

The Island Current

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One Dollar

P.S.175 GRADUATION BACK IN FULL SWING

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and RON TERNERI

The P.S. 175 eighth-grade graduation was held outside in the schoolyard for the second time in history in accordance with Covid safety guidelines issued by the Board of Education. The weather cooperated and beaming family members sat under a tent and applauded as the graduates marched to Pomp and Circumstance and then received their diplomas from the principal and assistant principal, Julie Porras (left) and Kathie Wiehler. Heartfelt addresses were presented by students Mila Paljusaj, Yasmin Garcia Leon, Arianna Jefferson and James Ramos (bottom photos). The graduation finale was a lively song and dance number featuring the entire class (middle photo).

and limitations on the number of family members who could attend.

At 9:30 a.m., the clouds dispersed, and the sun shone on the teenagers as they marched into the schoolyard to "Pomp and Circumstance." Four representatives from the class, Mila Paljusaj, Yasmin Garcia Leon, Arianna Jefferson and James Ramos, gave heartfelt and eloquent speeches. They spoke of the pandemic's effect on their middle school years, which included missing some long-time school traditions, such as field trips to Philadelphia and other places. However, they also expressed the belief that these challenges made them more resilient and ready to face the unknowns of high school.

"It's a bittersweet and surreal moment, our final day at P.S. 175," Mila Paljusaj told the crowd. "We all adjusted to the use of technology during Covid, and I want to extend condolences to all the families who lost loved ones during the pandemic."

Each speaker praised the teachers and staff at the school for supporting them and for providing a wonderful middle-school experience, despite the challenges. "I had a language barrier when I arrived, but friends and teachers made me feel welcome," Yasmin Garcia explained as she delivered her speech in Spanish, with an English translation provided by Arianna Jefferson.

The eighth-graders sang their first



With most Covid restrictions lifted, the eighth-grade graduation at City Island's only public school included an outdoor ceremony on June 23, 2022, in the morning followed by the return of the class dance at the Sea Shore restaurant in the evening. The ceremony was held in the schoolyard under a tent for only the second time in school history, in line with the ongoing requirement that only visitors who are vaccinated are permitted to enter the school building at 200 City Island Avenue.

Principal Julie Porras, in her third year as head of P.S. 175, welcomed the 24 graduates and their families and acknowledged the challenges that the class of 2022 faced during their school careers, including one and a half years of online learning during the pandemic. She praised their resilience and gave them sage advice: "You are all unique and special. Be a leader, not a follower. But on those days when it's not possible to lead, choose your leaders wisely."

Ms. Porras told *The Current* that she was thrilled to be able to gather this year in person for both the eighth-grade graduation and the kindergarten moving-up day on June 24. Her first graduation in 2020 had to be held remotely, and last year there were still numerous Covid restrictions surrounding the graduates, such as not being able to sit close together

song, "Lean on Me," by Bill Withers, which summed up their support for each other over the years. Then James Ramos reminisced about his nine years at the City Island School: "P.S. 175 has been kind to us. There is no better place to be." Ms. Porras acknowledged the hard work of the eighth-grade teachers in preparing the students for graduation. She gave special recognition to school aide Angela Cestra, who is retiring after 13 years of working in the office at the school.

Then Ms. Porras and Assistant Principal Kathie Wiehler awarded the diplomas and made the following presentations: The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for Highest Average was given to Illia Gudilov, who also received the Principal's Award for Academic Excellence. The recipient of the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was Marissa Sanfratello.

The NYC Public Advocate Award for Excellence in Academic Achieve-

ment was presented to Stefano Benarducci and Michael Burton; the NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement went to Mila Paljusaj; the City of NY Commission on Women's Issues Award for Leadership was given to Arianna Jefferson, who also received the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was presented to Heaven Hanson.

Illia Gudilov received both the City Council Speaker's Achievement Award for Academic Excellence and Community

Continued on page 7

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (September 2022) will be published and on sale at the end of August.

BRIEFLY...

CITY ISLAND OYSTER REEF has two events lined up for the summer: Movie Night on July 16 at 7 p.m. at 87 Horton Street, and the third Water Jubilee on Aug. 20, with a kayak race starting at 21 Tier Street. For more information, reach out to cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com or check the website Cloysterreef.org.

LIVE MUSIC SHOWS IN HAWKINS PARK will be presented by City Island Rocks again this summer, starting off with Blue Collar Band on July 10 at 3 p.m. with surprise musicians on acoustic guitars. This will be followed by a variety of musical genres from local bands and also from other Westchester and Bronx bands, including Blue Collar, Killer Joe, City Island Jazz Quartet, Innuendo, Faded Vinyl, Blueberry Jam Band and Lickety Split Band. See the City Island Rocks or Robert Carmody Facebook pages for future dates and lists of bands. Eight shows are planned overall and more are possible if more funding is raised from local officials, businesses, organizations or private donors.

CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM WEBINAR on the yacht clubs of City Island will be on Tuesday, July 12, at 7 p.m., featuring representatives of some of City Island clubs who will share in-depth information and facts about their history as well as present-day news. For a link to the webinar, visit www.cityislandmuseum.org.



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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – FORGED INSTRUMENT
- 3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from May 22 to June 21, 2022.

5/28 - On Schofield Street at 1 p.m., a male member of the FDNY reported that his departmental ID was missing.

5/31 – At 7:40 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a female Islander told police that an unknown person had damaged her property in an act of criminal mischief.

6/4 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 42, at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 2:49 p.m. The victim, a male off-Islander,

reported that a verbal argument escalated and the defendant struck him on the left arm with a box cutter, causing a laceration.

6/10 – An off-Island male, 32, was arrested on City Island Avenue at 7:10 p.m. and charged with having a forged instrument. Defendant was observed operating a vehicle with an expired temporary New Jersey tag and, when pulled over, gave police a fraudulent registration.

6/11 – On Carroll Street at 9:15 p.m., a female Islander told police that an unknown person had damaged her screen door in an act of criminal mischief.

6/11 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 43, for DWI on City Island Avenue at 12:49 a.m. An officer stopped the vehicle and then observed the driver to be intoxicated.

6/16 – A male Islander was a victim of aggravated harassment on Minneford Avenue at 3:30 p.m. The victim's mother reported that her son was involved in an altercation at school. He was then contacted and threatened by an unknown person over Instagram.

6/17 – At 4:30 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, a male Islander told police that a tenant had intentionally damaged the security camera in an act of criminal mischief.



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CITY ISLAND BUS UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On June 26, the new bus schedules for the Bronx will go into effect after an extensive redesign period. City Island will again have its own line, Bx29, which will no longer include Co-op City but will run only between Pelham Bay Station and City Island.

City Islanders have long advocated for 24-hour service, and this has been included in the new plan. Until now, there was no bus service to City Island between midnight and 5 a.m., which was a particular problem for restaurant employees whose shifts went past midnight. In 2015, an employee of Sammy's Shrimp Box was killed in a hit-and-run incident while riding her bicycle off the Island on her way home.

Buses will run between Pelham Bay

Station and City Island on average every 40 minutes at night, 20 minutes in the evening, 30 minutes at noon time, and 15 minutes in the morning and afternoon. For exact times, visit <https://new.mta.info/document/88756>.

In spite of Islanders' objections, the MTA eliminated a number of stops on City Island, to "improve bus speed and reliability" and to "improve stop spacing from 1,480 feet to 2,072 feet." The eastbound bus heading south on City Island will no longer stop at Cross Street, Schofield Street or Pell Place, and the westbound bus will no longer stop at Pell, Schofield, or Sutherland. The MTA claims that because of the routing change, "ridership will be closely monitored and schedules will be adjusted accordingly."

CI REAL ESTATE: PRE- AND POST-PANDEMIC

By KAREN NANI

There has been a lot of national media attention to real estate sales and prices during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. What about City Island real estate? An analysis of single- and multi-family homes and condominium sales shown in *The Island Current* over the last four years reveals some interesting trends.

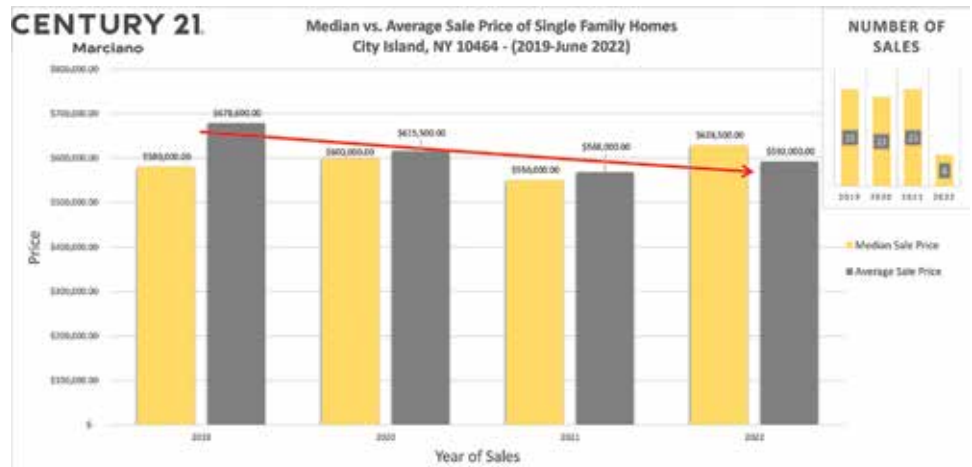
First, the national and regional figures show an increase in home prices in the last year (post-pandemic). According to the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, the median (midpoint) existing-home price for all housing types in the U.S. in May 2022 was \$407,600, up 14.8 percent from May 2021 (\$355,000), as prices increased in all regions. The median single-family sale price in the Northeast in May was \$409,700, a 6.7 percent rise from one year ago.

As is true in many neighborhoods in New York State, City Island sale prices are higher than the median prices for the rest of the country and the region. As shown in the table below, Island single-family and multi-family median home prices were more than \$500,000 before, during and after the pandemic. One-family and two-family home prices declined during the pandemic and then rose to higher levels once the pandemic abated.

Like many areas around the country, there has been an increase in median home prices compared to pre-pandemic levels in all types of homes sold on City Island (+6%, +13% and +35% respectively). The spike in condominium sale prices partially reflects the sale of units in the newest development, On the Sound, on Fordham Street.

Median Sale Prices for City Island	Pre-Pandemic (Nov. 2018 to March 2020)	During the Pandemic (April 2020 to July 2021)	Post-Pandemic (August 2021 to June 2022)
One-Family Homes	\$565,000	\$522,500	\$597,000
Multi-Family Homes	\$668,500	\$635,000	\$755,000
Condo/Co-op	\$394,050	\$500,000	\$530,000

Island realtor, Louise Del Giudice provided an annual review of home sales, including both the average and median prices on City Island (see graph below). On an annual basis the median single-family home price has increased over pre-pandemic prices, while the average price is down. Louise said the following: "Before the pandemic, very few homes sold above asking and we received less offers per home. During the two-year pandemic, because of the low interest rates it created a situation of multiple offers per home and most homes sold for above asking. Thus far this year, the market has stabilized. Interest rates have increased. Most homes are not receiving multiple offers and prices are decreasing. The positive takeaway is that homes are still selling regardless of the current interest rate conditions and I am optimistic. City Island will always be a sought after community no matter what market we are in."



Now for the caveats. Outliers can affect median and average prices, especially for a small neighborhood like City Island with relatively few sales (see table below). For instance, if there is a foreclosure or a high-priced waterfront home, this can significantly decrease or increase the median price. One realtor told *The Current*, "some of the prices right now are completely off base. I have seen homes here sold in the \$700,000s a few years ago that are now being sold for \$1.2 million. Blame it on Covid crazy." Also, the median numbers depend on how "post-pandemic" is defined. Some would argue we are not out of the pandemic yet, but it is defined in this analysis as the period when sales rebounded after a downturn (August 2021 to June 2022).

Number of Sales for City Island	Pre-Pandemic (Nov. 2018 to March 2020)	During the Pandemic (April 2020 to July 2021)	Post-Pandemic (August 2021 to June 2022)
One-Family Homes	39	28	30
Multi-Family Homes	10	9	16
Condo/Co-op	34	15	15

There are many factors to consider when analyzing sale prices, including location, square footage, proximity to the water/water view, new construction, and renovated versus non renovated.

