

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## A BRIDGE TO THE NEW YEAR

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Islanders rallied once again to voice their opposition to the DOT's plan to replace the City Island bridge at a meeting called by Community Board 10 at P.S. 175 on Jan. 15, 2014 (photo above). At the meeting, plans for the easements needed by DOT to construct the temporary and new bridges were unveiled as part of the ULURP process. Islanders studied the plans carefully (photo above right), while members of the Civic Association and local politicians reiterated their strong objections to the planned 164-foot cable-stayed tower bridge.

The battle to stop the replacement of the 113-year-old City Island bridge raged on into the new year at a public hearing held by the Housing and Zoning Committee of Community Board 10, at P.S. 175 on Jan. 15, 2014. Over 200 Islanders and politicians rallied once again to express their opposition to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) plan to replace the historic structure with a 164-foot "monster" cable-stayed bridge.

The meeting resulted from the lawsuit filed by the City Island Civic Association in December 2013 with the help of State Senator Jeff Klein and represented a new twist in the ongoing fight. 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). Community Board 10's Housing and Zoning Committee performs an advisory role in the application process, which then goes to the Borough President and the New York City Council for a vote before it reaches the Mayor.

This is good news for Islanders, as Community Board 10 has supported residents' opposition to the design of the new bridge; in a vote of 13 to 2 (abstentions), the committee voted that night to reject the DOT's ULURP application, which was then scheduled to be voted on the following evening by the full Community Board.

Members of the community gave the board members an earful in supporting the rejection of the two applications, one for an easement relating to land in Pelham Bay Park and on Catherine Scott Promenade needed for the temporary bridge; the other an easement to facilitate seawall rehabilitation.

John Doyle of the Civic Association charged DOT with making misleading and false statements that they had achieved community support for the new bridge in order to be in compliance with the

National Historic Preservation Act and to receive the \$100 million in Federal funding. "Apparently, to DOT, presenting a design of the bridge seven years ago (for which they now claim they had community support but did not) and then showing up two years later to talk about what designs to put on the sea wall is adequate consultation. But the members of this body should utilize common sense. If someone lies to get a job, they'll be dishonest on the job! Vote down these variances," he pleaded with the board members present. "Let's not approve the mockery this process has become."

Bill Stanton told the board that he had been president of the Civic Association for seven years and no one from DOT has ever contacted him on the subject of the bridge (see timeline page 3). "Although Governor Pataki signed into law an agreement that the state could authorize the use of parkland for the bridge, the fact that the City Island community was largely against the bridge replacement and the new design was never conveyed to anyone in Albany. The fact that this piece of legislation went through Albany under the cover of darkness with no involvement of the City Island community is grounds alone for this ULURP application to be denied."

Islander Jane Protzman appealed for protection of the parkland involved. "DOT's application for alienation that was approved by the State of New York in 2006 does not include the fact that the parkland DOT intended to take over would actually be used for the two 164-foot bridge towers. The need for additional parkland was described as expansion only in terms of the widening of the bridge approach, not the vertical expansion involving the dramatic height of the towers that would be placed on parkland and in tidal wetlands. DOT omitted the fact that the visual impact would be inappropriate for both the park and for what DOT admits is a low-rise City Island community."



Barbara Dolensek read from the DOT Draft Design Report issued in August 2011: "While Alternative 8 [the 50-meter cable-stayed bridge] is identified as the preferred alternative, all feasible alternatives are under consideration. The final selection of the preferred alternative will not be made until after evaluation of all alternatives' impacts, comments on the draft design approval document, and comments from the public." She then went on to point out that the community was unable to make comments on the draft design approval document because it was never sent to the Community Board or the Civic Association, and that comments from the public have been deliberately ignored for many years.

Another issue was raised by Jack Rothman of *cityislandbirds.com*, who pointed out that Pelham Bay Park is an important migratory path for birds and that the new bridge posed a definite threat that DOT had not found a means to resolve, yet another reason to object to the land use application asking to turn parkland over to DOT.

Senator Klein then addressed the hearing in person to strongly reiterate what was on many residents' minds. "This new bridge is a monstrosity. DOT has tried to skirt the law. It is outrageous, and I ask this board to tell the city to go back to the drawing board. Give City Island a bridge that it needs and deserves."

Councilmember James Vacca's legislative assistant, Stacy Gardener, reported that he had approached the new DOT commissioner, who told him she would be willing to meet with the community on the issue. Assemblyman Michael Benedetto's representative, John Koros, and Elana Schwartz, from Representative Joe Crowley's office, were also present and gave statements of support for the community. And Public Advocate Letitia James sent a representative from her office.

In a surprising turn of events, DOT withdrew its ULURP application the following day prior to the vote by the entire Community Board 10. DOT had failed to apply also to Community Board 12, in which a tiny piece of Pelham Bay Park is located. Apparently City Planning overlooked this in preparing the application, so DOT must reapply.

Civic and City Island Chamber officers Barbara Dolensek, John Doyle and Skip Giacco attended the meeting on Jan. 16

and asked Community Board 10 to vote to support the City Island community in opposition to the proposed bridge and ULURP application. Although the board voted to write a letter to the newly inaugurated Mayor supporting City Island's objections to the new bridge design, they tabled the resolution to vote on the ULURP application itself, since they felt they could not vote on an application that no longer existed.

The process will be more complicated when the application is refiled; hopefully Islanders will not have to hold the same kind of public hearing as in January, since the Zoning Committee is well aware of the community's arguments against the ULURP. However, Community Board 12 will have to hold a hearing as well, and a new step will have to involve the Borough Board before the application reaches the Borough President.

Some Islanders questioned whether this withdrawal was a ploy on the part of DOT to go around Community Board 10 and further ignore Islanders' objections. They were bolstered in this suspicion by the flurry of activity around the bridge in January by surveyors and Con Edison.

When the surveyors were asked about their work, they said they were subcontractors for Tudor Perini, the company that was awarded the contract for the new bridge. They had been hired to survey the elevations approaching City Island using the benchmarks established near Orchard Beach.

Islanders who take the Orchard Beach Road to the Hutchinson River Parkway may be surprised to know that there is a brass plaque on the ground between the white birch trees in the grassy triangle where the Orchard Beach sign is. This plaque establishes the benchmark for surveyors.

Con Edison workers told *The Current* that they were doing the necessary preparations for relocating the electrical power lines that currently run under the City Island bridge. These lines will have to be moved when the temporary bridge is put in place before the current bridge is demolished.

Workers for both groups seemed aware of the controversy. One of the surveyors asked this reporter, "Are you for or against the new bridge?"

Continued on page 3

# BRIEFLY...

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**, which has been expanded this year to feature events every Sunday in March, needs volunteers and vendors to help prepare for the celebration at the City Island Community Center. Anyone interested in taking part is asked to call Maria Melli at 347-293-6814.

**BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE** will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Please come and give the gift of life.

**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING SAFETY CLASS** will take place on Wednesday, March 5, 12 and 19 at the Harlem Yacht Club on Hunter Avenue. Classes start at 7 p.m. and cost \$75 (materials included). Students must be at least 13 years old and must attend all three classes to complete the course, which covers federal, state and local boating laws and regulations. Other topics include required safety equipment; safe boating practices; personal water craft, Jet ski and boat handling; trailering; protecting your boat, navigation and emergency procedures. An exam will be given on the last day; students who pass will be issued a boating certificate and an ID card that may get you an insurance discount and is valid for use on all privately owned recreational vessels. Contact Alan Lesser at [alanlesser@gmail.com](mailto:alanlesser@gmail.com) or call 845-323-0265.

**CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION** for 2014 will take place at the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 8, 15 and 22, and on Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

**CITG'S FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS** will run two weekends at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1, at 8 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m.; Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 9, at 3 p.m. Each weekend's program will present a different set of short plays. So make reservations for both weekends. Please call 718-885-3066 or email [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Free parking is available at Sammy's lot #3 just south of the Chinese restaurant on City Island Avenue.

## New York State Navigation Law Updates New Mandatory Motor Boat Education Law

Beginning May 1, 2014, Sections 49, 71-d, 75, 78 and 79 of the Navigation Law shall be amended to provide for mandatory boater safety education.

Any person born on or after May 1, 1996, and is at least 10 years old who operates a motorboat must be the holder of a boating safety certificate issued by one of State Parks, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or the US Power Squadron.

An approved course of instruction includes at least eight hours of classroom training and a proctored examination. Students must be at least 10 years of age to take a course. Age and education requirements for personal watercraft operators remain unchanged.

### Motor Boat Education Requirements

- Any operator under 18 must be accompanied on the vessel by someone at least 18 who holds a certificate if required by age, or someone at least 18 who is not required to hold a certificate.
- An operator 18 or older who is required to hold a certificate but does not, accompanied by someone else over 18 who holds a safety certificate.
- The owner of a recently purchased motor boat, if legally required to hold a boating safety certificate, may operate such vessel without the required certificate for a period of time not to exceed 120 days from purchase.
- Persons 18 years of age or older may rent a vessel without holding a safety certificate, provided the operator of the livery holds a certificate, demonstrates the use of the vessel, and the person renting the vessel demonstrates their understanding of the vessels operation in return. Those under the age of 18 must have a safety certificate in order to rent a vessel.

Motor boat operators exempted from having to hold a boating safety certificate include persons born before May 1, 1996; certified New York Safe Boating Instructors; members of the USCG Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadron; persons licensed by NYS Parks, the United States Coast Guard or Canadian Coast Guard to operate commercial vessels; police officers, peace officers, fire and rescue personnel, and life guards when acting pursuant to assigned duties; a resident of another state or country who is the holder of a valid boating safety certificate issued according to the laws of their home state or country.

For more information, go to <http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/navigation-law.aspx#sthash.6QMqJaL6.dpuf>.

# 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2013 and January 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – ASSAULT\*
- 3 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON\*

Police provided details on the following arrests (\*) and incidents for the period from Dec. 1, 2013 to Jan. 21, 2014.

12/6 – Police arrested an Island male, 19, at 8:55 p.m. on King Avenue and charged him with criminal possession of a weapon (a gravity knife).

12/15 – At 6:25 p.m., an Island male, 54, was arrested on City Island Avenue and charged with assault after he allegedly struck a female victim in the face, causing an abrasion near her left eye.

12/24 - Detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of grand

larceny auto at 2 a.m. on Reynolds Street. The owner of a vehicle returned to find it missing.

12/26 – A report was filed on Pell Place at 3:30 p.m. regarding an incident that occurred in November. A wallet with credit cards was removed from a vehicle without the owner's permission.

12/30 – A resident's vehicle was stolen on William Avenue and Fordham Street around 9 p.m. The owner had parked the car overnight and returned to find it missing.

1/10 – On Fordham Street at 11:15 p.m., a resident reported that his vehicle had been struck with an unknown object and the rear window was broken in an act of criminal mischief.

1/17 – In a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue around 11:25 p.m., a female patron reported that her purse was stolen off the back of her chair when she went to the ladies' room.

1/21 – A female victim reported her pocketbook and credit cards were stolen at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 12 noon.

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For more information, go to <http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/navigation-law.aspx#sthash.6QMqJaL6.dpuf>.

