

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Frustrated Islanders Continue Adapting to Covid Crisis

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Dec. 5, 2020, Nancy Kheck, Director of Health and Human Services for the Bronx Borough President and an Island resident, reported that City Island officially led the entire city in the percentage of positive test results at 12.8 percent of those tested. "As elsewhere," she reported, "the gift of Thanksgiving has been a wave of new Covid infections," and she wanted everyone on the Island to know about the increased risk to all residents.

This information spurred her office and that of Councilmember Mark Gjonaj to set up mobile vans on City Island to test residents for Covid-19, and from Friday, Dec. 11, through Sunday, Dec. 13, people lined up in front of Hawkins Park to be tested. Another van was set up by Community Board 10 at the American Legion to offer testing for a short period on Dec. 12, and antibody testing was offered on Monday, Dec. 14. Because of continuing demand, Dr. Kheck requested that NYC Test and Trace vans be sent to City Island again on Dec. 19 and 20. Although many Islanders were tested, some never learned the results or found it difficult to find out whether or not they were negative for the virus.

The Borough President's office and Councilmember Gjonaj also distributed hand sanitizer and face masks to a number of places on the Island, and many other groups joined in to provide food and other supplies to those in need because of the pandemic. Happily, positive results on the Island dropped shortly after these efforts, and as of mid-January, the percentage is below 5 percent. The number of Covid-related deaths for City Island residents remained at nine for many months; only one more has been counted since last summer, bringing the total to ten.

### Vaccines

When the vaccine was first distributed in the city in December, it was restricted to health-care professionals, first responders and other "essential workers." A few Islanders were among those to receive the first dose, including Merima Meggi, an intensive care nurse; Denise McGarry, a neonatal nurse practitioner; and Brendan Delaney, a Fire Department captain. Mrs. McGarry told *The Current*: "I've worked in the neonatal intensive care unit for 15 years. The children's side of the hospital started with vaccinating all emergency room and pediatric intensive care staff (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, housekeeping, front desk attendants) followed by delivery staff, which includes myself because I attend deliveries and have encountered many Covid + mothers. Then the rest of the NICU and then the general floors." Mr. Delaney reported he had received the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 30. "All FDNY members are being given the opportunity to receive the vaccine with those in front line units that respond to medical calls given highest priority."

By the middle of January, however, the categories of those considered eligible for receiving the vaccine were expanded to include all residents over 65 years of age. And when that information hit the Internet, a landslide effort to obtain vaccination appointments resulted in some

appointments and a great many disappointments.

As *The Current* goes to press, the Covid-19 vaccination program for residents of New York City, and specifically for residents of City Island, is in a state of chaos. Limited vaccine doses and locations, confusing websites, and endless waits on hold have all conspired to confuse, infuriate or discourage those who want to be vaccinated against this disease. Residents have been encouraged to sign up online at a number of different websites, fill out complicated forms (including photographs of Medicare cards), and submit them before being directed to locations in New York City where vaccinations are being given. There were so many applications, however, that most residents found themselves unable to make appointments at all during the week after the vaccination eligibility was enlarged. And if no appointments could be made, all of the online registration information disappeared into thin air, to be repeated again for future searches.

It is likely that these delays were caused not only by confusing or complicated instructions but also by the limited number of doses available to the city, the sudden, massive increase in eligible people and the fact that some vaccines are being held back for second doses. It is also possible that many residents have made appointments at multiple sites to be sure of getting any appointment at all. This writer found that the website for Statcare Urgent Care, which has sites in many locations, including Co-op City, required the completion of several forms but never forwarded the information to its regional offices, so that appointments were neither confirmed nor given. Some residents have driven as far away as Staten Island for their vaccines; others have given up trying and will wait until the vaccine is more widely available.

The difficulty that seniors have in obtaining appointments for vaccines is not exclusive to New York City; seniors across the country—and there are nearly 60 million of them—are having the same trouble, especially those who do not have internet access or computer expertise. Efforts have

*Continued on page 3*

As *The Current* went to press, the percentage of positive cases on City Island had again risen above 11 percent, along with more than 50 other zip codes in the city. City officials believe that the increase is most likely because people are not vigilant about masking and continue to have indoor gatherings with family and friends. Nancy Kheck in the Bronx Borough President's office is working on getting a self-test center on City Island; for updates on this and on the scheduling of vaccinations, check with <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-testing-sites/> and <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/>.



Photos by RON TERNER and courtesy of THE FIRST RESPONDERS

After having one of the lowest positive Covid rates throughout most of 2020, by Dec. 5, City Island led the entire city with a positive test percentage of 12.8 following the Thanksgiving holiday. This spike spurred resident Nancy Kheck, Director of Health and Human Services for the Bronx Borough President, and New York City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj (top photos) to set up mobile vans on City Island to test residents for Covid-19 and to give out free boxes of food, hand sanitizer and masks. From Dec. 11 to 13, people lined up in front of Hawkins Park to be tested (middle photo). When the first Covid vaccines were distributed in December to healthcare workers and first responders, some clam diggers and Islanders were among those to receive the first dose, including (bottom photos): FDNY Captain Brendan Delaney (above with Islanders Tommy John McMahon and Matt Delaney); Kathleen Fitzmaurice Silard (left), President and CEO of Stamford Health, and Denise McGarry, nurse practitioner, Columbia/Presbyterian Hospital.



## BRIEFLY...

**NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER BLOOD DRIVE** at the City Island Community Center on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 1 to 7 p.m. at 190 Fordham Street. To schedule an appointment please use the following link: Donor Portal - New York Blood Center ([nybc.org](http://nybc.org)) Enter Group Code 70986. Or call 1-800-933-Blood. Remember to Bring ID or your donor card, eat and hydrate prior to your donation. Walk-ins are welcome if the drive capacity permits, but appointments are preferred.

**CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM WEBINARS.** Don't miss the last three webinars about City Island history that the museum will present in February and March. The history of City Island will be told by Tom Nye on Feb. 11; "Remembering P.S. 17" will feature former students, including Ena Ellwanger; and "America's Cup Past and Present" on March 1, with Dick Sadler and Tom Nye. These Zoom presentations, which are free and open to the first 100 registrants, will be presented from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. and may be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3905jc6>.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during November, December 2020 and January 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 - HARASSMENT
- 1 - CRIMINAL SALE OF MARIJUANA
- 1 - UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- 3 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 - ROBBERY
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - BURGLARY

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Nov. 18, 2020, to Jan. 19, 2021.

11/18 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested three off-Island males, ages 22, 23 and 37, and charged them with the criminal sale of marijuana at 5:38 p.m. on Earley Street.

11/23 - At 12 p.m. on Hawkins Street, an Island male reported that charges had been made to his credit card without his per-

mission in an act of grand larceny.

11/23 - On Fordham Street at 5:30 p.m., an Island female reported being assaulted by another Island female during a tenant/landlord dispute. The victim said the landlord pushed open her front door and caused her to fall.

12/4 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 30, on City Island Avenue at 9:12 p.m. The defendant was observed making an improper left turn and then could not produce a valid license when stopped by police. Officers subsequently found that the driver's license had been revoked.

12/13 - A robbery occurred on City Island Avenue at 5 p.m. An Island male told police that his bicycle had been stolen by another Island male (both minors), who was later arrested by police and charged with robbery.

12/19 - On City Island Avenue at 2:30 p.m., a female Islander told police she was harassed by a male Islander, who filmed her without permission and made racist remarks.

12/22 - At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, four unknown males tried to steal money from the cash register at 2:01 p.m. in an attempted robbery. An employee fended them off, and they fled the scene.

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Grace Church is open for in person worship Sundays, starting at 10 AM.

Holy Communion will be celebrated under the guidelines of the Diocese of New York, with social distancing, masks, and communion in one kind, receiving only the consecrated bread. We continue to offer the service online, each Sunday, for those who choose to participate from home.

Our live stream link can be found on the home page of our Website at:

[www.gracecityisland.net](http://www.gracecityisland.net)

We hope you can join us!



# Islander Honored as Future Medical Leader



**Samantha Kucerak**

City Island resident Samantha Kucerak, a junior at the Beacon School in New York City, was selected to be a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders on Nov. 21 and 22, 2020. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in these careers to stay true to their dream and to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

"Growing up on City Island, I have always felt privileged to truly understand the meaning of community and what goodness we can bring to each others lives. Because of this, I have always known that the only career path that made sense to me is one where I knew that I could help people. I know that my journey to become a doctor is only beginning and that I have a long and strenuous path ahead of me, but after this past year of living through Covid-19, I see how important this line of work is, and attending the Congress of Future Medical Leaders has already given me such a huge leg up into the medical field," Samantha told *The Current*.

Samantha's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Samantha was selected to represent New York based on her

academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the two-day Congress, Samantha joined students from across the country and heard Nobel laureates and National Medal of Science winners talk about leading medical research. She was given advice from the deans of top medical schools on what to expect in medical school, and she heard stories told by patients who are living medical miracles. She was also inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

"Attending the Congress was one of the most inspiring moments of my life. It is amazing how much talent and passion was jampacked into only a two-day Zoom meeting. I went into the Congress feeling honored by the opportunity to be involved in such an amazing program, but after experiencing the outstanding lineup of speakers and presentations, I have never felt more grateful to know that a career in medicine is my calling," she explained.

This is a crucial time in America when we need more doctors and medical scientists who are well prepared for a future that is changing exponentially. The National Academy believes that focused, bright and determined students like Samantha Kucerak are the future and offers free services and programs to students who want to become physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks, through which future doctors and medical scientists can communicate. Opportunities are also provided for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students, and advice is provided for parents and students about college acceptance and finances, the acquisition of skills, internships, career guidance and much more.

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that prospective medical talent must be discovered at the earliest possible age so that students can be helped to acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career.

# PIPES AHOY!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by PAUL NANI

During the second week in January 2021, drivers going on and off City Island couldn't help but notice the row of large cranes lifting the two welded-steel casing pipes off the ground, as the installation of two water mains under Eastchester Bay between Pelham Bay Park and City Island progressed. The project took a major step forward with the insertion of the first pipe into the underwater tunnel drilled last year by the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

The installation of two water mains under Eastchester Bay between Pelham Bay Park and City Island took a major step forward the second week in January with the insertion of the first of two welded-steel casing pipes into the underwater tunnel drilled last year by the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

Drivers going on and off City Island couldn't help but notice the row of large cranes lifting the pipe off the ground in the park, where it had been assembled, and moving it toward the tunnel that goes underwater from the park to the temporary platform next to the Sea Shore Restaurant parking lot and the Catherine Scott Promenade.

Once the second steel casing pipe has been placed in the tunnel, the next step will be to insert the 20-inch ductile iron water

main pipes into the casing pipes. After that is done, the DDC will complete the installation of the water main that will eventually replace the temporary water main now located on the City Island Bridge. This aspect of the project is scheduled for completion this summer.

The next phase will be to install new storm sewers and a sewer outfall on City Island that will discharge into Eastchester Bay and to plant some vegetation to help mitigate the wetland area. Then the platform next to the Sea Shore parking lot will be removed.

Any resident who wants to be kept informed about the project may contact Maria Caminero, the Community Construction Liaison for NYC DDC Project #HED564, by calling 929-447-5407 or e-mailing [Cityislandccl@gmail.com](mailto:Cityislandccl@gmail.com).

# Final City Island Vote

The December issue of *The Island Current* reported election results based on in-person ballots cast on or before Nov. 3, 2020. The mail-in ballots were counted beginning on Nov. 6 and were not certified until Dec. 7.