Meanwhile, the short-term future of City Island real estate is optimistic, according to Islander Maria Swieciki with Today Realty, Corp. "With the recent increase in mortgage rates, the pool of home buyers has decreased somewhat, but not significantly. Especially on City Island, I still have quite a few pre-qualified buyers eager to move to our little community tucked away in this corner of the Bronx. Many of my clients come to me by word-of-mouth and also by referrals from previous clients eager to downsize or expand!"

And what about home prices on City Island? According to one realtor, "the prices have gone up everywhere but are expected to come down as the mortgage rates have increased."

The Island Current will continue to document home and condo sale prices on City Island in our Real Estate column on page 6. We hope you find this information useful.

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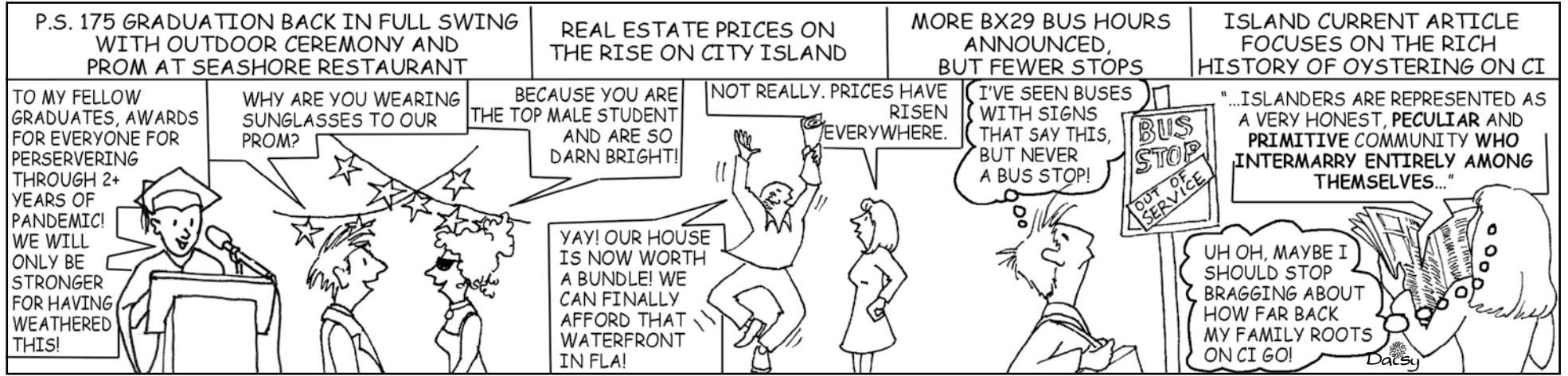
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Field Day Fun

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

Dear P.S. 175 Families,
 What a wonderful day we had today! Field Day on June 14 was awesome! All our students and staff had a great time playing fun games and enjoying each other's company on this beautiful day.
 We were also visited by Executive Superintendent Tobia, Superintendent Vaughan and Deputy Superintendent Russo, who presented our very own Mrs. Emily Doherty with the prestigious Big Apple Teacher Award! Only a few teachers in NYC are selected to receive this honor each year. We are so happy she was recognized as a model educator who goes



P.S. 175 special education teacher, Mrs. Emily Doherty, was awarded the prestigious Big Apple Teacher Award in June 2022.

above and beyond to serve her students and their families!
 We are proud and happy that she is a part of our school community!
 Thank you,
Julie Porras, Principal, P.S. 175

Pride in Being Proud

To the Editor:
 I was so very pleased to see the Pride flags on display along with the American flags on City Island Avenue, and I want to thank Dan Treiber for his part in putting them up. However, I was disappointed and dismayed when I saw that some of them had been vandalized and torn down.
 I had hoped that this community,



where I have lived for 28 years, was enlightened enough to accept everyone for who they are. I am appalled by the fact that there are still such small-minded people who are unable and unwilling to see that our community is made up of a lot of different people who are also entitled to their own beliefs and lifestyles.
 My landlord was threatened that the Department of Buildings would be called if I were to display a Pride flag on my storefront. We have historically displayed flags for many holidays, occasions and seasons, but I no longer do so.
 During a week in which the Supreme Court has tried to dismantle laws that the majority of Americans believe are correct and justified, I am truly saddened for the

state of affairs in which we find ourselves.
Paul Klein, Kaleidoscope Gallery

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Photos by KAREN NANI

The Army Corps of Engineers removed some debris that was creating a hazard in the navigable channel between City Island and Orchard Beach on June 13, 2022. Unfortunately, a large section of the debris remained (bottom photo) and is not visible at high tide, so Island boaters beware.

ADOLFO CARRIÓN JR.: A LIFE IN SERVICE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of NYC HPD

Commissioner Adolfo Carrión (at podium) with Mayor Eric Adams at the June 14, 2022, unveiling of "Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness."

Primary Elections for City Island

Primary voting for the New York State Assembly takes place on June 28 for the Democratic candidates. City Island is in District 82, where the incumbent Michael Benedetto is being challenged by Algernon Quattlebaum and Jonathan Soto.

Primary voting for the New York State Senate will not take place until Aug. 23. Democrats running for District 34, which includes City Island, are Christian Amato, Lisa Do Hofflich, Nathalia Fernandez, James Gisondi, John Perez and Pamela Stewart-Martinez. Republican

candidates in the primary are Dianna Miranda and Hasmine Zerka. Samantha Zherka is running unopposed for the Conservative Party.

The primary election for District 14 of the U.S. Congress will also take place on Aug. 23. As of press time, the Democratic candidates are the incumbent Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Edgardo Marrero, and the Republican primary candidates are Desi Cuellar, Pura De Jesus-Coniglio, Tina Forte and Miguel Hernandez.

The general elections will take place on Nov. 4, 2022.

Earlier this year, Mayor Eric Adams announced that he had appointed City Island resident Adolfo Carrión Jr. to be commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) for the City of New York. Those who know Adolfo recognize that this appointment is a logical step for him, given his background in city planning and housing development, but the route he followed to get to this position is an intriguing one as well.

Adolfo Carrion Jr. was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, in 1961 and moved two years later with his Puerto-Rican-born parents to Jacob Riis housing, a public development managed by the New York City Housing Authority in the East Village, and then to New Haven Plaza in Queens. In 1969 the family moved to the Baychester section of the Bronx, where they bought their first house and where Adolfo attended public school, speaking Spanish at home and English in school.

After graduating from high school, he went to Kings College in Briarcliff Manor, where he majored in world religions and philosophy. He then went on to work as a middle-school teacher for two years in the Fordham section of the Bronx, which he now considers a life-changing event. Not only did he teach all five subjects in both English and Spanish, but with the support of Dr. Mario D. Salvadori, an expert in architecture and engineering, he offered an innovative approach to the students, through the lens of the physical city rather than the usual textbooks.

The basic questions he asked the students involved the urban experience—where do you live, how did you get here, how does it work and so on. The kids loved focusing on complex city issues, such as water supply, the formation of street grids, and a society based on rules rather than ethnicity or religion or race, and they built three-dimensional models such as bridges, buildings, parks and roadways. Often parents were amazed to see these projects, which provided a powerful training ground for Carrión, who left teaching to study urban planning and to begin his career working for the NYC Department of City Planning.

A few years later, Adolfo became district manager for Community Board 5, and in 1997 he ran for City Council from the 14th district, which he served from January 1999 through Dec. 31, 2001. In

2002 he was elected Bronx Borough President, a position he held until 2009, when he left to join the Obama administration as the first director of the Office of Urban Affairs and then as regional administrator for the New York and New Jersey regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) until 2012.

Once he left City Council, Adolfo and his wife, Linda Baldwin, who he had worked with at the Department of City Planning and who is now an attorney for the state of New York, moved to City Island, since he no longer had to remain in the 14th district. He and his father spent many hours fishing here when he was a boy, and later he enjoying sailing a friend's 39-foot sloop. Now he and his family enjoy kayaking, although golf and his Harley Davidson motorcycle provide land-based entertainment when he isn't working, although his position as HPD commissioner with more than 2,400 employees keeps him pretty busy, and he is looking to expand that figure to 2,700 in the near future.

Many New Yorkers aren't aware that HUD and HPD are very different agencies. Both are concerned with housing, but HPD works with a wide range of working families, both homeowners and renters, with incomes ranging from \$30,000 to \$175,000. Seniors with limited income, for example, can apply for low-cost loans through HPD, which helps homeowners with conventional loans, tax audits and other aspects of ownership, increasingly necessary now that the average monthly rents have grown so high (up to \$5000 in Manhattan, \$4000 in Brooklyn and \$2500 in the Bronx).

One aspect of HPD's mission that is little understood is that of neighborhood planning. Adolfo told *The Current* that his agency can bring the Department of City Planning, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Parks Department together with representatives of any neighborhood interested in exploring future development, environmental issues, traffic control, ferry access or zoning issues. City Island was once an important player in the oyster industry, then in boat-building and now in restaurants, but he feels that this community still has a great deal more to offer and that an Island-wide committee could be formed to plan a way forward that would enhance life here.

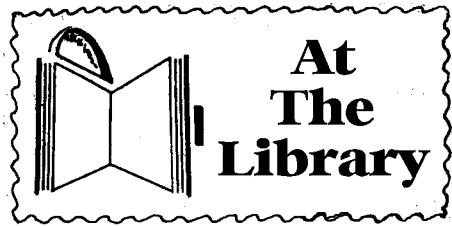


Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The City Island Little League season closing ceremony was held on June 25, 2022. Dom Esposito, president, led the presentation of the trophies to players from all the teams, including T-ball, Junior Minors, Minors and Majors. It was a joyous celebration of the season, since all players and families could attend safely as Covid restrictions were eased.



“When Alfie Parker stumbles into a fairie ring and disappears, his brother Tommy must find a way to get him back before a spell cast by the ring makes everyone forget his brother forever.” That intriguing sentence describes a new book, **Into the Ring: The Fairie Ring Trilogy**, by former Islander Olivia Perillo, now available on Amazon as a paperback (\$12.99) and as an e-book (\$4.99).



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JULY-AUGUST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Online registration required. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays through July and August at 11 a.m.

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

JULY-AUGUST TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Book Club: Gather once each week to talk about the book “The Skin I'm In” by Sharon G. Flake, and the book is yours to keep! The book is available for pickup starting Monday, June 27. Limit of five. Monday, July 11, 18 and 25, at 3 p.m.

Gather once each week to talk about the book “The New Girl” by Jesse Q. Sutano, and the book is yours to keep! The book is available for pick up starting Monday, July 25. Limit of five. Aug. 1, 8 and 15, at 3 p.m.

Make Waves: Join us in creative challenges all summer, in writing, zine-making, photography, collaging and more. Take on a different challenge each week! Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: Learn how to play the classic adventure roleplaying game Dungeons & Dragons, along with making fantasy crafts to keep your imagination roaring all summer long. Friday, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and Aug. 5, 12 and 19 at 3 p.m.

JULY-AUGUST ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW! Introduction to Computers: Join our introductory computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our Library

computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. July 14 and 28 and Aug. 11 and 25 at 11 a.m.

NEW! Color Me Calm: Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. July 7 and 21 and Aug. 4 and 18, at 11 a.m.

Spanish Café: Online Spanish Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and more exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself. Coffee or tea encouraged! Advanced speakers on Wednesday, July 13, and Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 4 p.m. Beginner speakers on Thursday, July 21, and Thursday, Aug. 18, at 4 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. This program will also include “Meet the Collection,” where titles will be presented related to a particular topic. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, July 11 and 25, and Monday, Aug. 8 and 22, at 5 p.m.

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

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. No registration required. Wednesday, July 27 and Aug. 24, at 11 a.m.

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. Saturday, July 23 and Aug. 27, at 3 p.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.



