

# The Island Current

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## 50 AND FIT TO PRINT!

By KAREN NANI



Photo by

A dedicated and persistent group of volunteers have kept *The Island Current* flowing for 50 years. The staff in 1985 included (top photo, seated, l. to r.) Rena Hansen, Louise Savitieri, Marie Caesar, Sara McPherson, Emma Greiner and Scott Smith. Standing: Diane Henshaw, Jane Protzman, Barbara Dolensek, Kathy Knapp, Bill Clancy, Sue Schumann, Fred Hess, Stephanie Ribaldo, Russ Schaller, Jeanne Pezone, Bob Hacker, Annalea Ricci and George Gibbons. By 2011, Barbara Dolensek, Russ Schaller and Jane Protzman remained on staff joined by new volunteers (bottom photo, front row) Pat Parker, Maria Swieciki, Eileen Schaller Mazzaro, Rick DeWitt and Laury Hopkins. Middle row: Karen Nani, Paula Huffell, Russell Schaller, Hans and Ginger Dannegger. Back row: Bruce Weis, Walter Huffell, Paul Nani, Judy Rauh, Bob and Maria Swieciki, Pauline and Michael Shanley, Jane Protzman, Cathy Mazzaro and Margaret Lenz.



Tapped on the shoulder in church. Approached for carrying a clever placard during a City Island protest. Recruited through the Parents' Association or by a close friend. These are just a few of the ways volunteers were persuaded to work on *The Island Current*, and it's because of these fateful events that the longest continuously published newspaper in the Bronx is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first issue in October 1971.

The story of how a monthly community newspaper has remained financially sound for 50 years and is still thriving when many newspapers around the country are struggling consists of four important chapters: the volunteer editorial staff members who give their free time to report, write, edit, lay out and photograph events on this unique island in New York City (see photos this page); the advertisers who have supported *The Current* for many years (see every page); and the business and subscription managers who make sure the newspaper is printed, paid for and

delivered to you, our faithful readers, who are the fourth and most important part of this history.

Barbara Dolensek reviewed the history of *The Current* in the October 2020 issue, which began with the realization from the founding staff that "What this place needs is a newspaper!" Ms. Dolensek, *The Current's* longtime news and copy editor and a published author, recognized the many contributions of past editors (see Sally McPherson's Letter to the Editor, page 4), columnists, artists and staff who have enabled this non-profit publication to reach "middle age."

We asked readers what they like best about reading *The Current*, and a sample of their responses can be found in Island Views on page 7.

Like most U.S. publications, *The Current* has evolved technologically. The early editions were made up of typewritten copy, cut out by hand and positioned on galley paper with a dab of rubber cement

*Continued on page 7*

## THE CI SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS, SAFELY

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Principal Julie Porras (second from left above) and her leadership team (l. to r.: Roberta Gjonaj, Kathie Wiehler and Tina Gisante) welcomed students and teachers back to P.S. 175 on Sept. 13, 2021, for full-time, in-person learning. The faculty and staff created a red carpet welcome for the students with the theme Homecoming!



The 2021 school year began at City Island's school, P.S. 175, with a special theme: Homecoming! Students from kindergarten to eighth grade returned in person on Sept. 13, some for the first time in 18 months, because of the pandemic which forced schools to suspend onsite classes through most of 2020 and early 2021.

Julie Porras, in her third year as the head of City Island's only public school, has probably experienced the most unusual early tenure of any Island principal. She took over the reins of leadership in 2019, which began as a fairly routine school year that was totally upended by March 2020, when the Covid-19 crisis closed schools throughout New York City.

After more than a year of remote and blended learning when Island youth were not in the building at 200 City Island Avenue for the traditional five-day school

week, Ms. Porras's vision was to welcome students back to in-person learning on Sept. 13 with fanfare and joy. Under the "Homecoming!" theme, about 275 students walked on a balloon-decorated red carpet into the building and were led enthusiastically to their classrooms by their teachers.

Ms. Porras's 45 faculty and staff professionals embraced her vision. They wore t-shirts with the new school mascot, "Sharks," created by students as part of a contest to come up with a new logo for the school. They cheered and applauded as the students lined up in the schoolyard for the first day of classes. Most importantly, they implemented all the safety guidelines from the Department of Education (DOE), including mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing in the classrooms and assembly areas.

*Continued on page 4*

**BRIEFLY...**

**THE MANOR CLUB OF PELHAM** is holding its 2021 Holiday Boutique, three great days of holiday shopping, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jewelry, knife-sharpening service, clothing, gift items, wine accessories and much more. The club is located at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham. Admission is \$5. Free parking. Don't miss it!

**VIVA LA SOUND EDUCATIONAL FESTIVAL:** City Island Oyster Reef will host a special free event for families and friends of the environment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2 (rain date Oct. 3), at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175. There will be many hands-on activities, including a marine touch tank, diving demonstrations and a creative arts program, with live music and delicious food from the City Island restaurants.

**HALLOWEEN PARADE:** The City Island Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring this year's Halloween Parade on Sunday, Oct. 31. Everyone is asked to line up in front of Hawkins Street Park at 5:30 p.m. There will be prizes awarded to the best costumes!

**A BARDEKOVA ENSEMBLE CONCERT** at Temple Beth-El of City Island will take place on Friday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m. Admission is free. The ensemble will perform the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Gershwin, Ellington, Celia Cruz, Scott Joplin and others. For more information, call 347-346-6955.

**CITY ISLAND AVENUE CLEANUP,** sponsored by the Civic Association with the Department of Sanitation and Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 8 to 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help do a clean sweep of City Island Avenue. Please meet the group bright and early at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175.

**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct from mid-August to mid-September 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Aug. 21 to Sept. 19, 2021.

8/22 – On Reynolds Street at 9 p.m., a male Islander reported that his locked vehicle had been parked in his driveway and was removed without permission. A canvass of the neighborhood by police yielded negative results.

8/22 – At 11:25 a.m. on Pilot Street, a male Islander reported being harassed by his landlord over having a dog on the premises. The victim states that the land-

lord made threatening gestures that caused him to fear for his safety.

8/26 - An incident of criminal mischief occurred on King Avenue at 1 p.m. A female Islander told police that an unknown male broke the rear windshield of her parked vehicle. Cameras on the scene captured a photo of the perpetrator.


8/29 – A male Islander on Minneford Avenue witnessed a gray sedan backing into a neighbor's front bumper around 12:30 p.m. The driver fled the scene of the accident.

8/30 – At 3 p.m. on Cross Street, a female Islander reported that unknown person(s) had removed items from her vehicle without permission in an act of petit larceny.

8/30 – On Minneford Avenue at 11:25 p.m., a female Islander told police she feared for her safety when a male perpetrator yelled outside her house and then swung a piece of wood at her door. There was no property damage.

9/15 – At 9 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an unknown person keyed the front driver side of an off-Island male's vehicle in an act of criminal mischief.

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Flute	Clarinet	Founder/Oboist	French Horn	Bassoon

**PERFORMING AT  
TEMPLE OF BETH-EL OF CITY ISLAND**  
400 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 6:00PM**

The Bardekova Ensemble will be performing the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Gershwin, Ellington, Celia Cruz, Joplin and others.





This performance of the Bardekova Ensemble has been made possible by Temple Beth-El of City Island, Indie Sidorovky, Rabbi David Marcus, and Bob Berens, and with public funds from The Bronx Council on the Arts through The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and The Greater Arts Development Fund, Music Performance Trust Fund, The City Corp Artist Grant and Private donations.

For more information please call (347) 346-6955

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# City Island Sewage: A Current and Endless Issue

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by NATALIE LACINA, RENA HANSEN and KAREN NANI

Several inches of rain brought on by Hurricane Ida on Wednesday night, Sept. 1, 2021, caused damage throughout the Island, including a basement on Hawkins Street (above), where even the shark was unable to survive. Much of the flooding was caused by backup of the Island's sewer system, which was originally installed in 1938, and was repaired along City Island Avenue in 1974-75 (top photos right), when water mains had to be moved to access the sewers. In many areas, however, the rain itself caused floods, as at Orchard Beach and on Island streets where the storm drains could not accommodate the amount of water.

The powerful and record-breaking remnants of Hurricane Ida arrived on City Island on Wednesday, Sept. 1, in the form of damaging wind from the north and more than seven inches of torrential rain that filled basements with water and caused leaks and other forms of damage in the community. Some of the basement flooding was caused by rain leaking through windows, but as suggested in the "Sights and Sounds" column on page 15, much of the flooding was actually the result of backup from the City Island sewer system, which was overwhelmed by the amount of water that was supposed to have been conveyed to the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The failure of the system to prevent flooding and related damage can be explained in part by the record-breaking rainfall, but some of the blame definitely lies with the fact that City Island's sewer system is nearly a century old and can no longer accommodate the community's increased population. And the problems suffered by Islanders this year are not news. Indeed, complaints about the 1938 sewer system have been expressed more than 50 times in *The Island Current* during its 50-year history.

Interestingly, however, the first mention in *The Current* of the Island's sewer system, in March 1973 under the distressing title: "Sewer Project Angers Residents," was a report on the city's attempt to improve the sewers by extending the system to the west end of Schofield Street. Con Edison and a construction company dug up the street, breaking gas lines and sewer pipes as they went, and residents met with the Civic Association to register formal complaints that they were not responsible to pay for repairs.

A year later, the city presented a drainage plan to the Island, estimating the cost at \$14 million for storm sewers and \$3 million for sanitary sewers, with the start date of 1977 at the earliest. In 1975 the headline read: "Islanders Grumping over Sewage Pumping," a theme that would continue for many more years. In March of 1979 Councilman James Vacca announced that a project endorsed by the city would require \$17.619 million in capital funding, and a contract for repaving streets as well as installing sewers was forwarded to the

Community Board.