The following table gives the final tally for votes cast in person and by mail. Those who won the elections are listed in

boldface type.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes*	%
<b>President</b>		
<b>Joseph Biden (D)</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Donald Trump (R)	970	41.9
Jo Jorgensen (LBT)	12	0.5
Howie Hawkins (G)	10	0.4
Brock Pierce/Karla Ballard (write-in)	1	
<b>U.S. House of Representatives District 14</b>		
<b>Alexandria</b>		
<b>Ocasio-Cortez (D)</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>48.1</b>
John Cummings (R)	1144	50.3
Michele		
Caruso-Cabrera (SAM)	32	1.4
John Foley (write-in)	1	
<b>State Senator District 34</b>		
<b>Alessandra Biaggi (D)</b>	<b>1327</b>	<b>59.1</b>
James Gisondi (R)	801	35.7
Antonio Vitiello (C)	107	4.8
John Foley (write-in)	1	
<b>State Assembly District 82</b>		
<b>Michael Benedetto (D)</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>59.1</b>
John DeStefano (R)	802	36.3
William Britt (C)		
(write-in)	76	3.4
Bill Stanton (write-in)	31	1.4
John Foley (write-in)	1	
Edit Shrkeli (write-in)	1	



Photo by TEAM GJONAJ

City Island volunteers from City Island Strong and the Civic Association's Unity and Solutions Committee worked with Team Gjonaj on Dec. 12, 2020, to deliver more than 336 food boxes, 2,000 masks, and 25 gallons of hand sanitizer. Volunteers shown here include Teri Kurtz, Candy Mancuso, Stu Sorell, Cathy Cebek, Ricardo Garcia and Mark Gjonaj (not shown: Josie Nova).

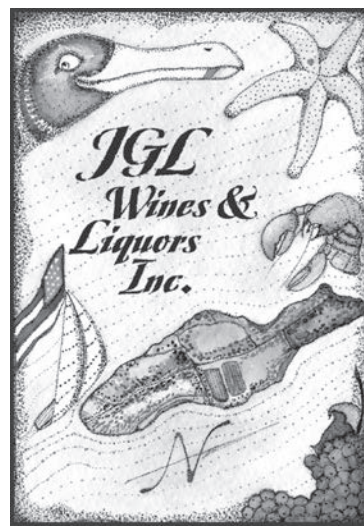
# Island Covid Frustrations

Continued from page 1

been made by city officials to open up places like Pilot Cove for vaccinations, but to date these have not materialized. Perhaps when the new federal administration takes on the responsibility for vaccination distribution, the number of vaccines available will increase and sites will be expanded


to include pharmacies and other locations more easily accessible to the elderly.

In the meantime, most Island residents continue to wear masks and practice social distancing, and restaurants continue to offer take-out meals and safe outdoor dining in order to stay in business. As the number of cases declines after the holiday spike and as vaccine distribution continues to expand, Islanders are hopeful that this pandemic will be brought under control before summer.



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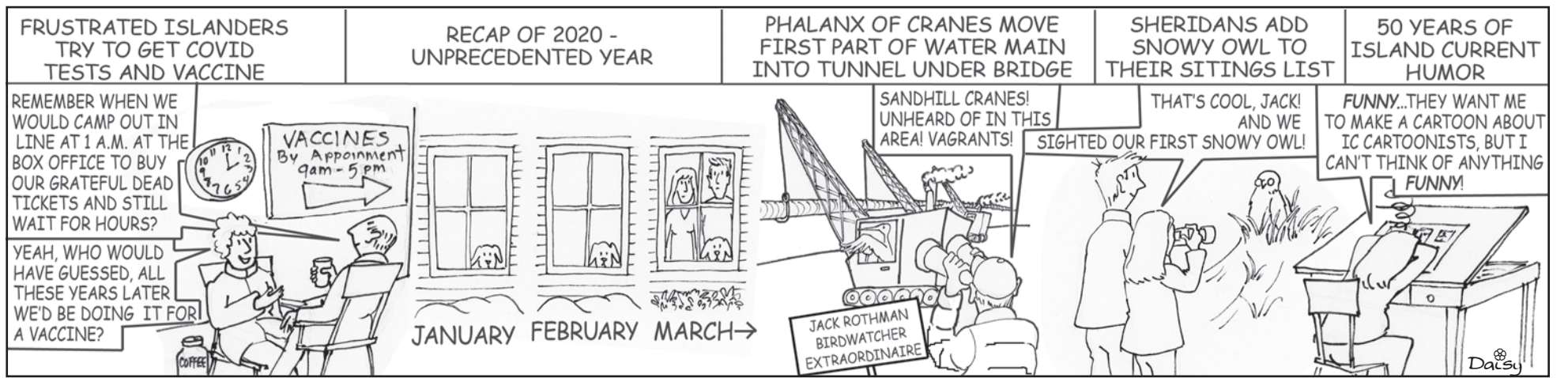


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### Editorial

City Island, as we all know, is a unique place, much loved by its residents, whether they be clam diggers (born here) or mussel suckers (living here but born elsewhere). So on the surface City Island remains much as it has always been, a community loyal to the place even though the boat-building business has gone and most residents now work off the Island instead of “across the street,” as a Nevins employee once put it.

In the old days, there were two schools on the Island—P.S. 17 on Fordham Street and St. Mary, Star of the Sea School on Minneford Avenue. As one old-timer noted in an interview done in 1984: “I was from the north end of the island, and the kids from the north end never went down to the south end except perhaps in the fall to have an apple fight with the guys from the south end. Most, as I recall—I may be wrong—most of the kids on the north end were Catholic and most of the kids from the south end were Protestant. And we never intermingled until we got to high school. There we were all City Islanders and we stuck together.”

In a sense that comment sums up what is still true of City Island today. Your next-door neighbor may have voted for a different ticket than you did, but you keep politics out of your conversations about the neighborhood. As in the 1970s, when the community joined together to form CIVAC (City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps), Islanders have joined forces to make sure that residents get food during the pandemic, that snowed-in driveways and sidewalks get shoveled (if and when it might snow), that neighbors keep an eye on their neighbors’ children, elderly relatives, ill neighbors, loose dogs. If there is one thing the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us, it is that none of us are immune to the disease and that everyone who cares about City Island cares about other City Islanders. Happy New Year to all.



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.

#### Thanks for the Lights

To the Editor

We would like to acknowledge and thank those who stepped up and made donations to cover the cost of the City Island Avenue holiday lights. In past years we came together as a community to light our Christmas tree and Menorah. As we were unable to do this in 2020, because of Covid-19, the avenue lights were needed more than ever to bring some holiday joy to our island.

These lights were partially funded from monies received by the Chamber and the Civic Association from film shoots on City Island. We would like to thank Councilman Mark Gjonaj for his generous support and the following City Islanders and businesses that also made donations to this project: Richie DePierro, Tony Roccamo, in memory of Christiana Roccamo; Maria Caruso of Maria Caruso Travels; Janie Blanks of EXP Realty; Mike Carew of Captain Mike’s Diving; Robert Arthur King, Architect; Haim Joseph of City

Island Marina; Z.I. Sanchez of Z Studio; Dan Cavaluzzi of All Pro Marine/ South Minneford Yacht Club; Jane La Scala of Hailing Port; staff of *The Island Current*; Sammy Chernin of Sammy’s Fish Box and Sammy’s Shrimp Box; Danny Pirraglia of Seafood City.

Paul Klein, Vice President, City Island Chamber of Commerce



Photo by RON TERNER

The holiday lights along City Island Avenue, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, Island businesses and the Civic Association, were especially appreciated in 2020.

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# 2020 Recap: A Remarkable Year for City Island

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK

Like the rest of the country, 2020 was a year of service, sorrow and scenes never witnessed before on our Island home. *The Island Current*, which began its 50th year of publication in 2020, recognized the efforts of residents during the pandemic, while also celebrating the lives of those lost.

The year began innocently enough when the City Island Nautical Museum received a 2020 Best of Bronx Award and when the only significant snowstorm of the winter arrived on Jan. 18. Islanders were looking forward to upcoming events like the New York Boat Show in January, the City Island Theater Group's production of "God of Carnage" in February, and the 125th anniversary of the New York Public Library, including the City Island Branch founded in 1911.

Islanders could not have foreseen that by the end of March 2020, our lives would be irrevocably changed by a virus called Covid-19, which spread quickly, shut down New York City schools and businesses, and cost the lives of many.

We first reported on the coronavirus crisis in the April issue of *The Current*, which was published a week earlier than usual in order to make sure that residents got information about the pandemic and local activities as soon as possible. "No one can estimate how long the need for 'social distancing' is going to last, but we have to prepare ourselves for it to take months rather than days," we predicted.

*The Current* reported the closings of in-person activities at P.S. 175, all Island houses of worship, the PSS Senior Center, the Community Center, the City Island Library, Chase Bank (temporarily), and our many well-known restaurants from the end of March through April, May and into the summer. Thankfully, some essential businesses remained open, including Dominick's Market, the City Island Pharmacy, JGL Wines & Liquors, the Sunoco Gas Station and Island laundromats.

Then Islanders swung into action to help those in need and respond to the crisis. The City Island Civic Association, which celebrated its 70th year in November, organized a community effort called City Island Strong, joining forces with the American Legion Post 156, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the churches and the temple to offer residents help by shopping, delivering food, walking dogs and performing other chores. Elected officials, including State Senator Alessandra Biaggi and Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, provided many free meals, as did the PSS Senior Center and P.S. 175. The nightly "clap" thanking first responders and healthcare workers at 7 p.m. became a regular event around the Island, especially at the Boatyard Condominium on Carroll Street and on Bay Street.

From May until the end of 2020, *The Current* hailed the efforts of City Islanders on the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic, including healthcare providers Caitlin Doyle-Goldsmith, Merima Meggi, Jillian Lotrionte, Arturo Mazzeo,

Tasha DeSantis and Julia Doyle; first responders, including FDNY Captain Brendan Delaney, firefighter JR Kearns, and New Rochelle Police Commissioner Joe Schaller; essential workers Armando Teto of Con Edison, Mickey Burke of NYC Transit, Board of Education teachers Rose Kolb, Maria and Stephen Swieciki, John Sheridan and Maria Sutherland; and principal Julie Porras and her staff at P.S. 175.

Island restaurants, businesses and workers struggled to adapt to life during the pandemic and survive, among them ToGo Express, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Dunkin' Donuts, Buddy's Hardware and Marine, City Island Physical Therapy, Cottam Heating and Air Conditioning, Sammy's, the City Island Diner, Artie's, The Black Whale and the Lobster House. When many Island restaurants reopened for takeout in May, some patrons ordered food, ate it in their cars and then threw bags of leftovers along City Island Avenue and on side streets. New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj stepped up and sent a volunteer group of "Wildcats" to help clean up the garbage. Islanders in the real estate business noted that the market had changed as city dwellers looked to leave Manhattan, and those in travel and construction suffered serious set-backs as the pandemic forced them to cut way back on business as usual.

The Covid-19 shelter-in-place order resulted in education scenes unlike any seen before on City Island. Elementary and high school students including Ronan Maroney, Joseph Goonan and Lea Accella learned from home, and teachers Craig Antelmi, Eileen Marcus and Nancy Lotrionte taught their students remotely. Graduation for the P.S. 175 eighth-grade class was anything but traditional in 2020 because of the coronavirus crisis. There were none of the usual diploma presentations and speeches; they were replaced by a virtual graduation followed by a parade that passed by each student's home on June 25.

