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One Dollar

GRACE CHURCH TURNS 175 WITH A JOYOUS SURPRISE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photo by MARK NANI

The 175th anniversary of Grace Episcopal Church was celebrated on Sept. 22, 2024. Father Kevin Moroney led the day's events, which included a special service in the church with readings about the history and founder, Adele Bolton (photo, above right), followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. Members of Grace's vestry are seen above with special guests (l. to r.): Fr. Matthew Mead of Christ Church, Grace vestry members Barbara Dennis, Emilio and Saro Aponte; Bishop Allen Shin of the New York Diocese, Dr. Martin Nash, Fr. Moroney, and vestry members Eileen Marcus, Joseph Menon, Kathy Loneragan and Karen Nani. The celebration ended with a surprise announcement of a large endowment given by a parishioner.

On Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, the parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island celebrated the parish's 175th anniversary. The building on the corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue where the celebration took place was built in 1861-62, but the parish itself was actually established on the Island as early as 1849. The celebration ended with a surprise announcement that enables Grace to look ahead to 200 years and beyond.

Grace began as a mission of Christ Church in Pelham, NY, of which City Island was a part until 1895. During the mid-1800s, City Island had begun to grow in both population and prosperity, thanks to the oyster, boat-building and sail-making businesses, as well as the various shops that served them. The census for 1850 indicates that 577 people inhabited the town of Pelham, most of them living on City Island or Rodman's Neck. There was no church here at that time, and residents had gathered to worship in each other's houses. Eventually they raised enough money to build a tiny chapel at the corner of Tier Street and City Island Avenue (then Main Street), which they called the Union Chapel (now a private house), which was shared by Episcopalians, Methodists and Baptists.

In 1849 Adele Bolton, daughter of Rev. Robert Bolton of Christ Church in Pelham, encouraged her brother Rev. Cornelius Bolton to conduct Sunday services every other week on City Island. Because there was no bridge at the time, the Boltons rowed from the mainland, but in 1851 Rev. Bolton was called to serve a church in Maryland. Adele and her older sister, Nanette, continued to travel to City Island, by a rope-drawn ferry, to minister to residents. Cornelius Bolton returned in 1855 but was named rector of Christ Church, and the Rev. M. M. Dillon was engaged to minister to the needs of Episcopalians in 1857.

Legend has it that the Boltons no longer felt welcome at what had become known as "The Trinity Methodist Episcopalian Church." In 1862, the congregation at Christ Church was informed by their rector that "a church is in process of erection" on City Island and that \$1,353 had been contributed for the purpose by the

young ladies of the Pelham Priory school. The school had been founded by Christ Church and was administered by Adele and Nanette, who served as principal for many years. In 1863 Adele herself collected \$944 for the new church on City Island, and Island residents contributed \$600 toward the total cost of \$3,000.

The land, on the southeast corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, had been donated by George Washington Horton Jr., and construction was completed by 1863. The church was built by ship carpenters from the nearby boatyard founded by David Carll, who became a member of the church (and who, incidentally, built the first bridge to City Island later in that decade). In 1871 George's brother Stephen Decatur Horton donated the land on which the rectory now stands. The church building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes a stunning stained glass altar window depicting "The Trial of Christ" that was crafted by Rev. Cornelius Bolton's brother, John Bolton.

By the 1870s, the population of Pelham had more than tripled to nearly 1,800 people, with most still living on City Island. The congregation of the Trinity Methodist Episcopalian Church grew as well and needed a bigger church, which was completed in 1879 and still serves City Islanders on Bay Street.

Once the bridge was built and the population swelled with ship builders and other new residents, the Episcopal Church flourished. In the early 20th century, Grace boasted hundreds of parishioners and Sunday School classes for every grade level. There were three services every Sunday and packed church events (a photo from a 1934 dinner hangs in the parish hall with more than 200 people in attendance). Grace's bake sales were sell-out events with Islanders jockeying for Laura Coleman's cream puffs, Alice Stuttig's Swedish meatballs and Evelyn Gauss's lemon meringue pies.

After the longtime Rector Rev. Henry Coleman passed away in 1967, Rev. Richard Upsher Smith came to City Island to lead the church. During this time, Rev. Smith reached out to the New York Diocese and the federal government's Housing and



Urban Development Department (HUD) to develop subsidized senior housing on City Island. Thanks to his efforts, Pilot Cove Manor was constructed behind the church on Pilot Street on the land previously occupied by Consolidated Yacht Yard. Pilot Cove Manor continues to offer low-cost housing for seniors in lovely apartments on a waterfront setting, and Rev. Smith's signature can still be found on the original application for incorporation.

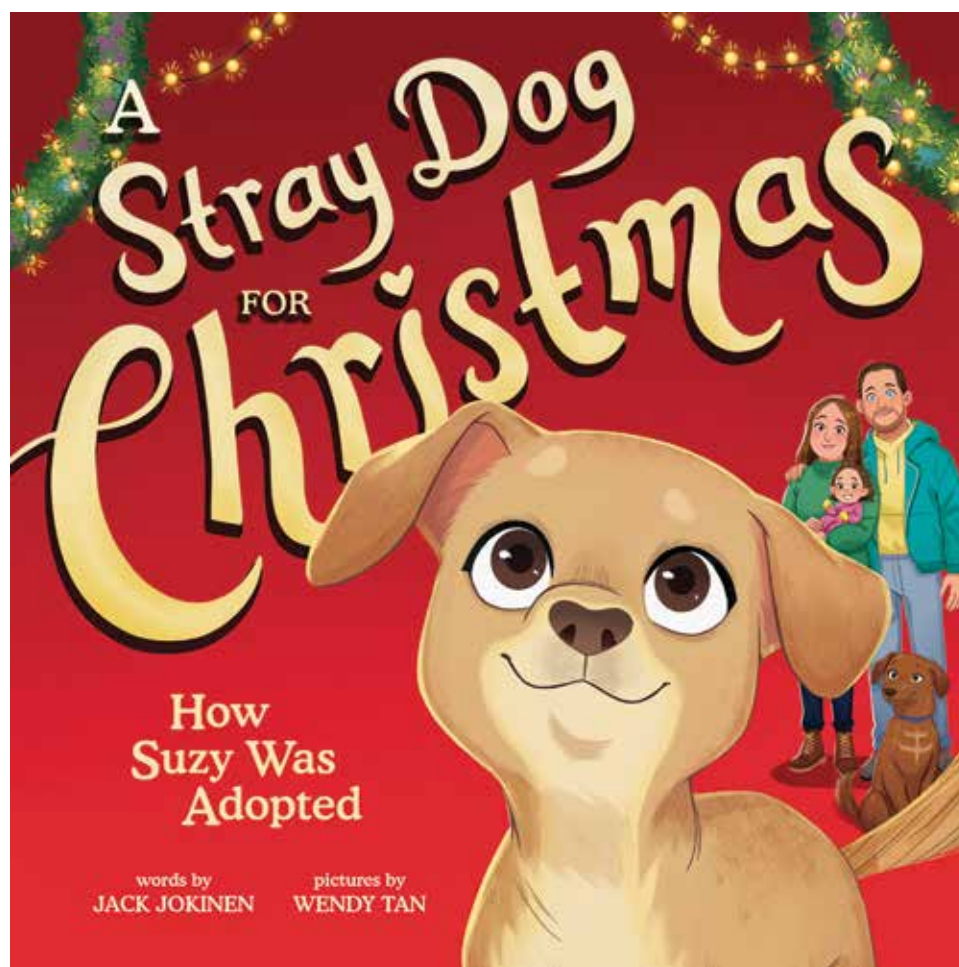
By the late 20th century, like many houses of worship, attendance dwindled, and Grace fell on hard times. By the early 1990s, there were a handful of parishioners

Continued on page 3

"I Wrote a Book!"

A Clam Digger's Heartfelt Story

By KAREN NANI



Jack Jokinen wrote a children's book, "A Stray Dog for Christmas," based on true events.

Former Islander Jack Jokinen sent a message to *The Current* with the intriguing subject line, "I Wrote a Book!" When this reporter called him, the story he told was even more captivating and unique than she imagined. Jack's book, "A Stray Dog for Christmas," is based on true-life events experienced by Jack and his wife, Emily, in December 2019.

Jack was raised on City Island and attended P.S. 175, graduating in 1999. He went to high school at Bronx Science and then to college at Drexel University in Philadelphia. "I built a life in Philadelphia after studying technology and media for seven years." He married Emily in 2015, and they now have two daughters, Johanna and Layla.

In December 2019, the couple was living in Woolwich Township in New Jersey. At the time, they had one daughter and only one dog, George, a Beagle mix. That evening, Jack had walked George and

then went to bed. At 4 a.m., he heard his wife calling him saying "There's a dog in our house." Since they were often up at night with their one-month old daughter, Jack thought his wife must be sleep deprived, and he answered, "Yes, it's our dog, George."

"No, silly. Not our dog," Emily cried. "There's another dog in our house, and she's on the stairs." Confused, Jack jumped out of bed and ran to take a look. There was a 19-pound, emaciated dog hobbling around on injured paws in their living room. The couple realized that they must not have closed the door completely after walking George, and the freezing puppy saw the light and wandered in. They watched their security camera footage the next day and saw that the dog had actually wandered in and out a few times. A neighbor noticed the door ajar sometime during the evening and closed it, locking the stray in for the night.

Continued on page 7

BRIEFLY...

QUILTERS BY THE SEA (QOV) PAINT NIGHT will be hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, on Friday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue. There will be refreshments and 50/50 raffles. Please make reservations soon; the limit is 50 guests (and no table reservations for parties under six). The price is \$30 for American Legion Auxiliary and QOV Members; \$35 for non-members. Please make checks payable to the Quilts of Valor Foundation and drop off in an envelope marked “Paint Night” at the Post by Nov. 6. Or you can send the money by Zelle to Harlan Sexton at 516-662-2953. For further information, call Joanne Valletta at 646-321-8902.

PELHAM PICTURE HOUSE is now offering moviegoers ages 65 and older an afternoon of free film and socializing that will run through the winter every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. The Pelham theater is at 175 Wolf’s Lane; the telephone number is 914-738-3161, and the website is www.thepicturehouse.org. Each screening features thought-provoking independent films, inspiring documentaries and heartwarming stories. Doors open at 2 p.m.

THE MANOR CLUB THEATRE will present “Steel Magnolias” by Robert Harding on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Manor Club, \$30 for guests. To order tickets, go to www.tmcofpelham.org/events. The play is directed by Chris Manetakis and features Tina D’Amato, Penelope Golden, Annemarie Josephson, Leslie Ann Lopez, Elizabeth Paldino and Carmela Sirico.