A private engineering firm was hired by the city's Highway Department in late 1979 to survey the Island's streets in conjunction with the installation of storm and sanitary sewers but the study that finally resulted was finally turned down by the city because "since there is currently no acceptable plan for how to proceed with the project, the city has not approved the necessary funding." It seems as if the study called for the Island to be shut down for five years, clearly not a feasible plan.

A few minor repairs and projects were proposed, and the replacement of some sewers at the cost of \$2 million was approved in 1991, but delays continued after the design was completed until progress was finally made on Minneford Avenue to install storm sewers in mid-1996. A City Island Avenue project was set for the following year but a major sewer spill on west Schofield Street in the summer of 1997 forced repairs to the pipe there instead and the installation of a new sewer main running to Hunts Point under Eastchester Bay, which opened in the summer of 1999.

*The Current* published an article in November of 2003 titled: "The Sewers Are Coming! The Sewers Are Coming!" and reported that the city had finally begun to design the replacement of storm and sanitary sewers along parts of City Island Avenue, with installation scheduled to begin in the fall of 2004 at a cost of \$13.7 million. Work did not actually begin to take place until the summer of 2006 and continued until the last phase was completed by December 2008.

More sewer projects are still in the hopper for City Island. As part of the creation of the new water main that now reaches City Island below Eastchester Bay, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is in the process installing 150 feet of new storm sewers to carry stormwater runoff into Eastchester Bay through the outfall that is being installed on City Island Avenue close to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. And another storm and sanitary sewer project promised years ago for Terrace Street is finally on the DDC schedule for completion in 2023.

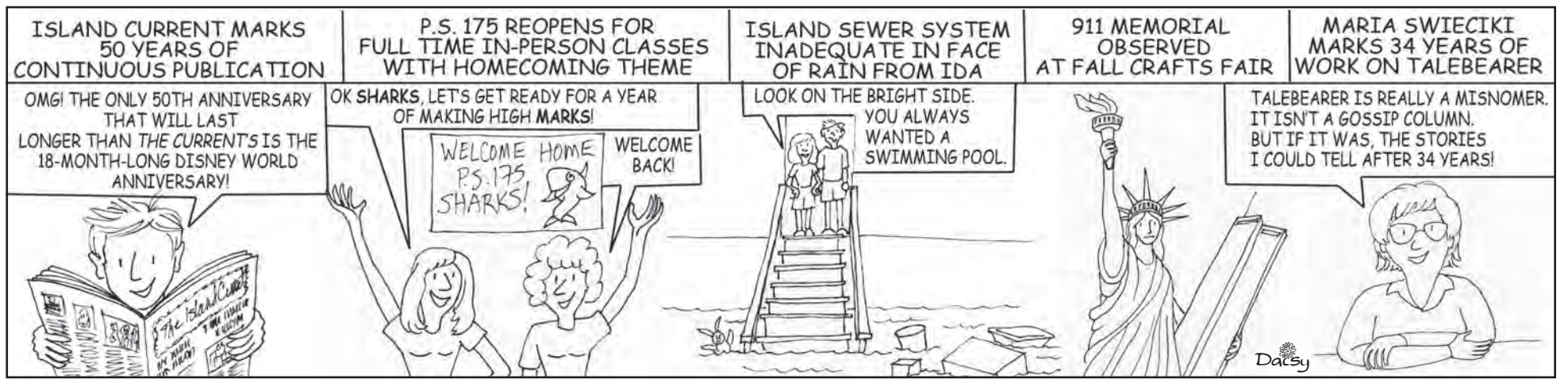
A careful look at the various projects that have been promised, delayed and finally completed over the years reveal



that, as the authors of "Sights and Sounds" affirm, very little has been changed other than to update or repair the original 1937 system. However, there may be some good news on the horizon. Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. announced in April of this year that he was reinstating the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) this year, with a commitment to environmental justice and sustainability in the borough. The SWAB was originally conceived in 1989 as a recycling and solid waste initiative but has since evolved into a broader and expansive environmental justice initiative, covering a range of different topics. The Bronx SWAB is a volunteer, public organization comprising an executive Team, appointees

from each Community Board, City Council representatives and additional significant stakeholders throughout The Bronx; its treasurer is Islander John Doyle. The organization seeks to uphold and advance New York City's Zero Waste by 2030, and it is possible that City Island's sewer system will be evaluated and perhaps improved.

We are not holding our collective breath, at least not yet, but we can be happy that the water main project was completed successfully, with the old main finally removed from the City Island bridge. And we can reassure *Current* readers that the newspaper will be on the job watching for and documenting progress on the sewage system, even if it takes another 50 years!



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.

**Former Island Current Editor Weighs In**

The following letter was written by Sally McPherson, the editor of *The Island Current* from 1973 to 1998.

To the Editor,

My heart is full of love, memories and pride in the accomplishment of *The Island Current* during the past 50 years. All of those who have made and continue to make this happen are giving a gift of immeasurable value to City Island.

I have two homes: City Island, the home of my heart, and Appleton, Wisconsin, the home of my birth. Not a day goes by that I don't think of you all and remember what a wonderful community City Island is and what an honor it is to still be part of it.

**With love, Sally (aka) Sara McPherson**

P.S. We still can't afford expenses for the boat show report, but Greg does a great job.

**Sincere Thanks for Coming to Honor Sue Chadwick**

To the Editor,

On behalf of the family of Rev. Susan Chadwick, we would like to thank all those who came to honor her memory at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, Sept. 19.

We know it was a difficult decision for many with Covid still a factor. In spite of this, it was a very nice turnout and your support helped us all get through a tough day. We felt your love.

Many thanks to Rev. David Jolly for his counselling, kindness and hard work in trying to set up a video feed so people out of sight of the altar could still see and hear, and for making the official dedication of the food pantry in Sue's name at the service.

And a special thank you to our friends who helped that day with the many last-minute tasks and with cleanup.

**Marguerite & Peter Juner**

**Thanks to Islanders for the Craft Fair**

To the Editor,

This year the City Island Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Fall Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 11 and 12, featuring over 60 participants, lively music and the annual clam chowder contest. A Covid vaccination van was parked at the corner of Hawkins Street and managed to vaccinate 27 people and test 27 more over two days. We have not received information about the testing vehicle that was parked near The Artist on Saturday.

A somber but moving highlight of

the fair was the 9/11 memorial event on Saturday afternoon, coordinated by Rabia Graney from City Island State of Mind. Speakers included Father John Knapp representing St. Mary, Star of the Sea; Stuart Sorell representing Temple Beth-El; Warden Bruce Weiss representing Grace Episcopal Church; Elder Lawrence Jones representing Trinity Methodist Church; and keynote speaker Neil Carroll, USAF retired. Beautiful music was provided by Sandy Dunn and the GraceTones.

The Chamber collected \$110 in raffle donations that will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project, and \$129 was collected to help pay for the City Island Avenue holiday lights. The Chamber is especially grateful to all of the businesses that generously donated prizes for the raffles and to those who purchased tickets.

The big event on Sunday was, of course, the clam chowder contest, which featured New England clam chowder and Manhattan chowder provided by 12 Island restaurants, organized by Maria Caruso and a staff of volunteers. The people's choice winners for the New England version were Artie's Steak & Seafood Restaurant for first place and the City Island Yacht Club's Chef Phara Lamarre's for second place. The people's choice for the Manhattan chowder was Sammy's Fish Box for first place and the Harlem Yacht Club for second.

We are grateful to Councilman Mark Gjonaj, who sponsored the event, and his staff who helped to make sure it ran smoothly. He picked Johnny's Reef for his favorite New England chowder and Sammy's Fish Box for their Manhattan chowder.

Although Covid continues to worry residents of City Island, as well as the restaurants, which are being compelled to adhere to strict New York City guidelines about indoor dining, we are determined to sponsor a Halloween Parade this year on Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. Costumes will be judged, and masks will be required (of course!).

**Paul Klein, President  
City Island Chamber of Commerce**

**P.S. 175 Opening Day**

*Continued from page 1*

"Our faculty and staff gave the students standing ovations as each class entered the building," Ms. Porras told *The Current*. Her assistant principal, Kathie Wiehler, echoed the excitement. "We treated the students like rock stars because we are so happy to have them back. And they are happy to be back."

The P.S. 175 school year has been indelibly changed by the pandemic. Classrooms have been reconfigured to enable the required three feet of social distancing, and there are now three lunch periods instead of two. Students sit spaced apart on only one side of the long lunch tables and have to keep their masks on until they dig into their food. Yet, as has been noticed around the city, children and adolescents are amazingly adaptable (this reporter noticed the usual lively chatter during the lunch period) and have demonstrated their ability to adhere to safety rules.

As *The Current* went to press, there were no positive cases of Covid at P.S. 175 since it reopened. The principal explained that "the DOE conducts weekly random testing now of 10 percent of unvaccinated students [most of the school population is under 12 years of age and not eligible for the vaccine yet] and it is very smooth. If there is a positive test, the DOE Situation Room and Test and Trace Team have a protocol to implement any quarantine or other measures to insure the safety of everyone in the building. They will tell us what to do, and we would immediately share the information with parents." She also explained that her faculty and staff have until Sept. 27 to be vaccinated with at least one dose of the Covid vaccine. Meanwhile, it was evident that all teachers and staff were wearing masks in the building.

What about changes to curriculum? Ms. Porras explained, "Students returned with more technology skills, thanks to the

long period of virtual learning. We took the best practices from the year of remote learning, but we are emphasizing the joy and friendship only in-person learning can deliver." She said that her teachers are reacquainting students with hands-on collaborative learning, and the students are excited to be with classmates again. The school is also including more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities in the curriculum and has been able to provide music instruction again.

