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One Dollar

Islanders Voice Frustration After Bridge Collapse

By KAREN NANI



Photos by JAMES BREEN and KAREN NANI

Following the collapse of a section of the temporary bridge on Sept. 21, 2015 (top photo), representatives from DOT got an earful from the large audience at the Civic Association meeting on Sept. 28. Robert Collyer, deputy commissioner, made a presentation on the collapse (bottom photo) and then took questions from Islanders.

City Islanders vented their anger and frustration at the Department of Transportation (DOT) at the Civic Association meeting on Sept. 28, 2015, following the collapse of a section of the temporary bridge. DOT representatives got many questions from the large audience of residents, who are now fearful about the integrity of the temporary bridge (which has yet to be opened to traffic) and incredulous at the events surrounding the collapse on Sept. 21.

Bill Stanton, president of the Civic Association, introduced Robert Collyer, DOT Deputy Commissioner and Bridge Engineer, and implored the crowd to be polite during a presentation attempting to explain the collapse. Mr. Collyer began by saying, "the bridge has an issue," raising choruses of "ya think?" from the audience.

"The temporary structure is overstressed and will not open until the problem can be determined," he explained. At the time of the meeting, DOT could not tell the crowd the actual cause of the collapse, namely whether it was a design flaw or a structural problem with the specific "pie-shaped segment" where the failure occurred.

The collapse in September occurred under the weight of trucks spreading asphalt on the roadway where the temporary bridge changes direction. Thankfully, there were no injuries. Where these turns occur, there are four triangular segments at both ends of the temporary structure, raising additional concerns among residents about the possibility of more failures at each of these points.

Ironically, Mr. Collyer admitted that

the name of the firm responsible for the design and construction of the segments on the temporary bridge is Mabey, a firm based in Maryland. This drew snickers from the audience who reacted to the phonetic resemblance to "maybe."

He defended the firm citing the successful opening of a temporary bridge on the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn. "Thousands of vehicles a day go over the bridge on the Belt Parkway and there have been no problems." However, when asked about the contractor, Mr. Collyer admitted that the temporary bridge in Brooklyn was not constructed by Tudor Perini.

The completion and opening of the temporary bridge has been fraught with delays. While originally projected to be completed by the end of 2014, the bridge opening has been pushed back at least three times by DOT with various excuses accompanying the delays, including the bitter cold winter and problems with transferring various water mains and power lines.

"What if it collapses after it opens and the dismantling of the original bridge has begun?" Jo Heck asked. "We would be trapped on City Island. Is there any contingency plan?"

Mr. Collyer responded that once the cause is determined, "the contractor, Tudor Perini, is responsible to make it right and stiffen the segments." But this response did not satisfy the audience, several of whom demanded further stress testing of the temporary bridge.

"If this temporary bridge ever opens, you have to hold off tearing down the old bridge for several months to see if this design can

handle all the trucks and summer traffic," one resident implored.

John Doyle, a Civic Association officer, asked DOT what the next steps are to make Islanders feel safe about the temporary bridge. Mr. Collyer gave few specifics. "We are waiting for a report from the designer and the contractor. There is no start date at this point. It was a stress failure, so it has to be stress-tested to the standard legal load of 80,000 pounds. The bridge may be jacked up and new steel added. The steel is made in the United States."

Other DOT representatives had little to add to the discussion. Also present were Constance Moran, Bronx DOT Commissioner; Joannene Kidder, Executive Director of Community Affairs for the DOT Division of Bridges; and Roland Rigos, Community Liaison on City Island for DOT.

Mr. Stanton summed up the frustration. "DOT owes City Island an apology. Someone should be fired! How much taxpayer money has been spent on this already?" Mr. Collyer apologized and said that no additional pay-

ments would be made to Tudor Perini until the matter is resolved.

As of press time, DOT has received and is currently reviewing reports about the damage sustained by the temporary bridge during the paving operation. The design for the repair is still under review and not yet finalized. Once a plan is approved, the contractor will move ahead with repairing the temporary bridge, which will not open to traffic until the repairs are completed. The agency is currently coordinating with other city agencies that serve the City Island community for a loading test before the temporary bridge will be opened to traffic. Representatives of DOT are scheduled to attend the Civic Association meeting on Oct. 27.

Construction at Turtle Cove is well under way. The new traffic pattern has been fully implemented around the construction zone, and the contractor has begun excavating the area where the south side of the existing conduit is located. Work at Turtle Cove is expected to be completed before the end of 2015.

Stuyvesant Yacht Club May Close

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MIKE RAUH

After Hurricane Sandy struck on Oct. 29, 2012, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club suffered damage to its clubhouse (top photo) and sea wall. Work was started on the south-facing seawall but when cash ran out the work was stopped. The club is now threatened with closure.

After weeks of rumors about the closing and sale of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, the issue became public at a members' meeting on Saturday, Oct. 3, when a large group of concerned Island residents congregated at the clubhouse to protest the transfer of the club to the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

The issue under discussion was the future of the club, which is in dire financial straits, caused by the departure of many members over the past two years following

the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. The lack of funds to rebuild the dock and seawall and to pay real estate taxes and insurance premiums became so severe that the board of directors offered the property for sale at \$1.7 million. Offers were made for the club, but all have been declined so far, and the Parks Department proposal has been the only option that seems to appeal to the club's officers.

Although the City Island community has expressed considerable dismay at the
Continued on page 7

BRIEFLY...

SAFE BOATING COURSE, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (with an hour break for lunch), at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The special end-of-the-year price is only \$40 and will cover such topics as knowing your boat, getting underway, operating your boat safely, the legal requirements of boating, what to do in boating emergencies and enjoying water sports. Operators born on or after May 1, 1996, must have a boating safety certificate and be at least 10 years of age. You may not operate a personal watercraft until you are 14 years of age and have a boating safety certificate. To register for the class, contact Alan Lesser at alanlesser@gmail.com or 845-323-0265 or David Mooney at uscgaux.dmooney@gmail.com or 646-573-9573. Or you may apply online at <http://a0140504.wow.uscgaux.info>.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held by the Bronx Masons on Tuesday, Nov. 10, between the hours of 3:30 and 7:45 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation.

WINTER COAT AND CLOTHING DRIVE will be held by the Bronx Masons on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 241 City Island Avenue on the corner of Schofield Street. All donations will go to POTS (Part of the Solution), which is located at 2759 Webster Avenue in the Bronx. Please put men's, women's and children's clothing into separate bags for quicker distribution.

A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE will be held at the Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham Manor, on Nov. 6 (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Nov. 7 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Nov. 8 (11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). More than 30 vendors will be selling jewelry, handmade crafts, clothing, leather goods, toys, books, articles for men, items for pets and much more. Also on sale will be homemade goodies and gently used items. For information, call 914-738-1528.

SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m. the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, Tom Nye will give an illustrated talk on City Island's boat and yacht building history, the subject of the museum's fascinating new exhibition. All are invited to attend and to enjoy some holiday cheer and shop for Island-related gifts in the museum's shop.

THANKSGIVING POSTER CONTEST, sponsored by the NY State Senate, is a statewide competition for students in kindergarten through the sixth grade, and Senator Jeff Klein hopes that "all students in the 34th Senate District enter this fun, creative contest." The theme of the contest is "What are you thankful for?" Students should submit their one-page essay, poetry or artwork electronically to klein.nysenate.gov. Acceptable file formats include jpeg or pdf. All entries must be submitted by Nov. 19, 2015. Participating students will have their work published online in the Senate's Thanksgiving Day Showcase and receive a certificate from Senator Klein.

TRAIL CLEARING IN PELHAM BAY PARK: Volunteers are needed to help the Friends of Pelham Bay Park clear brush and invasive vines on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Middletown Road parking lot. Bring your own water and lunch and wear sturdy shoes and long pants; gloves will be provided.

ELECTION DAY will take place on City Island at P. S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The slate for Supreme Court judges includes Sallie Manzanette-Daniels (D), Diane Renwick (D), Robert Johnson (D), Mitchell Danziger (D), Reuben Franco (D), Lizbeth Gonzalez (D), Steve Mayo (R-C), Guy Parisi (R-C) and Christopher Garvey (C). The slate for Civil Court is Ben Barbato (D) and Marsha Michael (D). The slate for District Attorney is Darcel Clark (D) and Robert Siano (R-C).

NEIL SIMON'S "PLAZA SUITE" will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3, and the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 3 p.m. For tickets call 718 885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting our website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 3 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 2 – BURGLARY
- 1 – FELONY ASSAULT
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – VIOLATION OF ORDER OF PROTECTION
- 1 – ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A MINOR
- 1 – HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Sept. 20 to Oct. 20, 2015.

9/21 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating the burglary of a residence on City Island Avenue at 2:40 p.m. Unknown perpetrator(s) entered the premises without permission and removed property.

9/22 – At 10:15 p.m. on Centre Street, Island residents returned from a two-day trip to find their vehicle, which had been parked in front of the house, missing.

9/21 – On City Island Avenue, an Island resident reported that her ex-boyfriend violated an order of protection by coming to her residence. Police arrested a male, 34, on Oct. 7 and charged him with the violation.

9/25 – An Islander reported an incident of harassment at 3:30 p.m. on William Avenue and Fordham Street. The victim said

that an off-Island female blocked her vehicle and shouted obscenities while the victim's child was in the car.

9/26 – Police arrested an Island female, 32, and charged her with endangering the welfare of a minor. The defendant allegedly left four minor children home alone on City Island Avenue without adult supervision for more than 24 hours. The children were taken to Jacobi and then released to Child Services.

9/28 – On Bowne Street at 11 p.m., an Island male, 45, allegedly punched a minor-aged stepson in the mouth. He was arrested on Oct. 2 and charged with assault.

10/7 – Detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of felony assault. According to a witness, two unknown perpetrators, wearing black hooded sweat-shirts, entered a residence without permission and stabbed a male Islander repeatedly in the back. The victim was taken to Jacobi Hospital.

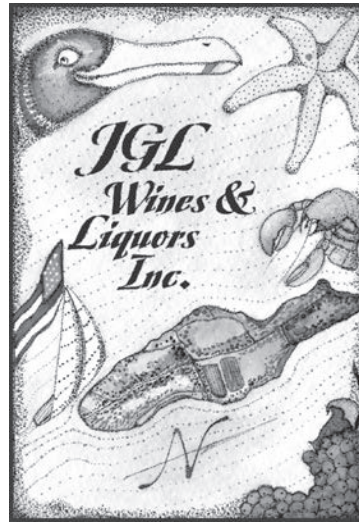
10/15 – On Pilot Street, a female Islander reported that her parked motorcycle had been stolen and the chains around the vehicle were cut by unknown perpetrators.

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OFFICER TOLEDO RETIRES

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI;

At a retirement breakfast on Oct. 13, 2015, faculty, school officials and parents paid tribute to Peter Toledo who was retiring as P.S. 175's School Safety Officer after serving for 25 years. Top photo (l. to r.): Tina Gisante, Officer Toledo, Principal Amy Lipson, Bronx Borough Safety Director Vince DiGaetano, NYPD Deputy Commissioner Greg Garcia and Lieutenant Glenn Majors. Top right: Ivette Toledo (far left) with her husband, with teachers Pat Cambria, Karen Mazzella and Jeanne McDonald. In the bottom photo, Pete is congratulated by parents Natasha Moynihan, Heather Boyle, Lillian Roberts, Erica Sterling, Cheryl Riordan, Valentina Paljusaj, Trish Penny and Clementina Esposito.



BRONX ARTIST DOCUMENTARY PROJECT



Islanders (l. to r.), Mary Colby, Ron Turner and Reina Mia Brill attended the Bronx Artist Documentary Project book launch party at Montefiore and showed off their copies of the book (top photo). The spread above shows the section in the book about Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who was unable to attend the party.

