

The Island Current

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One Dollar

CURIOUS CON ED INSTALLATIONS ON CI

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by PAUL NANI and MATT PANZA

Although work on the City Island Bridge is finished, Con Edison has been busy installing a number of projects near the bridge and at 220 City Island Avenue, where a battery storage system suddenly appeared (photo right). The tall figures (photo left) that abruptly appeared north of the bridge and near the Legion triangle are vents for an emergency gas pipe under the bridge that could be brought into service in an emergency.

A number of Con Edison projects have resulted in unusual structures on City Island that have raised eyebrows and questions from Island residents. Several months ago, for example, a large white block was being constructed in the lot behind the fence at 220 City Island Avenue. After determining from signs on the fence that this box was in fact a battery storage unit installed by Con Edison, the City Island Civic Association asked representatives of Con Ed to address the membership at the January 29 meeting this year.

Eric Soto, Con Ed's director of Bronx Regional and Community Affairs, explained that the energy storage is intended to help the company maintain reliable electrical service on City Island, as our electricity comes from miles away on the mainland. He reported that New York State is planning to convert as much as possible to sources of clean energy, and this is part of that plan.

Many questions were asked at the Civic meeting about the risk that the battery might pose for the community, since it is so close to the school and playground, and the reasons why the community had not been informed in advance. Mr. Soto reassured the Civic that the Fire Department of New York had conducted a detail review of the project for safety before approving it. He added that it would in the long run prove to be very beneficial to City Island.

According to Greentech Media, which reports on technology developments, especially those that offer alternatives to oil and coal, the installation is part of a Con Edison demonstration project that aims to explore the benefit of batteries placed on properties leased from customers. The project will also place batteries at two sites on Staten Island and one in Queens under the demonstration project, which is called "Beyond Behind the Meter." The storage unit, Greentech reports, will be operational before summer this year. Installed by GI

Energy (whose representative presented at the Civic meeting), the size of the unit is "1-megawatt/1-megawatt-hour." That means it can supply a megawatt of power, which is 1 million watts, for an hour. If it proves successful, Con Ed would consider additional sites in New York City.

The cost of construction (and rental payments to the owner of the property) are provided by Con Edison funds associated with New York's Reforming the Energy Vision grid overhaul. As Greentech puts it, "If the model proves beneficial for the customer, developer and utility, it could help New York spark the first major commercial storage boom outside of California."

Con Ed is at work on other projects here on City Island, including the recent installation of new remote operating valves on the park side and another at the entrance to the Island near the Legion triangle. According to Mr. Soto, it was necessary to install these valves in advance of the installation of a new sewer main that will cross the channel and come up on land near the entrance to the Island. Representatives of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will explain the water-main project at the May meeting of the Civic Association.

Another Con Ed project that will affect City Island in the future is the replacement of the gas main that exits Pelham Bay Park, crosses the water channel and enters the Island onto land north of the bridge. The new main will ensure continued reliable service for the entire Island, Mr. Soto reports. "We are currently conducting a detailed study that will help identify an exact route for the main. Like the existing main, it is expected to exit the water on vacant city-owned property on the north side of the bridge. This is considered to be the most optimal path for the pipe and takes advantage of the clear crossing from the park across the water to the Island." The project has to go through a lengthy design

and approval process and is likely to be two to three years away.

In the meantime, a new gas pipe has been installed under the bridge, but it is not in use, as it is intended to serve only as a backup in case of emergency. The curious tall figures (see photo) that suddenly appeared north of the bridge and near the Legion triangle are actually vents similar to those being installed throughout the city.

They serve as safety mechanisms to allow for the escape of gas that can build up in enclosed spaces and will not be activated unless the emergency gas main is ever in use.

Mr. Soto told *The Current* that Con Ed's goal is to provide a state-of-the-art system for City Island in order that it has the best service possible.

CILL: YES THEY CAN!

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

The 2019 City Island Little League season got off to a special start on April 13 with the announcement of a grant from the YES Network for repairs and new equipment. League president, Dom Esposito (shown top photo, back row, second from right), announced the grant and introduced all the teams and their coaches. There are senior, major, minor and t-ball teams competing once again thanks to the support of many Island businesses and organizations. Play ball!

The City Island Little League 2019 season began on April 13 with special cheers from the YES Network and Island sponsors.

The YES Network is the official cable TV station of the New York Yankees baseball and Brooklyn Nets basketball teams. CILL president, Dom Esposito, announced that the network had provided a generous grant to City Island to repair the league clubhouse located on Ambrosini Field, provide maintenance supplies, and purchase new equipment for the players.

"I am humbled by their patience and generosity," Mr. Esposito told the players and fans assembled for the opening ceremony. "YES gave CILL a big grant and the money will be used to waterproof and paint the outside of the building, purchase drying agent, new tarps and clay for the field, and buy all new gear, including a pitching machine, batting helmets, bats, balls and t-shirts for the boys and girls."

Mr. Esposito and the CILL board thanked YES management for their support, and gave them the honor of officially starting the new season. The first two

itches were thrown out by Eric Handler, Vice President of Communications, and Ashley Fugazy, Talent Production Supervisor. The network's graphic design department created a new CILL logo and donated the t-shirts worn by the players and coaches on opening day.

As is tradition, CILL opening ceremony began with the American Legion color guard presenting the colors for the national anthem. That was followed by a moment of silence for Edward "Mr. Espo" Esposito (no relation to the league president), who volunteered tirelessly for Island youth and passed away in 2018.

New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj spoke and showed his support for the league. "My two sons played in CILL and it taught them competition, team work and getting off the sofa to do something positive," he told the crowd. He was followed by Christian Amato who also showed his support on behalf of New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi.

Mr. Esposito then thanked the all-important local sponsors starting with the

Continued on page 7

BRIEFLY...

FUNDRAISING GALA at the Manor Club will be held on Saturday, May 18, at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham. The event will feature vocalists Jackie Di Maggio and Christopher Macchio. Tickets are \$100 with pre-show cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception at 6 p.m. or \$75 for the show and dessert only at 8 p.m. Come for an exciting evening of musical entertainment, silent auctions, raffles and more! Call the Manor Club at 914-738-1528 to make reservations.

MEMORIAL DAY 5K RUN to honor the American Legion will take place on Saturday, May 25, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Clipper Coffee shop, 274 City Island Avenue.

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE will take place on Tuesday, May 14, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Please come and give the gift of life.

PASTA NIGHT: Come out on June 1 to enjoy pasta with family and friends to support Brandon McGaughan by raising funds for his Eagle Scout project. Trinity Methodist Church Friendship Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m.; pasta served at 6:30. Cost per person is \$10.

"AUNTIE MAME," a play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, based on the novel by Patrick Dennis, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets please e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting our website, www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 3 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A VEHICLE
- 4 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – DISORDERLY CONDUCT
- 1 – RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from March 20 to April 23, 2019.

3/22 – An Island male reported an incident of harassment at 4 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The complainant told police from the 45th Precinct that an unknown female slapped him in the face during a verbal dispute over garbage in the street.

3/24 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 31, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle at 2:54 p.m. on City Island Road and Shore Road. The defendant was speeding off City Island and was pulled over by police. They ran his license and found it had been suspended.

3/28 – At the City Island Circle and Park Drive, police arrested an off-Island male, 63, and charged him with DWI at 2:58 p.m.

3/28 – At 2:58 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an unknown vehicle struck a parked car causing damage to the bumper. The unknown driver fled the scene of the accident.

3/30 – An off-Island male, 37, was observed driving 85 mph in a 15 mph zone on City Island Circle and City Island Road at 1:29 a.m. The driver was arrested and charged with DWI after he was stopped and police observed the odor of alcohol on his

breath.

3/31 – A police vehicle was sideswiped on Shore Road and City Island Road at 12:48 a.m. Police arrested an off-Island male, 66, and charged him with DWI.

4/5 – On Winters Street and City Island Avenue at 1:55 p.m., an off-Islander told police that an unknown person had removed the license plates from his vehicle in an act of petit larceny.

4/8 – A female, off-Islander was involved in a car accident on City Island Avenue at 2:50 p.m. The other driver fled the scene of the accident without exchanging license and registration information.

4/12 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 21, and charged him with disorderly conduct. The driver was observed operating a vehicle with tinted windows and no seatbelt, and disobeying pavement markers. When stopped, the defendant struck the police officer's arm with the door of his vehicle.

4/17 – A multi-vehicle accident on City Island Road and the bridge resulted in the arrest of an Island male, 23, at 9:09 p.m. He was charged with reckless endangerment and aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle. The defendant was driving in the fire lane at a high speed when he rear ended a police car and struck another vehicle, causing it to flip over. The police officers and the two drivers were all taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries.

4/19 – On City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an incident of criminal mischief at 6:45 p.m. She told police that a motorcyclist was driving aggressively near her vehicle. When she stopped, he punched the driver side of her car, shattering the side view mirror.

4/21 – An Island male, 50, was arrested on Shore Road and City Island Road and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle. The defendant was stopped at 2:07 p.m. for a registration check, and police discovered that his NYS license had been suspended.

4/23 – Police are investigating an assault on City Island Avenue at 9:35 p.m. An off-Island male was slashed in the face by an unknown person following a verbal dispute at a commercial establishment.

THE ISLAND CURRENT
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City Island Yacht Club

Mother's Day Brunch

Waterfront Dining with a Skyline View!

We look forward to celebrating Mother's Day with the City Island community! We will be hosting two seatings, 10am-12pm and 12:00-2:30 pm. A farm-to-table brunch buffet will be served with bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys!

The Skysail

X HAND CRAFTED

Buffet Menu

Assorted Breakfast Pastries: <i>Danishes, Muffins, Scones</i>	Harvest Roasted Chicken <i>Herbs in Natural Au Jus</i>
Assortment Of Seasonal Fruits	Penne a la Vodka <i>Tomatoes with Parmesan cream sauce</i>
Pancakes w/Cinnamon maple	Rolled Fennel and Garlic "Porchetta" <i>"porchetta" Pork tenderloin, stuffed with garlic, fresh herbs, toasted fennel</i>
Bacon with cracked black pepper	Grilled Seasonal Vegetables <i>Zucchini, Summer Squash, Eggplant, Peppers</i>
Crispy Potatoes W/ Rosemary	Desserts
Egg Scramble	Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks Included and Assortment of Cookies
Kale Caesar <i>Kale, Classic Caesar Dressing & Garlic Croutons</i>	
Farmer's Market Salad <i>Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Shaved Carrots, Peppers, Mixed Baby Greens, House Dressing</i>	
Gravlax Salmon <i>Roasted with Dill + Lemon Zest</i>	

Adults \$39.95/ Kids \$19.95
(Not inclusive Taxes & Gratuity)

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For City Island Yacht Club membership and events, visit:
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SPRING INTO EASTER!



Photos by RICK DeWITT, KAREN NANI and MATT PANZA

Palm Sunday and Easter arrived later in 2019 on April 14 and 21, so spring had a chance to start blooming. (The latest date Easter can occur is April 25, because it happens on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox). The blessing of the palms at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (top photo) and the presentation of the Passion of Christ at Grace Church by members and leaders of the Sunday School (second photo) highlighted Palm Sunday. It was a little cloudy for the Trinity Methodist Easter sunrise service at Pelham Cemetery (third photo), but the Easter spirit filled worshippers all over the Island as the day went on.

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Destination Rat Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Architect Pablo Jendretski's design for an eco-friendly "camp of 10 solar-powered individual cabins" on Rat Island may be a something of a fantasy, since the island is less than half an acre at high tide, but the proposal recently received a good deal of media attention.

City Islanders were amused, and puzzled, by the appearance of a story in the real estate section of the New York Post on April 3 with the headline "Bronx man envisions hotel on city's barren Rat Island." Accompanied by an image showing 10 small cabins on a pile of rocks, the story reported that "plans are afoot to build a yoga, canoeing or fishing retreat . . . on a 2 1/2 acre slab of rock between City Island and Hart Island."

The Post story quickly went viral, and the owner of the island, Alex Schibli, who purchased it at auction in 2011 for \$160,000, was highly amused at the publicity. Although he has had no plans to build anything on the island more substantial than the statue of William Tell he erected in 2016 on Swiss National Day, Mr. Schibli was intrigued by the ideas proposed by an architect named Pablo Jendretski, who expressed interest in designing a resort on Rat Island.

