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One Dollar

New DOT Commissioner Revisiting City Island Bridge Design

By KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

Polly Trottenberg, the newly appointed commissioner of the Department of Transportation, and the chief bridge engineer, Robert Collyer, visited City Island on April 16, 2014, and discussed a new design for the City Island Bridge at a meeting at the Sea Shore Restaurant attended by community leaders, business owners and local elected officials.

There is excitement in the waters under the City Island Bridge now that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is finally listening to the community's objections to the design of the replacement for "the beloved 113-year-old structure." Polly Trottenberg, Mayor Bill DiBlasio's newly appointed DOT commissioner, met with community leaders and local politicians on April 16 at the Sea Shore Restaurant to assure Islanders that their concerns about the bridge design were being addressed.

"I heard from the Civic Association and your elected officials loud and clear. Mayor DiBlasio and I listened, and we realized we have a big problem on our hands," Ms. Trottenberg told the battle-weary group. Referring to the decisions made by the past DOT administration under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, she said "the current bridge is in poor condition and a contract has already been awarded. It is not a simple matter to turn that ship around."

But, in a surprise reversal, she said that DOT would abandon the cable-stayed design with its 164-foot towers and move forward with a bridge that addresses many of Islanders' objections. "We are working on a causeway design, similar to the current bridge, but a plain vanilla version. We have 30 engineers working on a new design that would utilize two of the existing piers in the water in order to minimize the environmental review." She also reported that lawyers are reviewing the construction contract, although she noted that the new city comptroller, Scott Stringer, had expressed willingness to expedite this aspect of the project.

Ms. Trottenberg said that DOT will move quickly to resolve as many issues as possible and produce a specific design before the City Planning Commission votes on a DOT application for land-use

permits in mid-May. Rather than the cable-stayed bridge design, which would have had no supports in the water, a causeway style bridge would need at least two. DOT engineers, led by chief bridge engineer Robert Collyer, are considering the removal of four of the six piers already in place and drilling through two of the existing piers to create structural supports for the new bridge. Under this design, no new land or underwater areas need to be disturbed, which should address environmental concerns and simplify the permit process.

The willingness of the new commissioner to meet with the community only four months into her administration signaled an encouraging change for those who have been fighting for years to get DOT to listen. The previous commissioner, Janette Sadik-Khan, never met with the community and "rebuffed or ignored all of our protests," said Barbara Dolensek, vice president of the Civic Association.

"The new commissioner has moved mountains already, unlike the previous administration. She has been responsive and has made a good faith effort," New York City Councilman James Vacca said at the meeting. Noting that this may be one of the few times in history that a community has asked for less, not more, he suggested that a causeway bridge would actually save the city money. (Started in 1998, the project's estimated cost has ballooned from \$25 million to more than \$100 million.)

This turn of events is what the Civic Association hoped for when it filed a lawsuit in December 2013 with the help of State Senator Jeff Klein. The lawsuit forced DOT to go through a process to obtain the necessary land-use permits needed to build both the temporary and permanent bridges being proposed (known as the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure or ULURP). Part of the legal strategy was to delay the process in the hope that a new mayor and administration would be willing to listen to the community.

Senator Klein came to the meeting in person to thank the new commissioner for being responsive and to reiterate the hope that City Island gets a bridge that is acceptable to the community, thereby avoiding what some residents were beginning to call "Bridgegate, City Island style." In addition to James Vacca, he was accompanied by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Thomas Massina representing Congressman Joseph Crowley, Tom Lucania representing the Bronx Borough President and Ken Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10. The City Island community was represented by Virginia Gallagher, Barbara Dolensek, John Doyle, Paul Nani, and Gerard "Skip" Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, which partnered with the Civic Association in the effort to change the bridge design.

On April 21, Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. announced that his office had joined Community Board 10 and 12 in rejecting the ULURP application filed by DOT, saying: "The entire process surround-

Continued on page 3

PITCH PERFECT WEATHER!



Photos by KAREN NANI

After the long snowy winter of 2014, the opening day of the City Island Little League (CILL) season on April 12 was wonderfully sunny and warm. This year, there are nine teams competing in CILL: four major teams, three minor teams, St. Mary's Girls softball and t-ball. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by Congressman Joseph Crowley, and Senator Jeff Klein (third photo from top) was also present for the occasion. CILL president John Tomsen acknowledged the generous support of the team sponsors, including the City Island Theater Group, the City Island Deli, Crab Shanty and Sea Shore restaurants, and Dugout Sporting Goods (t-ball); Seafood City, Local 79 Laborers, and Jack's Bait and Tackle (minors); and the American Legion, the John Gilder Scholarship Fund, and Sammy's and JP's restaurants (majors). Shown above at the opening day ceremony are (front, l. to r.): Tom Vivola, Peter Booth, Kristin McConaghy, Congressman Crowley, Maria Piri, John Tomsen, Ed Esposito, George Spencer, Catherine Ambrosini, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Jim Livingston, Jeff Cohen representing Councilman James Vacca and NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer. Stop by Ambrosini Field and "root, root, root for the home team." The snack bar will be open and supervised by James and Susan Goonan.

BRIEFLY...

SAFE BOATING COURSE will be offered by the City Island Sail and Power Squadron in four sessions on Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, at 7 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The cost of the course is \$45. To register or for information, call Jim Duffy at 718-863-3855. Call before 10 p.m.

CANCER BINGO, sponsored annually by the Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 156, will be held this year on Thursday, May 15. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; the first Bingo will be at 7 p.m. Please come and help support this worthy event. All proceeds go to cancer research and care. Coffee and cake will be provided, and there will be plenty of nice raffle prizes and gift certificates.

BLOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, will be held on Tuesday, May 13, between the hours of 3:30 and 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or Signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation.

BARTOW-PELL CENTENNIAL PLANT SALE will take place on Saturday, May 17, from 10 to 3 p.m. (rain date May 18) at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road. There will be over 100 varieties of annuals, perennials, herbs and roses, plus an edible-gardening workshop in the children's garden (10 a.m. to noon); a book signing of "The Little Green Book of Gardening Wisdom" by Barbara Burn from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and ongoing potting demonstrations. For more information, call 718-885-1461.

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON. Everyone is welcome to attend the Garden Club's annual luncheon on Thursday, May 22, at the City Island Yacht Club. The theme this year is "In A Freesia State of Mind," in honor of the flower representing friendship. The cost is \$50. Make a reservation by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442.

2014 CITY ISLAND REUNION: Once again, by popular demand, there will be another spectacular and memorable City Island reunion, which will take place on Aug. 23, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Ambrosini Field. Come reunite and celebrate with friends and family while listening to live music from local bands, past and present. There will be lots of entertainment for kids of all ages, including volleyball, basketball and softball. There will be a memorial board for posting photos of our beloved friends and family. A very large tent and Porta-Potties will be provided, as well as condiments, napkins, plastic ware, and delicious cakes from Costco. Bring your own food and beverage, chairs, tables and even pop-up tents. Admission is \$15 to cover expenses; kids 14 and under get in free; and proceeds will be donated to a City Island cause, to be determined. If anyone needs any special accommodations or if you have any questions at all, please call Bob at 347-242-4393, Lynn at 760-805-5547, or email cityisland2014@yahoo.com. See you there!

PELHAM CEMETERY will hold a volunteer clean-up and beautification day on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome. Bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Register by calling 718-885-2138. Pelham Cemetery will also hold its annual lot holders meeting on July 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion. All lot holders are encouraged to attend.

GIRL SCOUT PLANT AND BAKE SALE will take place outside Hawkins Park on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. until everything is sold out. Get there early!

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE" will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m., at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. To reserve tickets, call 718-885-3066 or email tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the website www.cityisland-theatergroup.com.



Photo by GUS BERGER

The 40-foot power boat *Eagle* was engulfed in flames on the morning of March 29, 2014, at Consolidated Shipyard on Pilot Street. At least 13 FDNY vehicles responded, including City Island's own Ladder 53, but it was time-consuming to run the hoses from the avenue down to the dock. The owner of the vessel was aboard but was able to escape the blazing boat unharmed. The fire was reportedly caused by an electrical short circuit that ignited the propane tank aboard the *Eagle*. Observers were glad to see the fire brought under control, given that most City Island shipyards, including Consolidated, contain lots of wooden structures, and the wind was strong that day, which alarmed residents of Pilot Cove Manor and the owners of other boats nearby.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 – ASSAULT*
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)*

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests* for the period from March 19 to April 20, 2014.

3/20 – An off-Island female was approached by her boyfriend's ex-wife and threatened with bodily harm in an incident of harassment on City Island Avenue at 9:50 p.m. The perpetrator fled the scene.

3/25 – On Schofield Street at 5:50 p.m., an off-Island victim of a car accident reported that the license plates had been stolen from the vehicle after it was towed.

4/1 – At 1 a.m., a Reville Street resident reported that an unknown person entered her home without permission and damaged property in an act of criminal mischief.

4/1 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a burglary on King Avenue reported at 1 p.m. Unknown person(s) entered a home and removed items without permission of the owner.

4/4 – An off-Island male, 28, and an off-Island female, 28, were arrested at 7:14 p.m. on City Island Avenue at Cross Street and charged with assault. Cross complaints were filed when the couple allegedly became aggressive towards each other. The male slammed the female into a parked vehicle and the female scratched the face of the male.

4/8 – On Fordham Street, an Island resident reported her vehicle was missing at 8:30 p.m. The car was parked legally and when the owner returned, the car had been stolen.

4/10 – An off-Island male, 34, was arrested by police from the 45th Precinct at 10 p.m. on Pilot Street and charged with assault. The defendant allegedly kicked a female victim multiple times after a dispute escalated to physical violence.

4/15 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 41, and charged him with DWI. Around 5:08 a.m., the defendant was found slumped over the driver's seat of his vehicle on City Island Avenue with the key in the ignition. The defendant had bloodshot eyes and the smell of alcohol on his breath.