Grace Episcopal Church parishioners worshipped via GoToMeeting on Easter Sunday until in-person, socially distanced services opened up again for all houses of worship in November. The Chamber of Commerce brought holiday cheer and lights to City Island Avenue, and made sure the Hanukkah menorah and Christmas tree were lit in Hawkins Park. Every Sunday, Trinity Methodist Church offered a food pantry in front of the church, and a "virtual" 5K run was sponsored on June 6 and 7 by the City Island Roadies to help support the pantry.

The coronavirus crisis also heightened political tensions. On June 6, a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally near the City Island Bridge raised awareness of social injustices experienced by Islanders of color. In October, a Back-the-Blue rally was held in Hawkins Park to acknowledge the work of the N.Y.C. Police Department. Then on Nov. 3, an unprecedented 23 percent of residents voted by mail-in ballots for president and other candidates on the



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK AND RON TERNER

The year 2020 will be remembered for images never before seen by Islanders, especially those from the Covid-19 pandemic (top two photos). The historic year included joyous events, like the wedding of Mallory Byrnes and JR Kearns (middle photos), as well as the sad passing of longtime Islanders, including Jackie Kyle Kall (shown lobbying Mayor Michael Bloomberg) and Buddy Pontecorvo (bottom photos).



ballot. The final certified totals showed that Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris received 56 percent of Islander votes for president and vice president, compared to 42 percent for Donald Trump and Michael Pence.

Love conquered all amidst (and in spite of) the pandemic with the 2020 weddings of Patrice Delaney and Mitchell Talavera, Jennifer Brick and Matthew DeVito, Stephen Lott and Kelsey McMorrow, and Mallory Byrnes and JR Kearns. These weddings had to be postponed or scaled down from their original plans because of pandemic restrictions.

Achievements by residents and family members were also celebrated, as well as the efforts of local non-profit organizations. The City Island Nautical Museum, which was unable to open in 2020, sold facemasks featuring a nautical chart of City Island, and offered webinars on the Island's history. The PSS Senior Center offered programs by Zoom, and the Community Center held sidewalk sales of items donated by Islanders. Although the City Island Oyster Reef had to suspend shell collection from the restaurants, the group managed to analyze data from oyster research cages placed around the Island, to begin restoring the shoreline behind P.S. 175, and to hold a successful Water Jubilee in September to raise funds. The American Legion held its annual Veterans Day ceremony off the Island, but they came through with pumpkins and chrysanthemums on the first weekend in October.

During the first week in December, Islanders were horrified to learn that City Island officially led New York City in its percentage of positive test results for Covid-19 infections, which were reported as 12.82 percent of those tested. (The current percentage as of press time is still high, at 11.63 percent.) This surge prompted Island resident Nancy Kheck, who serves as the Bronx Borough Presi-

dent's Director of Health and Human Services, and Councilmember Mark Gjonaj to quickly arrange for testing vans to be set up on City Island from Dec. 10 through 12, with antibody testing on Dec. 13. Hand sanitizer, masks and gloves were also distributed throughout the Island.

In a year filled with grief for many, Islanders especially mourned the loss of several prominent clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in 2020, including Helen McMahan, Esther Panico, Philip Tomsen, Adelaide Rosenfeld Bialek, Grattan Kyle III, Gregory Penny Sr., Charles Vincent, Ethel Wilson Baumann, Salvatore Pirraglia, Vincent Warner, Buddy Pontecorvo, Charles Tillinghast, Thomas Tomsen, Heike Neumeister, Jack Hartigan, Olga Lopez, Sister James Patrick, Tyler Rhodes, Jeanne Sadler Pezone and Jacqueline Kyle Kall.

The staff of *The Island Current* could never have predicted that our 50th year would be so momentous in more ways than can be recapped here. While newspapers around the country folded because of the economic hardship caused by Covid-19, the steadfast support of our advertisers and many readers kept *The Current* afloat. Thanks to all who subscribe and read *The Current* and, with your continued support, we will keep going for another 50 years!

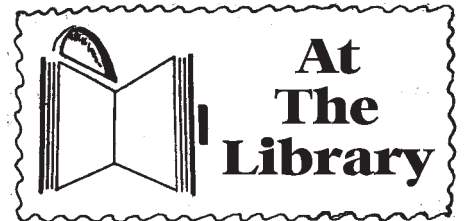
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**Eric Nightlinger**, whose FDNY-approved propane heater business is located here on City Island, is offering local restaurants devastated by the pandemic a demonstration of the correct way to use outdoor propane heaters, especially in empty parking lots. He offers heaters that can cover an area of 400 square feet, providing enough heat to keep a table and chairs warm, and even more space if there is a partition around the perimeter that could contain radiant heat. Propane is half the price of electricity for the amount of heat provided. For more information, go to [PropaneGuyLLC.com](http://PropaneGuyLLC.com).



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**VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Online Family Storytime:** Join us for a live, online program with songs, rhymes, and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that Storytime is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Storytime is a program for parents/caregivers and their children. Both the parent/caregiver and the child must be present during the entire program; unaccompanied adults or children will be asked to leave the program. When registering for this program, parents/caregivers should use their name and information. You don't need a library card to participate! Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> to register.

**One-on-One Help: Databases for Children:** Do you have questions about using one of our databases? Are you interested in exploring some databases that can help with your child's schoolwork? Book 30 minutes to speak with a library staff member! The program will take place on Google Meet. You will need a device with audio and/or video and an internet connection to join or a phone number to dial in. You will also need a valid library card and PIN. Both the parent/caregiver and the child can be present during the session; unaccompanied children will be asked to leave the program. When registering, parents/caregivers should use their information. You will receive confirmation of your appointment via e-mail with the information on how to join; please make sure you are available at this time. Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call 718-885-1703 to set up a free appointment!

**VIRTUAL TEEN and TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Mapmaker, Mapmaker:** Help people explore your neighborhood, community or city by mapping out the places and landmarks that are important and special to you. Help people

discover your world and understand your view of the world better. Or help people discover a world of your own making! Create a map of a world that's inside your head, and write a story in map form so that when someone sees it they picture the world without reading a word! Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 3:30 p.m.

**Zentangle 101:** Learn about Zentangle and practice the art of helping yourself relax and truly let go. Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 3:30 p.m.

**Teen Activism Discussion:** What do you think you need to stand up for? We will host a respectful discussion about ways teens can participate in activism, politics and American democracy. Participants will leave with book recommendations to further explore the ways they can stand up for what they think is right. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 3:30 p.m.

**Teens Write Now:** Join a supportive writing group where you can share tips, ask for critique and connect with other writers. Make sure to have some writing done in advance if you want to receive critique. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 3:30 p.m.

For all the above programs, go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> for more details and to register.

**VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Virtual 1-on-1 Classes:** Topics include, Help with Databases for Adults, NYPL Catalog and e-Book Borrowing, and Getting Started with e-Books. These classes will be scheduled in half-hour time slots. Call 718-885-1703 to register now. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Quotemeal:** Start your weekend with some brainfood! Join us virtually, via Google Meet, for a deliciously fun conversation about quotable books, and be sure to jot down a few examples that will amuse, uplift or motivate your fellow readers. Thursday, Feb. 4, at 10:30 a.m. Call 718-885-1703 to register.

**Parents' Picks:** Parents, have your little ones left you with tiny windows of opportunity to catch up on your reading and/or binge-watching? Join a group that understands. The City Island Library is inviting parents to gather virtually and discuss all of your "little breaks" material! Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m. Call 718-885-1703 to register.

**Online: Meet the Collection:** Looking for something to read? The Wakefield and City Island Libraries will be hosting Meet the Collection! A topical introduction to the library's circulating collection. Registration required. Thursdays at 1 p.m. Go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> for more details and to register.

Feb. 4: Online Book Discussion: Open Book Format; Feb. 11: Black American History; Feb. 18: U.S. Presidents; Feb. 25: True Crime I.

**Open Book Hour: What Are You Reading Now?** Many of us have been indoors looking for ways to pass the time. One of the most popular activities at home is reading. What have you been reading? What are you reading right now? Join us and share selections with other readers. Saturday, Feb. 13 and 27, at 3:30 p.m. Go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> for more details and to register.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
<b>One-Family Houses</b>		
111 Horton Street	\$650,000	10/1/20
154 Reville Street	\$450,000	10/2/20
723 King Avenue	\$517,000	11/10/20
224 Kirby Street	\$599,000	11/11/20
14 Bay Street	\$650,000	12/15/20
168 Fordham Street	\$610,000	12/18/20
220 Kirby Street	\$749,000	12/31/20
<b>Multi-Family Houses</b>		
444 King Avenue	\$625,000	11/1/20
170 Carroll Street	\$490,000	12/2/20
25 Fordham Street	\$949,000	12/16/20
<b>Condominiums</b>		
66 Island Point	\$700,000	11/18/20
170 Schofield Street, 2J	\$160,000	12/14/20
<b>Commercial</b>		
250 City Island Avenue	\$350,000	12/22/20

Disclaimer: The above sales include foreclosures and family transfers, which do not reflect real market or assessed value in those cases.

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# The Power of Words in a Changing Media Landscape

By ASTRID LANGOE



Astrid Langoe

The following article was written by Astrid Langoe for a First Year Writing Seminar at Boston College.

The use of words is one of the most influential ways to proclaim power, as well as the easiest. Words influence the beliefs, values, emotions and perceptions of those who read them. In isolation, words are often without meaning, but combined with other words and put into a context, they become a powerful weapon, if not always a peaceful one. Words can help, heal and memorialize, but they can also hurt.

In the media, words are the primary means by which people can communicate with each other, and they serve as an important tool for delivering messages to specific audiences. For the last few centuries, newspapers have served a primary role in informing the public of current events and ideas, but over the past decade the circulation figures for printed newspapers has dropped significantly. Indeed, the very future of printed news is in doubt.

The average age of newspaper readers is calculated to be well over 50 years, and for the online versions of the same media, the average age is around 40. For the younger generations, social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook seem to have taken over. They have become a resource not only for connecting with friends and family, but also for absorbing fast-paced sound bites of the extensive news flow that people used to get from reading printed and online newspapers. Although the social media platforms do a good job delivering condensed summaries on current events, they provide a completely different experience from old-fashioned newspapers. Today, the job of journalists is changing. The focus has shifted from providing robust, fact-checked news to a fast-paced buzzword-oriented environment, where speed becomes more important than accuracy and credibility. For this reason, the choice and the meaning of words have become more important than ever before.

I am not going to stick out my neck and say that I am some sort of extraordinary exception who reads through a printed newspaper every morning, but a recent conversation with a friend, Karen Rauhauser Nani, started me thinking seriously about the power of words in a newspaper context. She is editor of *The Island Current*, a monthly community newspaper that is read by many residents of City Island as well as former residents who may live elsewhere.

Growing up on City Island, Karen has always valued community, especially one where she has, as she puts it, "access to all the great things that one of the largest urban areas in the world provides." At the same time, however, she loves being part of a small, tight-knit nautical community full of boats, seafood and sand. Karen earned degrees in mathematics and statistics from Hunter College and has had a successful career in the marketing

industry for over 40 years, but when she became editor of *The Current* in 1997, she had to enter a new world, the world of words.

"Since I was a math major," she told me, "I did not pay much attention in my required creative writing and literature classes. I did all right, but since I like math, they were not my priority." However, since joining the staff of *The Current*, she has spent hours studying words and believes that this helped her view them in a different light. She told me that "words are powerful because they build community. They recognize the people who make an impact, and they congratulate those who succeed, but they also call attention to those who do wrong. No particular word has more power than another. Rather, it is about the context in which a word is used."

As editor-in-chief, Karen deals with a diverse assortment of articles ranging from topics like business and local events to personal stories, including marriage, death and even crime. Because *The Island Current* is targeted for a specific community, it is important that the paper's writers know which words to use in different contexts. "When we are reporting on crime stories, the words we choose really matter because we have to be accurate; we have to be fair."

