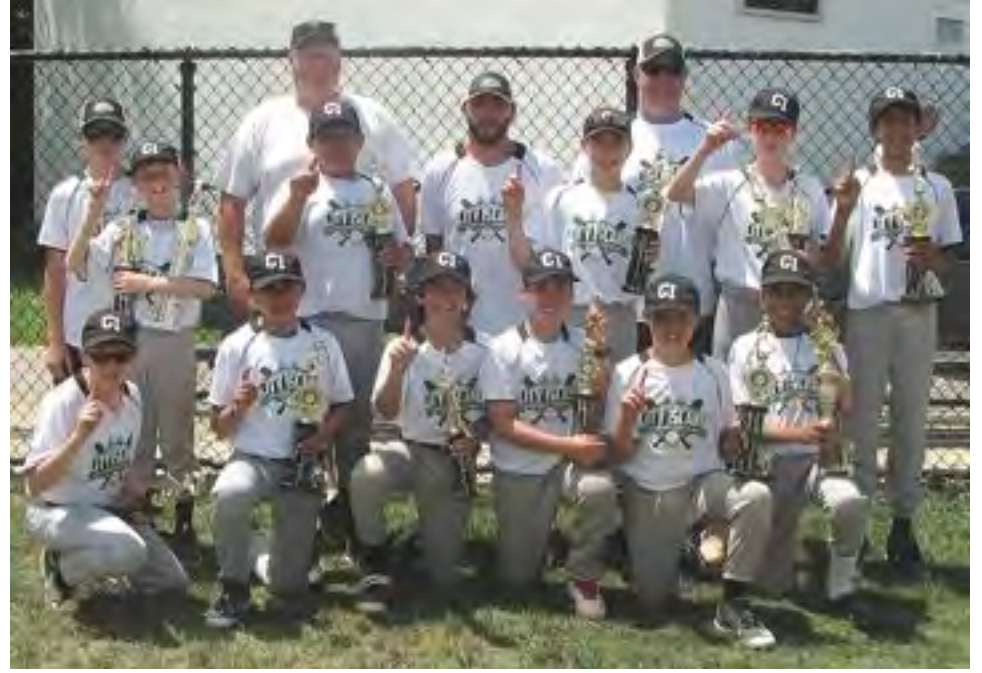


Photo by KAREN NANI

Kudos to the City Island Little League Majors team, which made it to the third round in the regional Little League World Series tournament in July 2021 before being defeated by another Bronx team. Great off-Island showing by the hard-working Island boys.



Photo by RICK DeWitt

At Trinity's Animal Blessing on July 11, Maria Swieciki presented her pet turtles to Pastor Dave.

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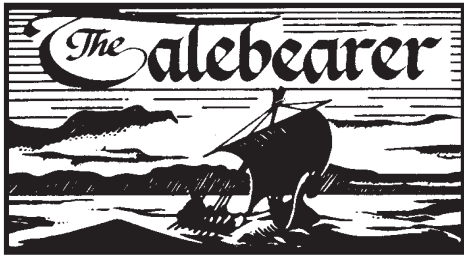


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Caden Riley Murdock McCoy was born on Aug. 12, 2021.

Delighted parents are John and Linda Ballard of Grand Gorge, NY, and Barbara Dolensek of City Island.

Say hello to Winter Street's newest resident, Caden Riley Murdock McCoy,



Photo by PAUL NANI

Father John Covington of Grace Episcopal Church will retire in September 2021. A celebration of his ministry will be held on Sept. 12 at Grace.

born Aug. 12. Proud parents are Jack McCoy and Stephanie Murdock. Thrilled big sister is Elsie Lynn Murdock McCoy.

Longtime Island resident Emi Economas married Fortunato Capomolla Jr. on July 30, 2021, at the Waterview in Monroe, CT. Emi and Fort met at work in January 2015 and currently reside in Norwalk, CT, with his three children and their dog, Ashes, and other small pets.

Happy 38th wedding anniversary to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who celebrate on Sept. 11.

Wishing a happy and healthy retirement to Father John Covington, who led Grace Episcopal Church on City Island for the last five years. The congregation will celebrate his ministry on Sept. 12. He led Grace Church through the pandemic and made sure that worship in per-



Anthony Valletta will celebrate his birthday in September.

son or virtually occurred every Sunday of his ministry. He will be missed.

Happy birthday wishes to Anthony Valletta on Sept. 6. Enjoy your special day. There's more to come! Love, your family.

Happy shared birthday wishes on Sept. 12 to Bay Street's Jean Anderson and Bob Swieciki.

Happy birthday on Sept. 2 to Schofield Street's Stephen Swieciki, with love from your family and our newest addition, the lovely Cora!

September birthday greetings go out to Cait O'Dwyer (Sept. 23), Tommy Lott (Sept. 24) and Tina Ruggiero (Sept. 28).

Hoping everyone had a safe and happy summer. Welcome back!

Maria Swieciki

Grayson Richard Hein

Grayson Richard Hein was baptized on May 2 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Somers, NY. Proud parents are Kristina and Al Hein. His City Island grandparents wish him blessings and love.

Happy birthday to Mike Rauh and Dan Wright.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Philip Dolensek and Mary Ballard were married on July 14, 2021, at their home in Worcester, NY.

Congratulations to Philip and Mary Ballard Dolensek, who tied the knot on July 14 at their home in Worcester, NY.



Emi Economas married Fortunato Capomolla Jr. on July 30, 2021.

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