THE AJKUN THEATRE COMPANY, which calls City Island home, will present Chiara Ajkun’s version of “Dracula” in New York City on Oct. 25, 26 and 27, just in time for Halloween. The ballet will be presented at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, 405 West 55th Street; tickets can be purchased through www.eventbrite.com/el/dracula-tickets-717538646407. Directed, choreographed and written by Chiara Ajkun, this visually stunning ballet sheds light on the legacy of Dracula inspired from historic events and legends.

AMERICAN LEGION MUSIC LESSONS will be available on Thursdays at 6 p.m. for children in grades 3 through 8 in partnership with Paul Effman Music (www.pemusic.com). Instruments include trumpet, flute, clarinet, trombone, saxophone, bells and drum; tuition fees apply. For more information, e-mail Vice Commander Greg Clancy at gregclancy@hotmail.com.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held by the Bronx Masons on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, starting at 3:30 p.m. and ending at 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. You will need to show a photo ID before you can donate. The life you save may be your own.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present “The Curious Savage,” a comedy by John Patrick and directed by Joseph Montano at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m.; on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 3 p.m.; and on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3 p.m. For tickets, go to <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/cityislandtheatergroup/7416>.



The Housing Industry's
Experts' Predictions
for Home Values Through 2025



Raymond Maldonado
Real Estate Salesperson
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Experts expect home values to change more gradually from now through 2025, with a slowdown after the sharp price increases in 2022.

Moderate Price Growth: Experts like those at CoreLogic expect home prices to up by around 2.5%, through fourth quarter 2024. This means prices will still grow, but not as quickly as before.

Regional Difference: Home prices will vary: the South and Northeast, including Winston-Salem and Savannah, are likely to rise, while the Mountain West and Northwest may see declines due to higher interest rates.

Affordability Challenges: Mortgage rates may drop slightly but will likely stay above 6.5%. This could lead many with low rates to avoid selling and buying new homes due to higher monthly costs.

Overall, the housing market will experience steady price increases with regional differences and affordability issues leading to a stable yet challenging market through 2025.

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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during August and September 2024. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 3 – HARASSMENT
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Aug. 21 to Sept. 17, 2024.

8/21 – On City Island Avenue at 12:22 a.m., an off-Island male told police that he was entering his car when an unknown vehicle hit his driver-side door. The driver left the scene of the accident without stopping to exchange information.

8/22 – Police responded to an incident of harassment in front of Temple Beth-El on City Island Avenue at 3:30 p.m. An off-Island female, who is a member of the congregation, stated that an unknown person approached the temple vicinity and began taking photos with a woman and two small children. The person then picked up a nearby brick and held a pose as if throwing the brick at the temple for the photo. This action caused the reporter to experience annoyance and alarm. There were no injuries. The temple incident is under investigation.

8/25 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 49, and charged him with assault on City Island Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The victims, off-Island male and female, stated that while taking a family selfie on the bus, the defendant assumed that the female victim was taking a picture of him and became verbally aggressive and physical. He kicked her in the right leg and shoved her, causing injury. The male victim tried to defend the

female victim and the defendant punched him in the face and dropped him on the floor, causing injury.

8/26 – At 1 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female was a victim of harassment. She told police that her daughter was hanging out on the rooftop with her friends when they were approached by an unknown defendant. They were afraid and, upon leaving the roof, were chased down the stairs by the defendant, causing them to be annoyed and in fear for their safety.

9/1 – On Winters Street at 9:20 a.m., an Island male reported a robbery. The victim states that when he walked toward his car and opened the door an unknown male approached him and said “Give me all your s---.” Victim turned around and saw that the defendant was displaying a black firearm. The defendant then took items (jewelry and cash). Victim states there were two males with ski masks involved, and they drove off in a dark-colored Ford sedan with Connecticut license plates.

9/3 – On Minneford Avenue at 1:36 p.m., an off-Island male was arrested and charged with burglary. The victim states that she was entering her home when she heard someone inside. She told police that she saw the defendant exit her house through the front door, and upon further investigation she found that her house was completely trashed and items were missing. When caught, the defendant confessed to a detective from the 45th Precinct that he was inside the location and took items from the house.

9/10 – An Island female was driving on City Island Avenue and while she was making a left turn, another vehicle hit her car and fled the scene at 7:52 p.m.

9/13 – On Pell Place at 4 p.m., an Island female came outside her home to find the left rear window of her vehicle broken in an act of criminal mischief. No items were removed from the vehicle.

9/14 – An Island female told police that she parked her vehicle at 5 p.m. on Minneford Avenue and found that it was missing when she returned in the morning. Her ring camera showed an unknown person removing the vehicle from her driveway.



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Photos by MARK NANI
A crowd of almost 100 parishioners and supporters of Grace Church attended the anniversary on Sept. 22 (photo, right). Members of Grace's church school served all the food and greeted guests (above, l. to r.): Sofia and Emilio Aponte, Fr. Kevin Moroney, Maggie and Elsa Moroney, Naomi Boyle and Nico Lindsey.

175 YEARS OF GRACE

Continued from page 1

keeping the church going. Plate and pledges were down, there was no Sunday School, endowments were drained, and the Grace Thrift Shop finally closed.

After the retirement of Fr. Douglas Coleman, parishioners led by Joe and Miriam Nixon appealed to the New York Diocese for help. In 2004 the diocese sent Bishop Catherine Roskam who led services and tended the grounds with help from a handful of volunteers, who refused to see Grace fail. In 2004, Mother Patty Alexander was selected as Vicar, the first woman to lead the parish.

Mother Patty led the charge to rebuild the congregation, choir and vestry, and to renovate the Rectory (with help from a Bedell Fund grant). The congregation once again grew and Grace acquired its first tenants, the City Island Theater Group and Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS), both of which continue to use the parish hall to provide fabulous show productions for all Islanders and services for seniors.



Grace's current priest, Rev. Canon Kevin Moroney, lives in the Rectory with his family and is thrilled with the charm of City Island and the historic home and church. He opened the 175th anniversary celebration telling the 90 attendees, "We are here today to remember and give thanks for all that God has done for Grace Church..." The special service included Grace's history and a celebration of those who founded the church. The anniversary journal was sponsored by Island businesses and organizations (see Organization News), along with donations made in memory of past parishioners.

The luncheon ended with the reading of a letter from from current parishioner, Dr. Martin Nash. In the letter, he pledges a \$1 million endowment fund for the church to continue its mission on City Island.

There was a collective gasp from the attendees who then rose in a standing ovation for the joyous news.

Then the gathering sang "Amazing Grace," which is affectionately regarded as City Island's Grace Episcopal Church's anthem.

VIVA CITY ISLAND!



Photos by ELLEN GRACE ZALTAS
The City Island Oyster Project's annual environmental fair, Viva la Sound, was a great success. Cornell Cooperative's touch tank entertained many children and adults, including State Senator Nathalie Fernandez and CIOR chair Sally Connolly.

SCOUTS RETURN TO SERVICE

By DAN HICKEY



Photo by CHERYL RIORDAN
Life Scout Thomas Riordan is renovating and building out the art facilities at the City Island Community Center as part of his Life and Eagle Scout Service Projects.

With summer vacation behind us, the new scouting season is off to a vibrant start on City Island. Girls and boys from kindergarten through high school are busy again serving the community through City Island's three primary scouting organizations--Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts--often led by former scouts who are training the next generation. City Island is unique in that so many multigenerational families serve in community organizations. They have helped make this such a great place to live that they don't want to leave.

Our streets and waterways are cleaner, our community facilities have been repaired and our seniors and others have had their needs met through years of service projects undertaken by City Island scouts. The value of their initiatives is enhanced by the leadership skills they develop as they rise through the ranks with increasingly complex responsibilities. They become adults committed to making everyone's lives better. We are lucky to have so many stay here for the next generation.

A case in point is Tommy John McMahon, Troop 211 Eagle Scout from 2000 and currently Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 211, which serves about 55 girls and boys from kindergarten through fifth grade, including two of his own. His father, Thomas S. McMahon, was also a scout leader. The Cub Scouts enjoy memorable experiences that range from overnight camping trips to aquarium and battleship visits, and through all the fun, the scouts learn about becoming leaders and develop a commitment of service to their communities. They assist the American Legion with the pumpkin sale fundraiser and canned food drives for the holidays, and they place flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day. The Cub Scout meetings are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to attend a meeting or to e-mail Tommy John at cubscoutpack211@aol.com.

Girls in grade three through seven are learning about leadership and service in Girl Scout Troop 1814, which meets twice a month on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center. You have seen them with leader Melissa Rosado selling cookies at Clipper Coffee and Dominick's Market. The cookie business helps the girls to become leaders by teaching them goal setting, business planning, decision mak-

ing, money management and social skills.

Their fun activities range from outdoor action like sailing and camping to cultural events like Broadway shows and baseball games, including parties and parades. The girls participate in Samaritan's purse shoebox, which mails shoebox-sized boxes filled with toys and necessities to children in underdeveloped nations for Christmas. They also host annual food and clothing drives and do beach clean ups and other environmental service projects. Please contact Troop Leader Melissa Rosado at CIGirlScoutTroop1814@gmail.com for more information.

Bigger kids progress onto Scouts BSA, formerly called Boy Scouts of America but now open to girls too, although none have joined Troop 211 as yet. Scouts range from sixth grade up to the age of 18. The City Island troop holds a prestigious record of matriculating Eagle Scouts with four recently honored and as many nearing the achievement. Their annual spring flower sale raises money for their trip to summer camp, and the rest of the season is even busier. Various scouts undertake service projects to reach certain ranks, with the higher ranks requiring more complex projects. The scouts learn to manage a project, summon the assistance of junior scouts and report on their accomplishment to county-wide boards of review. The skills developed in a large-scale project help make Eagle Scouts stand out on college and job applications.

Troop 211's current Eagle Scouts and candidates have recently completed major projects for the American Legion, Grace and Trinity Churches, Temple Beth-El, the City Island Oyster Reef, City Island Little League, the City Island Community Center and others.

One challenge in becoming an Eagle Scout is managing all the activities of a busy teenager. Sports and other high school clubs prevent most scouts from reaching that pinnacle, but Troop 211 keeps it fun, so the scouts stick around and help each other rise through the ranks. Regular camping trips, traditional dominance of the council-wide Klondike Derby skills competition and other activities convince most 211 scouts to work hard managing both school and scouting goals.