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Please call Paul Scavello for reservations
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Photo by PAUL NANI

For the first time in the 113-year history of the City Island bridge, the Department of Transportation placed traffic lights on both ends of the bridge in April to create safe crosswalks during the relocation of the water main. The lights have caused confusion and traffic jams on Bridge Street (top photo), City Island Avenue and City Island Road leading into the bridge (middle and bottom photos). After numerous complaints by frustrated Islanders, DOT adjusted the timing and pattern of the lights to alleviate the problems. Meanwhile, the 45th Precinct responded to the traffic jams during April by stationing patrol cars on both sides of the bridge and at the circle to keep traffic moving and the fire lane clear.

Bridge

Continued from page 1

ing the planning and construction of this bridge has been flawed from the very start. The previous administration simply ignored the valid criticisms of the residents of City Island regarding this project, and I cannot support its construction at this time. Without question I believe this entire matter could have been better addressed by the previous administration. The ushering in of a new administration, however, provides an opportunity to address the current bridge design. We will continue to work with Commissioner Trottenberg and the Department of Transportation, local elected officials and the City Island community to develop a reasonable solution to this issue."

Ms. Trottenberg said that DOT plans to show the new bridge design to the community as soon as it is ready, possibly at a town hall meeting like the one held at P.S. 175 on Jan. 15, 2014. If it meets with community approval, it is likely that both City Planning and the City Council will approve the ULURP applications, in spite of the fact that the Community Boards 10 and 12 and the Borough President failed to approve them, so that the bridge construction project can proceed. Ms. Trottenberg noted that a new design will also have to be approved by city's Design Commission. "There are a lot of issues to work through, and we are not quite there. But we are trying, through intense negotiations, to meet the May deadline," the new commissioner concluded.

Traffic Lights at the Bridge

Responding to a question raised by one of the restaurant managers, Ms. Trottenberg also addressed traffic issues, especially the congestion and frustration caused by the installation of two traffic signals at the beginning and end of the bridge in March.

"We heard about the confusion caused by the new lights, and we had the contractor working today on City Island to make modifications to the signals." She asked the DOT Bronx Commissioner, Constance Moran, to explain the changes. "A sensor has been added for cars coming from Bridge Street. Now the light on City Island Avenue will always be green unless a pedestrian pushes the crossing button or a car approaches from

Bridge Street."

The light had been turning red on City Island Avenue in a set sequence whether or not there was any reason to stop traffic entering or leaving the Island. This caused traffic to back up during the first two weekends in April onto City Island Road, past the circle and as far back as the Turtle Cove driving range.

Police from the 45th Precinct were alerted to the problems, and they responded by placing traffic agents at the circle and on either side of the bridge in order to wave motorists through the lights when the intersections were clear. Lt. Paul Trapani, who handles special operations for the 45th, responded quickly to the situation in April and had traffic agents in place for Easter weekend.

It appears that the change has been made, and the light is remaining green more often for incoming and outgoing traffic on City Island Avenue. However, this reporter counted the seconds it took for the sensor to register vehicles approaching from Bridge Street and it ranged from 30 to 55 seconds before those cars got a green light. Also, cars continue to run through the light when it turns red on the avenue, out of either frustration or habit.

The commissioner reiterated that the new lights were necessitated by the closure of the south pedestrian walkway on the bridge for the relocation of the water main in preparation for the temporary bridge. This closure forces pedestrians to cross City Island Avenue to get to the north walkway in order to jog, walk or ride bicycles over the bridge. "We have to insure pedestrian safety," Ms. Trottenberg said, but she also promised that traffic agents would be in place from mid-May throughout the summer to help with traffic congestion.

On a personal note, Ms. Trottenberg told *The Current* that she loves City Island and started visiting it with her father when she was four years old. She was raised in nearby Pelham and has crossed the bridge many times.

The new bridge will still be built by Tutor Perini, the company that was awarded the contract in 2013. The company and its subcontractors have been working along with Con Edison and the Department of Environmental Protection since last year in preparation for the temporary bridge, which needs to be in place before the old bridge is dismantled. The work to date has included elevation surveys, tree removal, preparation for the installation of a temporary water main and relocation of Con Edison conduits.

Islanders who have questions, complaints and comments should contact the DOT Community Liaison, Huascar Robles, at 917-626-8391 or email him at cityislandbridgehbx1164@gmail.com. Be sure to copy the Civic Association at city.island.civic@mac.com and to attend upcoming meetings about the bridge.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

State Senator Jeff Klein met with Island residents at an informal gathering on Sunday, April 6, 2014, in the back garden of the Alehouse, where he discussed several issues of interest to City Island. Standing with him are John Doyle (left), an officer of the City Island Civic Association, and Gerard "Skip" Giacco, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Trucks and construction vehicles have been flocking to City Island recently in greater numbers than migrating birds. Some of the vehicles are installing a temporary water main in preparation for the construction of the temporary bridge, but a number of them are on the Island because of the several residential developments that have been on hold for the past few years.

At the east end of Marine Street, where the street end was demapped and the zoning was changed from manufacturing to commercial over 23 years ago, no construction is in evidence, but an old building was recently demolished, after numerous complaints from neighbors and violations filed with the Department of Buildings. The last revision made to the original application approved in 1991 by City Planning and the City Council was in 2011, when the developer proposed building two two-story apartment buildings each with 16 units, plus 93 parking spaces, 43 marina slips and public access to the waterfront.

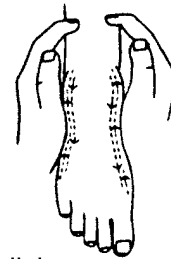
At the east end of Fordham Street, the five-acre site once occupied by International Underwater Contractors was rezoned

in 2008 from manufacturing to residential to allow the construction of 23 two-family houses. The project, now called "On the Sound," is being developed by Greystone Property Development, which reports that remediation of the contamination on the site is nearly complete and that work on the waterfront has taken place. According to Greystone, a presentation will be soon be made to the City Island community, at the May 27 meeting of the Civic Association, as soon as all necessary permits have been obtained.

In 2008, City Island resident Haim Joseph bought from Beechwood Homes the former site of Royal Marina, south of Cross Street on the west side of City Island Avenue, together with plans for the construction of 22 two-family houses, plus one building combining commercial and residential space. Mr. Joseph, developer of Nautical Winds Condominium at 190 Fordham Street and owner of The Laurels as well as the wetlands between Tier and Ditmars Streets, told *The Current* in 2008 that he would soon start to construct the foundations and hoped to complete the project within two years. However, the slow economy and the site's environmental issues, including contamination and a bulkhead in need of repair or replacement, prevented him from proceeding with the development. He has used the property, which is zoned residential, for boat storage to supplement his City Island Marina and is now storing heavy equipment for Tutor-Perini, contractors for the City Island Bridge. Mr. Joseph's plans for the site apparently no longer involve residential development, as the property is now listed by Metro Brooklyn Realty LLC as for sale at an asking price of \$8 million.

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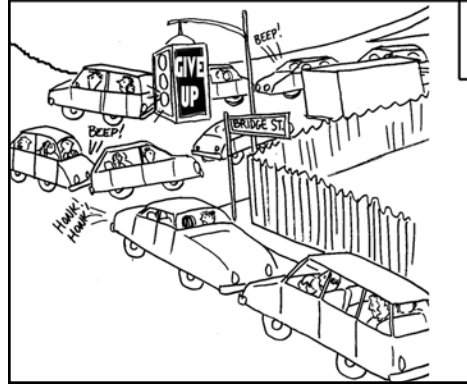




—Naomi Shihab Nye

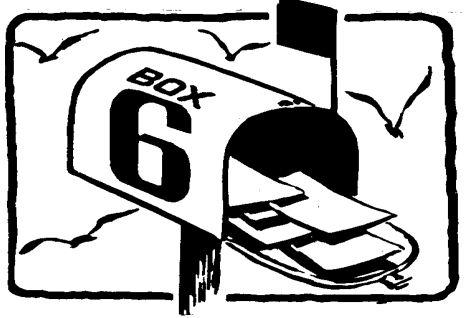
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	<p>WELL, MAYBE MY KID IS A LITTLE OVERSCHEDULED...</p> 	<p>I'M THE GHOST OF PATRONS PAST & I'VE BEEN WAITING UMPTEN YEARS FOR THE "OPENING SOON" WHATEVER.</p> 	<p>UH OH, CHERYL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEEDS HAVE TAKEN OVER.</p> <p>DON'T WORRY, SUE, I BROUGHT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY. COVER ME, I'M GOING IN!</p> 	<p>WOW! WE COULD GET LOST IN ALL THESE PLANTS!</p>  <p>NO PROBLEM, I HAVE A COMPASS & A WILDERNESS SURVIVAL BADGE.</p>



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

Misplaced Priorities

To the Editor:

Call me crazy but city officials seem to be overly concerned about issues such as allowing walkers to efficiently access Pelham Bay Park from City Island in the midst of necessary construction or how to efficiently move restaurant patrons into an undersized parking lot serving the interests of a politically connected restaurant tycoon.

But few of our government officials seem to be overly concerned about efficiently moving emergency vehicles onto City Island in case of an emergency on a warm summer weekend evening. Let us remind our officials that there is no fire lane north of the City Island Circle, where traffic is backing up every weekend evening, and temperatures, as of the date of this letter, have not even hit 70 degrees yet. We are fast approaching Mother's Day, First Communion and the graduation season. Everyone likes to celebrate these great family occasions by coming to City Island, and nobody can be blamed for that.

But we all know the traffic problems created here each May and June and into the summer. There are legitimate public safety concerns that have never been adequately addressed in years past and that have been greatly exacerbated this year by the commencement of bridge-related construction and the opening of the extremely popular Don Coqui and its woefully insufficient parking arrangements.