Ms. Porras emphasized that the pandemic has necessitated additional emotional and social support. "Some of the students haven't been back since early 2020, and some of the first graders have never experienced in-classroom learning." The principal recognized the efforts of the school's psychologist, the guidance counselors and the social workers who support the faculty in helping students readjust to in-person education.

Some long-standing school traditions have been modified as well. Picture Day 2021 included only individual P.S. 175 student photographs, which will be put together in a class montage unlike the memorable photos many of us have in our bookcases with our classmates all together in neat rows wearing our picture-day outfits. Parent-teacher conferences will be entirely remote and virtual by appointment.

The principal cited the support of the Parent Teacher Association led by co-presidents Melissa Rosado and Joann Cautillo. "They bring lots of energy to their partnership with us, and they provided some great school swag in the form of t-shirts and masks with the new Shark logo." Ms. Porras also acknowledged the efforts of Tina Gisante, the Parent Coordinator, who has worked hard to insure a smooth start to the new school year.

Our longtime School News column also returns this year with P.S. 175 faculty names and the grades they teach (see page 13). Good luck to everyone committed to educate the next generation of City Islanders.

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# 9-11 REMEMBRANCES & CHAMBER FAIR 2021



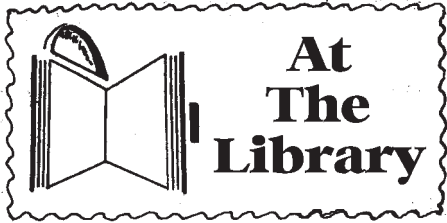
Photos by RON TERNER and RICK DEWITT

On Saturday morning, Sept. 11, after prayers at St. Mary's Church, the American Legion Post 156 held a solemn ceremony at the Legion Triangle to commemorate the tragedy that took place at the World Trade Center 20 years ago. And later that afternoon, a remembrance organized by Islander Rabia Granay was held in Hawkins Park, where representatives of the Island churches and temple and retired USAF officer Neil Carroll spoke, following a musical tribute by the GraceTones, led by Sandy Dunn (bottom photo, fourth from left).



Photos by RON TERNER, RICK DeWITT and BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 11 and 12, drew a record number of participants this year, including a woodworker who creates beautiful objects out of fallen trees (top photo); Ron Turner, whose photographs can now be worn (second photo) and the traditional clam chowder contest on Sunday, for which Councilman Mark Gjonaj (third photo), here with P.S. 175 fourth-grader Isabella Johnson, served as sponsor and judge. The contest (fourth photo) was organized by Maria Caruso (far left), and winners (left to right) included Anne Booth of the Harlem Yacht Club, who won second prize from the people for her Manhattan clam chowder; Cathy Dellacerra and Judith Familia of Artie's Steak and Seafood, which won first prize from the people for the New England clam chowder, and at the far right Steven Gilmore of Sammy's Fish Box, which won first prize for the Manhattan clam chowder from both the councilman and the people. Not present were Johnny's Reef, which won first place from the councilman for the New England chowder, and Phara Lamarre of the City Island Yacht Club, which received second place from the people for the Manhattan version. The Lickety Split Band offered up a selection of favorite tunes in the afternoon (bottom photo).



# At The Library

## CITY ISLAND LIBRARY

**Hours: Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
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**Shelf Help:** While browsing is limited, we offer a friendly, adventurous alternative. Tell us your reading interests and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests: [www.nypl.org/shelfhelp](http://www.nypl.org/shelfhelp).

### OCTOBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**AniMonday:** Love anime? Come by to learn about different anime and manga, debate about favorite characters, make anime inspired art and more! Monday, Oct. 18, at 3:30 p.m.

**Twisted Stitches:** A teen/tween knitting, crochet and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Presented by Students on the Sound, the City Island Library Teen Advisory Board. Thursday, Oct. 7 and 21, at 4:30 p.m.

**TEEN Talks, Part 1:** Pick a topic that you know all about and spend the time crafting a TED Talk-style presentation about it. Don't worry: we'll watch some TED Talks, too! Friday, Oct. 1, at 3 p.m.

**TEEN Talks, Part 2:** This program is a continuation of last week's program. Take some time to polish up your TEENTalk, then take the stage to show us what you know! Friday, Oct. 8, at 3 p.m.

**LGBT Icon Portraits:** Pick an icon from the LGBT community and create a portrait of them in any way you wish! Friday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m.

**Unplug & Relax:** Relax in analog—with board games, books, word puzzles, coloring pages and anything else without a screen. Friday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m.

**Cryptid Collectors:** Learn about cryptids around the world, then create your own! Friday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

### OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAMS

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, Oct. 18 and 25, at 5 p.m.

**Patience, Fortitude & Creative Writing:** Using NYPL's vast catalogue of resources, including databases and digital photo collections, this in-person program will allow writers of all experience levels to challenge themselves. Thursday, Oct. 14 and 28, at 3 p.m.

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're searching for a place to stimulate your brain, or join in on some friendly competition, then why not join our Scrabble Club? Come on in and flex those vocabulary muscles! Learn some new words, and maybe even make some new friends. Limited to 8 participants, registration required. Thursday, Oct. 7 and 21, at 3 p.m.

**Island Writers:** One of the City Island Library's most successful programs returns! This is a group for anyone interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to help one another in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so feel free to join in on the literary fun! Registration recommended. In Memory of Anne Hutchinson. Tuesday, Oct. 12 and 26, at 1 p.m.

**One-on-One Job Support:** Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you write and format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 13 and 20, at 10 a.m. will be virtual. Register at <https://www.nypl.org/adults/career-employment/virtual/support>. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m., will be in person at the library.

**What Are You Reading?** Calling all avid readers! Let's come together as a community to discuss what you've been reading, and what you may want to read next! This is an open discussion for all genres, but each session will also include a presentation of titles related to a particular topic. Saturday, Oct. 9 and 23, at 3:30 p.m.

in person. On Saturday, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m., this program will be presented virtually with registration required.

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



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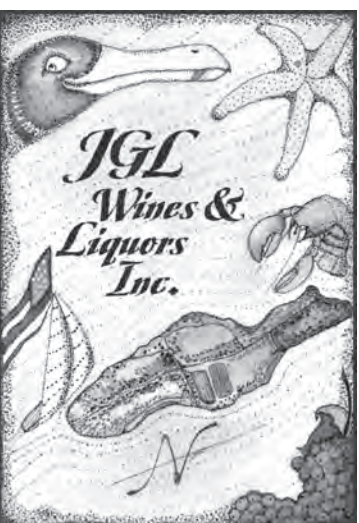
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Island Current labelers: I to r: Elizabeth Sheridan, Francesca Sena Jarman and Karen Collier Mazzella.

## IC 50 and Fit

Continued from page 1

accompanied by spaces marked for pictures. This was done by volunteer editorial staff while they took turns watching their toddlers. The galley proofs were picked up by a Bronx printer who delivered the printed paper. After saving up some money, the staff managed to purchase a waxer, and the rubber cement was happily put to rest. According to Sally McPherson, *The Current's* second editor, "the Bronx printer was given walking papers after he

groped and leered once too often, and a new printer was found in New Jersey who taught the staff how to do the job."

Copy was mailed to a professional typesetter, who mailed back proofs for corrections. When everything was approved, staff members went to her New Jersey office to "roll" by hand the typeset copy and black-and-white photographs onto mechanicals, which then went to the printer. The staff enjoyed a "rolldown" lunch while they waited to pick up the copies for distribution on City Island. Nowadays digital files and photos are uploaded via e-mail links to our printer in Queens who delivers the printed copies by truck to our distribution manager on Hawkins Street and to the U.S. Post Office. For over 40 years, staff members pasted mailing labels on the subscription copies, but nowadays our fifth printer, Stellar Printing Inc., uses a computerized system to print subscriber address labels directly onto the paper, a significant time-saver for the volunteers. Rolldown lunch has become breakfast, a regular ritual for staff members.

There have been many other growing pains and changes over the last 50 years, but we hope you agree that *The Island Current* remains a viable news source and historical reference for present and former City Island residents and their families. Our motto continues to be: Of City Island, For City Island and By City Islanders! We look forward to serving you for another 50 years.

# The Talebearer Tells All

By KAREN NANI

One of *The Island Current's* longest running columns is the Talebearer, which has appeared in almost every issue for 50 years. There have been several "Talebearers," but the longest serving is Islander Maria Swieciki, who has authored the column for 34 years. She has faithfully and cheerfully kept readers informed of birthdays, weddings, births, graduations and other happy events celebrated by Islanders and their families.

Despite the name (and the title of this article), the Talebearer was never meant to be a gossip column, and Maria respects the privacy of residents. She focuses on celebrations and photos that Islanders are happy to share with readers (see page 20 this issue). Long before there was Facebook and Instagram, there was Maria, the Talebearer.

Her own story of how she came to City Island is worth sharing as *The Current* looks back over the last 50 years and applauds the many volunteers who have kept this community newspaper running.

Maria Iovieno was born in 1953 and was raised on Gillespie Avenue in the Bronx, ironically the same block as the family home of this reporter's husband, Paul Nani. She attended Our Lady of Assumption elementary school and St. Helena's high school. She then attended Bronx Community College (BCC), where an empty seat in an American history class changed her life forever.

"Bob Swieciki was also attending BCC, and he sat down next to me in class. We started talking and then began dating," she reminisced happily. They married 36 years ago and Maria became a mussel sucker. Bob already had an apartment on City Island on Bowne Street, so she moved in with him after the wedding. Bob was raised in the Bronx but had relocated to City Island when he found the apartment advertised in *The Penny Pincher*.