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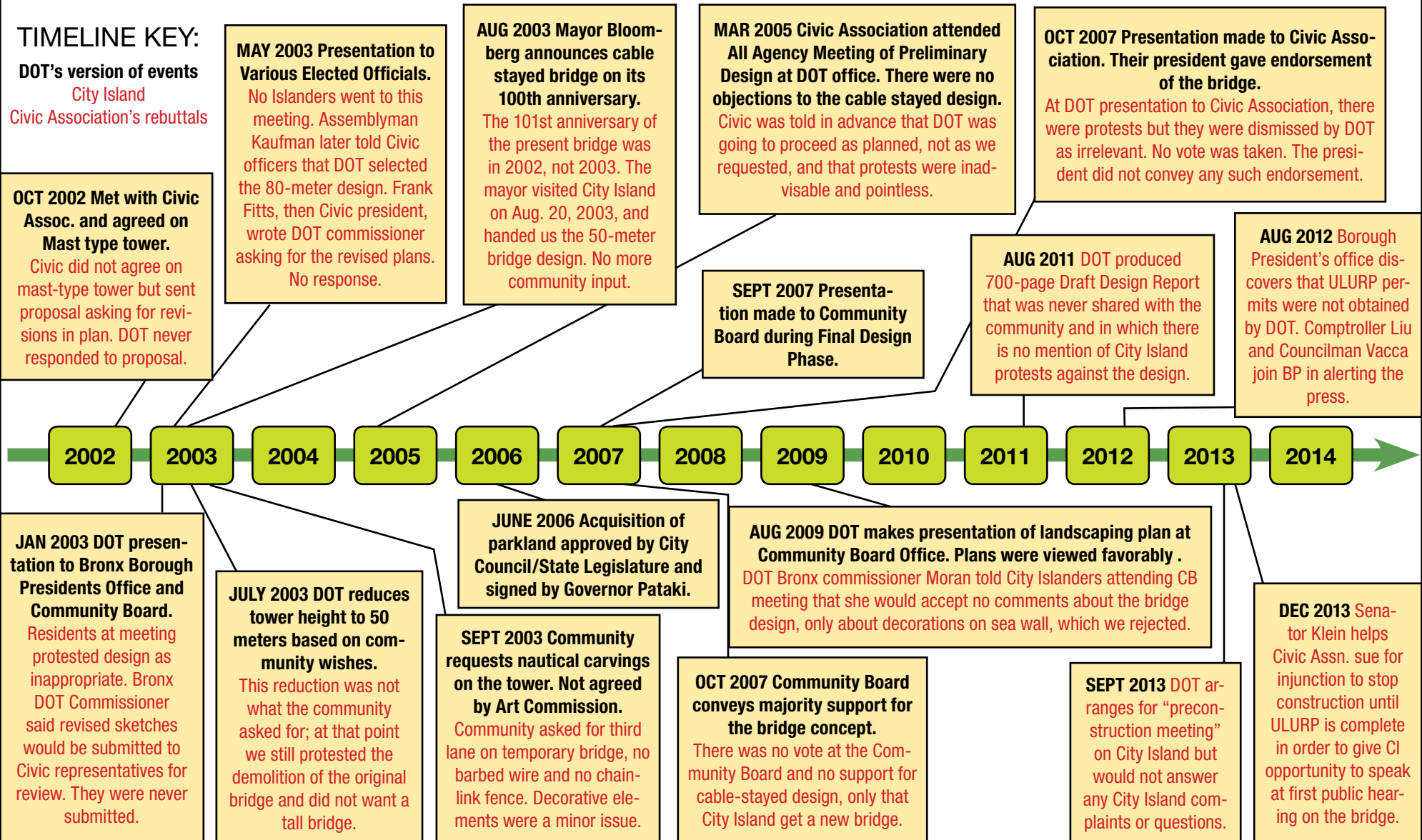
**NEW YORK CITY**  
**DOT**

## Department of Transportation

JANETTE SADIK-KHAN, Commissioner

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (CITY ISLAND BRIDGE OVER EASTCHESTER BAY)

**TIMELINE KEY:**  
DOT's version of events  
City Island  
Civic Association's rebuttals



**2002** JAN 2003 DOT presentation to Bronx Borough Presidents Office and Community Board. Residents at meeting protested design as inappropriate. Bronx DOT Commissioner said revised sketches would be submitted to Civic representatives for review. They were never submitted.

**2003** MAY 2003 Presentation to Various Elected Officials. No Islanders went to this meeting. Assemblyman Kaufman later told Civic officers that DOT selected the 80-meter design. Frank Fitts, then Civic president, wrote DOT commissioner asking for the revised plans. No response.  
 JULY 2003 DOT reduces tower height to 50 meters based on community wishes. This reduction was not what the community asked for; at that point we still protested the demolition of the original bridge and did not want a tall bridge.  
 OCT 2002 Met with Civic Assoc. and agreed on Mast type tower. Civic did not agree on mast-type tower but sent proposal asking for revisions in plan. DOT never responded to proposal.

**2004** SEPT 2003 Community requests nautical carvings on the tower. Not agreed by Art Commission. Community asked for third lane on temporary bridge, no barbed wire and no chain-link fence. Decorative elements were a minor issue.

**2005** AUG 2003 Mayor Bloomberg announces cable stayed bridge on its 100th anniversary. The 101st anniversary of the present bridge was in 2002, not 2003. The mayor visited City Island on Aug. 20, 2003, and handed us the 50-meter bridge design. No more community input.

**2006** JUNE 2006 Acquisition of parkland approved by City Council/State Legislature and signed by Governor Pataki.

**2007** OCT 2007 Community Board conveys majority support for the bridge concept. There was no vote at the Community Board and no support for cable-stayed design, only that City Island get a new bridge.  
 SEPT 2007 Presentation made to Community Board during Final Design Phase.

**2008** OCT 2007 Civic Association attended All Agency Meeting of Preliminary Design at DOT office. There were no objections to the cable stayed design. Civic was told in advance that DOT was going to proceed as planned, not as we requested, and that protests were inadvisable and pointless.

**2009** AUG 2009 DOT makes presentation of landscaping plan at Community Board Office. Plans were viewed favorably. DOT Bronx commissioner Moran told City Islanders attending CB meeting that she would accept no comments about the bridge design, only about decorations on sea wall, which we rejected.

**2010**

**2011** AUG 2011 DOT produced 700-page Draft Design Report that was never shared with the community and in which there is no mention of City Island protests against the design.

**2012** AUG 2012 Borough President's office discovers that ULURP permits were not obtained by DOT. Comptroller Liu and Councilman Vacca join BP in alerting the press.

**2013** SEPT 2013 DOT arranges for "pre-construction meeting" on City Island but would not answer any City Island complaints or questions.  
 DEC 2013 Senator Klein helps Civic Assn. sue for injunction to stop construction until ULURP is complete in order to give CI opportunity to speak at first public hearing on the bridge.

**2014**

In September 2013, the DOT showed a PowerPoint presentation that the agency had developed for elected officials. The presentation includes a chart that contains much misinformation regarding community input to the bridge design. Above is a replication of that chart with the DOT comments, followed by responses of the Civic Association to the DOT version of events (see key at above left).



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Despite continued protests against the bridge and a no vote by Community Board 10's Housing and Zoning Committee, DOT put up signs near the bridge establishing a work zone and surveyors established benchmarks for the new bridge elevations.

## Bridge

Continued from page 1

Apparently this preparation work is not illegal, according to Ms. Dolensek, since the contract has not been officially withdrawn at this point. As this article went

to press, the best guess is that any vote on the bridge by the City Council is probably delayed by one or two months. Islanders hope that members of the Council, including longtime City Island supporter Jimmy Vacca, will finally stand up to DOT and send them back to the drawing board.

## SCHOFIELD STREET PROJECT REDUCED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



The large assisted-living facility proposed last year to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) by the Italian Hospital Society is no more, much to the relief of Island residents who spent several months fighting the project over the past year.

After persuading the BSA to grant a third hearing on its application for a zoning variance in order to construct a residential building in a manufacturing zone, the developer drastically reduced the scope of the project from an assisted-living residence with 214 units to a 54-unit rental-apartment complex for independent senior living. The plans indicate that there will be no underground parking and that, instead of one block-long building, there will be four structures, including a communal space, on the site at the corner of City Island Avenue and Schofield Street.

The revised plans (see above) were submitted to the BSA on Jan. 15, and Community Board 10 and the City Island Civic Association had two weeks to respond before a public hearing at the BSA, currently scheduled for Feb. 11. Unfortunately, the two-week response period ended Jan. 28, the day before the monthly Civic meeting and over a week before the Community Board zoning committee meeting at which the project will be discussed.

The Community Board has requested a postponement of the hearing but as of press time, the BSA had not responded to the request. The Civic, which has hired counsel to help prevent the construction of the development as proposed originally in 2012, is currently reviewing the revised proposal in committee in order to deliver a response before the hearing takes place.

# CRAB SHANTY

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**Building a "Fun" Bridge**

To the Editor,

In 2002 the Civic Association presented a formal written response to the DOT recommendations asking that the present bridge be rehabilitated and listing various reasons why a cable-stayed bridge was not acceptable to the community. A request was made for a copy of the Gandhi report in order to understand why the bridge has to be replaced and not rehabilitated. In May 2003, the report was finally made available, but it did not respond to the objections of the Civic Association to the cable-stayed bridge, which many in the community feel is inconsistent with the historic character and the zoning regulations restricting the height of new buildings to 35 feet. If DOT is not willing to build a replica of the City Island Bridge, then why not rehabilitate it, as the city has recently done to several other bridges as old or older, for example, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Queensboro Bridge and the Macombs Dam Bridge. Why not the City Island Bridge?

Herb Rothman, an engineer who has done a considerable number of rehabilitations for the city, shed some light on the DOT's attitude toward rehabilitation in an interview published in "Progressive Engineer" in February 2002. He was quoted as saying "We've been doing so much rehabilitating, I'd like to get back doing new bridges. New bridges are easier. With the old bridges, your main function is to not change the appearance. With new ones, you have a lot of control over it. It's a lot more fun."

At a January meeting in 2003 with Borough President Carrión and the DOT, the Borough President suggested to DOT that revisions to the bridge might make it more acceptable to the residents of City Island. The Civic President Frank Fitts agreed to review this with the community at the next Civic meeting before responding to DOT. However, DOT has never wavered from its determination to build a cable-stayed bridge with a tall tower.

At that meeting, the then DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall told the Borough President and Frank Fitts that "If the community does not want to accept the cable-stayed design, the department will back away from the project." And she reassured Mr. Fitts and Mr. Carrión that DOT would continue to maintain the bridge to keep it safe. Henry Perahia, until recently the bridge engineer in charge of the project, said it might be necessary to impose a weight restriction on the bridge to which

Frank Fitts said that would be acceptable to the community and was much needed.

I would like to know why this was not acted upon. Perhaps a meeting with the parties mentioned above should be convened to get the correct answers, which the City Island Community deserves.

Although this history may not seem to be directly relevant to the ULURP application, it is relevant to the DOT approach to this project, which is to avoid public comment, to refuse to respond to community requests, to mislead the press and the other city and state agencies in order to get their permits, and to impose a bridge on the community because it is more fun than rehabilitating the old one.

**Helen Anderson**

**Community Board 10 Stands United with City Island**

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

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is John Marano and I am Chairman of Bronx Community Board #10. Our Board represents the northeast Bronx community of City Island.