If you follow social media sites, you know that Island residents are extremely wary and fearful of what's to come, judging from the unprecedented February and March weekend traffic chaos. Spring is here and summer is coming and we now, more than ever, have a potential public-safety nightmare, not only for residents but visitors as well.

Who do we contact to complain when one of our loved ones dies from cardiac arrest because it took an ambulance 50 minutes to reach the island on a hot Friday evening or if a row of houses burns to the ground because it took 50 minutes for a fire company responding to a third alarm to reach City Island from Co-op City or Throggs Neck?

The City Island community, with its increasing traffic, has literally been playing with fire for years. Recent developments—commercial and otherwise—only add fuel to the likelihood of that and other potential tragedies.

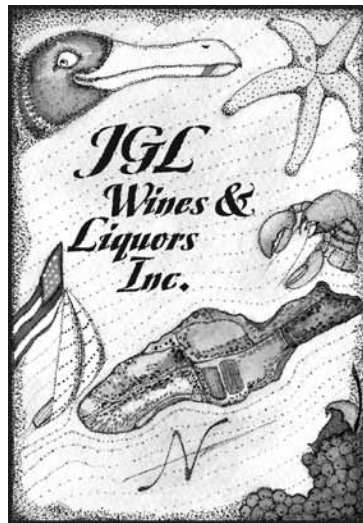
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Photo courtesy of PAUL SCIARA

The City Island Beer Company recently teamed up with Chris Cuzme, head brewer at NYC's 508 Gastrobrewery, for a special collaboration brew that included local ingredients from City Island, City Island Gold honey and hops grown at Paul Sciara's home (Paul is pictured with his brew). Named 1393 (508 + 885), this honey-blond ale was released in cask on Feb. 23 at Gastrobrewery's event Caskalot, a celebration of NYC cask-conditioned ales. 1393 is currently on tap at 508 Gastrobrewery, 508 Greenwich Street, and plans are in the works to bring a limited release to the Alehouse on City Island this spring.

Celebrate Memorial Day: Visit the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of THOMAS CASEY

This photo shows activities taking place at the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station, which was located where the traffic circle is now from 1917 through 1918. An architect's map of the entire base is on view at the City Island Nautical Museum.



Photo by BOB BERENT

Temple Beth-El of City Island celebrated its 80th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses on Saturday, March 22. Representatives of many of our civic organizations attended the gala, which honored City Island itself. Shown with their organization's service awards presented by the Temple president, Paul Klein, are (l. to r.): Violet Smith (representing the Community Center and the PTA), Carmela Bellocchio (the Girl Scouts), Jackie Kyle Kall (the Garden Club), John Doyle (C.I. Civic Association), Susan Vaughn (American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary), Dave Carman (Commander, Leonard Hawkins Post), Peter Booth (Sons of the American Legion), Fred Ramftl (C. I. Nautical Museum), Waldo Persteins (Boy Scouts), Jim McGaughan (Cub Scouts), and Skip Giacco (C.I. Chamber of Commerce).

In honor of Memorial Day 1914, the City Island Nautical Museum is presenting to the public, for the first time since it was cleaned, a unique map of the naval training base that once existed in Pelham Bay Park. Now a little-known historic footnote, the base once occupied all of Rodman's Neck, including the area where the traffic circle and the golf driving range are now. The base had a population larger than City Island has today.

On April 6, 1917, the United States formally entered World War I, after Germany announced the resumption of unrestricted warfare in war-zone waters and proceeded to sink the American liner *Housatonic* and four more U.S. merchant ships. America's entrance into the conflict marked a major turning point in the war and helped the Allies to victory on Nov. 11, 1918. By the war's end, more than two million American soldiers had served on the battlefields of Western Europe, and some 50,000 of them had lost their lives.

The base in Pelham Bay Park, one of several throughout the country, was opened on Oct. 1, 1917, and within six months had 4,777 sailors in training, with a thousand "jacks" rotating in and out of the facility each week. The base consisted of 537 buildings, mostly barracks, 16 mess halls, two hospitals and several wards, a drill hall, a brig, an armory, a library, a YMCA, a Knights of Columbus, a Jewish welfare building, an officer's club, a post office, police and fire buildings, a photo studio, tennis courts and numerous canteens. Most structures were made of wood, and by 1920, virtually all of the buildings were gone, with the exception of the large drill hall, which according to Park Department records lasted into the 1930s.

The map at the Nautical Museum was prepared by the architectural firm Ewing & Allen, of 101 Park Avenue in New York City, and every building is carefully marked to show its function. Because the museum's map is set high on a wall in the School Room, photographs showing details are available in the museum's library, along with articles that were published at the time the training station was in service.

The architects wrote an article in the June issue of "Architectural Forum" magazine praising the facility for its "well unified scheme of extremely simple parts." No trees were cut down to make room for the buildings, and existing buildings, such as the Colonial Inn (demolished about 1936), is visible in photographs of the sailors in training. Thanks to its public waterfront, Pelham Bay Park provided an ideal location to drill the sailors in both actual naval launches and sham ground battles and maneuvers. It also allowed for numerous recreational sports such as baseball, golf, tennis, band marches, drills, boxing matches, swimming, and theatrical productions.

An entertaining article entitled "A Tar Factory" by Charles S. Ackerman (also available at the museum) was published in "The Rudder" in August 1918, illustrated with pho-

tographs taken by Morris Rosenfeld, later the renowned marine photographer based on City Island. The stages of training are described, including a stint in probation camp, where "a lot of the raw edges have to be removed gently, and the officers know it, and they have a way of amputating home sickness and awkwardness and sulkiness and shyness, without the recruit's perception that it is being done." Among the recruits who went through the process were Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson, according to Bronx historian Thomas Casey, who has collected many images and documents on the subject.

One of Mr. Casey's treasures is a set of "The Broadside," a magazine published by the Pelham Training Station every other Friday between January and November 1918. In these issues are cartoons and photographs, as well as reports on the sporting activities in the camp and visits in May 1918 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and President Woodrow Wilson. Of special interest are the advertisements, many of them for businesses in Manhattan and elsewhere but several for shops on City Island, including Otto Gilbert's Pharmacy (282 City Island Avenue), Edward Hamilton's cigar store (288 City Island Avenue), Jacob Springer's market (239 City Island Avenue) and Washington's photo studio (553 City Island Avenue). Lane's Bathing Beach on the east side of the Island advertised during summer months that recruits were welcome to swim free every Tuesday.

Virginia Gallagher, who brought the map to the museum several years ago, says that it had hung for some time in a police station, where it had apparently been used as a dart board, for there are holes in the surface. Island resident and professional conservator Christine Frohner graciously applied her expertise to the map, removing dirt and other substances, and Rick DeWitt provided the museum with very high-resolution images of the map so that viewers may examine it in detail in a reference folder about the camp.

A search of the New York Public Library archives resulted in two maps of the training station published by Sanford, apparently for insurance purposes. These, and the maps in the article by the camp's architects, are not nearly as complete or as large as the museum's map, which measures about 4 feet in height by 7 feet in width. Given the scope of the camp, it seems incredible that there is not one sign of it left in the park today.

What better way to celebrate Memorial Day this year than to attend the parade on City Island Avenue, followed by a hot dog at the American Legion Hall and a visit to the Nautical Museum to see military history close up?

The City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. or by special appointment (call 718-885-0507). Visit the website at cityislandmuseum.org and on Facebook as City Island Nautical Museum.

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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

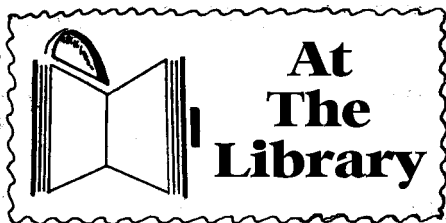


A pastel portrait by Mary Colby.

Mary Colby, artist, proprietor of **Fe Fi Faux** (276 City Island Avenue), and *Island Current* columnist ("In the Garden"), is expanding her offerings, which include pastel portraits of children and pets, gardening advice and design. Visit her website at marycolby.com and contact her by calling 917-804-4509 or emailing marycolby7@gmail.com.

An "Artist's Choice" exhibition will be held at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) from May 2 through May 31. There will be an opening reception on Friday, May 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. For information, call 718-885-1403.

Scavello's catering comes to the **Harlem Yacht Club**, 417 Hunter Avenue, City Island. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner, so come and enjoy some good food and the spectacular view. Call for reservations, 718-885-3078.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY, MAY 2014
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May Children's Programs

Read-a-Loud: The first Friday of every month will have a read-aloud in the early afternoon. Listen to the librarian's choices, and feel free to bring your family's favorite to share. Our read-aloud program is slowly transitioning into more of a Toddler Time activity. Friday, May 2, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Mother's Day Arts and Crafts: We will supply the scissors, glue and



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Ron and Susan Terner with Joe, Tiffany and some of the children who took part in this year's Young Artist Exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery.

construction paper; please bring your own imagination and artistic flair as we make arts and crafts to celebrate spring. May 9, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Film for Children: We will be watching a movie during the day for children in our Community Room. May 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May Teen Programs

After-School Lounge: Students can play Wii, bring a book, do their homework and sneak in a snack. Monday through Friday afternoons when school is in session from 3 to 5 in our Community Room.

May Adult Programs

SPECIAL EVENT: New York State Senator Jeffrey Klein's office will be in the library to answer your questions and listen to your concerns on Monday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

100 Years of Bronx History: Professor Mastro returns to celebrate Bronx Week with us, discussing Bronx History. Saturday, May 17, 3 p.m. (after the Saturday movie).

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the internet before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Also on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resumé into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged, but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 to noon.

Saturday Afternoon Movie or Lec-

ture: Every Saturday that we are open, we will present a movie or a lecture/discussion. Please check the flyers in the library or call for Saturday movies or lecture programs. All Saturday afternoon events begin at 1 p.m.