As social media and other platforms emerge as the primary sources of information, Karen worries that words can become dangerous. News reports on social media are not fact-checked, and "a lot of misinformation is planted by bad actors or people with hidden agendas." Most traditional newspapers are carefully checked and written by professional journalists and reviewed by editors, but the news that appears on social media often contains misinformation and is at risk of being misinterpreted. A journalist's diction and rhetoric has an immense amount of power as the words influence a reader's perception of the topic, which explains why newspapers are often a better source of information.

Moreover, words change how people perceive what the words describe. "Who, when, where, what, why, and how" are the key terms that every writer has to pay attention to in order for it to be a good story. When writing an article, one must know one's intended audience. As Karen puts it, "a story about a recent crime should not have the same tone as an article about kindergarten graduates. As silly as it seems, the reader might get the wrong idea and assume the graduates are somehow similar to the felons."

All in all, during her time as editor of *The Island Current*, Karen has learned the importance of choosing words wisely. Words have the ability to both hurt and heal, and one must choose the right words for the right situations and audience to avoid being misunderstood. Even if words are intended to praise someone, the wrong choice can have a detrimental effect, which is why it is necessary to both speak and write with mindfulness. I hope that everyone, regardless of age, might take a break from social media and pick up a newspaper every now and then, not just for the headlines but for a closer look at the writers' choice of words. It just might help them realize the true power of the written word.

# AWAKENING HOLIDAY SPIRIT DURING A CRISIS



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT, SUSAN GOONAN and PAUL KLEIN

Although many traditional holiday events had to be curtailed, the light of the season was aglow on City Island despite the pandemic. The holiday tree and Hanukkah menorah were lit in Hawkins Park by Skip Giacco and Paul Klein without carolers and the usual countdowns (top photos). Trinity United Methodist Church generously gave out 85 meals and several turkeys donated by City Councilman Mark Gjonaj's office on Thanksgiving Day (middle photo). The altar at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church was beautifully decorated with care as parishioners practiced social distancing during holiday services, and the Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School safely celebrated the birth of Jesus with a (masked) pageant on Christmas Eve (bottom photos).



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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.

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 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. All Temple offerings are 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](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

For the month of February, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night Shabbat services on Feb. 12 and a special Purim Shabbat on Feb. 26. Other services will be community led on Feb. 5 and 19. Please see our calendar for our community led Havdalah services. All services are held in a joyful celebratory manner.

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](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please 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](mailto: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](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Jodie Sadovsky

### City Island Nautical Museum

Although the museum has been unable to open since December 2019 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, volunteers have been busy keeping the organization afloat. Museum merchandise, including the face masks with the City Island nautical chart, are available for sale at Kaleidoscope Gallery (280 City Island Avenue), thanks to Paul Klein. Many members recently renewed their memberships, several making substantial donations that will keep the museum warm and clean as we prepare to reopen, hopefully in the spring. Special thanks go to former Island resident David Batten for his exceptionally generous gift. We were also delighted to receive grant funding from the Department of Cultural Affairs and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, as well as income from the New York Adventure Club for hosting several webinars on the history of City Island.

President Tom Nye has continued to post his treasury of old photographs on the museum's Facebook page and has received many rounds of applause for his efforts. His daughter, Lauren Nye, also a trustee, developed a series of museum webinars, in January featuring Hart Island and the artists of City Island. These will continue with webinars on the history of City Island as told by Tom Nye on Feb. 11; on "Remembering P.S. 17," which will feature former students, including Ena Ellwanger; and "America's Cup Past and Present" on March 1, with Dick Sadler and Tom Nye. These Zoom presentations, which are free and open to the

first 100 registrants, will be presented from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. and may be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3905jc6>.

Anyone interested in learning more about the museum is invited to visit the website at [www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org). If you wish to make a donation or become a member, you may do so online through Paypal or by sending a check to the City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464. Individual memberships are \$25 per year, family memberships \$35, corporate memberships \$75. Keep in mind that the museum is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Here's to a brighter year ahead when we can welcome you back into the Nautical Museum at long last.

Barbara Dolensek

### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The shop is open in the school gym on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our mid-season sales are going on now with half price and bag sales. Watch for our end-of-season sale. We will be closed from Feb. 27 through March 18 and will reopen with our spring collection.

Arlene Byrne

### City Island Republicans

This year all city offices will be on the ballot: mayor, comptroller and borough president. The first day for petitions is Feb. 23. We will be coming around to get signatures in order to place candidates on the November ballot. We also may be in need of poll workers. Call Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695. Hopefully we will get to have a meeting this year.

Fred Ramftl

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Wednesday, Feb. 17, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at both Masses.

The Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent. Time to be announced.

Our Religious Education Program is progressing nicely as we embark in a new way of learning. If you have any questions regarding the program, please don't hesitate to contact Teri Kurtz at the Religious Education office by calling 718-885-1440 or by e-mailing [smsreled@yahoo.com](mailto:smsreled@yahoo.com).

A big thank you to Aimee Breen and Seafood City for donating the turkeys for our Thanksgiving raffle. Congratulations to our winners: First prize to Mary Kay, second prize to Deacon Bill, and third prize to Nick.

Rose Dietz and Teri Kurtz

### Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club has scheduled its February and March meetings to be held via Zoom. While we look forward to getting back to our in-person meetings, Zoom is the next best thing. We get a chance to see each other and plan future projects. The Garden Club officers have been meeting regularly via Zoom, which has been a blessing. We are looking forward to warmer weather when we can again hold membership meetings outdoors. Members who have not used the Zoom online meeting platform can get help from Secretary Ellen Murphy by calling or e-mailing her.

At our Feb. 1 general membership Zoom meeting we will have a presentation by Nancy Kalieta on "Victorian Language of Flowers." This presentation has



Photo by JAMES GOONAN

Quilters by the Sea at their November Sew Saturday (l. to r.): Doreen Gallagher, Pamela Turner, Alison Winters, Susan Vaughan, Harlan Sexton, Mary Carman, Sandra Panzarella, Ethel Lott, Vivi McGuire and Judy McCormick. Not shown: Diane Lott, Cathi Swett.

been popular with other garden clubs in our area and should be very entertaining. At our March 1 meeting, we will have a presentation by Sue Avery on "Waterwise Gardens." Although we are blessed in New York with having abundant water, conserving water is always a good idea and not having to water so frequently is very appealing. Both presenters have been recommended by the 9th District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. The meetings will start at 10 a.m. with the presentation and then move to Garden Club business. Please sign on early to give all of us time to greet each other and make sure that we have the technology working.

We hope that Islanders enjoyed the holiday wreaths that club members distributed to our public spaces, including the post office, library, fire station, City Island Nautical Museum, P.S. 175, Pelham Cemetery, the American Legion Triangle, Hawkins Park and Ambrosini Field. We are starting our beautification plans for the spring. We want to thank those of you who so generously donated to our Beautification Fund this past year. Those funds made our projects possible.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, please contact a current member who will refer you one of our officers or e-mail [gardencityof-cityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardencityof-cityisland@gmail.com). We will make sure to include you in our meetings, whether in person, via Zoom or just to receive a newsletter. We hold our meetings the first Monday of every month at 10 a.m.

Judy Judson

### Grace Episcopal Church

The coronavirus has altered many aspects of our lives. People are confused and frightened and dealing with almost unprecedented uncertainty. As we explore new and different ways of living together, many of us find comfort in those things that are constant: family, dear friends, worship (in whatever form) and our congregation at Grace Church.

New to Grace: Grace Church is now open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Grace Church is located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street. Please enter by the main entrance, where a church member will welcome you. The use of a mask is required, social distancing will be observed, and hand sanitizer will be available at the door. 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](mailto:gracecityisland@gmail.com).

The link is also found on the Grace Church website: <https://www.gracecityisland.net>.

Grace Church is also open for prayer between 2 and 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Those not able to attend in person are invited to pray at home. Feel free to visit at any time during the hour. Please enter by the main entrance, a church member will seat you, observing social distancing. The use of a mask is required, hand sanitizer will be available at the door. Please join us for a time of prayer, with masks on, sitting socially and safely distanced in the pews. We pray for each other, for ourselves, the sick, the lonely, the caregivers. And as Father John suggests, "Find a moment to be thankful for our lives and those things that bring us comfort and joy."

Our congregation will endure. Vestry is continuing to hold monthly online meetings coordinated by Senior Warden, Bruce Weis. Paul Nani reports that Cuba, our sexton, checks on the building daily; our treasurer, Kathy Lonergan, sorts the mail and visits the office during the week; and Evyonne Baker, our volunteer office assistant, is continually updating our website, which now has Father Covington's sermons posted.

Sunday School: Members of Grace Church Sunday School participated in the Pageant on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. It was well received by all in attendance, especially the adoring parents. 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](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

Our music ministry is introducing a new opportunity for all to participate in music during our worship services. No prior musical experience necessary. Contact Caroline Coppola, Minister of Music, for more information and a demonstration of our hand chimes ([geccimusic@gmail.com](mailto:geccimusic@gmail.com)).

The GraceTones are eager to return to singing for residents at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, as well as supporting local businesses with shows featuring hymns about the power of God's eternal grace, love and joy, when it is safe to do so. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2021!

Sandy Dunn

### AARP 318

Our chapter has been notified that because of Covid-19 all chapter meetings will be discontinued until further notice. At this time there are no updates. We will keep you posted once we hear otherwise. Be safe and we hope you are enjoying 2021.

Carroll A. Reid

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

Happy and safe 2021 from the board of the City Island Community Center. We hope everyone enjoyed safe holidays with close family and friends.

The Community Center remains on restricted utilization due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Programming is now limited to supportive groups, and the Center can only have a maximum of 10 participants per program. Approved Programs include the **AA Meetings** on Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and the **NA Meeting** on Thursdays at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

In an effort to continue to serve our members, we are exploring some virtual programming that will be open to all current and registered members. Some topics we are considering will cover mental wellness during the pandemic, healthy heart tips for American Heart Month in February, and some child-friendly Valentine crafts for the

holiday.

Let us know about topics you'd be interested in learning about in the coming weeks. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

We are also pleased to be partnering on another critical Blood Drive. Please consider donating blood on Feb. 3 from 1 to 7 p.m. All state and local safety protocols will be followed.

*Friendly Reminder.* You can help support the City Island Community Center through an official membership, and 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 who have made a generous donation on behalf of a group or business. We know who you are and will work to pay it forward.

For up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145, or Like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

Have a safe and warm month!

Melissa Cebollero

**American Legion Post 156**

Our next meeting is Sunday, Feb. 7, at 12 noon, via Zoom. Please download the Zoom app to your mobile phone, tablet or computer. I will e-mail the link for you to click on to join the meeting. A link to the meeting can also be found on the main page of our website

under Events.

Dues are past due; they are \$55 for the year 2021. Please drop the money off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope.

The Post remains closed, in keeping with New York State and City restrictions. I want to reassure all of our Post members and members of the community that we eagerly await the time when we will be allowed to join together in person again.

The Queen of Hearts game of chance remains suspended until we can resume regular operations.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the flag pole.

Happy Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 to all Legion family members. And thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 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. All persons wishing to attend must wear masks and enter through the Fellowship Hall entrance on Bay Street. Attendance is recorded and temperatures are taken. While maintaining social distance, attendees then enter the Sanctuary, where seating is staggered. At this time, there is no singing, but hymns are played by the extraordinary organist Joy Kim. For the foreseeable future, this is how we will worship in person. 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](mailto:david.jolly@nyac-ucm.com).