Mr. Jendretski, who has designed a number of upscale residential, retail, commercial, and hospitality projects in New York City, Philadelphia, Miami, Southampton, NY, and Geneva, Switzerland, quickly came up with some handsome renderings showing the cabins (see photo), which rest on the rocks that make up the island. Mr. Schibli was intrigued by the design, especially as a "hospitality" project, since he himself has rented cottages on his property on Cross Street.

Most City Islanders recognize, of course that this project is unlikely to become a reality, since the renderings show a version of Rat Island that exists only at very low tide. Mr. Schibli acknowledged to *The Island Current* that Rat Island might possibly be 2 1/2 acres at a full moon dead low tide, but that at high tide the island shows no more than half an acre of rock above water. Although the Post calls it a "barren land," Rat Island is actually not land at all but Manhattan schist, a type of shale that supports much of New York City, having been deposited here over 450 million years ago. Mr. Schibli acknowledges that there is a sort of beach on the east side of the island, but he recognizes that it is not sand but crushed shells, mostly from mussels.

Although Rat Island is nowadays pretty small at high tide, it was not always so. Once a "Pell island," like City Island, it was purchased from the native Lenape in 1654 by the English physician Thomas Pell, and it remained part of the town of Pelham until the 1890s. At some point during the middle of the 19th century, a Long Island Sound ship's pilot named Gilbert Horton built a cabin on Rat Island, where he enjoyed spending leisure time fishing when he was not guiding ships up and down the Sound. The story goes that after he retired, he converted the cabin into a year-round home for himself and lived there full time until his death in 1893.

Legend has it that the city of New York



Photo courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There have been dwellings on Rat Island in the past, the first of which was built by a Long Island Sound pilot named Gilbert Horton during the 19th century. After he retired from piloting in 1883, he lived there year-round until he died in 1893, when the building was demolished.

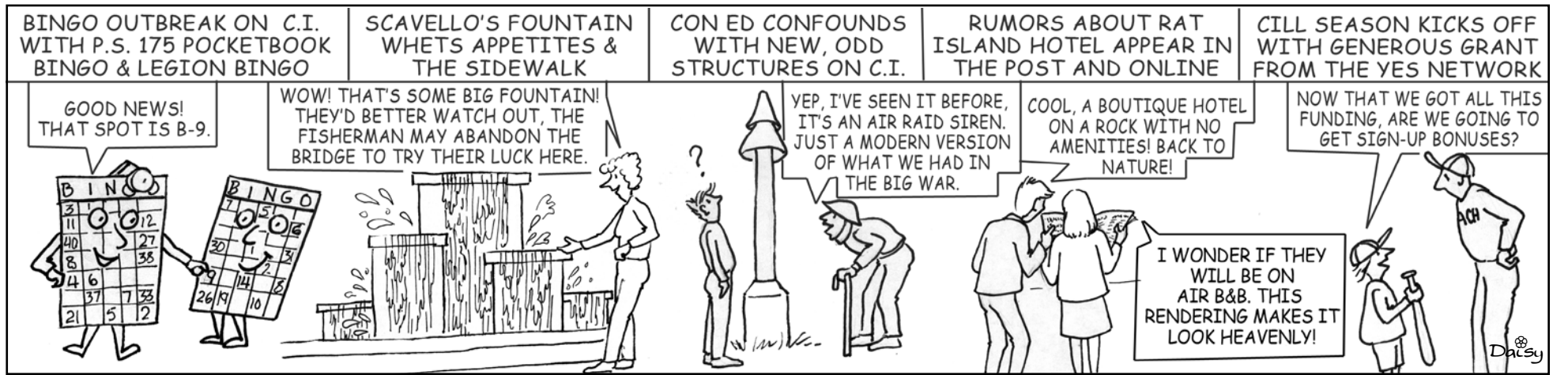
planned to use Rat Island as a hospital for contagious diseases, which so appalled the town of Pelham that the Horton house was demolished in order to prevent the pest-house. But this story is unlikely to have much truth in it, because New York City didn't own Rat Island at the time and had already built a hospital on nearby Hart Island, which it purchased in 1868.

When Rat Island did become part of New York City in 1898, it was noted that taxes had not been paid on it since Gilbert Horton's death, so the city sold it to Dr. H. A. Parmentier, a dentist, who leased it to an actor named Chester Beecroft in 1910. According to Beecroft's family, he lived on Rat Island in a cottage where he is said to have entertained many local theater and film notables. The Beecroft family records indicate that the cottage burned down in 1931, but Blake Bell, the Pelham historian, suggests that Dr. Parmentier was a member of the Mount Vernon Club and leased the island to the club, which rented out summer home sites to artists and writers.

According to Brooklyn Daily Eagle, two boaters were marooned on Rat Island in November 1929 and took refuge in an old abandoned hut on the island, which was said to have been originally built by a motion picture company when a film was being made on the island. However, this report may have confused Rat Island with High Island, where Island resident Harry Carey is known to have made films before moving to California in 1913.

In any case, resident Barbara Hoffman, who grew up on the east side of City Island, remembers seeing a tiny white run-down cottage at the south end of Rat Island when she was a child in the 1940s. She recalls having heard that it had been part of an artist's colony, so perhaps it was a remnant of the Mount Vernon Club summer homes.

Given the rising tides and the frequency of severe northeast storms and hurricanes, the idea of constructing new dwellings on Rat Island seems impractical at best, if not downright impossible. Any buildings there would have to be solar-powered and toilets and showers would have to be supplied by rain water. But given the architect's enthusiasm and the owner's interest in sharing his enjoyment of the island, it makes for an entertaining story for those who dream of living on an island where there is no risk of heavy traffic on weekends.



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

Thanks for Running

To the Editor:

On Saturday, March 9, it was wonderful to see the City Island community come together for a great cause! The City Island Theater Group expresses our sincere thanks to three amazing women: Rose Rodstrom, Jackie Ciarletta and Lauren Nye, who organized City Island's First Annual St. Paddy's Day 5K. With the goal of keeping people healthy and bringing attention to City Island's not-for-profit organizations, these women are leaders in the community, bringing positive changes.

Their enthusiastic efforts raised \$1,547 for the City Island Theater Group, and we could not be more grateful!

The event was sponsored by Clipper Coffee and the Snug, where runners and walkers were treated to a free cup of coffee at the start and a refreshing beer at the finish. A great time was had by all.

Thanks again to these great women and all who participated.

**The Board of Directors
City Island Theater Group**

Grateful Thanks

To the Editor:

We wish to thank the City Island community for the outpouring of love for Ann Sullivan, who passed away in March 2019. We always knew what a wonderful person she was, and it was so nice to know that other people felt the same way.

She had great love for her faith, country, family and friends. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a caring nature. Ann will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

The Sullivan Family

CI Civic Association

To the City Island Community:

It has become clear during the past few months that many residents of City Island are unaware of the role that the City Island Civic Association plays in this community. Founded in 1951 as a not-for-profit organization, the Civic has been run by volunteers for nearly 70 years and accomplished a great deal in that time. Each of the Civic officers and executive committee members have dedicated many years in volunteer service to our community. Many have devoted several decades.

More importantly, the Civic itself has worked closely with city and state agencies, political leaders and volunteers from other organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion and the Garden Club, to name only a few.

The Civic's accomplishments over the years are many, from the introduction of City Island Special District Zoning in the 1970s to the constant fight against the ongoing use of illegal drugs. The Civic has worked with the NYPD every year

since it was founded in order to handle the traffic jams that have made life difficult here for decades.

In the last 20 years alone, the Civic has, among many other things,

- fought several times the threatened removal of the ladder company at our fire house
- appealed to NYC to baffle the noise at Rodman's Neck
- worked to prevent the construction of an inappropriate replacement bridge
- petitioned to improve bus service
- constantly monitored zoning issues on the Island
- successfully defeated inappropriate development on City Island Avenue

Projects on the front burner for the Civic now include:

- the installation of an NYPD Argus surveillance camera at the bridge
- continued communication with the 45th precinct commanding officer and traffic officials to help ease access to the Island on weekends
- coordination with the Department of Transportation to repair potholes and broken lights
- minimization of bullying caused by 311 calls and online harassment
- offering elected officials, representatives of Con Edison, developers and other organizations an opportunity to listen to the concerns of Island residents.

Our meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) in the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Membership in the Civic is \$20 per family. Island residents interested in learning more about specific projects or who wish to express concerns or ask for help are welcome to call on the Civic by sending e-mails to city.island.civic@gmail.com.

**The Officers and Executive Committee
of the City Island Civic Association**

Pelham Cemetery

To the Editor:

The beautiful Pelham Cemetery is private property. The gates are open for those who wish to visit with departed neighbors and loved ones, as well as to those who wish to respectfully walk between the graves and enjoy the view. Under no circumstance should dogs be off leash. Under no circumstance should the cemetery be used as a "dog run" or defecation station.

We are entrusted with the sacred and fiduciary duty to protect the cemetery, and we do not wish to limit general access because of issues with dog feces.

**Board of Trustees of the
Pelham Cemetery Association**

Where Do the Currents Go?

To: *Megan J. Brennan*
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Ms. Brennan:

The Island Current is a monthly community newspaper published by a volunteer group in a small community that is part of the Bronx in New York City. Each month we are required to deliver to the Bronx Post Office the copies addressed to our subscribers in bags sorted by zip code. Most of the copies are addressed to residents of City Island, but the local Post Office is not allowed to accept the copies directly. All of the papers are sent by the Bronx P.O. to another facility, in Manhattan, where they

are re-sorted and eventually delivered.

On Feb. 27, 2019, the *Current* volunteers delivered to the Bronx office that handles bulk mailings 600 copies of the paper, 300 of them addressed to the 10464 zip code to the Bronx P.O., but it was not until March 9 that a handful of papers arrived at the City Island Post Office. Calls were placed to postal employees at various locations, but no one was able to answer our questions about this failure. This is not the first time papers have not been delivered in a timely fashion; in fact, it has occurred more than half a dozen times during the past 15 years, when our volunteers have been obliged to deliver copies of the paper by hand.

The process for tagging, sorting and delivering the papers to the Post Office is cumbersome and time-consuming for us, but we have always cooperated with the ever-changing P.O. rules. Yet these mysterious disappearances continue. The very idea that 300 newspapers addressed to a single zip code cannot be delivered by the local post office but must be put through a complicated sorting process at three different facilities seems ridiculous and costly.

Please look into this situation and advise us on how to proceed in the future.

Karen Nani, Editor

A Son's Tribute

To the Editor:

A few weeks before Alice Stuttig left her home of over 64 years on City Island for Florida, I had a cup of coffee with my mother, and she suddenly said to me: "I fear I didn't do enough with my life." Her words took me by surprise, and I didn't know what to say so I said: "You raised three good people, and that's the most important job of them all." But afterwards I thought how could she have said that?

Despite how busy her life was, she and my father still played a very active role in helping my two sisters raise their children. The great success of her five grandchildren (and the addition of four great-grandchildren) is a testament to the wonderful contributions and love my parents brought to their lives.

When I married my beautiful wife, Chris, in 1994, my parents were a great help and support to us when we moved into our own home just a block away from them. ("Dad, I can't fix this. Please come over!") Sunday dinners at Mom's were always a must and always delicious. Even our dog,

Jeter, would leap with great excitement when he knew it was time for Sunday dinner with his Nana and Grandpa. My parents made sure he would always get his share. I will cherish those memories forever.

When my father's health began to fail during the late '90s, she was always there for him, and we were too. In her later years, my mother's bad knees severely hindered her mobility and her ability to remain involved in the community, but she never stopped caring. I would visit with her every morning for coffee before I went to work, and we would watch the morning news together. She would always say "Before I go, I'm going to straighten out this world." Well, as we all know, she didn't quite accomplish that, but she did her part to make it much better.

Yes, Mom, you did have a great life, and I'm sorry I didn't say that when I had my chance. But I don't think it matters, because God is surely telling you that right now.

Bill Stuttig

Thank You to All Who Helped

To the Editor:

It has been my honor to be Pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church here on City Island for the past two years, and I hope for many more. Last Friday evening was one of the times that reminds me how extraordinary and special the people of City Island are. Boy Scout Troop 211 and Cub Scout Pack 211 combined with Trinity to hold an amazing fundraising event for our church. The event was extremely well supported by Island residents and others from nearby communities as well as members of the troop, pack and church.