Maria finished BCC with an associate's degree and then received her bachelor's degree from Hunter College. She was working as a legal secretary in Manhattan and started taking the express bus every workday from City Island. "When I moved here as a newlywed in 1985, I literally didn't know a soul. I kept busy commuting to my legal secretary job in Manhattan," she explained.

She and Bob eventually bought the house on Bay Street, where they live to this day. Jackie Kyle Kall was the real estate agent for the sale, and while they were working with Jackie, Bob turned to Maria and said "you would be good at this," a prediction that would eventually come to be.

They had three children, Stephen, Maria and Bobby, who were raised on Bay Street and attended P.S. 175. Maria stayed home with them for 10 years and then decided her husband was right. She wanted a career that was close to home, so she went to school for her real estate license. She became a licensed broker and was hired by Bob Carmody of Atlantic Emeritus Realty (AER), where she worked for 23 years, until 2018. Since then, she has worked for Today Realty which serves



Maria Swieciki has been *The Island Current's* Talebearer for 34 years.

the Bronx and Westchester including City Island.

In her long and successful career, Maria has sold or rented dozens of homes, condos and apartments on City Island. She is the consummate professional but is quick to say that she has become good friends with many of her clients who have purchased or rented properties on City Island. Her memory is amazing: she remembers every client and their families. This reporter sat with her during the Arts and Crafts Fair, and it seemed that she recognized by name everyone who passed by the Grace Church booth.

So how did she become the Talebearer? "Once I became a stay-at-home mom in 1986 with the birth of my son Stephen, I realized that I needed to find more to do besides changing diapers! I picked up a copy of *The Island Current* at the IGA and was impressed with the quality of the paper. I had a degree in communications from Hunter College, and I thought 'I can do this.'"

So Maria called up then editor, Sally McPherson, and introduced herself. As has often happened throughout this newspaper's long run, when one volunteer "retires," another steps up. "The paper needed someone to write the Talebearer, so Sally gave me the job. That was in March 1987 and I've never looked back. And I've made wonderful friends along the way!" Maria reports proudly.

Her volunteering spirit didn't stop with *The Current*. Maria was actively involved with the P.S. 175 PTA, starting with the candy sale when her son Stephen was in kindergarten. She is a member of the Women's Auxiliary at the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion and a "proud committee member" of two organizations: The Sons of Italy Lodge #83 and the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of the Bronx and Westchester. Last but not least, she has been a member and volunteer with the NY Turtle and Tortoise Society since the late 1980s (note her necklace in the accompanying photo).

Maria and Bob are very proud of their children. Both Stephen and Maria became New York City teachers, and Bobby joined the U.S. Coast Guard. The family is preparing for Bobby's upcoming wedding in California in November. You can expect to see a photo of the happy bride and groom in the Talebearer soon.



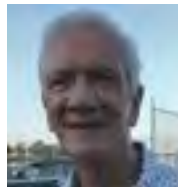
*The Island Current* is celebrating its 50th anniversary. What do you like most about reading *The Current*?



### Genie Gerhard Kelly

What I like most about *The Current* is EVERYTHING, but what I very much appreciate is the Tide Chart at the beginning of the summer. Simple, large print and easy to read.

### Mike Rauh



Of all of the different columns over the years, the Talebearer has been my favorite. You catch up on all the latest goings on.



### Barbara Stiene

Just keeping abreast of everything that goes on here on the Island. In the police Blotter, reading about people's complaints; in the Talebearer finding out who is getting married, having babies, etc.

### Paul Klein



I enjoy keeping current with City Island events, and it's a great advertising vehicle for the store and for Chamber events. It's local news, City Island information.



### Candy Mancuso

I enjoy reading *The Island Current* because it keeps me up to date with community events like the Arts & Crafts Fair, the American Legion pumpkin sale, the Christmas tree and menorah lighting. And like everyone else, I look forward to seeing what will grace the special cover of the December issue.

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A Current Review

“Runaway Princess” Visits City Island

By Bruce A. Weis

The Artist, at 249 City Island Avenue, has been a major player in the City Island art arena for a number of years. Opening in 1997 as the Starving Artist, offering jewelry hand made by owner Elliott Glick and the art and handicrafts of regional artisans, the store gradually transitioned from selling works of art to showcasing performance art. The Starving Artist was the Island’s premier music venue for years, featuring live music and a coffee house menu. In 2018, Elliott and his wife, Monica, took their space into a “show-focused phase,” tearing out the kitchen and building a real stage. And they dropped the word “Starving.”

The once tiny front stage now holds a small couch, the one seen in the ‘Elliot and Monica Couch Show’ series (more on that later). A full new stage takes up the back wall, and sound and lighting systems have been upgraded to match. These changes signal a new direction, as The Artist is now a performance space. Uncle Billy’s Philly Cheese Steak is sadly no longer available, but new types of performance are. The Artist is normally my go-to Island place for live music, but I recently had an opportunity to view an excellent performance of “Runaway Princess” there, written by and starring Mary Goggin.

This play is a one-woman show, with a set that defines minimal—a chair, a book and a dress on a hanger. The stage is dark. Mary takes the stage, grabs your attention with her first words and then never lets go; she moves between these three items, seamlessly weaving them into her tale. First she reads from the book: “Once upon a time, there was a Princess born to a King and Queen who were banished from their island, forced to flee to America in a coffin ship,” and then she discards it. She doesn’t need the book; she knows the story. Mary speaks from many perspectives, adopting an occasional Gaelic accent whose strength waxes and wanes as the story unfolds. Thunder claps sporadically in the background, at the mention of religious strictures.

And what a tale Mary has to tell. The daughter of Irish immigrants, she speaks of rebelling against her strict Irish Catholic upbringing and leaving home at the age of 13. One after another, she recounts the experiences, painful thought processes and self justifications lived in years of drug addiction, alcoholism and prostitution. The story is often brutal, yet somehow spellbinding. Mary chronologically describes a life in a narcotic tailspin, but she engages the audience in a manner that keeps them from politely turning away. In a finale I found heartwarming, she seems to switch emotional gears as she speaks of events that allowed her to miraculously turn her life around.

Born in the Bronx, Mary Goggin lived an astonishing life before winning a scholarship to study acting at Marymount Manhattan College after her recovery. She has worked professionally as an actress on television, stage and in film for more than



Mary Goggin

20 years, and she has been sober for 33.

“Runaway Princess, a Hopeful Tale of Heroin, Hooking and Happiness,” written by Mary, premiered to a sold-out house at the Peoples Improv Theater in Manhattan on Nov. 19, 2017. Under the direction of Dan Ruth, the show moved off Broadway to Theater Row and won Best Storyteller, Critics Choice and Bestseller awards at the United Solo Theatre Festival in 2019. “Runaway Princess” appeared at the Galway Fringe 2019, where it won the Best Actor award, and the Fringiest Award at the Baltimore Fringe in 2019.

Recently, Mary Goggin has been presenting “Runaway Princess” in order to bring awareness to human trafficking, working with the Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island and the Suffolk County Police Department.

The director of “Runaway Princess,” Dan Ruth, is an award-winning actor and performance artist who won numerous awards from the United Solo Theatre Festival and the Hollywood Fringe Festival. The technical assistant for the production, Hannah Glick, has worked with the City Island Theater Group in nearly every capacity (production assistant, actor, stage manager, technical supervision) for several years. Her work extracted the maximal effects from the show’s minimal set.

The Artist was closed during the pandemic, along with the rest of the world, which led Elliot and Monica to launch the “Elliot and Monica Couch Show” series. They presented sixty-one episodes of the show online from their living room couch at 8 p.m. every Saturday during the 16 months The Artist was closed. The shows were well received and have developed enough of a following that the an occasional Couch Show is still produced, from the Artist, on that same couch.

A repeat performance of “Runaway Princess” will take place again at The Artist at an undetermined date, and I highly recommend it when that happens. The Artist is planning other theatrical performances as well, such as a festival of One Act plays, in early 2022, which, coincidentally, is about the time the City Island Theater group hopes to resume production. But we’ll save that discussion for a different column.

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## Organization News

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

### City Island Oyster Reef

City Island Oyster Reef will be hosting the Viva La Sound educational festival for families and friends of the environment on Oct. 2 (rain date Oct. 3) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ambrosini Field. CIOR received grant funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to host this event, which is free to all. There will be many environmental nonprofits in attendance, and hands-on activities, including the Norwalk Aquarium's marine touch tank, diving demonstrations and a creative arts program run by Tina Cooper and local City Island artists. Come see the FDNY's Marine fire boat! Free tickets will be given away to the Museum of the City of New York's Rising Tide exhibit, which documents climate change around the world. Live music and delicious food donated by the City Island restaurants and businesses will be provided throughout the day! All are welcome!

The design for the Living Shoreline and Education Center behind P.S. 175 is taking shape. With funding awarded to CIOR from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, we hired Filomena Riganti, a landscape architect and project manager, who is overseeing surveys of the site and is completing an initial design of the site. Recently, Filomena, Dr. Eric Sanderson and CIOR board members did a walk-through of the living shoreline to discuss the design draft and potential location of a pilot oyster reef. Dr. Allison Fitzgerald, New York Oyster Program Director for NY/NJ Baykeeper, also a CIOR advisor, visited the site and offered suggestions about the design of the pilot oyster reef and ways to make it accessible so that teachers and students from P.S. 175 would be able to study an oyster reef.

Get hands-on experience with our BOP Oyster Research Station Monitoring. Learn how to measure oysters within the BOP ORS and see interesting sea creatures. Gain a better understanding of how oyster reefs contribute to the health of an ecosystem. The next date is Nov. 13. The CIOR Carolina skiff purchased by CIOR makes for safer access to the ORS cages attached to moorings off City Island. Great for all ages!