The new hours for the Food Pantry are Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Rick DeWitt

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156**

As 2020 wound down, the Auxiliary continued its community service. We accomplished our annual Pick-a-Vet holiday gift activity. As a result, we made a substantial donation to a veteran-focused non-profit. Quilters by the Sea held a successful Sew Saturday in November; the next one will be on National Sew Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021. Contact Harlan Sexton at 516-662-2953 if you are interested in participating. No sewing experience is required. The next two Quilts of Valor will be awarded to Tom McShane and Tom McMahon. The Auxiliary sponsored a food pantry re-stocking for Trinity Methodist Church. Thank you to all who gave, all who volunteered at the table, and to Dominick's for allowing us to set up a donations table in front of the store.

Do you have winter clothing and coats to donate for veterans and their families? Contact Joanne Valletta, Unit 156 Community Service Chair at 646-321-8902 or 718-885-3239. The clothing drive on behalf of the South Bronx Mutual Aid is on now and will end on Feb. 6. Clothing can be dropped off at 98 Hawkins Street on the house landing or by the side door in securely tied plastic bags.

The Auxiliary warmly congratulates President Doreen Gallagher for her doctorate in nursing practice from Chamberlain University, Chicago.

There will be no February meeting, but the Auxiliary continues its service to the community and welcomes ideas to support our Legion Family mission.

Harlan Sexton

**City Island Oyster Reef**

CIOR has lots of news to report! We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a federal grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF). This grant will fund an educational festival, Viva La Sound!, hosted by CIOR at Ambrosini Field behind P.S. 175 next summer followed by four educational workshops focusing on oysters and other marine-related topics.

If you would like to get involved in the planning stages of the event, please e-mail [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., CIOR will host the eighth in our series of educational webinars, a presentation by Dr. Boze Hancock, Senior Marine Habitat Restoration Scientist at the Nature Conservancy, on "Shellfish Restoration 101." Dr. Hancock has worked in the development of shellfish restoration in the U.S. since 2004 and has developed a close working relationship with shellfish restoration networks in every coastal state. Another webinar will be held on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. when Cody Carroll, a CIOR intern, will report to the community on a CIOR biodiversity study, and on the monitoring of oysters in oyster research stations and on the shoreline around City Island. Reach out to [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting our newsletter for more details about the upcoming webinars and other CIOR events.

The recent art exhibition of beautiful paintings by the late Dr. Heike Neumeister was a great success. Thirteen works of art were sold, and Thomas Preuss, Heike's husband, generously donated the proceeds to CIOR. We also express our gratitude to Clipper Coffee, Mary Colby Art Gallery, and Janos and Theresa Gallery for displaying Heike's art to the community.

Sally P. Connolly

**PSS Senior Center**

PSS City Island is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. to distribute meals, masks, sanitizers and more as we receive them. Please be sure to listen to the One Call Now sent to members to update them on meal pickups and new groups.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Any member who needs instruction on how to use a tablet, iPad, iPhone or smart phone may contact the center to schedule a time when we may work with you privately. We want everyone to have the option to our Zoom programs and other available news and classes. Our Facebook page (PSS City Island Center) is updated regularly as new information becomes available for our members. It also shows instructions on how to access exercise classes online, our remote balance class, arthritis class, craft classes and our singing group. Staff members regularly call our members individually to check on their well-being. If you are not on our calling list, please e-mail [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org) with your name and phone number. Or you can reach the center at 718-885-0727. Until we are together again, stay safe and healthy.

Patty Attis

**City Island Civic Association**

The Civic Association officers and executive board met via Zoom on Jan. 13. We accepted John Anthony Livingston's resignation from the board and unanimously voted to elect Stuart Sorell to replace him. Stu has been very active leading the Civic's Unity and Solutions Committee.

City Island Strong reports that they worked with Councilmember Mark Gjonaj to help distribute more than 336 boxes of food, more than 2,000 masks, and over 25 gallons of hand sanitizer on Dec. 12. Thank you to the City Island volunteers and the Gjonaj team for all their efforts, as they stepped up to help stop the spread on the Island and to help those in need.

The Municipal Services committee is working tirelessly with the NYC Department of Transportation for improvements, and work has been completed at several locations in Pelham Bay Park. Confirmation was received in response to a Civic letter that at this time NYC DOT has no plans to install bus lanes on City Island Road leading to the Island.

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 10464, or pay online at [paypal.com](http://paypal.com) to [cityisland.civic@gmail.com](mailto:cityisland.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

**Catherine S. Mazzaro**  
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**Remembering Sean Connery**

The recently deceased Sir Sean Connery was best known for his defining role as James Bond in seven films. Rating them from best to worst, they are: **Goldfinger** (1964), **From Russia With Love** (1963), **Dr. No** (1962), **Thunderball** (1965), **You Only Live Twice** (1967), **Diamonds Are Forever** (1971), and **Never Say Never Again** (1983). All these years later, I find the objectification of women offensive in a way I never did when I was younger.

Before Connery became famous as 007, Disney produced a lovely family film, **Darby O’Gill and the Little People** (1959), which stars a young and stunning Connery as Michael McBride (who even sings!), the replacement for Darby O’Gill (Albert Sharpe), the caretaker of a large Irish estate. While O’Gill is facing the underground world of leprechauns and their king (Jimmy O’Dea), McBride is busy falling in love with O’Gill’s lovely daughter, Katie (Janet Munro).

Alfred Hitchcock’s **Marnie** (1965) is a psychological mystery with Tippi Hedren in the title role and Connery as Mark Rutland, a wealthy businessman who is obsessed with her and blackmails her into marrying him. Soon he discovers that she has severe psychological issues, yet he still wants to help her. This is a story of sexual violence, inflicted both physically and mentally by the lead male character, and unfortunately it converges with its backstory of Hitchcock’s harassment of Hedren.

**The Anderson Tapes** (1971) and **The Great Train Robbery** (1978) are both caper films in which complex robberies are planned. The first is a “present day” film (of that era) set in the U.S., with Dyan Cannon as the love interest, and introduces a very young Christopher Walken as one of the thieves. The latter film is set in 1855 England and co-stars Donald Sutherland and Lesley-Anne Down.

**The Man Who Would Be King** (1975) is an action/adventure film based on a short story by Rudyard Kipling. It recounts the exploits of Danny Dravot (Connery) and Peachy Carnehan (Michael Caine), English military officers stationed in India who are tired of life as soldiers. As the story is told in flashbacks to Kipling (Christopher Plummer), the two men travel to the isolated land of Kafiristan, where they are accepted by the people, and through a misunderstanding, the natives come to believe that Dravot is a god.

**Robin and Marian** (1976) is a sequel to all of the Robin Hood features. It explores the relationship between aging Robin (Connery) and Maid Marion (Audrey Hepburn) when he returns after 20 years of waging war with King Richard (Richard Harris). He is accompanied by Little John (Nicol Williamson), and they must contend with the still reigning Sheriff of Nottingham (Robert Shaw).

**A Bridge Too Far** (1977) is a three-hour epic that features an extraordinary cast that includes Connery, along with Anthony Hopkins, Michael Caine, Laurence Olivier, Robert Redford, Gene Hackman, James Caan, Ryan O’Neal, Elliott Gould, Maximilian Schell and Liv Ullmann. Set in late September of 1944, Operation Market Garden is an attempt by the Allies to capture several strategically important bridges in the Netherlands in the hope of breaking the German lines. Seeing the actors from 43 years ago is quite a kick, but the title of the film gives away the ultimate outcome.

In the sci-fi thriller **Outland** (1981), we find Connery as Bill O’Neil, a federal district marshal assigned to a remote mining camp located on Jupiter’s moon Io. Along with the help of the brilliant and feisty Dr. Marian Lazarus (Frances Sternhagen), the two struggle to determine why workers are dying in disturbingly psychotic ways.

Connery won his only Academy Award in **The Untouchables** (1987) in the

supporting role as Chicago’s Irish-American cop Jimmy Malone, who teaches FBI Agent Eliot Ness (Kevin Costner) how to deal with prohibition violations “the Chicago way.” Widespread corruption within the Windy City’s police force is led by legendary crime boss Al Capone (Robert De Niro). Ness recruits an elite group of lawmen including Malone, Agent George Stone (Andy Garcia) and Agent Oscar Wallace (Charles Martin Smith), who won’t be swayed by bribes or fear. Connery’s performance is priceless.

**The Presidio** (1988) is set in San Francisco, where ex-military member Jay Austin (Mark Harmon) is now a San Francisco detective. When his former Military Police partner is killed at the Presidio military base, he takes the case. He soon discovers that jurisdictional complications require that he work with his former commander, Lt. Col. Alan Caldwell (Sean Connery), with whom he has a negative history. Austin then falls for Caldwell’s daughter, Donna (Meg Ryan), which further complicates the situation. Still, the two men push on in their search for the killer and eventually develop a grudging respect for each other.

For those who like action-adventure films, there is **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** (1989). This quest for immortality involves finding the Holy Grail, Jesus’ cup from the Last Supper. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is assisted by his perfectly cast father, Connery as Professor Henry Jones.

**The Hunt for Red October** (1990) has an intricate plot in which the Russians have built an advanced technological marvel, a new submarine called the Red October, with the highly respected Ramius (Connery) at the helm. When the ship goes missing, the Soviets want the Americans to help destroy it by claiming that Ramius has gone mad and intends to attack the United States. However, Jack Ryan (Alec Baldwin), having met the Skipper once, believes that Ramius is actually trying to defect. Admiral James Greer (James Earl Jones) sends Ryan to an American submarine to convince Captain Bart Mancuso (Scott Glenn) not to fire on the Soviet vessel.

The clash of Japanese and American cultures can be found set in the United States, in the thriller **Rising Sun** (1993). The film stars Connery as Police Captain John Conner, who is called in to help solve a murder in the Japanese-owned Nakamoto Building. Having lived in Japan, Conner is an expert in its culture and etiquette. He is assigned to assist Lt. Web Smith (Wesley Snipes), a caricature of the hot-shot, know-it-all American police detective, and Lt. Tom Graham (Harvey Keitel), an out-and-out bigot. Tia Carrere appears as the intriguing Jingo, a half-Japanese computer expert. Thick with political intrigue, this film overcomes its flaws to become a rather interesting, often surprising, adult thriller.

In **The Rock** (1996), Connery stars as former British spy John Patrick Mason, who is brought in to assist FBI chemical warfare expert Stanley Goodspeed (Nicolas Cage). Their urgent mission is to stop Gen. Francis X. Hummel (Ed Harris) from launching chemical weapons from Alcatraz Island into San Francisco. Gen. Hummel feels that government cover-ups have neglected the families of slain servicemen who died during covert operations. He demands \$100 million in war reparations to be paid to the families.

**Playing by Heart** (1998) is an excellent ensemble film of the back-stories of a number of people whose paths will ultimately cross. Connery and Gena Rowlands play the long-married Paul and Hannah, one of whom has a terminal illness. Ellen Burstyn is attractive widow named Mildred, who gets to really know her gay son, Mark (Jay Mohr). Madeleine Stowe is Gracie, a married woman who is having an affair with Roger (Anthony Edwards). Gillian Anderson is Meredith, a commitment-phobic theater director pursued by the easy-going Trent (Jon Stewart). And there is Angelina Jolie as Joan, a haughty aspiring actress who pursues the mysterious Keenan (Ryan Phillippe).