Last year, during the Bronx's centennial year, 30 Bronx-based photographers criss-crossed the borough to document 80 visual artists who create their artwork in the Bronx today. Under the guidance and supervision of Michael Kamber and the Bronx Documentary Center, more than 20,000 photographs were taken for the Bronx Artist Documentary Project (BxADP), which was directed by Daniel Hauben and Judith Lane. One hundred of these photographs will be on view at the ArtViews Gallery at Montefiore Hospital (111 East 210th Street, East Garden) until Dec. 18, 2015.

Three City Island artists—Reina Mia Brill, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and Mary Colby—are featured in the project,

along with photographer Ron Turner, who supplied a self-portrait and photographs of four Bronx artists. A beautiful 272-page book has just been published with hundreds of photographs in full color, and the City Island artists are featured. Other Islanders participated in the project, including writer Carmen Mason and editor Barbara Burn Dolensek. Marguerite Chadwick-Juner also provided her design expertise to this handsome publication.

A documentary film was made to commemorate the BxADP and will be screened at the Bronx Museum on Nov. 4. For a look at the trailer of the film, in which you will catch glimpses of the City Islanders, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLu2BROLpxg.

After serving as P.S. 175's School Safety Officer for 25 years, Peter ("Pete") Toledo retired at the end of October 2015. The well-liked officer's dedication to the many students under his watchful eye was recognized by faculty and parents in a retirement breakfast in the school gym on Oct. 13.

The path that led him to City Island involved several strokes of luck, according to grateful teachers at P.S. 175. Born in Puerto Rico, Pete moved with his family first to Virginia and then to New York. He attended Rice High School in Manhattan before serving in the U.S. Navy from 1978 to 1986.

After the service, he needed a job and was encouraged by his aunt, a teacher, to apply to the School Safety Division. He was accepted and given a position at Taft High School in the Bronx. After three years he put in for a transfer and was sent to P.S. 175.

Pete immediately made a good impression, according to former principal Ena Ellwanger. "He was special from the start and went beyond the requirements of the job right away. He has a caring spirit coupled with a willingness and pride," she told *The Current*.

He was also quickly liked by parents and teachers. "He knew every student's name and was always ready to greet them and their parents in the morning," principal Amy Lipson told the crowd gathered at the breakfast.

The luck flowed both ways. It was because of the City Island School that Pete met his future wife, Ivette. "The school nurse at the time, Tina Messina, had worked with Ivette at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx," he reminisced. "One day, Tina told me, 'I have a friend you should meet,' and we went out on a blind date."

Their first date was at the Rye Playland amusement park, a favorite destination of many City Islanders. When asked whether they went into the Tunnel of Love at Playland on their first date, Ivette just smiled and said simply, "we have been married for 18 years."

After marrying, they moved to Rockland County and commuted together to the Bronx every workday, Ivette to St. Barnabas and Pete to P.S. 175.

"We usually wake up around 4:30 a.m. and drive in together," Pete's wife said. In fact, no faculty or parent could recall a time

when Officer Toledo wasn't at his desk by the front doors of the school. "He's like the Post Office motto: neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night kept him away from his duties," Islander Maria Swieciki said at the breakfast.

When asked how he made it to City Island even through many bad winters, Pete said that he and his wife would stay with his mother in the Bronx if they heard the forecast was for a snowstorm. Pete's dedication and service to others runs in the family. His mother, Alba, is a retired teacher, and some of his brothers are police officers.

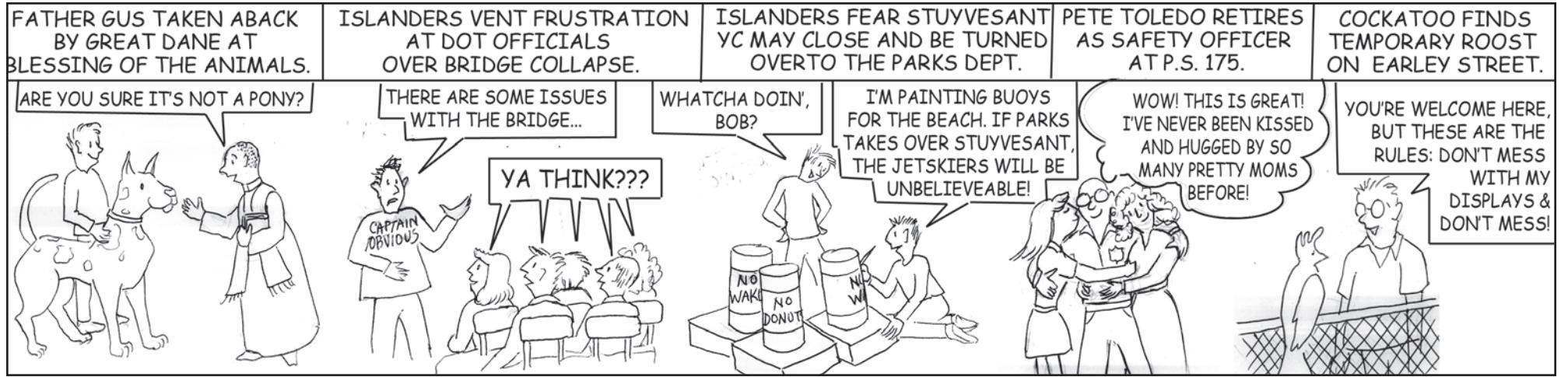
At the breakfast, Officer Toledo was awarded citations of merit from New York City Councilman James Vacca and Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. Two special guests also attended the breakfast and paid tribute to Officer Toledo. Bronx Borough Safety Director, Vince DiGaetano, told the crowd, "Pete goes above and beyond. He will be missed."

NYPD Deputy Commissioner Greg Garcia said he was surprised when he got the call that Pete was retiring, but he wouldn't have missed paying him an affectionate tribute. "He is a really good person. I remember when he was a bit thinner, but his mission was always to help teachers teach and keep kids safe."

So what are his retirement plans? Pete plans to play more golf and go on a trip to his hometown of San Juan, Puerto Rico. "Once my wife retires, then we will probably move back to San Juan with my mother." Faculty members Pat Cambria and Jeanne McDonald teased him about remembering them while he was in sunny San Juan and they were in the middle of a New York snowstorm.

Meanwhile, P.S. 175 is required to have two safety officers. In addition to Margie Santiago, who has worked alongside Officer Toledo, the search begins for another school safety officer to replace Pete.

Principal Lipson summed it up: "Pete is truly irreplaceable and we will miss him. We will never have another who looks after our children as well and who does everything from opening up ketchup packets at lunch to keeping them safe. It will be strange to come through the doors every morning and not see Pete."



Fair Winds or Foul An Editorial Column

Fair Winds to Lickety Split, which has closed its doors for the season but before doing so donated its remaining ice cream to the City Island Firehouse and to P. S. 175.

Fair Winds to Community Pride, which awards its certificates this month to Amanda Bear Party Rentals and Artie's Restaurant for having an attractive and well-maintained appearance on City Island Avenue.



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.

A Job Well Done

To the Editor:

It's hard to believe that Pete Toledo is retiring as P.S. 175's School Safety Officer after 25 years. We could all read the requirements needed for his job, but they are not going to tell us why Pete is special.

He has a caring spirit coupled with a willingness and pride that feeds his ability to reach beyond the obvious. His moral obligation to our children, the parents and the community tell us who he is. He lives a life that is generous and caring.

Yes, he worked at P.S. 175 and, although he is retiring from the school, he is not retiring from what he has become to us: a lifelong, loved friend. Continue looking at the community and people as he did; you will never be disappointed.

Ena Ellwanger

Late Night Bus Service

The following petition was circulated by the City Island Civic Association on its website (<https://cityislandcivic.wordpress.com>) and through Facebook, and it has been signed by over 400 people. To add your name, go to the website and click on Action Center.

Dear Public Officials,

For several years City Island residents have been forced to live with a Bx29 bus that is unreliable. It is not uncommon for the bus to run entirely off schedule or not to show at all. For people who must be at work off the Island at a specific time, this inconsistency has wreaked havoc and in some cases threat-

ened their employment.

To make matters worse, City Island's service stops at 12:12 a.m. and does not start up again until 4:58 a.m. Many people in our neighborhood work non-traditional hours, so that public transportation is not a viable option for them. Also, those who live off the Island but work late hours at the restaurants must resort to taxis or other forms of transportation to get home.

The City Island Civic Association hosted a meeting with representatives of the MTA in July and 40 people attended. The dialogue was encouraging, but there is still a great deal of room for improvement. We still do not know what is driving these delays, many of which occur during off-peak traffic hours on weekdays. We can only speculate that the demand being generated at Bay Plaza, which shares the Bx29, is leading to transit delays.

We ask the MTA to respond to the following requests:

1. Conduct a thorough review of the Bx29 route and present the data and information, along with a list of planned improvements, at an upcoming meeting of the City Island Civic Association.

2. Expand the service to at least once an hour between 1 and 5 a.m., especially on weekend evenings where restaurant workers and patrons are left without affordable transit options.

3. Explore the possibility of separating the Bx29 route from the route to Co-Op City and enable it to travel exclusively between City Island and Pelham Bay Station. Commuters wishing to go to Co-op City can then transfer at the station.

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Chamber of Commerce Honors Friends of City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

At its annual dinner dance, which will take place at Scavello's on the Island on Saturday, Nov. 14, the City Island Chamber of Commerce will honor three Island friends, along with two Island residents, for their contributions to the community.

Jane LaScala of Hailing Port Service, Inc., will receive the Sam Bierman Award for Business and Community Service. A longtime Island resident, Jane founded Hailing Port in August 1977, and the firm continues to be a national leader, handling Coast Guard documentation filings and state boat registrations and titles with lien protection. Jane is a founding member of the American Vessel Documentation Association, a national association of documentation agents and marine-related industries, and an associate member of the National Marine Lenders Association, a national association of leaders in marine financing and related marine industries.

Jane served as secretary of the Chamber in the 1970s and 1980s; she introduced the Easter Egg Hunt and still assists with the holiday tree lighting. She sat on the annual awards dinner committee for over 20 years and organized many seating charts. She is also active with St. Mary, Star of the Sea church, where she serves as lector, eucharistic minister and choir member. She coordinates the choir's annual fund raising for their lessons and carols concert. Through St. Mary's, Jane introduced POTS (Part of the Solution) to City Island about 20 years ago, an organization that supports needy families in the Bronx. At holiday time she coordinates a holiday gifting program that includes a collection of needed clothing and toiletries.

Jane and Peter LaScala, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, have been married for 47 years and have two daughters, Lauren and Anita. They are dedicated to City Island and all it has to offer.

A special certificate of appreciation will be given to **Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr.** for his support of City Island. He was born in Puerto Rico but was raised in the Bronx, where he received his primary and secondary education; he graduated first from LaGuardia Community College and then from Lehman College with a BA degree in political theory. He was elected to the New York Assembly at the age of 23, the youngest person elected to the Assembly since Theodore Roosevelt. While in the Assembly, he sponsored, co-sponsored and passed legislation addressing numerous issues, including health care, public records access, minimum wage and overtime pay, and environmental protection. In 2007 he was named one of City Hall's "40 under 40" for being a young influential member of New York City politics.

In February 2009, when Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión was appointed to the position of Director of the White House Office on Urban Affairs, Mayor Bloomberg declared a special election to choose his successor, and on April 21 that year Mr. Díaz defeated the Republican party candidate Anthony Ribustello with 87 percent of the vote, to become the 13th Borough President of the Bronx.

As Borough President, Mr. Díaz has been a good friend to City Island. He marches in the Memorial Day Parade and attends other events here. In 2014 he supported the City Island community in its fight to redesign the City Island Bridge. He lives in the southeast Bronx with his wife, Hilda, and their two sons.