The following individuals spent some or all of the past three months planning and implementing all that was needed. We at Trinity want to thank each of them: Dan Hickey, Pete Chadwick, Kim McGaughan, Margaret Lenz, Brian Kenny, Michelle Kenny, Greg Clancy, James Goonan, Angelo Bellocchio, Dennis Owens, Jim McGaughan, Susan Goonan and Cindy Lomonoco.

We thank all of the people who attended and gave gifts, and all the businesses that offered items for the auction or other forms of donations. Trinity will continue our tradition of being a church that helps, and clearly so many people found a way last Friday to also give. Thank you to you all!

**Pastor Dave Jolly and the members of
Trinity United Methodist Church**

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Join Viacommunity Day, Round 2

By MARIA CARUSO

On Friday, May 10, City Island will once again get a nautical facelift at the second annual Viacommunity Day. Last year, volunteers from the media corporation Viacom made a pilgrimage from their Times Square office to our unique slice of heaven to help refresh and refurbish our nautical history. At that time, the only Viacom employees who knew about City Island were mussel sucker Laurie Vega and clam digger Nicolette Lotrionte. The Viacom volunteers were blown away when they set foot on our precious island, and they worked side by side with local volunteers to transform dreary storefronts and gardens along City Island Avenue into show pieces.

Needless to say, the Viacom volunteers fell in love with City Island and City Islanders, and they are eager to come back this year for Round 2. If you were a community volunteer last year, why not volunteer again—and if you did not volunteer last year, why not? Viacommunity Day offers a great opportunity for us all to get involved in a positive community-building event, which is sponsored by the new organization called City Island Drift (named for City Island's first newspaper, which was published during the 1890s).

The four projects in which the volunteers will get involved include an art installation, painting, gardening and oyster-shell collecting.

Starting in 1860s, City Island was a major yacht-building and sail-making center. In addition to many private yachts, including sailboats and motor yachts, Island boat builders produced the five 12-meter sloops that successfully defended the America's Cup seven times. During World Wars I and II and the Korean War, the same yacht yards produced many military vessels, including minesweepers, submarine chasers and more. Learn more about this nautical history as you help install beautiful large images of these boats, created by Islander Nick Ruscigno and his company Creative Eye Graphics, on the gates along City Island Avenue.

If painting is your passion, help continue the beautification of an area near the entrance of City Island, called the Gateway. By giving the structure a pretty coat of paint, you will continue the transformation of this decrepit,

unsightly space into a future asset for community use.

If you have a green thumb, help refurbish the Carroll Street Garden that was created during last year's Viacommunity Day. New plantings and the installation of a small fence will enhance the garden's beauty. Or you can help plant groundcovers in the tree beds located in front of the storefronts along City Island Avenue. Viacom has purchased all the plants and flowers from our own local garden shop, Commins & French, at 152 City Island Avenue.

Back in 19th century, oyster harvesting was the major business on City Island. When Orin Fordham moved to City Island in the 1830s, he introduced a method of planting oysters on artificial beds to increase growth in waters around City Island. Over the years, however, the oyster population and other sea life declined because of overharvesting and pollution. On Viacommunity Day, the City Island Oyster Project (CIOP) will be launched with the help of Drift members, a local ecologist, Paul Mankiewicz, and Mike Carew, owner of Captain Mike's Diving Service at 530 City Island Avenue. The goal is to repopulate Eastchester Bay with oysters, not for consumption but to clean the water around City Island, attract local marine life and help minimize future storm surges.

On Viacommunity Day, volunteers will pick up empty shells from participating local restaurants, including the Lobster House, Tony's Pier, Johnny's Reef, Seafood City, Sea Shore and Sammy's, and deposit them on land to "cure" for a year. Many other City Island restaurants and yacht clubs will be donating their oyster and hard clam shells as this project moves forward. The "curing" locations are at P. S. 175, Consolidated Boatyard and the Gateway. After a year, the shells will be placed along the shore to create an underwater "yellow brick road" or oyster-shell path to help restore the rich underwater ecology of the western part of Long Island Sound.

Those who want to help make this year's Viacommunity Day on City Island another big success, are encouraged to sign up right away by e-mailing cityislanddrift@gmail.com or calling me, Maria Caruso, at 917-797-4524.

SUPER SCOUTS!



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MATT PANZA

City Island's scout troops have been very busy so far in 2019. Girl Scout Troop 1115 held a Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast at Applebee's on March 30, organized by Islander Cheryl Riordan (top photo). Meanwhile, Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troop 211 found out that Trinity Methodist Church was in need of funds for roof repairs and a new boiler. Since they meet every Friday in Fellowship Hall at Trinity, the scouts decided to hold a fundraiser for the church on April 12 at the Morris Yacht Club. They sent out invitations and set a goal to raise \$15,000. More than 175 guests showed up and took raffles, participated in a silent auction, and danced to music by the Blue Collar Band. When it was all over, they had raised \$25,000 and Pastor David Jolly was in awe of the effort (see Letters to the Editor). Shown above are the organizers and scouts at the event (middle photo, l. to r.): Greg Clancy, Angelo Bellocchio, Kim McGaughan, Pastor Dave, Dominic Esposito, Marc Gjonaj, James Goonan, and scouts Joseph Penny and Matthew Schaller.



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group's production of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's "Auntie Mame" is the second show of the 20th-anniversary celebration featuring a large and talented cast (front, center, l. to r.): Phyllis Lindy and Kaitlyn Stoltze; (first row): Jack McGuirk, Tom Weppler, Thomas Losito, Bob Livingston, Eileen Sugameli, Michael Sorge, Jean Eifert, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Jack Salcito, James Staal, Danny Conover and Connieann DelVecchio; (second row): Gary Krigsman, Karen Andronico, Chris Manetakis, Greg Weiss and Kenneth Murphy.

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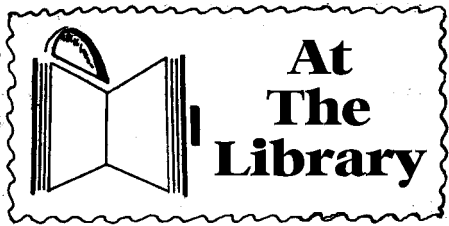
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MAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, May 10, at 11:30 a.m.

MAY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for a chance to get a head start on your homework before unwinding online! Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays, at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the

weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! May 3: Wii and Board Games; May 10: Mother's Day Cards; May 17: Wii and Board Games; May 24: Makey Makey Extravaganza; May 31: Wii and Board Games.

MAY ADULT PROGRAMS

Burck Dollhouse Showcase: Come join us as we unveil the beautiful Burck Dollhouse, made by the late Mrs. Frances Henning Burck. She spent countless hours and years dedicating time to her passion. Now her family and friends want to share her life's work with the community she loved. Light refreshments will be served. Saturday, May 18, from 11 to 12 p.m.

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills, and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, May 2, 16 and 30 at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, May 6 and 20, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resume Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

City Island Calligraphy: Calligraphy is an ancient form of communication and

artistic expression that has since taken on a wide variety of styles and functions. Here at the City Island Library, patron and volunteer Regina Sanglier will teach you the basics, and hopefully get you creating your very own works of art. Limit: 10 participants. Saturday, May 11 and 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m.: May 4: "Crazy Rich Asians"; May 11: "The Children Act"; May 18: "The 15:17 to Paris."

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!

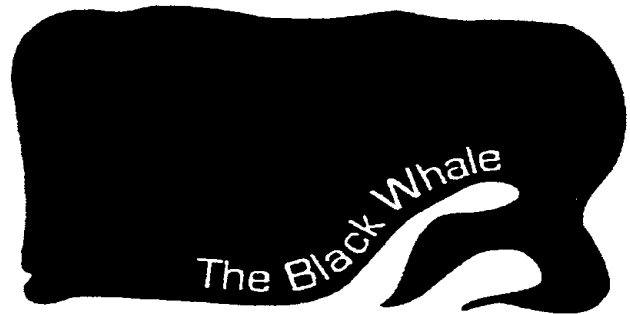


Clam Diggers is now introducing senior days for those 60 and older. Every Tuesday and Thursday they will pick up and drop off your laundry the same day and

offer a 15 percent discount. Give Helen and Tricia a call at 347-449-7400 to schedule your pick-ups. There's nothing better than door-to-door service with a smile!

An exhibition of paintings and collages by Island artist Laury Hopkins will be on view at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, from May 3 to June 1. The opening reception will be held on Friday, May 3, from 7 to 10 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Hudson Valley Sally will perform at **The Artist** (formerly Starving Artist Café), 249 City Island Avenue. Admission is \$10 per person, and additional contributions for performers will be gratefully accepted. Light fare and refreshments available for separate purchase, including Jenny's Sweets; no minimum purchase required. "After hearing Hudson Valley Sally do a set, I thought right now the Weavers are looking down and smiling and saying 'yeah, that's how it's done!' These guys are carrying on that legacy, and beautifully." -Jeff Rantzer, Folk Project musician



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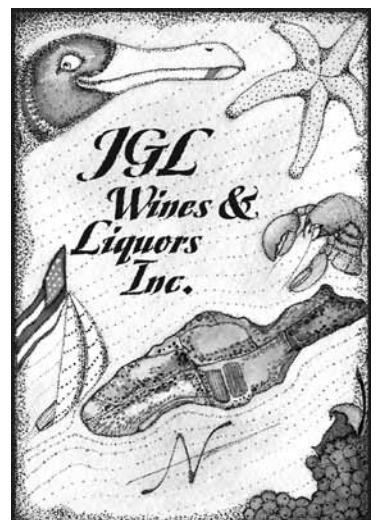
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CITY ISLAND RISING

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

One of the environmental concerns on City Island is that of rising tides caused by climate change, but on Thursday, April 15, a different kind of “rising” was presented to members of the community who had been invited to join “a listening session and discussion about the needs and goals for our neighborhood.” Using the phrase “a rising tide lifts all boats,” John Doyle, with the assistance of Dan Treiber, Steve Swieciki, David Diaz and John Schwam, asked the group that attended to propose ideas for City Island that would improve life here and benefit all residents and businesses.

John first called for those in attendance to list positive aspects or strengths of City Island, which included everything from restaurants to the fire department. This was followed by a call for the various challenges that face the Island, such as traffic, inadequate bus service, Rodman’s Neck noise, vacant storefronts, attacks on social media, dog poop and litter and the lack of activities for teens.

The group, which filled the Clipper Coffee shop, then composed a list of what they

believe City Islanders need or want, as well as ideas to help achieve these goals, such as ferry service, shoreline habitat restoration, municipal parking lots, public access to the water, shopping local, street cleaning, underground electrical wires, an indoor gym and pool for the community, and a better way for Islanders to communicate with each other, such as a community bulletin board.

It was acknowledged that many of these goals were beyond the control of the community, such as underground wires, and that several issues were already being addressed. But a number of goals, such as the community garden, street cleaning, a welcome wagon and more, might be achievable with enough enthusiastic volunteers.

John Doyle told the group that he and his colleagues would coordinate these proposals and develop committees to work on them. They will call for another meeting in a month’s time to continue the discussion and to persuade members of the community to volunteer their time and ideas to specific, achievable projects.



New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj joined the American Legion color guard (top photo) for the singing of the national anthem. The City Island Girl Scouts sold cookies (middle photo), and hot dogs were available at the concession stand to make opening day an extra tasty treat.



Bartow-Pell Events

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions, and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present, and cultivate appreciation for the area’s historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or reservations, call 718-885-1461.

First Friday! Friday, May 3, 6 to 8 p.m. The Kenn Morr Band is back! Enjoy the music, explore the museum, and stroll the garden; light refreshments are available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to Bartow-Pell to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: Heritage Members and above: Free; Friend Members: \$5; Not-Yet Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

Kentucky Derby Party, Saturday, May 4, 5 to 10 p.m. Join us to watch the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby and support the museum in style! Raffle and live auction, a pop-up exhibit and prizes for the most elegant and original hats add to the excitement. Come for the race and cocktails, stay for dinner and dancing. Reservations requested. Cost: Cocktails: Advance Tickets \$80; At the Door \$100; Cocktails and Dinner: Advance Tickets \$145, At the Door \$160.

Bartow’s Literary Elevenses, Saturday, May 11 and June 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Museum Educator Karen Lambdin as she leads an historical-fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Visit our website for the current book being explored. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration required. Cost: Free.