**Finding Forrester** (2000) is my favorite Connery film. In it he stars as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who befriends a black teenager, Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown). Forrester watches Jamal and his friends play basketball from his window overlooking the court below in the projects, and eventually the two meet because of a dare by Jamal’s friends. Although he is brilliant and a fine writer, Jamal has been an underachiever in

high school. However, athletic prowess and high SAT scores result in him being offered a scholarship to a private academy, where he is challenging to his snobbish English professor (F. Murray Abraham). How old man Forrester

and the teen-aged Jamal learn from each other is inspiring, especially when it comes to the concepts of integrity and loyalty.

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

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# 50 YEARS OF ISLAND CURRENT HUMOR

## A Current Close-up by Stu Hawkins

WELL, LET'S SEE... ..IN THIS MONTH'S PANEL, I'VE OFFENDED THE 45<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT, THE GARDEN CLUB, THE CATHOLICS, TWO YACHT CLUBS, THE JEWS, SKIPPY LANE, RHODES' TAVERN AND THE CITY ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION...

...NOT BAD! ANOTHER DEADLINE MET!

CURRENT CARTOONIST  
**RUSSELL SCHALLER, SR.**

STU HAWKINS  
DECEMBER, 1988

**T**HOUGH RECENTLY RETIRED FROM MABELL, RUSS IS KEPT QUITE BUSY DRIVING FOR CIVAC, MOWING LAWNS, TRIMMING HEDGES, CARTOONING AND KEEPING THE AVENUE'S FIRE LANE CLEAN OF DISCARDED TRAYS FROM JOHNNY'S REEF AND KING LOBSTER FLYERS!

## A Current Close-up by Stu Hawkins

PLEASE, STU...YOU GOTTA STOP COMIN' IN HERE AND HAGGLING OVER OUR PRICES. AFTER ALL,...

...THE LASCALAS AIN'T RUNNIN' A HOME SHOPPERS NETWORK HERE!

WINTERIZING SPECIAL  
SALE  
CLOSE OUTS  
CLEARANCE  
FALL BARGAINS

**JOE BRANDI**  
BRIDGE BOAT SALES

NOSTALGIA SONG OF THE MONTH: "AUTUMN IN NEW YORK" RECORDED BY RICHARD HIMBER AND HIS RITZ CARLTON ORCHESTRA WITH THE VOCAL BY JOEY NASH / 1934

STU HAWKINS  
NOVEMBER, 1993

## A Current Close-up by Stu Hawkins

**DAVID CARMAN**

CARMAN'S SVC. STATION / 203 CITY ISLAND AVE.

WE FOUND THE PROBLEM, STU...YOUR RADIATOR HOSE IS LEAKING ON THE DISTRIBUTOR!

OH BOY! SOUNDS AS THOUGH MY CHARIOT IS ABOUT TO BE "CARMANIZED!"

DAVE IS CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS STARTED BY HIS DAD.

STU HAWKINS

### N.Y.TEL. TAKES LEAD OUT AND RESTORES 900 PR. CABLE IN JIG TIME.

STRANGE, I HEAR VOICES. HELD, IT'S A GIRL, BARBARA CATHERINE CALLAHAN...

MR. SHIPP, AS THE FOREMAN IN CHARGE OF RESTORATION, CAN YOU ADD ANYTHING TO MR. JALCUT'S TERSE COMMENTS?

NOTHING, EXCEPT THAT EVERYTHING IS SHIP SHAPE.

DON'T FORGET -- GO THE WAY THE CROW FLIES.

THAT'S JACKIE KALL FROM THE PORT OF KALL MAKING A LONG DISTANCE CALL.

MR. JALCUT, AS C.E.O. OF N.Y.TEL., CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL, IN MOST CASES LEAD IS DEAD BUT AS YOU CAN SEE IN CITY ISLAND IT'S ALIVE AND WELL.

SHE JUST HEARD THAT N.Y.TEL. CUT A LEAD CABLE.

HAPONNA! IS IT REALLY YOU?

HEIDI FLEISS, ARE YOU THERE? THIS IS ED FROM CITY ISLAND...

LEAD! UGH.

AM I TALKING TO BIG JOHN FROM CARROLL STREET?

WOW!

RUNWAY 69...

IS THIS 1-900...?

LET ME TALK, TOO.

IT IS, AND LET ME BE YOUR BIG TREE IN THE FOREST OF LOVE.

FREE PHONES

TRY OUR 900 LINES

VINTAGE LEAD

SOUND WATCH

R. SCHALLER 93

### DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT... APRIL FOOL!

MORRIS YACHT CLUB OPEN HOUSE MEMBERS WANTED

WE SAID, "YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE..."

AND SHE SOLD US A 25'X100' UNDER WATER LOT.

YES, WE'RE BACK. WILL YOU HAVE MUSTARD AND SAUERKRAUT WITH YOUR HOT DOG?

HOT DOGS

THWAITES

KARL, XEROX ANOTHER 100 APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE SOME LIVE ONES...

YOU GUYS WERE ROBBED.

PORT OF KALL

IT'S CALLED A SILENCER, SCOTT. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HEAR A PIN DROP NOW.

THE RANGE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME, CHIEF.

HERE'S A CHECK TO COVER YOUR EXPENSES AT THE BOAT SHOW, BILL.

IT BOUNCES LIKE A BALL! SALLY, WAS IT DRAWN ON THE HOUSE BANK?

PISTOL RANGE

R. SCHALLER 92

### ISLANDER ANITA LA SCALA ASSISTS WITH DESIGN OF OPENING CEREMONY AT OLYMPICS IN RUSSIA

INTERESTING, ANITA, BUT WHAT IS IT?

WE'RE HAVING CONTORTIONISTS PROJECT THEIR SHADOWS ON THE SCREEN IN CONFIGURATIONS THAT REPRESENT SCENES IN RUSSIAN HISTORY. THEY'RE DOING SPUTNIK NOW.

WEIRD. WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO BE?

NOT SURE. NEW BRIDGE MAYBE?

...IS LIKE TELLING THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE IT CAN LAND AT LAGUARDIA.

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. I HAVE FOUND SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN NEW YORK POLITICS.

### HALLOWEEN PARADE RETURNS AFTER SANDY HIATUS

WEIRD. WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO BE?

NOT SURE. NEW BRIDGE MAYBE?

...IS LIKE TELLING THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE IT CAN LAND AT LAGUARDIA.

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. I HAVE FOUND SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN NEW YORK POLITICS.

### SENATOR KLEIN GAINS INJUNCTION TO TEMPORARILY HALT BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

WEIRD. WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO BE?

NOT SURE. NEW BRIDGE MAYBE?

...IS LIKE TELLING THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE IT CAN LAND AT LAGUARDIA.

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. I HAVE FOUND SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN NEW YORK POLITICS.

### TONY'S PIER REOPENS ONE YEAR AFTER DESTRUCTIVE FIRE CAUSED BY HURRICANE SANDY

MY CONTRACTORS SPENT THIS YEAR BUILDING US BACK BETTER THAN EVER. I SPENT IT PERFECTING OUR NEW SIGNATURE DISH.

WE CALL IT THE SANDY. SEA SALT BRINED SHRIMP, FIRE ROASTED RED PEPPERS IN A TROPICAL STORM OF COCONUT SHRED & CREAM WITH JERK SPICE.

### FLEEING FENCE FLATTENER FINALLY FOUND NEARLY NAKED

HE JETTISONED HIS SNEAKER OFF THE ROOF OF THE LIGHT HOUSE AND BEANED ME. THAT'S WHAT GAVE HIS LOCATION AWAY.

### CARTOONIST AND REALTOR FALL FOR EACH OTHER

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT VISITING OUR AILING FRIENDS, JACKIE, BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THEY'LL BE VISITING US!

OOMPH!

PAUL, THESE BRIGHT LIGHTS TIE IN NICELY WITH OUR ANTI-CRIME "LIGHT UP THE NIGHT" PLAN!

THAT'S GREAT THINKING SKIP!

### HAWKINS PARK CHRISTMAS TREE LIT ON NOV. 26. MENORAH LIGHTING ON DEC. 20

OOMPH!

PAUL, THESE BRIGHT LIGHTS TIE IN NICELY WITH OUR ANTI-CRIME "LIGHT UP THE NIGHT" PLAN!

THAT'S GREAT THINKING SKIP!

### BLACK WHALE TURNS 50

50 YEARS! THAT REALLY PUTS THE WIST(FUL) IN WISTERIA!

### POTS PROGRAM FLOURISHING FROM GENEROUS ISLANDERS

WOW! I HOPE I DON'T GET A DWO FOR DRIVING WHILE OVERLOADED!

### ISLANDERS SAY GOODBYE TO CAPTAIN ED SADLER

HOME, HOME FROM THE SEA

Photos by KAREN NANI, ROY SMITH and RON TERNER

During its half century of publishing serious stories, editorials, criminal statistics and obituaries, along with personal profiles and community achievements, *The Island Current* has never lost its sense of humor. Indeed, many readers go directly to page four to see what the latest cartoon has to offer. The late Russell Schaller and Stu Hawkins were masters of the pen and brush, and their interpretation of events and portraits of Islanders never ceased to delight. Stu provided wonderful depictions of Island residents from May 1987 to January 1994, and Russell cartooned from 1977 until 2011, when Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who typesets and designs every issue, inherited the cartoon mantle, and her wry sense of humor has kept the tradition alive and kicking ever since.



## Obituaries

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



### Patricia Smith

Patricia Ann Smith passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at the age of 56, at her home on City Island.

Patricia was born on July 16, 1964, the daughter of the late Howard and Eileen Smith. She was a lifelong resident of City Island and was a loving daughter, sister and aunt.

She graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, Cardinal Spellman High School and the Katharine Gibbs School. She worked in administration in the health care field, including both the Einstein and Moses campuses of Montefiore Medical Center, as well as at Calvary Hospital.

She was predeceased by her brother Richard; she is survived by her brothers Robert, Thomas and William, and by three nieces and a nephew.



### Nancy Jean Fischer

Longtime Island resident Nancy Fischer passed away on Jan. 3, 2021, at the age of 89.

She was born on Sept. 5, 1930, in Dover, NH, to Theodore Ralph and Isabelle Meyers and grew up in the nearby town of Dover. Her father was a professor at the University of New Hampshire and the state geologist, and her mother worked administrative jobs and ran the household. Nancy was nicknamed Muggins after a popular picture book entitled "Muggins Mouse," whose pictures she drew. She majored in art at the University of New Hampshire and received her Masters in Education at Harvard University. She loved horses and one year won the New Hampshire State Equestrian Championship.

Nancy eventually moved to New York and became part of the influential New York School of abstract artists, which included Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning. She met Irving Fischer at Evers Marina, where he had a sailboat, and they were married in 1958. They bought a house on City Island, where their sons were born and raised. Islander Richie DePierro remembers Nancy and Irving as "the original hippies of City Island."

Nancy Fischer worked as a graphic designer in advertising in Manhattan. She

also did some industrial design and worked for many years as a graphic designer at the Bronx Zoo (then the New York Zoological Society, now the Wildlife Conservation Society). She also helped out with Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity and was involved with Sirius Community, an advanced self-sustaining town in upstate New York.

Nancy made many friends on City Island and Manhattan, and felt especially connected to artists, writers and those who were on spiritual journeys, including Native Americans. She enjoyed nature and observing wildlife on the Island. She also enjoyed helping or talking with others (often while they enjoyed her wonderfully inventive cooking). She was a parishioner of Trinity Methodist Church.

Nancy Fischer is survived by her two sons, Peter and Jason, who live in the family house on City Island; her sister, Shirley Frederick of Rapid City, SD, and her four children, Christina, John, Kathy and Carla; and her grandson, Christopher Fischer, who lives in Westchester (and has inherited the artistic abilities of his mother and his grandparents).