Mary Colby of Mary Colby Studio Gallery will be given the Catherine Scott Achievement Award. A native of the Bronx, Mary studied at Lehman College and the Art Students League. Charmed by the City Island community she frequented in her youth, she returned to rent her own studio in 1993 and pursued a career as an artist and decorative painter, establishing the business Fe Fi Faux. After a 25-year career in decorative painting, she retired the business and opened Mary Colby Studio and Gallery at the same location, 276 City Island Avenue. The gallery, which has always been a working stu-

dio open to the public, affords visitors an intimate and unique view into the world of the artist at work. Colby has shown her work at the Bronx Museum, Woodstock's Byrdcliffe Guild, Pace University, Onda East Village Artists, and the Bronx Armory show. Her work is also in many private collections.

Mary Colby's other passion is gardening, and she currently also works as a landscape designer. She has a keen eye and a talent for making gardens that are natural looking and diverse in plant material. Her gardens often become inspiration for her paintings. She writes a column for *The Island Current* called "In The Garden."

Her art is always on view and she is happy to engage with visitors. As she puts it: "My life's work is a commitment to the simple act of painting, which is a metaphor for experience and of being in the world."

Robert Carmody will receive the Tom Ceretta Award for Community Service. He moved to City Island in 1964 and graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, and later attended Blessed Sacrament and Christopher Columbus High School. While attending grammar school and high school, he worked at many local businesses, including boat yards and restaurants. Later he went into carpentry, joined Local 608, and learned the basics. Bob went into real estate in 1989 and he gradually became a community activist, working with Community Board 10 and elected officials. He joined the City Island Chamber of Commerce and eventually became vice president. One of his first accomplishments for the Chamber was to form a successful ad hoc committee to save Ladder 53 and Engine 70. He became involved with the BOEDC and the Chamber of Commerce, securing grants up to \$15,000 per building. He also coached Little League and the Pelham Bay Belles softball team.

For the Chamber Bob helped organize community events, including the Chamber Dinner Dance, clam chowder contests, music in the park, and raffles. He also organized Community Center fundraisers, helped renovate the Center, and organizes the Halloween Parade, along with Halloween poster painting, the Easter Hat Pageant, and Easter Egg Hunts. Bob has also helped to get retroactive pay and housing for many veterans with the help of Congressman Joe Crowley and Bill Clancy of the American Legion. He currently represents the Wounded Warriors project for this area and has collected donations for the project.

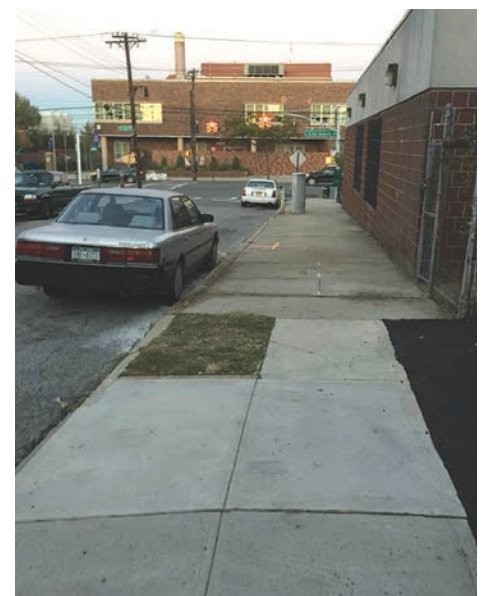
A Community Service Award will be presented posthumously to the late **Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano**, who passed away on Dec. 7, 2014. When her first husband, Vincent Provenzano, died suddenly at the age of 31, leaving her with three small children, she went to work for HIP Medical Center and went to college, eventually graduating from Hunter College. She met Nathan Simmons when both of them were involved in community advocacy, and they married in 1974. In 1980 Councilman Michael DeMarco asked her to work as his chief of staff, a position she held for 17 years until he stepped down to take a seat on the NYS Supreme Court.

Madeline served as the Democratic district leader in the 80th Assembly District from 1992 to 1998, and the Bronx Democratic Party nominated her to replace Mr. DeMarco as councilwoman. After the election, she became the first woman to represent the 13th district of the City Council, which includes City Island. She served in the Council from 1997 until 2005, when term limits forced her retirement.

Madeline was a longtime supporter of City Island and was honored by the Chamber in March 2003 with a Special Recognition of Exemplary Community Service Award. She contributed funding to the City Island Theater Group and regularly attended the group's productions. On Oct. 16, 2015, P.S. 481 was named the Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano Education Campus in her honor.

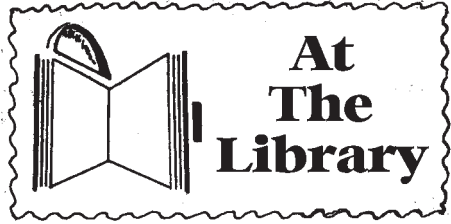
Tickets are still available for the dinner; for reservations, call 718-885-9100.

Community Pride



Photos by TERI KURTZ and CANDY MANCUSO

The newly organized City Island Community Pride group is off to a great start with its first project, cleaning up the area around the City Island Post Office (see bottom before-and-after photos). Believing that the appearance of City Island sets the tone for the way in which both residents and visitors treat and respect the neighborhood, the group is launching an effort to encourage residents and shop owners to keep their properties attractive. The group is grateful to Cathy Cebek for getting the Post Office on board with this latest project and to the Post Office's Sonia Torres, who collaborated with Conal Schaller of CAS Property Care (top photo).



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Jumping Shaking Musical Story Making: Fun with The Old Woman & the Pumpkin: Children will sing old songs and learn new songs, shake rhythm instruments and jump, hop, leap and freeze as Miss Navida plays the piano. For children ages 3 and older. Limited to 25 participants, so please register by phone or in person. Wednesday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m.

Creature Comforts: Create a habitat for your favorite animal. For children ages 5 and older. Presented by Arch For Kids. Thursday, Nov. 12, 3:30 p.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session, so there will be a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. Every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Read and Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session, so there will be a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. Every Friday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2-11. Friday Nov. 20, between 12 noon and 2 p.m.

Family Movie: "Cinderella": Tuesday Nov. 10, at 3 p.m.

"Insurgent": Wednesday Nov. 25, at 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

BIG Talks: Diversity: This workshop breaks down discussions of race, gender, sexuality and more. Inclusivity is important! Presented by Tara Abrol. For ages 12 to 18 years old. Thursday, Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

After-School Activities: Every Friday at 3 p.m. Nov. 6: Wii Board Games; Nov. 13: Wii Board Games; Nov. 20: Thanksgiving crafts.

NOVEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW! Afternoon Computer Classes: These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics and are ready to begin tackling more specific questions. Every Thursday from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5: Guide to Internet; Nov. 12: E-mail 101; Nov. 19: What is Social Media?

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

Autumn Writing at the Library: For this program before the holiday season, you will explore purposeful writing that creates an impact. Along the way you will learn how to design a good story, to prepare a piece for publication and to write with joy. Led by Gail Hitt. Every Thursday through to Dec. 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Computer Q & A: Ask questions about how to use computers. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I use a mouse?" "How do I get on the Internet?" How can I sign in to use a computer at

the library with my library card?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

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

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

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Nov. 7 at 1 p.m.: "Love and Mercy" Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. "The Subject Was Roses" Nov. 21 at 1 p.m. "Run All Night" Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. "Where Hope Grows"

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



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

| Address | Closing Date | Sale Price | Type |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 33 Tier Street | 7/29/15 | \$395,000 | coop |
| 419 Minneford Ave. | 8/13/15 | \$415,000 | 1 family |
| 183 Hawkins Street | 8/28/15 | \$185,000 | 1 family |
| 261 City Island Ave. | 9/1/15 | \$899,000 | commercial |
| 33 Tier Street | 9/13/15 | \$199,021 | coop |
| 123 Horton Street | 9/22/15 | \$500,000 | 1 family |
| 78 Reynolds Street | 9/25/15 | \$475,000 | 1 family |
| 56 Marine Street | 10/14/15 | \$750,000 | 1 family |



Bartow-Pell Events

B2B - Bartow to Bartow Challenge. On Sunday, Nov. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Casual Run/Walk along the new Hutchinson River Greenway to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Get fit and learn about the history of your own backyard at the same time! Join BPMM docent, Co-Op City resident and runner Amelia Zaino for a fun, casual run/walk. Free refreshments and house tours await you at the museum. Then enjoy a return walk back to Co-Op City. The total run/walk is approximately 5K. Rain or shine. Meet at the entrance to the Hutchinson River Greenway on Bartow Avenue and the Hutchinson River Parkway overpass, near 2100 Bartow Avenue in Bay Plaza. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via e-mail at info@bpmm.org.

First Friday Music & Trolley on Nov. 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. New York singer Queen Esther will bring her acclaimed interpretations of Billie Holiday's rare and beautiful songs to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (BPMM). She and her pianist, musical director and City Island resident Jeremy Bacon have unearthed some rarely played gems and will present them in a fresh, modern way. Joining them

will be Noah Jackson on bass and Shawn Balthazor on drums, both young stars on the New York jazz scene. Registration requested at 718-885-1461 or via e-mail at info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students; members free.

Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day, Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help get the garden and grounds ready for winter and plant 1,000 daffodils from Partnership for Parks. Clean-up sponsored by Con Edison. Light breakfast available. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Registration requested. Free.

Local Author Spotlight will feature Kate Wood, who will discuss her new book, "Interior Landmarks: Treasures of New York," on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Meet in the museum's elegant and intimate high-style Greek Revival double parlors, which are featured in the new book, for a thoroughly fascinating talk, followed by a book signing and reception in the Orangerie. Registration is requested by calling 718-885-1461 or e-mailing info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.



"Ebb and Flow," artwork by Laury Hopkins and Cheryl Brinker, will be on display at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) in November. Laury and Cheryl are local artists with colorful eclectic styles. The show will open on Nov. 6 with a reception at 7:30 p.m. Come and celebrate and enjoy homemade refreshments!

There's lots of music and art to give thanks for this November at **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779). A debut—Michelle DeAngelis accompanied by City Island's own Papa Guyo—begins the first full November weekend (Friday, Nov. 6), and that Saturday, Nov. 7, get ready for a "Saturday Night Blues Party" with Bennett Harris. The following weekend City Island's Angelo Bellocchio begins an exhibition of his photography with a reception on Nov. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. For a complete schedule of events at Starving Artist in November, visit www.StarvingArtistOnline.com.

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Photo by MIKE RAUH

After Hurricane Sandy struck on Oct. 29, 2012, the club began to organize repairs. Work was started on the south-facing seawall, but when cash ran out the work was stopped. This photo shows the unfinished work that Winters Street neighbors have been waiting to see completed for years, as there are no safeguards in place to keep curious children using the Winters Street beach away from the temporary boards and exposed construction.

Stuyvesant

Continued from page 1

potential closing of the club, many were unhappy to learn of the Parks Department option through an anonymous leaflet distributed to neighbors the day before the meeting. A few individuals in the crowd were invited to attend the members' meeting at which the Parks Department presented their proposal for the property, but most were not allowed to attend and were subsequently removed when police were called.

The Club's History

Founded in 1890, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club has had a colorful but troubled history and now appears to be losing the struggle for survival altogether. The club moved its headquarters to 10 Centre Street on City Island in 1935, after Robert Moses evicted it from Pelham Bay Park. The property was bare, except for an old tent that served as a clubhouse, but by the end of the first season, the underwater lot had been landfilled and a wooden bulkhead put in place. All of the work was done cooperatively by the members and thus continued the tradition of club members working together. Eventually a sea wall and docks were installed and a clubhouse was constructed. A devastating fire in 1968 destroyed the building, but a new clubhouse was built and dedicated in 1969.

The club was active and popular during the years that followed, but it was both difficult and expensive to maintain the sea wall and docks. In October 2012, when Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast, Stuyvesant members struggled to get all of their boats out of the water, but the storm surge on the west side of the Island swept through the yard and destroyed over 20 of the boats. A number of members decided not to buy new boats and left the club, which had difficulty raising sufficient funds to rebuild the waterfront since the property had been underinsured. More members gradually left the club to join other clubs on City Island that offered better services, including the nearby City Island Yacht Club, which had proposed a merger with Stuyvesant that was turned down. Eventually, the Stuyvesant's restaurant closed, and little was left of the club, which is now down to nine members.