“A Feast for the Eyes,” Opening Reception, Saturday, May 11, 2 to 4 p.m. Please join us for the opening reception of a group exhibition featuring contemporary art works with a thematic focus on food and drink. The show runs through Sunday, May 26. Light refreshments will be served. Cost: Free with museum admission.

“Bartow Station,” a talk by Pelham historian Blake Bell, Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m. In the last weeks of 1873, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad opened its branch line passenger service from the Harlem River to New Rochelle. The line included a station stop at the newly constructed Bartow Station, which is located along today’s Shore Road between Bartow-Pell Circle and the intersection with City Island Road. Maria Lorillard Bartow, widow of Robert Bartow who built the Bartow-Pell Mansion, developed plans to subdivide portions of the Bartow estate for the construction of a new subdivision named Bartow. She planned to cash in on the rampant land speculation under way at the time. Maria Bartow’s timing was awful. Her plans failed. Cost: Bartow-Pell Members free; Not-Yet Members \$10.

Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Let your garden be inspired by ours! Unusual annuals, perennials, herbs, and roses for sale, plus demonstrations and potting plants. Bring your favorite container and we’ll help you plant it.

Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men, June 1 through June 9, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Join us for a new site-specific, indoor/outdoor Sherlock Holmes mystery. Mr. Hilton Cubitt is baffled when childish drawings of little dancing men mysteriously appear in and around his beautiful country estate, terrifying his young American wife. Are the strange drawings a bizarre prank or a warning of deadly danger? Join us for an original dramatic adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic story as we explore Bartow-Pell and its grounds for clues to unravel one of Holmes’ most thrilling adventures. Adapted by Tal Aviezer from the story by Arthur Conan Doyle and directed by Melinda O’Brien. A co-production of Red Monkey Theater Group and M&M Performing Arts Company. Registration required. Cost: Adults: \$35; Seniors/Students \$30

June Luncheon with Sam Sifton, Thursday, June 6, 12 to 2 p.m. Support the Bartow-Pell Conservancy and join us for an elegant lunch outdoors on the pebble court overlooking the formal garden. Sam Sifton, Food Editor of the New York Times, will be our guest speaker. Visit bpmm.org for details. Reservations required.

First Friday! Friday, June 7, 6 to 8 p.m. Musician Ricardo Gautreau will be performing with his three-piece ensemble during First Friday. Enjoy the music, explore the museum, and stroll the garden; light refreshments are available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to Bartow-Pell to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: Heritage Members and above: Free; Friend Members: \$5; Not-Yet Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

CILL

Continued from page 1

three newest: Pryor Law, who bought all of the player baseball caps, Man Overboard, and Island Pharmacy & Discount, whose owner, Anthony Dangelo, is managing the Junior Minors team.

Special applause was given to returning sponsors Amanda Bear Party Rentals, JP’s Restaurant, Crab Shanty, Seafood City, Local 79 Laborers, Seashore Restaurant, Sammy’s Fish Box, The Gilder Scholarship Fund, City Island Theater Group, and the Leonard Hawkins Post #156 of the American Legion. “We couldn’t do this without

the support of our sponsors, so please patronize these City Island and other Bronx businesses,” Mr. Esposito reminded the crowd.

2019 CILL teams include t-ball, junior, minors, majors and senior teams, and each team’s roster is filled with talented, budding ball players coached by enthusiastic adult volunteers. So, head down to Ambrosini Field by P.S. 175 and root, root, root for the home team from now until the end of June. Don’t forget to grab a hot dog at the concession stand staffed by parent volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, the CILL can always use extra help so contact them at cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com.

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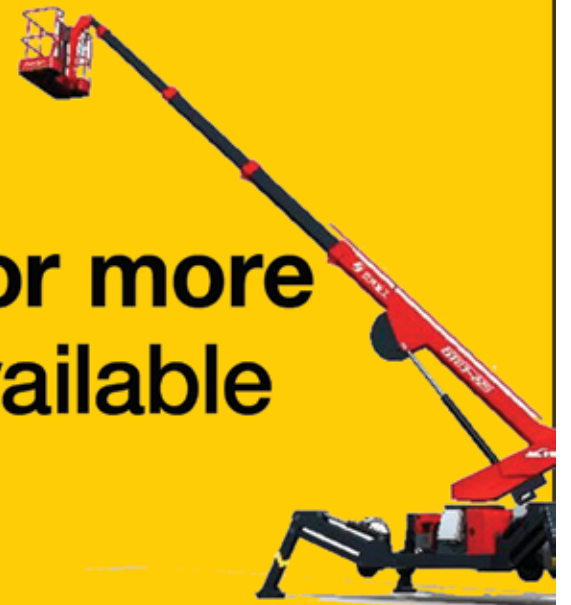
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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Skip and Louise Giacco were honored at the 85th anniversary celebration of Temple Beth-El of City Island on Saturday, April 6, 2019, at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course clubhouse. Paul Klein (left), vice president of the temple, acknowledged the great contribution that the Giaccos have made to the City Island community, and Skip's Lickety Split Band kept the party hopping. Also honored was Arnold Wile, architectural advisor to the temple, and a grand time was had by all.

ON THE WATER WITH CITY ISLAND ROWING

By HANNAH GANNON (age 14)



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND ROWING

Summer always holds the promise of new discoveries and new friends, and in our family it usually includes something educational. Last winter my mother signed me up for the girls' rowing camp on City Island, although she neglected to mention, until about a week before the beginner "Learn to Row" classes began, that they are offered in June, July and August. With middle-school graduation looming, I hadn't really mapped out any summer activities. In truth, my plan was to simply take it easy during the summer before high school.

I was unfamiliar with this sport and, more importantly, I didn't know anyone on the Island who had signed up for rowing. So initially I approached the rowing with some hesitation. Now, in retrospect, I recognize some of the important things I learned about myself from the rowing experience and how lucky we are to have such privileged access to the water. It is something my clam digger friends and I had somehow taken for granted growing up on City Island.

On the first day, I walked to the north end of City Island Avenue, to the boat yard adjacent to Bridge Marine Supply. I had no idea what to expect, and admittedly I had some trepidation about joining an entirely new group and immersing myself in a totally new sport. There waiting for me was a very tall and toned high school senior named Kayla. I later found out that she has placed second in the national championships in her class, and had been recruited to row for Stanford University.

We worked one-on-one since the rest of the girls team had not yet started their summer training. We started with basics of dock paddling and time on the erg (indoor) rowing machine to develop the proper form for movement on the water. The heat was blistering, but on the water a cool breeze rippled the calm mirror-like surface, perfect weather for summer practice. The next day I met Coach Guy and Alexa, who over the next few days patiently guided me in other new skills and introduced me to rowing in a double. By the end of the first week, I had also met the junior team coxswain, Casey (who has the essential role of navigating and steering during races), and many of the other girls returned for summer team training.

City Island Rowing has race camps for girls competing in local and regional races (called regattas), all the way up through national and international competitions, such as the U.S. Rowing Youth and Club Nationals and the Royal Canadian Henley. This

is serious business, and girls from grade 8 through high school come to train with Coach Guy from Westchester, Connecticut, Manhattan, Queens and all over the tristate area. There is a unique solidarity and unspoken code of commitment from every girl that trains here. They are disciplined athletes and passionate about competing, and yet they are also incredibly warm, fun and generous with newcomers, perhaps because one might earn a seat in the next generation of racers. If you research the stats of CI Rowing team races, it is unbelievable how many champions have come out of this organization. There is serious girl empowerment happening in this unique organization on City Island, something that more local girls need to experience for themselves.

Patience and camaraderie defined my summer experience with City Island Rowing, although I must mention that there were also moments of fear and absolute humility. Once in the early weeks, when I was learning on a single scull and practicing drills, I stopped to listen to the coach's instruction. Then as I resumed rowing with full force instead of easing in, I found myself flipped over and submerged. I had to muster all dignity and climb back on to get through the drills, with others watching, as if nothing foolish had just happened. At other times, like my first experience in a quad vessel with really seasoned rowers, I had to suppress my beginner's performance anxiety in order to coordinate my movements in perfect unison with those of the other rowers.

Each challenge was a lesson in self-control and re-establishing my confidence in the face of small failures. As a beginner, rowing with one or more partners was nerve wracking, but it forced me to find a quiet place in my mind, to simply focus on the pace and the precision body movements required to achieve maximum speed and balance. Over time, my experience being on the water transformed from concentrated mental effort into a meditative rhythm, something intuitive. There is something Zenlike about being so close to the water, sun and wind and working side by side other girls with a shared purpose.

Among the many discoveries I made this summer is the fact that I was the first City Islander ever to sign up for rowing. I cannot say why that is, but I am writing this article to tell other girls on City Island that you owe yourself a chance to explore this amazing sport, to develop new skills, test your endurance and challenge yourself in ways that may never have occurred to you. Plus you will find some incredible new friends. I just started high school and commute to lower Manhattan (for nearly two hours each way), so I couldn't continue rowing through the school year, but I really encourage you to consider rowing if you have the time.

So how will you spend your next summer? If you're an athletic and adventurous type, I would encourage any and all teenage girls to try something uniquely empowering and different, right here in your backyard on City Island (www.cityislandrowing.org).

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MAY

Fri., May 10, **Viacommunity Day**, 9 a.m. (see page 5)

Tues., May 14, **Blood Drive**, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Thurs., May 16, **Garden Club Luncheon**, Pelham Split Rock Golf Club, 12 noon.

Sat., May 18, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: ziti or rotini with meatballs/meat sauce.

Mon., May 27, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion. Starts at Pilot Street and City Island Avenue and ends at the Legion Post on Cross Street.

Tues., May 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 1 and 2, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

JULY

Thurs., July 25, **Pelham Cemetery Annual Plot Holders Meeting**, Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

P.S. 175 Parent-Teacher Association

The P.S. 175 PTA was thrilled with the turnout for our spring fundraiser, Pocket-book Bingo and Raffle Extravaganza! We had well over 100 guests in attendance who enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and played 10 spirited rounds of bingo to win luxury purses from Coach and Michael Kors. Dozens of raffles were won as well. A terrific time was had by all, and we raised much-needed money to help defray costs of enrichment activities that make P.S. 175 special. Thank you so much to everyone who donated prizes, purchased event sponsorships and came to play. We are grateful to send our kids to a school in such a generous, supportive community.

Now that we have fulfilled our big fundraising goal, next on our PTAs radar is our own elections. We need parents to step up for executive board roles, including co-presidents (2), corresponding secretary, recording secretary and treasurer. (The new treasurer will benefit from initially working alongside longtime ace treasurer Nina Doyle to learn all the ins and outs of the job.) More detailed information about nominations will be sent home the first week of May. Please consider this leadership opportunity to make a difference at our school.

Our meetings take place once a month in the evening (7 p.m.), and a great deal of other business can be conducted via e-mail or over the phone. In other words, a full-time job outside the home does NOT mean you can't do PTA! Over the years, many (if not most!) of our board members have done both. The two remaining meetings for this school year are May 16 and June 13 at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Jonna Wepler

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please arrive 15

minutes early. Services are followed by an oneg (refreshments). Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you.

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

May 3: Congregation-led
May 10: Spring Shabbaton: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David and the Band

May 24: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi David and the Band

Other activities:

May 7: Rabbi David's first of three classes on "Season of our Joy—Shavuot Prep"; the three-session series is \$36. Register in advance by e-mail (yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

May 11: Spring Shabbaton continued. Shabbat Morning in the Botanical Garden with Rabbi David Markus. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the main entrance (2900 Southern Boulevard) for free admission. Liturgy and prayer while strolling through the Garden. Bring a lunch or join us in the Garden Café, followed by a visit to the Jewish Museum (1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street).

May 19: at 4 p.m. memorial service for Connie Cantor (passed one year ago) hosted by her grandson Josh Diaz, and the launch of a Cantor Family Memorial Fund. Followed by refreshments. Please join us in honoring her memory and all that the Cantor family did to keep our shul alive.

May 21: Rabbi David's second of three classes on "Season of our Joy—Shavuot Prep."

TBE invites the City Island community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes; participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served afterwards. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kyncyc@aol.com.

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

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

Oneg Sponsorships: Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to get more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

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

Paul Klein

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The ALA Veterans Spring Basket Bingo was Friday, April 12. Many thanks to our bingo chair, Regina Warner Murphy, who worked tirelessly to make this year's event a success. Her dedication and expertise are greatly appreciated. Many thanks to her co-chair, Doreen Gallagher Wall, as well as the SAL and Legion men and all ALA members who volunteered, baked, wrapped and worked the event. It was a true team effort. All proceeds will go toward our veterans and military families.