### Richard D. Duryea

Richard D. Duryea, who grew up on City Island, passed away on May 28, 2020, in Colorado.

He was born on September 29, 1942, and grew up on City Island, where he attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. He was an avid sailor and crewed with his older brother in many races in a Lightning one-design on Long Island Sound. He later sailed on many larger boats in long-distance races, including the famed Newport to Bermuda Race. His sailing skills as both skipper and crew were well known, and he loved being on the water. Even after he moved to Colorado, Richard remained a social member of City Island Yacht Club, often enjoying the club during visits to New York City.

Richard's professional career as a real estate broker spanned more than 50 years. He held licenses in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Colorado. He belonged to ITRA Global, an organization of real estate professionals, which gave him the opportunity to network with brokers all over the country on behalf of clients looking for space outside the tri-state area.

Richard was an amiable person who loved doing for others. Among those who will miss him always are his wife of 54 years, Carol (Sznip) Duryea; his brother, Albert Duryea, and sisters, Diane Duryea and Christine (Duryea) Sznip; his sons, Scott and Brett, and his daughter, Nicole; and his grandchildren, Alexander, Nicholas, Pierce, Aura, Jack and Ava. His wonderful spirit will live on in memory of all who loved him.

### Kenneth G. Kuch

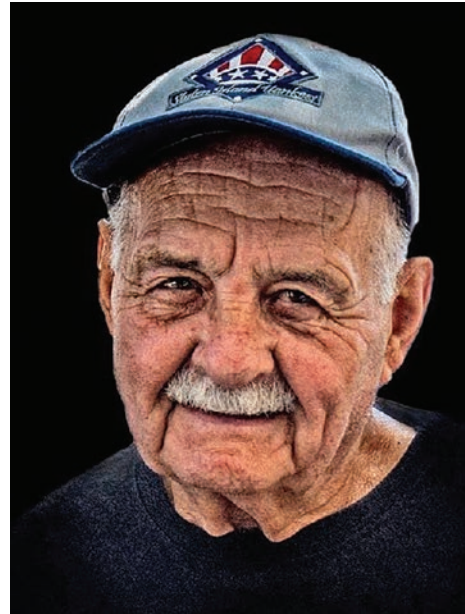
Kenneth G. Kuch of Cortlandt Manor passed away on Dec. 21, 2020, at the age of 76. Ken was born in 1944 on City Island to Henry and Florence (Zabriskie) Kuch. He attended P.S. 17 and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School.

He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan from an early age. He also played defensive/offensive tackle on the City Island Giants as a teenager. He served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967 and was stationed in Vietnam. He later became a member of

the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). After his discharge from the Army, he worked in the Registry Division of the United States Postal Service in Manhattan until his retirement in 2002.

In 1980, he married his wife, Theresa, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham Manor, NY. He will be remembered for his humor and wit. He enjoyed traveling with his wife to such places as China, Japan and Russia.

Mr. Kuch is survived by his wife; his sisters Lydia Quinn of Yorktown Heights, NY, and Kathy Slocum of Smithtown, NY; his brother Ron (Pam) Kuch; his sisters-in-law Peggy Graham, Cathy (Doc) Crouch, Pat (Vinnie) Longhitano, Beth (Jimmy) Metz, his brother-in-law, John (Mary Kate) Graham, as well as many nieces and nephews.



### William Lachman

William Lachman of City Island passed away on Dec. 16, 2020, at the age of 88, after a short bout with Covid-19, which had resulted in pneumonia.

Known as Billy, he was born on March 18, 1932, near Pelham Bay Station, but he always had ties to City Island, moving away from and back to the Island several times. In his early 30s, he settled into his home on Pell Place, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Billy held a variety of interesting jobs as a young man, starting at Barron's Boatyard on Fordham Street. He captained ships for their owners up and down the eastern seaboard, and he often told endless stories about the incredible ports he visited, always bumping into someone from City Island during his travels.

A carpenter by trade, he often worked at side jobs on City Island in many of the residential homes and commercial establishments. He eventually went to work for NYC's Department of Correction. His first job for the city was maintaining the prison at Hart Island, but he soon gained favor with the commissioner, who often asked him to come do "special" jobs in his office in Manhattan. It was there where he met the love of his life, Lorraine Rizzo, whom he married and eventually convinced to leave Queens and move to City Island.

Billy and Lorraine raised four children—Lauren, Paul, Michael and Christine—and were an integral part of the City Island community for over 50 years. Between the American Legion, the City Island Little League, St. Mary's Basketball, the Fishing Club, CIVAC, the Halloween Window Painting Committees, Island parades and countless other community activities, there were few events in which he was not involved. In between activities, you could often find him enjoying a beer and shooting the breeze with Pat Reynolds and the guys at the Club, which once stood at the corner of City Island Avenue and west Carroll Street.

After about 30 years with the Department of Correction, Billy retired and spent his days enjoying a variety of activities, including stamp collecting and golf. He loved to ride his bike "up the Avenue" and was a regular at many of the local restaurants. He was also an actively involved grandfather of seven grandchildren, to whom he taught swimming, fishing and crabbing, among the other joys that City Islanders know so well. Later in life, he was

a mainstay outside Papa John's, where he and the guys would solve the world's problems over a cup of coffee.

As with many others who attained the age of 88, Billy chose to live his life to the fullest even in the face of a pandemic. His children were fortunate to be at his side when he passed.

He is survived by his children, Lauren Migliarini, Paul Lachman, Michael Lachman, and Christine Walden, as well as his grandchildren, Alicia and AJ Migliarini, Jessica, Christina and Paul Lachman, Olivia Walden and Jacob Lachman. He is also survived by his sister, Marie Knapp, and brother, Charlie Levy, as well as countless nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins. A memorial celebrating his life will be held later this year.



### Robert Callahan

Robert Callahan, who was born and raised on City Island, passed away on Dec. 26, 2020, in Brampton, Ontario, from complications of Covid-19.

Known as Bob, he was born on April 11, 1937, to John and Louise (Kapp) Callahan, and grew up on Bay Street on City Island, along with his brother, Jack.

Bob graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Fordham Prep. He then left the island to attend the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, where he graduated in 1963. He never returned to the Island but he went on to become a prominent attorney and an elected official on both city and provincial level. It is believed that he was one of the longest serving elected public officials in Canadian history. He and his wife, Marilyn (Lyn), raised four sons, Kevin, Peter, Tim and Brian.

Although Bob did not return to live on City Island, several of his relatives did not leave and the family clamdigger history will be of interest to many Islanders. His grandfather John Kapp was a postman on City Island for 47 years; he and his wife, Katherine, raised four children, Louise, Katherine (Seibert), Marie (Maffia) and John. Two of Katherine Seibert's grandchildren still live on the Island, Janine Robinson and Julie Risi.

Bob developed Alzheimers about 10 years ago and in anticipation of ultimately having to be put in a facility, his four sons brought him to New York on Fathers' Day 2016, where they met up with his brother, Jack, for a "last hurrah" journey around City Island. As Jack tells it, "Alzheimers is a horrible disease, as we know, but it has its temporary remissions and the two days we spent on City Island was one such example. We walked the entire Island and told stories, some with such a degree of elaboration that I didn't recognize them even though I had been there. But the effect was wonderful. It was perhaps his last, most extended rational "down memory lane experience." His sons were delighted and in awe listening to him tell his stories; an opportunity few get to share with their father.

Bob Callahan was predeceased by his mother, who passed away on City Island in 2005 at the age of 102; he is survived by his wife, Lyn; his brother, Jack; his four sons; his cousins Katherine Seibert, MD, a renowned scientist and physician, and George Seibert, in addition to his great nieces Janine and Julie.

*Continued on page 13*

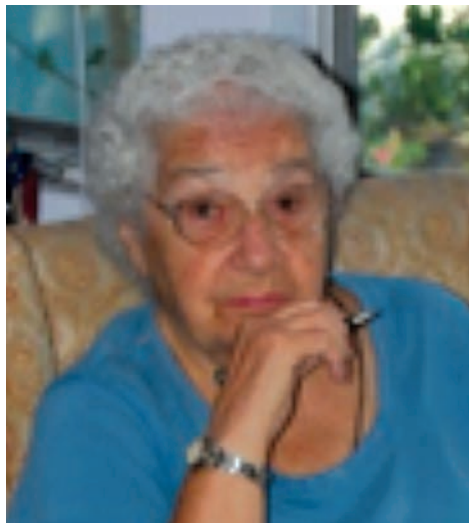


**CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK**  
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)  
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625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

FEBRUARY 2021									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0113	7.89	0736	-0.43	1330	7.85	1959	-0.64	Mon 01
02 Tue	0159	7.89	0827	-0.34	1421	7.48	2045	-0.41	Tue 02
03 Wed	0250	7.77	0924	-0.13	1517	7.02	2137	-0.08	Wed 03
04 Thu	0346	7.55	1036	0.11	1621	6.54	2237	0.29	Thu 04
05 Fri	0450	7.32	1213	0.21	1744	6.20			Fri 05
06 Sat	0001	0.58	0614	7.19	1333	0.07	1922	6.19	Sat 06
07 Sun	0138	0.59	0745	7.29	1439	-0.21	2033	6.42	Sun 07
08 Mon	0248	0.38	0853	7.52	1537	-0.51	2132	6.75	Mon 08
09 Tue	0348	0.10	0951	7.76	1630	-0.74	2224	7.07	Tue 09
10 Wed	0441	-0.16	1043	7.92	1718	-0.85	2312	7.33	Wed 10
11 Thu	0530	-0.33	1130	7.96	1802	-0.82	2356	7.48	Thu 11
12 Fri	0615	-0.37	1213	7.87	1844	-0.65			Fri 12
13 Sat	0038	7.52	0656	-0.29	1254	7.66	1922	-0.37	Sat 13
14 Sun	0116	7.45	0735	-0.11	1332	7.38	1954	-0.04	Sun 14
15 Mon	0151	7.32	0809	0.15	1406	7.04	2015	0.29	Mon 15
16 Tue	0221	7.14	0837	0.43	1437	6.71	2029	0.57	Tue 16
17 Wed	0249	6.96	0903	0.71	1512	6.39	2100	0.82	Wed 17
18 Thu	0323	6.78	0941	0.97	1554	6.11	2141	1.08	Thu 18
19 Fri	0406	6.64	1031	1.19	1649	5.91	2230	1.32	Fri 19
20 Sat	0456	6.55	1138	1.33	1814	5.83	2325	1.49	Sat 20
21 Sun	0557	6.56	1313	1.27	1929	5.96			Sun 21
22 Mon	0029	1.52	0707	6.71	1415	1.02	2024	6.23	Mon 22
23 Tue	0140	1.35	0809	6.99	1504	0.67	2108	6.57	Tue 23
24 Wed	0246	1.00	0855	7.33	1547	0.27	2143	6.96	Wed 24
25 Thu	0338	0.55	0936	7.68	1625	-0.14	2215	7.37	Thu 25
26 Fri	0424	0.06	1017	7.99	1701	-0.50	2249	7.78	Fri 26
27 Sat	0508	-0.38	1100	8.20	1737	-0.77	2326	8.11	Sat 27
28 Sun	0552	-0.72	1143	8.28	1815	-0.92			Sun 28
MARCH 2021									
01 Mon	0008	8.33	0637	-0.89	1229	8.17	1855	-0.90	Mon 01
02 Tue	0052	8.39	0725	-0.87	1316	7.90	1939	-0.70	Tue 02
03 Wed	0139	8.28	0817	-0.65	1408	7.47	2026	-0.34	Wed 03
04 Thu	0230	8.01	0918	-0.29	1505	6.96	2120	0.14	Thu 04
05 Fri	0328	7.62	1041	0.10	1616	6.48	2230	0.63	Fri 05

## Obituaries

Continued from page 12



### Elizabeth E. Riordan

Elizabeth (Betty) Freymuth Riordan passed away in Florida on Nov. 24, 2020, at the age of 93.