Taxes, insurance and other expenses continued to mount, and the club now owes New York City at least \$50,000 in property taxes. If this amount is not paid by the end of 2015, the club will be in serious trouble, unless the Parks Department deal is struck, since the city could absorb the debt.

The Parks Department Proposal

The proposal presented to the club's board of directors and membership on Oct. 3 was made by Nate Grove, senior manager of city marinas for the Parks Department. Mr. Grove spoke enthusiastically about the club's facilities and expressed considerable

interest in establishing a marina on the site. The Parks Department owns 15 marinas in New York City, but only three of them are actually managed by Mr. Grove. The others, including two in the Bronx, are operated by concessionaires, which are profit-driven. Mr. Grove did not specify how the Stuyvesant marina would be managed.

He did make it clear that the city would repair the docks and seawall, which, on the basis of a "visual examination" did not seem to him to be in serious disrepair. This observation was disputed by Islander Greg Clancy, who has done pro bono engineering work for the club and figures that the cost of repair would be more than \$1 million.

Members of the community were allowed to ask questions. Leigh Beer, a longtime member of the City Island Yacht Club, expressed concern that a public marina would draw members away from the Island's other yacht clubs, which are all struggling to stay afloat.

Residents of Centre Street made it clear that they have for the most part managed to coexist well with the club but were concerned that there is no on-site parking, which would be a serious concern if a concessionaire were to open a restaurant at the marina, as many other marina concessions have done. In the past, when parties at the club used to draw large groups, parking on quiet Centre Street was a source of much unhappiness among residents, but in recent years, parking has not been a serious issue in the neighborhood.

Mr. Grove assured the neighbors that the process of converting the club into a public marina would undergo the process known as ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), because the property is now zoned residential. That would give the community an opportunity to review the project and express their views. In the meantime, since ULURP can take as long as 18 months to be completed, Parks would offer to arrange a licensing agreement with the club, forgiving the taxes and working with the club to put it in working order for use in 2016.

At press time, the Parks Department is examining the expenses involved in running the club in order to determine the appropriate relationship between them. The Stuyvesant would retain ownership during the term of this licensing agreement and would be required to continue paying for insurance, although the city would be prepared to pay the expenses involved in improving the site.

Other options that have been proposed include the conversion of the property into a modest privately run bed-and-breakfast with marina facilities or a sailing school for Fordham University. Both of these options seem to have more appeal for residents, who are afraid that a municipal marina would attract crowds that could destroy the character of the neighborhood. John Doyle of the

Civic Association spoke up at the meeting to propose that Parks consider other more suitable locations on City Island for a public marina, specifically the site at the north end of the island near the bridge where half the property is already owned by the city.

Councilmember James Vacca told *The Current* that "without the support of City Island and in particular the residents of Centre Street, I will not support the Parks Department proceeding with their plans for the Stuyvesant Yacht Club." This sentiment was echoed by Robert Kolaja, president of the yacht club's board of directors, who agreed that City Island residents have a right to object to the proposal and that the board should consider their feelings in the matter.

What the Future Holds?

In 2013, when the City Island Nautical

Museum mounted an exhibition devoted to the Island's yacht and boat clubs, the Stuyvesant Club members wrote: "One of the outstanding qualities of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club is the extent to which it is a creation of its own members. They rebuilt a clubhouse to replace the one that burned, they hauled boulders and cement blocks to create a retaining wall; they waded in mud while bulkheads were erected or repaired, and they rebuilt docks after hurricanes, both past and present."

It seems, however, only two years later, that the time has come when there aren't enough members to do the work or pay others to do it, and turning the club's property and facilities over to the city of New York may be the only way to preserve the site as a boatyard.

LAW & ORDER: SVU REVISITS CITY ISLAND



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI
City Island once again attracted the producers of the NBC television series "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit." Over 80 members of the cast and crew arrived early on Oct. 15, 2015, more than 12 years after they filmed an episode in 2003 (bottom photo, left). Since then, the show has become the longest running non-animated, scripted show currently on television. The cast and crew filmed at several City Island locations, including the City Island Nautical Museum (top photo). The friendly stars of the show once again mingled with City Islanders in between rehearsals, including actress Mariska Hargitay (bottom, right), who plays Detective Olivia Benson. She was welcomed back to City Island by Karen Nani, while Ginger Dannegger greeted a new member of the cast, Andy Karl (middle, left), who plays Sergeant Michael Dodd. The episode is scheduled to air on Nov. 11 at 9 p.m. The original Law and Order series featuring Jerry Orbach also shot several scenes on City Island for a 2001 episode that can now be seen in reruns.

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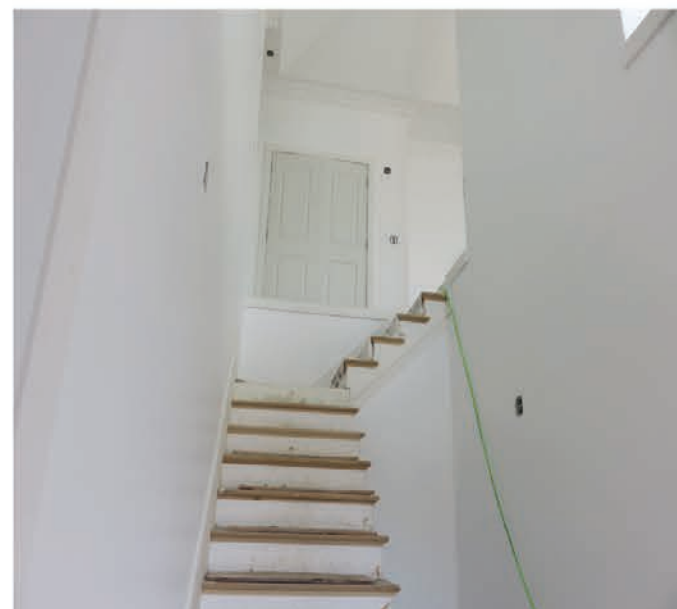
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Island Insurance: 47 Years Young and Growing Stronger

By BILL STUTTIG



Island Insurance Agency, which originally operated as Kyle and Waugh (bottom left photo), has been owned and operated by Todd Murphy (top, left) and his father, Bill Murphy, since 1988.

The following interview is the third in a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support The Island Current by placing ads in virtually every issue for more than 20 years.

For nearly half a century, Island Insurance Agency, which originally operated as Kyle and Waugh, has been taking care of the unique insurance needs of City Island's home and business owners—a unique challenge because of the coastal nature of the community and the increasing frequency of storms during the past two decades.

Todd Murphy, president of Island Insurance Agency, operates the business with his father, Bill Murphy, who joined the agency in 1975, became sole owner in 1988 and is now president emeritus. Todd told *The Island Current* this month that the firm's nearly half century of experience serving City Island has enabled it to specialize in providing coverage for coastal properties that many insurance agencies and coverage providers have shied away from in recent years. That area of specialization has been good for business but also poses increasing challenges.

"Over the past decade, our business has grown beyond City Island and its neighboring communities," Todd said during a recent interview. "The use of the internet has greatly expanded our reach through Westchester, Suffolk and Fairfield Counties. The storms that impacted the Northeast over the past 10 years have caused insurers to re-evaluate their coastal strategy. As a result, many insurers withdrew from the area and cancelled their long-term policy holders. Coastal homeowners and businesses there-

fore sought out agents with more experience placing and servicing coastal business. We have been writing policies from Montauk, NY, to Nantucket, MA. In addition to the tri-state area, we currently write business in 11 states."

Island Insurance, which is located at the intersection of City Island Avenue and Beach Street, is one of the City Island's oldest active businesses having been founded in 1968 by Grattan Kyle and Lewis Waugh under the name of Kyle & Waugh. "While we do business as Island Insurance Agency, we still retain the corporate name of Kyle & Waugh," Todd explained. He worked for his father briefly in 1994 and 1995, and then he went out on his own and for the next decade gained extensive experience in the corporate insurance business. He returned to the firm in 2005 and formed a partnership with his father.

When asked what it is like to work so closely with his father for so many years, Todd said, "There are definitely more pluses than minuses. We don't always see eye-to-eye on everything, but there is no question that we both want what's best for our clients, the company and our employees. There is also a level of trust that cannot be replicated in other business models." The firm now has six employees working in the City Island office, with a few more agents and sales people working in remote locations in the firm's expanding coastal service area.

Despite the firm's growth and expansion over the past decade, Todd said that City Island still represents a good percentage of the agency's overall business. "City Island as a whole is still the largest territory that we write business in. While a large percentage of our business is located off City Island, we are committed to serving the community

here. We continue to search for new companies to write business on City Island in the event that additional insurers pull out of the area. As insurance companies come and go over the years, we always have options."

A regular advertiser in *The Island Current* since Bill Murphy joined the firm in 1975, Todd spoke of the newspaper's influence on the agency: "Advertising is something that is very difficult to quantify in our business. I think that displaying our ad consistently in *The Island Current* keeps our name and brand known to Islanders and helps our business maintain visibility in the community."

He added that he sees that City Island has changed significantly over the past 25

years, and the business has had to adapt because of that. "There have been many changes over the years. Most notably, the marinas that we used to insure were sold to developers, and we now write several of these properties as condominium associations. The number of marine-related businesses and retail stores has also decreased. Coastal properties and businesses on City Island that we don't currently insure remain areas of potential growth for us."

"We will continue to grow both on and off the Island over the next 5 to 10 years," Todd predicted. "We may look to acquire another agency in Westchester or Connecticut to better serve some of our off-Island clients, but we remain committed to maintaining our presence and office on City Island."



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and RICK DeWITT

Several episodes of a new ABC television series called "The Family" are being filmed in different locations on City Island, including Lickety Split, the Diner and several homes. Large crews are involved in the filming, some of which is taking place on a waterfront yard on Tier Street (top photo) and some on Bay Street (bottom photo), where onlookers were able to watch the actor Andrew McCarthy direct a scene; Mr. McCarthy also plays a starring role in the series, along with Joan Allen, Allison Pill and Rupert Graves. The series is scheduled to begin early in 2016.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 3, **Election Day Bake Sale**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat., Nov. 14, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, 7 to 11 p.m., Scavello's on the Island.

Tues., Nov. 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs., Nov. 26, **Community-wide Thanksgiving dinner** at Trinity Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street. Free and open to all from 1 to 5 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 28, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Nov. 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 4, and Sat., Dec. 5, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 5, and Sun., Dec. 6, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

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

Sat., Dec. 12, **Grace Church Holiday Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Grace Episcopal Church

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Priest-in-Charge Ruth Anne Garcia. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Contemplative prayer service meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This quiet evening service includes scripture reading, reflection and meditation.

November Events

Sunday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. All Saints Day Service / Plaque Dedication and Celebration of Donors Brunch. This is a celebration and thanksgiving for everyone who supported the restoration of the stained glass windows, rectory and parish hall.

Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:45 a.m. New Music Ministry rehearsal.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 12 noon: City Island Avenue Clean Up. Parish members will be hitting the avenue to pick up trash and beautify the community. If you would like to join us, please contact Sandy at accentfix@gmail.com.

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Hearts and Hands Ministry.

Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m. Sandwich making for POTS (Part of the Solution, which feeds our neighbors and nourishes our community). Donations of sandwich bread and jars of peanut butter or jelly will be accepted at the event.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service.

December Events

Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:45 a.m. New Music Ministry rehearsal.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Annual Christmas Fair and Café. Continental Breakfast will be served from 10 to 11 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will offer handmade items, and the Jam Man will delight us with his delectable preserves. Mrs. Claus will also be on hand to greet children with gifts, and your kids can participate in Christmas

crafts while you shop. A 50/50 raffle will take place too. Please join us for a day of fellowship and fun!

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to these and other events. Please visit our website at www.gracecityisland.org.