On April 6, our community Girl Scouts and youth created poppy posters for the American Legion National Poppy Contest. Three posters were submitted for selection,



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

The American Legion Auxiliary's Spring Basket Bingo on April 12 was a great success, thanks to the volunteers: Susan Vaughan O'Keefe, the Bronx County President; Joanne Valletta, Secretary; Regina Murphy, Bingo Chair; Laura Booth, Unit President; Doreen Gallagher Wall, Bingo Co-Chair and Viki Trifari, Membership Chair.



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Participants in the National Poppy Poster Contest gathered at the American Legion Auxiliary 156 on Saturday, April 13.

and all participants received a medal of honor. Poppy posters will be displayed in City Island storefronts for Memorial Day. Please be on the lookout for these true works of art.

Please honor our fallen warriors and contribute to the needs of our veterans on National Poppy Day, Friday, May 24. Our ALA Unit 156 will be distributing red poppies in exchange for a donation on and before Memorial Day. Please wear these on Memorial Day weekend to honor and remember our veterans who willingly served our nation and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The Memorial Day parade is scheduled for May 27 at 2 p.m.

We will be honoring John J. Hartigan with a Quilt of Valor on Sunday, May 5, at noon, and everyone is welcome to attend. John is a Korean War USCG veteran. He performed seven assignments of air sea rescue and was stationed in various bases such as Sandy Hook, NY, and Pensacola, FL. He was also in the North Atlantic patrol and involved in patrolling Russian ships and supervising fishing patrols. His years of experience lasted from 1952 to 1956. After the war, John joined the NYC Police Department and served for 38 years, from 1955 to 1993. He retired as Deputy Chief.

Our next Quilts of Valor Sew Day will be Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All members and non-members are welcome to attend.

It is with deep sympathy that we say farewell to our American Legion Auxiliary sister Ann Sullivan. Ann was an exemplary member, mentor and friend. She will be

missed greatly for her easygoing nature, her volunteerism and her kindness.

Joanne Valletta

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Each weekday morning, we open the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time, we pray for the children, the schools, families and individuals, businesses, and those who are grieving, as well as for the health of anyone we have heard may be ill. If you would like to have yourself or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Avenue. Prayer requests can also be sent to david.jolly@nyac-umc.com. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Boy Scout Fundraiser on April 12. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying good food, good company, good music and all for a good cause.

The Budget Shop is open and bursting at the seams! Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time and in the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

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WE ACCEPT





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

The CSA or Community Supported Agriculture program begins weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables the first week of June. Be sure to register now for this excellent program. See details below.

Remember membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors, who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. And we always want to hear your ideas and thoughts about how to serve the community better.

EVENTS

Latin Night: Saturday, June 1, 7 p.m. Eat delicious Spanish foods, dance salsa, tango and meringue and have a fun filled evening with friends and neighbors. To reserve a place or for more information, call Eva at 646-954-7410.

COMING THIS SUMMER

One World Arts: Caribbean Music, Dance and Movement: An intergenerational program with wonderful fun for all ages. Call Yvette Martinez for details at 718-885-2574.

Kids Kitchen Boot Camp: July, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Young people ages 10 through 14 will create and cook beautiful food. For more information, call Kayisha Thompson 347-481-3292.

NEW

Script and Scribble: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. from April 16 through May 7. An after-school class for young people to explore handwriting in a digital world. Introduction to handwriting, card making, journal creating, with materials provided. To register, text Regina at 269-873-2385 or e-mail rsangler10464@gmail.com. Free of charge.

Creative Arts Workshop for Ages 4 through 6: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. through June 4. Children have fun with collage, finger painting, mask making and more. Call 914-837-6830 to register for this free class.

Art Classes for Young People: Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m. May 2 through May 23. Studio art class will introduce students ages 10 through 14 to drawing, sketching and painting and studying the natural environment of City Island. Contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or cesardante@optonline.net.

City Island Knitting Club: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Getting ready for summer yarns and styles. Enjoy knitting with others. Beginners and all levels welcome. For information or to register, contact Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or cdcaton@gmail.com.

Feldenkrais Class: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness, which give your brain and body access to helpful information to improve the way your body feels and func-

tions. For information, please contact Julie Kavee 347-266-6247 or juliekavee@gmail.com.

Meditation Workshop: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13, 14 and 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you've ever considered meditation or practiced in the past join Sherry Steel for this informative 3 day workshop. To register contact Sherry at 718-864-2963 or lifesevolution@yahoo.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: NEW DAY: Friday, 6 p.m. Teens and adults join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For day and time or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Pre-school children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for more information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Thursdays from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Additional class on Mondays beginning in April. Did you know that NYC's Conversational Spanish program for kids offers classes right here on City Island? Children in grades K through 8 of all skill levels are welcome. Visit espanolexperience.com or call 917-889-4938 for information on both classes.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

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

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: Register for late spring 2019 weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetables. To join or for information, contact the new coordinator Jessica Sinclair at 914-625-7440 or jessicasinclair78@gmail.com.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, May 6 and 20, at 7 p.m. The theme for May is picnic foods. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information and meeting dates, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or "Like" City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of the Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions, which leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to CICC. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or to make an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

WW/Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a great new leader, Alex Sokoloff. New members are always

welcome at any time. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. (new time). Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Worship Schedule during the month of May. Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

You are invited to join Father Covington's Bible Reading Group, which meets during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Joshua.

Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation during the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry: The GraceTones are enjoying their fourth year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. In May, they will take their music ministry to the residents of Providence Rest. If you'd like to sing with the GraceTones, 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.

Sandy Dunn

PSS Senior Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

New caterer and menu starting in May! Tasty, fresh food. Stop by and mention you saw this in *The Island Current* to have lunch on us.

New discussion group! "Let's Talk" Wednesday mornings at 9:15. Continental breakfast served.

May 9, Thursday: Westchester Broadway Theater, "Newsies"

May 10, Friday: Mother's Day Celebration; must have ticket.

May 24, Friday: Close at 1 p.m.; lunch served 11:30 to 12:30

May 27, Monday: Closed for Memorial Day

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels
10 a.m. Mixed Media Art
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Swing Dance (tentative)

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints
11 to 12 noon. Blood Pressure Screening, first and third Wednesday of the month
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Calligraphy
1 p.m. Second and fourth Wednesday of the month: Haircuts by Brenda for \$10. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels
10 a.m. Acrylic Painting
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m.: Mixed Media Art

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life: Vigorous cardio and toning
11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch
12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch
1:15 p.m. Singing Group (except for May 10)

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information or for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have men's, women's and kids' shorts and swimwear. Watch for our special sales.

Arlene Byrne

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall. The first meeting of the month, on May 1, will be a regular meeting. At the second meeting, on May 15, we will hold our Mother's Day luncheon. The price is \$15 per person. Please be sure to sign up and pay at the May 1st meeting.

We are taking a trip on May 28 to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Over the River and Through the Woods," a comedy. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes a delicious lunch, a first-rate show and a room full of different desserts! If you are interested, call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707. We look forward to seeing everyone in May. New members are always welcome.

Carroll Reid

Garden Club of City Island

Spring is definitely here! The Garden Club has filled the avenue's planter boxes with a lovely selection of pansies; letters for our annual beautification fund-raising drive have been delivered; and our Spring Gala Luncheon is happening this month.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the beautification fund. You make the seasonal container upkeep and plantings possible, as well as the maintenance of the tree pits and grassy areas along City Island Avenue, the planting and care of the Post Office garden, and many special projects, including the holiday wreaths for our public spaces. Club members will also be participating in the beautification fund-raising drive. *Continued on page 14*



Fourth Annual Bingeworthy Television

As I've said in previous years, with the advent of streaming movies and television series via Netflix, Amazon Video and Hulu, etc., plus on-demand options, many people are staying home to watch the television series they have heard about. So this month, I'm continuing with my fourth annual "binge-worthy television" column. My main parameters are that they are excellent and have completed their run. The order runs from the least number of episodes to the most, so that people can decide how much of a time commitment fits into their schedules. All are 45 minutes to an hour, unless otherwise specified. As of press time, most of these shows happen to be available on Amazon Prime. However, streaming services change what they carry each month, so I'll leave it to you to find what piques your interest.

Collateral (British, 2018, 4 episodes) is a four-part thriller set in London that takes place over four days. When a pizza delivery driver is shot down, pregnant Detective Inspector Kip Glaspie (Carey Mulligan) refuses to accept the murder as just a random act of violence. To the dismay of politician David Mars (John Simm), his ex-wife Karen (Jenny Piper) is involved because she was ordering more than just pizza when the killing occurred outside her building. Also embroiled in the events are Jane Oliver (Nicola Walker), a vicar who struggles to conceal her affair with Lin (Kae Alexander), the only witness to the shooting; and Captain Sandrine Shaw (Jenny Spark), who is being harassed by her superior, Major Tim Dyson (Robert Portal). How these disparate worlds and characters are connected makes for thought-provoking viewing.

Before the American adaptation, **House of Cards** (British, 1990, 4 episodes) was originally set in London when the series first appeared 29 years ago. It stars Ian Richardson as Francis Urquhart, the ambitious Chief Whip of the Conservative Party, who is outraged when the new Prime Minister, Henry Collingridge (David Lyon), fails to give him a promised senior cabinet post. Urquhart vows revenge. He is encouraged by his equally sinister wife, Elizabeth (Diane Fletcher), to have an affair with Mattie Storin (Susannah Harker), a junior political reporter at a Conservative-leaning tabloid newspaper called *The Chronicle*. He uses Mattie to great advantage in eliminating all potential opposition. His underling, Tim Stamper (Colin Jeavons), also does Urquhart's bidding to force all competitors to drop out of the race to ensure Urquhart's own election as party leader. The series had two television sequels: **To Play the King** (1993) and **The Final Cut** (1995).

The Swell (Dutch, *Als de dijken breken*, 2016, 6 episodes) is a timely series that focuses on a weather-related disaster. With much of the Netherlands and Belgium living in areas below sea level, the worst storm in hundreds of years threatens to break dikes and flood the lower areas of the two countries. Before the storm hits, the flawed leadership must decide whether and when to evacuate. After the disaster, leaders of other countries want to exact an untenable political price for assistance. This gripping miniseries follows a cross-section of individuals from very different backgrounds who struggle to stay alive after the catastrophic superstorm puts half of Holland under water. After the storm passes, those who survive must confront the fact that nothing in their lives will ever be the same again.

In the BBC production of Jane Austen's **Pride & Prejudice** (British, 1995, 6 episodes) Colin Firth first became well known playing Fitzwilliam Darcy, an arrogant man of privilege, who is both intrigued and repelled by Elizabeth Bennet (Jennifer Ehle), one of five sisters living with their parents in a small town in England in the

1800s. This book has been remade into films several times, but it is Firth's brooding Darcy who gives one of the many compelling performances in this six-part miniseries.

River (British/Swedish, 2015, 6 episodes) stars Stellan Skarsgard in the title role of John River, a respected police officer haunted by the murder victims whose secrets he must uncover. Nicola Walker appears as his partner, Jackie "Stevie" Stevenson. As he struggles to come to terms with the recent loss of a close colleague, River's fragile mental state makes it extremely difficult to handle increasing criticism from both the press and the police force.

Julia Roberts stars in **Homecoming** (2018, 11 half-hour episodes) as Heidi Bergman, a former caseworker at the Homecoming Transitional Support Center, a special-purpose live-in facility designed to help soldiers transition to civilian life. Four years after leaving the facility, Bergman has started a new life living with her mother, Ellen (Sissy Spacek), and working as a waitress. When she is interviewed by Thomas Carrasco (Shea Whigham), a bureaucrat from the Department of Defense investigating the Homecoming Transitional Support Center, she discovers that not everything at the Center was as it seemed. Other key players are Walter Cruz (Stephan James) as Bergman's client and Colin Belfast (Bobby Cannavale) as Heidi's supervisor.

Brideshead Revisited (British, 1981, 11 episodes) is the story of a young painter Charles Ryder (Jeremy Irons) who meets the very eccentric Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews) at Oxford. Although they are from very different social classes, they develop a deep friendship. Charles becomes involved with Sebastian's Catholic family, including Claire Bloom as Sebastian's mother, Diana Quick as Sebastian's sister, Sir Laurence Olivier as Sebastian's estranged father and Sir John Gielgud as Charles's peculiar father. The story is told in flashback as Charles, now an officer in the British Army, is moved with his company to an English country house that he discovers to be Brideshead, Sebastian's family home, where Charles has a series of memories of his youth and young manhood.