There has been a long history of conversation between the City Island community, its electeds, the Departments of Transportation and City Planning, and lately Bronx Community Board #10, on the replacement of the venerable City Island Bridge.

Bronx Community Board #10 has been in touch with the City Island community and its elected officials. At a recent Uniformed Land Use Procedure (ULURP) Public Hearing, sponsored by the Bronx Community Board #10, concerning Application # C 080528MMX regarding mapping and the acquisition of easements for the temporary and replacement bridges, and 140128PQX, concerning the acquisition of an easement to facilitate the construction of the seawall, not one member of the City Island community present at the Public Hearing expressed, nor did its elected officials express, support for the ULURP items. Everyone present reiterated their rejection of the design of the City Island Bridge.

With this letter, please know that Bronx Community Board #10 stands united with the City Island community in its opposition to current design of the City Island Bridge. Therefore, we request that the City commission a new design for the City Island Bridge.

**John Marano, Chairman  
Bronx Community Board #10**

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# Make This the Last Year You Resolve to Quit Smoking

By JEFF SEYLER, President and CEO of the American Lung Association of the Northeast

If you are reading this, it's likely that you or a loved one is considering making an attempt to quit smoking during the New Year. Quitting smoking is a common New Year's resolution for Americans each year, but it's easier said than done. The average smoker who quits successfully makes several quit attempts before quitting for good. The fact that multiple quit attempts are the norm may seem discouraging, but knowledge is power and planning ahead can greatly improve a person's likelihood of success.

We want all smokers to know that we are here to support them every step of the way in their efforts to quit for good. You can quit, whether it's your first time trying or your tenth. The important thing is not to give up. The Lung Association has launched the "Quitter in You" campaign to empower people trying to quit smoking by acknowledging that past quit attempts are not failures, but are normal and necessary steps along the path to success.

Although most smokers are not successful the first time they try to quit, with each quit attempt they become a little wiser about what to do and not do the next time. The "Quitter in You" campaign aims to change the way people think about past quit attempts and motivate them to try again.

We encourage smokers who are making the resolution to quit smoking to visit [www.QuitterInYou.org](http://www.QuitterInYou.org). Learn about the various ways we can help smokers quit.

Want to support a loved one while they tackle the daunting task of quitting smoking? Send them an encouraging e-card letting them know you are cheering them on. You can also give the gift of a membership to our Freedom From Smoking online program.

More than 43 million Americans—one in every five—are current smokers, but most smokers say they want to quit. If

this is your year to quit, here are five tips to help you along the way:

1. Learn from past experiences. Most smokers have tried to quit in the past, and sometimes people get discouraged remembering previous attempts. Those experiences were necessary steps on the road to future success. Think about what helped you during those tries and what you will do differently in your next quit attempt.

2. You don't have to quit alone. Telling friends that you are trying to quit and enlisting their support will help ease the process. Expert help is available from the American Lung Association and other groups. Friends who also smoke may even join you in trying to quit!

3. Medication can help, if you know what to do. The seven FDA-approved medications (like nicotine patches or gum) really do help smokers quit. Most folks don't use them correctly so be sure to follow the directions!

4. It's never too late to quit. Although it is best to quit smoking as early as possible, quitting smoking at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life. You will also save money and avoid the hassle of going outside in the cold to smoke.

5. Every smoker can quit. At the American Lung Association, we firmly believe that every smoker can quit. Each person needs to find the right combination of techniques for them and above all, they need to keep trying.

In addition to these tips, the Lung Association is launching a Countdown 2 Quit campaign. Follow along on Twitter via hashtag #Countdown2Quit to learn even more tips as we approach the New Year.

Quitting isn't easy, but 50 million ex-smokers in the United States can tell you it's possible. Make 2014 the year you begin a new, smoke-free life!

# The Ups and Downs of 2013: A Recap

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

2013 was a year of memorable events on City Island, such as the appearance of mayoral candidates, including former congressman Anthony Weiner, at the September Civic Association meeting (top photo); the reopening of Tony's Pier restaurant after it was destroyed in a fire during Hurricane Sandy (middle photo); and the return of the Halloween parade on Oct. 31 after a one-year hiatus because of Sandy (bottom photo).

No matter how you slice it, 2013 was a roller-coaster of a year for City Island, with all the twists and turns, ups and downs that one expects at an amusement park, but not all of it was amusing or enjoyable.

The year started with the continuing clean-up from Hurricane Sandy and worries about flood insurance premiums as the government recalculated flood zones. But it ended with the reopening of Tony's Pier, a hurricane season with no hurricanes, and the Halloween Parade right on schedule after a year's absence.

The first *Island Current* of 2013 announced the closing of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, in spite of the noble efforts of parents and alumni to remedy the financial woes of one of City Island's most cherished institutions. But the year ended with the arrival of the Little Stars in the new preschool in the St. Mary's school build-

ing, anticipating the new mayor's promise of preschools for all New Yorkers.

The Civic and the Chamber joined forces with Facebook groups to spend the year opposing projects that most Islanders found a threat to the historic small-town character of City Island: the cable-stayed bridge design being imposed on us by the city's Department of Transportation, and an oversized building on the Avenue and Schofield Street that would have violated the intent of City Island's Special District zoning regulations. By the year's end, however, the Civic lawsuit against the city put a halt to construction until all of the I's were dotted on the DOT project, and the Italian Hospital Society finally came up with a project more in keeping with City Island's zoning laws.

Other good news included the improvement of traffic control and the seizure of

Continued on page 15


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The staff of City Island Therapy (l. to r.): Brian Moynihan, Matt Bollati, Janine Mantzaris (all of City Island), Liz Arnoff-Calvini, Magdalena Bukowski and Ashley Thiebaud.



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

This image of the Athabasca River in Jasper, Alberta, will be featured in "Water, Water Every Where..." an exhibition of photographs by Islander Jane Protzman that will be held at the Larchmont Public Library throughout February in the Oresman Gallery, 121 Larchmont Avenue. The library opens every day at 9 a.m. except on Sunday, when it opens at noon; it closes on Monday and Thursday at 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. and on Friday, Saturday at Sunday at 5 p.m. There will be an exhibition reception on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

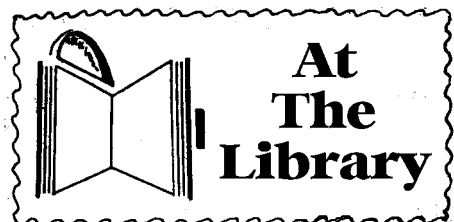


If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

**City Island Physical Therapy**, now in a new office at 464 City Island Avenue, offers 30-minute therapeutic massage sessions with licensed physical therapists. These sessions are designed to target problem areas, i.e., neck and back, neck and shoulders, back and hips. Balance classes are held on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., and all are welcome. CIPT now has a medical gym, which includes a treadmill, an elliptical and a recumbent bicycle, with more equipment to come. The Wellness Program allows use of the gym equipment even for those not currently receiving physical therapy. The grand opening of the new facility will be an open house on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 4 to 7 p.m., and all are welcome. "Like" City Island Physical Therapy on Facebook or e-mail [Cityislandpt@gmail.com](mailto:Cityislandpt@gmail.com) to be added to the e-mail list.

**Dragons Path Academy** (229 City Island Avenue) is now accepting registration for the 2014 Martial Arts Summer Camp. Programs available now are Lil Dragons, Martial Arts Afterschool, Tae Kwon Do classes for all ages, and yoga.

**Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) will open its first exhibition of the year, "Artist's Choice," on Friday, Feb. 7 with an opening reception from 7 to 10 pm. Artists who wish to submit work may do so until the deadline of Wednesday, Feb. 5. Call 718-885-1403 for more information. The Gallery got a facelift with the help of artist Laury Hopkins, who painted and cleaned the gallery, which looks like new even though it will have its 40th anniversary this coming September.



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**February Children's Programs**  
**Read-a-Loud:** The first Friday of

every month will have a read-a-loud in the early afternoon. Listen to the librarian's choices and feel free to bring your family's favorite to share. Friday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m. to noon.

**February Valentine's Day Arts & Crafts:** We will supply the scissors, glue and construction paper; please bring your own imagination and artistic flair as we make arts and crafts to celebrate Valentine's Day. Thursday, Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to noon for pre-schoolers, and again from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**February 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.

**February Adult Programs**  
**Introduction to the Internet:** This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the Internet before. Gain proficiency in using e-mail, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Tuesday morning from 10 to noon.

**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 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** 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 events begin at 1 in the afternoon.

**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 is a creative writing workshop that meets in our community room once a week. "When we write, we find ourselves writing answers to questions we didn't know we had." Every Tuesday afternoon at 1. Presented by Ms. Gail Hitt.

**The Bronx and the Super Bowl:** Come join Professor Victor Mastro and football fans for an afternoon of the history of the Super Bowl and its connection to the Bronx. Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.

You can visit us at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org) for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

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# THE BOAT SHOW 2014

By GREG CLANCY



Greg, Patrick, Matthew and James Clancy carrying on the Clancy family tradition at the New York Boat Show.

All boaters know the feel of that mid-winter's itch, the one that starts around New Year's Day and makes us wonder if it's too early to take the cover off of our boat or to start prepping the bottom. Fortunately, we still have the New York Boat Show to help us get our pre-spring fix! As I strapped on my boat shoes this year, I had no idea how many firsts I would be in for, but it turned out to be quite a few. But more about that later.

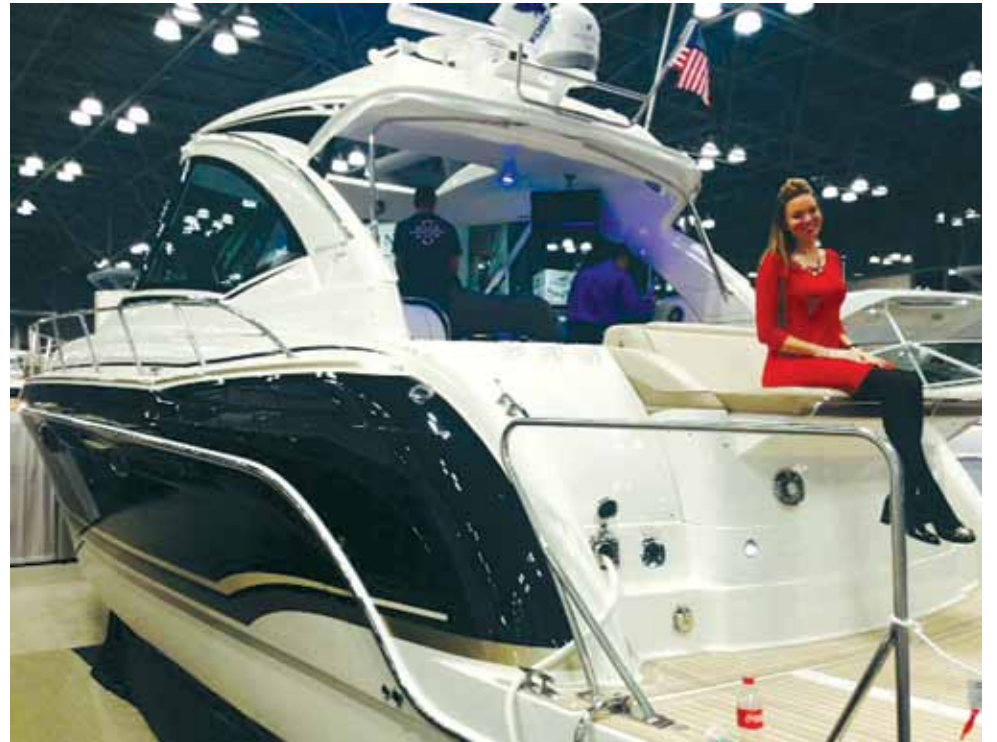
I have attended the New York Boat Show for at least 20 of my 36 years, and I assumed the mantle of writing this annual piece after the passing of my dad, Bill Clancy, who reported on the show for about 40 straight. Dad's first task when contemplating the Boat Show was to compile a list of companions. Ordinarily, we'd drag down a soul or two from the American Legion, or one of our extended Clancy relations, or any other willing City Island boater—but snow and timing (the show was Jan 1-5) obstructed those options this year.