Greg Clancy has recently taken over as Troop 211 Scoutmaster, switching roles with James Goonan, who is the new troop committee chair. They both continue the rich tradition of enabling Troop 211 Eagle Scouts to become leaders for the next generation. Greg is available to answer any questions at gregclancy@hotmail.com. Troop 211 meets every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Trinity Fellowship Hall.

Scouting teaches young people of all ages about making our communities better through friendship and service. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the rich tradition that is thriving as much as ever on City Island.



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A Clam Digger Wedding that Honors City Island Roots

To the Editor,

Clam digger Paul Muller, born on Dec. 11, 1984, while his family was living on Pell Place, never lost the connection to his roots in the community despite leaving City Island for Long Island in 1993. His father, Bob Muller, lived on the Island from the early 1970s while studying at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and married Deirdre Batson, a visiting Assistant Professor at Downstate Medical Center, in February 1984 at the King Avenue home of his best friend, Dr. Herbert Schaumberg. Three children followed: Paul on Pell Place; Alexandra (1987) and David (1990) on Ditmars Street. The move to a hamlet on Long Island's North Shore was made with mixed feelings, but each year thereafter we visited friends on City Island regularly, as they did for us, on land or by boat.

The sudden passing of Bob Muller in September 2013 was a terrific blow to our family and all who knew him and his passion for neuroscience, his humor and his innate sense of right and wrong. He was dearly missed at each of his three children's weddings, and at the birth of his two grandsons born to David and Stacey, who married in our Long Island backyard in 2015. Alex and Paul kept us waiting somewhat longer, until April of this year, when Alex married Michael Beckman in Portugal, and this Labor Day Sunday when Paul married Veronica Jove.

All of Bob's children had many memories of their father, and Paul embraced them not just in spirit but by heading to the Bronx after a wedding service at the Church of Christ the Redeemer honoring the bride's beloved Spanish grandmother "Yaya" and her late grandfather "Avi," devoted celebrants at that church. After the ceremony all the guests traveled to Johnny's Reef, where Paul has fond memories of eating and playing by the water with his dad. The marvelous crew at Johnny's brought food and drinks to tables outside where we shared space with everyone that hot Sunday enjoying the last "official" summer day.

Rick DeWitt, our talented neighbor and friend, took great photographs of the party. Sadly, Ron Turner had to relinquish his photography genius, frequently an integral part of Muller events, because of his mother's passing. Ron knew Bob from his early pre-Island days, and Focal Point was one of our Christmas Eve mandatory stops, where art and stories synergistically coincide. Rick stepped up and expertly captured the vibe.

The after-party kept energy going in my Bay Street backyard. Jenny Glick's delicious treats ("Jenny's Sweets") delighted the guests in taste and presentation, and City Island Pizza delivered a closing order of 10 pies that promptly vanished. Friends, family and neighbors lent hands, help and love until the very end of the day. Giving back to the unique "village" that raised this family left a warm glow that memory will rekindle through the years.

Deirdre Batson

More on 175 Years

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

Dear Friends of Grace Church,

In 1849, the Rev. Cornelius Bolton, son of the Rector of Christ Church in Pelham, and filled with “missionary spirit,” took a boat to City Island, where he found approximately 800 souls, and he offered them a Sunday service every second Sunday. Thus began our wonderful parish.

We first worshipped in the building that still stands on the corner of Tier Street and City Island Avenue, then called the Union Chapel. By 1862, however, our current church was being constructed by the nearby shipbuilder David Carll. The rectory, donated by the Horton family, was moved down the hill from Rochelle Street before the turn of the 20th century, and Grace Hall was built between the church and the rectory in 1923.

For 175 years we have been a voice

of hospitality and grace to those who live on or visit City Island, and so it is in this spirit that I welcomed each of you to our anniversary celebration on Sept. 22.

Grace Church is still a mission church. In addition to maintaining an Anglican witness of the Christian faith, we have a mission to the elderly of this island through Presbyterian Senior Services. We have a mission to those in recovery from addictions through our AA and NA groups. We help feed the hungry through the food pantry at Trinity Methodist Church. We have a mission to nursing homes and other venues

through our choral group, the GraceTones, and we have a commitment to the arts through the City Island Theater Group.

The leadership of this parish is always mindful of the central role Grace Church has played in the life of City Island, and this celebration is a reminder that our mission continues.

With your help Grace Church will continue serving the people of City Island for another 175 years—by God's Grace!

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Canon Kevin J. Moroney, PhD
Priest-in-charge

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From NYPD to CI Realtor

By KAREN NANI

The following profile is part of our advertiser series.

Ray Maldonado didn't start out on City Island, but he is now happy to call it home. His 29-year career in real estate sales includes a few interesting detours along the way.

Ray was born in Manhattan but grew up in the Bronx with his parents and two sisters. He attended Murry Bergtraum High School in Manhattan across the street from One Police Plaza. It turned out to be fortuitous. After attending City College, he briefly trained as a New York State trooper before finally joining the New York City Police Department in 1986.

While he was with the NYPD, he also studied and obtained his real estate license and worked part time selling homes. After retiring from the NYPD, he joined the Keller Williams Realty Group and became their top agent in June 2022, "after the pandemic hiatus." Ray specializes in residential sales in City Island, the Bronx and lower Westchester.

"The first house I sold on City Island was on Pilot Street across from the church. I had the pleasure of working with Louise Del Giudice on that sale, and I have also worked with realtor Maria Swieciki," he told *The Current*. He estimates he has been involved with the sale of over a dozen homes on City Island.

Six years ago, he moved to City Island and bought a condominium in Mariner's Point on Bowne Street. "Like many people growing up in the Bronx, my family came to City Island for seafood and a change of scenery. I always found it very quaint." Ray is divorced and has one son, who is now in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He loves living here among all the "quirky stores and small town places like the little library and the Post Office with only two windows." Years ago, he fell in love with the Starving Artist and has attended a number of their musical shows.

When asked about the soaring prices



Ray Maldonado

of City Island real estate, Ray explained that demand is high, but inventory is low all around the northeast, and the mortgage rates are high. "This discourages people from putting their homes on the market as they may have to take a higher-interest mortgage for their next house in New York or nearby states."

He predicts that mortgage rates will drop to around 5 percent in the near future. Potential buyers who are sitting on the sidelines may jump into the market once rates go down. However, Ray shared a real estate saying: "date the rate, marry the house." He explained that potential buyers should not wait, as demand will continue to be high. "Buy now at today's rate and refinance later when the interest rates drop."

Ray enjoys exposing people to City Island, and he has been a steady advertiser in *The Current*. He joined the City Island Civic Association and wants to see this quaint waterfront community remain vibrant.

So if you thinking of buying or selling a home and want advice from a 29-year professional, give Ray a call. His e-mail is RaySells123@kw.com and his phone is 646-296-7995.

CHOWDER POWER



Photos by MONICA GLICK

The City Island Chamber of Commerce's annual Clam Chowder Contest filled Hawkins Park on Sunday, with residents and visitors tasting 11 chowders (New England and Manhattan) from 9 City Island restaurants: Artie's Steak & Seafood, City Island Diner, Crab Shanty, Harlem Yacht Club, Johnny's Reef, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Seashore Restaurant, and Tony's Pier. And the winners are: New England: First Place, Sammy's Fish Box; Second Place, Seashore Restaurant & Marina. Manhattan: First Place, City Island Diner; Second Place, Harlem Yacht Club. The Chamber is grateful to Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato for her support of this annual event, as well as to the restaurants who participated and to all who voted! (More photos from the fair on p. 11).

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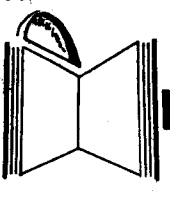
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OCTOBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

Family Storytime: Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

Steam Play: Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 to 10. Thursday, Oct. 17 and 24, from 3 to 4 p.m.

OCTOBER TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS
Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.
Self Portraits: Celebrate yourself! Create a self-portrait in marker, collage, photography, whatever captures your imagination. We will also learn about the history of capturing your own images, from cave paintings to the modern selfie. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 3 p.m.
DIY Piggy Bank! Start saving the old-fashioned way, with a DIY piggy bank,

for National Financial Education Month! Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 3 p.m.
Meditation Minute: Take the chance to calm down and rest your mind with light stretching, soft music and meditation. Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m.
Make Music: Explore making music that speaks to you, with Soundtrap, Garage Band, and more! Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m.
Unplug & Relax: Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles and anything else without a screen. Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAMS
Special Program: Retumba! Afro Caribbean Music. Presented by the Bronx Music Heritage Center. Join us for a performance of Retumba, a multiethnic all female music and dance ensemble interweaving traditional rhythms and beautiful ancient melodies with its very own unique interpretation. Retumba bases its work on the music and dance of Africa and Europe and its expressions in the Americas and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Saturday, Oct. 12, at 12 noon.

One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include help with job searching and creating a resumé. Online with Google Meet, please register online at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Why Knot?: Declutter your yarn collection by crafting for a cause! The City Island Library invites knitters and crocheters of all levels to meet up and make scarves and hats to be donated to a non-profit organization that supports veterans. This program will be hosted by a staff member, and we will learn from each other as we work on our projects. Beginners should bring size 7 or 8 knitting needles

or a size J or K crochet hook and a ball of worsted weight yarn to begin their crafty journey. Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Movie: "Boogeyman," Saturday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m.

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



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PLASTICS AND YOU

By ADJIE HENDERSON

As summer draws to a close, we take advantage of the good weather to enjoy just one more picnic. Your fold-up picnic table is covered in a plastic red-checked cloth and laden with all kinds of picnic surprises—potato salad, fried chicken, green bean casserole—each in a plastic dish carefully covered in plastic wrap. The man attending the grill is drinking beer from a large Styrofoam cup and flipping burgers with a plastic spatula onto plastic plates. On the serving table, plastic forks and knives accompany red plastic plates; cold water and soda in plastic bottles are stacked in a Styrofoam container. Mylar balloons are being inflated to spell out HAPPY SUMMER across the limbs of the tree, as the adults gossiping in plastic chairs that match the plastic table.

Been there? We all have. It could be anybody’s picnic. But it’s also an example of the plastic invasion brought on by clever ads and ignorant or unscrupulous businesses. For all the plastics now being used, the lifetime is very long, even hundreds of years, and they will be filling our oceans and landfills until there is no more room. It’s a doomsday scenario.

Consider the millions of people who walk around holding water bottles. Even if everyone used only one such bottle a day in this country alone, we are adding to the environment many millions of bottles that will be around for at least the next 400 years. And it is estimated that Styrofoam can last up to a million years. When you consider that Americans buy about a billion bottles of water a year and throw away billions of Styrofoam coffee cups, your own great-great-great grandchildren could be pulling these very pieces out of the water when they visit the beach a century from now. Our future generations won’t need boats. They will probably be able to walk across the water on plastic build-up or huge floats consisting of bottles.