Tyrant (2014–16, 32 episodes over three seasons) is set in the fictional Middle Eastern country of Abbudin, which has been governed for 20 years by the dictator Khaled Al-Fayeed (Nasser Faris). The series stars Adam Raynar as Bassam "Barry" Al-Fayeed, the younger of Khaled's two sons, who has immigrated to America and is a pediatrician living in the United States with his wife, Molly (Jennifer Finnegan), and their two children, Sammy (Noah Silver) and Emma (Anne Winters). Although he has no desire to revisit his family of origin, Barry feels compelled to do so in order to attend his nephew's wedding. While he and his family are in Abbudin, Khaled dies in the midst of a growing popular revolution against the ruling family. The struggle is exacerbated when Barry's vicious brother, Jamal (Ashraf Barhom), assumes leader-

ship under the watchful eye of their mother, Amira (Alice Krige). Barry gets caught up in the political crisis, much to the consternation of both his wife and the military leader General Tariq (Raad Rawi).

Orphan Black (Canadian, 2013–17, 50 episodes over five seasons) is a science fiction thriller that stars the exceptional Tatiana Maslany as five different cloned characters. We first meet Sarah, a broke and desperate single mother, who has been in and out of foster care and is ultimately taken in by Mrs. S (Maria Doyle Kennedy), along with her foster brother, Felix (Jordan Gavaris). When Sarah witnesses a shocking suicide, she discovers that the woman, Beth, looks just like her. Leaving her daughter, Kira (Skyler Manning), in the care of Mrs. S, she decides to steal the woman's identity to run away from her problems. Sarah discovers that she doesn't just look like this woman, she's a genetically identical clone. And she's not the only one. As she finds more clones just like herself, she comes to see them as a family. Sara must protect them, and herself, because someone is trying to kill them, one by one.

In **The Last Ship** (2014–18, 56 episodes over five seasons) after a global viral pandemic wipes out over 80 percent of the world's population, the crew of a lone, unaffected U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer, the fictional *USS Nathan James*, must try to find a cure, stop the virus and save humanity. The cast includes Eric Dane as Commanding Officer Admiral Tom Chandler; Rhona Mitra as Dr. Rachel Scott, a paleo-microbiologist tasked with creating a cure for the virus; and Adam Baldwin as Executive Officer Mike Slattery.

The Americans (2013–18, 76 episodes over six seasons) is a spy thriller set in the 1980s during the Cold War. It stars Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys as Elizabeth and Philip Jennings, two Soviet KGB spies posing as an American married couple living in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC. They live with their children, Paige (Holly Taylor) and Henry (Keidrich Sellati), who were born in the U.S. and are completely unaware of their parents' true identities.

Recruited as teenagers, the couple has been sent to the U.S. in a pretend marriage, but their complex relationship becomes more real as time passes. Ironically, their neighbor Stan Beeman (Noah Emmerich) is an FBI agent working in counterintelligence. Margo Martindale is on hand as the Soviet handler for Elizabeth and Philip. As the series progresses, Philip becomes more appreciative of the American way of life, while Elizabeth stays true to her roots. How they eventually deal with informing their children of the truth reflects very fine writing. The series begins shortly after the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan in January 1981 and ends in December 1987, shortly before the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is signed.

Doogie Howser, M.D. (1989–93, 97 half-hour episodes over four seasons) is an American medical comedy-drama starring Neil Patrick Harris in the title role as a medical prodigy who must deal not only with the intricacies of his job, but also with notoriety as the country's youngest surgeon. As a teenager, he still lives at home with his proud parents, Katherine (Belinda Montgomery) and Dr. David Howser (James B. Sikking), a situation that complicates his personal life when he has to borrow his father's car to go out. He is still close to his childhood best friend, Vinnie Delpino (Max Casella), who always enters and exits through Doogie's bedroom window. Each episode begins and ends with pithy observations and bits of wisdom that Doogie types into his computer journal.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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SCHOOL NEWS
2+2=4
By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Spring has arrived, barely, and our students are in full bloom (despite the less than springlike weather)!

Our educational trips this month included the kindergarten going to the American Museum of Natural History to learn about different animal habitats; the first grade went to the Bronx Zoo and learned about the job of a zoologist and how they care for animals; the third grade, as part of the study of China, visited the Museum of Chinese in America; the sixth grade visited the Queens City Farm Museum to learn more about ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, our middle-school students went on some college tours with the seventh grade visiting Manhattanville College, and the eighth grade went to Lehman College.

Our fifth-graders are coming into the final weeks of preparation and rehearsal for their May performance of "Space Pirates," which promises to be another fabulous production! Two evening shows will be presented, on Wednesday, May 15, and Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

P.S. 175's school-wide Community Service Program is getting ready to go! Some projects being considered are making bookmarks to be given out at the City Island Library; a children's book drive for Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit; baking for POTS; work with the Bronx River Alliance to clean up and beautify the river and surrounding area; raising funds for various animal adoption organizations. Eighth-graders have been doing many individual and group projects, including assisting with various Community Center events, helping the PTA at the Pocket Book Bingo, an Orchard Beach clean-up; and cleaning the Community Center. We thank

Brenda Prohaska for coordinating many of these activities!

This year our sixth-graders will be spending three days at Frost Valley YMCA Camp learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Ramos, Ms. Maccarrone, Ms. Moricone and Mr. Cowen will accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for all.

We would like to thank our fabulous PTA and our Pocketbook Bingo Coordinator, Noreen Crowe, for an absolutely wonderful night. It was great to see so many people there to support our school. Thanks for all you do to make P.S. 175 the great school that it is!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten should call the school as soon as possible. The DOE website also has registration information. The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and Sunny the Clown.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 21, at 9 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Seashore Restaurant. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 p.m.

March Citizens of the Month were Emily Miranda-Paredes (kindergarten); Lyra Hart (first grade); Malak Algazaly and Daniel Mandarino (second grade); Luz Torres and Sarah Kokaj (third grade); Daniella Byrnes and Robert Delaney (fourth grade); Illia Gudilov (fifth grade); Sarah Goonan and Gabriella Gierum (sixth grade); Sophia Amos (seventh grade); Genesis Quinones and Thomas Forliano (eighth grade).

April Citizens-of-the-Month were Hailey Byrnes (kindergarten); Emma Redzepagic (first grade); Luke Meyer and Patrick Noonan (second grade); Jayden Medina-Kong and Cian Daly (third grade); Thomas Cullen and Jefferson Zapata (fourth grade); Marissa Sanfratello (fifth grade); Michael Sgobbo and Delilah Burgess (sixth grade); Christopher Vazquez (seventh grade); Adam Garforth and Katherine Mashchinko (eighth grade).

POCKETS OF FUN!



Photos by EMILY LENI

P.S. 175 Parent Teacher Association held a successful Pocketbook Bingo on April 5, 2019, at the Morris Yacht Club. The event raffled off bags from Coach, Michael Kors and other high end designers. Organizers and special guests worked hard to make the event a success (top photo): Bernie Piri, Nina Doyle, Susan Goonan, Jonna Weppler, Noreen Crowe, Maryann Baratta, Mark Gjonaj and Amy Lipson. P.S. 175 school aide, Noreen Crowe, helped make the fundraiser possible along with student volunteers (bottom photo): Marc Lomonaco, Oscar Etzel, Matthew McGaughan, Nick Baratta, Kenzie St.Clair, Kyle Facchiano, Laci Howard and Adam Garforth.

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Nurturing Is a Five-Piece Suit: The Parenting Wisdom of Deborah Roffman

By JOHN SCARDINA

Last month I had the privilege of being part of a mental health symposium at a Quaker school on Long Island where I consult. Debbie Roffman was the major presenter that day, and I want to share with you a key example of her wisdom as a parent: nurturing as a five-piece suit.

The premise is clear: successful interactions with our children work because five key components are present:

- Affirmation (demonstrating understanding, unconditional love and acceptance of a child's unique and specific gifts);
- Information (presenting alternative points of view and contextual information that pertains to the situation at hand);
- Clarity about values (naming the family's values that apply to the situation and modeling those values as an adult);
- Limit setting (being the adult and a parent rather than a friend);
- Anticipatory guidance (preparing yourself and your child through skills and tools that will lead to the independence each child will need to leave us and go forth with their own lives).

Does this make sense? How about an example of some opening lines for parents

struggling with homework issues:

"I understand that doing homework after school is a challenge, especially when you've been sitting in school all day."

"Let's look at the work load, estimate how much each assignment will take to complete and put together a schedule for this evening that allows for free time, dinner, chores and getting everything done."

"You know our family values hard work and persistence, so let's make this work - we'll all feel better in the end."

"Our rule is no screen time until homework is done, and we'll include that here."

"When the weekend comes and we can both relax more, let's review the schedule and plan for next week."

Your child will fill in the spaces between sentences and may indeed argue with you, but here is a simple scaffold to hang your own reasoning upon for success.

This is a much abbreviated version of Debby's good work. Check out her website at Talk2MeFirst.com for more insights and books to order. Parenting is one of the most important tasks you can have in life. Let's get better at it!

Organization News

Continued from page 11

participating in the May 10 Viacom Day on City Island, assisting Viacom with their community-improvement projects.

"Daisies are Forever" is the theme for this year's Garden Club luncheon on Thursday, May 16, our Spring Gala Luncheon that is open to everyone. The event begins at noon at the Pelham Bay / Split Rock Golf Club with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a three-course luncheon. A special feature of the luncheon is a raffle that includes gift baskets created by Garden Club members, gift certificates donated by our local businesses and some special items. The cost is \$60 per person, with beverages (wine, beer, soda, tea and coffee), tax and gratuity included. Reservations may be made by contacting a Garden Club member or by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 by May 8. We hope to see you there!

Garden Club meetings are held monthly, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, when we will have a special presentation by Pam Wright of the 9th District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. She will be speaking about flower shows as an opportunity to show off garden club special projects. All are invited to join us.

Sharynne Wilder

Education program. The ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. We congratulate all our confirmandi on this special event in their lives.

Thursday, May 30, is the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and a holy day of obligation. Come join us at one of our Masses, which will be held at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

Rose Dietz

REGULAR MEETINGS Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

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

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

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

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

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

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Saturday, May 4, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families. On that day, our children will receive their First Holy Communion at 1 p.m.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

His Excellency, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro, will be here at St. Mary's on Tuesday, May 14, to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to the young people in our Religious

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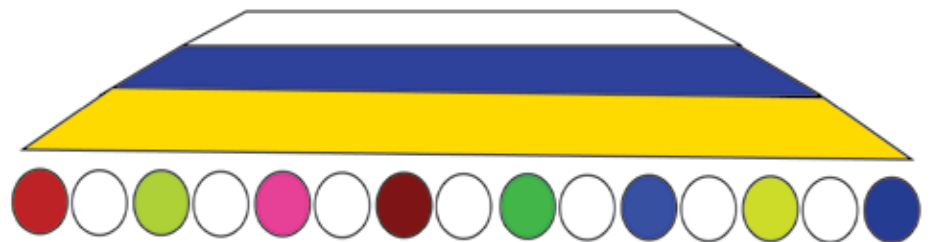
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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight Time)