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

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
158 Fordham Street	\$745,000	2/8/22
99 Winters Street	\$570,000	2/11/22
25 Winters Street	\$701,000	2/17/22
560 Minneford Ave.	\$700,000	2/17/22
670 King Ave.	\$999,995	2/24/22
51 Hawkins Street	\$355,000	3/11/22
73 Earley Street	\$620,000	4/24/22
95B Schofield Street	\$340,000	4/29/22
110 Ditmars Street	\$580,000	5/23/22
82 Buckley Street	\$677,000	6/13/22
Multi-Family Houses		
49 Bay Street	\$745,000	3/17/22
573 Minneford Ave.	\$907,000	3/30/22
84 Schofield Street	\$725,000	4/04/22
511 Minneford Ave.	\$999,999	5/02/22
Condominiums		
13 Island Point	\$635,000	3/23/22
59 Island Point	\$925,000	3/25/22
240B Bowne Street	\$530,000	4/8/22
238B Bowne Street	\$550,000	4/14/22
15 Deepwater Way	\$465,000	5/3/22
190 Fordham St #16	\$500,000	6/6/22
Cooperatives		
104 Fordham St #6	\$315,000	5/13/22
Commercial		
201 City Island Ave.	\$600,000	3/1/22
163 City Island Ave.	\$400,000	4/12/22



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Graduation

Continued from page 1

Service and the Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement. The Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Perseverance Award was given to Yasmin Garcia Leon; the Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award went to Jake Diaz; the Lucretia Fusco Award for Perseverance and Consistency was presented to Zayda Feaster; the Alice Persteins Award for Moral Strength and Character as well as the Catherine Scott Literary Award from *The Island Current* were given to Joshua Antelmi.

The Passion Project Recognition Award for Outstanding Teamwork and Dedication was presented to Jayden Clarke, Donzell Mitchell and Justin Perez; the P.S. 175 SEL Recognition Award went to Jayden Hernandez and Nicholas Rosario; the Technology Award for Computer Science was given to Illia Gudilov.

The United Federation of Teachers presented awards in individual subject areas: Science Regents Award, Illia Gudilov; Science Award, Heaven Hanson; Social Studies Award, Scarlett Sparks; Math Regents Award, Victor Lopez-Sterling; Math Superintendent Award, Michael Burton; Math Award, Jacey Chen; ELA Superintendent Award, Stefano Benarducci; ELA Award, Barbie Ventura.

Regents Math certificates were given to Joshua Antelmi, Stefano Benarducci, Illia Gudilov, Victor Lopez-Sterling, Mila Paljusaj, Marissa Sanfratello. Regents Science certificates were given to Joshua Antelmi, Stefano Benarducci, Illia Gudilov, Mila Paljusaj and Marissa Sanfratello.

The P.S. 175 Physical Education Award for Enthusiasm and Team Spirit went to Heaven Hanson. The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to Austin



Photo courtesy of P.S. 175

Members of the 2022 graduation class of Public School 175. Front row (l. to r.): graduates Stefano Benarducci, Jayden Hernandez, Barbie Ventura, Ariana Jefferson, Mila Paljusaj, Illia Gudilov, Joshua Antelmi. Second row: faculty Kathie Wiehler, Assistant Principal, Emily Doherty, Alexandra Mazza; graduates Yasmin Garcia Leon, Jake Diaz, Zayda Feaster, Scarlett Sparks, Kaylin Myvett, Marissa Sanfratello, Jayden Texidor, Heaven Hanson; faculty Karen Heil, Julie Porras, Principal. Top row: Faculty Anthony Esposito; graduates Jayden Clarke, Austin Booth, Michael Burton, James Ramos, Victor Lopez-Sterling, Donzell Mitchell, Nicholas Rosario, Justin Perez, Jacey Chen; faculty Anthony Corona.

Booth, Jake Diaz, Illia Gudilov, Mila Paljusaj, James Ramos, Marissa Sanfratello, Scarlett Sparks, Barbie Ventura, Jayden Texidor, Kaylin Myvett and Ariana Jefferson.

Students on the honor roll were

(Gold) Stefano Benarducci, Illia Gudilov, Ariana Jefferson, Mila Paljusaj, Marissa Sanfratello; (Silver) Joshua Antelmi, Michael Burton, Victor Lopez-Sterling, James Ramos.

The presentation of diplomas and

awards was followed by a lively song and dance performance by the entire class to the music of "We Are Young" by F.U.N.

Congratulations to the award winners and all the 2022 graduates!

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

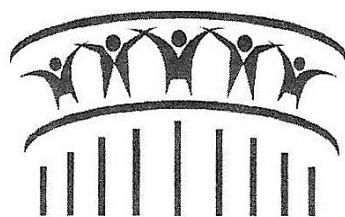
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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Julie Porras, Principal of P.S. 175, announced that members of the eighth-grade graduating class of 2022 will be attending the following high schools: All Hallows High School, Art & Design

High School, Bronx Academy for Software, Bronxdale High School, Cardinal Spellman, Eagle Academy for Young Men, Fordham High School for the Arts, Fordham Prep, Frank McCourt High School, Harry S. Truman High School, High School for Environmental Studies, International Leadership High School, Montfort Academy, Msgr. Scanlan High School, Mount St. Michael, Preston High School, Salesian, St. Catharine Academy, Talent Unlimited High School, Unity Center for Urban Technologies, University Heights High School, The Ursuline School.



Photo courtesy of P.S. 175

The first Poetry Slam was held at P.S. 175 on June 10. Students from every grade shared poems with the rest of the school during the outdoor event. Teacher Emily Doherty facilitated the creation of the poems. The students enjoyed it so much, principal Julie Porras predicts it will become an annual event.

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City Island Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat. & Sun. September 10th & 11th

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The Pests Just Keep on Coming

By KAREN NANI



Halil Lajqi, owner of A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control.

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Dealing with pests might not be your first choice for a career, but Halil “Dave” Lajqi has helped City Islanders control their unwanted house guests for 25 years as the owner of A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control.

The business was founded by Richard Fica in the Bronx in 1938 as Safeway Systems. When he retired in the early 1990s, his son, Richard Jr., took over the business. At about the same time, Halil emigrated to the U.S. from Kosovo, Albania. He lived on Pelham Parkway at first and met Richard at a restaurant on Arthur Avenue.

Halil was hired as a technician and eventually took over ownership of what is now a “family-owned” business. He moved to City Island and operates A&E Safeway Systems out of his home office on Schofield Street with his wife, Behije.

His pest control business has been successful, steady and mostly recession-proof. “We remove rodents, mice, ants, flying insects and bed bugs,” he told *The Current*. “Occasionally we do emergency wildlife trapping and release of raccoons and skunks.”

Lest you think that just anyone can be an exterminator, the business has to be licensed by New York State every three years, and the products used have to be proven safe. “We only use chemicals that are labeled safe for nursing homes and hospitals, as well as for children and household pets,” Halil explained.

Today he provides extermination ser-

vices in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Westchester, but not all areas have the same problem pests. “City Island has lots of carpenter bees, which drill holes in decks and siding and then lay eggs. Westchester has more wasps and yellow jackets, probably because they have more trees.”

When asked about some of the challenges in the field of pest control, Halil said, “Rats will go after the bait more often than mice, which are trickier.” In addition to extermination, he advises clients on future prevention and how to make their home “rodent proof.”

Not surprisingly, summer is his busiest season because of the warm weather. Asked about the increasing number of City Islanders raising honeybees, Halil said that no one has called him yet about any problematic swarms of honeybees, but there are many calls to control the carpenter bees.

Halil and his family love living on City Island. His son and daughter attend P.S. 175 and “they are good students,” he announced proudly. He is not sure whether they will take over the family business one day, but he is glad they are doing well academically.

He started advertising in *The Island Current* many years ago. “I was new to the neighborhood, and it’s important to let local residents know about the business. It’s good to advertise.”

So when some unwanted pests invade your property, consider giving A&E Safeway Systems a call (718-220-1410), and Halil and his team will come to the rescue.

FAIR WEATHER FAIR



Photos by RICK DeWITT, BARBARA DOLENSEK and MONICA GLICK

It was a picture-perfect weekend for the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, on June 4 and 5, 2022. Many colorful booths lined City Island Avenue from Bay to Schofield Streets featuring Island organizations and businesses, as well as local artists, including Island residents Hannah Glick and Ron Turner (top photos), showcasing paintings, jewelry, photography, textiles, clothing, handicrafts and more. Calendar Alert: the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, will return on Sept. 10 and 11, 2022. This year the chowder contest will be on Saturday rather than Sunday as in the past.

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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

CIOR is thrilled to have the City Island Scouts as a partner in the Living Shoreline. The Scouts are being organized by Peter Hickey, who is working toward the rank of Eagle Scout by clearing this area of invasive weeds. In addition, high school students (and their families) from Pelham High School and Hackley came out to do community service and have contributed immensely. Together, in just the past month the Scouts and other volunteers have removed over 125 bags of weeds and 5 enormous piles of marine debris and brush.

Many thanks to Janie Blanks, Mary Colby and Susannah Strazzera for touring the living shoreline and lending their expertise by identifying indigenous and invasive plants. We are looking for used tarps to help to eliminate the Japanese knotweed. If interested, contact Hailey Clancy at hailey.clancy@yahoo.com to arrange pick up.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with our Shell Collection Program. If you can volunteer for the days below or even on a specific date, please reach out to Luna Placchi, our Outreach Coordinator, at lunaaplacchi@gmail.com. On Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. we collect bins of oyster and clam shells at local restaurants. So far, we have six restaurants that are recycling shells for us (Johnny's Reef, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Seafood City, Sea Shore Restaurant and Marina, and Tony's Pier). On Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. we transport the bins to the Pelham Bay Landfill, spread shells in reserved area, remove any inorganic materials and rinse the truck.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Movie Night on July 16 at 7 p.m. and for our third Water Jubilee on Aug. 20. If you are interested in any of CIOR's programs, reach out to cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com or check our website (Cloysterreef.org) or Facebook page.

Sally Connolly

City Island Civic Association

On Sunday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m. the Civic, in partnership with Temple Beth-El, invited Michael Cohen from the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation to speak about antisemitism and cyber-bullying at the temple.

The June meeting of the Civic will take place on Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Morris Yacht Club. Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez will be in attendance. Please join us to be informed and to voice any concerns. We will put information on Facebook about the location of the July and August meetings.

The Civic Association sent letters of thanks to the following individuals who sponsored or participated in the island-wide cleanup "SHIPSHAPE 22": Dino Esposito, Louise Del Giudice, Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez, Marianne Anderson (NYC Parks) and Nave Strauss (NYC Parks). We also sent a thank you to Kristine Zagorski (NYC Parks) for providing four dog poop bag dispensers, which have been placed near Johnny's Reef, Ambrosini Field, Hawkins Park and Catherine Scott Promenade.

The Civic will be writing to the Department of Transportation with copies to our Councilwoman and Borough President to request repairs in the roadways leading to and on City Island, where the road conditions are poor. We encourage residents to report poor road conditions and request that they be fixed. You can fill out a form on line through 311 or go to Contact-NYCDOT. And check social media for

important surveys, letter campaigns and upcoming meetings. Have a voice.

The Unity and Solutions Committee continues to work with Trinity Church food pantry. Pantry items may be dropped off on the porch at 113 Bay Street, and checks payable to Trinity United Methodist Church may be left in the mailbox on the porch.

Minneford Marina has acknowledged that 2020 was a bad year and that the community experienced many problems. The owner has offered to speak with members of the Civic and has informed us that they have increased security and reduced some charter boat activity.

Please bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. And bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. To register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken street light or graffiti or potholes, call 311 and get a reference number. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at city.island.civic@gmail.com. Also, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our Community Police Officer can be reached at Neil.Anderson@nypd.org.

Residents should make an effort to attend Community Board 10 meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month (except in summer). Check <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb10/calendar/calendar.page> for the calendar.

We are still collecting dues for 2022 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or by PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

City Island Civic Association

American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 12 noon, our first meeting after the summer break. As in past years, the first Sunday is part of Labor Day weekend, so we have moved the meeting to the following Sunday. Dues are \$55.00 for 2023; please drop off a check at the Post and make sure your name is on the envelope.

The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox by the Post's flagpole.