The City Island Shell Collective, a coalition of City Island restaurants, continues to work with CIOR to recycle oyster and clam shells. Thanks to the Billion Oyster Project, we have a permit to cure shells collected from City Island restaurants. On Friday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we are looking for volunteers to help bag shells at the Pelham Bay landfill. We are also looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from local restaurants and deliver to the Pelham Bay landfill with the help of the CIOR truck. Volunteers need to be available to help on Mondays or Thursdays between 4 and 6 p.m. or on Tuesdays or Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m. We need help at any of these times.

The season finale of Malcolm Campbell Summer Movie Series was a presentation of "The Royal Tenenbaums" on Sept. 10 at the home of Barbara Dolensek, where scenes were filmed in 2000. The strong feeling of community spirit as everyone came together to support CIOR's work while enjoying a movie under the stars made the evening special.

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

**Sally Connolly**

### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating, non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. All Temple offerings are online via Zoom. Many tutorials

for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

For the month of October, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night live Shabbat services on Oct. 1, 22 and 29 (Fifth Friday); an assortment of Rabbi David Evan Markus and community will lead services online. Other services will be community led on Zoom on Oct. 8 and 15. Please see our calendar for our community-led Havdalah services. All services are held in a joyful celebratory manner.

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

On Oct. 22, the Bardekovas Ensemble Woodward Quintet will provide a live free concert from 6 to 7:30 p.m., followed by a live Shabbat. For all live services, all must provide proof of vaccination and be masked.

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

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

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

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

**Jodie Sadovsky**

### City Island Civic Association

The September meeting of the membership was held outdoors at the Morris Yacht Club. Our guests were Al Quattlebaum and our Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), who presented a proposal to split the 45th precinct NCO sector that now covers both City Island and Co-op City into two parts so that City Island will have its own dedicated NCO officers. Please note that our community police officer may be reached by e-mail at [Neil.Anderson@nypd.org](mailto:Neil.Anderson@nypd.org).

We have arranged for a community cleanup of City Island Avenue on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 8 to 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed. Please meet us bright and early at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175.

We are very grateful to the NYPD and the Sanitation Department for their response to the Civic Association's request for traffic agents and for more sanitation pickups than we had last year. Thanks to Civic members, Island businesses and residents, we had traffic control all summer and cleaner streets. Thanks to everyone for raising your voices because this united effort produced results. And the results are proof that we are City Island Strong!

The water safety committee is writing a letter of thanks to the officers of the Harbor Patrol expressing our gratitude to the entire unit as well as to individual officers whose efforts have been noteworthy. In this thankless world, especially where police work is concerned these days, we feel it is the least we can do. The committee has helped to



Photo by CHRIS WALZER

In preparation for Viva La Sound!, an environmental fair organized for Oct. 2 by the City Island Oyster Reef, Inc., members of the board mounted a banner on the fence outside Ambrosini Field (l. to r. Mike Carew, Sally Connolly, Adjie Henderson and Maria Caruso).

diminish the boat music and jet ski noise this past summer.

On Oct. 11, when Columbus Day is celebrated, there will be no garbage or recycle pickup. Garbage should be put out on Monday night, and recycle must wait until the following Sunday night, Oct. 17.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the attention of the Civic, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. You can also e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken street light or graffiti is the best way to document your issue in case nothing results from a call to the Department of Transportation (DOT) or any other city agency. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Additionally, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 26, location to be determined.

Although we have deferred the payment of dues to next year, we always welcome those who are willing to pay. If you cannot make the meeting, please take the time to send your dues (\$20 for a year, \$50 for three years) to PO Box 117, City Island, or pay online at [paypal.com](http://paypal.com). The e-mail to send money to is [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

**Jane Protzman**

### American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at noon. There will be an in-person meeting and a Zoom meeting. Please check your e-mail or the Post 156 website for the link on the Main Page calendar. Dues (\$55) are past due and can be dropped off at the Post. Please put the money in an envelope with your name on it so we can properly process your membership. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

The weekend of Oct. 1, 2 and 3 will be the annual Post Pumpkin Sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a bake sale on Saturday only, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please come out and support the Legion Family.

Through an abundance of safety for our members, Department of New York have elected to cancel this year's Bronx County Visitation. Frank LaMarsh is currently our Department Commander. Also joining the leadership is Department Auxiliary President Mary E. Farley and David Lee, who is the state SAL Detachment Commander. We look forward to seeing them in the spring when consideration to resume Department Visitations will be taken.

Please visit our website for the latest information and the ability to e-mail the Post directly. Our website can be found at [Leonardhhawkinspost156.com](http://Leonardhhawkinspost156.com), where you will find an e-mail link to reach us.

Thanks go to the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do it all ourselves anymore. We are always in need of new members. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post 156 mission. Remember: The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years.

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**

### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

The Budget Shop has reopened. Normal hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

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

**Rick DeWitt**



### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program has begun. If you have not yet registered your child/children and wish to do so, please send an e-mail to [smssreled@yahoo.com](mailto:smssreled@yahoo.com).

Our monthly Holy Hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 1:30 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain.

The Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the month of October. Come take a look around.

**Rosette Dietz**



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

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

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

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

**APPROVED PROGRAMS:**

**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Yoga with Joann:** Tuesdays, 6 p.m.  
**Aerobics with Mary:** Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

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

**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

For up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook!

**Melissa Cebollero**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

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

Father John Covington's final Sunday service was on Sept. 26, and he has since left to begin a well-deserved retirement. Island resident Father Wilfredo Benitez will be presiding as our priest on most Sundays from October through December. Please join us as we welcome Father Benitez on Sunday, Oct. 10, at our worship service, which starts at 10 a.m.

Sunday School: We look forward to resuming regular church school classes the first and third of the month within Covid safety guidelines. We hope to begin preparation classes for confirmation this fall, as well as to begin discussing our 2021 Christmas Pageant. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

Music at Grace: As of July 4th, everyone attending Sunday morning services

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

The GraceTones have resumed singing for the community again. We will perform at The Artist on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 3 p.m. If you play a musical instrument, such as guitar, harmonica or fiddle and you'd like to join in rehearsals, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

**Sandy Dunn**

**PSS Senior Center**

PSS City Island Center is partially open at this time. A mask must be worn at all times (except when eating). At this writing only 21 members are allowed in the center at one time.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information.

Below is the current schedule:

**Mondays**

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy in person  
 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Monitoring  
 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in person)  
 1 p.m. Nutrition or Health Classes, a different topic each week; remote or at the center

**Tuesdays**

10 a.m. Tech Class. Call the center for information for each week.  
 11 a.m. Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy Q, Scrabble, cards, mah jong, or Monopoly.

**Wednesdays**

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote and in person)  
 9 to 1:30 Social Worker available to help with Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, SCRIE and more. Call for an appointment.

**Thursdays**

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (in person)  
 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

**Fridays**

9 a.m. Zumba with Maria (remote)  
 12:30 p.m. Singing Group with Napat (remote)

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

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

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

Stay safe and healthy.

**Patty Attis**

**Garden Club of City Island**

The Garden Club held its September general membership meeting on Sept. 13 on the porch of the City Island Yacht Club. It was great to get together and have a chance to socialize outdoors on a beautiful day.

Garden Club projects continue. The red begonias and other plants at the Post Office garden look great, thanks to care by club members. The Garden Club has installed small signs in the garden to remind people not to walk their dogs there. The plants in the club's 30 containers along City Island Avenue and the



**New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi (right), met with Michael Gramazio from Man Overboard Restaurant and City Island Rising's John Doyle when she came to tour flood damage on City Island following the torrential rain from the remnants of Hurricane Ida in September.**

containers at the Pelham Cemetery gates are overflowing. No doubt the recent rains helped, but club members are still busy pruning and watering. Thanks go to the businesses and residents near the containers who help us with the watering and removing trash.

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

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a helping hand for club projects, send a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. We hold meetings the first Monday of every month (except July and August). Coffee and munchies are provided by the Hospitality Committee. The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 4, at 10 a.m. on the City Island Yacht Club porch. Our presenter will be master beekeeper Patrick Gannon, who will bring his tools-of-the-trade to show us how it is done. This presentation is open to the public at no cost. Please remember to bring a mask with you. Should we need to move the meeting indoors, you will need to bring proof of vaccination in order to attend.

**Judy Judson**

**Sons of the American Legion**

We are now collecting 2022 dues, \$30. Make your check payable to SAL Squadron #0156 and send it by mail or drop it off at the Post.

The Sons were glad to be a part of the Post's 9/11 ceremony held on the morning of the 20th anniversary.

There are a few events coming up. On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 9 a.m. we will have a NY Jets football breakfast, as they are playing in London. On Saturday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m. there will be a pig roast.

Stop by the Post for further details and to sign up.

Our meetings are still held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**Tommy Vivolo**

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156**

Unit 156 resumed monthly meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 7, as scheduled. Our Auxiliary membership proudly participated in the somber Sept. 11th remembrance services offered by our American Legion Post 156. A special thank you to all of our members who participated and provided refreshments.

As of this writing, we are busy planning

for the annual American Legion Post 156 Pumpkin Sale on Oct. 1, 2 and 3, and the Auxiliary Bake Sale (only Oct. 2). We look forward to reporting on our fundraising efforts in the November issue, as well as our results for the annual Fort Drum children's winter clothing drive!

We continue to welcome all potential new members to the American Legion family. For more information regarding membership eligibility, please stop by our post at 550 City Island Avenue or go online to [https://www.deptny.org/?page\\_id=857](https://www.deptny.org/?page_id=857) or e-mail us at [ala156correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:ala156correspondence@gmail.com).