Aha, you say, we are good citizens. We recycle. But recycling is not simply a slow disintegration into smaller and smaller pieces. Real recycling, or decomposition, is a breakdown of the structure by chemical or biological means so that it is no longer dangerous to people and other living organisms. Simply put, plastics are not biodegradable.

Every so often, a type of bacteria is discovered that eats plastics, but so far none has been successful in a significant way. A small amount has been incinerated or recycled, but 79 percent of all plastic garbage remains in landfills or in the natural environment. Plastics are made from petrochemicals, and it is dangerous to destroy them by incineration; the byproducts are too dangerous.

When plastics mechanically degrade, they become smaller fragments, which we call microplastics; with even more fragmentation they become nanoplastics or electron microscope-sized particles capable of entering our bodies, possibly even our cells. It has been estimated that a plastic water bottle may contain as many as 240,000 nanoplastics. And microplastics don’t just come from plastic bottles. They also come from your car tires (which con-

tain more synthetic compounds than rubber), from your cosmetics (as microbeads), and paints, indeed virtually all other viscous liquids.

Plastics can break down chemically, aided by UV exposure, but it usually takes hundreds of years. Thousands of chemicals are produced when plastics degrade in ultraviolet light from the sun, which is a particular problem in ocean water, where the chemicals can affect the carbon cycle and ocean inhabitants. It is estimated that there are 5 trillion plastic pieces weighing more than 250,000 tons in the world’s oceans. And to make matters worse, 90 percent of the chemical components of plastics are unknown, as there is no requirement for transparency in how plastics are manufactured. Plastics have also been linked to cancer and other health problems, some of them mimicking estrogen or testosterone, hormones affiliated with sexual identity.

Solutions to the Problem?

We are told that industry is working hard to develop new degradable plastics. Television ads give the impression that plastic bottle manufacturers are going to come up with a solution any day now, but they never mention what we are going to do with the plastics that are here already! At the current rate, plastic production will triple by 2060, the vast majority being of the single-use variety.

One solution to the prevention of future environmental plastic disasters is the production of biodegradable plastic. There are two types now available: plant-based hydro-biodegradable plastic and petroleum-based oxo-biodegradable plastic. In the former category, polylactic acid (PLA), a plastic made from corn, tops the list as the most talked-about alternative. PLA decomposes into water and carbon dioxide in 47 to 90 days, but conditions have to be just right to achieve these kinds of results. PLA breaks down most efficiently in commercial composting facilities at high temperatures but in a landfill, a plastic bag made from corn may remain intact just as long as a plastic bag made from oil or natural gas.

According to the EPA, however, less than 10 percent of plastics are actually recycled. The truth is that recycling plastic is largely a myth. When you see claims such as sustainable, biodegradable or environmentally conscious, be very wary. It’s a trick, like most ads. It is called greenwashing, which refers to information designed to impress “green consumers.” We have all seen ads for rugs, sweatshirts and shoes made from recycled plastics, but it is very expensive to recycle and much cheaper to start anew, so guess which tactic industries will take. Furthermore, recycled plastics become brittle and virtually unusable after just one round of reuse.

What can we do now? We can vacuum up the plastics from the ocean, but some of the great plastic patches are larger than the state of Texas (look up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch). And what do we do with it after scooping it up? Obviously, all is easier said than done. It is almost impossible not to have plastic somewhere. Here are some suggestions for reducing the load:

1. Shopping: Do not buy plastics when there is an alternative and carry a cloth bag when you go to the store. Buy eggs in a cardboard carton rather than a Styrofoam wrapper. Buy fruit in glass jars, not little plastic boxes or bags. (Glass is not directly recyclable, but it can be reused many times and returned to a sand-like substance.) Cardboard boxes and aluminum cans should be okay, but make sure they aren’t lined with plastic.

2. Dining: Don’t use plastic picnic ware. Picnic implements made of bamboo work beautifully. When you take a doggy bag from a restaurant, make sure it doesn’t



The amount of debris in the Pacific Ocean, called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, accumulates because much of it is not biodegradable. Many plastics do not wear down but simply break into increasingly tiny pieces.

come in a Styrofoam carryout box or a plastic bag. Why not carry a glass container with you when you go to a restaurant? And try to avoid buying plastic food containers for your own leftovers; chemicals from plastic wrap can be transferred into the food they contain and have been related to many different kinds of health problems.

3. Personal Products: Most skin-care products, including makeup and sunscreens, contain plastic microbeads, and most detergents come in plastic bottles. Much of our clothing is made of acrylics and polyester (sometimes combined with cotton), which contains plastic for their specific abrasive and exfoliant properties. Washing synthetic fabrics causes tiny fibers to come off; one load of wash can shed up to 17 million plastic fibers, which can take centuries to decompose, releasing toxic chemicals into the environment. It is

likely that more than half of your wardrobe includes these fabrics, but the good news is that it is better to keep them because they last a long time. Just wash them less often.

In short, plastics are everywhere, and it is impossible to buy anything without buying plastics. For now, please help reduce the load of existing plastics as you shop by being more aware of what you are actually buying. Your children and grandchildren will appreciate it.

Adjie Henderson, PhD, is a long-term resident of City Island, an officer of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, and a board member of City Island Oyster Reef. She was dean at Hunter College and then the Graduate Center from 2002 to 2017. She has published more than 200 papers in diverse scientific research areas from molecular genetics, forensics, and biologic anthropology to setting standards for environmental controls.

Jokinen Book

Continued from page 1

Jack was stunned but he approached the dog, who immediately let him pet and feed her. They took her to a veterinarian the next day and found that in addition to being underweight, all her paws were infected and she needed to have several teeth removed. They took the dog home and named her Suzy. Their own dog, George, also took to Suzy, which thrilled Jack and Emily. “When I looked down at Suzy’s sweet face, I knew the only choice was to welcome her as a part of our family. She might not have survived in a shelter, and I couldn’t stand the thought of that if we could help her. So we did.”

While they were nursing her back to health, they started posting photos of her on Instagram, hoping to find the owner. No one came forward, but their story went viral. “Thanks to our story going viral, many people decided to help us with Suzy’s medical bills. The donations poured in, far exceeding the amount we actually needed for Suzy,” Jack told *The Current*.

As Suzy’s health improved (she now weighs 34 pounds), Jack and Emily were faced with questions: What do we do with the excess money? Do we keep it for Suzy? Do we give it away, and if so, where to? So they decided to sponsor animal adoptions, offering \$100 to help offset the cost of an adoption fee if someone rescued a dog instead of buying one. “The results were incredible,” Jack explained. “During Suzy’s first year with us, we sponsored 366 adoptions, saving a life a day for the whole year!”

Suzy, Jack and Emily appeared in local TV and radio news programs that featured Suzy’s story and the family’s support of adoptions. Then people started telling Jack, “You need to write a book about this.” So Jack contacted the publisher Sourcebooks, which helped him find an illustrator, Wendy Tan, and he decided to write a children’s book about Suzy (the book is subtitled “How Suzy was Adopted”). “A Stray Dog for Christmas” became available on Sept. 3, 2024, and will be on sale at outlets like Barnes & Noble and Walmart.



Jack Jokinen, his wife Emily and their daughters, Layla and Johanna.

More importantly, Kaleidoscope Gallery at 271 City Island Avenue also has copies for sale, and Jack is planning to be there on Sept. 28 to sign books.

He looks forward to returning to City Island once again. He never left his clam-digger roots far behind. He keeps in touch with former P.S. 175 principal, Ena Ellwanger, whom he famously dressed up as one Halloween when he was a student at the school. Jack also helped to start the Gilder Scholarship Fund in memory of his friend, Islander John Gilder, and he has worked with John’s parents, Karen and Mark Gilder, to hold a fundraiser every year since John’s death in 2009. The fund also sponsors a City Island Little League team each year.

Disclaimer: This reporter has already reserved two copies of the book for her grandchildren. I can’t think of a better Christmas gift, can you? So call or stop by Kaleidoscope Gallery and check out the story of Jack Jokinen and Suzy.

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Organization News

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

City Island Nautical Museum

Summer has drawn to a close, but the Museum will be open for another month, so don't miss the opportunity to visit, on either Saturday or Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Our exhibitions on sail making, navigation, Hell Gate pilots and Hart Island have been very popular, as are our oral history videos and the rich collection of artifacts and works of art in our exhibition rooms.

As we noted last month, we are looking forward to welcoming interested groups—of students, yacht club members and other organizations—to visit the museum after we close on Oct. 27. Call 718-885-0507 to make an appointment if you are interested in arranging a group visit.

And now that the holidays are approaching, don't forget that the Nautical Museum shop is stocked with unique City Island-themed gifts and apparel. If you can't get to the museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery at 271 City Island Avenue has some museum gifts for sale.

Stay in touch with us through our beautiful new website, which is rich in stories about City Island history, especially the boat-building business. Stay connected with us on social media for updates on special events and albums of City Island images.

The best way to support the museum is to become a member! Individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free and a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop. Single-day admission is \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

Barbara Dolensek

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," with our new rabbi, Barbara Symons. We look forward to sharing the High Holidays this October with all who wish to come.

Our shul is a stimulating, non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are for the Jewish High Holidays. All are invited. Admission is free.

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah + Tashlich, Thursday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah + Shabbat Teshuvah, Friday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.

Kol Nidre, Friday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

Yom Kippur, Saturday, Oct. 12, Service at 10 a.m.; Havdalah and Break Fast at about 6:30 p.m.

EREV Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated)

Oct. 4: Zoom Service with Shari and Monty

Oct. 11: Kol Nidre service at Temple, 6 p.m.

Oct. 18: Shabbat in the Sukkah

Oct. 25: Simchat Torah and Shabbat

Rabbi's Sermons for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Erev Shabbat: Why Doesn't the Torah have questions?

Rosh Hashanah 1: Is self-care selfish?

Rosh Hashanah 2: Our Ancestors: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, The Beautiful

Kol Nidre: Heavenly vs. Earthly Tribunal

Yom Kippur AM: An Island unto Ourselves

Yizkor–Enacting "May Their Memory be for a Blessing"

Yom Kippur PM Jonah: Did Jonah's parents chose the wrong name?

Neilah The Gates are Closing: If Not Now, When?