Betty moved to City Island in the 1960s

and raised six children—John, Joe, Bettie, Louise, Paul and Peter Freymuth—here. She lived in several different locations on the Island, most recently at 216 City Island Avenue. She moved to New Mexico in the 1990s.

During the 1970s, Betty married her second husband, Jeremiah (Buddy or Bubba) Riordan, who passed away in 1988. She and Buddy ran the bar and restaurant in the City Island Yacht Club for many years and later ran the restaurant at The Club, which was once on the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue. In her later years, Betty worked as a manager at the City Island Diner until she retired.

Betty is survived by her children Bettie (of Massachusetts), Louise (Florida), Paul (New York) and Peter (Texas); 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Betty will be placed to rest with her husband Buddy around the Stepping Stone Lighthouse off City Island in a ceremony later this year. The family would like to thank all our friends around the country for their prayers and kind words.



### A WISE OLD OWL TOLD ME ONCE...

After years of bad timing and advice, we finally got our bird: a snowy owl!



We were concerned that the actual experience wouldn't live up to the hype, that we would see the bird finally and wonder what all the fuss had been. Thankfully, this was not the case. He was quite a bit bigger than we expected and active (for an owl). He

seemed just as interested in us as we were of him, twisting his head around as only an owl can, opening and closing his noble eyes in deliberate fashion. Knowing that he had come such a long way to this spot on the dunes at Jones Beach, Section 2, added to the experience and connected us somehow. That he did not seem as far from home as might have been expected was the clincher.

Another animal encounter, much less anticipated but a genuine thrill just the same, happened in the dark near Glover's Rock. We were driving home and noticed something crossing the road up ahead. It was too low to the ground for a coyote, and its tail was too big and bushy. As our Prius rolled to a silent stop, a red fox passed before us in the light. Yes, a red fox! It had a bloody black squirrel in its mouth, on which it must have been directing all of its brain power because it cared not a fig for us. We watched it disappear into the brush on the side of the road where the old signage for crew meets still stands, and then we were on our way.

In these tumultuous, battle-scarred times of ours, never forget the beckoning oases that exist a short drive or even walk from this Island. They are the big and little buried treasures that we must never take for granted.



Photos by RON TERNER and SAMANTHA HALPERN

In early January, a handsome display of photographs suddenly appeared in the window at 282 City Island Avenue. These images of Pelham Bay Park are the winners of a contest held in 2020 by the Friends of Pelham Bay Park. In normal times, the winners would be on view at the City Island Nautical Museum, but since it is closed, trustee Cheryl Brinker offered her own window for the exhibit. Here celebrating the winners are (l. to r.): MariaLuisa Cipriano, Nilka Martells (president of the Friends of Pelham Bay Park), Barbara Dolensek, Cheryl Brinker, Samantha Halpern and Ron Terner, who printed and framed the photographs, which will be on view until early February.

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photos by MARY COLBY

Hellebore Niger and snowdrops

## Autumn is Bulb Planting Time

The simplicity of a winter garden with its tracery of tree branches, seed heads backlit by the slumbering sun and the hummocked shapes of hedges capped with snow makes me love the season. The transformative trick that frost and ice play on a landscape has no equal. This year, the year of despair and isolation, needs the curing quality of growing vegetables and flowers like no other. A safe green space is a boon for those who have one, and those who are without can benefit from visiting the conifer collection at the NYBG. Here you can see all the species of evergreen in their maturity and at their best. I've been twice this year, and once while it began to snow. Blue spruce and weeping Alaskan cedars greeted me as old friends. It is good to see the eventual heights of these expressive trees before planting one beside a garage or shed, for

some can grow to an amazing 100 feet.

To illuminate the night, I make ice candle votives. You will need a bucket and a smaller bucket that can fit into the first bucket filled with some stones to weigh it down. Fill the space between the two buckets with water and leave them overnight if the temperature is below freezing. Remove the form from the mold, add a candle and light. You can float holly, evergreen, and berries in the ice. I make at least five to light the walkway.

Feed the birds, in light of having few or no visitors and to keep our feathered friends healthy during the cold months. The jay, the cardinal, the titmouse and the flicker will keep you as entertained as the alley cats. White hellebores will open their waxy sepals impervious to plunging temperatures. The witch hazel can on warm days unfurl its ribboned blooms, while the snowdrops peek through the detritus of leaf mold. The earth is awake, though drowsy; the stirring of buds and roots have begun.

February marks seed starting, and already I am soaking the seeds of sweet peas. Get them in early and imagine teepees of grapevine or bamboo sticks covered with their ruffled, heavily scented blossoms. I have also planted morning glory for an early show. To see the tiny cotyledons emerge from the soil quickens the human spirit.

The regenerative aspect of the sleeping garden coming alive once again fills me with excitement and the anticipation of renewal. Rooting around in the earth, the smell of it, the feel of it, takes one outside of oneself. A green meditation that stops the mind thinking and redirects one's thoughts back to the heart and places us in and part of nature. As Keats has said, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all ye know on earth and all ye need to know." And Ein-

stein: "The ideals which have always shone before me and filled me with joy are goodness, beauty, and truth." So I'll stay in my garden and wait for spring. I'll fill my pots with earth to receive the seeds of kindness, of change, of healing, and I will find myself filled with hope for mankind.

If you have a good story of how gar-

dening has helped you in your life with healing or transformation or by just generally upping your joy meter, please e-mail me at [marycolby7@gmail.com](mailto:marycolby7@gmail.com). I'd love to hear your story.

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

## Talking to Children About Political Events: Love Over Fear

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

This has been an eventful new year thus far, and many of us have had to sort out for ourselves how we process what we witness in our country.

Our children also will have questions, even if they do not seem to notice current events. Here are some quick guidelines:

- Make sure you are calm and have time for a chat. There is no need to get anyone else upset if we are not ready to talk!

- Pick a good time and place—sitting down, maybe sharing a snack, all electronics turned off.

- Ask your children what they know already. It's good to start from their knowledge base. If they know nothing, take a moment and think if you want to proceed at that time.

- Answer any questions and clear up any factual confusion as best you can. Try to stick to "directly observable data" (as my graduate school professor drilled into me!) and avoid judgment.

- Assure them—if they are upset—that you and your family are safe and can hope to remain safe. Choose to embody love rather than fear.

- Remind them that we are a nation of laws and that our political system has checks and balances to allow for peaceful transitions when there is turmoil.

- Avoid inflammatory comments and blame. People have been acting on their own belief systems, and at the very least we

can honor the integrity of those with whom we disagree.

- Let them know that you are always available to talk.

Sometimes it's also good to remind our children, and ourselves, what it means to be good citizens in our homes, our communities and our nation. I have often turned to Robert Fulghum's book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Here are some of his suggestions for "the right way to behave":

- Share everything.
- Be aware of wonder.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.

- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.

- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- Live a balanced life: learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day.

As always, I leave you with this choice: we can raise our children to be fearful of life or we can raise our children with the loving awareness that each of us can help to build a better world. A happy and blessed Valentine's Day to all!

*Cormac McEnery, Esq.*

*Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.*

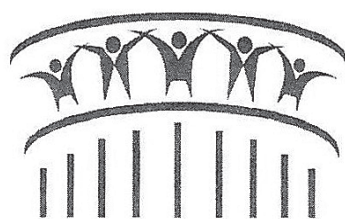
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**CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS:** Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, post-cards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

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**BOAT SUPPLIES:** Burck's Boat Store: Open 8 a.m. Customer parking. 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10464, 718-885-1559.

**SUMMER FUN!** New inflatable stand up paddle board kit. Burck's Boat Store. 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559.



Photos by NIVARDO LOPEZ

The Civic Association's Municipal Committee has met with the Department of Transportation to request numerous repairs, including the installation of bollards at the City Island circle, the repaving of streets and improvement of drainage in the park and on the Island. These photographs show some of the repaving that has been completed on roads leading to City Island.

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

Happy birthday on Feb. 1 to Minneford Avenue's Sandy Dunn, who will receive birthday wishes from her fellow parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church and her husband, Bruce Weis.

Happy first wedding anniversary on Jan. 3 to Patrice Delaney and Mitchell Talavera.

Happy second birthday to our little Valentine, Wyatt Joseph, who celebrates his big day on Feb. 14. We love you to the moon and back, Grammy and Grandpa.

Blessings to Mia Leyva Galindo, daughter of Robelly Galindo Guzman and Wagner Leyva Rosero. She was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on Jan. 2, 2021. Proud godparents are Islanders Heather and Kevin Boyle.

Best wishes for the happiest of birthdays to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate on Feb. 1.

Kudos to Islander Samantha Kucerak, a junior at the Beacon School of New York City, who was selected as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. Samantha was nominated by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, and represented New York based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine (see story on page 3).

Happy birthday wishes to Hawkins Street's Reid Travers on Feb. 20, with love from your sister, Lori, and all your friends. Have a great day!

Belated happy birthday wishes go out to two Island Barbaras: Boo Dennis, who celebrated her birthday in November and Barbara Dolensek in January. They look forward to being able to celebrate again in person.

Keep up the good work! Brandon McGaughan was presented with the American Legion Department of New York Eagle Scout of the Year 2020 Award. This was during the Troop 211 Court of Honor ceremony, where several scouts were promoted to their next rank.

Maria Swieciki



Mia Leyva Galindo was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on Jan. 2, 2021.

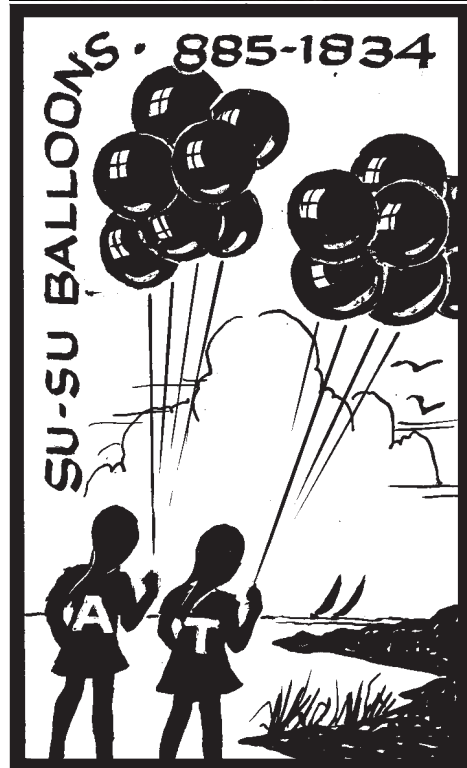


Photo by JOSEPH GOONAN

Brandon McGaughan (center flanked by his parents) was presented with the American Legion Eagle Scout of the year 2020 award by Post 156 Legionnaires Pete Del-Debbio (left) and Joe Goonan (right).



Photo by KEVIN BOYLE

On Jan. 1, 2021, a group of hearty Islanders participated in a traditional Polar Plunge at Orchard Beach, including Natasha and Brian Moynihan, Jen Maroney, Oisin and Cian Daly, Noelle O'Connell, Peter and Lili Lakatos, and Heather, Gwen and Naomi Boyle.

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[www.juniorsailingclubhouse.com](http://www.juniorsailingclubhouse.com)

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[jrsailing@huguenotyc.com](mailto:jrsailing@huguenotyc.com)