**Doreen A. Gallagher**

**AARP Chapter 318**

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

**Carroll A. Reid**

**City Island Republicans**

Curtis Sliwa is the Republican nominee for mayor. His campaign is picking up steam and momentum. Hopefully we can get him out to City Island before Election Day.

Alex Micci is the Republican candidate for City Council, and he has been at a few stops on the Island. He is running a campaign to continue curbing overdevelopment and upzoning in our communities. Zoning is a familiar issue on City Island. 2017 council candidate John Cerini has been assisting him with the campaign against several oversized developments around the Council 13 district.

Next year is redistricting. No one knows for sure what the new lines will be. There is actually a ballot proposal to get rid of the independent redistricting commission and allow elected officials in Albany to redraw their own districts, as was the case in the past.

There will be more information about the election next month.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

**City Island Rising**

The last week of September will mark "Climate Week" in New York City. It's a time where leaders in various indus-

*Continued on page 13*



## 50 FAVORITE FILMS, Part I

In recognition of *The Island Current's* 50th anniversary, I thought it might be a good time to focus on favorite movies that I've reviewed over my 30 years with the paper. This month we'll revisit the first 25 and patiently await the November issue for the rest!

When I consider putting a film in my favorites category, my primary consideration is how many times have I seen it. I have viewed those on my list at least 5 or 10 times, if not more. I've chosen to write a tiny bit about each to give you a flavor, in the style of "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide," presenting the films briefly in alphabetical order.

**The American President** (1995) 1h 54m Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Martin Sheen, Michael J. Fox, Richard Dreyfuss. When the U.S. President becomes smitten with an environmental lobbyist, the political impact might jeopardize his re-election.

**And the Band Played On** (1993) 2h 21m Matthew Modine, Alan Alda, Phil Collins, Richard Gere, Lily Tomlin, Angelica Huston. The story of the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic, its effect on the gay community and the hostility between several doctors dealing with it.

**Argo** (2012) 2h Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston, John Goodman, Alan Arkin, Victor Garber. Best Picture winner about the true story of the Iran hostage crisis, wherein a CIA agent creates an absurd scenario of seeking a movie location in order to rescue six American Embassy staff members hiding in the home of the Canadian ambassador.

**Beauty and the Beast** (Animated, 1991) 1h 24m Voices of Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson, Jesse Corti, Angela Lansbury, Rex Everhart, Jerry Orbach. My favorite Disney cartoon about an independent girl who loves to read, resists the advances of the town narcissist and teaches a beast how to love.

**Bend It Like Beckham** (British, 2002) 1h 52m Parminder K. Nagra, Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, Juliet Stevenson, Archie Panjabi. Traditional and modern life in conflict as a British teen from a traditional Indian family wants to play soccer, is befriended by a teammate whose mother loves frills, and both girls have a crush on their Irish coach.

**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2012) 2h 4m Dev Patel, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Tom Wilkinson, Bill Nighy, Penelope Wilton. Delightful film about seven financially strapped men and women who are trying to retire and decide to spend their declining years at a hotel in India, which, unfortunately, is not what they expected.

**The Big Chill** (1983) 1h 45m Kevin Kline, Glenn Close, William Hurt, Tom Berenger, JoBeth Williams, Jeff Goldblum, Mary Kay Place, Meg Tilly. When a suicide occurs in their group, old college friends reunite after many years and discover their relationships are not as they remembered; set to wonderful 1960s music.

**Body Heat** (1981) 1h 53m William Hurt, Kathleen Turner, Ted Danson, Richard Crenna. A modern-day mystery reminiscent of the film noir genre of the 1940s, this is the story of a sleazy lawyer seduced by a sex-crazed unhappily married woman and the lengths he will go to win her.

**Breach** (2007) 1h 50m Ryan Phillippe, Laura Linney, Chris Cooper, Kathleen Quinlan, Dennis Haysbert, Gary Cole, Caroline Dhavernas. True story of how a bright young FBI agent-in-training brings

down the American agent who spied for the Soviets for 25 years.

**Bread and Tulips** (Italian, 2001) 1h 54m Licia Maglietta, Bruno Ganz, Marina Massironi, Antonio Catania, Giuseppe Battiston. When the vacation bus at a rest stop accidentally leaves behind a wife and mother of two teens without her family noticing, she decides to start a new life in Venice.

**Cinema Paradiso** (Italian, 1988) 2h 35m Jacque Perrin, Philippe Noiret, Marco Leonardi, Salvatore Cascio. When a prominent film director hears of the death of the projectionist who befriended him as a little boy, he returns to his home-town for the first time in many years. A spectacular beautiful ending will make you cry.

**The Contender** (2000) 2h 6m Joan Allen, Jeff Bridges, Gary Oldman, Sam Elliott, Christian Slater, William Petersen, Robin Thomas, Kathryn Morris, Mariel Hemingway. The U.S. president decides to name a female senator to replace the deceased vice president and is challenged by a conservative senator who accuses her of sexual impropriety.

**Crossing Delancey** (1988) 1h 37m Amy Irving, Peter Riegert, Reizel Bonyk, Jeroen Krabbe, Sylvia Miles, John Bedford Lloyd. The delightful story of a young woman who works in an Upper West Side bookstore and whose bubby hires a matchmaker to find her granddaughter a husband.

**Dave** (1993) 1h 50m Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Frank Langella, Kevin Dunn, Ving Rhames, Ben Kingsley, Charles Grodin. When the U.S. President becomes incapacitated, a look-alike is secretly hired as a stand-in by his staff.

**The Devil Wears Prada** (2006) 1h 49m Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci, Andrian Grenier, Simon Baker. A would-be journalist "settles" for a job as assistant to the sadistic managing editor of Vogue Magazine.

**Downton Abbey** (British, 2019) 2h 2m Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton, Allen Leach, Jim Carter, Phyllis Logan. In this offshoot of the beloved TV series, the British royal family pays a visit to the Crawley household, creating havoc for all the inhabitants.

**Finding Forrester** (2000) 2h 16m Sean Connery, Rob Brown, Anna Paquin, F. Murray Abraham, Busta Rhymes, Michael Nouri. A reclusive writer mentors a black teenager, helping him navigate the private school where he is on a basketball scholarship and has antagonized a snobbish English teacher.

**The Firm** (1993) 2h 24m Tom Cruise, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Gene Hackman, Hal Holbrook, Ed Harris, Holly Hunter, David Straithairn, Wilfred Brimley. Classic lawyer movie wherein a recent Harvard law school graduate is hired to work at a prestigious Memphis law firm unaware that it is under investigation by the FBI.

**Hitch** (2005) 1h 58m Will Smith, Kevin James, Eva Mendes, Amber Valletta, Adam Arkin. Hilarious tale of a "Date Doctor" who helps lonely guys get the girl of their dreams but is exposed by a disingenuous newspaper gossip columnist.

**The Intouchables** (French, 2011) 1h 52m Francois Cluzet, Omar Sy. A true story about a friendship that formed between a quadriplegic French aristocrat and a young man from the projects hired to be his caretaker, in an inspiring, uplifting and at times extremely funny film.

**Kate & Leopold** (2001) 1h 58m Hugh Jackman, Meg Ryan, Liev Schreiber, Breckin Meyer, Bradley Whitford. Delightful time travel romantic comedy about the accidental trip to present day New York from 1876 by an aristocratic inventor who becomes smitten with an ambitious corporate executive in an advertising firm.

**The King's Speech** (British, 2010) 1h 58m Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Derek Jacobi, Guy Pearce, Eve Best, Claire Bloom. True story of stammerer King George VI, who reluctantly takes the British throne when his brother abdicates, and of his relationship with his unconventional speech therapist. 12 Oscar

nominations and 4 wins, including Best Picture, Director, Actor and Screenplay.

**Legally Blonde** (2001) 1h 26m Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis, Jennifer Coolidge, Victor Garber, Holland Daylor, Ali Larter. Delightful tale of a Valley Girl sorority queen who decides to try to win back her ex-boyfriend by inexplicably getting into Harvard Law School.

**Leon: The Professional** (1994) 1h 50m Jean Reno, Natalie Portman, Gary Oldman, Danny Aiello. When her family is executed by a group of dirty cops, an adolescent girl's life is saved by a hit man, and an interesting friendship develops. Trent Reznor's soundtrack is excellent.

**Love Actually** (British, 2003) 2h 15m Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Andrew Lincoln, Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Bill Nighy, Thomas Sangster, Keira Knightly, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Martin Freeman, Kris Marshall, Billy Bob Thornton. Nine intertwined stories examine the complexities of love around Christmas time in London in this wonderful romantic comedy with a stellar ensemble cast.

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

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Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Latanya DeVaughn, creator of Bronx Bound Books (at left), and Peter Gennari, owner of Clipper Coffee, are grateful to everyone who donated, supported and came out to visit the Bronx Bound Book Mobile on Sept. 18, 2021, a community event sponsored by City Island Rising and Clipper Coffee. Those who would like to shop for books are invited to check out [https://bookshop.org/shop/bronx\\_bound\\_books](https://bookshop.org/shop/bronx_bound_books).

## Organization News

*Continued from page 11*

tries come together to push for substantive action to address climate change. Between the flash flooding we experienced this summer and our continuing position on the front lines of coastal storm surges, many of our neighbors have experienced the serious threat this problem poses to City Island. Even more important, what is actually being done to protect our community?

Since City Island Rising started in April 2019, we have centered a lot of our actions on how to preserve our Island for years to come. In October 2019, we hosted a large meeting with several environmental groups at the Harlem Yacht Club to discuss the climate and environmental issues we face. As a direct result of this meeting, Rising, along with several City Island groups, including the Hutchinson River Restoration Project and the City Island Oyster Reef, began meeting with State Senator Alessandra Biaggi about how to address the ongoing sewerage coming from Mount Vernon via the Hutchinson River.