Tablet Group: Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3.

Island Writers: This program is taking the month off, so no classes for May.

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations.

Bartow-Pell Events

The Bartow-Pell Conservancy, originally known as the International Garden Club, was formed in 1914 by a group passionate about horticulture. That year, New York City gave them permission to use the Bartow family mansion on Pelham Bay in the Bronx as their headquarters, in exchange for restoring the house, creating public gardens and programs and preserving the site for generations to come. As part of the 100-year celebration, the Conservancy is offering a special centennial membership for new members only: Enjoy all the benefits of a Heritage Membership, \$180, for only \$100. For more information about membership or any upcoming events, visit www.bpmm.org, call 718-885-1461, or email info@bpmm.org.

First Friday, offering music and the Bronx seaside trolley, on Friday, May 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Irish folk singer Mary Courtney brings her great talent back to BPMM. Explore the museum, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students, members free. Registration requested. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

Don't miss the highlight of our centennial events: The Moonlight Ball: A Centennial Celebration, on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m., overlooking the garden, with dinner and dancing to Michael Arenella's Dreamland Orchestra. The evening will honor Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and Frank Emile Sanchis III, a leader in historic preservation. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org.

Bronx Week at Bartow-Pell will take place from Sunday, May 11, to Sunday, May 18. Celebrate beauty in the Bronx with free guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons, 12 to 4 p.m. Tours start at quarter past the hour.

Fashion Flashback: 1914. To celebrate the centennial of both Bronx County and Bartow-Pell, learn about the fashions of 1914 with Bard Graduate Center scholar Sarah Pickman on Thursday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. Her studies in fashion history and anthropology, combined with her work in Textile Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum, give her a unique take on a tumultuous time. Cost: \$10, members free. Registration requested. Call: 718-885-1461 or e-mail: info@bpmm.org.

Centennial Plant Sale, Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Let your garden be inspired by the garden at Bartow-Pell! Unusual annuals, perennials, herbs, and roses for sale, plus demos on edible gardening, potting plants, and a book signing of "The Little Green Book of Gardening Wisdom," edited by Barbara Burn. Rain date: Sunday, May 18. Free.

Plein Air Landscape Drawing, Thursdays, May 22-June 26, 10 a.m. to noon. Join artist Geri Smith to develop your artistic direction while building technical and compositional skills in an outdoor setting. Learn how to simplify gardens and landscape into essential shape, tone, texture and line, creating a personal vocabulary of black-and-white graphite drawings. All levels are welcome. Please bring a folding chair. Materials list provided. Six classes. Cost: \$175, members \$140. Registration required. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

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A Current Review

“And Then There Were None”

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The well-dressed cast of the City Island Theater Group's production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," which opened on Friday, April 25, 2014: (front row, l. to r.): Elizabeth Paldino, Connieann DelVecchio, Ann Liski and Thomas Losito; (back row): Danny Conover, Michael McMillan, Robert Mulroy, Peter Ackerman, David Lazaar, Bill Morton, Keith Kucerak and director Nic Anthony Calabro.

The City Island Theater Group has adopted credible British accents to mount a production of the unique mystery thriller "And Then There Were None" as its second offering of the 2014 season, the group's 15th on City Island.

Written in 1939 by Agatha Christie under another (offensive) title, "And Then There Were None" is undoubtedly the world's best-selling mystery novel. She reworked the ending for the stage version in England (1943), which has been the basis of several film adaptations, including the 1945 movie starring Barry Fitzgerald and Walter Huston.

The plot places eight guests in a vacation home on an island off the English coast early in the 1940s. They are strangers to one another, and each has been invited there on a pretext. As they arrive, helped with their luggage by boatman Fred Narracott (Thomas Losito, a specialist in carrying people's baggage), the guests are greeted by a butler and housekeeper, who report that the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, will not arrive until the next day.

That evening, a recorded voice accuses each of them of committing murders in the past that were never revealed. Events move quickly as the guests realize that none of them, including the servants, knows the Owens. As they discuss what to do, Anthony Marston (Daniel Conover, as the perfect English cad), chokes on poisoned whisky and dies.

Things quickly spiral out of control as the guests struggle to make sense of things and to cope with a mounting body count. Attention soon focuses on the "Ten Little Soldiers"

rhyme that hangs over the fireplace above a row of toy soldiers that dwindle in number along with the guests.

The next morning the guests find that Ethel Rogers (Connieann DelVecchio, the put-upon cook) has died in her sleep. Later that morning, General MacKenzie (Peter Ackerman, as a fading warrior), is found stabbed to death as lunch is served. The following morning, Thomas Rogers (David Lazaar, the dignified butler) is killed while chopping wood in preparation for breakfast, and shortly Emily Brent (Ann Liski, a ruthlessly religious woman) is found dead on the sofa, her neck injected with poison.

After most of the surviving guests are distracted upstairs, Sir Lawrence Wargrave (Bill Morton, a commanding former judge) is found shot downstairs. After declaring him dead, Dr. Edward Armstrong (Robert Mulroy, a guilt-ridden former surgeon) vanishes that night, along with another toy soldier from the mantelpiece.

The show's final act places the three surviving guests, Vera Claythorne (Elizabeth Paldino, the frantic secretary), Philip Lombard (Keith Kucerak, an unsavory adventurer) and William Blore (Michael McMillan, a blunt former criminal investigator) back in the living room, eying each other nervously and expecting the worst at any moment. The play will run the weekend of May 3-5, so don't miss finding out whodunnit.

This production had its usual great set. Dan Srdoc managed to build an English va-

man-made. Join the historic walking tour on Sunday, May 25, at 11 a.m. and learn about the Battle of Pell's Point, when Colonel John Glover and his small band of men held off a British contingent so General George Washington could move his troops to White Plains. That battle took place in October 1776 in the area that is now Pelham Bay Park. Wear comfortable shoes or boots, and bring water and a light snack. Free. Meet in the Bartow-Pell parking lot. For further information, call 718-319-7258.

The park is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife, and the Rangers guide groups to the best viewing spots at the best times of year to see various species. On Sunday, June 1, at 4 p.m. join the Rangers to look for horseshoe crabs at the Orchard Beach Nature Center, in Section 2 of the beach. The mating season for horseshoe crabs is in May and June, and Orchard Beach is a good place to view them. Free. For further information, call the Pelham Bay Ranger Station at 718-319-7258 or the Orchard Beach Nature Center at 718-885-3466.

The Rangers will organize a Hawk Watch on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. Wildlife viewing is a perfect activity for any age. The Hawk Watch program requires prior registration; please visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register by Wednesday, May 7. For further information, call the Ranger Station at 718-319-7258.

Grath for the CITG logo design.

"And Then There Were None" was Nic Anthony Calabro's first full-length CITG directorial credit (he directed "Wanda's Visit" for the CITG's "Festival of One Act Plays" earlier this year), and we hope to see him in this role again. Nick Sala shared the show's production manager duties with Carol McCabe.

So far, the 15th anniversary year is proving to be a huge success and the best yet for the CITG. After a staged reading of Nora and Delia Ephron's "Love, Loss and What I Wore" in September, the group will present the musical "Evita" in November. This critic, for one, can't wait!

GOOD EGG HUNTING



Photos by PAUL NANI

The second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Grace Episcopal Church on April 19, 2014, was well attended by children of all ages eager to find the hidden surprises. Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia presided over the fun events, including the start of the hunt (top photo) and games in the parish hall, such as musical chairs (middle photo).

THE HUTCHINSON RIVER, CSO'S AND YOU

By JACK ULLMAN

On March 26, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a meeting at Truman High School presenting a long-term control plan that will help prevent sewage from polluting the Hutchinson River after rainstorms. The current problem is that when a rainstorm pours more water into the sewer system than the Hunts Point sewage treatment plant can handle, the overflow goes through five combined sewer overflows (CSO's) into the Hutchinson River, bringing raw sewage with it. The Hutchinson River then flows past the west shore of City Island with its yacht clubs, marinas and bathing beaches.

DEP representatives presented the plan to an audience that included several City Islanders, including a delegation from the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, led by its president, Eleanor Rae. Keith Mahoney and Mikele Adgate of DEP explained that the river, which originates in Scarsdale, is very polluted as it leaves Westchester County but less so in the Bronx, in spite of the fact that Westchester has no CSO's. They ascribed this condition at least in part to some illegal discharges.

The program to reduce flow from CSO's involves two strategies. One includes "gray" measures that will keep

storm water in a holding basin when it gets to the CSO's. The other strategy, the "green" measure, is designed to prevent storm water from getting to the river in the first place by installing "green" roofs, with plantings that will absorb the rainwater; "blue" roofs to hold the water on the roof and discharge it gradually; bioswales to collect rainwater in plantings in permeable soil that absorbs it; and rain barrels.

Approximately \$18 million is to be invested in these measures in this area over the next few years. So far these strategies have been used on public streets and sidewalks and in city-administered buildings, such as housing projects.

One reason for the meeting was to allow local residents to tell DEP what uses they want to make of the river. The City Islanders present said that it is now used by fishermen and that public access for boating would be desirable. They also reminded the DEP that the river flows into Eastchester Bay, which is extensively used for bathing, fishing and swimming.

For more information, including the place, date and time of the next meeting on the Hutchinson River, call Shane Ojar of DEP's Community Affairs Office at 718-595-3496 or visit the website at www.nyc.gov/dep/htcp.

Pelham Bay Park Events

Join the Friends of Pelham Bay Park for three important Trail Work Days in May. Have fun, get exercise and help prepare the Park for a new season. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring water and lunch. Tools are provided. For further information, contact Clinton Robinson at cl.robinson@verizon.net or 347-512-5048. Check beforehand if weather conditions are bad.

The first work day will be devoted to helping clean up the wetlands near Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Saturday, May 3, from 10 to 2 p.m. Meet at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum at 9:45 a.m.