As the heat increases, it is time to cool off this summer at City Island's "unofficial cooling center." Please feel free to stop by the Post for a cold drink and avoid the heat.

Thanks to all Legion family members and participants who joined us in honoring our City Island veterans who have gone before us. By reflecting on their loss during the Memorial Day Parade, you helped to remind us all of their supreme sacrifice. Whether you marched, or watched while you lined up on City Island Avenue, we are grateful for your participation.



Photo by LEAH NANI

Grace Episcopal Church's new priest-in-charge, Fr. Kevin Moroney (center), celebrated his first mass at the City Island church on June 19, 2022. He was welcomed by the vestry and members of the church school.

A special recognition goes to Robert Whelan, SAL member who devoted his time and labor to make sure the Veterans Memorial Triangle was beautified for Memorial Day. And to Vice-Commander Greg Clancy, who leads the flag stewards in posting flags along City Island Avenue. And, of course, additional thanks to the City Island community that always stands ready to support all our events.

The American Legion family of Post 156 honors and reflects on Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, now a federal holiday that commemorates the announcement on June 19, 1865, of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the United States of America. The Legion family of Post 156 joined our community and beyond in recognizing their struggle in our nation both before and after emancipation.

We also welcome and support Gay Pride Month. I can reflect back on the many contributions made by members of the military who identified as being gay. They performed in the advancement of our military but were not permitted to express their thoughts or feelings until the repeal of "Don't ask, Don't tell."

Important dates going forward:

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 27: End of the Korean War (1953)
- Aug. 2: Operation Desert Shield (1990)
- Aug. 4: U.S. Coast Guard birthday
- Aug. 5: Gulf of Tonkin (1964)
- Aug. 7: Purple Heart Day
- Aug. 15: V-J Day

Please visit our website, Leonardh-hawkinspost156.com, for the latest information and the ability to e-mail the Post directly. Flyers of events will be available for download.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 103 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. The church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street.

New to Grace: We have the pleasure of announcing that a new priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has started presiding over our worship services. Please join us for the service starting at 10 a.m.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service around 11 a.m. The readings are held on the second Sunday of the month. Our next reading will be held on July 10.

Sunday School: Members of the church school led the service on Father's Day, June 19, and gave a special presentation to welcome Fr. Moroney. Thanks to Paul and

Sarah Goonan, Naomi and Gwen Boyle, and Emilio and Sofia Aponte for their excellent efforts. Church school activities will resume in September 2022. 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.

The GraceTones are in rehearsal for upcoming shows planned for the summer and fall. If you like to sing and/or play a musical instrument, such as guitar, harmonica, flute or fiddle, and you'd like to join in rehearsal, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

Sons of the American Legion

May was another very successful month for the SAL. We started with a very successful Kentucky Derby party; thank you to all who participated. During the month the organization made contributions to various organizations throughout the community. We saw the long season of the Legion band come to an end with that outstanding performance after the Memorial Day Parade. Congratulations to all the children and to Mr. A for all their hard work.

Speaking of the Memorial Day Parade, it was an honor to be back in step going down City Island Avenue for the first time in three years. It was a great day celebrating a great tradition that the American Legion has been participating in for years.

We rolled into June with the SAL golf outing, which was held this year in honor of outstanding Island resident Tom McMahon. The outing was a huge success, and we would like to thank all those who organized it and all our sponsors for making this an outstanding event.

We had the Belmont Stakes party at the Post, which was another great success again; thank you for all who participated and organized the event. And a special thank you to all who sponsored the event. We appreciate all your donations and your charity.

As June comes to an end, we put another banner year in the books for the SAL. In addition to all our contributions to the community and helping our neighbors, we saw our membership roll grow to 200 members. That is quite an accomplishment, and I want to thank everyone at the Legion and everyone in our community for all the contributions to our organization during the season that helped it prosper.

At our final meeting of the season, which was held on June 9, the membership voted in the current slate of officers for the 2023 season. I'd like to personally thank all those who step up for us and all who contribute their time and resources to making our organization thrive. I hope we all have a great summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the season on Sept. 8.

Commander Tom Vivolo



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

Happy Summer 2022 from the dedicated board members of the City Island Community Center! Thank you for your ongoing support of the only community center on City Island.

In preparation for the summer months ahead, the Community Center wants to bring our members and broader community some useful programming to ensure a safe and healthy season for all.

Thank you to those that joined us for our Narcan training on June 22. We were very grateful to partner with the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene to bring our members, residents, business owners and guests free life-saving training. An overdose can happen anywhere at any time, but summer activities and festivities bring about a sharp increase in potential overdoses. We were proud to offer this community education for all and hope you found this information valuable.

We are working with the NYC Fire Department to organize a free CPR training next. With the many water sports and activities that take place on City Island, it is critical to provide training in CPR aids.

And look out for more kid/teen friendly movie and karaoke nights during July and August. We want to make the center a fun and safe space for our local youth to come together.

Below please find our Summer 2022 programming schedule -

Irish Dance: On summer recess.

Culinary Club: On summer recess.

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

Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi and Lisa, the amazing women running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

Yoga: Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. with Joann. Call 917-853-4719 for more information.

Girl Scouts: On summer recess.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

Zumba: Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Wishing all a happy, healthy and safe summer. See you in September.

Melissa Cebollero

AARP Chapter 318

Our first meeting will be on Sept. 8 at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. There will be no meetings during July and August. See you in September.

Carroll A. Reid

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. During this Covid-19 period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only; however, some are taking place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also

offer meditation, yoga 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. We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for July and August 2022:

Friday, July 1, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Shari Berkowitz and Monty Renov (on-line only; Friday zoom room)

Friday, July 8, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi David and Band. Oneg to follow (at shul with online option; Friday Zoom room)

Friday, July 15, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Stu Goldstein and Leslie Lichtman-Berland (online only; Friday Zoom room)

Friday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi David and the Band. Oneg to follow. (at shul with online option available: Friday Zoom room)

Friday, July 29, 6:30 p.m. Special Shabbat at sea! MEMBERS ONLY. Stay tuned for further information.

Every Saturday in July: 10 a.m. Torah Study—Soul Spa; with Rabbi David (online in the Saturday Zoom room). NOTE: Havdalah is on hiatus for July and August.

Friday, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Stu and Leslie (online only; Friday zoom room)

Sunday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. Tisha b'Av > Hope Rises! With Rabbi David and Band (at shul with online option)

Friday, Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m. Special Shabbat By The Sea, with Rabbi David and Band. Site will be announced in July Shul By The Sea newsletter.

Friday, Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Shari and Monty (online only; Friday room)

Friday, Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat. (online only; Friday Zoom room)

Every Saturday in August: 10 a.m. Torah Study—Soul Spa; Chevruta-style study (online in the Saturday Zoom room)

Every Sunday in August (for 7 consecutive Sundays): 7:30 p.m. Soul Sunday: Preparing for the High Holidays of Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah (online in the Sunday Zoom room)

Ongoing Activities:

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

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

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Stu Goldstein

PSS City Island Center

PSS City Island Center is fully open, so stop by the center and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Health Department, which means that a face covering must still be worn.

Good news! We have a part-time social worker at the center—Miriam Rodriguez. Please call the center to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program will be starting soon. Details to be announced. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates.

Special Events Over the Summer

Friday, July 1, 10 to 11:30 a.m.: Medicare: Understanding Your Costs and Choices (NYC Department for the Aging's Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program)

Thursday, July 7, 2 p.m.: Affordable Home Internet Connectivity Program

Friday, July 15, 12:45 p.m.: 200 Years of Fashion program

Wednesday, July 20, 1 p.m.: Chat with the Expert: Enrollment in Medicare, Parts A and B (also on PSS Life! University)

Thursday, July 28, 11 a.m.: Caption Call Phones presentation

Friday, July 29, 1 p.m.: Christmas in July Rocking Angels Craft and Candy Canes

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.: Chat with the Expert: Enrollment in Medicare, Parts C and D (also on PSS Life! University)

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1 p.m.: Chat with the Expert: Social Security Disability Benefits for Adults (also on PSS Life! University)

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA

The Current Schedule

Monday

9 a.m.: Tai Chi with Lucy (remote); not in August

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

12:30 p.m.: Fiftiesville Cars

1 p.m.: Tablet Instruction with Jose. I-phone classes coming soon!

Tuesday

9 a.m.: CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

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

11 a.m.: Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy q, Scrabble, cards, mahjong or Monopoly.

1:15 p.m.: Bingo, July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesday

10:15 a.m.: Arthritis Class with Patty (remote recording; live remote class will be on Fridays)

1 p.m.: Gardening Exchange

1:15 p.m.: Evelyn's Loving Needles Crochet and Knitting Class

Thursday

9 a.m.: Tai Chi with Lucy (remote); not in August

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

1 p.m.: Trivia Thursdays (remote and in person) or Music with Don

Friday

9 a.m.: Broadway Dance will be resuming soon. Danny will be back in August for in-person and remote classes. Remote classes will be offered in July—dates to be announced.

10 a.m.: Individual Tech Instruction with staff and college students

10:15 a.m.: Arthritis Class (remote)

11 a.m.: Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m.: Brain Games

1:15 p.m.: Singing Group with Napat (new session including in-person starting soon!)

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the July trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Masks are to be worn at all times, and the windows will remain open to circulate air. We no longer are required to do temperature checks and can increase capacity of members on trips!

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

At the beginning of June, Garden Club members toured Maria Mangione's beautiful gardens at the Bowne Street condos, which were in full flower. Everyone was impressed by her design and the size of the garden she maintains. As we toured the garden, there was a lot of sharing about plants and plant care.

The club then held its June meeting in

person at the City Island Yacht Club. Members planned the upcoming beautification projects. On June 13 and 14, club members filled our containers on City Island Avenue with flowering plants that will thrive in the summer heat, such as mandevilla, verbena and lantana. It was great to have our neighbors stop by as we were working to chat and provide water for the containers. Garden Club members will continue to maintain the containers throughout the year, and we appreciate those businesses and residents who help us by watering the containers (4 gallons a week in the summer).

We are continuing to work on the Post Office garden, giving it much-needed weeding and adding new plants. Our July meeting is for members only and will be on Friday, July 8, when we will have installation of officers and a casual lunch.

We thank all of you who contributed to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, 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, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting that is open to non-members will be Monday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.), and our Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for all. The greater focus of the Sunday morning worship (10 a.m.) is on how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

Pastor Dave Jolly



City Island Nautical Museum

After months of being closed because of Covid and the unfortunate flood last January, we finally opened to the public on Saturday, June 11, with about 20 visitors. We hope this points toward a successful summer, and we are grateful to our volunteers and docents for welcoming people to the museum. Islanders who haven't visited the museum for a while will be interested in the Gallery exhibition devoted to the work of Mark Whitcombe and in the Community Room a new raised relief map of City Island in the 1870s.

Our webinar on boat-building was held on June 7 and is already on YouTube, along with the webinars presented last year. Museum president and curator Tom Nye led the discussion with a history of the Island's most successful industry, supported by Jason Barron of Barron's Boatyard and Alex Giaccon of Consolidated Yachts, who gave valuable and interesting insights into the boat business here. A webinar on the history of oystering on City Island, sponsored by the City Island Oyster Reef, followed on June 22, with museum vice president and administrator Barbara Dolensek.

Walking tours have already begun; if you are interested in learning more about the architectural and historic sites on City Island, please e-mail info@cityislandmuseum.org.

Barbara Dolensek

Continued on page 14



Classic Summer Vacations

The summer months invariably bring thoughts of where to go on vacation. Classic films (made before 2000) can be particularly enjoyable. However, worth mentioning is that **National Lampoon's Vacation** (1983) does not stand the test of time with virtually nothing funny in the film.

Audrey Hepburn won a best actress Academy Award as Princess Anne in the multi-nominated **Roman Holiday** (1953). While visiting Rome, weary of the enormous and tedious responsibilities of being part of a royal entourage, she escapes one night and is befriended by a newspaper reporter, Joe Bradley (Gregory Peck). They both try to keep their true identities from each other, while having a wonderful whirlwind of escapades in the eternal city. A charming film, indeed.