I could usually count on my brother Bill Jr., who hadn't missed a single show in 39 years, but he was tied up shoveling snow and minding his cat, so he passed on what might have been his 40th consecutive year. I thought of my other brother, Mike, pushing his 25th year in the Army, but assumed I'd be heading down to the Javits Center as an army of one. Then, to my delight, my wife, Meaghan, and three young boys, Patrick, Matthew and James, opted to brave the snow and head downtown to meet me. They were home for NYC's snow day and feeling adventurous.

We couldn't think of anything better to do when the weather was too bad for school!

I left work to meet Meg and the boys, and I found them at the most unexpected exhibition booth – a jewelry stand! Meg was having her rings cleaned in between outboards and Furino's and immediately exclaimed how much she liked the boat show. After being extracted from that one, she somehow fell into the next stand, which was selling orthopedic shoe soles. The baby, three-year-old James, summed up my mood best when he asked "Aren't we going on any boats?"

We did, and the first boat we picked might have been the sleekest of the entire show, the Sabre 38-foot Motor Yacht. This "down-east" style boat is defined by the classic lines of an old-time lobster boat, with a broad beam and no fly-bridge. The Sabre 38 comes with twin 300hp Volvo diesels, a standard navy-blue hull and wood finishes in the cabin. There is a seamless transition between the captain's chair, salon area of the cabin and aft deck, giving the feel that 10 people could interact comfortably while cruising. Sabre also showed its little sister, a 37-foot Backwater, sporting a single screw diesel and no cabin salon. The salon area and captain's chair were combined with the aft deck in one continuous exterior with a clean white gel-coat finish. I think the difference in the two lines is whether your 10 guests are khaki-clad martini drinkers or 10 sopping-wet kids. The salesman of the former asked us about City Island, and Nevins, while the salesman of the latter seemed to peg me as prospective buyer, even offering to lower the price of



Islander Mary Dannegger worked at the Formula Boats exhibit at the 2014 New York Boat Show in January.

the 37-foot Backwater to \$500,000, just for me. If only Bill had come this year!

Perhaps this is a good point for me to explain a key difference in my boat show tactics versus my dad's. He wore his *Island Current* press pass religiously. I mostly leave mine off once I get inside. He wore the same garb he would wear going to the American Legion for a few beers; I came (as a matter of practicality) in work clothes. Apparently the garb of a New York City-employed engineer can be easily mistaken for the garb of someone with money. My dad's companions were jean-clad Islanders who brought their beers onto every boat. My companion was my beautiful wife, who just so happened to have particularly sparkly wedding and engagement rings! It also helped that my sons treated every boat as a prospective buy and begged me with "How about this one, dad!" at every exhibit. It took us only about two exhibits to realize it, but for the first time in my life the salesmen were all over us.

So what would dad do with this strange turn of events? I decided that he'd push the envelope and so would I. The next boat we walked on was a Tiara 3600 Coronet. The beauty of this ultra-modern monster couldn't be denied, even by a trained lover of more classic boats like myself. After a hushed exchange between my wife and me, we saw the salesman blow off a group of others and head right to us. I struggled not to smile as I watched my boys push every button, work every hatch, yank every lever and climb on every surface imaginable. This type of behavior is strictly forbidden on a boat like this, but no one said boo to us. After some chit-chat, I asked about the engines—twin 500hp Cummins diesels. "I'd like to see them," I said as the salesman cringed. My dad always asked to see the engines of these big boats. Never once did I see it happen. Usually the salesperson asked you to set up an appointment to come back another time. After a brief pause, I called out to the kids to get their shoes on, when the salesmen relented. With Meg already heading down the stairs, the salesman cleared the deck and pushed a button activating the hydraulics, which lifted most of the aft cockpit. Wow! Meg only rolled her eyes, clearly not getting it. It was the first of many engines we saw that day.

As an aside, Tiara also has a little sister, their outboard line, Pursuit, except that these Pursuits weren't so little. We boarded a sporty 41 footer with twin 350hp V8 outboards. The innovation here is that the outboards are enclosed in a hatch, between the aft bulkhead and a truncated swim platform, giving the feel of being on an inboard. Pursuit touts the reliability and price of outboards, along with ease of maintenance, as the benefits of this set-up, not to mention top speeds above 40 knots, something not often seen on comparably

sized inboards.

From here, I was ready to check out a few of the Clorox bottle-style fly-bridge cruisers, but the boys outvoted me and took us to an alligator wrestling show instead. No kidding. We went off to the side of the show floor where a good old boy from Florida, "The Swampmaster, Jeff Quattrocchi," wrestled a 10-foot American alligator.

Not far from the alligators we found that Formula, as usual, had a full line of boats, hosted by president/owner Scott Porter. An unassuming gentleman, he is the son of legendary founder Vic Porter, who started off as an ice cream salesman before building the Formula and Thunderbird boat brands.

In the course of our travels, we had to visit my dad's old favorites, the German Glue exhibit and the Erie Canal model, but the sturgeon fish exhibit wasn't there this year; we're not sure what happened to that one. The Harlem Yacht Club was also in the house, the only one of our City Island Yacht Clubs to attend the show this year. And there was at least one City Islander on the scene: Mary Dannegger, who was working at Formula Yachts.

One of my goals at every boat show was to find the best bang for the buck, to find a boat a mere mortal could afford. As beautiful as the Sabres and the Tiaras are, they live in the \$500k to \$800k range. The Clorox bottle hull Carvers are gorgeous in their own right, though perhaps a bit too condominium-like in their trappings, but they too are out of sight; the big Carvers go for over a million. How about Chris-Craft? Can you say "James Bond Boat"? In order to be interested in a Chris-Craft these days, you have to be the kind of person who doesn't even ask about price. So what could there possibly be for the rest of us? Grady White? Not really. Grady impresses as the only boat that still looks like itself, unlike all the other old brands, which have reinvented themselves, but with a bow-rider priced at \$600,000, Grady too fails to appeal to the working man. Glastron and Bryant, however, win the prize. Both boat builders feature a line of ski-boats and bow-riders up to 30 feet or so in length and with incredible price tags ranging from \$18,000 to \$60,000. Cutwater is another attainable boat with a line of single-screw diesel tug-boat style ranger boats that start below \$200,000, not too shabby for a 30-foot inboard that sleeps up to six. Cutwater now also has a fly-bridge model, which is almost reminiscent of the long extinct Uniflite.

And while I searched for the more affordable boats, my boys stopped at a kids' station where they built their own sailboat—an odd choice for a show that didn't have a single sailboat brand other

*Continued on page 15*

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 8, 15 and 22, **City Island Little League Registration**, Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tues., Feb. 11, **Blood Drive**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. Sponsored by the Bronx Masons.

Thurs., Feb. 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Greek Church, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard South.

Tues., Feb. 25, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### 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.

The seventh annual SOUPER Bowl of Caring is Feb. 2. Come to the 10 a.m. service and stay for lunch. The Sunday school children are collecting nonperishable items (no glass) and monetary donations through Feb. 9.

The Budget Corner is open! The winter schedule is Feb. 1, 4, 15, 18 and 22; March 1, 4, 15, 18, 25 and 29. Spring cleaning is right around the corner! Please consider donating your extra items to the Trinity Budget Corner. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

#### AARP Chapter 318

There will be no meetings in February. We will see everyone on March 5 at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church hall.

Rosetta Woods

#### American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. We will continue planning this year's Cancer Bingo, and we need everyone's help. Thank you all for doing a great job. Please stop by the American Legion hall for information about upcoming events.

Maryann Occhicone

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue, offers a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions. The spirited congregation is led by our innovative rabbi, Shohama Wiener, our joyful musical associate spiritual leader, Reb David Evan Markus and our multi-talented rabbinic intern, Reb Eva Sax-Bolder. For almost 80 years, Temple Beth-El, at 480 City Island Avenue, has welcomed all who come to celebrate and pray here, as our services embrace diversity. We extend an invitation to the City Island Community and beyond to join us.

Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please come at 7:15 to enjoy the welcoming music and an opportunity to meet and greet before services begin. We use a prayer book written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew, transliterated allowing all words

to be easily sung and read. Your Shul by the Sea Band provides a delightful quality to our services, inspiring some of us to dance as we welcome the Sabbath. After services an oneg consisting of wine, challah and delicious refreshments are generously provided by one of our members or the Temple board of directors to celebrate our coming together.

Every Friday evening, Temple Beth El of City Island opens its doors for Shabbat services, and when the clergy is not present, services are led by congregants. Our own Bob Berent and his wonderful accordion often grace our celebration. Another congregant, Michael Eiron, has recently taken the lead. We are hoping that other congregants will engage and lead services as well.

Community Service Shabbat: Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama, Reb David and Your Band by the Sea for a special Shabbat dedicated to community service. Our example is Parshat Trumah, the story of how our ancestors each gave freely from their hearts to build their traveling *mishkan* in the desert. Ellen Ruth Topol will sponsor the oneg in honor of what would have been the 66th wedding anniversary of her parents, Lester and Marilyn Topol.

There will be rabbinic-led services on Feb. 14 and 28.

We have scheduled a game night at the Temple on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. We will play team games such as Pictionary and Charades. This is designed to help build community. We are asking people to bring new toys, stuffed animals, and children's book to be donated to a children's hospital. Any items purchased for this purpose at Kaleidoscope Gallery will get a 25 percent discount. (Please mention at time of purchase.)

Save the date for the Temple's 80th anniversary gala dinner dance on March 22 at 6 p.m., at the Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course clubhouse. Join dignitaries and community leaders as we celebrate TBE's 80th anniversary by honoring the array of civic associations that enrich City Island, making our unique and vibrant community flourish. Our special events and services for January and February are as follows:

Ellen Ruth Topol, chair of the oneg committee, solicits all members and friends of TBE to sponsor a Friday night oneg. Special events (such as birthdays, anniversaries, family visits, births, weddings and other celebrations) are terrific opportunities to host an oneg to honor these special times. Please contact Ellen Ruth Topol, [ertopol@aol.com](mailto:ertopol@aol.com), and thank you for your generosity.

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.

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](mailto:paul.klein@att.net).

TBE's outreach commitment, *bikkur cholim* (visiting the sick) is expanding with a committee for *bikkur cholim* (visiting the sick). Sponsored by Reb Eva, this committee will receive training in the Jewish pastoral tradition of visiting ill and mobility-restricted community members. To join this committee, please contact Sue Fleishaker at [1dblbass@gmail.com](mailto:1dblbass@gmail.com) or Reb Eva at [lbolder164@aol.com](mailto:lbolder164@aol.com).