On Saturday, May 17, help restore the Meadow at Orchard Beach from 10 to 2 p.m. Meet at the southeast corner of Orchard Beach Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m.

The third Trail Work Day will be at the pine grove on Hunter Island on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the northeast corner of Orchard Beach Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m.

Three Urban Park Ranger programs will take place during the next month. The Rangers specialize in the interpretation of historic turning points, both natural and

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MAY

Sat., May 10, **Girl Scout Plant Sale**, Outside Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue, 10 a.m. until everything is sold.

Tues., May 13, **Blood Drive**, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Thurs., May 15, **Cancer Bingo**, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Hall, City Island Avenue at Cross Street, 6 p.m.

Thurs., May 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., May 22, **CI Garden Club Annual Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street, 12 noon.

Mon., May 26, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion.

Tues., May 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., May 31, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Pasta with meatballs or meat sauce.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 7 and 8, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, at 480 City Island Avenue, is an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue which offers a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please come at 7:15 to enjoy welcoming music as well as an opportunity to meet and greet before services begin.

This month's schedule is: Clergy led service: May 2, Rabbi Shohama and Reb David; May 16, Reb Eva Healing Shabbat; May 9 and 23, congregant-led services; May 30, Shabbaton Shabbat Service.

May 10, 9:45 a.m.: Spring in the Garden. Join Reb Eva and Reb David for a guided shabbat walk in the New York Botanical Garden at the height of spring. Meet at the main gate for free admission.

Spirit of the Year, Class 10 (Shavuot): May 21, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Join Reb David for our monthly exploration of the spiritual and mystical underpinnings of the Jewish holiday cycle. This month we explore Shavuot, z'man matan torateinu (season of the giving of Torah). What exactly was given atop Mount Sinai? Is revelation a thing of the past or ongoing? What do we celebrate, and why has it become traditional to eat cheesecake? Join us for a revealing look at the revelation of Shavuot. Dessert reception to follow.

"Velveteen Rabbi" visits City Island as scholar in residence, May 30-June 1. Nationally recognized rabbi, poet and blogger Rabbi Rachel will hold a special Shabbaton weekend at TBE. This amazing and profound weekend will include music-filled services, special teachings and public readings and symposia of Rabbi Rachel's works. Accomplished author of numerous books of spiritual poetry, Rabbi Rachel has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the Internet's 25 top bloggers. She is especially known for spiritual writing and re-imagining the lives of Jews, families and especially women for the 21st century. Mark your calendars: you won't want to miss this very special weekend.

Planning Ahead: June 3, 7:30 p.m. Love, Sex and Torah: A Shavuot Journey. Join Reb David for an evening journey of

sharing, story, song and mystical text for Shavuot, the festival of giving Torah. In honor of the Shavuot theme of unity, this year's subject will be Love, Sex and Torah. Join us: you will never think of Shavuot the same way again. Celebratory dessert se'udah (feast) to follow.

Renew your membership now. Please note: annual memberships are due. You can renew by mail or online by Paypal. Thanks for continuing to keep Temple Beth El of City Island vibrant, growing and strong. Your participation means so much to us.

Sponsor an oneg and get published. Ellen Ruth Topol, chair of the oneg committee, requests all members and friends of TBE to sponsor a Friday night oneg. Terrific opportunities to honor special events: birthdays, anniversaries, family visits, births, weddings and other celebrations; and, of course, you can sponsor and oneg just because you want to celebrate your connection to TBE. Please contact Ellen Ruth Topol: ertopol@aol.com. Thank you for your generosity!

Support our Shul. TBE deeply appreciates gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a special event. The person you designate will receive a card acknowledging the gift, which is fully tax deductible. Engraved leaves for our lobby Tree of Life sculpture are available, as are plaques for our memorial boards.

Synagogue accessibility project. TBE seeks to become 100 percent accessible for the mobility impaired. This important project will require both funds and creativity. To join this committee or offer support, please contact Paul Klein at paul.klein@att.net.

Help our website grow. The TBE website is growing to include weekly Torah teachings by our Rabbi Shohama and our associate spiritual director, Reb David, event listings, our calendar and more. Follow our weekly blog and share our web presence with friends on Facebook and beyond! Visit www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Ellen Ruth Topol

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Trinity Spring Fair. If you donated goods or stopped by to shop or have lunch, you helped make the fair a huge success!

The Budget Corner is open! The winter/spring schedule is May 6, 17, 20, 31, June 3, 7, 10 and 14. Think of Trinity while you are spring cleaning and donate your no-longer-needed but gently used items. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

Garden Club of City Island

Did you notice? In mid-April the planters along City Island Avenue were cleaned out, washed, and filled with soil and fertilizer, to be ready for the planting of perennials and annuals in early May, providing we don't have another surprise snowfall. In addition, we are adding six new planters this year, bringing our total to 28. Many Island residents and businesses tell us how attractive they are and how much they appreciate the cheer these planters bring.

At our April meeting, this reporter spoke on "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme... and a Little Basil, Too," giving a short history of her experience with herbs in cooking—first using those anonymous little jars of gray-green flakes to growing herbs, both annuals and perennials, and using them in cooking. Recipes were shared, and herb



Photo by KAREN NANI

The Garden Club of City Island started off its beautification drive on Saturday, April 12, 2014, by putting their hands to work, pruning, planting and fixing up the planters at Hawkins Park and along City Island Avenue. Here, working at the Post Office, are (l. to r.): Sue Strazzera, Cheryl Brinker and Laura Longo.

plants and seeds were given to the members attending.

It's that time of year again when we ask for your help in keeping our work going forward. We have distributed the annual Beautification Fund solicitation letters to residents and businesses, in hope that all will support our efforts, not only with the planters, but also as we keep the Island's parks and public areas clean, maintained and beautified with plants and flowers. We have contracted with local gardener Conal Schaller of CAS Property Maintenance, LLC to assist us with the heavy lifting at these sites: Catherine Scott Promenade, the Veterans Triangle, the Brotherhood Tree and the City Island Welcome sign area. He has already started with cleaning and mulching. If you didn't receive one of our envelopes, please send your donation to the Garden Club at P. O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Our May meeting will offer a beautiful presentation on orchids, a follow-up to a previous talk. Now that we have learned how to care for these beautiful flowers, Francine Alheid will share some of the specimens she photographed at the New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show.

And, of course, we invite all of you to join us for our annual luncheon on Thursday, May 22, at the City Island Yacht Club. Our theme this year is "In A Freesia State of Mind" in honor of the flower representing friendship, the friendships we share with each other and with all of you who support our efforts in keeping City Island welcoming and beautiful. The cost is \$50. Please call Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 to make a reservation. We hope to see you there to help us celebrate another season of City Island beautification with plants and flowers.

Barbara Harrison

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held on May 6 at 7:30 p.m. This is our last meeting before our Cancer Bingo, and there are positions to be voted for. On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, I would like to thank Dianne O'Sullivan for organizing a beautiful evening at the Legion with Horgay and Theresa; benefits went to the Ladies Auxiliary. We hope to see you on May 30 for another great evening.

Please check in at the Legion for upcoming Memorial Day events, Happy Mother's Day to our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends.

Maryann Occhicone

City Island Republicans

Anyone interested in running for office should contact Bronx County headquarters at 718-792-5800. The state convention will be held on May 14 and 15 at the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook, N.Y. Anyone who is interested should contact the Bronx County headquarters by April 28.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx

For the past two years, the Rotary Club of the Bronx has helped raised funds for and participated in a holiday toy distribution to over 800 children at P.S. 811x in the Bronx, a school for children with severe physical and developmental disabilities, such as autism.

Miriam Luciano, Parent Coordinator at P.S. 811x, came to speak to the Club at the April 8 meeting. She has been working at the school for 25 years, drawn there in the infancy of the programming for disabled children because her five-year-old daughter could not walk or talk and had many health issues. Ms. Luciano thanked members for their donations and participation and reported that the children were "absolutely overcome with joy when they saw Santa and his helpers come into their classrooms."

She said that typically, the children graduate from the school at the ages of 18 to 21. The school began having proms for the graduates in the school gym years ago and collected gently used prom dresses, suits and shoes for the students back when the annex had only a few dozen students. Now the annex has over 800 children, all from subsistence-level income families.

The proms have moved from the gym to Villa Barone. The school has small fundraisers constantly during the school year to make the prom happen for the students, but with the economic downturn, things became more difficult.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx has pledged to help out the prom effort with a donation, but is seeking to help them collect used prom gear for the graduates. If you would like to donate a gently used prom dress, suit or shoes to these disabled children in need, please contact Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at 718-885-0933, or drop off your donation at 33 Earley Street.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Pelham Cemetery

Pelham Cemetery will holding its first annual volunteer clean-up and beautification date on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Family members of the deceased, friends, Islanders and cemetery lot holders are encouraged to attend. Bring your gardening and spring cleaning enthusiasm and help make Pelham Cemetery look beautiful after the endless frozen winter. Please bring gloves and sturdy shoes, rakes (and pruners and loppers, if you like). To register for cleanup day, please call 718-885-2138.

The cemetery is also asking for volunteers with welding or iron work experience and masonry or carpentry experience for help maintaining our fence, the older tombstones and the sheds. Anyone interested in helping with these tasks at their convenience can contact Bill Clancy at 718-885-1139.

Pelham Cemetery will also hold its annual lot holders meeting on July 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion. All lot holders are encouraged to attend.

Bill Clancy Jr.



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

Get involved in your community! Share your energy and talents to make a difference! The City Island Community Center needs individuals of all ages to volunteer to help expand and build a center worthy of our dynamic community. We need volunteers to chaperone for teen dances, to telephone, to help with events and to do handy work around the center.

Your Community Center strives to be a welcoming and safe place for meeting, celebrating, creating, teaching, learning and promoting awareness for the common good of all. The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We are grateful to have about 100 members. Annual membership is \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining.