This work continued during the pandemic. In May 2020, we hosted a forum with New York Renews (a statewide coalition of 200 environmental groups) with Senator Biaggi and Assembly Member Michael Benedetto to speak about our Island's poor infrastructure, resiliency and transportation needs. Nearly 60 Islanders "Zoomed" in to share their ideas. None of these solutions will come cheap; it will require legislation and revenue. One solution is the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA). This legislation raises \$15 billion per year from corporate polluters and uses it to create good green jobs, invest in frontline communities like ours and build a renewable economy for New York State. Both Biaggi and Benedetto have signed on as co-sponsors of this legislation.

Beyond supporting good policy proposals, we realized the need to act locally. Through Bronx Community Board 10, we were connected with the New York Sea Grant Program, which seeks to document issues of flooding so that policymakers and government stakeholders can address them. We have hosted New York Sea Grant at several of our meetings and hosted tours of the neighborhood with their scientific and research experts. These have resulted in more than 900 photos documenting the flooding in and around the Island, includ-

ing the numerous issues in Pelham Bay Park. We are using data to assess where climate risks are highest. As has been said before: "Things that get measured are usually things that get done."

This documentation was enough to get the attention of the Mayor Bill de Blasio's Office. In May 2021, we hosted a multi-agency tour of many of the flooding spots in our community, and already we have seen action. "Lake Orchard," a pool of water that became a dangerous icy road during winter months, has been successfully irrigated. Moreover, different agencies that had been passing the buck and are now working to include some of our problematic locations into upcoming sewer projects. We will have further updates on this in the weeks ahead.

Finally, just two weeks ago, Adriana Espinoza, Mayor de Blasio's Senior Advisor on Climate Justice attended our recent community meeting and directly engaged with residents about what we can do to preserve the Island we all love and call home. Islanders are concerned about the future and they are speaking out. We have facilitated a dialogue with those in power to bring the change we need and we invite our neighbors to join us in these on-going efforts.

There is still much work to be done, and we don't claim to have all the answers, but by working together we have made measurable progress. If you would like to help us build on this effort, please e-mail [CityIslandRising@gmail.com](mailto:CityIslandRising@gmail.com) or call 917-765-7968.

We are participating in Viva La Sound, an environmental festival sponsored by the City Island Oyster Reef on Saturday, Oct. 2, at Ambrosini Field. And we are planning a City Island Climate Rally at Bridge Park at noon on Saturday, Oct. 16. We hope to see you there.

John C. Doyle



### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop is back home in the lower level of the rectory. Watch for our half-price sales. We have lots of Halloween stuff (costumes and decorations). You must wear a mask, have your temperature taken and your hands sanitized upon arrival. Hope to see you soon. We are open Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rosette Dietz



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

New York City provided a van at the Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 11 and 12 to enable visitors and Islanders to get vaccinations, booster shots and Covid tests.



### Public School 175

Principal Julie Porras and assistant principal Kathleen Wiehler welcome the following faculty members for the 2021-

2022 school year. Ms. Bellon is teaching kindergarten; first grade will have Ms. Battreall; the second graders are being taught by Ms. Kaufman, and the third grade will have Ms. Mazzella and Ms. Maccarrone. Ms. Connolly will be teaching the fourth grade, and the fifth and sixth grades will have Dr. Grundman, Ms. Lawless, Ms. Doherty, Ms. Minor, Ms. Ramos and Ms. Aromando. Grades seven and eight will be taught by Mr. Esposito, Mr. Corona, Ms. Heil, Ms. Mazza and Ms. Moricone. The parent coordinator is Tina Gisante, and Roberta Gjonaj is the school nurse.

## Talking to Our Children About Climate Change

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

As extreme weather events continue (is your basement all dried out yet after Ida came through?), we adults owe it to our children to explain what is happening on our beloved planet. Climate change is here, and we need to come to grips with its effects. For ourselves, we need to get educated about the new natural order and check in about our own worries and fears as we look to the future. Only then can we provide compassionate guidance for those we love.

Here are six steps you might follow as you talk to your children:

- **Break the silence:** Talk openly with your children about the natural phenomena around us. Watching that torrential rain from Hurricane Ida was a remarkable example of how our weather is changing. Bring up the topic, ask your children what they notice and share your own impressions of nature's power and presence in our lives.

- **Give the basic facts:** There are many good books for children about climate change: one good example is "Greta and the Giants" by Zoe Tucker (the story of Greta Thunberg and her courageous actions in addressing the world as a young

person). Have an age-appropriate conversation with your child and talk about changing weather, the effects of climate change on the plants and animals all around us and the steps we can take to minimize the changes yet to come.

- **Get outdoors:** We are not one with nature, we are nature. The more we realize our place in the cycles of life and the awesome powers of the universe, the more we can appreciate the beauty of what's around us. Being outside with children and exploring the natural world provides a hands-on context for what climate change means in our own backyards.

- **Focus on feelings:** Once we have accepted our own feelings about the present and upcoming upheavals in our natural world, we can invite our children to share their own feelings and provide loving attention and gentle guidance. Climate change is already happening to our world, and we already have feelings about what's coming next. Expressing those feelings allows us to breathe deeply, embrace one another and find our own inner resources.

- **Take action:** Get to work. You know the drill! Shop smart, live simply so others can simply live, make informed choices about energy resources and advocate for political actions that lead to a greener future. Involve your children in your actions and listen to them when they bring home ideas from school and from their friends that you might embrace as a family.

- **Find hope:** There are many opportunities being explored to allow humans to continue to live on this planet, even with many changes that may be difficult to embrace. Be available to your loved ones when natural disasters strike and be resilient in helping all of us to bounce back. Simple changes in your family's lifestyle allow children to feel hopeful that they are making a difference, however small.



# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Garden by Mary Colby

## October Already

Covid has changed us all in one way or another. For me, the need to be in nature has become more pressing—to look at the stars, to feel the earth under my feet. When I was upstate recently, I looked at the Big Dipper and marveled at how vast this universe is. We can't see the heavens as clearly on City Island, but perhaps this is the same experience as being on the water, a kind of expanse that conveys a sense of awesome mystery. I have been out on a boat at dusk a few times, watching the sky and the sea. At that hour the water's color is inexplicable, a curious shade of metallic plum and gray, like liquid mercury. Anyway, the point is that we are very small and insignificant compared to the rest of the world, whose ecology is so important to protect on this lonely blue planet that we all share.

In the garden, huge arms of the rose "Bobby James" whip and flail around the porch. He's a rambling titan and belongs in a wild garden for sure, but his shagginess

lends a charm. Everything needs pruning, cutting down and shaping. Do you wear gloves when you garden? I cannot, though I know I should. A Japanese stiltgrass is invading my beds. It has spread so furiously that now it makes up 75 percent of the lawn. I weed the thing for hours trying to beat the established record of elimination in five years. I feel satisfied with my progress, even though my hands are raw and half of the weeds will grow back again in the spring.

Grasses are at their very best now in October, so keep your eye peeled lest your gardener cut them back. They are the best of winter features. But some grasses, like miscanthus, even the ones that are captioned "dwarf," can over take a garden. I cannot move them; they are a devil to get out. I could add some big thistles like rattlesnake master and another grass, which might make an excellent area.

Gardening is like chess, you have to envision the plants three, five, seven years down the road, when all are mature and at their eventual girth and height. Gardening is also like painting, as you move things around to perfect a line, shape or color. The blue of the caryopteris dark knight is wonderful with the goldenrod and blue phlox. I decide that I will need four more.

By the time this issue of *The Current* comes out, it will be October already. It's been a trying and curious couple of years, when we have been searching for joy wherever possible. Tonight I sat with a girlfriend, and we talked about the news of the day and the asters that will be coming into bloom this month. To laugh with a friend and dig some weeds are about all that is required, except maybe for a shipment of bulbs from Brent and Becky's that is on the way!

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

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HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

OCTOBER 2021										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
01	Fri	0200	1.63	0827	6.76	1349	1.86	2010	7.13	Fri 01
02	Sat	0259	1.30	0911	7.15	1502	1.42	2107	7.45	Sat 02
03	Sun	0344	0.88	0946	7.58	1556	0.85	2152	7.79	Sun 03
04	Mon	0423	0.43	1019	8.03	1642	0.26	2234	8.08	Mon 04
05	Tue	0501	0.02	1055	8.45	1726	-0.28	2316	8.30	Tue 05
06	Wed	0539	-0.31	1134	8.80	1810	-0.68	2359	8.38	Wed 06
07	Thu	0619	-0.50	1216	9.01	1855	-0.88			Thu 07
08	Fri	0044	8.32	0701	-0.51	1300	9.05	1942	-0.86	Fri 08
09	Sat	0132	8.09	0746	-0.32	1347	8.89	2034	-0.62	Sat 09
10	Sun	0223	7.74	0835	0.05	1438	8.54	2135	-0.21	Sun 10
11	Mon	0320	7.31	0931	0.54	1535	8.07	2253	0.23	Mon 11
12	Tue	0432	6.91	1046	1.03	1646	7.58			Tue 12
13	Wed	0017	0.51	0613	6.76	1232	1.26	1837	7.33	Wed 13
14	Thu	0130	0.55	0733	6.95	1351	1.11	1959	7.44	Thu 14
15	Fri	0233	0.42	0836	7.31	1456	0.74	2102	7.66	Fri 15
16	Sat	0330	0.23	0931	7.69	1553	0.32	2157	7.86	Sat 16
17	Sun	0421	0.06	1020	8.00	1645	-0.05	2246	7.98	Sun 17
18	Mon	0508	-0.02	1105	8.19	1731	-0.29	2331	7.97	Mon 18
19	Tue	0550	0.01	1146	8.25	1814	-0.37			Tue 19
20	Wed	0012	7.85	0628	0.15	1224	8.18	1853	-0.29	Wed 20
21	Thu	0050	7.64	0701	0.37	1256	8.02	1928	-0.09	Thu 21
22	Fri	0124	7.38	0722	0.64	1320	7.82	1957	0.19	Fri 22
23	Sat	0152	7.13	0729	0.85	1337	7.65	2013	0.47	Sat 23
24	Sun	0213	6.92	0753	1.02	1402	7.52	2032	0.71	Sun 24
25	Mon	0239	6.78	0829	1.22	1437	7.40	2106	0.94	Mon 25
26	Tue	0315	6.66	0912	1.46	1519	7.25	2149	1.17	Tue 26
27	Wed	0400	6.59	1000	1.68	1606	7.10	2239	1.35	Wed 27
28	Thu	0452	6.57	1055	1.82	1701	6.98	2336	1.42	Thu 28
29	Fri	0552	6.67	1156	1.80	1802	6.95			Fri 29
30	Sat	0038	1.33	0655	6.92	1304	1.55	1907	7.05	Sat 30
31	Sun	0143	1.07	0755	7.30	1416	1.09	2012	7.27	Sun 31
NOVEMBER 2021										
01	Mon	0242	0.68	0848	7.75	1519	0.48	2110	7.54	Mon 01
02	Tue	0333	0.24	0935	8.22	1614	-0.14	2202	7.80	Tue 02
03	Wed	0421	-0.16	1020	8.64	1705	-0.68	2251	7.98	Wed 03
04	Thu	0507	-0.46	1106	8.95	1753	-1.06	2339	8.05	Thu 04
05	Fri	0553	-0.61	1152	9.10	1843	-1.21			Fri 05