As you can see, these 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (also known as The Days of Awe, or the Days of Repentance) are both solemn and enriching. We come together in song, in prayer and in seeking forgiveness. And to sweeten up the holiday, we will be selling locally collected honey for \$18 a bottle. Please join us! Seating is limited, and free to all.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We'd be happy to host you.

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

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

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

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

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

The Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program is off to a great start. If you want to register your child/children, please e-mail smssreled@yahoo.com.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come take a look around!

Our monthly holy hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which occurs on Friday, Oct. 4, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 1:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain.

Save the date: The Christmas fair will be on Dec. 7 and 8.

Rosette Dietz

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, is open for in-person and remote services.

For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Worship schedule during the month of October: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father Kevin Moroney. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the second Sunday of the month.

175th Anniversary Celebration: It was a wonderful 175th anniversary celebration on Sept. 22, 2024. Thanks to all who made it a success, including the Grace Vestry and members of the Church School, who helped set up and serve. Thanks also to contributors and sponsors of the anniversary journal including Island businesses, The Pearl, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sammy's Restaurants (Fish Box, Shrimp Box and Sea Shore), Scavello's and Clipper Coffee, as well as Island organizations, Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS), City Island Nautical Museum, American Legion Post 156, City Island Chamber of Commerce, Temple Beth-El, Scout Troop 211, City Island Theater Group, Trinity United Methodist Church and the City Island Civic Association. We hope to keep serving the community for another 175 years!

Arts and Crafts Fair: Apologies to those who looked for our booth at the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair on Sept. 14. We were short-handed and focused on the 175th anniversary. We will be back on City Island Avenue with our delicious baked goods at the 2025 Spring Fair.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month during special services, including the Blessing of the Backpacks on Sept. 7. We will begin planning for our 2024 Christmas Eve Pageant, and all are welcome to join. If you would like to be part of Grace's Church School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

The **Grace Tones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you'd like to join, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Karen Nani

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the meeting, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight, graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association. Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 3040 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 107, Bronx, NY 10461 Her telephone number is 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554, New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@council.nyc.gov.

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, Room 814, 188 State Street, Albany,

NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-3595. The District Office is 3853 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-822-2049 and the e-mail address is fernandez@nysenate.gov.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-5296, and the e-mail address is benedettom@nyassembly.gov. The District Offices are at 3602 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-892-2235, and 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475; telephone 718-320-2220.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is the commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO is Officer Rugovac; telephone number 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone 718-892-1161; on Facebook at BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are collecting dues for 2024 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

Sons of the American Legion

Greetings to all. Fall is here and I hope you are enjoying the season so far. Our next meeting will be on Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. We invite all our members to come. There are several events coming up. We always appreciate fresh input and, more importantly, your volunteerism for these events.

On Oct. 6, the SAL invites you out to breakfast for the morning Jets game as they play against the Vikings in London, England. \$25 per person includes breakfast sandwich, home fries, Bloody Marys, screwdrivers and canned beer. Kickoff is at 9:30 a.m. Of course, football fans are still welcome to stop by for the rest of the day and every Sunday to watch and cheer on their favorite team.

From Oct. 11 through the 14th, Post 156 will be having our yearly Pumpkin Sale. As always, there will also be lots of fall flowers, baked goods supplied by Auxiliary Unit 156, Legion t-shirts and, of course, pumpkins. To our SAL brothers who are available, we are expecting the arrival of the pumpkins and flowers by truck on Oct. 11 at 7 a.m. and can always use the extra help and the extra company.

Our dues notices have been sent out for 2025. Please submit your dues, still just \$30 for the year, as soon as you can. As always, new members are always welcome. Ask a member you know how you can become a member or stop in at the Post any day of the week, 12 to 9 p.m.

Thank you all. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Peter Chadwick

AARP Chapter 318

AARP meets at Trinity United Methodist Church hall on Bay Street on the second Thursday of the month. On Oct. 2 we will go to Octoberfest, and on Oct. 10 we will have in-house pizza bingo for \$15. On Dec. 6, we will take a trip to the Hunterdon Playhouse, and on Dec. 12 we will have our holiday lunch at the Lobster House; the cost will be \$55. For more information, call Cathy Kehoe at 718-824-0037.


Cathy Kehoe

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and check out our coat sale and lots of Halloween bargains. Save the date: The Christmas fair will be on Dec. 7 and 8.

Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



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

We welcome the fall season and our new board of directors, and we look forward to moving ahead with new events this year.

Thank you to all our current members for your commitment to the Community Center. Please look out for our membership renewal drive this fall. Membership dues are affordable for individuals or families. We look forward to welcoming our current members back and meeting new members.

Our October schedule of offerings includes:

Irish Dance: Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

City Island Civic Association: Last Tuesday of the month (except December), 7:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. For up-to-date information, call 646-321-8902 or like us on Facebook!

Melissa Cebollero

Garden Club of City Island

Garden Club members were treated to a presentation by Chrissy Word, Director of Education of the City Parks Foundation, the non-profit side of the NYC Parks Department. It is dedicated to transforming parks into vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts and educational programs. Summer Stage is one of the Foundation’s programs. Chrissy shared information about Pelham Bay Park and the deer population. Although, the deer are beautiful, they are denuding the park of its native understory plants, and the deer population is growing. Hunting is not allowed in the park.

The Garden Club was pleased to have a table at the City Island Oyster Reef Viva la Sound Festival in September. This gave us an opportunity to share the things we do, including our interest in native plants. Native plants require less water and fertilizer than standard grassy lawns, so that less pollution runs off into our surrounding waters. Thanks to all of you who stopped by to chat.

Garden Club members have continued to take care of the containers and the garden at the Post Office. We thank CJS Property Maintenance for helping us take care of the Post Office garden by mowing the grass and clipping the hedges. We want to remind residents and businesses that the newly planted street trees need gallons and gallons of water in order to survive. If you have access to a hose, please include the street tree in front of your building in your bi-weekly watering program.

This issue, the Garden Club wants to highlight the Black Whale as its “Curb Appeal” business for creating a shady oasis in front of the restaurant where diners can relax before retiring inside for dinner. Vintage tables and chairs, along with beautifully planted window boxes, have created a garden on the street that encourages people passing by to slow down and relax. Thank you. And thank you for watering the trees.

Our beautification projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 7, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Please join us!

Judy Judson

Quilters by the Sea QOV

Quilters by the Sea (QBTS) awarded two Island-made Quilts of Valor at a joint ceremony on Aug. 31. Post 156 Legionnaires Kevin Lenz and Anthony Rosco, both of whom served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. were wrapped in patriotic quilts at the Harlem Yacht Club. They both served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Many family members and friends were there to celebrate. Interested in this mission of the local quilt-making group? Stop by the Legion Hall on October 26, our next Sew Day.

Harlan Sexton

Trinity United Methodist Church

Please note! Church service is now 9:45 on Sunday mornings, and communion is the second Sunday of the month. The new Sunday School term began on Sept. 8, and will be meeting at 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2:30 p.m. there will be a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your furry (and not-so-furry) friends for a blessing, and join in fellowship at a barbecue in the side yard. Dogs must be leashed; please have cats and other small pets in a carrier.

Our Fall Food Sale will be on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. until the food is gone! The Budget Shop is now open on Saturday mornings. Thanks to everyone for their patronage and donations.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Oyster Reef

The Nautilus Cup sailing race took place at the Morris Yacht Club on Sept. 15, and it was a great success on a glorious fall day with a good easterly breeze. The race was won by Lucille Wile, skipper of *Folly*, and her crew, Felix Sanchez-Caro and Daniele Bergamo.

We have been active on the CIOR skiff throughout the summer monitoring water-quality parameters, measuring oysters and identifying biodiversity. The work continues through the middle of October, so register on our website for a monitoring session. We also need help bagging cured shells at the Pelham Bay landfill on Sept. 29.

On Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. we are hosting a webinar on the work of Hutchinson River Restoration Project. And on Oct. 17, we will host a webinar by the Reef Ball Foundation, which will present information about reef balls, which are used to create artificial reefs to create aquatic habitats for oysters and other marine species.

To register for all CIOR activities, visit our website, www.cioysterreef.org.

Sally Connolly

PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island Center is located at 116 City Island Avenue at Grace Episcopal Church. Stop by the Center to check out the many exciting activities scheduled for October. This month we will be starting an Introductory Spanish course on Mondays at 12:45 p.m. and a Crochet Class on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

The stage is waiting for you! Share your awesome talents, and the winner of our Oct. 29 Talent Show will continue in a Center vs. Center Competition on Nov. 7. To enter the competition, you must be 60 years or older. Please stop by the Center for additional details, including prizes. Sign up before Oct. 18.

Our Gleeful Dance program is being offered on two Wednesdays: Oct. 2 and 16 at 12:30 p.m. Please stop by the Center and check out our calendar for more details on these and other activities we have to offer. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free, so if you are 60 or older, please join us. Membership



Photos by JOANNE VALLETTA

Kevin Lenz, QOV awardee. First row (l. to r.): Alexa Mullin, Kevin Lenz, Margaret Lenz, Jordan Mullin; second row: Rachel Barick, Justin Mullin, Peter Lenz, Tim Mullin, Jonathan Mullin.



Anthony Rosco, QOV awardee. Left to right: Cathy Standridge, Peter Green, Anthony Rosco, Denise Farro, William Farro, George Morstatt, Nancy Curtis.

bers have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Tuesday mornings to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos or Wednesday afternoons with our new technology instructor, Louis Armstrong.

Lunch in the Center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available at noon as well. We have some new meals this menu cycle, such as eggplant parmesan, fish with creole sauce, lemon pepper fish and a deluxe cheeseburger.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the Center at 718-885-0727.

October Activities

(get our calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Wednesday, Oct. 2 and 16, at 12:30 p.m., Gleeful Dance Program

Thursday, Oct. 10, Mental Health and Nutrition with Dina (virtual webinar)

Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 12:30 p.m., Winter Pedestrian Safety, Samantha Carter, NYC Dept. of Transportation

Thursday, Oct. 17, at 12:45 p.m., Live Music and Dance with Jimmy Wals

Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 12:20 p.m., Harmony Road Psychotherapy information session

Thursday, Oct. 24, at 12:30 p.m., Birthday Party with Live Music

Friday, Oct. 25, at 12:20 p.m., CHA Homecare Services with Medicare

Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., Talent Show. Winner goes on to Center vs. Center Competition

Thursday, Oct. 31, at 12:30 p.m., Halloween Fun with Costume Contest

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified. Classes are free but donations are much

appreciated.