Summertime (1955) stars Katharine Hepburn as middle-aged Ohio secretary Jane Hudson, who has never found love and has nearly resigned herself to spending the rest of her life alone. She saved all her life for this special vacation in Venice. While there, she meets and falls in love with the elegant and romantic Renato DeRossi (Rossano Brazzi). This poignant and touching film is a travelogue that features many sites in this romantic Italian city.

For kids or any grown-up who ever went to sleepaway camp there is **Parent Trap** (1961) a personal childhood favorite. It stars Haley Mills as twin sisters separated at birth when their parents divorced. They are unaware of each other's existence until they meet at summer camp where they scheme to bring their parents back together. One sister has been living with their mother, Maggie McKendrick (Maureen O'Hara), and the other with their father, Mitch Evers (Brian Keith). They decide to switch places after camp and go to work on their plan, the first objective being to scare off a gold-digger (Joanna Barnes) who is pursuing their father.

Jaws (1975) was Spielberg's first major box-office success. This shark saga set the standard for the summer blockbuster while frightening millions of moviegoers out of the water. In fact, someone asked me at the time if the film made me afraid to go in the ocean, and I responded, "to a person who is afraid of jellyfish, a shark has no meaning." Set in a fictional Atlantic resort, when pieces of a woman wash ashore, Police Chief Brody (Roy Scheider) suspects the worst, but Mayor Vaughn (Murray Hamilton), not wanting to scare away the tourists, refuses to put the island on alert. Subsequent victims force the mayor to order local fishermen to catch the culprit. When a shark is found, the beaches are reopened, despite warnings from visiting ichthyologist Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss). After another fatality, Brody and Hooper join forces with old Quint (Robert Shaw), the only local fisherman willing to take on a Great White. The three face their adversary on Quint's boat, the *Orca*.

In **On Golden Pond** (1981) retired school-teacher Norman Thayer Jr. (Henry Fonda) and his wife, Ethel (Katherine Hepburn), spend every summer in their cottage on a New England lake. When their daughter, Chelsea (Jane Fonda), wants to take a vacation with her fiancé, Bill (Dabney Coleman), they leave Bill's 13-year-old son Billy Ray (Doug McKeon) in the care of Norman and Ethel. When Norman takes

on a grandfatherly role and becomes close to Billy Ray, Chelsea sees her father in a new light, healing their strained relationship. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn won Oscars in this spectacularly filmed and acted drama.

Stand By Me (1986) is a piece of nostalgia set over Labor Day weekend in 1959 Castle Rock, Oregon. It tells the story of four inseparable friends who set out in search of a dead body that one of the boys overhears his brother discussing. The foursome consists of intellectual Gordie (Wil Wheaton), born leader Chris (River Phoenix), emotionally disturbed Teddy (Corey Feldman), and chubby hanger-on Vern (Jerry O'Connell). As the boys travel to find the body, we learn about all the personal pressures brought to bear on them by the adult world. Richard Dreyfuss, playing the grown-up Gordie, narrates the film. Kiefer Sutherland, as gang leader Ace Merrill, dominates every scene he's in as a brutish high-school bully. It is sad to note that the promising actor River Phoenix, died at age 23 of a drug overdose.

Dirty Dancing (1987) is set in 1963 at the fictional Kellermans, a Catskill Mountain resort, very much like the one my family frequented when I was a child. There Frances "Baby" Houseman is on vacation with her father, Dr. Jake Houseman (Jerry Orbach), her mother, Marjorie (Kelly Bishop), and her sister, Lisa (Jane Brucker). To the great consternation of her father, Baby falls in love with dance instructor Johnny Castle (Patrick Swayze). Cynthia Rhodes is on hand as Johnny's dance partner, Penny, and Jack Weston is hotel owner Max Kellerman.

Point Break (1991) is an excellent Kathryn Bigelow-directed surfing film set in Southern California where a number of bank robberies occur with the thieves wearing masks of various former presidents. Rookie federal agent Johnny Utah (Keanu Reeves) is assigned by his veteran partner, Pappas (Gary Busey), to infiltrate the suspected gang who Pappas believes to be surfers, led by the charismatic Bodhi (Patrick Swayze). When Utah falls in love with female surfer Tyler (Lori Petty), who is close to the gang, it complicates his sense of duty. There are some stunning action scenes, including one in which the group jumps from a plane and floats around before opening their parachutes. **Endless Summer** (1966) is a critically acclaimed surfing documentary, but one that can be tedious for non-surfing lovers.

Every year, three friends take a vacation away from their wives. In **City Slickers** (1991) henpecked Phil (Daniel Stern),

newly married Ed (Bruno Kirby), and Mitch (Billy Crystal), who is terrified by his midlife crisis, decide to reignite their masculinity by taking a supervised cattle drive across the Southwest. Under the supervision of gruff cowboy Curly (Jack Palance, who won a best supporting actor Oscar), the men set out on a journey that turns unexpectedly dangerous. The three men bond along the way to conquer their fear of aging.

Enchanted April (1991) is truly "enchanting." Two British women, Lottie Wilkins (Josie Lawrence) and Rose Arbuthnot (Miranda Richardson), exhausted by married life and feeling unappreciated by their husbands, decide to answer an ad to spend a month in an Italian countryside villa. Because they don't have enough money to afford it by themselves, they share it with two strangers. Mrs. Fisher (Joan Plowright) is a very lonely and gruff grande dame who eventually succumbs to the charm of Lottie's simplicity. Lady Caroline Dester (Polly Walker) is depressed by the futility of her social life, and is slowly healed by the infusion of the beautiful setting of the villa. The men who eventually invade their sacred space include the two husbands, Mr. Wilkins (Alfred Molina) and Mr. Arbuthnot (Jim Broadbent), and the owner of the villa, George Briggs (Michael Kitchen). This is a lovely vacation for the viewer as well.

A fine family sports film is **The Sandlot** (1993), which might also be called "The Wonder Years—The Movie." It is a captivating story of boys in the 1960s who spend their entire summer playing sandlot baseball. Featured in the story are Scotty Smalls (Tom Guiry), a new-boy-in-town nerd who is befriended by a very kind Benny (Mike Vitar), the star of the team. It is also a story about adolescent angst, friendship and courage. When their baseballs go over the sandlot fence into the yard where a "beast" is king of the domain, the boys must face their fears, real and imag-

ined. The film features Karen Allen and Denis Leary as Scotty's mother and stepfather and James Earl Jones as Mr. Mertle, owner of the beast.

In **The Talented Mr. Ripley** (1999), Matt Damon stars in the title role of Tom Ripley, a chameleon-like underachiever who pretends to be a Princeton classmate of Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), a spoiled millionaire playboy. When Dickie's father (James Rebhorn) sends Tom to Europe to persuade his son to come home to America, Tom attaches himself to Dickie and to Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow), Dickie's cultured fiancée, greedily and creepily soaking up all the luxury. Eventually, Tom goes to extreme lengths to possess Dickie's luxurious life, overcoming every obstacle, including Dickie's distrustful friend Freddie Miles (Philip Seymour Hoffman). Damon's performance is chilling.

A Walk on the Moon (1999) is a Jewish family in the Catskills film in which unfulfilled housewife Pearl Kantrowitz (Diane Lane) suffers in quiet misery as the tumultuous events of the summer of 1969 unfold on the surface of her television screen. But when Pearl invites hunky traveling salesman Walker Jerome (Viggo Mortensen), "the blouse man" into the safety of her living room for the live broadcast of the historic moon landing, they begin a passionate affair that threatens to destroy her marriage to her straight-laced high school sweetheart, Marty (Liev Schreiber), who only comes to the hotel on the weekends because he has to work in the city. Their teenage daughter, Alison (Anna Paquin); their young son, Danny (Bobbie Boriello); and Marty's mother, Lillian (Tovah Feldshuh), stay with Pearl in their bungalow. Julie Kavner's unmistakable voice (best known for her voice role as Marge Simpson on the animated television series "The Simpsons" serves as the announcer of resort events.

And until next time, have a wonderful summer, and happy viewing...

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City Island, Oysters and Pirates: A Curious History

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This view of Eastchester Bay looking north was painted in the 1870s after the construction of the first, wooden bridge. This part of the bay at the west end of Ditmars Street was a gathering place for oyster skiffs and sloops.

Most City Island residents and visitors are aware that boat-building was once the Island's most important industry, with many boatyards here producing hundreds of yachts, military vessels and smaller craft from the late 19th century to the 1980s. When the boat-building industry shifted from construction in wood to fiberglass, manufacturing was no longer viable, so Island yards turned to repairing and servicing boats. Before boat-building became important here, however, City Island was a bright spot on the map thanks to another industry—oyster harvesting—and many Islanders became very wealthy during the 1800s providing oysters for the world market.

The species known as the Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) is a bivalve native to the Atlantic coast, including New York Harbor and Long Island Sound, where the habitat was at one time ideal for natural oyster beds to survive. We know that oysters were a staple of the Native American diet, and archaeologists have found many shell middens (heaps of discarded oyster and clam shells) in the area to support that. Three shell middens were found on City Island over a hundred years ago, indicating that the native Lenape people had visited the island for the purposes of gathering and consuming shellfish from the impressive natural beds that had existed in the area for many thousands of years.

When Henry Hudson arrived in New York Harbor in 1609, he did not succeed in finding a sea route to China as planned, but he did discover the incredibly rich sea life in the harbor, which included 12-inch oysters that became very popular with the Dutch settlers here. In his book "The Big Oyster," Mark Kurlansky describes the abundance of natural oyster beds, which could be found in 350 square miles of the lower Hudson estuary, as well as all along the shores of what became Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. As he notes, "According to the estimates of some biologists, New York Harbor contained fully half of the world's oysters."

Although the Dutch were disappointed that these oysters were not a pearl-producing species, they were definitely interested in them as food, although the European oyster is an entirely different species. They also found oyster shells useful in the form of wampum and ground up to provide lime for construction. The British arrived later in the 17th century and eventually revealed an equally pow-

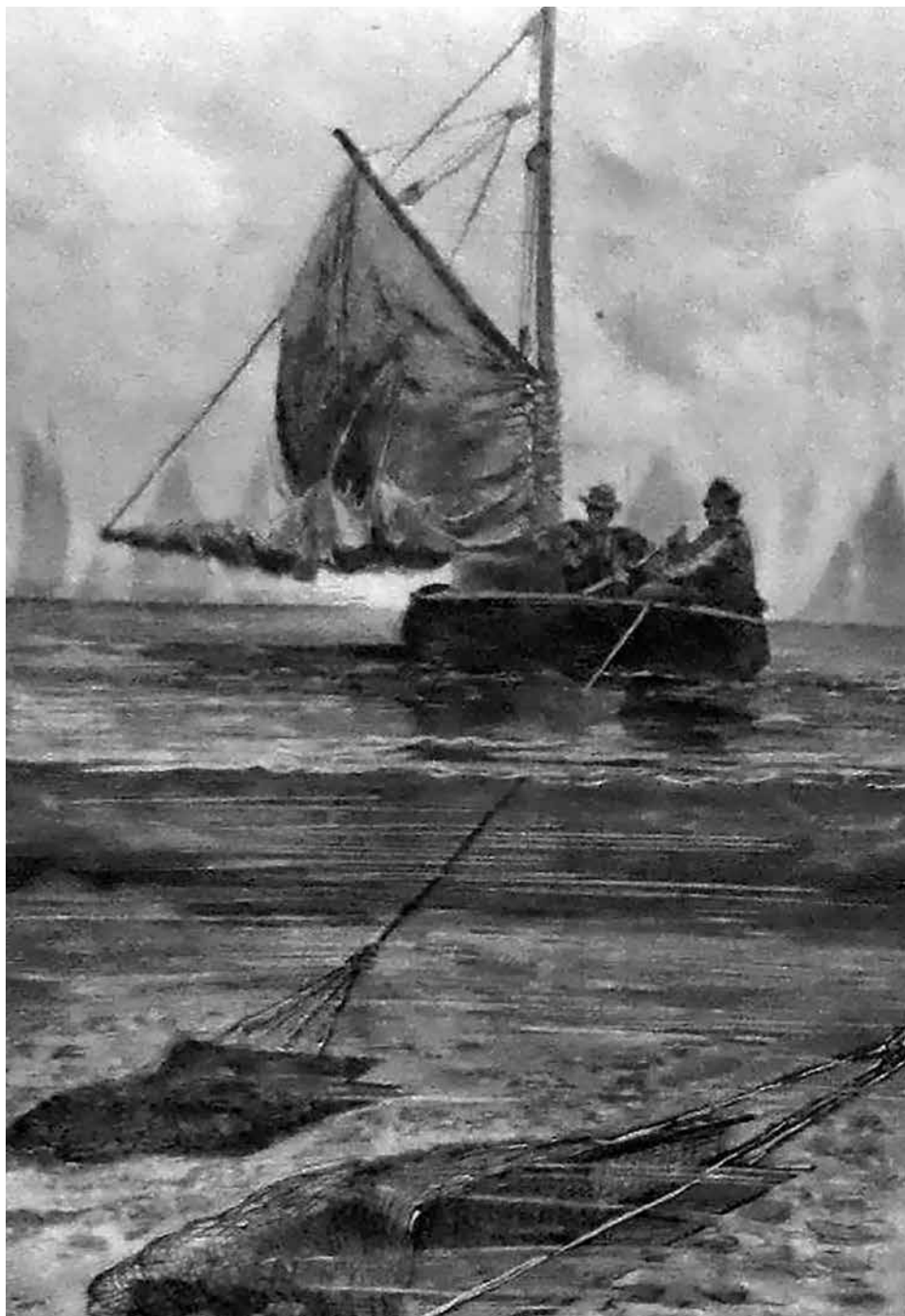
erful appetite for oysters as well as for land. In 1654, Thomas Pell purchased about 50,000 acres—from what is now the middle of the Bronx all the way to Mamaroneck—from the Native Americans, who had been struggling to survive attacks by the Dutch. Eventually the British gained dominance and New Amsterdam became New York.