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Now that the water to City Island is traveling underneath Eastchester Bay through new steel pipes, the old water main, once located under the old City Island Bridge, was removed, allowing pedestrians to use the sidewalk at last. Work continues on the storm and sanitary sewers along City Island Avenue, as well as clean-up in the park and at the southern end of Catherine Scott Promenade.



**WHAT GOES IN MUST GO OUT**

After our column last month about City Island's water supply, followed by the record rainfall we had from Hurricane Ida, we could not resist exploring what happens (or is supposed to happen) to water *after* it has been supplied to City Island. This would entail a closer look at how our sewer system works.

The sewer system on City Island consists of something called a Combined Sewer System (CSS) and a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Most of New York City is on the combined system, which means that stormwater and household and industrial wastewater are collected and moved through the same underground network of pipes to a wastewater treatment plant. During a storm, however, extra rainwater, or overflow, causes the collected water in the CSS pipes to flow into one of the bodies of water that surround NYC. These overflow events are known as CSOs, or Combined Sewer Overflows. Some NYC neighborhoods, such as City Island, include a supplemental MS4 system, which leads stormwater directly into the same surrounding bodies of water.

City Island's MS4 comprises six separate lines. They are located at the eastern ends of Sutherland Street, Kilroe Street and Schofield Street (which is where CSOs on City Island happen), the eastern and western terminus of Beach Street (Beach Street's western terminus being the end of an unmapped street) and the southern tip of City Island Avenue, at Belden Point. From these points, stormwater enters Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay.

On a normal rainy day, City Island's water, both waste and storm, flows through its CSS to the wastewater treatment plant in Hunts Point. But what we had on Sept. 1 was far from normal. The remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped about 8 inches of rain

on City Island at the rate of about 3 inches an hour. A typical rainfall, the kind that leaves small puddles on the ground, brings something like one 10th of an inch of rain at a rate of about one 20th of an inch per hour. On Sept. 1, the combined system that is designed to send overflow to Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay as well as the six separate MS4 lines were overwhelmed. The pipes of both systems were simply not big enough to carry that much water at one time, and so it backed up into basements instead.

In our research for this article, we found an excerpt from a book that may help to explain why things happened the way they did. The book is called "WPA in New York City", and the excerpt is about the installation of City Island's *new* sewer system—in 1938. On page 14, we read: "The WPA is constructing City Island's first adequate sewer system. Prior to the beginning of the project the Island had depended on small district and individual street sewers and upon cesspools and septic tanks."

Clearly what passed for "adequate" in 1938 no longer passes, even with some of the upgrades along the way. The 10- and 30-inch wide pipes installed then are no longer sufficient to carry away the amounts of water being used by today's much higher number of households, particularly during a storm. This is, of course, true all over our city. Another thing to consider is that as NYC has become a more concrete jungle over time, the amount of natural space that would have absorbed more water from a downfall is decreasing.

If infrastructure is indeed the solution here, or part of it, anyway, let us hope that it is worked out the WPA way. The massive undertaking to upgrade City Island's sewer system in 1938 was completed in about a year!

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Jackie Kall joins elected officials on the last day of the old bridge (December 2015)



Temporary bridge collapse (October 2015)



Destination wedding for Amanda Brennen and Mike Libretto (October 2011).



On the rocks off Hart Island (Summer 1978)



Rena Hansen



Rick DeWitt



Ron Turner



Matt Panza



James and Tommy Breen



Robin Williams and Oliver Sacks during the filming of "Awakenings" (1989)



Jennifer Aniston and Alan Alda on Bay Street for "The Object of My Affection" (Summer 1997)

Photos by JAMES BREEN, RICK DEWITT, BARBARA DOLENSEK, RENA HANSEN, DEBBY KALL, KATHY KNAPP, SARA MCPHERSON, RON TURNER

Throughout *The Island Current's* 50-year history, photojournalism has been an important part of each and every issue. Volunteer photographers, including Rena Hansen, Rick DeWitt, Ron Turner, Matt Panza and the Breen brothers (photos above), have captured everything from historic events such as the replacement of the 106-year old City Island Bridge, disasters including Hurricane Sandy and shipwrecks, holidays and celebrations, and even movie stars and other famous visitors. Their cameras have evolved from black and white film to color prints to digital files, and the *Current's* photo morgue swells with an amazing collection of scenes capturing life on City Island since 1971. We are grateful to all those who have pointed their cameras and cell phones at Island sights and taken the time to submit images for publication. Here are a few of our favorites. Keep them coming!



Interesting automobile accident (November 1996)





Hurricane Belle (Summer 1976)



Christmas Concert at St. Mary, Star of the Sea in 2017



Hurricane Sandy sweeps ashore in 2012



Season's Greetings on City Island Avenue, December 2019



Lobster Box loses its lobster to Hurricane Sandy



Levitating bat costume on Halloween



Hurricane Sandy puts Stuyvesant Yacht Club out of business, 2012



Serial killer drags victim across the path of police on Halloween



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Photo by MATT PANZA

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, Father John Knapp celebrated the annual Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Outdoor Mass in St. Mary's schoolyard. Choirs from both churches joined to lead the singing, and catechists, who teach the children in the OLA/St. Mary's religious education program, were commissioned at the end of the Mass. Light refreshments were served afterwards. Deacon Bill Mueller delighted in the return of the Mass, which had been canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. He noted that in 40 years the outdoor Mass had never been cancelled due to rain.

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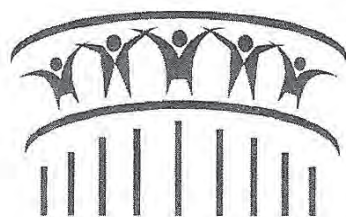
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



David and Alessia Butterworth were wed on Aug. 21 in East Stroudsburg, PA.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to David and Alessia Butterworth, who tied the knot on Aug. 21 at the Church of St. John in East Stroudsburg, PA. Many thanks to Deacon Bill Mueller for making the trip to bring St. Mary's to Pennsylvania. A fabulous reception was held in Stroudsburg. Proud parents are Chuck and Ann Butterworth of City Island and Domenic and Maria Cacciante of Philadelphia.

Happy October birthdays to Horton Street's Mark and Lorena Nani, who are expecting their first child (and another birthday to celebrate) later this year.

Happy fifth anniversary on Oct. 7 to Cait and Richie O'Dwyer, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Chelsea Rodstrom, who turns the BIG 30 on Oct. 1! Congratulations to our beloved daughter,



Lorena and Mark Nani, who are expecting their first child, will celebrate birthdays in October.



Islander Emily Sexton returned from a vacation in Italy and is working as a respiratory therapist in Yonkers.

ter, Emily Laura Sexton, back from a well-earned Italian vacation. She is now a registered nurse with a degree from the Molloy College School of Nursing. While job searching for a hospital position, she continues as a respiratory therapist at Elizabeth Seton Children's in Yonkers.

City Island is happy to welcome home Colonel (Retired) Michael Clancy and his wife, Hailey. Mike left City Island in June of 1989 to attend the US Military Academy at West Point. He then served as an Army officer in assignments all around the world with the Corps of Engineers and as a combat engineer. Mike is



Colonel (retired) Michael Clancy

the middle son of Bill and Mary Anne Clancy, formerly of King Avenue. He is the fourth Clancy generation to call City Island home.

Happy 50th anniversary in October to Judy and Mike Rauh. Happy Halloween anniversary to their sister and brother,



L'Amoreaux Lawrence-Keegan will celebrate his first birthday on Oct. 16.

Linda and John Wright.

Happy first birthday to L'Amoreaux Patrick Charles Lawrence-Keegan on Oct. 16, brother to Scritch and Scratch, first-born son to Patrick and Sharlotte.

Happy 36th wedding anniversary to Bay Street's Bob and Maria Swieciki, who will celebrate on Oct. 12. We love ya, Mom and Dad!

And a very HAPPY HALLOWEEN on Oct. 31! Enjoy!

Maria Swieciki

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