Sandy Dunn

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Save the date for Trinity's annual Christmas Fair on Friday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Trinity's Fall Disciple Group Bible Study for 2015 began in the church's Fellowship Hall at 113 Bay Street on Sunday, Oct. 25, and will run for five consecutive Sunday sessions, ending on Nov. 22; the meetings will run from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

These meetings consist of round table-like discussions on the text of the Scripture being studied, under the leadership of George Cavalieri, Trinity's Lay Servant/Speaker, who will moderate the sessions based on the readings of the text under study. No pre-registration or fee is required, and the New Testament Text is provided for all, along with an outline of the study as a guide.

The study will be of the Apostle Paul's two letters written while he was imprisoned in Rome, one to an individual called Philemon and the other to a church known as the Philippians. Both are New Testament documents. The theme of the first is "From a slave to brotherhood"; the other is "Rejoicing in the Lord, no matter what the circumstances good or bad." Everyone in the community interested in Bible study is welcome. This study will be highly instructive and a challenge to the thinking of serious Christians. The purpose of these studies is to promote and provide an opportunity to present the good news of the gospel, the evangel, and so make of us true disciples of Christ.

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

Rick DeWitt

City Island Republicans

Because of District Attorney Robert Johnson's last-minute decision to seek a judgeship, there will be an election for Bronx District Attorney on Election Day. Robert Siano, a local Bronx lawyer, is the candidate of the Republican and Conservative parties. Rob also has the backing of many Democrats because of Mr. Johnson's late switch to the Supreme Court. The state party is pouring in resources. We need everyone to come out and vote, since every vote will count. The turnout is usually dismal, and therefore he actually has a shot at becoming our next district attorney. There are also two candidates for Supreme Court running as well, Stephen Mayo and Guy Parisi.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Get out and vote.

Save the date: The annual Bronx Republican Lincoln Dinner will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at Villa Barone Manor. The



Photo by SANDY DUNN

Grace parish members cleaning up the church after service on Sunday, October 18.

price is \$150. Cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner starts at 7 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We began the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts, the feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls.

On Nov. 6, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, we will have our monthly coffee hour in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Our religious education program will sponsor a Turkey Bingo in St. Mary's School gym on Friday evening, Nov. 20. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. This is open to all parishioners. Come and bring the family for an evening of fun.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. We hope that the Tuesday schedule will make it possible for more people to gather to give thanks as a community of faith for the many blessings given to each of us and to our community. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods which will be distributed to the poor. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Nov. 29, is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as a man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace. This Sunday will also mark the beginning of our new Mass schedule. See our church bulletin for details.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, in the school gym and in the Thrift Shop. Doors will open at 9 a.m. Come and browse and buy some great gifts for Christmas! The Christmas Shop will remain open in the Thrift Shop on Thursdays and Saturdays from Dec. 10 until Dec. 22.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

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

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth

in the dates established by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

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

Kevin Ford is on sick call after his recent knee replacement. We wish him well. We are sad to report that we recently received word that member Noel Leddy died.

We recently swore in new member, John AINETTE.

The Sunday Jets party was a huge success: the Jets won and our squadron won too. Thanks to Peter Booth for making it happen. The proceeds will go toward the legacy scholarship fund of the Detachment of New York, which supports the family members of dead veterans.

The state commander will visit on Nov. 6. Later that night will be the annual Military Ball at Villa Barone at 6 p.m.; the price is \$75.

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place at the World War I monument in Pelham Bay Park on Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, Dec. 5, is the annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony, which will be held at noon at the Post, because of the bridge construction.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

"Save the Date": Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6. Our annual Christmas Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Thrift Shop and in St. Mary's Gym. During November, watch out for our special sales (bag and half-price sales, etc.). Come and enjoy your coffee with fellow shoppers.

Arlene Byrne

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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.

Fall is in full swing and we are pleased to offer a great interesting schedule with exciting new classes for young people as well as fun-filled special events. Remember, the Community Center is here for you, so, please support the programs below and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Puppet Theater Performance: Sunday, Nov. 8, 4:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to this delightful show with island puppeteers.

Essential Oils Party: Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. Join us to learn ways to boost your immune system and stay healthier during the winter months with essential oils. Free samples, prizes, and give-a-ways! For information, call Mary Anne Flanagan at 917-238-9726.

Members Annual Holiday Party: Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. What can we say? It's a fun-filled tradition and a wonderful way to begin the season: great food, a great band and great people!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Play Like a Girl: NEW Sunday, 1 to 2 p.m. Calling all tweens to find your inner power and strength and have fun too with certified personal trainer Briana Lotrionte. For information, blotrionte@gmail.com or call 917-885-6257.

Irish Dance for Children: Monday, step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots, 6 to 6:30 p.m., beginners, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., intermediate, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes are taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

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

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

Art for Children: Saturday, 10:30 to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture: study art from the 15th to the 21st century with Lorraine Cantori. For information, e-mail ceasardante@optonline.net or call 914-552-5268.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

0793. AFA Certified.

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

Chair Yoga with Michael: Fridays, 10 a.m. Note new day! Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

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

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

City Island CSA: Monday, 5 to 7 p.m. Community Supported Agriculture Group providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share recipes and pick up new cooking skills. Nov. 2, bring recipes of soups and stews. Nov. 16, bring prepared soups and stews to share and taste. Also bring canned goods for a holiday collection. Coming up in December, the cookie exchange. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Drawing Society: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

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

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

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

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 a.m. and now Saturday, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour with toning. Saturday, 10:15 a.m. \$10 per class. For information, call 917-601-5514.

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

Patty Grondahl

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. The congregation is led by our clergy, Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus, with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Temple Services and Activities:

Friday, Nov. 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Deep Ecumenism Shabbat (Chayei Sarah). Join Rabbi David, Your Band by the Sea and special guest preacher Rev. Kristen Provost Switzer (Congregational Church of Prospect, CT) for a heart-opening and musical welcome to Shabbat. Celebratory oneg to follow.

follow.

Friday, Nov. 13, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. Eat, Meet and Greet: Potluck reception honoring new members. Bring a potluck (kosher pareve, vegetarian or fish) dish to our TBE community room for a reception honoring more than 20 new members. Get to know new congregants as they become friends and new friends as they become family. Rabbis Shohama and David will lead Kabbalat Shabbat immediately following. RSVP to Elaine Belasco (lainybel@aol.com) or at 718-885-2154. Thank you. Looking forward to our celebration.

Friday, Nov. 20, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat (Yayetzei). Join Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a musical and uplifting welcome to Shabbat on this week-end before Thanksgiving. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Other Activities:

Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Caregiving Circle: Long Distance Praying for Others. How to pray for others circle meeting and training given by Rabbi Shohama. Join us for this next in a series of trainings and meetings for shul members and friends in caregiving contexts, or anyone who wishes to learn the sacred Jewish art of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick). RSVP yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Rabbi Shohama's spiritual direction group convenes for the first time. Congregants interested in spiritual direction should please read our Spiritual Direction page for further information. And, if they want to join then contact us for intake at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Looking ahead:

Sunday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Chanukah Menorah Lighting. Join Rabbi Shohama, your shul family and area dignitaries for the ceremonial start of Chanukah, the festival of lights. Meet us at Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Fordham Streets. All of the City Island community are welcome to join us. Dessert reception to follow at Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

Sponsoring an oneg (refreshments) for a Shabbat or holiday service is a significant and wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life-cycle event) and give back to the community. For more information, call Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or e-mail violetsmi@aol.com.

For further information, visit our website at: www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Ellen Ruth Topol

Ladies Auxiliary

Save the date: our Cancer Bingo will be held at the Morris Yacht Club on Friday, April 22, 2016. More information will follow.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. Your attendance is needed. New business will be discussed.

Laura Booth

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The next board meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

There are many people to thank for their assistance with the street naming ceremony: Joe Plaza for donating the boxes of cookies, Mike Jawski for setting up the hall for the event, Father Knapp, Tom McMahon Sr. and Margaret Knapp for helping to allow parking at St. Mary's for the big day. We are grateful to John Musto for having cardboard replicas of the triangle monuments made for our ceremonies while bridge construction is happening.

Thanks to Bob Balbi for supplying the soda to the bar and to Frank Figueroa and Ray Olmeda for all of their help in making Caribbean night a huge success, despite

rumors that the commander was on video dancing.

The clambake was a huge success. Despite the rain, there were no wet t-shirt contests. Thanks to World of Food for catering the event and also to Todd Davis, James Livingston, Mike Jawski, Gene Valesio, Bob and Carol Mennona, Joe Goonan, Dennis Murphy and anyone else we may have forgotten. Betty and Dave Carman get a big round of applause for running the 50/50 raffle during the clambake. Congratulations to Maureen Grogan, who won the \$5,000 prize. Thanks to Maureen for making a \$500 donation back to the Post and to her children for putting a donation on the bar for a round of drinks.

The pumpkin sale went well, thanks to John Ulmer, Keith Shipp, Bobby Salerno, Gino Valesio, Peter Booth, Gumby Zvara and, of course, our delivery man Joe Goonan. Also thanks to Linda Ulmer and Carol Mennona for selling the lotto calendars and sweatshirts. Finally, thanks to Ed Shipp, who kept the sale running smoothly as usual and farmer Jack and his wife from Farms of Montgomery, NY.

Thanks go to the two guys who fixed the toilet in the men's room by replacing the wax seal and bolts.

We recently swore in two new members: Cruz Martinez, a Korean War veteran, and Tamara (Gabby) Gabbard, who served in Afghanistan. Billy Timper and Dennis Cullen recently transferred their memberships to our Post. We are happy to report that his son, former member Michael Cullen, is back in the fold since he transferred his membership back to our Post, although he is still residing in Florida with his dad.

Past Commander Bob Booth is home after a recent hospital visit. Brian Sullivan was also recently in the hospital. Associate member Peter Brewer is recovering from Achilles tendon surgery. Ray Kelly is recovering from a recent ambulatory procedure.

The Throggs Neck annual Veterans Day Parade will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, starting at 12 noon at East Tremont and Lafayette Avenues. The annual Bronx County Veterans Day Ceremony at the World War I Winged Victory Monument will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 a.m.

The Serviceman's Dinner will be held on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. The usual home-cooked meal of roast chicken and pork with all the trimmings will be served. The turkeys will be raffled off, too, so don't forget to return your turkey raffles to the Post by Saturday, Nov. 14.

Save the dates: On Saturday, Dec. 12, Dianne O'Sullivan will hold a fundraiser concert with music, drinks and light refreshments. The Post annual children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m., and the adult party will be held on Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. There will also be an event on New Year's Eve, details to follow. The Cancer Bingo will be held in April 2016 at the Morris Yacht Club.

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

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

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

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

The Post would like to thank the City Island community for its continued support!

John Muhlfeld

Continued on page 14



A Selected Filmography of Wilford Brimley

Wilford Brimley is a fine character actor who has a habit of stealing scenes no matter how large or small his role in a film. He began his career as a stuntman but became an actor, and he is best known for his leading role as Ben Lockett in the ensemble films *Cocoon* (1985) and *Cocoon: The Return* (1988). Set in St. Petersburg, FL, "Cocoon" tells the story of a group of elderly folk played by an outstanding cast, including Maureen Stapleton as Brimley's wife, Mary; real-life husband and wife, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy as Joe and Alma Finley; Gwen Verdon and Don Ameche as Bess McCarthy and Art Selwyn, a dancing couple of singles; and Jack Gilford and Herta Ware as Bennie and Rose Lefkowitz, a complainer and his sickly wife. With Brimley as the ringleader, the men trespass and go swimming in a pool filled with strange pods that restore youth and vitality. There they have a close encounter with aliens Walter (Brian Dennehy) and Kitty (Tawnee Welch, Raquel's stunning daughter). Steve Guttenberg is on hand as fishing boat captain Jack Bonner, Kitty's "love" interest; and Barrett Oliver plays David, Brimley's grandson who worships him. This sweet, gentle fantastical family film earned director Ron Howard his first Oscar as Best Director.