To join the Center or for up to date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Zumbathon: Sunday, May 18, at 1 p.m. Our dynamic instructors, Julia and Lettie, get together for fun-filled, hot Zumba session and a fundraiser for the Center. Donation \$12. (Look at You Tube - City Island Zumbathon to see what it is all about.)

Family Puppet Theater Show: Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m. Bring your family and friends to this delightful and entertaining show with Jay Howard and puppeteers.

Awareness: Drugs and City Island Young People: Sunday, May 25, at 3 p.m. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to explore issues in a gentle discussion led by Jay Howard and Bowie Stivala.

Monthly Teen Dances: For teens in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Come join your P.S. 175 and City Island friends for a night of fun. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Because of liability, safety and space issues, we are now requiring all teens attending to register by signing a release, having their parent sign a release and by adding their parents' telephone number in case of an emergency. To preregister, email howiesmail@gmail.com. (Forms will also be distributed at P.S. 175.) The next dance is May 24. There is no charge for the dances, but donations are welcome.

Family Bingo Nights: Friday, May 30, at 7 p.m. Come join us for a great night filled with laughter, joy and great prizes for the family. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

Scrapbooking Classes and Paper Crafting Events with Desiree: Coming soon! Check out her website at www.demahandcrafts.com or call 914-562-5857.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Tuesdays from 6

to 8:30 p.m. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former LaGuardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

Jill's Playgroup: For pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. No charge, but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAM

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

Baby Boomer Yoga with Norma: Thursday at 7 p.m. This hatha vinyasa class, suitable for all levels, focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected. Best of all the class is easy and fun for all. \$10.00 per class. For more information, call 718-885-0535.

Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves; Fridays, 7 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezquita at 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

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

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

Monthly Parenting Discussions with John Scardina: We laugh, we cry, and we learn from one another. Join us as we each share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood! Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Join us so we can get ready for bathing suit weather together. It's a great group! For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Saturdays from 12 non to 1:15 p.m. \$10.00. Gentle, level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, contact Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or email joannngny@aol.com.

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

Zumba with Letti: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Patty at 718-885-1891 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

AARP Chapter 318

We meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. Our first meeting will be on May 7. On May 8, we will go on a day trip to West Point. Our second meeting, May 21, will be a Pizza/Bingo event at 12:30. Come and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon and perhaps be a Bingo winner.

On Saturday, May 31, AARP 318 will have an all-day safe-driving course. Participants must be National AARP members. The course will be held in Trinity Methodist Church hall. Please sign up at our May meetings if you need to attend. See you all on May 7 and bring a friend.

Rosetta Woods

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Our Holy Hour this month with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, May 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

His Excellency, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro, will be at St. Mary's on Tuesday, May 6, to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to 14 young people in our religious education program. The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. We congratulate all our confirmandi on this special event in their lives.

Wednesday, May 7, will be the last day of class for the eighth-grade students in our religious education program. Confirmation certificates and other awards will be distributed. We wish them well as they transfer to various high schools.

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 11, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

Saturday, May 17, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families when our children will receive their First Holy Communion at an 11 a.m. Mass. A special practice for this celebration will take place on Thursday, May 15, from 12:45 to 3 p.m.

The following day, May 18, these children will participate in a special procession at our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass, when our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother during the month of May. We will crown the statue of Our Lady and honor her as the patroness of our parish. Following the Mass, the First Communicants and their families will partake of a communion breakfast in our school gym.

Our religious education program for this year will come to an end on Wednesday, May 21. Report cards and awards will be distributed that day. We wish all our young people a happy and healthy summer.

Thursday, May 29, is the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and a holy day of obligation. Come join us at one of our Masses which will be held at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in May (May 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 and 31). Spring and summer items will be displayed: Clothing, bags, shoes, sandals, swim wear, linens, household appliances, CDs, tapes, records, books and bric a brac. Come by to check out our wares while enjoying a cup of coffee with fellow shoppers. Remember that donations are always gratefully accepted.

Arlene Byrne

City Island Theater Group

"And Then There Were None" is a mystery novel written by Agatha Christie and first published in the United Kingdom in 1939. Four years later, Ms. Christie wrote a play based on the novel. In both versions, 10 people who were complicit in the deaths of other human beings but were not subject to legal action are lured into coming to an island under different false pretenses. Once on the island, they realize they cannot escape, and the poem "And Then There Were None" becomes significant.

The City Island Theater Group is proud to present Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" as its spring production during this, our 15th year. Cast members are Peter Ackerman, Danny Conover, Connieann DelVecchio, Keith Kucerak, David Lazaar, Ann Liski, Thomas Losito, Michael McMillan, Bill Morton, Robert Mulroy and Elizabeth Paldino. The production is directed by Nic Anthony Calabro.

Performances are Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 27 and May 4, at 3 p.m. To reserve tickets, call 718-885-3066 or email tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Mary McIntyre

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 156

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Our annual golf outing will be held on Friday, May 23, at Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course. Registration is at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and a 1 p.m. start. The price is \$135, which includes all costs, lunch and dinner, or \$50 just for the dinner. Sponsorships are available, too. Stop by the Post for more details.

Sunday, May 25, at 10 a.m. is the Post's annual Memorial Service at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The annual Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, March 26, and starts at 2 p.m. at Pilot Street. After the parade, refreshments will be served at the Post.

Dues are due, \$30. Remember, members receive a discount on hall rentals at the Post. Think of us for your next party

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS City Island Senior Center

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families by providing information, services and support. Our goal is to promote the independence of the elderly by helping them remain healthy, engaged and connected. We are not your everyday senior center!

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 and over. Morning activities include the fitness program listed below. In the afternoon we offer an individualized computer class, acrylic painting classes, movies and more. Blood pressure screening, health and nutrition talks are also available each month.

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Physical Exercise

The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Arthritis Workshop: Mondays at 10:15 a.m.; Cardio Fitness: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch: Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.; Rhythm and Drums: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.; Zumba Gold: Thursdays at 9 a.m.; Fit for Life: Fridays at 9 a.m.; Arthritis Workshop II: Fridays at 10:15 a.m. The Yoga Stretch and Arthritis workshop classes on Mondays and Fridays are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each or \$30 a month for unlimited classes.

Volunteering

We are grateful for our current volunteers, but new volunteers are always welcome to help make this senior center the best for our seaside community. We can always use extra help at our front desk, for serving lunch and for our parties and special events.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

Regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we are more than happy to provide information, referrals and assistance in filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Caregivers Support

If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 for morning Island trips and pickup for exercise programs or lunch. Afternoon shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services.

Patty Attis

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Classic Epics in Asia

As the largest continent in the world, Asia has been the setting for several films of equally epic proportions, running times and Academy Award accolades. We begin with the classic musical **The King and I** (1956), remade as a non-musical drama, **Anna and the King** (1999). The movies star Deborah Kerr/Jodie Foster as Anna, a British widow who moves to Bangkok to serve as school-teacher to the many children of the king of Siam (Yul Brynner/Chow Yun-Fat). She is hired as part of the king's drive to modernize his country. The relationship between the king and Anna is marked by conflict, as well as by a love that neither can admit.

The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) takes place in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in 1943 Burma, along the route of a rail line the Japanese were building between Malaysia and Rangoon. A battle of wills rages there between camp commander Colonel Saito (Sessue Hayakawa) and British colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness), who refuses to order his men to build a bridge over the river Kwai, which will be used to transport Japanese munitions. When Nicholson eventually agrees, American POW Shears (William Holden), having escaped from the camp, agrees to save himself from a court martial by leading a group of British soldiers back to the camp to destroy Nicholson's bridge.

Released in 1960 was the epic adaptation of Leon Uris's best-selling novel **Exodus**. It stars Paul Newman as Ari Ben Canaan, who along with his father, Barack Ben Canaan (Lee J. Cobb), is instrumental in establishing the state of Israel. Ari is a leader of the Hagannah, the Jewish underground. He becomes involved with an American widow, Kitty Fremont (Eva Marie Saint), a nurse willing to help the Jewish refugees in Cyprus. Kitty befriends 15-year-old Karen (Jill Haworth), who is in love with a fellow holocaust survivor-turned terrorist, Dov Landau (Sal Mineo). John Derek is wonderful as Ari's best friend, Palestian Arab Taha. Ralph Richardson and Peter Lawford are on hand as British military men, and David Opatashu plays Akiva, Barack's seemingly gentle brother, who is in fact a leader of a Jewish extremist group, the Irgun. This is riveting story of survival.

Lawrence of Arabia (1962) is a sweeping, literate, historical epic that recounts the Allies' Middle East campaign during World War I as seen through the eyes of the enigmatic T. E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole, in the role that made him a star). After a prologue showing us Lawrence's ultimate fate, we flash back to 1917 when he befriends Sherif Ali Ben El Kharish (Omar Sharif) and draws up plans to aid the Arabs in their rebellion against the Turks. Lawrence unites the rival Arab factions of Prince Feisal (Alec Guinness) and Auda Abu Tayi (Anthony Quinn). After successfully completing his mission, Lawrence becomes an unwitting pawn of the Allies, as represented by Generals Allenby

(Jack Hawkins) and Dryden (Claude Rains), who decide to keep using Lawrence to secure Arab cooperation against the Imperial Powers. In 1989 there was a major (216-minute) restoration of the film that restored several of Lean's favorite scenes while removing others with which he had never been satisfied.

Dr. Zhivago (1965) is set in the years before, during and after the Russian Revolution seen through the eyes of poet/physician Yuri Zhivago (Omar Sharif). He is married to Tonya (Geraldine Chaplin) but is in love with Lara (Julie Christie), who has been abused by the ruthless politician Komarovskiy (Rod Steiger). A subplot concerns Zhivago's half brother, Yevgraf (Alec Guinness), and the mysterious Bolshevik revolutionary Strelnikov (Tom Courtenay).