Monday

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

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

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

12:45 p.m. Introductory Spanish with Maria

Tuesday

9 a.m. Individual Tech Assistance with Julio

9 a.m. Cardio Fit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

11 a.m. Tech Instruction with Julio

12 p.m. In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1 p.m. Board Games: Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

Wednesday

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

12:45 a.m. Crafter’s Corner/Crochet with Sandra

1 p.m. Tech instruction and assistance with Louis Armstrong

Thursday

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

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Becky (in person and remote)

10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joes and Target. We will be going to Lidl once it opens. On-island afternoon trips are also available. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note the Center will be closed on Monday, Oct. 14.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella



Funny People

Most documentaries about the people who have made us laugh through the years provide insight into the lives that form these incredibly creative individuals and teams. We begin with the exceptional and seamlessly put together film **The Real Charlie Chaplin** (2021), whose career started in the silent era. His 75 years of performing began when he was only 14, and his films are characterized by slapstick combined with pathos, demonstrating his struggles against adversity. Combining unheard audio recordings, dramatic reconstructions and personal archives, the filmmakers trace Chaplin’s meteoric rise from the slums of Victorian London to the heights of Hollywood superstardom, before his scandalous fall from grace. Exquisitely restored archival materials give the film credibility and unique insight, casting a fair look at the entertainer that celebrates his genius while scrutinizing his foibles. [Years active 1889–1977]

Also beginning in the silent film era, **The Great Buster** (2018) celebrates the life and career of one of Hollywood’s most prolific and influential filmmakers, Buster Keaton. He is best known for his silent films during the 1920s, in which he performed physical comedy and inventive stunts. Stunning restorations of archival works bring Keaton’s magic to life on the big screen, while interviews with his friends, family, collaborators and a broad array of artists influenced by his singular vision detail a life and character that was as complex, bold and graceful as the great works themselves. [Years active: 1899–1966]

Inside the Marx Brothers (2003) is a look at the personal and professional lives of Groucho, Harpo, Chico, Zeppo and Gummo Marx. The Marx Brothers were an American family comedy act that was successful in vaudeville, on Broadway and in 14 motion pictures from 1905 to 1949. This documentary features classic clips from such Marx Brothers favorites as “Animal Crackers,” “Monkey Business,” “Duck Soup,” “A Night at the Opera” and “A Day at the Races.” Also included are rare newsreels, TV clips, home movies and interviews with Groucho, Chico, Groucho’s son Arthur, and “Room Service” co-star, Ann Miller. [Years active: 1905 –49]

Laurel & Hardy: Their Lives and Magic (2011) is the story of a popular comedy team during the early Classical Hollywood era of American cinema: the Englishman Stan Laurel and the American Oliver Hardy. Starting their career as a duo in the silent film era, they later successfully transitioned to “talkies.” From the late 1920s to the mid-1950s, they were internationally famous for their slapstick comedy, with Laurel playing the clumsy, childlike friend to Hardy’s pompous bully. Under the microscope are Laurel’s and Hardy’s public and private lives, as well as their long-standing friendship. There are generous clips from quite a few of their movies. [Years active: 1927–55]

The Abbott and Costello Story: America’s Funniest Comedy Team (1996) features an American comedy duo composed of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, whose work in radio, film and television made them the most popular comedy team of the 1940s and 1950s, and the highest-paid entertainers in the world during the Second World War. Their rou-

tine “Who’s on First?” is considered one of the greatest comedy routines of all time. The documentary mostly strings together movie trailers of their films as it describes how they became a team and rose to fame. It tells the tragic story of the death of Lou’s son and how the duo almost broke up at the height of their popularity. [Years active: 1935–57]

Betty White: First Lady of Television (2018) is a definitive look at Betty White’s life and career. The film is packed with hilarious clips from her best work, including her roles as the bawdy Sue Ann on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” the innocent Rose on “The Golden Girls” and the worldly Elka on “Hot in Cleveland.” She was the first woman to produce a national TV show, to star in a sitcom and to receive an Emmy nomination. Thanks to exclusive access, the film reveals Betty at work behind the scenes at work, entertaining at home and interacting with her animal friends. With 80+ years in television she officially had the longest career in TV history. [Years active: 1939–2021]

Lucy and Desi (2021) is a film directed by Amy Poehler in her Emmy-winning documentary directorial debut. The film explores the unlikely partnership and enduring legacy of one of the most prolific power couples in entertainment history, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. The movie is an insightful and intimate peek behind the curtain of the loving and difficult relationship between two remarkable TV pioneers—featuring interviews with Lucie Arnaz Luckinbill, Norman Lear, Desi Arnaz Jr, Carol Burnett and Bette Midler. With full access to the Ball/Arnaz estate overseen by their daughter, never-before-heard audio interviews with Ball and Arnaz were made available to the creative team. [Years active 1940s–1960]

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work (2010) is a revealing documentary that follows the life and career of Joan Rivers, a veteran Emmy award-winning talk show host, who was also a Grammy- and Tony-nominated comedienne. The film follows Joan Rivers for 14 months, mostly during the 76th year of her life. It explores her early years in the comedy industry and touches on her long-time professional relationship with Johnny Carson, who is one of the many celebrities featured, along with George Carlin, Phyllis Diller, Kathy Griffin and Rivers’ own daughter and frequent screen partner, Melissa Rivers. [Years active: 1957–2014]

Nichols & May Take Two (1996 American Masters) is a 1996 documentary film about the comedy sketch team Mike Nichols and Elaine May, which premiered as part of the American Masters series on PBS. The film highlights the comedy team’s roots and eventual influence throughout the comedy world. Together they used sketch and improvisational comedy in a way no other artists had done before. [Years active:1958–62]

George Carlin’s American Dream (two episodes, 2023) chronicles the life and work of the legendary comedian. His career spanned half a century during which he headlined 14 HBO comedy specials and appeared on “The Tonight Show” more than 130 times, constantly evolving with the times and staying sharply resonant until his death in 2008. What makes this film unique is the depth of discovery of Carlin’s evolution from traditional stand-up comedian in a jacket and tie to hippie-dippy weatherman to a dark philosophical form of comedy that is not to everyone’s taste. The two-part documentary tracks Carlin’s rise to fame and opens an intimate window into his personal life, including his childhood in New York City; his long struggle with drugs, which took its toll on his health; his brushes with the law; his loving relationship with Brenda, his wife of 36 years, and his second marriage to Sally Wade. Intimate interviews with Carlin and Brenda’s daughter, Kelly Carlin,

offer insight into her family’s story and her parents’ enduring love and partnership. Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld, Patton Oswalt, Stephen Colbert, Bette Midler and Jon Stewart are among those interviewed. [Years active:1959–2008]

Similar insights of an evolving career are demonstrated in **Richard Pryor: Omit the Logic** (2013). This documentary includes footage of Pryor at all stages of his life, from his early years as a jittery up-and-comer to his later years as an elderly, afflicted storyteller. His multiple sclerosis struck him as his career dissipated, but he retained vitality well into the 1990s before his death in 2005. Hearing some of Pryor’s best bits is a pleasure. [Years Active:1963–99]

What makes Albert Brooks: Defending My Life (2023) so much fun is that in addition to directing the film, Reiner also interviews Brooks, revealing the two have been best friends since meeting at Beverly Hills High School 60 years ago. Much of the documentary is a conversation between the two. There are also comments on his odd sense of comedy, including interviews with Sharon Stone, Larry David, James L Brooks, Conan O'Brien, Sarah Silverman and Jonah Hill. Especially awed by Brooks’ world view is Stephen Spielberg. [Years active: 1969–present]

The documentary **Remembering Gene Wilder** (2023) uses rare home videos and scenes from Wilder’s films and looks at the life and career of this remarkable actor, writer and director. It includes interviews with former cast and crew members as well as personal memories from family and friends, who share their love for his comedic genius. Among them are Mel Brooks, Wilder’s second wife, Karen Wilder, Alan Alda, Carol Kane, Harry Connick Jr., Dick Cavett and Ben Mankiewicz. Wilder’s narration, also part of the film, is taken from the audiobook version of his 2005 memoir, “Kiss Me Like a Stranger: My Search for Love and Art.” [Years active: 1961–2005]

Love Gilda (2018) is a film that presents the life and career of Gene Wilder’s first wife, Gilda Radner, who gained fame through her characters on “Saturday Night Live.” Using Gilda’s diaries, audio tapes and home movies and interviewing some of her closest friends, Amy Poehler has directed a touching film that includes interviews with Melissa McCarthy, Bill Hader, Chevy Chase, Lorne Michaels, Laraine Newman, Maya Rudolph and Martin Short. [Years active: 1972–89]

John Belushi (2020) was also a break-

out star at “Saturday Night Live” (SNL). His role in the 1978 classic film “National Lampoon’s Animal House” is one of the most iconic and unforgettable performances of his generation. And he was one half of the Blues Brothers with his best friend and collaborator Dan Aykroyd. Tragically Belushi died at age 33 of a drug overdose. However, for anybody who really knew him, his downfall seemed inevitable. The film takes us through his early childhood all the way up to his final days, in the words of those who knew him best, thanks to a massive audio library of interviews compiled by author Tanner Colby. We are treated to many clips of John’s best (and worst) moments on SNL, mixed with photos and home movies that give viewers a glimpse of the person they never really knew. He was a tormented man, overwhelmed by his newfound fame, which drove his descent into drug addiction. [Years active: 1972–82]

Whoopi Goldberg: The Winning Act (2022) is a look at the life and career of Whoopi Goldberg, award-winning comedian, actress and human rights advocate. She is one of the few entertainers who has achieved EGOT status, holding an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony. In the early 1990s, her work ranged from controversial comedic performances to dramatic leading roles, and she has appeared in more than 150 film and television productions. As an African-American woman in the Hollywood film industry, her work has been both groundbreaking and a struggle. The disappointing aspect of the film is that there is a dearth of original footage. Rather, there is a segment of her walking through a crowd at some sort of awards gathering that is repeated several times throughout the film to the detriment of the movie. [Years active: 1982–present]

Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind (2018) is an intimate portrait that examines one of the world’s most inventive comedians. Told largely through his own voice and using a wealth of never-before-seen archival footage, the film goes through the extraordinary life and career of Robin Williams. It features interviews with Whoopi Goldberg, David Letterman, Billy Crystal, Pam Dawber and Lewis Black, among others. It’s difficult to explain what makes this film so special, but I believe it is one of the very best of this genre, and I highly recommend it. [Years active: 1976–2014]

And until next time, happy viewing....