Photo by PATTY ATTIS

Sarah Persteins leads an enthusiastic group of seniors in her Fit for Life exercise class on Friday mornings.

Help our website grow. The TBE website is growing to include weekly Torah teachings, events and our calendar. Follow our weekly blog and share our web presence with friends on Facebook and beyond!

Ellen Ruth Topol

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will be open every Thursday and Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Keep your eyes open for our special sales and the Valentine's Day collection. Enjoy our complimentary coffee and cakes while you shop. Everyone is welcome.

Arlene Byrne

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Sunday, Feb. 2, is National Scout Sunday. St. Mary's will recognize the scouts at a liturgy at 10 a.m. that morning. All scouts should see their leaders for more details.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, there will be an important meeting of all parents whose children are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist this year. It will be held in St. Mary's School gym at 7 p.m. All parents are urged to attend.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, from 4 to 5 p.m.

All are welcome to attend our monthly coffee hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 9.

There will be no religious education classes on Wednesday, Feb. 19, as New York City schools will be closed for a midwinter vacation. Classes will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 156

We would like to remind all members that 2014 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and put in the SAL box.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The annual pig's-knuckle party will be held on Saturday, March 1, at 7 p.m. Gourmet Chef Gene Valesio will be serving an authentic German fare. The price is \$25, and the party is open to men only.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All old flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole. They will be retired with dignity.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals. Come and dance on the new floor!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island Avenue, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish, which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Urban chicken farming will be the topic for the Feb. 7 Friday Fellowship meeting at 7 p.m. Are you curious about the advantages and disadvantages of keeping hens? People are surprised to learn that hens and bees can be legally kept in New York City. Join us for the conversation (and some refreshments too).

Save the date for an afternoon of Live Irish Music on March 23 at 4 p.m. Details in the March issue.

Eileen Marcus

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

##### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

##### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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

**Open Monthly Meetings of the Board** are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Our Annual Members Holiday party was again a great success. We would like to thank Bowie Stivala and BMC Construction Inc. for the donation of the decorations. BMC Construction Inc. is a new construction company; if you need any work done, please consider calling Bowie at 321-765-9117 for more information.

**Weekly Weight Watchers Meetings:** Thursday evenings at 5:30 with Debbie. Join us and get ready for bathing suit weather. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Monthly Teen Dances:** Dances for teens in 6, 7 and 8th grades. Come join your friends for a night of fun. The next dances are Feb. 15 and March 15. There is no charge for the dances, but donations are welcome.

**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! The next meeting will be Feb. 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The discussion this month will be prompted by a book titled, "How Children Succeed," by Paul Tough.

**Family Bingo Nights return:** 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 \$5.00 and Community Center members get one free card. Our next Bingo night will be Feb. 28 and March 28 at 7 p.m.

**Celebrate Women with the following events:** March 2: Women's Health Day, March 16: Play Date, March 23: Herstory Girls Performance discussion; March 30: Entertainment / Dance / Vendors. For information, call Maria at 347-293-6814.

**NEW PROGRAMS**

**Shimmy By the Sea:** We are excited to announce the return of Belly Dance to the City Island Community Center! Four

February workshops, Fridays at 7 p.m., Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28. \$20 per class.

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

**Art Classes** for ages 7-12 started Jan. 18 on Saturday mornings from 10:30 to noon. Explore techniques in drawing and painting with pencil, pen, oil pastels and much more. The classes are an hour and a half and the cost is \$165. To register, contact Lorraine Cantori at [CeasarDante@optonline.net](mailto:CeasarDante@optonline.net) or call 914-552-5268.

**Scrapbooking Classes and Paper-Crafting Events** with Desiree coming to City Island Community Center soon! Feel free to check out our website at [www.demahandcrafts.com](http://www.demahandcrafts.com) or call 914-562-5857 for details.

**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](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

**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.

**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.

**ADULT PROGRAM**

**Zumba with Julia:** Want to lose that belly fat brought on by the holidays? Well here is your chance to zumba with Julia, a high-energy hour-long workout. Saturday mornings from 10 to 11. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

**Zumba with Letti:** Letti is a fantastic zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Classes are \$10; a five-class card is \$40.

**Yoga Stretch with Norma:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These Yoga Stretch poses helps remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while it also assists with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10 per class. Call 718-885-0535 for more information.

**Zumba Gold:** A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat geared for age 50 and up. Classes are \$3. Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

**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.

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Sarah Persteins

**Garden Club of City Island**

Although the weather forced us to cancel our January meeting, the Garden Club of City Island is coming back strong in February with a meeting on the 3rd at 10 a.m. Our guest speakers will tackle the beautiful flowers so many of us seem to have trouble growing and keeping in our homes: orchids. Elena Nuesslein and Cheryl Brinker will give a lively presentation on raising orchids at home: which ones to buy, where to keep them and how to care for them after they finish blooming. We thank the City Island Nautical Museum for hosting this event for us, as our City Island Yacht Club home begins its spring clean-up.

Garden Club members are beginning our plans for the annual Beautification Fund drive, which supports our efforts throughout the year. We are so grateful to all the residents and businesses who contributed to a successful campaign last year and hope they will be as generous in 2014. Plans also are in the works for the annual Garden Club Spring Luncheon, which will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014.

We plan to have another speaker at the March meeting; in April or May, we will visit the Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden for a special guided tour.

As always, we welcome prospective new members to attend a meeting, learn what we do and how they can participate, and perhaps join us in our City Island beautification efforts.

Barbara Harrison

**City Island Republicans**

The annual Bronx GOP Lincoln Brunch will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway. The price is \$99. Michael Garcia will be guest speaker, and several others, including Rob Astorino, Senator Cathy Young and former mayoral candidate Joe Lhota, will also be in attendance.

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

**American Legion Post 156**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 17.

Vice Commander Ed Shipp thanks the flag stewards for all of their help putting the flags up throughout 2013.

We have many new shirts on sale. Stop by the Post and check out our new styles.

The VA accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or taken to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Women's clothing is especially needed. The Post is not accepting book donations at this time.

The Post will have an Italian night on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. Stop by the Post for more details.

Saturday, March 1, will be the SAL's annual pig's-knuckle party. The festivities start at 7 p.m., and the price is \$25 per person. The party is male only.

Vice Commander Mike Treats reports that membership dues (\$45) are now due. Mail your check or drop it off at the Post.

We are now on the Internet at [www.Post156.com](http://www.Post156.com).

Think of the Post for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post and left in the mailbox by the flagpole.

Longtime Ladies Auxiliary member Marie Livingston died.

Peter Del-Debbio is still recovering from complications that resulted from several recent surgeries.

The Post would like to thank everyone for their continuous support throughout the year!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

**PSS Healthy Seniors**

If you have the preconception that senior centers are not for you, pay a visit to your City Island Center and judge for yourself. We offer an exciting variety of activities, and chances are that the center will be bustling no matter what is on the agenda for any particular day. With activities scheduled throughout the day, there is sure to be something that will interest you.

Have you always wished you could paint a beautiful water view? Even those with no prior experience have walked away amazed at what they can do with a little guidance. Or is dance more up your alley? Join us for Zumba on Thursday mornings. Yoga? Cardio? Brain Aerobics? We've got those, too. Are you looking for conversational Spanish, computer classes, an arthritis workshop, a pain-management class?

If you need information about senior benefits or would like help with any other issue, the center's friendly staff will be glad to help you. If you just want to relax with good friends over a game of cards or cup of coffee, pull up a chair!

Don't miss our birthday bash, usually the last Friday of the month. And on special occasions (Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter) we celebrate with special songs, games and meals. (On Valentine's Day this year we are having shrimp scampi with pasta!)

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 or better. Morning features our fitness program listed below. Afternoon activities include individualized computer class, acrylic painting, yoga, movies and more. Blood pressure screening and health and nutrition talks are also available on a monthly basis.

For more information, visit the PSS City Island Senior Center at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, or call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

**Fitness Program**

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. Our fitness program offers classes with various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Arthritis Workshop with Patty: Mondays at 10:15 a.m.; Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Mary: Tuesday at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold with Dorcie, Thursday at 10:15 a.m.; Fit for Life with Sarah: Fridays at 9 a.m. All exercises classes are \$3 each, or \$30 a month for unlimited classes. The arthritis workshop class on Mondays is free.

**Volunteering**

We are pleased with our many volunteers and appreciate their help in many areas, including clerical, lunch, arts and crafts, and help with parties and events, to name a few. We welcome all new volunteers in helping make this senior center the absolute best for our seaside community.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance**

If you would like more information regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we would be more than happy to help out. We also provide assistance with 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 you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and shopping assistance. 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 contributions for a round trip 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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### Lost at Sea

Inspired by John Steinbeck's story, master of suspense Alfred Hitchcock directed **Lifeboat** (1944), an absorbing World War II drama in which a small group of survivors of a German torpedo attack find themselves lost at sea in a lifeboat. Among the group are sophisticated magazine writer/photographer Constance Porter (Tallulah Bankhead), seaman John Kovac (John Hodiak), nurse Alice MacKenzie (Mary Anderson), radio operator Stan (Hume Cronyn), seriously wounded stoker Gus Smith (William Bendix), insufferable capitalist Charles Rittenhouse (Henry Hull), steward George Spencer (Canada Lee) and half-mad passenger Mrs. Higgins (Heather Angel). Trouble ensues when they rescue a German seaman (Walter Slezak).

A favorite film from my childhood is the Disney classic **Swiss Family Robinson** (1960). After being shipwrecked, the Robinson family is marooned on an island, where they make a clever home for themselves, and life is idyllic until they have to defend themselves from pirates. The cast includes Dorothy McGuire and John Mills as the parents, with James MacArthur, Tommy Kirk and Kevin Corcoran as the brothers Fritz, Janet Munro as a stowaway, and Sessue Hayakawa as the pirate chief.

**The Poseidon Adventure** (1972) is the story of an ocean liner that encounters a tsunami and capsizes in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The handful of survivors include Mike Rogo (Ernest Borgnine), Linda Rogo (Stella Stevens), Acres (Roddy McDowall), Belle Rosen (Oscar-nominated Shelley Winters), and Manny Rosen (Jack Albertson)—led by no-nonsense minister Frank Scott (Gene Hackman). They desperately attempt to climb from the top of the ship (now submerged) to the bottom (now "the top"). The film's theme song, "The Morning After," sung by Maureen McGovern, earned an Oscar.

The 1974 Italian film, **Swept Away... by an Unusual Destiny in the Blue Sea of August** stars Mariangela Melato as Raffaella, a rich spoiled capitalist upper-class wife, and Giancarlo Giannini as Gennarino, a lower-class communist deck hand. When the two are separated from the group and find themselves stranded on a deserted island, their roles are reversed, with Raffaella depending on him for her survival. The subtitled version is the best because Melato's grating voice is integral to the plot. Be sure to avoid the dreadful Madonna version.

Actor Robert Redford won an Academy Award for his first-time directorial effort of the film **Ordinary People** (1980). This excellent and moving drama is the story of Conrad Jarrett (Timothy Hutton) and his parents, Beth and Calvin (Mary Tyler Moore and Donald Sutherland) who are living in the aftermath of the death of Conrad's older brother Buck, who was killed in an unfortunate boating accident while the two boys were lost at sea. Conrad, riddled with survivor guilt, goes into therapy with Dr. Berger (Judd Hirsch). Elizabeth McGovern is on hand as the girl who captures Conrad's eye, causing him typical teen angst in the midst of his family crisis.