During the 18th century, City Island was owned by a series of investors as Minnewits or Great Mulberry Island, but in 1760 Benjamin Palmer bought the property and named it New City Island, ultimately dropping the New. He wanted to make it an important port to rival New York Harbor, and he established ferries, established riparian rights for landowners on the water, and formed a syndicate to help create a major seaport. Unfortunately, in October 1776, the British Navy came ashore on or near Rodman's Neck in search of George Washington who was on his way to White Plains, and Benjamin Palmer was forced to give up his dream.

By the beginning of the 19th century, several individuals owned property on City Island, which they used for farming, evaporating salt and other industries, but the most popular and lucrative business was collecting oysters from the rich natural beds. According to Ernest Ingersoll of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and author of the government publication "The Oyster Industry" in 1881: "It seems not to have been until about 1814 or 1815 that much attention was attracted to the oyster beds of the East River, as a source of business advantage." (In the 19th century, the East River included the waters surrounding City Island and extended as far north as Norwalk, Connecticut. Now, of course, Eastchester Bay and City Island Harbor on the east side are considered part of western Long Island Sound.)

At that time, according to Ingersoll, "it was a degrading thing to rake oysters for a living, yet [several City Islanders] went energetically into the enterprise. . . . At that time there was no occasion to plant oysters, the bivalves being plentiful upon their natural beds, and easy of access with dredges, rakes and tongs, very similar to those now in use."

However, all that would soon change, thanks to a young man from Connecticut named Orrin Frederick Fordham who purchased property on the east side of City Island in the 1830s and is credited with being the first to plant oysters there, in addition to fathering an impressive family



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

City Island oystermen (top) were still at work in 1905, in spite of the fact that oyster reefs had been severely diminished by the use of dredges (middle) as well as pollution. The City Island Nautical Museum has oyster and clam rakes on display (at right), along with oyster buckets owned by John O. Fordham, son of Orrin Fordham, who built the first artificial reefs in New York and put City Island on the oyster map.



of oyster farmers (including, by the way, his grandson who became publisher of *The City Island Drift* which ran excerpts from Ingersoll's book in 1895).

Thanks to Orrin Fordham, City Island has been recognized by many historians as the first place where the commercial practice of seeding oysters took place during the 1830s. In 1853 the *New York Herald* reported that the largest proportion of all East River oysters used in New York came from City Island, "where there are extensive artificial and natural beds," that City Island owned one fourth of the 100 boats engaged in taking oysters to the city, and that "100 men and families on the island obtained a living by oystering. The whole amount of the property invested there was estimated at \$1,000,000." Author Charles Mackay went further in 1859, writing that "In City Island, the whole population, con-



sisting of 400 persons, is employed in the cultivation of oysters. The City Islanders are represented as a very honest, peculiar,

Continued on page 17

Birdwatching: A Summertime Activity for All Ages

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

We are blessed to live on an island that has an abundance of habitats within a small area. We can have sandy beaches on Eastchester Bay, rocky shorelines at Two Trees Island, hardwood forests at Pelham Bay Park, tidal flats at Orchard Beach and multiple home gardens designed to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Children do well in nature, and so do we. As Hippocrates said, "Nature is the best physician." In a world still reeling from a pandemic—and now beset by a war in Ukraine, inflation and climate change—spending time with the birds on our island can be a wonderful respite.

Start simply with your children: just invite them to sit with you outdoors and be silent for five minutes. Then share what you noticed: what did you see? hear? feel? smell? Work your way up slowly to 15 minutes: this simple exercise will do wonders for your sense of serenity.

Next, look for birds you can see easily from your home. Pick one bird in particular. How does it rest on a branch? Does it have a song? What are its colors? Is it feeding on something? Does it like being with other birds or does it choose to be off by itself?

Next, try to identify the bird. City Island backyards are full of house sparrows, robins, mourning doves, cardinals, mockingbirds, hummingbirds and finches. The shoreline has many cormorants, ring-billed gulls, herring gulls, terns, egrets, herons and osprey. The woods in Pelham Bay have woodpeckers, sparrows, owls and catbirds. There is a lot to see!

You can get a simple bird guide. You can use the Cornell University app Merlin Bird ID on your phone. You can check out the "Sights and Sounds" column by John Sheridan and Maria Sutherland right here in *The Island Current* to see what's happening around our island.

Once you get hooked, you might get some binoculars for yourself and your kids. You might even join Islander Jack Rothman (cityislandbirds.com) on one of his bird walks to Pelham Bay Park or Van Cortlandt Park, or Robert de Candido (BirdingBob.com) for his weekend bird walks in Central Park or great horned owl walks in Pelham Bay Park.

Memories are made through shared experiences. You will be giving your children—and yourself—a lifelong gift if you develop a passion for birding. What are you waiting for?

Organization News

Continued from page 11

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.; Vigil Saturday Evening at 5:15 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Our monthly Holy Hour will resume in October.

The Thrift Shop will be closed for the summer months and will reopen on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Registration information for the 2022/2023 Religious Education year will be e-mailed to all parents as soon as it is available.

Have a blessed summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Teri Kurtz and Rosette Dietz

Quilters by the Sea QOV

Many thanks to all who stopped by our table at the Craft Fair! We raffled off four prizes and gave out dozens of Quilts of Valor Foundation brochures. QBTS-QOV awarded two Quilts of Valor in June, both to off-Island veterans.

We are the primary official downstate QOVF group, so we willingly travel within the region to award Quilts of Valor to nominated veterans. One quilt was wrapped around an Iraq War U.S. Marine. She is the chaplain of the Suffolk County Marine Corps League, and we trained her how to award future Quilts of Valor to other Marines with the MCL. She then awarded a Quilt of Valor to a Vietnam War U.S. Marine. Upcoming awards are planned for four City Island veterans and a Long Island U.S. Navy nurse who served in the Korean War.

Harlan Sexton

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

JULY 2022								
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET
01 Fri	0109	7.67	0750	0.52	1348	7.08	1933	1.06
02 Sat	0136	7.67	0809	0.55	1411	7.19	2011	1.02
03 Sun	0212	7.66	0840	0.54	1444	7.33	2053	0.98
04 Mon	0252	7.60	0918	0.54	1524	7.47	2139	0.95
05 Tue	0338	7.47	1001	0.56	1609	7.59	2228	0.90
06 Wed	0427	7.29	1048	0.59	1658	7.69	2322	0.85
07 Thu	0521	7.10	1138	0.62	1751	7.80		
08 Fri	0021	0.76	0620	6.93	1233	0.64	1847	7.92
09 Sat	0127	0.61	0723	6.84	1331	0.63	1947	8.07
10 Sun	0243	0.36	0829	6.87	1435	0.57	2049	8.25
11 Mon	0401	0.01	0938	7.01	1543	0.44	2151	8.44
12 Tue	0507	-0.35	1044	7.24	1654	0.25	2253	8.59
13 Wed	0605	-0.64	1146	7.50	1801	0.07	2354	8.66
14 Thu	0700	-0.81	1245	7.71	1903	-0.07		
15 Fri	0054	8.61	0754	-0.84	1342	7.86	2003	-0.12
16 Sat	0154	8.44	0846	-0.71	1438	7.91	2103	-0.08
17 Sun	0255	8.15	0939	-0.46	1536	7.89	2203	0.05
18 Mon	0358	7.80	1033	-0.13	1635	7.80	2304	0.21
19 Tue	0502	7.43	1128	0.23	1735	7.70		
20 Wed	0005	0.37	0605	7.12	1225	0.56	1834	7.62
21 Thu	0107	0.48	0707	6.91	1322	0.82	1932	7.59
22 Fri	0206	0.53	0805	6.81	1418	0.99	2028	7.61
23 Sat	0302	0.51	0900	6.81	1511	1.08	2120	7.67
24 Sun	0353	0.46	0951	6.89	1600	1.12	2209	7.74
25 Mon	0441	0.42	1039	7.01	1646	1.11	2254	7.80
26 Tue	0524	0.39	1124	7.13	1726	1.10	2335	7.83
27 Wed	0604	0.39	1204	7.22	1801	1.07		
28 Thu	0010	7.82	0638	0.42	1239	7.29	1827	1.02
29 Fri	0033	7.80	0705	0.45	1303	7.34	1847	0.92
30 Sat	0047	7.81	0721	0.44	1315	7.44	1914	0.78
31 Sun	0112	7.85	0740	0.37	1338	7.61	1949	0.64
AUGUST 2022								
01 Mon	0146	7.86	0811	0.30	1412	7.79	2028	0.54
02 Tue	0226	7.79	0848	0.28	1451	7.93	2112	0.50
03 Wed	0310	7.63	0930	0.33	1535	8.00	2200	0.54
04 Thu	0359	7.39	1016	0.46	1624	8.00	2253	0.74
05 Fri	0453	7.10	1106	0.64	1718	7.95	2353	0.74
06 Sat	0552	6.83	1202	0.83	1818	7.90		
07 Sun	0105	0.78	0659	6.67	1306	0.96	1923	7.90
08 Mon	0242	0.62	0816	6.71	1422	0.95	2036	8.00
09 Tue	0401	0.25	0939	6.98	1552	0.71	2151	8.21
10 Wed	0502	-0.17	1047	7.38	1705	0.33	2300	8.44
11 Thu	0557	-0.51	1144	7.77	1805	-0.05	2359	8.59
12 Fri	0647	-0.72	1237	8.07	1900	-0.32		
13 Sat	0054	8.59	0736	-0.76	1327	8.23	1953	-0.43
14 Sun	0146	8.44	0823	-0.62	1416	8.25	2045	-0.37
15 Mon	0238	8.14	0910	-0.33	1505	8.13	2137	-0.16
16 Tue	0331	7.75	0957	0.07	1556	7.92	2232	0.16
17 Wed	0427	7.32	1046	0.52	1652	7.66	2329	0.50
18 Thu	0528	6.94	1140	0.96	1752	7.43		
19 Fri	0030	0.81	0630	6.69	1238	1.32	1854	7.30
20 Sat	0130	1.00	0731	6.60	1338	1.54	1954	7.28
21 Sun	0228	1.06	0829	6.67	1436	1.61	2050	7.37
22 Mon	0321	1.02	0922	6.85	1529	1.56	2141	7.52
23 Tue	0410	0.91	1011	7.08	1616	1.42	2228	7.68
24 Wed	0453	0.78	1055	7.30	1658	1.24	2308	7.80
25 Thu	0531	0.66	1133	7.47	1733	1.04	2342	7.87
26 Fri	0603	0.56	1205	7.60	1801	0.83		
27 Sat	0005	7.90	0627	0.46	1223	7.71	1825	0.59
28 Sun	0021	7.95	0645	0.33	1238	7.89	1852	0.36
29 Mon	0047	8.00	0709	0.20	1306	8.10	1926	0.18
30 Tue	0122	7.99	0741	0.13	1341	8.27	2005	0.10
31 Wed	0202	7.88	0819	0.15	1421	8.35	2049	0.15
SEPTEMBER 2022								
01 Thu	0247	7.67	0901	0.30	1506	8.31	2136	0.33
02 Fri	0335	7.36	0948	0.56	1556	8.15	2231	0.60
03 Sat	0430	7.01	1041	0.89	1652	7.92	2335	0.88
04 Sun	0534	6.70	1142	1.20	1757	7.69		



WHAT TO DO?