John Carpenter's *The Thing* (1982) is a sci-fi horror film set in an American research outpost in the Antarctic tundra.

Researcher Dr. Blair (Brimley), American helicopter pilot MacReady (Kurt Russell), and camp doctor Copper (Richard Dysart) must investigate when Norwegian helicopter scientists start shooting dogs. They soon discover a Siberian husky that can change into "The Thing" (James Arness), which has the ability to mutate into anything it kills. This is a very gory film and a cult favorite of this genre. *The Thing* helped stimulate a new wave of sci-fi horror films in which action and special effects expertise were more important than plot.

In *Tender Mercies* (1983), Brimley has a small role as Harry, former manager for Mac Sledge (Robert Duvall), a once-famous country and Western singer. Down and out, Mac takes a job at a tiny Texas motel run by widowed Rosa Lee (Tess Harper), whose kindness and warm ways help him recover his humanity. He becomes a father and friend to her son (Allan Hubbard). Ellen Barkin appears as Sue Anne, Mac's long-lost daughter, who was born when he was married to Dixie Scott (Betty Buckley), a Dolly Parton-type country star. This is a slow moving, gentle film.

Country (1984) is a farm drama starring Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard as Jewell and Gil Ivy, who run a small farm in Iowa that has been in Jewell's family for several generations. Brimley plays Jewell's father, Otis, who lives with them, along with their three children. When the Farmers Home Administration calls in the loans on most of the farmers in the area, the Iveys are given 30 days to liquidate their property. This compelling film presents the anguish, stress and fury of a farm family faced with foreclosure.

In Barry Levinson's classic baseball film *The Natural* (1984), young baseball sensation Roy Hobbs (Robert Redford) is shot by the unstable Harriet Bird (Barbara Hershey) on the way to a tryout with the Chicago Cubs. After 16 years, Hobbs returns to pro baseball as a rookie for the last-place New York Knights. Despite strong resistance by team manager Pop

Fisher (Wilford Brimley), Hobbs becomes one of the best players in the league, and the Knights start winning, much to the consternation of team's owner, the Judge (Robert Prosky), who has his own reasons for wanting the team to fail. Glenn Close co-stars as Iris Gaines, a woman who has a special place in Hobbs's heart.

In the classic John Grisham lawyer movie *The Firm* (1993), Tom Cruise stars as Mitch McDeere, a recent Harvard Law School graduate, who is hired by Oliver Lambert (Hal Holbrook) to work at a prestigious Memphis law firm under the mentorship of Avery Tolar (Gene Hackman). When Mitch becomes simultaneously blackmailed by Wayne Terrance (Ed Harris) of the FBI and "The Firm's" menacing Director of Security, William Devasher (Wilfred Brimley), he is assisted in his survival efforts by his wife, Abby (Jeanne Tripplehorn), brother Ray (David Strathairn) and a secretary, Tammy Hemphill (Holly Hunter). Playing a bad guy was a departure for Brimley.

In the oftentimes silly film *In & Out* (1997), English teacher and sports coach Howard Brackett (Kevin Kline) is still living where he grew up, has a good

relationship with his father and mother (Wilford Brimley and Debbie Reynolds), is popular in his community and is about to marry Emily (Joan Cusack), his fiancée of three years. When movie star and Greenleaf High School graduate Cameron Drake (Matt Dillon) wins an Oscar, he announces in his acceptance speech while thanking his favorite teacher that the teacher is gay. Everyone in town is thunderstruck, including Howard himself. Tom Selleck appears as newscaster Peter Malloy, who helps Brackett come to terms with his true sexual preference.

My favorite Wilford Brimley role is in *Absence of Malice* (2003). The film stars Paul Newman as Michael Gallagher, an honest liquor distributor whose family has Mafia connections. He comes to the attention of Miami reporter Megan Carter (Sally Field), because of false information she receives from ambitious FBI investigator Elliot Rosen (Bob Balaban). Melinda Dillon is outstanding as Michael's fragile best friend, Teresa. Brimley has a standout role in the final scene, where he appears as a judge trying to determine the truth.

And until next time, happy viewing...

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

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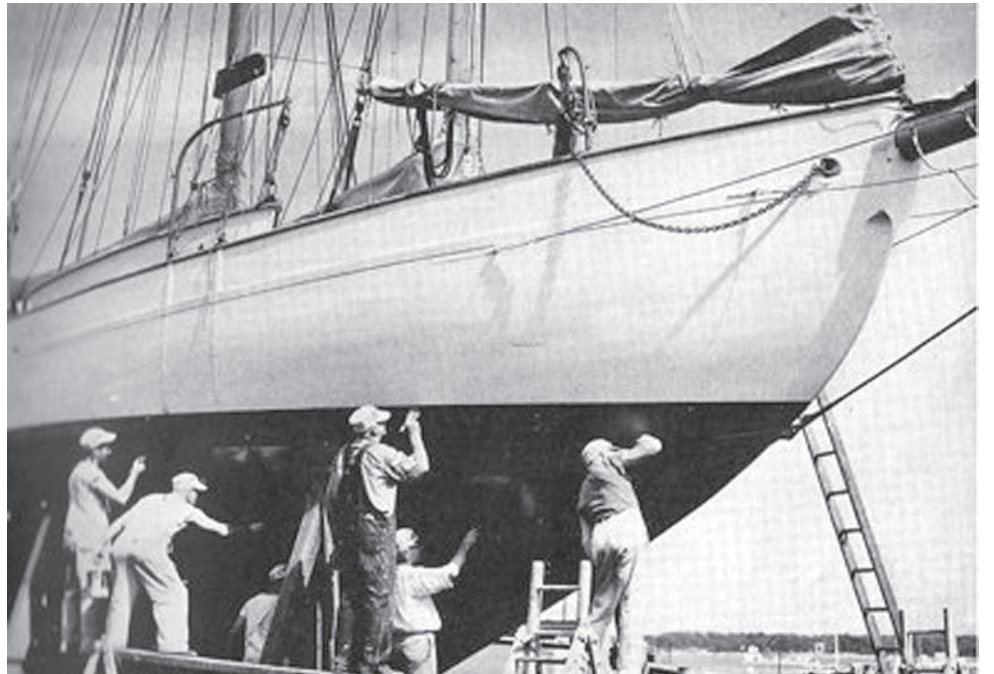


Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Because of the threat from Hurricane Joaquin, the annual Legion Pumpkin Sale was postponed by a week to Oct. 9 to 11, 2015. Despite the delay, pumpkins and other fall favorites were in demand at the annual fundraiser, thanks to the hard working Legionnaires shown above (top photo, l. to r.): John Ulmer, Keith Shipp, Joe Goonan, Ed Shipp, Gene Valesio, Bob Salerno and Peter Booth. Kindergarteners from PS 175 proudly showed off their purchases (bottom photo).

YACHT AND SHIP BUILDING ON CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA BOTTERI HARRISON



Photos by courtesy of CIY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Nevins Shipyard workers painting the hull of a boat (top photo), and America's Cup defender *Intrepid* (bottom photo).

During our eighth-grade year the graduating class of 1956 at P.S. 17 had a fascinating opportunity. We were introduced to City Island's amazing nautical history through a series of field trips to the Island's yacht builders, the Nevins and Minneford yards, and to the sail loft of Ratsey & Laphorn. At the time, I didn't realize how world famous City Island was for this heritage, but I do know that an appreciation for the craftsmen working on building, outfitting and rigging the beautiful ships was thoroughly instilled in me. A binder on the teacher's desk in the Museum's School Room memorializes that year.

Years have gone by and, now retired, I spend much of my time volunteering at the City Island Nautical Museum. The board of trustees is always discussing what the next "big" exhibit is going to be, debating this option and that, and last spring we decided to highlight the yacht and ship building yards, our *raison d'être*. I was asked to curate the exhibit, but my first response was, in today's vernacular, "OMG, where do I begin?"

The City Island Nautical Museum has been a repository for all manner of photographs, artifacts and "stuff" relating to the boats for which our Island is so famous. In fact, an exhibit on ship building displayed years ago was preserved on boards hidden away in one of the old classrooms. The halls are lined with photographs of the ships built here, both for pleasure and commercial use, and the people who built them. There are binders full of information on the achievements of the yards, and there are pieces on display and in our storage rooms reflecting the implements and tools used in the industry. Then it all clicked... people! Just as years ago many of my classmates' parents and relatives were involved in the ship building industry on the Island, so this new exhibit would focus on the people of the old yards, as well as the utilitarian and pleasure ships they built.

And so it all came together. I would highlight each yard, from David Carll in 1860 to Nevins, Lyle & Tuttle and Kretzer and Consolidated, more than 20 yards, and the entrepreneurial people who created them. The exhibition now on view at the Nautical Museum features photographs and commentary on the extraordinary period in City Island's history when yacht and shipbuilding were at their peak. Here are all the old yards, the brilliant craftsmen who worked there, the methods of construction they used and the famous sailing and motor yachts they produced.

City Island became an important shipbuilding and yachting center during the 19th and 20th centuries because it was ideally situated to service schooners traveling between New York and points north and south. Hell Gate pilots from City Island escorted ships down the East River to the port of New York and back; oystering was a profitable business here, and many wealthy New Yorkers kept their yachts on City Island. The two world wars brought about the conversion from yacht building to the construction of subchasers, tugs, P.T. boats, landing craft, and minesweepers for the U. S. Navy, but after World War II, yachting returned and with it the building of five 12-meter sloops that successfully defended the America's Cup seven times. Today the presence of yacht clubs, sailing schools, marinas, sail makers and fishing boats, plus varied marine supply and repair shops, reflect City Island's continuing role as a nautical community.

I owe heartfelt thanks to those who helped me put the exhibition together: Darrell Smith, research genius and patient cohort; Robbin Harrison, talented master of frame and display; and Tommy Nye, the one person who knew all the answers when I had questions. I sincerely hope City Islanders will flock to the Museum to see our collections and enjoy a trip through our nautical heritage.

SCHOOL NEWS

$2+2=4$

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start! In addition to the academic work students do each day, teachers are planning wonderful trips to supplement curriculum. Some of the exciting trips that have taken place so far this year, and will take place in the coming weeks, include kindergarten pumpkin picking at the American Legion, second grade visiting the Skyscraper Museum, fourth and fifth grades going to the Bronx Zoo, fourth grade going to Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, sixth grade visiting the Museum of Natural History and Randall's Island Urban Farm, and seventh and eighth grades participating in International Peace Day in Central Park. In addition, almost all of our seventh- and eighth-graders went on their first Reward Trip to Maritime College!

Student government elections will be held in the coming weeks. Elected fourth-through eighth-grade students will work with our student government leader, Jonah Hammond, on various school leadership activities throughout the year.

Thanks to the generosity of Councilman Vacca, we are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide musical and theatrical arts to our students. Fifth-grade students will put on a spring performance of "The Lion King, Jr." The grant is also allowing us to provide an after-school choral program for our many talented student vocalists in grades three through eight! In addition, thanks to the generosity of our PTA, we are able to continue our work with Lincoln Center Institute in grades K-3. Our first unit of study will be "Egg," which is a theater study about a magical story of friendship

and empathy told through the medium of physical theater, illusion and music. The second unit will be "De Temps Antan," which is a study of Canadian music. The PTA's generosity is also enabling us to provide a visual arts program to students in all grades, which is subsidized by a Project Boost Grant from Senator Jeffrey Klein.

The building continues to buzz after regular school hours. The Sports & Arts program, which serves students in grades six through eight, includes a sports component which changes throughout the year, homework help, dance, and games. Another component of the Sports & Arts program is the many exciting trips that students attend during school holidays. We have also allowed Mosholu Montefiore Community Center to use school facilities for a fee-based after school program for students in grade K-5.