For children we have the animated feature, **An American Tail** (1986), in which a young mouse named Fievel Mousekewitz (Phillip Glasser) and his family emigrate from Russia to the United States by boat. During the trip, a fierce storm throws Fievel from the ship, and he loses contact with his family. Luckily, he manages to sail to New York in a bottle. There, Irish mouse Bridget (Cathianne Blore), Italian mouse Tony (Pat Musick) and a kindly cat named Tiger (Dom DeLuise) help Fievel search for his family.

Based on a true story, **White Squall**

(1996) is the chronicle of a floating school for teenaged boys, run by Captain Sheldon (Jeff Bridges) and his physician wife, Alice (Caroline Goodall). In 1960 a group of prep school students live aboard an old-fashioned sailing ship, where an oceangoing voyage is intended to teach the boys fortitude and discipline. Unfortunately, the youthful crew—among them confident Chuck Gieg (Scott Wolf), timid Gil Martin (Ryan Phillippe) and spoiled condescending Frank Beaumont (Jeremy Sisto)—get some unexpected instruction in survival when they are caught in horrible white squall storm.

**Titanic** (1997) is an epic American romantic disaster film directed, written, co-produced, co-edited and partly financed by James Cameron. A fictionalized account of the sinking of the *RMS Titanic*, it stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Jack Dawson and Kate Winslet as Rose DeWitt Bukater, members of different social classes who fall in love aboard the ship, much to the consternation of her abusive arrogant fiancé Cal Hockley (Billy Zane) and her gold-digging mother Ruth (Frances Fisher). The movie begins with an aged Rose (Gloria Stuart) recounting the tragic tale to treasure hunter Brock Lovett (Bill Paxton), with exceptional computer graphics showing a virtual sinking of the ship. Nominated for fourteen Academy Awards, it won eleven, including the awards for Best Picture and Best Director, tying for most Oscars won by a single film. In 2012 the film was released in 3-D.

**Lost at Sea: The Search for Longitude** (1998) is a fascinating historical documentary showing how until the 18th century, seafaring explorers, merchants and armies had to navigate the globe without longitude. Unpretentious carpenter John Harrison changed all that by developing the principles still used in modern navigation. Richard Dreyfuss narrates this film, which reveals how Harrison's ingenuity saved lives and changed the way we see the world.

Based on a 1991 tragedy in which a tropical hurricane collided with a cold front from the Great Lakes, **The Perfect Storm** (2000) is the story of the fishing boat *Andrea Gail* that was lost at sea. When Captain Billy Tyne (George Clooney), and his crew, Bob Shatford (Mark Wahlberg), Dale Murphy (John C. Reilly) and David Sullivan (William Fichtner), have a terrible season, they decided to go out and catch fish, even with bad weather predicted. The supporting cast includes the wonderful Diane Lane, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Bob Gunton and Karen Allen in this Wolfgang Peterson directed film.

**Cast Away** (2000) tells the story of Federal Express worker Chuck Noland (Tom Hanks in an Oscar-nominated performance), who devotes his life to his job, often neglecting his girlfriend, Kelly (Helen Hunt). While on an assignment, his plane crashes, and Chuck finds himself stranded alone on a remote South Pacific island. He uses cargo remnants and his ingenuity to survive. To combat loneliness, he "befriends" a volleyball he calls Wilson.

**The Life of Pi** (2012) is a magical story told in flashbacks by adult Pi Patel (Irrfan Khan) to Canadian novelist Yann Martel (Rafe Spall). After deciding to sell their zoo in India and move to Canada, Santosh and Gita Patel (Adil Hussain and Tabu) board a freighter with their sons and a few remaining animals. Tragedy strikes when a terrible storm sinks the ship, leaving their teenage son, Pi (Suraj Sharma), as the only human survivor on a lifeboat along with a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena and a Bengal tiger. Pi and the tiger must learn to co-exist if both are to survive. This 3-D film earned Ang Lee a Best Director Oscar.

**All is Lost** (2013) is an absorbing survival film with only one character and almost no dialogue. It stars Robert Redford as a practical and quick-witted sailor whose boat collides with a shipping container in the middle of the Indian Ocean. At age 77, without a supporting cast and performing virtually all of his water stunts himself, Redford holds the viewer's attention with his character's ingenuity and resourcefulness. At the time of this writing, he is being nominated for many awards for his critically acclaimed performance.

And until next time, stay safe, and happy viewing. . .



### St. Mary's Early Childhood Program

We hope everyone had a very happy and joyous holiday season. Little Stars are proud to announce that our first annual holiday toy drive was a great success! We would like to thank our parents and the community for their generous donations. The toys were distributed to children at Jacobi Hospital who were unable to be home for the holidays. A wonderful lesson in giving was had by all.

Little Stars have been very busy in the month of January. We have reviewed all of the letters that were introduced so far, began new letters, worked with numbers and practiced handwriting. We then moved on to "All About Transportation" incorporating all modes—land and sea—and covering cars, trucks, buses, trains, boats and planes. Many art projects, songs, games and science projects were included. The children loved making their own car and painting them in their favorite colors.

We are excited to get ready for our next fund-raiser, Prom Night, to be held in the gym at St. Mary's. Look for our flyers around the community for date and time. This will be a great night for good food and dancing with local bands providing the entertainment.

There is still space available for both our aftercare program and our early childhood program ages 2 to 6. If you are interested in any of our programs, please call Lisa Moore at 718-885-1527 or stop by the school for a tour.

### Public School 175

December was filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten students attended a multicultural holiday celebration at the Hostos Center for the Performing Arts. First-graders visited Arts on Stage to see "The Nutcracker." Second-graders were visited in school by a member of the teaching staff at the New-York Historical Society as part of their study of New York City history. The third grade visited the Bronx Zoo to do an animal study, and the seventh grade visited St. Paul's Church in Mount Vernon as part of their study of the Revolutionary War.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Finally, on Dec. 19, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with the annual holiday sing. Children in grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended our year literally on a high note!

January has been just as exciting. Our fifth-graders continue to prepare for the spring performance of "Annie," and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P.S. 175 production! The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program has resumed for sixth through eighth grades. Students are participating in a variety of activities including art, athletics, games and homework help.

Our Character Education program continues to thrive. Community service projects geared to help victims of Typhoon Haiyan will be taking place in the coming weeks, and eighth-graders will once again be doing individual projects to meet their graduation requirement. Based on the success of our seventh- and eighth-grade "Rewards Trips" program, which acknowledges students with exemplary behavior every six weeks, we have implemented in-class rewards incentives in the lower grades as well. We are pleased that so many students get to participate each month!

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits.

January Citizens-of-the-Month are Ariana Jefferson (kindergarten); Dana Moynihan and Campbell Wepler (first grade); Michael Masella (second grade); Laci Howard and Evamarie Bellocchio (third grade); Kaia Alston and Kayla Fusco (fourth grade); Ginutis Sipas and Robert Samboy (fifth grade); Meghan McConaghy and Paul Mazzella (sixth grade); Jake Garforth and Christine Whelan (seventh grade); Connor Hanley-Piri and Umi Shaw (eighth grade).

Kindergarten Registration for the 2014-2015 school year has begun. This process is now done entirely online. Please see the Department of Education website for more information (<https://prod.sem-snycdoe.com/parentsite/>). Should further assistance be needed, our school secretary, Mrs. Veltri, can be reached at 718-885-1093.

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## GET THE BODY YOU WANT FOR 2014!!

## Bartow-Pell Events

A Winter Terrarium Workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon to 2 p.m. Join horticulturalist Maria Colletti to design, make and take home a miniature garden under glass. Learn about tropical plant terrariums, hanging glass globes with air plants, succulent and moss dish gardens, and more to get you through the rest of winter. Registration required. Cost \$10; \$8 seniors, students, and members, plus \$20 materials fee.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. we will celebrate romance in February with the screening of a star-crossed romantic movie in the double parlors, "The Heiress" (1949, 115 min.) starring Olivia de Havilland, Montgomery Clift and Ralph Richardson, directed by William Wyler. Based on the 1880 novel "Washington Square" by Henry James. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members.

Our Victorian Valentine Workshop will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Show that you care—not with a boring, store-bought card, but with a handmade, full-of-charm, sure-to-woo original creation. Learn about the history of valentines and the use of printed "scraps" used to make them in the 19th century while you craft your own memorable card. A fun workshop for the whole family! Registration required. Cost \$10; \$8 students, seniors, and members.

A Valentine's Day Concert will be presented on Friday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Expe-

rience the romance of the 19th century on Valentine's Day with music specially chosen to match the elegant setting. An ensemble of young, Juilliard-trained friends will offer a musical taste of the 19th century with Beethoven's touching D major string trio, as well as works that feature the bassoon. Always the musical prankster, this rare solo instrument will show off its flair for romance. Cost \$20; \$15 members.

Our second in the Movies at the Mansion series will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., when you are invited to watch "The Uninvited" (1944, 99 min.) in the double parlors. Ray Milland and Ruth Hussey star in this elegant and eerie movie that takes place in a lonely, cliff-top house in Cornwall and features a bizarre romantic triangle from beyond the grave. Directed by Lewis Allen. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students and members.

An Urban Park Ranger Nature Exploration Hike will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. Discover the plants and animals that inhabit the urban forest around the mansion on this vigorous hike with an Urban Park Ranger. Wear comfortable shoes or boots; bring water and a light snack. Meets at the Bartow-Pell parking lot. Free.

Please note that registration is requested for all programs and in some cases required. Call 718-885-1461 or email [info@bpm.org](mailto:info@bpm.org). Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, Bronx, NY 10464. [www.bpm.org](http://www.bpm.org) and [www.facebook.com/BartowPell](http://www.facebook.com/BartowPell).

## IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

### HOUSEPLANTS AND HERBARIUMS

The temperatures are below freezing, and here I am musing on fairer weather and gardens. Houseplants lift the spirits in the dark winter days; they delight the eye and regale the nose with sweet scents of spring. The paperwhites perfume the air as they open their starry flowers. It is not too late to pot them and stake them with tiny branches. These narcissi join the beautiful amaryllis and together they create a veritable garden inside. The amaryllis, though very rarely scented, likes a light soil, a little feed and staking. Give it good light and it will reward you with its beauty for weeks. African violets, Christmas cactus, and rex begonias may grace a sunny window chasing away the gloom. Be sure to feed them to force the flowers to even bigger bloom. While the winds whistle and the snows descend, exotic beauty grows warm and snug.

The end of February is the beginning of the seed-sowing season. I don't seed annuals, as they are cheap to buy and they would take up too much precious room, so I plant only favorites or rare perennials. I order from Thomson and Morgan and the truly sought-after Chiltern Seeds in England. Wet seed-starting mix is placed in clean plastic 4-inch pots. Put them in good light covered with plastic to aid germination. Once there are two true leaves, transplant one to a pot. Carry on with watering and a light feeding regimen until June, when they can be planted out in the garden. Read the packets carefully for sowing information.