CJS

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Parenting for Delayed Gratification: Dealing with the “I Want It Now” Situations

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

When I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, I got 25 cents a week for my allowance. I also got \$2 for mowing a lawn in suburban Long Island (think tract houses on 80’ x 100’ lots) and \$1 per car for digging out stuck motorists at the local shopping center parking lot. Then—like Ralphie in “A Christmas Story” staring at the Red Ryder Range 200 Shot BB Gun in the toy store window of his home town—I would gaze longingly at the Mattel Slot Car Racetrack Set in the local F. W. Woolworth’s window, selling for \$29.95. After many months I bought the set, saving every penny along the way. I believe my enjoyment of that set was enhanced by having to wait that long: I arranged a layout with my Lionel train set and spent countless hours in our basement creating stories of cars and trains.

In Dan Goleman’s book “Emotional Intelligence” he cites delayed gratification (the ability to put off a sought-after taste/feeling/possession/sale/experience rather than settle for an immediate “fix” of lesser value or quality) as a sign of emotional intelligence. In his recent New York Times article entitled “The Junkification of American Life,” David Brooks cites an article by music critic Ted Gioia that suggests we as a culture have sacrificed art for commercialism, commercialism for distraction (like YouTube videos and TikTok) and free choice on social media for our addiction to the quick dopamine fix. So, pleasure without any effort, no need to wait to feel good, and why bother with creative cooking when we can have fast food delivered to our door? This is what Brooks calls “junkification”: settling for the quick and easy rather than working for the achievement of quality and creativity.

Kids learn about delayed gratification and quality of effort from their parents. As I have often said, if you do not insert your own values and demands into your family’s life, the culture will do it for you. If we adults model the values of working for quality, saving for a better result and choosing to serve a higher purpose than simple consumerism, our children will see the value in realizing that good things take time and effort.

Here are a few tips:

- When your child asks for a high-priced item, discuss how to set up a savings plan for that purchase, with opportunities to earn extra cash and a timetable for when the e-bike or scooter or new gaming system might finally arrive.
- Have a discussion about quality—be it quality of art, quality of food, quality of lifestyle or quality of practicing one’s belief system. When everything comes too easily or too quickly, there is little appreciation for each acquisition or activity, which usually results in quickly looking to the next new game, new clothing item or new video.
- Recognize that a culture without quality—of art, of food, of lifestyle, of belief systems—is doomed to create widely disparate experiences between the haves and the have-nots, because everything boils down to money immediate gratification.

Our children are always paying attention to our choices. Let’s be models of the higher good of art, quality and compassionate behaviors toward one another.

If you are a man facing retirement and would like some guidance about that process, give me a call at 610-864-9505 for a free 30-minute consultation.

FAIR FAIR WEATHER



Photos by RICK DeWITT, BARBARA DOLENSEK
Good weather and lots of booths drew crowds to the annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair on Sept. 14 and 15 along City Island Avenue. Lickety Split gave out free ice cream in memory of owner Skip Giacco.

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Obituaries

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



Gerard "Skip" Giacco

Gerard "Skip" Giacco passed away suddenly on Sept. 7, 2024, at the age of 78. He was born on May 25, 1946, to Christine and Nicholas Giacco in Pelham Bay, New York. The nickname "Skip" originated from a letter Nicholas wrote to Christine when he learned they were having a baby and said that a boy would be the "skipper" of their ship.

Tina, Nick, Skip and his younger brother, Richie, moved from Pelham Bay to New Rochelle when Skip was a teenager. It was in New Rochelle that Skip became friends with Louis Speruzzi, the older brother of Louise Speruzzi, and the two, against Louis' wishes, became high-school sweethearts. Skip and Louise were married at Holy Family church in September 1968 and lived in New Rochelle. They would have celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on Sept. 15.

Skip was passionate, creative and an entrepreneur. He began his professional career as an art director in the advertising industry. Over the years, he co-founded a local publication, opened Bottoms Up, a bar and music venue, and, along with Louise, owned two flower shops, Midtown Florist and Nicole Louise Florist.

Skip and Louise briefly relocated to Port St. Lucie, FL, in the late 1990s but soon returned to New York and settled back in the Bronx, on City Island, in 2001. Throughout his life Skip was drawn to boats and the water, and living on City Island allowed him to enjoy both endlessly, in spite of increasing blindness caused by macular degeneration.

In 2003, Skip and Louise opened the ice cream shop Lickety Split next to Hawkins Park, hired many young Islanders to staff it, and quickly became involved in the community. Just this year Lickety Split was awarded the Best in the Bronx Award as the best ice cream shop in the borough.

On Oct. 24, 2008, the couple was presented with the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award at the City Island Chamber of Commerce Dinner, and a year later Skip was elected President of the Chamber of Commerce, a position he held until 2020.

In April 2009, Skip led a community effort to prevent the Parks Department's removal of the dolphin statue from Hawkins Park during the renovation of the park, and it remains in place to this day. Three years later, he helped lead the community in objecting to the cable-stayed design for the City Island bridge replacement.

Over the years Skip received recognition for his role as Chamber president,

including an Outstanding Leadership Award from the 45th Precinct Community Council, and on behalf of the City Island Chamber of Commerce he accepted the Tourism Award from the Bronx Borough President and several proclamations from elected officials.

In 2017 Skip told *The Island Current*: "Our small business and a few others, like the Diner, have been successful over a period of years, and I ask myself 'What do we have in common?' The answer is that we are cool. We have small town appeal, and that is what brings a lot of people here. They come from the high-density communities to this small town. Every product that we offer they can get in their neighborhoods, but they come here for the experience—the small-town atmosphere that is unique here. City Island has to think small. That is what people want. That is the ideal."

Skip was a gifted singer and performed in various groups throughout his life. He wrote several songs inspired by events and people in his life: "Sweet Louise," "Nicky's in New York," "My Father's Dreams." Whether on stage at an event, performing in Hawkins Park or harmonizing with friends at Lickety Split, nothing, other than his grandchildren, gave him more joy than singing.

Skip Giacco is survived by his wife, Louise; his daughter, Nicole; his son-in-law, Christos, and his grandchildren, Olivia and Andreas.

In the journal for the 2017 Chamber Dinner Dance, Skip wrote: "All of us who live and work on City Island benefit daily from the quiet dedication of businesses to this very special place." The community salutes him for his years of dedication and hard work on behalf of Island businesses.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)									
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).									
HH = hours; MM = minutes									
Tide chart by Tom Smith									
OCTOBER 2024									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0526	0.4	1121	8.3	1748	0.3	2342	7.8	Tue 01
02 Wed	0559	0.5	1152	8.3	1822	0.3			Wed 02
03 Thu	0014	7.7	0622	0.7	1215	8.2	1848	0.3	Thu 03
04 Fri	0038	7.5	0628	0.8	1229	8.2	1901	0.4	Fri 04
05 Sat	0055	7.4	0649	0.8	1252	8.1	1922	0.5	Sat 05
06 Sun	0121	7.2	0722	0.9	1325	8.1	1954	0.5	Sun 06
07 Mon	0156	7.1	0800	1.1	1404	7.9	2034	0.7	Mon 07
08 Tue	0237	7.0	0844	1.2	1448	7.8	2121	0.8	Tue 08
09 Wed	0325	6.8	0934	1.4	1539	7.7	2217	1.0	Wed 09
10 Thu	0419	6.7	1031	1.5	1636	7.6	2321	1.0	Thu 10
11 Fri	0521	6.7	1135	1.5	1739	7.6			Fri 11
12 Sat	0033	0.9	0630	6.9	1248	1.3	1850	7.7	Sat 12
13 Sun	0155	0.6	0747	7.4	1414	0.8	2008	8.0	Sun 13
14 Mon	0258	0.2	0852	8.1	1525	0.2	2113	8.4	Mon 14
15 Tue	0349	-0.2	0943	8.8	1623	-0.4	2207	8.7	Tue 15
16 Wed	0435	-0.5	1029	9.4	1716	-0.8	2258	8.8	Wed 16
17 Thu	0521	-0.6	1115	9.7	1808	-1.0	2348	8.8	Thu 17
18 Fri	0606	-0.6	1202	9.8	1858	-1.0			Fri 18
19 Sat	0038	8.6	0653	-0.4	1250	9.6	1949	-0.8	Sat 19
20 Sun	0131	8.3	0741	0.0	1340	9.2	2044	-0.4	Sun 20
21 Mon	0227	7.9	0834	0.4	1435	8.6	2146	0.0	Mon 21
22 Tue	0330	7.5	0943	0.8	1541	8.0	2253	0.4	Tue 22
23 Wed	0441	7.2	1105	1.2	1700	7.5	2357	0.6	Wed 23
24 Thu	0550	7.0	1215	1.3	1815	7.2			Thu 24
25 Fri	0057	0.7	0655	7.1	1319	1.2	1922	7.1	Fri 25
26 Sat	0153	0.7	0754	7.3	1417	1.0	2021	7.2	Sat 26
27 Sun	0245	0.7	0847	7.6	1510	0.7	2112	7.3	Sun 27
28 Mon	0331	0.6	0932	7.9	1557	0.5	2157	7.4	Mon 28
29 Tue	0412	0.6	1012	8.1	1640	0.3	2237	7.4	Tue 29
30 Wed	0449	0.6	1047	8.2	1719	0.2	2314	7.4	Wed 30
31 Thu	0520	0.7	1116	8.2	1754	0.1	2346	7.3	Thu 31
NOVEMBER 2024									
01 Fri	0611	0.8	1146	7.9	1846	0.1			Fri 01
02 Sat	0021	7.1	0623	0.9	1212	8.0	1910	0.1	Sat 02
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 3									
03 Sun	0046	7.0	0544	0.9	1146	8.0	1828	0.2	Sun 03
04 Mon	0018	6.9	0618	1.0	1224	7.9	1857	0.3	Mon 04



School is back in session at City Island’s elementary school, P.S. 175. Students from from kindergarten through eighth grade showed up on Sept. 5 with smiling faces. It was also the first day of school for the new pre-K class of four-year olds (see September issue of *The Current*).

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The Smokey Hollow Gang

The more things change the more they stay the same. After eight years of rowdy boater behavior and a recent spate of brazen criminal activity on City Island, including an armed robbery committed by drivers of a car with Connecticut plates, we were inclined to consult the historical record for context. What we found may surprise City Islanders, for it would appear that waves of crime committed by “visitors” is not without precedent in our relatively remote part of NYC.

The Smokey Hollow Gang was a notorious late 19th/early 20th-century “gang of thugs” from the Brooklyn waterfront that had a documented reputation of violence. In Brooklyn! To these gangsters, City Island was an unknown, as far away and inaccessible as the moon. Then things began to change, as City Island became known as a summertime destination on the weekends. The ferries that brought scores of first-time, law-abiding visitors to City Island in the late 1800s also brought the Smokey Hollows.