Several exciting events will be taking place in the weeks to come. They include our annual "Halloween Fun Morning" for students in grades K-3, Halloween movie and snacks for fourth- and fifth-graders, and the Halloween Dance for our students in grades six to eight. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale on Nov. 3. We hope to see many of you there! As always, we are greatly appreciative for all of the support we get from our community!!!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 3, Election Day, School Closed for Students; Nov. 5, Half Day for Students; Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.; Nov. 11, Veterans Day; Nov. 26-27, Thanksgiving.

September Citizens-of-the Month are Isabella Kola and George Ramirez (kindergarten); Daniella Padagas and Bryan Sevarino (first grade); Jayden Kenny (second grade); Mikayla Murphy and Deana Navarro (third grade); Isabella Reyes Famous (fourth grade); Aaron Thomas and Patrick Livingston (fifth grade); Jackson Weppler (sixth grade); Joseph Goonan and Aiden Sanchez (seventh grade); Steven Rice and Francis de los Santos (eighth grade).

Organization News

Continued from page 10

PSS City Island Senior Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to pattis@pssusa.org.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Nov. 6: 12:30, Bake Sale and Tag Sale. Buy by the piece 50 cents or \$1 each.
- Nov. 16: 12:15 p.m. Nutritionist
- Nov. 23: Thanksgiving celebration
- Nov. 26 and 27: Closed
- Looking Ahead to December
- Dec. 7, Radio City Music Hall. Sign up early.
- Dec. 10: Super Duper Christmas Party

November Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Learn Tai Chi starting in January; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Learn Tai Chi starting in January; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch and Tai Chi (in January). Classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

November Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Guitar Lessons also at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on Nov. 11 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Bingo at 1 p.m. on Nov. 12; Birthday Party; Nov. 19; Fridays- Book Club at 1 p.m.; History Club at 1 p.m.

Information, Referrals and Assistance. Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

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

718-885-0727.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Limited availability is open for off-Island doctor appointments. You must call the office one week before the appointment and be approved. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist church hall on Bay Street. We will have our regular meeting on Nov. 4. On Nov. 18, we will have a luncheon and turkey raffle beginning at 12:30. Lunch will be \$15 per person and will be held at the church hall. Mark your calendar for our Christmas party at Scavello's on the Island on Dec. 16, at 12 noon. Cost is \$40 per person.

Be sure to come to our November meetings and sign up for November and December luncheons. Bring a friend.

Rosetta Woods

City Island Theater Group

CITG is pleased to present Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite," a comedy in three acts, each involving different characters but all set in Suite 719 of New York City's Plaza Hotel. The play originally opened on Broadway in 1968, directed by Mike Nichols, and ran for two and a half years with more than 1,000 performances.

Maria Provenzano is directing CITG's production with cast members Jonathan Abbruzzese, Steven Bendler, Paula Rocheleau Hernandez, Camille Kaiser, Gary Krigsman, Dave Lazaar, Hannah Ludemann, Elizabeth Paldino and Ivette Yambo.

With this fall production, CITG will participate in its annual "give back" to the community, requesting donations of full-size bottles of shampoo and conditioner. These will be donated to My Sister's Place, a shelter with two anonymous locations in Westchester County. There, women who are victims of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual abuse, stalking and human trafficking can find a safe haven for 90 days while receiving support and legal counseling.

Mary McIntyre

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous: Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous: Saturdays at 11 a.m., Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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9/1/2015

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving 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

NOVEMBER 2015
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 1

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 01 Sun | 0302 | 7.40 | 0921 | 0.50 | 1518 | 7.65 | 2207 | 0.11 | Sun 01 |
| 02 Mon | 0408 | 7.21 | 1027 | 0.84 | 1631 | 7.33 | 2308 | 0.47 | Mon 02 |
| 03 Tue | 0512 | 7.16 | 1132 | 1.03 | 1739 | 7.18 | | | Tue 03 |
| 04 Wed | 0007 | 0.70 | 0613 | 7.25 | 1233 | 1.05 | 1839 | 7.16 | Wed 04 |
| 05 Thu | 0102 | 0.80 | 0708 | 7.41 | 1330 | 0.92 | 1934 | 7.23 | Thu 05 |
| 06 Fri | 0154 | 0.80 | 0759 | 7.60 | 1421 | 0.73 | 2025 | 7.32 | Fri 06 |
| 07 Sat | 0241 | 0.76 | 0846 | 7.76 | 1508 | 0.52 | 2111 | 7.39 | Sun 08 |
| 08 Sun | 0323 | 0.71 | 0929 | 7.87 | 1551 | 0.34 | 2154 | 7.42 | Mon 09 |
| 09 Mon | 0401 | 0.69 | 1007 | 7.90 | 1629 | 0.21 | 2232 | 7.39 | Tue 10 |
| 10 Tue | 0431 | 0.68 | 1037 | 7.87 | 1702 | 0.13 | 2304 | 7.32 | Wed 11 |
| 11 Wed | 0448 | 0.66 | 1049 | 7.86 | 1727 | 0.09 | 2321 | 7.26 | Thu 12 |
| 12 Thu | 0502 | 0.59 | 1102 | 7.95 | 1743 | 0.03 | 2334 | 7.29 | Fri 13 |
| 13 Fri | 0532 | 0.51 | 1132 | 8.08 | 1808 | -0.02 | | | Sat 14 |
| 14 Sat | 0004 | 7.37 | 0610 | 0.48 | 1209 | 8.15 | 1844 | -0.03 | Sun 15 |
| 15 Sun | 0043 | 7.43 | 0652 | 0.50 | 1252 | 8.14 | 1926 | 0.02 | Mon 16 |
| 16 Mon | 0126 | 7.46 | 0739 | 0.58 | 1339 | 8.03 | 2012 | 0.13 | Tue 17 |
| 17 Tue | 0215 | 7.45 | 0830 | 0.69 | 1430 | 7.82 | 2104 | 0.27 | Wed 18 |
| 18 Wed | 0309 | 7.42 | 0927 | 0.78 | 1527 | 7.55 | 2201 | 0.39 | Thu 19 |
| 19 Thu | 0408 | 7.42 | 1032 | 0.79 | 1630 | 7.31 | 2306 | 0.43 | Fri 20 |
| 20 Fri | 0514 | 7.51 | 1155 | 0.63 | 1742 | 7.17 | | | Sat 21 |
| 21 Sat | 0024 | 0.33 | 0627 | 7.71 | 1331 | 0.21 | 1904 | 7.21 | Sun 22 |
| 22 Sun | 0146 | 0.08 | 0740 | 8.03 | 1439 | -0.35 | 2021 | 7.40 | Mon 23 |
| 23 Mon | 0250 | -0.25 | 0843 | 8.35 | 1537 | -0.88 | 2123 | 7.61 | Tue 24 |
| 24 Tue | 0347 | -0.53 | 0939 | 8.60 | 1631 | -1.26 | 2218 | 7.77 | Wed 25 |
| 25 Wed | 0439 | -0.69 | 1030 | 8.73 | 1723 | -1.46 | 2310 | 7.83 | Thu 26 |
| 26 Thu | 0530 | -0.72 | 1120 | 8.70 | 1813 | -1.44 | | | Fri 27 |
| 27 Fri | 0000 | 7.80 | 0619 | -0.59 | 1209 | 8.52 | 1902 | -1.23 | Sat 28 |
| 28 Sat | 0051 | 7.68 | 0709 | -0.33 | 1259 | 8.22 | 1951 | -0.87 | Sun 29 |
| 29 Sun | 0143 | 7.50 | 0759 | 0.01 | 1351 | 7.84 | 2041 | -0.43 | Mon 30 |
| 30 Mon | 0237 | 7.30 | 0853 | 0.40 | 1448 | 7.44 | 2133 | 0.04 | |

DECEMBER 2015

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|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| 01 Tue | 0334 | 7.13 | 0951 | 0.75 | 1551 | 7.08 | 2227 | 0.46 | Tue 01 |
| 02 Wed | 0433 | 7.03 | 1052 | 1.00 | 1656 | 6.81 | 2321 | 0.78 | Wed 02 |
| 03 Thu | 0532 | 7.01 | 1152 | 1.11 | 1757 | 6.67 | | | Thu 03 |
| 04 Fri | 0015 | 0.98 | 0627 | 7.06 | 1249 | 1.09 | 1854 | 6.65 | Fri 04 |
| 05 Sat | 0107 | 1.06 | 0720 | 7.17 | 1342 | 0.95 | 1947 | 6.69 | Sat 05 |



Photo by PATTI LUNETTA

Increased whale sightings in Long Island Sound made for an exciting summer for boaters and researchers. Humpback whales were sighted by fishermen near Stamford, Connecticut. Closer to City Island, two baby beluga whales were sighted by former Islander Bobby May and Patti Lunetta while out in their boat off Port Washington this past spring.



Common milkweed

Monarchs and Milkweed

Have you seen this plant? Well, you are not alone if you haven't. It is known familiarly as common milkweed, but the truth is it has become increasingly uncommon. This is because of the new kinds of herbicide-resistant crops that farmers grow. Today, when fields of corn and soybeans, for example, are sprayed with pesticides, the milkweed that grows among them dies; the corn and soybeans survive.

While this may be good news for farmers, it is decidedly bad for monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed for their survival. They lay their eggs on the leaves of milkweed so that larvae have something to eat after hatching. No milkweed, no butterflies.

According to Lizzie Wade, "Last year, the number of monarchs that migrated to Mexico was the lowest ever recorded." And while less milkweed may not be the only explanation for this drop-off, it seems likely that it is a significant contributing factor. In response, many American

gardeners have heeded the call to save the monarch by planting milkweed in their own backyards.

But there's a problem. The easiest-to-find milkweed plant in the United States is tropical milkweed, not the common kind. This is not good because monarchs are so enticed by tropical milkweed that they don't migrate. In addition, there are documented cases of young monarchs ingesting a harmful parasite when they feed on the wrong milkweed plant. So even if they do move on, they do so in a weakened state.

The good news is that scientists are on to the problem and that the new information is spreading fast, thanks in large part to the Internet. Even common milkweed has become more available to consumers than ever before because of the 'net. So if you are like us in our enthusiasm for the monarch butterfly—staunch supporters, that is, for their cause—consider adding milkweed to your garden next spring. There's plenty of time to place an order online. Just remember to make it for common, not tropical, milkweed.



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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

A section of Barbara's waterfront garden

In early October the weather gods delivered a good punch of wind and rain. Plants were battered and beleaguered, especially those that caught the surf's salt spray. As luck would have it, the storm held off until the meadow garden was in full sway. Disaster is a normal state in any garden; this we learn and come to accept. If all is dead and brown, look to the crowns, for already within a few days they begin to green.

I duck and weave into my mother's house, for the oak trees are releasing battalions of acorns and peppering the roof of my car with dents. Yet the acorn under close examination must be the most beautiful seed in creation, so all is forgiven. The miracle of the mighty oak retained in a tiny hull.

Squirrels are aerating the soil with their hoarding activities while—sigh, sigh, heavy sigh—digging up rare seedlings that have spent a year growing and being coddled. The birds have been busy, too. The sargent crab apple is jeweled with hundreds of small crimson fruit. When I pass the tree, it erupts in a flurry of robins and starlings. Further down the path is viburnum setigera, its branches bent under the weight of its glorious berries, its leaves hanging down in mock sadness colored in copper brown. This is a shrub worth having even in the smallest garden.

On Tier Street, the Montauk daisies open in all their spring freshness. They glow with a white devoid of any color. The absence of color makes their yellow eyes even more stark and adorable. In the wind, the grasses bend and twist like pink brushstrokes in a symphony of movement. Plant some.

The last of the figs have appeared, and the last green tomato was given to me with the suggestion of frying. The last of the last, aster tartaricus, towers above me on 10-foot stems. I seem to have gotten the wrong variety, for it really belongs in a giant's garden. Jindai, which grows to a more civilized four feet, is the one to have.

As I cut down the tattered remains of asters and goldenrod, I bind them in a bouquet to use as a fairy wand to dust the hill with seeds on another beach. In the forest I like to dig through leaves to look deep into the center of hellebores to see their buds, which even now are beginning

to fatten. Amidst the throes of autumn's dying, we look for the smallest signs of renewal and life.