Chores to accomplish this month might be pruning the roses, cleaning and sharpening tools and ordering seeds. Last fall I recommended putting potted bulbs into the garden outdoors, and as soon as the soil thaws, I am excited to lift them out of the garden and bring these inside to watch the little blue muscari, the miniature daffodils and the species tulips bloom.

My next-door neighbor in the country presses plants and flowers and then inks them onto paper. These beautiful natural works of art have inspired me to make my own herbarium. Herbariums are made by



Pressed anemone

pressing plants that have been collected, and once dry they are mounted on cards. Luca Ghini (1490–1556), a physician and botanist from Bologna, was the first to make one. His student Pietro Mattioli helped him by traveling around the Mediterranean and the Far East searching for the mysterious plants described by Dioscorides (AD 40–90) in his five volumes of "De Materia Medica." In 1730 Carl Linnaeus developed modern taxonomy, the system for ordering and naming species.

If you are interested in a smidgeon of botanical history, you might look into the NY Botanical Garden's Virtual Herbarium circa 1990. They have digitized 250,000 dried and pressed plants, and their goal is 7 million. If you have a garden or if you take a nature walk, collect some plants, press them with books amid sheets of newspaper and arrange them artfully. Framed and hung together, they are beautiful in the home. You can include the plant's name, date collected and growing conditions if you like. When I look at mine, I am reminded of sunny days and the wealth of blossoming that is to come again.

*Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.*

## Grit, Character, and Curiosity: Paul Tough's book "How Children Succeed"

By JOHN SCARDINA

Did you ever notice that people who are making it in this world are not necessarily the brightest people you know? The truth is that IQ is not a great predictor of success. Sometimes it is the observant, willing and self-aware individual who does the best in school and life. So the question is: What factors best predict success, a life of achievement, happiness, reverence for all life or service to others?

In his book "How Children Succeed," Paul Tough, a journalist and frequent contributor to the New York Times, has put together research and personal anecdotes that begin to address the question of a "good life" and how to achieve it. Five areas stand out for me in his analysis of the components that breed success:

- Grit: Self discipline wedded to the dedicated pursuit of a goal. Do you and your children have passions that you follow and nurture? Do you possess the willingness to make personal sacrifices in the pursuit of these passions? Can you experience flow, the ability to lose yourself in a task you love? Bright people without grit never actualize their talents, and the rest of us flounder in the "woulda-coulda-shoulda" world of our own unfulfilled expectations.

- A positive response to failure: The ability to learn from mistakes, take responsibility for our efforts when we fall short, and look carefully and honestly at what

went wrong and what we can do differently next time. Avoidance and excuses do not foster growth but ensure mediocrity: can we model this for ourselves and our children?

- Parenting with unconditional love and clear boundaries and expectations: on a grid of parenting styles—with one axis being high-versus-low affection and the other axis being high-versus-low control—success works best with high affection and high control parenting. Do not make your love conditional on achievement ("I love you always") but do not accept unacceptable behavior either ("I do not allow you to talk to me this way").

- Support parenting and teaching styles that provide good character education: look for techniques that promote self-control, grit, a zest for life, social intelligence, optimism and gratitude.

- Be optimistic about human development: I believe that we are "growing into goodness" over the course of our lives. Our children already have the seeds for success: our mission is to allow those seeds to germinate and flourish.

I highly recommend this book to all of you, a good read for 2014!

*City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website at [www.ThinkLaughLearn.com](http://www.ThinkLaughLearn.com), and his parent discussion groups at the City Island Community Center.*

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

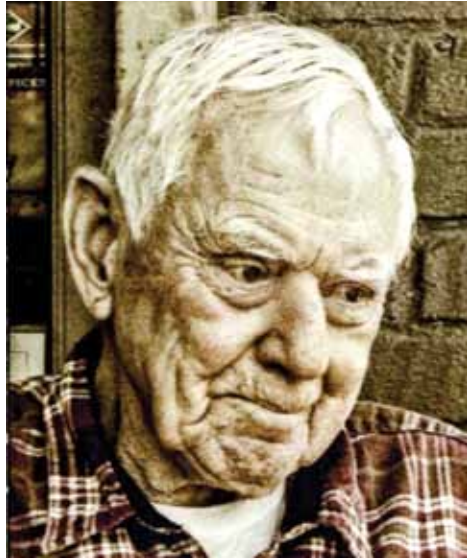


Photo by RON TERNER

**Bob White**

## Robert A. White

Longtime City Islander Robert A. White passed away on Dec. 14, 2013. He was 84.

Bob was born on a farm in Hammon-ton, New Jersey. As a young child, he moved with his family to Long Island where his father raised minks. His family later settled in Garrison, New York, where his father held many jobs, including cutting firewood to sell to passing boats and barges that would stop by their landing.

As a young boy, Bob worked odd jobs including rowing West Point cadets back and forth across the Hudson River to use the train. Bob left home at the age of 16 to work on the *S.S. Keeler*, a salvage boat that worked up and down the river. At the end of World War II, he was drafted into the Army and served his time in Germany with the occupational forces.

Upon returning to the states, Bob met Bryce Kirk, who would become his life-long friend and business partner. Bob and Bryce ran a boatyard in Port Washington and they eventually started their own dock building business called Kirk & White. Bob and Bryce worked at different times in New Rochelle, City Island and various towns along the Hudson River.

Bob was a longtime member of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island, where he was a valued member of the Vestry for many terms and a beloved usher for 40 years.

Bob is predeceased by his wife, Jean White, and son, Daniel Zabriskie. He is survived by his son, Steve Zabriskie of San Antonio, Texas; daughter, Leslie, and son-in-law, John Raimondi, of City Island; grandchildren Jason Barron of City Island, Victoria Lodewick of Yorktown and Kyle and Timothy Zabriskie of Saratoga Springs; and great-grandchildren, Ryan and Reese Lodewick, and Tessa and Jake Barron.

A memorial service was held in memory of Bob White at Grace Church on Jan. 4, 2014.

## Deborah Clementi

Former Island resident Deborah Clementi passed away peacefully in a Staten Island hospice on Nov. 13, 2013, at the age of 34, following a courageous battle with brain cancer.

She was born in Italy on Dec. 14, 1978, and grew up in Queens, where she attended Cathedral High School. She went on to earn an associate's degree from New York City College of Technology in preparation for a career in architecture.

She married City Islander Nathaniel Oliver and moved to City Island, where she worked for a while at the IGA market. Although the marriage ended, she remained close to Mr. Oliver, who survives her, along with his family and many friends on City Island.



Debbe Smith

## Deborah A. Smith

Deborah (Debbe) Smith, a longtime resident of City Island, died on Jan. 14, 2014, at the age of 64.

Debbe was born on Aug. 22, 1949, in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and lived on City Island from 1989 until 2013, when she moved to Coxsackie, New York. She was co-owner of Fran's Place and Fran's Trattoria and a longtime parishioner at Grace Episcopal Church.

She was predeceased by her parents, Marian and Ernest Smith, and her brothers, Ernest and Michael. She is survived by her sister, Delores (Nick) Mazzola; her nephews, Marc and Steven Ceruto, and their families; and her niece, Melanie Ceruto.

Debbe celebrated her life in every way. Her joy was making people laugh, and she will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held on City Island.



Photo by MIKE RAUH

**Red Thompson with his granddaughter, Susie Rauh in 1979.**

## Lloyd Thompson

Lloyd Thompson of Sanford, Florida, died on Jan. 11, 2014. Known as "Red," he was 93.

Born in Alabama, Red served in the United States Army from 1938 to 1947, most of it at Fort Clayton in the Panama Canal Zone. He married Bessie Dison in 1944 and moved with his family to Orlando, Fla. in 1948. Red had a long career with Pepsi-Cola, eventually becoming fleet director for its four branch fleets in central Florida. He retired in 1982. Throughout his life, he had an avid interest in motorcycle and car racing.

After Bessie's death in 1978, Red married Vera (Buhl) Wright in 1980. She was a former City Islander who had moved to Orlando with her family in 1969. Her first husband, Wilfred Wright, had died in 1977. Red and Vera honeymooned in Hawaii, the first trip in a life of travel. During nearly 34 years of marriage, they toured the South Pacific, visited Alaska and Mexico and cruised the Caribbean, among other trips. Red also brought Vera to see the Panama Canal Zone. A few years later they bought a mobile home and then a "fifth-wheel" camper, and they toured all 48 lower states and Canada. They continued traveling until health issues slowed them down in their

mid-80s.

In addition to his wife Vera, Red is survived by his sons, Pete (Joy), David and Wayne; his daughter, Sandra Pasch (Charles); his stepchildren, John Wright

(Linda), Judith Rauh (Michael), and Teresa Wright; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.



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

**FEBRUARY 2014**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0004	8.21	0635	-1.31	1221	8.40	1906	-1.6	Sat 01
02 Sun	0055	8.24	0729	-1.27	1315	8.14	1955	-1.36	Sun 02
03 Mon	0147	8.12	0824	-1.05	1411	7.76	2046	-0.96	Mon 03
04 Tue	0243	7.89	0922	-0.71	1512	7.32	2141	-0.48	Tue 04
05 Wed	0343	7.60	1023	-0.32	1618	6.91	2240	0.00	Wed 05
06 Thu	0449	7.35	1126	0.01	1724	6.63	2342	0.39	Thu 06
07 Fri	0554	7.19	1228	0.22	1828	6.51			Fri 07
08 Sat	0044	0.63	0655	7.17	1328	0.30	1927	6.56	Sat 08
09 Sun	0143	0.72	0752	7.24	1423	0.27	2021	6.72	Sun 09
10 Mon	0236	0.68	0844	7.37	1512	0.19	2112	6.92	Mon 10
11 Tue	0325	0.58	0932	7.49	1558	0.10	2157	7.11	Tue 11
12 Wed	0408	0.47	1016	7.56	1638	0.04	2239	7.24	Wed 12
13 Thu	0447	0.37	1054	7.57	1714	0.02	2315	7.31	Thu 13
14 Fri	0520	0.29	1126	7.52	1743	0.03	2342	7.33	Fri 14
15 Sat	0541	0.20	1139	7.46	1756	0.02	2349	7.39	Sat 15
16 Sun	0555	0.08	1150	7.48	1808	-0.07			Sun 16
17 Mon	0006	7.56	0622	-0.06	1219	7.53	1836	-0.16	Mon 17
18 Tue	0037	7.74	0658	-0.13	1255	7.52	1913	-0.18	Tue 18
19 Wed	0115	7.87	0739	-0.12	1337	7.43	1954	-0.10	Wed 19
20 Thu	0158	7.90	0824	-0.01	1424	7.25	2039	0.06	Thu 20
21 Fri	0246	7.84	0914	0.17	1515	7.02	2130	0.29	Fri 21
22 Sat	0339	7.70	1011	0.37	1613	6.78	2227	0.51	Sat 22
23 Sun	0438	7.54	1118	0.50	1719	6.64	2332	0.64	Sun 23
24 Mon	0545	7.45	1256	0.41	1835	6.70			Mon 24
25 Tue	0055	0.56	0701	7.50	1426	-0.01	2004	7.02	Tue 25
26 Wed	0236	0.15	0825	7.75	1528	-0.52	2114	7.50	Wed 26
27 Thu	0344	-0.42	0935	8.06	1622	-0.99	2210	7.95	Thu 27
28 Fri	0440	-0.94	1032	8.30	1711	-1.31	2301	8.28	Fri 28
<b>MARCH 2014</b>									
01 Sat	0533	-1.3	1123	8.40	1759	-1.44	2349	8.46	Sat 01
02 Sun	0623	-1.45	1213	8.32	1845	-1.35			Sun 02
03 Mon	0036	8.45	0712	-1.36	1302	8.08	1931	-1.08	Mon 03
04 Tue	0123	8.29	0803	-1.07	1351	7.73	2017	-0.65	Tue 04
05 Wed	0212	7.99	0855	-0.63	1445	7.32	2105	-0.13	Wed 05
06 Thur	0306	7.63	0950	-0.13	1544	6.93	2159	0.40	Thur 06
07 Fri	0408	7.28	1050	0.34	1649	6.64	2301	0.85	Fri 07



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Auditions for the City Island Theater Group's Festival of One-Act Plays took place the end of February. Here several of the directors evaluated potential actors for the six plays that will be performed on Feb. 28 and March 1 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m. A different set of plays will be performed on March 7 and 8 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 9, at 9 p.m. The directors are (l. to r.) Nic Anthony Calabro, Ray Tollinchi, Steven Bendler, Chris Manetakis, Elizabeth Paldino, Torrey Rodriguez, Margo Brooks, Maria Provenzano and Thomas Losito. Missing: Keith Rodriguez and Nick Sala. For tickets call 718 885-3066 or email [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com).