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

MAY 2019

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Wed	0422	0.88	1029	7.21	1634	0.91	2242	7.61	Wed 01
02 Thu	0500	0.58	1105	7.27	1702	0.75	2306	7.74	Thu 02
03 Fri	0532	0.29	1129	7.30	1721	0.58	2319	7.91	Fri 03
04 Sat	0558	0.04	1147	7.36	1747	0.40	2346	8.13	Sat 04
05 Sun	0626	-0.17	1216	7.44	1822	0.28			Sun 05
06 Mon	0021	8.32	0701	-0.29	1253	7.49	1901	0.25	Mon 06
07 Tue	0101	8.43	0741	-0.30	1336	7.48	1945	0.33	Tue 07
08 Wed	0146	8.41	0826	-0.19	1423	7.41	2033	0.50	Wed 08
09 Thu	0235	8.26	0916	0.02	1515	7.29	2126	0.73	Thu 09
10 Fri	0328	7.98	1014	0.28	1613	7.17	2228	0.96	Fri 10
11 Sat	0429	7.65	1125	0.50	1721	7.11	2346	1.07	Sat 11
12 Sun	0539	7.36	1257	0.53	1850	7.23			Sun 12
13 Mon	0132	0.86	0713	7.25	1412	0.35	2011	7.56	Mon 13
14 Tue	0247	0.38	0841	7.40	1513	0.08	2113	7.95	Tue 14
15 Wed	0348	-0.17	0943	7.61	1609	-0.19	2207	8.29	Wed 15
16 Thu	0443	-0.66	1038	7.76	1659	-0.38	2256	8.52	Thu 16
17 Fri	0534	-0.99	1128	7.83	1747	-0.44	2342	8.61	Fri 17
18 Sat	0623	-1.12	1216	7.80	1832	-0.37			Sat 18
19 Sun	0026	8.56	0710	-1.04	1301	7.68	1915	-0.15	Sun 19
20 Mon	0109	8.39	0755	-0.78	1346	7.50	1956	0.16	Mon 20
21 Tue	0150	8.13	0839	-0.39	1431	7.30	2034	0.54	Tue 21
22 Wed	0231	7.82	0923	0.06	1517	7.11	2108	0.92	Wed 22
23 Thu	0312	7.49	1006	0.53	1606	6.94	2141	1.27	Thu 23
24 Fri	0357	7.18	1049	0.94	1700	6.84	2225	1.56	Fri 24
25 Sat	0453	6.91	1135	1.25	1758	6.82	2324	1.75	Sat 25
26 Sun	0606	6.73	1224	1.45	1854	6.88			Sun 26
27 Mon	0047	1.79	0712	6.66	1315	1.51	1947	7.00	Mon 27
28 Tue	0152	1.65	0808	6.68	1402	1.46	2033	7.16	Tue 28
29 Wed	0246	1.39	0857	6.75	1442	1.32	2112	7.34	Wed 29
30 Thu	0333	1.05	0939	6.84	1517	1.12	2139	7.54	Thu 30
31 Fri	0414	0.68	1012	6.95	1554	0.88	2203	7.79	Fri 31

JUNE 2019

01 Sat	0452	0.31	1040	7.09	1633	0.64	2236	8.07	Sat 01
02 Sun	0529	-0.01	1114	7.24	1714	0.44	2315	8.32	Sun 02
03 Mon	0607	-0.26	1153	7.39	1758	0.30	2357	8.51	Mon 03
04 Tue	0649	-0.42	1236	7.51	1844	0.24			Tue 04
05 Wed	0043	8.58	0733	-0.46	1323	7.57	1933	0.28	Wed 05



THE BIRD SOUNDS OF SPRING

You don't have to be interested in birds and birding to notice the difference in the air around here lately. It is spring, after all, and the resident birds in our area are alive with the business of preparing for the next generation. Most of that extra sound you are hearing is from males attempting to attract females. The robins and sparrows account for most of the din, but every once in a while the call of a cardinal cuts through to add a refined bit of music to the mix. When the sound suddenly stops, you can be reasonably sure a predator is nearby, probably a cooper's hawk.

Another contributing factor to the heightened sense of avian activity is the spring migration. Now is the time for the arrival of warblers. Usually among the first to arrive are the pine and palm warblers. While on a visit to the Botanical Garden recently, we learned from a passerby that a prothonotary warbler was sighted in Prospect Park. Evidently they are rare. The closest we have come to a warbler sighting, let alone that of a rare one, are the house finches that have once again taken possession of the juniper in our yard. They have been returning to the same shrubs for years, and while they are not technically warblers, their very war-

bler-like song is unmistakable and always welcome. So is the cry of the osprey, who, in case you haven't noticed, have also returned.

Of course, migration is a two-way street. As one species of migrant arrives, another departs. Recent departures from our area include a pair of great horned owls and, hopefully, their two owlets, as well as the white-throated sparrows and black-capped chickadees. The departing chickadee in the picture below was actually storing the seed he picked out in the furrowed bark of a nearby tree.



The sound of a woodpecker is unmistakable. On any typical morning in Pelham Bay Park, on Hunter Island, especially, you are likely to hear from an assortment of woodpeckers, including the red bellied, downy, hairy, a northern flicker and, if you are lucky, the red-headed and/or pileated woodpecker. The chief reason for this plethora of woodpeckers on Hunter Island is all the dead wood, thanks to recent storms that have done a lot of damage in the area. In Bronx Park, on the other hand, where each tree is cared for by a team of amateurs and professionals, woodpeckers are few and far between.

As always, we welcome your feedback and invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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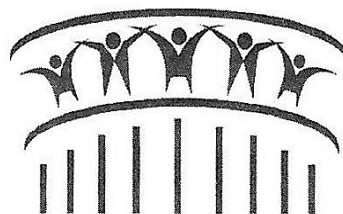
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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo courtesy of MARY COLBY
Anita Bastone painting a Goya, 1967

Another Blessed Spring

What changes your perspective? For me it's nature and rooting around in the garden. It's great to have good friends that support you—nothing equals that—but being in the green is certainly close to paradise, or what D.H. Lawrence calls "the immediate contact with God." As I see the Cedric Morris daffodils multiplying on King Avenue I realize the poetry of growing things.

Everyone is talking about which special compost to feed their tomatoes or what type of grid or manner of material should be used to form a scaffolding for espaliered apple trees. Lucy was painting the roof of her new beehive blue, and my neighbor Victor is getting ready to disrobe his fig tree to the sun.

It is a beehive of activity. Tulips, the color of dusty purple on the outside and pure red with an eye of black within, seem to be self-seeding in the little garden among the weeping pears. The resident blackbird makes its nest in the drainpipe, and I love to hear its song. Afterwards, the nest will have to be dismantled. Barbara's awe-inspiring

but dying beech trees were felled for fear they would topple onto her house. Things come and go. We are as ephemeral and fragile as newly cut grass.

Life in a garden is contact with the sun, no ego or personality needed. I watch the minnows from the dock railing and think how everything changes. On the internet I can see all my gardening friends posting the emergence of rare fritillarias and bloodroot, whose leaves wrap around each other in a tight-fisted hug. Gardeners unite on plant groups and kvell over one another's new horticultural prize. People from Greece and Big Sur display their landscapes as one would a newborn child. I take heart in all these things, that there are new vistas and adventures still to be had, and that there are people in the world whose pulse quickens for a newly formed bud.

It was sad to miss April. I saw it mostly from a hospital window tending my mother. We both had a beautiful, loving, experience together as she left this good earth, and for that I am thankful. Now it is May, and all the heavenly flowers will put out their finery, their very best, and beauty will reign supreme, as it always will.

Building a new garden from scratch takes patience and time. One has to consider the owner's taste or how the house sits on the property and the aspects of weather, sun and soil. Herbaceous plantings are short term. They change with time, but the garden's backbone of hedging and trees must be well thought out, because they will last beyond a lifetime. I love making gardens because the environment we live in affects our sense of self and well-being. A garden can be an heirloom that is passed from generation to generation, not unlike our spirit, which can endure and continue to live in the hearts and minds of those who come after us.

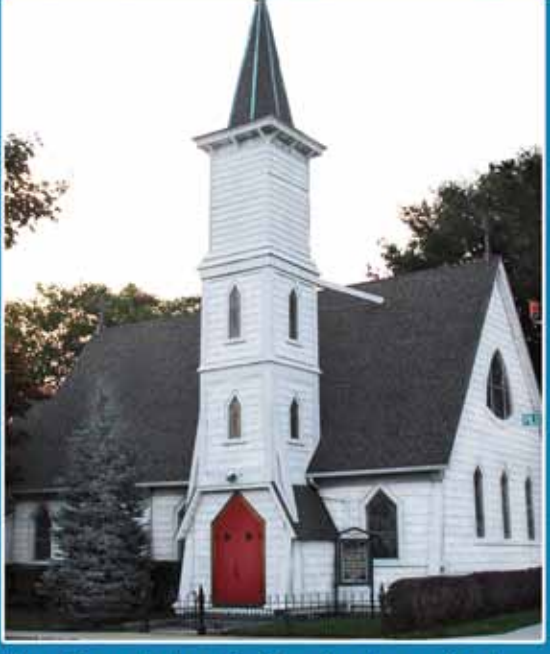
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Photos by FRANCESCA VITALE and BARBARA DOLENSEK

A new after-school class at the Community Center offers youngsters the opportunity to explore handwriting in a digital world. Regina Sanglier provides instruction in cursive writing, card-making and journal creating. Upstairs in the Nautical Museum's school room is an old-fashioned alphabet chart showing cursive letters, which delights visiting teachers who miss the days when they taught handwriting.

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A Current Review

Drownproof: A Self-Help Drowning Prevention and Survival Guide

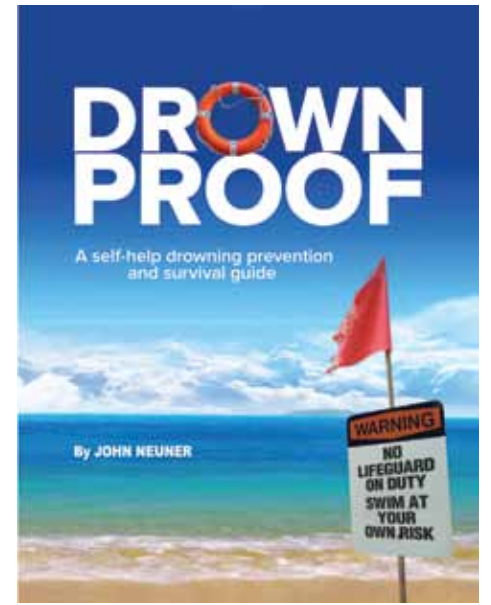
By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island resident John Neuner has recently published an extremely useful guide to the prevention of drowning that everyone who lives near the water should take the time to read. As a lifeguard at Orchard Beach during his teens and a swimming teacher in the New York public school system, John knows from personal experience that many drowning accidents can be prevented with proper awareness.

In 1998 he wrote a book called "Teacher/Swimmer," which explains how fearful teenagers and adults can teach themselves how to swim to safety. From 1998 to 2002, he developed and implemented the Swim-To-Safety Drowning Prevention Program, a collaborative swimming and drowning prevention partnership involving the New York City Council, Board of Education, Parks and Recreation, Lehman College, Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, and community-based organizations with swimming pools. The purpose of the program was to teach adolescents how to swim-to-safety in five lessons or less. More than 5,000 at-risk children participated in this highly successful collaboration, which Adolfo Carrión, who was then a member of the City Council and is now a resident of City Island helped to secure funding.

However, many local drowning accidents in recent years inspired him to put together a new manual with the specific purpose of drowning prevention. He has conducted an ongoing study of reported accidental drownings in the tri-state area, and he knows that these accidents are caused by a lack of drowning awareness or rescue skills or both.

John uses the word "drownproof" as a verb to encourage readers to develop a watchful attitude toward drowning and to ac-



quire the skills needed to prevent and survive drowning, from swimming pools to turbulent open water, for babies, bathers and boaters alike.

He quotes statistics from various international organizations that indicate how widespread drowning accidents are. Nearly 400,000 people drown each year, the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related death worldwide. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the leading cause of death for children from 1 to 4 (excluding birth defects), the second leading cause of accidental death for children ages 1 to 14. Ten people die from drowning in the United States every day. The American Red Cross estimates that nearly 50 percent of all Americans have had a near-drowning experience.

This book is full of common-sense information and advice for preventing incidents (wear a life jacket on a boat, never swim alone, keep a close eye on small children) as well as techniques for saving someone from drowning.

In spite of the serious content, however, the book is handsomely produced with many maps, photographs and drawings and the author provides a number of interesting stories and details. This reviewer believes that it should be part of every household here on City Island, not just to support this dedicated local author but because its information is so important for those of us who are surrounded by water!

The book is available in paperback at \$22.95 from Amazon and for \$7.99 as a Kindle e-book. The author also encourages readers to visit his brief informational website: <https://Drownproof.com>.

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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.



Alice and Bill Stuttig at their wedding in 1946.

Alice Stuttig

Longtime Islander and Marine Street resident Alice Stuttig passed away on April 18, 2019, in Vero Beach, FL. She was 97.

She was born Alice Anderson in 1922 in Hoboken, NJ, and raised during the Depression. As a teenager she helped her parents run a boarding house to support the family. She often reminisced about having to wait to eat until after the boarders got their meal.