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“MY CHILD IS DIFFERENT”:

Why Diversity Matters - We Are NOT All the Same!

By JOHN SCARDINA

I remember well my time in middle school: the motto was “BE ALIKE!” as we sought to follow what’s hot and what’s not. It was exhausting—who had time for school-work when you had to discover which bands were in, what type of Madras shirt to buy, and what people were to be shunned in that cruel manner so common in early adolescence. It was a tyranny of sameness to be sure...

As adults we hopefully have learned that differences add strength and variety to our lives. In biological terms, a diverse ecosystem with checks and balances on the various species populations leads to community health, so that one species’ challenges with disease or infestation doesn’t destroy the entire community. In sociological terms, a diverse community allows for a richness of sharing and an embracing of “the other” in truly loving ways.

Children are different—period. Learning styles differ—from auditory (learn best by hearing) to visual (learn best by seeing) to tactile/kinesthetic (learn best by touching and doing) learners. Abilities differ—Howard Gardner spoke of the “multiple intelligences” that make up the human cognitive experience: verbal/mathematical/musical/spatial/kinesthetic/interpersonal/intrapersonal. Classrooms need to tap into all of these ways to be “smart” and “successful” in school and allow our variety of student learners many chances for success. Body types differ—we are so affected by our genetics! Traditional concepts of “beauty” need to be replaced by a realization that attraction has many facets - physical and social and spiritual—and finding someone “attractive” need not rely on having the right “look.”

We are all different in our racial and ethnic backgrounds, and being “colorblind” as an attempt to be “fair” only covers over true acceptance of others’ differences with

a culture of “niceness” that is merely superficial in its authenticity. Schools and communities that embrace difference rally when one group is in pain and needs support: we are the same in our humanity and different in our expression of that humanity.

When I as a Quaker say “there is that of God in every person” I mean that the Divine in each of us has a common core and a universal source. I do not mean for us all to be Quakers—our varieties of religious experience inform and enhance one another. I do mean for us to value the different expressions of our spiritual life.

SO: What can we do as parents?

- Honor our children’s different strengths—Johnny is good at art and Susie is good at math and everyone is good at something. Find those strengths and honor them.

- Remember that self-esteem comes from competence—give your child an opportunity to pursue their interests so that they can be an “expert” at something, be it baseball cards, local birds, or playing the guitar, and not just spelling, math, and reading.

- Practice diversity at home—honor all cultures, avoid stereotypes, be aware of your prejudices in dealing with others, and participate in your neighbors’ cultural celebrations whenever you can. As in biology, social cross fertilization leads to strength.

- Recognize that your own identity has many parts—parent, spouse, employer or employee, son or daughter, friend, mentor, and expert to name a few—and cultivate the many parts of your child’s identity. Help your child to identify “what I’m good at..” so that—when the chips are down—they have a “place” to go to recover and heal.

We model acceptance of difference and the importance of diversity in all we say and do with others. As the Dalai Lama says, the only religion one needs is loving kindness toward everyone—no exceptions.

THE FURRY FAITHFUL



Photos by JOANNE DELANEY

The annual blessings of the animals in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi took place on Oct. 3 and 4, 2015. At Grace Church, Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia welcomed Annemarie Tomson’s dog Clipper and Sarito Flores-Aponte’s cat Peppercats (top photos), while Father Augustus Onwubiko presided over the blessing of many creatures great and small in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard (bottom photos).



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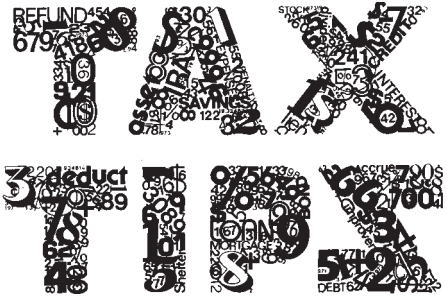
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Start Planning Now for Next Year's Taxes

You may be tempted to forget about your taxes once you have filed your tax return, but did you know that if you start your tax planning now, you may be able to avoid a tax surprise when you file next year? That's right. Now is a good time to set up a system so you can keep your tax records safe and easy to find. Here are six tips to give you a leg up on next year's taxes:

1. Take action when life changes occur. Some life events such as a change in marital status or the birth of a child can change the amount of tax you pay and you may need to change the amount of tax withheld from your pay. To do that, file a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, with your employer. Call if you need help filling out the form.

2. Report changes in circumstances to the Health Insurance Marketplace. If you enroll in insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace in 2015, you should report changes in circumstances to the Marketplace when they happen. Reporting events such as changes in your income or family size helps you avoid getting too much or too little financial assistance in advance.

3. Keep tax records safe. Place your 2014 tax return and supporting records and documents in a safe place. If you ever need your tax return or records, it will be easy for you to get them. For example, you may need a copy of your tax return if you apply for a home loan or financial aid. You can also use your tax return as a guide when you do your taxes next year.

4. Stay organized. Make tax time easier on everyone by having your family place tax records in the same place during the year. That way you won't have to search for misplaced records when you file your return next year.

5. Choose your tax preparer wisely. If you want to hire a tax preparer to help you with tax planning, start your search now. If you already have a tax preparer, give him or her a call and find out which tax planning strategies you can use this year that save you money on your 2015 tax return.

6. Consider itemizing. If you claim a standard deduction on your tax return, you may be able to lower your taxes if you itemize deductions instead. A donation to charity could mean some tax savings. See the instructions for Schedule A, Itemized Deductions, for a list of deductions.

Planning now can pay off with savings at tax time next year. Call today and get a jump start on next year's taxes.

Claiming an Elderly Parent as a Dependent

Are you taking care of an elderly parent or relative? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 44.7 million people age 65 and older in the United States in 2013, more than 15 percent of the total population.

Whether it involves driving to doctor appointments, paying for nursing home care or medical expenses, or handling personal finances, dealing with an elderly parent or relative can be emotionally and financially draining, especially when you are taking care of your own family as well. Fortunately, there is some good news:

You may be able to claim your elderly relative as a dependent come tax time, as long as you meet certain criteria. Here's what you should know about claiming an elderly parent or relative as a dependent:

Who Qualifies as a Dependent?

The IRS defines a dependent as a qualifying child or relative. A qualifying relative can be your mother, father, grandparent, stepmother, stepfather, mother-in-law or father-in-law, for example, and can be any age.

There are four tests that must be met in order for a person to be your qualifying relative: not a qualifying child test, member of household or relationship test, gross income test and support test.

1. Not a Qualifying Child. Your parent (or relative) cannot be claimed as a qualifying child on anyone else's tax return.

2. Residency. He or she must be U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, U.S. national or a resident of Canada or Mexico. However, a parent or relative doesn't have to live with you in order to qualify as a dependent. If your qualifying parent or relative does live with you, however, you may be able to deduct a percentage of your mortgage, utilities and other expenses when you figure out the amount of money you contribute to his or her support.

3. Income. To qualify as a dependent, income cannot exceed the personal exemption amount, which in 2015 is \$4,000. In addition, your parent or relative, if married, cannot file a joint tax return with his or her spouse unless that joint return is filed only to claim a refund of withheld income tax or estimated tax paid.

4. Support. You must provide more than half of a parent's total support for the year, such as costs for food, housing, medical care, transportation and other necessities.

Claiming the Dependent Care Credit

You may be able to claim the child and dependent care credit if you paid work-related expenses for the care of a qualifying individual. The credit is generally a percentage of the amount of work-related expenses you paid to a care provider, and the percentage depends on your adjusted gross income. Work-related expenses qualifying for the credit are those paid for the care of a qualifying individual to enable you to work or actively look for work.

In addition, expenses you paid for the care of a disabled dependent may also qualify for a medical deduction (see next section). If this is the case, you must choose to take either the itemized deduction or the dependent care credit. You cannot take both.

not take both.

Claiming the Medical Deduction

If you claim the deduction for medical expenses, you still must provide more than half your parent's support; however, your parent doesn't have to meet the income test.

The deduction is limited to medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income (7.5 percent if either you or your spouse was born before Jan. 2, 1949), and you can include your own unreimbursed medical expenses when calculating the total amount. If, for example, your parent is in a nursing home or assisted-living facility, any medical expenses you paid on behalf of your parent are counted toward the 10 percent figure. Food or other amenities, however,

are not considered medical expenses.

What if You Share Caregiving Responsibilities?

If you share caregiving responsibilities with a sibling or other relative, only one of you—the one proving more than 50 percent of the support—can claim the dependent. Be sure to discuss who is going to claim the dependent in advance to avoid running into trouble with the IRS if both of you claim the dependent on your respective tax returns.

Sometimes, however, neither caregiver pays more than 50 percent. In that case, you will need to fill out IRS Form 2120, Multiple Support Declaration, as long as you and your sibling both provide at least 10 percent of the support towards taking care of your parent.

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Photo by GILES BATES

Phil Tomsen has Words with a Friend on Earley Street. Neighbors were surprised to get a visit from a cockatoo on Monday afternoon, Oct. 12. The friendly bird gathered a crowd until his picture was posted on Facebook and owner Chris Teto came to collect him.



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I have been chosen as a 2015 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner. Less than 5% of agents receive this award. Look for me in the October Issue of Westchester Magazine.



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.



Rosalie Phillips, 90 years young

Birthday wishes to our son, Joseph, with love from Mom and Dad Ribaud.

Belated fifth birthday wishes on Oct. 15 to Bay Street's Tabitha Del Pozzo, with love from everyone!

Happy 90th birthday to Rosalie Phillips, who lives in Tampa, FL, but is still a City Islander at heart. Best wishes with love from Amy, Lenny, Leah, Andrew, Warren, Carole, Julia, Laura, Mike and all your friends on this little island you call home.

Happy Nov. 4 birthday wishes to Richie Ferris, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to our favorite Coastie, Bobby Swieciki, who turns 28 on Nov. 12, with love from Mom and Dad, Stephen and Maria.

Happy birthday on Nov. 15 to Pell Place's Rosette Dietz, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday to our son, Nick Ruggiero, who turns 21 on Nov. 21, with lots of love from Mom and Dad.

A fond farewell to P.S. 175's longtime security guard, Officer Pete Toledo, who retired on Oct. 16. Officer Toledo has been a familiar, reassuring, smiling face to teachers and staff, students and parents for over 25 years and will be sorely missed. A retirement breakfast was held for him, and many P.S. 175 friends, both past and present, were there to wish him well.



Brenda and Mike Prohaska



Tabitha Del Pozzo celebrated her birthday in October.

Now it's the public school's turn to mark a milestone! Congratulations to the members of P.S. 17's Class of 1965 who gathered for a 50-year reunion at Artie's Restaurant on Oct. 15. Their seventh-grade teacher, Ena Ellwanger, was also present for the celebration.

Belated congrats to Mike Prohaska, who was honored by the Bronx Democratic County Committee on July 16, 2015.

Greetings across the country to former Islander Larry Hecker, who was recently featured in "Canyon Life," a local publication in Tucson, AZ, where he now lives. Larry is 92 and served as a naval aviator during WWII on the U.S.S. Princeton. Growing up on City Island, he attended P.S. 17, and his parents ran a seafood restaurant called Captain Eddy's located at 499 City Island Avenue. He still misses the fragrance of the sea and says hi to his old clam digger friends.

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

And a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving to all our readers, neighbors and friends.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by PAUL NANI

Members of the P.S. 17 class of 1965 gathered at Artie's Restaurant on Oct. 15, 2015, to commemorate 50 years since their graduation from the original school on Fordham Street. They were joined by their seventh-grade teacher, Ena Ellwanger. Shown above at the dinner are (seated, l. to r.): Cheryl Martin Koller, Mrs. Ellwanger, Karen Rauhauser Nani and Judy Fitzmaurice DiMaio. Standing: John Mazzella, Warren Phillips, Jimmy Italiano and Bob Lachman.

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