According to an article published in the August 23, 1886, edition of the New York Sun, it was the Smokey Hollow Gang’s “chowder parties” that City Islanders dreaded most. In fact, anticipating the trouble that they were known to cause, villagers—for City Island was still a part

of the village of Pelham at that time—had established “telegraphic communication” with law-enforcement personnel from Connecticut, New Rochelle and New York “that they may speedily call down the cohorts of the law on the chowder parties of the unrighteous.” These preparations were in addition to a variety of local ordinances that had already been passed, ordinances that were meant to contain the rowdier aspects of chowder parties and other like-minded festivities, particularly when they took place on a Sunday.

The incident referenced in the article happened on a Sunday, and it involved 100 or so Smokey Hollow Gang members, their families and friends. It happened on a ballfield when inebriated gang members set upon the constable who had come to enforce the law. The officer was “smote,” “spanked,” had his ears “buffeted” and “both his eyes blackened.” But he was not deterred. A call for help was raised, and soon there was a police boat from NYC on the scene. By then, however, the thugs were gone.

These days, when a police boat is called, a similar kind of coordination is being activated. Officers from Harbor Patrol, the 45th Precinct, and even the United States Coast Guard are working together in ways they haven’t for years. It doesn’t always work as it is supposed to—not in 1886, not in 2024—but it is definitely a step in the right direction.



On Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish held its annual commissioning of catechists for the religious education program during a beautiful outdoor Mass in St. Mary’s school yard. This special evening Mass was followed by refreshments and fellowship.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY
The ubiquitous blue bird aster

Generous Gardeners and Weeds

Autumn is here. The nights have become crisp, and the maples are turning a yellow gold. My little garden in the Bronx looks tired in preparation for its long sleep. I have been splitting up perennials that have gone beyond their bounds, giving them out to friends to share and also as a backup in case I lose any in the future. So many times I have come across a plant in a neighbor’s yard that I admire, only to remember that I had shared it with them many years before. “Oh, may I have a cutting?” and just like that I have reclaimed a treasure I had lost.

Gardeners are a generous lot. They give away cuttings, seeds and advice freely. Who among us has not been gifted with some form of hortus selectus? One woman last week plied my friend with seeds of an unusual rudbeckia, saying “please take them and tell others to just come here and pick them; please, there are so many.” About 25 years ago I gave my mother tiny seedlings of rosa glauca, which is much sought after because of its dusty purple foliage. Now that I have moved into her house,

they are reminding me of her and our time together. Plants can be sentimental. When I worked for Tony’s Nursery back in 1977, Tony’s mother gave me a Solomon’s Seal, God love her, and it still flourishes in the back of the garden.

Donna on Schofield Street selected a bluebird aster as a gift 30-odd years ago. I can tell you that everyone from Long Island to upstate New York has this plant because of this one tiny sprig. It is tall with a woody stem and holds itself erect in spite of its 3 1/2 foot height. Contact me if you want some. I have more.

Here are a few notes on groundcover. Soil that is not planted completely with ornamental plants will soon give way to weeds. There are areas where one may want a calm over-all effect, and under trees the Japanese pachysandra makes a rich dark evergreen cover with hardly any maintenance at all. Many people abhor ivy, but I am a proponent. There are endless varieties, some of which are beautifully variegated. Clip the ivy every few years to keep it from getting too dense.

Some people do not want a dense, solid cover like ivy or pachysandra but prefer clumps of plants strong enough to take care of themselves. Bergenia, ajuga, hosta, even ferns have a weed-suppressing ability. Hellebores can become so dense in the shade that I can’t see a weed. For sunny banks the prostrate juniper will lay its feathery branches perfectly across your ground and provide years of entertainment in winter. Be sure to find varieties of J. horizontalis that lie flat; they can be trimmed to stay as low as a carpet if need be. You can mix the green ones with the Andorra juniper, which turns a rosy violet in cool weather.

Weed-suppressing bergenias, Russian white asters, black ajuga, hellebore seedlings and primula kisona are all on my list of giveaways. Could this be the beginning of a City Island plant exchange??

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.



Photo by JUDY JUDSON
Curb Appeal: The Garden Club likes to draw special attention to local businesses that make their storefronts very attractive, as the Black Whale does with great style.

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City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the City Island Culinary Club. We officially started our 10th year on Sept. 10. How quickly time has flown! Our club has always supported many organizations and groups on City Island, and we will continue to do that going forward.

However, we have decided to try a new format for our group. First of all, we are moving to Tuesdays at 7 p.m. every other week, instead of Mondays, and we will be meeting in each other's homes, with the owner of the host house selecting the theme and overseeing the meeting. This will give each member a chance to shine and show off his or her culinary skills.

When we met in September, I hosted in my home and demonstrated how to debone a rotisserie chicken in a Ziplock bag. After the chicken was deboned, I prepared an avocado chicken salad. Other members brought tasty Asian chicken meatballs, creamy tomato soup, pasta salad, bruschetta with fresh

garden tomatoes and cupcakes for dessert. If you want to join us and participate in the fun, please call 917-533-7873.

12 Slider Sandwiches

- Ingredients**
- 3 shredded rotisserie chickens
 - 1 avocado, mashed
 - 2 scallions (green parts only), thinly sliced and divided
 - lemon zest plus 1 tbsp. lemon juice
 - 1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
 - 3/4 cup mayonnaise
 - 1/4 cup basil leaves, roughly chopped
 - bacon (12 oz), cooked
 - 12 Hawaiian slider rolls

Directions

In large bowl, stir together chicken, avocado, scallions, lemon juice and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Then stir together mayonnaise, lemon zest and basil and then add the chopped bacon. Serve on slider rolls.

See the Hutchinson River Up Close

By ALICE SCHECTER

On a beautiful late summer evening in August, we set sail with the dedicated folks from the Hutchinson River Restoration Project to take in the beauty and the surprisingly fascinating history of the Hutchinson River. We rode in the organization's new pontoon boat in the capable hands of Don Kelly, assisted by first mate Frank Williams. The air was clear, clouds scudded across the evening sky, and we had the constant company of egrets, cormorants and other sea birds.

Our guide, Amelia Zaino, provided a lively narrative about the Hutchinson River shoreline and how it came to be, from the Lenape people's history to the various land purchases, from the days when pleasure boats brought patrons to dance, picnic and play, to the marvels of Freedomland and the construction of Co-Op City. We heard the

life story of Ann Hutchinson, her outspoken courage and her willingness to speak truth to power.

We saw the blight of inadequate sewage disposal, landfills and junkyards, but we also heard optimistic projections for ongoing funding and proposed projects toward recovery, redesign and repair, thanks to the efforts of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project. As we traveled under the lovely sun-filled sky, we marveled at the beauty and serenity of the areas that are protected for the sake of wildlife, enjoying the intermittent spray of the slightly choppy waters that carried us along as we watched a spectacular sunset on our way back to the marina.

Those interested in a Hutchinson River Eco-tour may send an e-mail to hutchinsonriver@gmail.com and look for updates at the website www.hutchinsonriver.org.

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



Joseph and Samantha Noschese

Belated first anniversary wishes to Joseph and Samantha Noschese, who were wed on Sept. 7, 2023, on Long Beach Island, NJ. Joseph's parents, Carmen and Joe Noschese, are happy the newlyweds now reside on City Island.

Happy birthday across the miles on Oct. 29 to Sunjay Sebastian, with love from your City Island family.

Congratulations to City Island resident David Mooney, who was promoted to District Captain of Sector New York North in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. His duties now include the oversight of four divisions made up of 23 flotillas covering the Hudson River from New York Harbor to the Vermont/Canadian border, totaling approximately 770 members.

Happy 14th birthday wishes to Bay Street's Tabitha Del Pozzo on Oct. 15. May all your dreams come true! We love you more than strawberry shortcake! Love,



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David Mooney, Coast Guard Auxiliary District Captain

Mom, Dad and Winston.

Happy Horton Street birthdays to Lorena Nogueira Nani on Oct. 2 and Mark Nani on Oct. 22. Lots of candles and cake for the happy couple!


Happy 16th birthday to Joe Penny on Oct. 24. Much love from Grandma Penny.

Happy October anniversary #53 to Judy and Mike Rauh. Their brother and sister, John and Linda Wright, are celebrating their 60th on Halloween!


Happy Horton Street birthdays to Lorena Nogueira Nani on October 2 and Mark Nani on October 22. Lots of candles and cake for the happy couple!

Belated wedding congratulations to two clam diggers, Alexandra and Paul Muller, who both tied the knot in 2024. In April Alexandra married Michael Beckman in

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Clam digger siblings Alexandra (at left) and Paul Muller (at right) were both married this year.

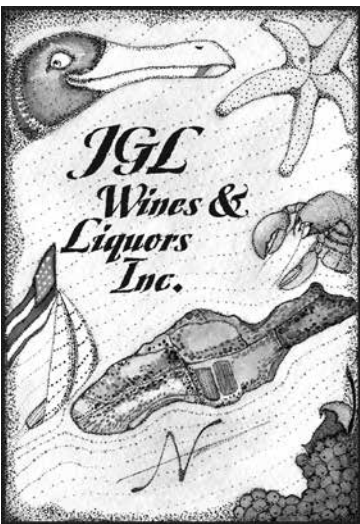
Portugal, and on Labor Day Sunday, Paul married Veronica Jove. Proud mom is Islander Deirdre Batson.

Happy Halloween to all the trick-or-



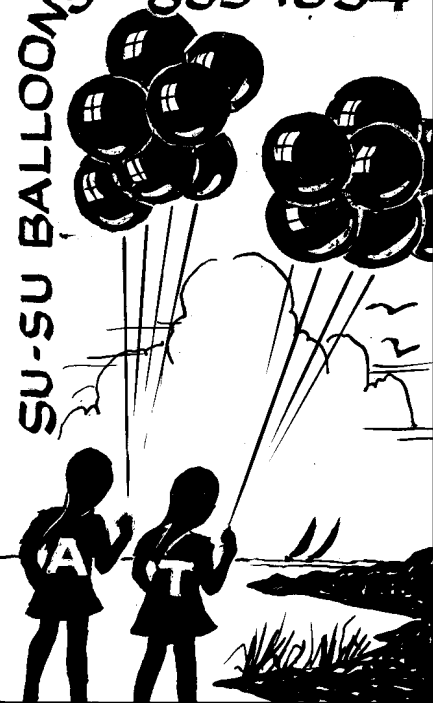
treaters who are young and young at heart! Hope to see you at the parade!

Maria Swieciki



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