Fiddler on the Roof (1971) is the film version of the Broadway musical set in a Ukrainian village in pre-revolutionary Russia. It is the story of Tevye (Topol) a poor milkman, and his wife, Golde (Norma Crane), and the attempts of Yente (Molly Picon) to help arrange marriages for their daughters. Famous songs include "Sunrise, Sunset," "Tradition," and "If I Were a Rich Man." Tevye often has conversations with God, especially when his daughters make different choices for husbands than he would have chosen, as the modern era unfolds.

Gandhi (1982) is the story of Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi (Ben Kingsley) which begins in the early part of the 20th century, when Gandhi, a British-trained lawyer, forsakes all worldly possessions to take up the cause of Indian independence from Great Britain. Gandhi adopts a policy of "passive resistance," by which he endeavors to win freedom for his people without resorting to bloodshed.

A Passage to India (1984) is also set in the 1920s, during the period of the growing Indian independence movement from the British. Adela Quested (Judy Davis) and Mrs. Moore (Peggy Ashcroft) sail from England to India, where Ronny Heaslop (Nigel Havers), the older woman's son and younger woman's fiancé, is the magistrate in a provincial town. Through school superintendent Richard Fielding (James Fox), they meet an eccentric elderly Brahmin scholar, Professor Godbole (Alec Guinness), and Dr. Aziz Ahmed (Victor Banerjee), a widower. When Dr. Ahmed takes the ladies on a tour, an awful incident occurs that quickly spirals out of control.

The Last Emperor (1987) is the true story of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi (John Lone), the last ruler of the Chinese Qing Dynasty, who became emperor at the age of three. Spanning the years 1908 to 1967, he grows from a spoiled aristocrat to enlightened rebel to ordinary humbled citizen. The film co-stars Peter O'Toole as Pu Yi's Scottish tutor. The film was released both in theaters and as a four-hour TV miniseries.

Steven Spielberg's **Empire of the Sun** (1987) is the story of Jim Graham (Christian Bale), a spoiled young British boy who was living with his family in Shanghai at the dawn of World War II when the Japanese invaded. Separated from his parents, Graham is befriended by an American opportunist, Basie (John Malkovich). They are thrown into a prison camp, where they spend the duration of the war learning to survive. Christian Bale was awarded a special citation for Best Performance by a Juvenile Actor from the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, an award created especially for his performance in this film.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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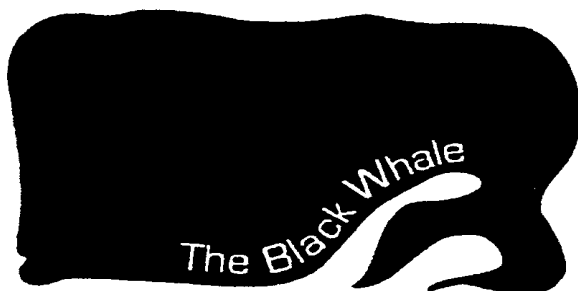


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Photo courtesy of P.S. 175

Eighth-grade teacher Karen Heil was accompanied by students Anita Beqiraj, John Cebollero, Chanel Coleman, Carlo Fine, Connor Hanley-Piri, Dusty Prohaska, Emma Ramos and John Tomsen on a trip to the Philippine Consulate to present the school's check to the Consul General, Mario L. De Leon Jr. for Typhoon Haiyan relief.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Organizers, students and guests saddled up for the Wild West Card Party, sponsored by the P.T.A. of P.S. 175, on March 21, 2014, at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course. Raffles and "good eats" had the supportive crowd of over 250 saying yippee ki-yay!

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SCHOOL NEWS
2+2=4

By **VIRGINIA DANNEGGER**

PUBLIC SCHOOL 175

Spring has arrived and our students are in full bloom. Our eighth-graders are putting the finishing touches on their Social Studies and Science Exit Projects. In addition to a visual presentation, the students are required to do an oral presentation for their teachers. Ms. Heil and Mr. Scopp have been working alongside their students to make this a very meaningful project.

Our educational trips this month included our first-graders' visit to the New York Hall of Science and Sony Labs and the second-grade trip to the Bronx Zoo. In addition, seventh- and eighth-grade students, who earned a reward trip this behavior period, spent the day at Dave & Busters in Times Square, where they had a fabulous time playing video games and eating a delicious buffet lunch.

P.S. 175's school-wide Community Service Program is getting into full swing! Kindergarten students will hold an art auction of student work to raise money for Love Holds Life Children's Cancer Foundation. First-graders are collecting gently used books to donate to the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit. The second grade students are going to bake desserts to be donated to the POTS food drive at St. Mary's. Third-graders will be conducting a used children's book sale and donate what they raise to one

of the many worthy City Island organizations. The fourth grade will participate in neighborhood clean-up activities, and the fifth grade will conduct a walk-a-thon to raise money for Pets for Vets, as well as a math-a-thon to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sixth-graders will go to the Brooklyn Meals on Wheels site to bag food for the elderly and to serve the food to those who get their meals at that location. The seventh-grade students are doing a food and toy collection drive for the ASPCA, as well as for litter removal at Orchard Beach. The eighth grade did many individual and group projects, including setting up for the community Halloween Fun House, volunteering at the Botanical Garden, helping coach a football team of younger students, and participating in the Breast Cancer Walk. We thank Brenda Prohaska for coordinating many of these activities!

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year at the end of May. Our sixth-graders will spend three days learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Greenspan, Ms. Minor, Ms. Montenare and Mr. Lafreniere (who will be coming out of retirement for the event), will once again accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for all.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2014, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten, will have the opportunity to do so at school in early May. Parents/guardians should call the school at the end of April for specific dates. The DOE website also has registration information.

Seventh-graders will be going to Boston in May.

The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Monday, June 23, at 9:30 a.m., and the eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and Sunny the Clown.

April Citizens-of-the-Month are Mario Noka (kindergarten); Anthony Zottola and Sarah Goonan (first grade); Isabella Reves-Famous (second grade); Ezra Oquendo and Thomas Forliana (third grade); Adriana Rexhaj and Devin Munafo (fourth grade); Tristen Boga Torres and Crystal Mariette (fifth grade); Kiana Cancel and Eleni Mantzaris (sixth grade); Claudia Kimmel and Denise Cornejo (seventh grade); Emma Ramos and Rebecca Scott (eighth grade).

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The Importance of Play

By JOHN SCARDINA

Can you remember a day when you played so intently with a friend that you forgot about the time? A game or a fantasy re-enactment without electronics or fancy toys, perhaps just a few sticks or some chalk or a beach full of shells and storm-tossed treasures?

Losing track of time while engrossed in an activity—a phenomenon called “flow” by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi—is a treasured happening in my life. For me it usually happens when playing music with friends or playing outside with my grandchildren. For some it happens when meditating or building a model or working on an art project.

The art of playing may be endangered in our culture. The rise of electronic games, social media, and pre-packaged “play events” has left little time for just “going outside to play.” Maria Montessori said play was “the work of child-

hood.” For all of us it is the activity we do with our friends, the laboratory for social learning that is lifelong and ever evolving.

Do you play with your children? Do you play with your friends? Do you miss that opportunity for sharing and laughing and joyful banter?

Spring is upon us—finally! Take some time to just “play,” with a child, with a friend, with a group of friends. You do not need many props, perhaps a kite to fly, or a bag for treasures, or a guitar to accompany your singing. The medical research is clear: losing oneself in playful/artistic/social activities leads to longer lives and healthier lifestyles. What are you waiting for?

City Islander John Scardina is a school, psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website, www.ThinkLaughLearn.com as well as his parent group at the CI Community Center.

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

MAY 2014									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0136	8.22	0819	-0.54	1410	7.50	2019	0.28	Thu 01
02 Fri	0213	7.94	0901	-0.10	1453	7.28	2048	0.66	Fri 02
03 Sat	0249	7.63	0939	0.36	1536	7.08	2111	1.01	Sat 03
04 Sun	0325	7.32	1015	0.79	1623	6.92	2146	1.32	Sun 04
05 Mon	0407	7.04	1043	1.14	1718	6.82	2233	1.56	Mon 05
06 Tue	0458	6.81	1119	1.38	1818	6.81	2330	1.71	Tue 06
07 Wed	0618	6.66	1211	1.50	1916	6.89			Wed 07
08 Thu	0047	1.71	0734	6.65	1314	1.50	2006	7.04	Thu 08
09 Fri	0209	1.51	0828	6.73	1409	1.37	2049	7.24	Fri 09
10 Sat	0303	1.19	0913	6.86	1454	1.15	2120	7.47	Sat 10
11 Sun	0349	0.80	0948	7.01	1534	0.88	2144	7.75	Sun 11
12 Mon	0429	0.39	1017	7.20	1615	0.59	2217	8.07	Mon 12
13 Tue	0508	0.01	1052	7.40	1657	0.32	2256	8.36	Tue 13
14 Wed	0547	-0.32	1131	7.59	1740	0.11	2338	8.59	Wed 14
15 Thu	0628	-0.54	1215	7.74	1825	-0.01			Thu 15
16 Fri	0023	8.71	0713	-0.64	1301	7.81	1914	-0.02	Fri 16
17 Sat	0111	8.68	0800	-0.60	1350	7.80	2005	0.09	Sat 17
18 Sun	0202	8.50	0853	-0.43	1443	7.72	2101	0.28	Sun 18
19 Mon	0256	8.18	0954	-0.19	1543	7.59	2209	0.49	Mon 19
20 Tue	0358	7.79	1106	0.05	1655	7.49	2339	0.60	Tue 20
21 Wed	0513	7.42	1223	0.19	1823	7.53			Wed 21
22 Thu	0102	0.47	0654	7.25	1332	0.19	1937	7.72	Thu 22
23 Fri	0211	0.17	0809	7.30	1434	0.09	2038	7.97	Fri 23
24 Sat	0312	-0.19	0910	7.42	1531	-0.04	2134	8.21	Sat 24
25 Sun	0408	-0.52	1005	7.54	1624	-0.14	2225	8.37	Sun 25
26 Mon	0500	-0.75	1056	7.62	1713	-0.16	2312	8.44	Mon 26
27 Tue	0548	-0.83	1143	7.63	1759	-0.09	2357	8.40	Tue 27
28 Wed	0634	-0.76	1228	7.60	1842	0.07			Wed 28
29 Thu	0039	8.27	0717	-0.55	1310	7.51	1921	0.30	Thu 29
30 Fri	0118	8.07	0757	-0.25	1351	7.40	1954	0.58	Fri 30
31 Sat	0151	7.84	0834	0.11	1428	7.28	2015	0.84	Sat 31
JUNE 2014									
01 Sun	0216	7.61	0901	0.46	1500	7.17	2033	1.03	Sun 01
02 Mon	0243	7.40	0911	0.72	1527	7.09	2109	1.19	Mon 02
03 Tue	0318	7.21	0938	0.90	1558	7.06	2152	1.33	Tue 03
04 Wed	0400	7.03	1017	1.04	1638	7.05	2241	1.43	Wed 04
05 Thu	0447	6.87	1103	1.14	1724	7.09	2334	1.45	Thu 05
06 Fri	0539	6.75	1152	1.19	1814	7.19			Fri 06