After Superstorm Sandy, it was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that was handed the responsibility of removing debris that had washed up on the beaches of some of New York's most devastated neighborhoods. And that included private beaches. It was the same in Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina. That the Corps would take the lead in large-scale debris removal operations such as these makes sense since one of its core functions is to "provide safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems." By removing debris, the Corps guards against potential hazards to navigation that the tide might otherwise carry back out to sea.

But these are large scale operations. The Corps won't get involved in the derelict boat situation on Rodman's Neck, for example. Nor will they come to the assistance of City Islanders who wake up one morning to find their nearby beaches littered with the odd log or beached dock component. And yet the same potential for navigational hazards exists. So what's a City Islander to do? One possible solution is being played out across the country in the state of Washington.

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is a non-profit organization that came into existence in 1984 over concerns about the water quality of Puget Sound. Since then the organization has branched out into all sorts of related areas, including debris removal. They respond to all sorts of calls for help, including those regarding abandoned boats and hazardous chemical spills. They will even help to organize a team of volunteers to clean up and dispose of more

mundane debris. Although City Islanders might not be ready for such a large-scale, permanent operation, perhaps the Scouts or one of our other civic-minded organizations would be willing to pitch in on a more regular basis.

By the time this article goes to press, it will be too late for many of the hatchling sparrows, starlings and robins that had the misfortune to fall out of a nest. On the ground, these helpless creatures stand little chance of survival. So if you happen upon one in the future, why not take a moment or two to see if you can locate its nest? And if the nest is accessible, why not try to put the baby bird back? If, on the other hand, the bird has the strength to run away and maybe even fly a little bit, then it has fledged the nest. Leave it be and let nature take its course. It's the ones that do not have this strength that need your help.

Sadly (but very naturally!), some birds are purposefully pushed from the nest. A parent may do it to save the rest of its brood, perhaps out of a concern for the food supply. A fellow hatchling might do it out of the same concern. There are some species of birds that lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. A female brown-headed cowbird, for example, will dispose of another mother's eggs to make room for her own. Moreover, hatchling cowbirds have been known to push certain, much smaller warblers out of the nest to increase the likelihood of their own survival. While it is true that a similar case can be made in these instances for letting nature take its course, we say make the effort at least one time. Mysterious Mother Nature may have placed that bird in your path for that exact purpose.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Arabian night dahlia and cosmos in Monet's garden in Giverny.

Editing the Garden

It is July, high summer in the flower border. Herbaceous borders are more work than anyone would suppose, plants grow, flower and go over. That is why if you endeavor to keep flowers you must edit, and this entails what is called the Chelsea chop. Many perennials have finished flowering, so chop them down to the ground at the beginning of June, and they will produce another healthy plant that may bloom again before the season is over.

Flowers for summer include rudbeckia, echinacea, shasta daisies, lilies, day lilies, hydrangea, yarrow, grasses, salvia, lavender, Russian sage, to name a few. It is all so full that if you don't chop the ones that have finished, it will be a sad jungle. Less is more, so curate the garden in this way.

Deadhead roses and feed everything with Miracle-Gro or Miracid, depending on which require what kind of fertilizer. Hydrangeas like Miracid. Pots should be fed every two weeks as the nutrients drain out quicker. Cosmos, euphorbia, morning glory and nasturtium do not want any fertilizer, so steer clear; they like impoverished soil.

Since my garden is all white in the Bronx, many of the plants listed are chosen in the color white, but I add silver and gray plants to the mix because white sparkles amid silver. The small ornamental pear *Pyrus salicifolia* has silver leaves and looks much like an olive tree, which is not hardy in this area. The Russian olive tree sports silver leaves as well, and it is great for a large garden, like the one on Tier Street whose branches bend gracefully down to the water's edge. Neither of these trees cannot be found in a nursery, but you can order them from Forest Farm through the mail. Alas they only come as whips, but within

three years you will have a nice-sized tree.

Everyone likes big bold flowers. Besides roses, peonies, clematis, iris, oriental poppy, allium, we have the dahlia, which is a star in summer. I have never really grown them before, so I am excited with my new hobby. I gave them an early start in February down in the basement; they are blooming now, big and outrageous. Planting them in April is the usual requirement outside or in one- to two-gallon pots. They will need a liquid feed every two weeks because in containers the fertilizer drains out quicker. They respond best in rich, free-draining soil, and the more you cut them, the more flowers you will have, so pinch them early. Grow them with small wispy grasses or the taller *Calamagrostis Karl Foerster*, and don't forget the sunflowers. I remember that Monet loved the dahlia and the sunflower and the cosmos together.

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



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Photo by MELISSA TORIBA

Girl Scout Troop 1814, which meets at the City Island Community Center, enjoyed a day learning seamanship skills at the City Island Yacht Club on May 15, 2022. Pictured left to right as they get ready to sail are: Amirah Mantin, Alexa Gierum, Hannah Elias, Charlize Hernandez, Jacquelyn Santana, Sophie Boughner and Nerynel Hernandez. Ira Bigeleisen, past CIYC Commodore and director of the club's junior sailing program, met the troop, which includes girls from City Island and other communities in the northeast Bronx, when they were selling Girl Scout cookies outside Dominick's market last spring. "I have always wanted to bring more girls into sailing," he said, and he worked it out with the troop's leaders, Melissa Rosado and Melissa Toribo. Troop 1814 can expect to be invited back in 2023.



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DAVID CARLL

Wood / Centerboard, Oyster Schooner – L.K.A.: BLACKBIRD
 L.O.A.: 116'0" L.W.L.: 103'0" Beam: 27'0" Draft: 8'5"
 Year Built: 1876
 Modeler: David Carll Builder: David Carll, City Island
 Owner: Van Name Bros. Oyster House, Staten Island, New York

David Carll was the first major boat builder on City Island, and oyster sloops and schooners were an important part of his early business. When the oyster trade failed during the first third of the 20th century, boat building became the primary industry on City Island.

Oyster Industry

Continued from page 13

and primitive community, who intermarry entirely among themselves and drive a very flourishing business.”

Ingersoll confirmed these reports in his 1881 book and explained the success of the City Islanders as follows: “I have no doubt that, whatever was the date of its origin, the credit of first truly propagating oysters from seed caught upon artificial beds or prepared receptacles, belongs to the men of City Island. It had been a matter of common observation that objects tossed into the water in summer sometimes became covered with infant oysters. . . . If the circumstances were favorable this deposit survived the winter, and the next spring the youngsters were large enough to be taken and transplanted. It was only a short step in logic, therefore, to conclude that if objects were thrown thickly into the water on purpose to catch the floating spawn, a large quantity of young oysters might be secured, and saved

for transplanting at very slight expense. . . . The City Island oysterman, therefore, began to save his shells from the lime-kiln and the road master, and to spread them on the bottom of the bay, hoping to save some of the oyster spawn with which his imagination densely crowded the sea-water.” He recognized that “the first man to put the theory into practice was the father of the Fordham Brothers, who still pursue the business at City Island.”

The methods for gathering oysters from the reefs, both natural and artificial, remained the same for much of the 19th century. An oysterman or two in an oyster skiff would rake up the oysters from the reefs with tongs or rakes and gather them into the boat. Oyster sloops were larger and more reliable, except in very windy conditions, providing more room for the raked oysters, which would have to be removed from the other debris that came into the boat with them. Dredges eventually became the preferred tool, although they caused more damage to the reefs than the other tools. After being collected, the

oysters would then be stored in an oyster barge or container to hold them until they could be transported to the Fulton Street Fish Market by oyster schooners.

According to Mark Kurlansky, the oyster beds in New York produced 700 million oysters a year, and these were sold on almost every block in Manhattan. The City Island beds remained an important source of the shellfish, along with other shorefront communities along Long Island Sound, which continued to harvest oysters until well into the 1900s.

It is not surprising that enterprising oystermen turned to steam as a mean to power their boats more effectively. Captain Joshua Leviness of City Island had a large boat built that could carry four steam-powered dredges off the stern; it was so fast that the New York legislature outlawed the use of steam on public grounds in 1878. Such dredges, however, also scraped up much of the bottom, and this eventually reduced the reefs in size and capacity.

Given the amount of money earned by the oystermen, the oystering business in Long Island Sound was rife with potential for dispute. The law recognized a distinction between “natural” oyster beds that could be harvested by anyone, whereas private artificial beds belonged to the oystermen who planted the beds and protected them against oyster thieves. As oystering grew more lucrative for City Islanders, oystermen in nearby neighborhoods along the Sound grew more protective of their planting grounds, and oyster wars involving “City Island pirates” broke out in 1869, 1877, 1878, 1884 and 1895.

In September 1877, Joshua Leviness planted several hundred bushels of live oysters in waters off City Island on behalf of Charles McClennon, a local hotel proprietor and owner of the Minieford Shore House on City Island. He wanted to grow his own oysters in order to avoid paying the prices charged by the City Island oystermen. Within days, a few local oystermen removed several hundred bushels from McClennon’s staked-off bed. McClennon claimed that the “insular fraternity of City Island oystermen” were determined to prevent any newcomers to the business, and he brought charges against three of the City Island oystermen. A grand jury returned an indictment under a statute making it a misdemeanor to remove oysters from a lawfully planted bed.

In 1881, John O. Fordham, son of Orrin Fordham, claimed he owned private oyster beds northeast of City Island off the shores of Hunter’s Island and accused three men from New Rochelle of raking up a large number of the oysters and disturbing the beds, Fordham sued the three men who were indicted for the misdemeanor of “disturbing oysters” in a planted bed, but the court in White Plains found them not guilty because Fordham did not own Hunter Island but had planted oysters on a bed owned by the family of one of the men.

The last great oyster war took place in 1895 when City Island oystermen assembled a fleet of 40 oyster sloops and headed for the waters off Matinecock to fight another battle to protect their right to plant beds and harvest oysters in Long Island Sound. They were sure that the president of the Matinecock Oyster Company was using the courts and the police to secure oyster beds that City Island oystermen believed were public and available to be harvested by everyone. The company had legal control over 200 acres of beds but was unlawfully trying to expand beyond that by seeding nearly 2,000 acres of beds nearby and was prepared to protect that investment. City Island oystermen believed that no individual should work more than the 200 acres, and they began

dredging off the shore of Matinecock, bringing in hundreds of bushels of oysters in spite of the company’s efforts to fend them off. The head of the company came back the next morning with a steamer tug and 15 armed men to help him stop the pirates. The tug bore down on two sloops that were nearest, both of them captained by City Islanders, and captured one of them, the *Katie G*, with Captain Augustus Merritt at the helm.

The police took Merritt to City Island, of all places, to place him in front of a justice, but a crowd of nearly 400 angry City Islanders gathered on the wharf and angrily threatened to rescue Merritt from his captors. But Merritt told his friends to let the law take its course, which it did, settling in favor of Matinecock Oyster Company. Although the company decided eventually to relinquish its bed, the City Island oystermen vowed to raise a fund of \$2,500 to fund a lawsuit in federal court to overturn the authority of the State Legislature to ratify leases like the one awarded to Matinecock. The lawsuit was never filed, but the jury in a similar case against oysterman Sydney Weeks of Bayville returned a verdict of not guilty, which was considered a “severe setback” for the company and a major victory for all oystermen.