During World War II, she started a pen-pal relationship with Bill Stuttig, a sailor serving overseas, first in Europe and then in the Pacific. That letter-writing relationship would blossom into a romance, and soon after the war a marriage. The couple bought a house on City Island, where Alice had visited several times as a teenager in the 1930s, and grew to love the neighborhood. Alice and Bill raised three children, Cathy, Carol and Billy, on Marine Street.

Alice raised her children in a very proactive way by becoming heavily involved in Grace Episcopal Church and the Sunday School, the Brownies, the Girl Scouts, the Cub Scouts and the Parents Association of P.S. 17. She and her husband, along with other parishioners, later ran the volunteer thrift shop that helped keep Grace Church alive during some very lean years. While she was doing all this, Alice found the strength to take on her aging parents, caring for them until they both passed during the late 1960s.

After her youngest son, Billy, entered high school in 1969, Alice went back to work as an administrator for the Island sailmaker Hild Sails. She worked there for more than a decade and then went on to a similar position at Consolidated Shipyard until she finally retired. But she never stopped volunteering and became president of the local chapter of the AARP, organizing and coordinating excursions and seminars for many, many City Island seniors.

Alice was predeceased by her husband,

Bill. She is survived by her daughters Cathy and her husband, Gerry Reichert, and Carol and her husband, Charles Robertson, both of Vero Beach, FL; her son, Bill, and his wife, Chris, of Henderson, NV; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service for Alice at Grace Episcopal Church on Sept. 14, 2019. Donations in her memory can be made to Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464.



Ann Sullivan

City Island resident, Ann Sullivan, passed away suddenly on March 19, 2019, at the age of 77.

Ann Carol Sullivan was born on Jan. 13, 1942. She was the fourth child born to Irish immigrants Mary Ann (Sheehan) Sullivan and Daniel Sullivan. They lived on 138th Street and Cypress Avenue in the South Bronx.

She attended St. Luke's Grammar School and Cathedral High School. While in high school, Ann had a part-time job at the New York Telephone Company that turned into an amazing career that lasted more than 35 years.

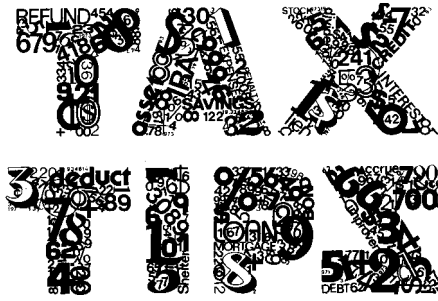
Ann was an avid traveler who went on adventures all over the world. She visited six of the seven continents. Her nieces fondly remember their excitement when she returned from a trip because she brought them souvenirs and photos of all the people she had met.

Ann made countless friends while at the phone company. It was there she met Island resident, Betty Jordan, and was introduced to the beautiful seaside community of City Island. In 1986, shortly after her father passed away, Ann and her mother moved to Minneford Avenue.

She was an active parishioner at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and was honored to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156. Ann was also proud of her Irish heritage and would march in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade, including the most recent one in 2019. Although her parents were from Cork and Kerry, she would march with County Limerick alongside her family and City Island friends, the Jordans, Clancys and Knapps.

Ann was predeceased by her parents, her brothers, Gerald and John Sullivan, and her sister, Rosemary Cox. She was survived by her beloved friend Betty Jordan and her sister-in-law, Mary (Dinan) Sullivan; her nieces and nephews, Michael Sullivan, Maureen Rigelhaupt, Jeanmarie Schweitzer and Kathleen Riccio; and her great nieces and nephews, Jacqueline, Thomas, Danielle, Kristina, Kathryn, Holly, Nicholas, Hannah and Kate.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, on March 23, 2019. Ann was interred at Pelham Cemetery overlooking Long Island Sound, where she loved going boating with friends.



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

Avoiding the Penalty on Early Distributions

Many people use IRAs, SEP Plans, SIMPLE IRA plans and employee-sponsored retirement savings plans such as the 401(k) to save money for their retirement years, but what if you need to tap that money before age 59 1/2? The bad news is that you generally have to pay a 10 percent penalty for early withdrawal of your funds. While that may seem unfair (after all, most of it is probably your money), you need to remember that the purpose of these types of plans is to save money for the years when you are no longer working.

Sometimes, however, life intervenes, and there may be times when you need access to those funds before you've reached retirement age. The good news is that under IRS rules you may be able to use one of the following exceptions to avoid paying the tax penalty. However, you need to remember that although the exceptions listed below will help you avoid the 10 percent penalty tax, you are still liable for any regular income tax that's owed on the funds that you've withdrawn.

1. Death of the Participant/IRA Owner. If you are the beneficiary of a deceased IRA owner, you do not have to pay the 10 percent penalty on distributions taken before age 59 1/2 unless you inherit a traditional IRA from your deceased spouse and elect to treat it as your own. In this case, any distribution you later receive before you reach age 59 1/2 may be subject to the 10 percent additional tax.

2. Total and Permanent Disability. Distributions made because you are totally and permanently disabled are exempt from the early withdrawal penalty. You are considered disabled if you can furnish proof that you cannot do any substantial gainful activity because of your physical or mental condition. A physician must determine that your condition can be expected to result in death or to be of long, continued, and indefinite duration.

3. Higher Education Expenses. Distributions from IRAs, SEP Plans and SIMPLE IRA Plans that are used for qualified higher education expenses are also exempt, provided they are not paid through tax-free distributions from a Coverdell education savings account, scholarships and fellowships, Pell grants, employer-provided educational assistance and veterans' educational assistance. Qualified higher-education expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a student at an eligible educational institution, as well as expenses incurred by special-needs students in connection with their enrollment or attendance. If the individual is at least a half-time student, then room and board are considered qualified higher education expenses. This exception applies to expenses incurred by you, your spouse, children and grandchildren.

Caution: Early distributions from employee-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s are not exempt from the 10 percent penalty if used for higher education expenses.

4. IRS Levy. Distributions due to an IRS levy of the qualified plan are exempt from the 10 percent penalty.

5. Healthcare Premiums. Even if you are under age 59 1/2, you may not have to pay the 10 percent additional tax on any distributions during the year that are not more than the amount you paid during the year for medical insurance for yourself, your spouse, and your dependents. You will not have to pay the tax on these amounts if all of the following conditions apply: you lost your job, you received unemployment compensation paid under any federal or state law for 12 consecutive weeks because you lost your job, you receive the distributions during either the year you received the unemployment compensation or the following year, you receive the distributions no

later than 60 days after you have been reemployed.

Caution: Early distributions from employee-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s are not exempt from the 10 percent penalty if used for healthcare premiums.

6. Military Reservists called to Active Duty. Generally, these are distributions made to individuals called to active duty after Sept. 11, 2001, and on or after Dec. 31, 2007.

7. Equal Payments. As with an annuity, you can take the money as part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments over your estimated lifespan or the joint lives of you and your designated beneficiary. These payments must be made at least annually, and payments are based on IRS life-expectancy tables. If payments are from a qualified employee plan, they must begin after you have left the job. The payments must be made at least once each year until age 59 1/2, or for five years, whichever period is longer.

8. Medical Expenses. If you have out-of-pocket medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of your adjusted gross income, you can withdraw funds from a retirement account to pay those expenses without paying the penalty. For example, if you had an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 for tax year 2019 and medical expenses of \$12,500, you could withdraw as much as \$2,500 from your pension or IRA without incurring the 10 percent penalty tax.

9. First-time Homebuyers (up to \$10,000). An IRA distribution used to buy, build or rebuild a first home also escapes the penalty; however, you need to understand the government's definition of a "first time" home buyer. In this case, it's defined as someone who hasn't owned a home for the last two years prior to the date of the new acquisition. You could have owned five prior houses, but if you haven't owned one in at least two years, you qualify.

The first-time homeowner can be yourself, your spouse, your or your spouse's child or grandchild, parent or another ancestor. The "date of acquisition" is the day you sign the contract for the purchase of an existing house, or the day construction of your new principal residence begins.

The amount withdrawn for the purchase of a home must be used within 120 days of withdrawal and the maximum lifetime withdrawal exemption is \$10,000. If both you and your spouse are first-time home buyers, each of you can receive distributions up to \$10,000 for a first home without having to pay the 10 percent penalty.

Caution: First-time homebuyers are not exempt from the 10 percent penalty for early withdrawals of funds from employee-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s.

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STOP AND SMELL THE FLOWERS!



Photo by KAREN NANI

City Island Scouts from Troop 211 were not shy about showing off their blooms for purchase at the annual Easter plant sale from April 17 to 20, 2019. The enthusiastic salesmen and their scoutmasters are shown above (l. to r.): Jeremy Filomio, Ben Chadwick, Peter Hickey, Patrick Clancy, Santino Esposito, Antonio Ayala, Jackson Wepler, Brandon McGaughan, Joseph Goonan and Angelo Bellocchio. Funds raised support scout trips, such as summer camp at Ten Mile River in upstate New York.



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

Happy belated birthday wishes to our son, Philip Ribaud, whose big day was April 1, with love from Mom and Dad.



Wall Drug Landscape III, watercolor by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Congratulations to clam digger Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. The Idea Museum in Mesa, AZ, has requested the loan of six of her paintings for an exhibition entitled "Roadside USA," which will run from mid-July to mid-September. The paintings are from her Painting a Day series and chronicle several of the Wall Drug billboards hand painted by Dobby Hansen.

Goodbye and good luck to Chase Branch Manager Jazmine Santana, who is transferring to a Chase Bank in Manhattan. City Island will miss you!

Best wishes for a very happy birthday on May 20 to Jim Doyle, with love from the whole family!



Photo courtesy of the STIENE FAMILY
Barbara Stiene celebrated her 70th birthday with her husband, John, and family and friends.

The Morris Yacht Club was the place to be on Saturday, April 20 as Pell Place's Barbara Stiene celebrated her 70th birthday with family and friends. A good time was had by all!

Anniversary wishes to the Sailmaker's Judy and John Iovieno, who will celebrate on May 12.

Happy mutual May 9 birthday greetings across the miles to my favorite cousin, Genie Jones, and former Minneford Avenue resident now living in Oceanside, CA. I wish her the very best and a happy and healthy year to follow. Love, Cuz Barbs (Barbara Haas) Lynch.

Happy May 28 birthday to Patrice Ortega of "To Go Express," with love from your family, friends and customers.

Happy 9th birthday to our sweet and sassy Maddy! We love you the most! Love, Mom, Abigail, Mema and Papa

Happy May 12 anniversary to King Avenue's Brian and Kim Moore, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld. Have a great day!

A special note to Greg Clancy: I liked your Boat Show article in the March issue of *The Current*! The show still costs too much, and they could use some



Photo courtesy of MARIA SWIECIKI
Chase Bank staff (l. to r.): Paul Krebaum, Teresa Barriage, Yvonne Wynter, Jazmine Santana, Riccardo Bajora, Ravi Sookraj.

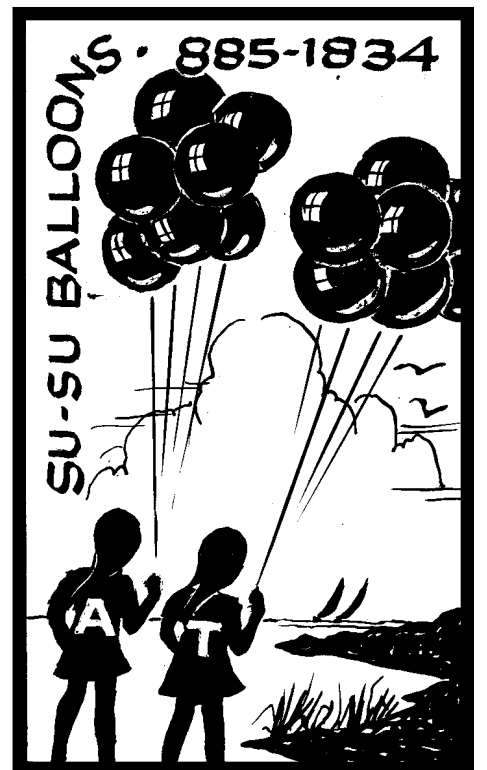


Maddy Hayes

decent Wisconsin beer. But carry on! Your cheap, cheesehead friend Sally!

Wishing all our mothers and grandmothers a very happy Mother's Day on May 12!

Maria Swieciki



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