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK
 Jane Protzman (right), whose photographs are on exhibit this spring at the City Island Nautical Museum, with her curator, Cheryl Brinker. The museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., or by special appointment.



**THE NEW LOOK
 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING**

If you have not yet had the opportunity to see the new lights atop the Empire State Building, don't bother. Even from afar, it is hard to escape the embarrassment. There is something distinctly unseemly, even desperate, about the glitzy new displays there. Imagine the President of the United States addressing the nation dressed as Bozo the Clown. That is the unfortunate effect.

The story of the Empire State Building is a famous one. It bears repeating, however, especially for City Islanders who are gearing up for the construction of a new bridge, a project which we have been told could take as long as five years to complete. The Empire State Building, the world's tallest building at the time, was completed in just 15 months. Excavation for the foundation was begun in late January of 1930. Its construction began on St. Patrick's Day and was completed by May 1, 1931. It is tempting to think that corners must have been cut, that workers' lives must have been put at risk to finish so soon. Indeed, it was even sooner than the 18 months that had been planned for. But of the 3,400 men employed during the Empire State Building's construction, only 5 lost their lives.

It was an amazing feat of engineering prowess that was punctuated in dramatic fashion by President Herbert Hoover, who turned on the now replaced lights of the building's tower with the push of a button in Washington D.C. Were such a scenario to be played out again in our own time, 15 years, as opposed to months, would be a more likely timeline, and the lights activated by the President would no doubt

be arranged in accordance with the wishes of the highest bidder. Drink Coca-Cola, perhaps, in a bright and blinking red and white. Or the Golden Arches of McDonalds.

Let us hope that the new ideas of the present owner of the Empire State Building don't go that far. It may be his building, but it is our skyline, after all.

Last month we reported the mute swan population in our area at about 2,000. We did so in the context of Department of Environmental Conservation proposals for eradicating them in the interests of a cleaner environment. Well, this month we would like to re-report that population at 1,999. Coming home late one night along the Orchard Beach Road, we came across a mute swan in the middle of the road. It may have been injured or just sick; we couldn't be sure. We were able to lure it out of the way of traffic and thought all would be fine, at least temporarily.

The next morning we found it again, on the shore of Turtle Cove. It was weak and could barely take the bread we had for food. Later on that day it was in the water, close to the shoreline, which proved to be its downfall. Although we were not there to see it happen, we could surmise that, as the tide turned and the water began to rush out the pipe under the City Island Road, the swan got caught up in the strong, concentrated current. In its weakened state, it was unable to keep from being sucked into the grate and so it drowned. That is how we found it, anyway, wedged under the grate and dead. Parks Department officials were notified, and the body was soon carted away.

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

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

ANNUALS FOR COLOR

May is the time for seed sowing and for planting annuals. You can fill a garden to brimming with luscious growth in one year with these plants, which won't quit blooming. If you have a new garden, it is well to do annuals in the first year so you can make a thoughtful plan to furnish your garden with plants that will be the backbone of your landscape. If you have a pre-existing garden, certain annuals will make your planting scheme pop and give you color throughout the season. Annuals mask holes from perennials that disappear, and it is important to mark the perennials, so you don't dig them up. Oriental poppies die back, and it is good to plant around them so that space is filled with bloom.

My favorites are as follows and all need sun:

Cosmos (white): I like single blossom ones, like Sonata. Cosmos sell out early so hurry or grow them from seed now. Airy and delicate, they enhance everything with their sparkle. Don't feed them because they like poor soil.

Gloriosa daisy: Is really an annual rudbeckia, Yellow or autumnal hembre, they always look fresh and go for months.

Morning glory: Soak the seed first overnight, and plant outside early in May. You can have them go over a shrub that has finished blooming, on a teepee made of sticks, or on a wire, to meander where they will.

Climbing nasturtiums: Buy the seed. The flaming orange flowers transform a boxwood or other shrubby evergreens. A beautiful trailing plant with rounded waterlily-like leaves. The flowers are good in salads and they love sun.

Cleome: There is a new variety that comes shorter and narrower than the old big boys.

Orlaya: So white and delicate, it belongs in a bridal bouquet. Gorgeous. Buy seed.

Ammni: A robust Queen Anne's lace. Fabulous with larkspur, and a real naturalizer amidst grasses.

Experiment and plant in three's or five's. If you clump up three plants in a circle, it will create what looks like an established plant. Or plant in drifts. You can lay out your hose in serpentine fashion and plant directly in the soil following the curvy shapes. This will simulate a natural garden, and it is this look that we are after. To create a garden that mimics nature is the hardest thing of all and the ideal we should be shooting for.

A cutting garden, if you have the room, is a luxury. Imagine a small plot near your vegetable garden filled with bright zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers for bringing into the house. For an exotic look, try canna, dahlia, grasses and tall verbena bonariensis. The verbena is wiry, a tall see-through plant. If you want this verbena, all you need to do is buy one. Once the seeds mature, scatter them around. You will never be without them again for they are self-sowing. You can add to this arrange-



Legion of Honor poppy

ment the castor bean plant, which comes easy from seed, with big palmate leaves that rise above the rest in purple-brown glory. Remember, though, that the seeds are poisonous.

A shady glen? Well, you are kind of stuck with impatiens and, oh no, begonias! But if you limit yourself to one or two colors of impatiens and have hostas intermingling with them, I have no doubt that it will be a very successful display.

So add color by adding annuals this year. Visit Nabel's Nursery, Sprainbrook Nursery, Tony's Nursery and our own Bronx Nursery on Bruckner Blvd, Better Gro.

Mary Colby is available for consultation and for designing gardens. Call 917-804-4509.



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Photos by KAREN NANI

Because of the success in years past, City Island Boy Scouts Troop 211 extended their Easter Plant Sale to four days in 2014. They were rewarded with good if cool weather for the sale, which took place from April 17 to 20 in front of Trinity Methodist Church. Shown above with samples of the beautiful blooms are (top photo, l. to r.) Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins, Jack Green, Brandon McGaughan, Assistant Scoutmaster Omar Garcia and Brendan Patterson. The proceeds from the sale go to fund the scouts' 10-Mile River week-long summer camp in August. Members of the troop also designed their own logo (inset) for cold-weather jackets.

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

Happy May 1 birthday wishes to Minneford Avenue's Diane Duryea, from your friends at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Birthday greetings to Peter Lenz, who will celebrate his big day on May 19, with love from your entire family.

Happy "anniversary" on May 2 to Bobby Swieciki, who joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 2006. Semper Paratus!

Happy May 8 birthday wishes to Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody, with love from her family and friends.

Best wishes for continued happiness to the Sailmaker's John and Judy Iovieno, who will celebrate their anniversary on May 12.

Birthday wishes on May 28 to Patrice Ortega of To Go Express, from your family, friends and customers.

Anniversary congratulations to King Avenue's Brian and Kim Moore, who will toast each other on May 12.

Kudos to the Boatyard's Lois Weingarten, who won First Place in the Acrylics Category at the 35th Annual Community-



Jack Cusmano

Sponsored Awards Exhibition at the Rowayton Arts Center. The exhibition of high-quality art in all media continues through April 27.

It's a boy! Congratulations to Michael and Michelle Jawski, who welcomed Christopher Michael on March 27. Proud grandparents are Kenneth and Kathy Dede and Michael and Patti Jawski.

Belated birthday wishes to the energetic Gigi Lyons, who celebrated a "BIG ONE" on April 13. She told the members of Mary's aerobics class that she hoped the celebration would continue the entire month of April.

Happy birthday on May 9 to Gene Jones of Oceanside, California. The former Minneford Avenue resident will be traveling to the East Coast to visit her daughter, Gene Caputo, in Connecticut. Safe travels and love from her cousin Barbara Haas Lynch.

Birthday wishes go out to our friends at the Chase Branch here on City Island: Happy first birthday to Jack Cusmano, son of our branch manager, and also to Herman Boone on May 11 and Deidre Taylor on May 19.

Best wishes for a safe trip to my pal Carolyn (Foley) Peters of Huntsville, Alabama. Carolyn is headed to Germany on May 22 to visit with family and attend her grandson's graduation.

And a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all our hardworking moms and grandmas.

Maria Swieciki



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Trinity welcomed spring with its annual spring fair. Lots of home-made goodies and treats were made and sold by Island residents, and a delicious lunch was served by the Chadwick family.



Acrylic painting by Lois Weingarten

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