City Island pirates were not the only threat to oyster beds, however. The construction of bulkheads, piers and landfill all around the city was good for commerce but not for marine life. And pollution became a major problem. Until the 1970s, New York dumped millions of gallons of raw, untreated sewage into the harbor on a daily basis, and even today combined sewer overflows continue to spew out sewage with stormwater during rainstorms. Although oystermen on City Island continued to gather what they could, the New York City Health Department closed down oyster beds starting in 1915, due to fears of food-borne illness, including typhoid, and 12 years later, in 1927, the last New York City oyster bed was made illegal.

Closing down the oyster industry, however, was not a crushing blow to City Island, which quickly turned its energy and efforts into building boats. David Carll, the first major boat-building firm on the Island, had already mastered the art of creating oyster vessels in the 1870s, and before long was joined by dozens of other firms that kept City Island in the nautical spotlight for decades to come.

Unfortunately, however, pollution continues to be a problem in the waters of western Long Island Sound. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), waters in the Bronx “are in such sanitary condition that the shellfish thereon shall not be taken for use as food, and such lands are designated as uncertified areas.” Improved water quality in other parts of western Long Island Sound, including Oyster Bay, however, has resulted in the removal of shell-fishing bans, and one can only hope that the restrictions will someday be lifted for the waters around City Island.

In the meantime, the three-year-old non-profit City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) has set as its goal the construction of oyster reefs in the waters around the island, not for the consumption of shellfish but to help clean the water, restore the marine ecology and help minimize storm surges. A generous grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is helping to fund these efforts, and perhaps before long a healthy oyster population will increase significantly in the area. CIOR has achieved widespread community support as well, and is delighted to report that descendants of Orrin Fordham are among its benefactors.



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Obituaries

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Donald J. Baumann

Clam digger Donald J. Baumann passed away on May 22, 2022, at the age of 94 of natural causes.

He was born Aug. 26, 1927, in the Bronx and lived on Buckley Street with his parents and his brother, Roger. It was on City Island where he met Earley Street resident Ethel Wilson when they were in kindergarten. He moved with his family to Bayside, Queens, where he attended high school, but he frequently rode his bicycle to City Island to visit Ethel.

Don joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and served as a paratrooper in World War II. He married Ethel, the love of his life, on Nov. 20, 1948, and they moved to Queens, where they lived until Ethel's death in April 2020. He spent the last two years in Brandywine Assisted Living in Little Neck, Queens.

Don was an avid golfer and played regularly into his 80s. He and Ethel remained close friends with a number of longtime City Island residents, including Ducky and Lorraine Rauhauser, Helen Bates and Rita Lynch.

He is survived by his three sons, Robert (Brenda), William (Joann) and James (Melody); seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was interred at Ferncliff Cemetery, where he worked for over 10 years, on June 11, 2022.



Frank J. Giacobelli

Frank Giacobelli, former resident of City Island, peacefully passed away at the age of 80 on April 23, 2022, in Fairfield, CT.

Frank was born on June 15, 1941, in the Bronx to Virginia (Tramantano) and Joseph Giacobelli Sr.

An avid boater and fisherman, he spent most of his summers on Long Island Sound. When not on the water, he could be found cooking everyone's favorites. He and

his cheesecake will be sorely missed.

To Frank, City Island was a comfort zone, a place to relax. He told stories to all who would listen of the best beach parties and then finding his wife, whom he married at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. He made lifelong friends on the Island and always told his granddaughters about the life he lived here.

Frank was predeceased by his parents, his siblings Marie (Lagno) and Joseph Giacobelli, and his nephew Michael Lagno. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol "Bunny" (Sullivan) Giacobelli of City Island; his daughter Margo Giacobelli Phillips, her husband Tibor Sakal and his two adored granddaughters, Isabella and Sophia Phillips. He is also survived by his very special niece, Jeannine Giacobelli Mazzeo; her husband, Toro Mazzeo; and their children, Luca, Magnolia and Giona. Frank had many beloved cousins in America and Italy, as well as a family of dear friends, including Jane and Joseph Gelsi, Marisa, Frank, Marie, Vin, Rose, Al, Donna and Heinz.

A celebration of Frank's life was held on June 15 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Contributions in Frank's memory may be made to Save the Sound at <https://www.savethesound.org/donate>.



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

IRS Increases Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rate for the final six months of 2022. Taxpayers may use these rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and certain other purposes.

For the last six months of 2022, effective as of July 1, the standard mileage rate for business travel will be 62.5 cents per mile, up 4 cents from the rate effective at the start of the year. The new rate for deductible medical or moving expenses (available for active-duty members of the military) will be 22 cents for the remainder of 2022, up 4 cents from the rate effective

at the start of this year.

The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year, but made this special adjustment for the final months of 2022 in recognition of recent increases in the price of gasoline. For travel from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2022, taxpayers should use the rates set forth in Notice 2022-03.

"The IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the recent increase in fuel prices," according to IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "We are aware a number of unusual factors have come into play involving fuel costs, and we are taking this special step to help taxpayers, businesses and others who use this rate."

Although fuel costs are a significant factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as depreciation, insurance and other fixed and variable costs. The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates. The 14 cents per mile rate for charitable organizations remains unchanged as it is set by statute.

Enhanced Business Meals Deduction

The IRS encourages businesses to begin planning now to take advantage of tax benefits available to them when they file their 2022 federal income tax return. This includes the enhanced business meal deduction. For 2021 and 2022 only, businesses can generally deduct the full cost of business-related food and beverages purchased from a restaurant. Otherwise, the limit is usually 50 percent of the cost of the meal.

To qualify for the enhanced deduction, the business owner or an employee of the business must be present when food or beverages are provided. Meals must be from restaurants, which includes businesses that prepare and sell food or beverages to retail customers for immediate consumption on or off the premises. The payment or billing for the food and beverages must occur after Dec. 31, 2020, and before Jan. 1, 2023. And the expense cannot be lavish or extravagant.

Grocery stores, convenience stores and

other businesses that mostly sell pre-packaged goods not for immediate consumption, do not qualify as restaurants. And employers may not treat certain employer-operated eating facilities as restaurants, even if they operate under contract by a third party.

Here's what business owners need to know about certain costs: The cost of the meal can include taxes and tips; the cost of transportation to and from the meal is not part of the cost of a business meal.

Business owners may be able to deduct the costs of meals and beverages provided during an entertainment event if either of these apply: The purchase of the food and beverages occurs separately from the entertainment, and the cost of the food and beverages is separate from the cost of the entertainment on one or more bills, invoices, or receipts.

Businesses should review the special recordkeeping rules that apply to business meals. For more information, visit <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-463>.

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: *marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com*. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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SPRING FEST



It was a busy June at City Island's P.S. 175 (see pages 1 and 8). On June 8, teachers at the school hosted a Spring Festival from 5 to 7 p.m. with different activities for students and their families, including a barbecue and games for all.

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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.



Fordham Street's Arlo Ford at the Memorial Day parade on May 30, 2022.

Birthday greetings on July 19 to Hawkins Street's Lori Travers, with love from your family and friends. Enjoy!

Congratulations to the awesome athletes of City Island Rowing (CIR) and their head coach, Island resident Guy Monseair for multiple first place finishes at the NYS High School Championships in Saratoga Springs! Several CIR crews earned medals at States, and two teams qualified to compete at U.S. Rowing Youth Nationals in Sarasota, FL, in mid-June. Among the rowers who made the trip south were City Islanders Sonya Doyle, a junior at Cardinal Spellman High School, and Campbell Weppler, a sophomore at The Ursuline School. Even though challenging wind gusts and equipment failures got in the way of much-wanted victories at Nationals, the girls had the time of their lives competing and are already training hard for the Philly Youth Regatta in July and then a busy fall season. Way to go, CIR!!!

God bless baby Christopher Arthur Nani, who was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on June 12 by Islander Fr. Wilfredo Benitez. Proud parents are Mark and Lorena Nani.

Graduation congratulations to Islander Hannah Gannon, who graduated from Bard High School in June. Hannah will attend Hunter College in September.

Happy ninth birthday on July 11 to our grandson Arlo Rota from Grandma Judy and Grandpa Mike. Also celebrating birthdays in July: Mama Beth Rota and Aunt Susie Rauh. Finishing out the month, Beth and Matt Rota celebrate their 17th wedding anniversary on July 24. So happy our NOLA family could finally come to City Island this year!

Welcome to Fr. Kevin Moroney, the new priest-in-charge at Grace Episcopal Church. Fr. Moroney led his first service on Father's Day, June 19 and participated in the Blessing of the Fleet on June 26.

Happy birthday to our beloved Mom, Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson, who celebrates her special day on July 14. We love you so much! From Deb, Elzie and Ken.

Happy Aug. 9 birthday to clamdigger Roger Nani, who will celebrate the big day with his wife, Leah; son, Luke; and parents, Karen and Paul Nani.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Ginger and Hans Dannegger, who will celebrate their anniversary on July 27. Also, happy anniversary to their daughter, Mary, and her husband, Warren Sheinwald, on Aug. 11.

All our love to Maria Christina Swieciki, who will celebrate her 31st birthday on Aug. 22. Enjoy!

Happy July birthdays to my lovely granddaughters, Kayla (18) and Alyssa (15). Enjoy your summer birthdays, with love from Grandma Penny.

Katie McCormick sends happy July birthday wishes to Nancy Zafrani and Gerry McCormick Jr. and August birthday wishes to Vivi McGuire, Karen Figuera, Savanna Dentico and Chris McGuire Jr. Love from Katie and Skipper and all of our family and friends.

More summer birthdays will be celebrated by Ellen Dierenfeld, Jennifer Car-



Photo by JONNA WEPPLER.

The dedicated young women of City Island Rowing competed and won medals at the NYS Championships at Fish Creek in Sarasota.



Photo by LEAH NANI

Christopher Arthur Nani was baptized on June 12, 2022, at Grace Church surrounded by his parents and grandparents.

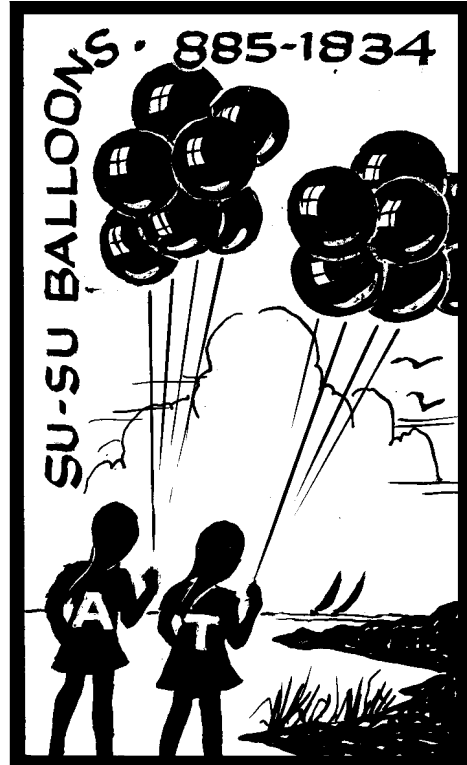


Photo by JULIE PORRAS

P.S. 175 student Illia Gudilov received the Bronx Strong Award for courage, perseverance and resilience at the Community Education Council District 11 awards ceremony. He is pictured above with teacher Karen Heil.

man, Nolan Quinn, Samantha Emerick and Dom Alia.

City Island's Memorial Day parade was celebrated by people of all ages, including little three-year-old cutie Arlo Ford of Fordham Street.

Congratulations to P.S. 175 winners of the Community Education Council (CEC) District 11 awards presented on June 9. Student Illia Gudilov received the Bronx Strong Award for courage, perseverance and resilience; staff member Jesse Cowan was awarded the Bronx Powerhouse Award for versatility, ingenuity and compassion; and parent Cheryl Riordan received the Bronx Champions Award for being creative, involved, vocal, empowered and a learner. Wishing all our readers, neighbors and

friends a very safe, happy and healthy summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki

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