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

**Health Care Issues**

The Affordable Care Act, the health care reform legislation passed in 2010, originally mandated health insurance coverage for everyone starting Jan. 1, 2014. But the law's complexity soon made it evident that the requirements would have to be revised. The first change was the one-year delay in the requirement that companies with 50 or more full-time employees provide "affordable, minimum essential coverage" to their employees.

When the Oct. 1 launch of the government website setting up an insurance marketplace for individuals proved to be a disaster, even more changes to the law were announced. Here's an overview of those changes.

Nov. 1: Insurance companies had cancelled a number of plans that did not meet the law's requirements for affordable, essential coverage. People who had these plans and were happy with them objected to losing their coverage. President Obama announced that states could allow a one-year extension of these plans. Insurance regulators in many states have refused to allow the extension.

Nov. 21: Originally the deadline for signing up for insurance to be effective on Jan. 1, 2014, was Dec. 15, 2013. On Nov. 21, it was announced that the deadline would be extended to Dec. 23, 2013.

Dec. 13: President Obama urged insurers to be flexible in dealing with those trying to buy coverage and allow people to sign up later in January 2014 for coverage retroactive to Jan. 1. Insurers were also asked to cover care by any doctor or hospital in January and to cover prescription refills in January regardless of policy restrictions. In response to these requests, the insurance industry said it would allow payment for Jan. 1st coverage as late as Jan. 10. (Some insurers extended the payment deadline to Jan. 31.)

Dec. 19: The government announced that individuals whose insurance policies were cancelled because they did not meet the ACA's requirements would be allowed to apply for hardship exemptions from the coverage mandate for 2014. Those qualifying for the hardship exemption may go without health insurance for 2014 without paying a fine or choose bare-bones "catastrophic" coverage. Catastrophic plans were originally intended for those under age 30. These plans usually have the lowest premiums and are not eligible for federal subsidies.

Dec. 23: As this deadline for buying coverage arrived, the deadline was moved again, by one day to Dec. 24.

The complexities of the Affordable Care Act remain, and it seems very likely that additional rule changes will be made as the law's provisions continue to roll out. We will make every effort to keep you informed about changes that could affect your tax situation.

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Photos by SANDRA BOER, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

The youthful sounds of Christmas could be joyously heard at Trinity United Methodist Church children's pageant on Dec. 15 (top left photo), the American Legion children's party on Dec. 22 (top right), and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church pageant on Dec. 22 (above, middle left and bottom left photos). Mrs. Claus even stopped by to help out Katherine Patterson and Lyla MacDonald at the Grace Church Fair on Dec. 14 (above, middle right photo). Not to be outdone, the adults raised their voices at the annual Ceremony of Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's on Dec. 22 (bottom photo above), led by organist Ken Farnum, and at Grace Episcopal Church's Epiphany concert by Sing We Enchanted on Jan. 5 (middle photo at left).

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## Recap

Continued from page 5

motorcycles during the summer, and the fact that, for the first time in years, the Island didn't have to fight City Hall about the loss of Ladder Company 53. The firehouse even got a new ladder truck (although it did disappear for several months as it underwent "maintenance" off the Island), and Schofield Street was named "Ed Sadler Way" in honor of one of the Island's most vocal defenders of the firehouse.

Also on our side in the firehouse issue, as well as the bridge, was Joe Lhota, Republican candidate for mayor, who visited us before the primaries (along with

Gristedes mogul John Catsimatidis) and surprised us all with the news that he was in fact a clam digger! No surprise was the visit of Anthony Weiner, who brought record press coverage to a Civic Association meeting. But of course all excitement dissipated quickly as Bill de Blasio swept the mayoral race and left Islanders trying to figure out the best way to bring City Island and its issues to his attention.

We were sad to see Lina Petite close down and startled to see federal marshals close the Lido, presumably for good this time. The fortune-telling shop near Bowne Street went away and is now the expanded physical therapy center. Nevertheless, empty storefronts and vacant properties along City Island Avenue continue to be eyesores, as does the property that used to be known as the Worm Bar. The Chamber and the Civic are launching new efforts to turn these around during the new year. And the security cameras that were promised several years ago may actually get installed before the summer.

Onward into 2014, mates!

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## HEALTH NOTES

By RICHARD B. CHERNAIK, M.D., P.C.

I recently read a so-called study that claimed that routine physical checkups are a waste of time and have no benefit. Really? The following could be done at such a checkup:

- Evaluation of risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and smoking. By controlling these, the patient can protect against heart attacks and strokes, which kill more than half of the population.
- Immunization for flu, pneumonia, shingles and tetanus.
- Screening for cancer of colon, lung, prostate and breast.
- Discussion of safety issues and the use of seatbelts, bicycle helmets for bikes; tips for preventing falls and avoiding or dealing with domestic violence.
- Evaluation of patient for destructive habits, such as smoking, drinking and illicit drug use.

In addition, a routine checkup will enable the patient to get advice from his or her doctor about navigating the complex and confusing health care system. Immunizations are very important in

childhood, when they are managed by pediatricians, but they are often neglected by adults. This is unfortunate, as vaccinations are important for adult health.

- Flu shot: 40 to 50,000 people die every year from the flu. In 1918, 50 million people died of pandemic flu. The side effects of the shot are minimal.
- Pneumonia vaccine: It is recommended for anyone over 65 and for people under 65 suffering a chronic illness. The vaccine is fairly effective and safe.
- Tdap: This vaccine is recommended every 10 years to prevent tetanus (lock jaw), diphtheria (rare but deadly) and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Shingles vaccine: This is 50 percent effective in preventing shingles and very effective in preventing dreaded neuralgia pain.

The above shots are important, have minimal side effects and should be a routine part of health maintenance.

Richard Chernaik, MD, PC, is a specialist in internal medicine who lives on City Island. His office is at 100 Elgar Place in the Bronx; he can be reached at 718-320-2188.

## Boat Show

Continued from page 7

than Hobie (which is more of a sailing dinghy than a sailboat), but the boys had fun building their boats nonetheless.

And one last first: I didn't have a single beer the whole show. This is the part where Bill Clancy Sr. rolls over in the grave. With a pregnant wife, three kids and a tight timeline, I just couldn't let it happen. On the bright side, I saw twice the number of exhibits. I wonder if no drinking and more exhibits somehow correlate? I'll have to go back to beer drinking next year and experiment with Budweiser's effect of my efficiency. As for this year, Sally McCheap would only have had to reject my parking

expenses. Dad used to try to get at least three rounds on that ticket as well.

So this was a show of firsts. The first time we ever visited a jewelry or shoe exhibit, the first time we ever saw an alligator-wrestling show, the first time we ever saw the engine room of a big inboard and the first time we were ever genuinely treated as prospective buyers. It's the first time I ever went to the Boat Show without my big brother Bill Jr. (but I forgive him; marriage, fatherhood and cat-ownership have been hard on him), and the first time I skipped the beer stand. It was also the first time I took my own kids to the show, the beginning, I hope, of another 40 years of family tradition! That's it until next year. See you on the water!

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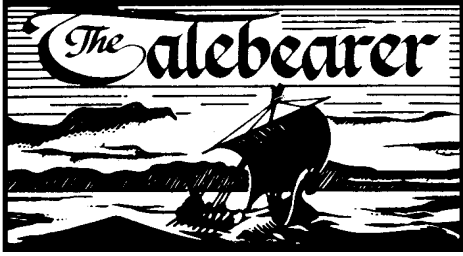
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Bravo to City Islander Jeremy Bacon who performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21. Jeremy has been a professional jazz pianist for over 25 years. He has played at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Blue Note and Birdland, along with special performances at Grace Church and Bistro SK on City Island. Jeremy accompanied jazz great Queen Esther, who has performed with guitar icon James "Blood" Ulmer internationally and is a featured vocalist on his album "No Escape from the Blues" (included in Rolling Stone's 50 Best Albums of 2003).

Johanna Paciullo sends congratulations to her four-year-old granddaughter, Emeline Fried, who recently performed in a dance recital in Chappaqua, NY.

Birthday wishes on Feb. 1 go out to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from her family and friends.

Happy Sweet 16 on Jan. 23 to my very sweet granddaughter, Francesca Strazzera, from Grandma Sue. Also, happy February birthday wishes to Victoria, Frank and Susannah Strazzera.

Happy 87th birthday wishes to Horton Street's Ducky Rauhauser on Feb. 23. He is looking forward to his birthday hot fudge sundae. Love, from the City Island gang—Karen, Paul, Mark, Eric and Lyla,



Emeline Fried

and from Roger, Leah and Turley too.

Happy birthday greetings to Bay Street's Lucy Zec, who will celebrate her big day on Feb. 26.

Congratulations to Mary Colby of Fe Fi Faux Studio and Gallery, and Islanders Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and Reina Mia Brill, who were all artists chosen for the Bronx Artists Documentary Project. Islander and Focal Point Gallery owner Ron Turner was also chosen as one of the photographers for the project.

One hundred birthday wishes to Anna Fuerst who recently celebrated her milestone with friends at the City Island Senior Center. Joining her in the celebration were Addie Cozzi, Barbara Henreckson, Betty Fierro, Terry Carmody and Doris Cerbone.

Maria Swieciki



The Island Current staff gathered to celebrate the 43rd year of publication with a party at the home of longtime contributor Barbara Dolensek on Jan. 19, 2014. Editor Karen Nani acknowledged the tremendous efforts of the advertising and business staff, Margaret Lenz, Johanna Paciullo and Judy Rauh, who keep The Current in the black when newspapers are struggling across the country. She also had the staff read "The Top Ten Reasons It's Great to Work for The Island Current," which included getting to work with the best group of volunteers in the world. Shown at the annual event are staff members and their guests (seated in front, l. to r.): Rose Kolb, Russell Schaller, Eileen Mazzaro, Maria Swieciki, Karen Nani and Cheryl Koller. Second row: Paula Huffell, Margaret Lenz, Barbara Dolensek, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Bette Heben, Cathy Mazzaro and Pete Natiw. Back row: Bruce Weis, Jane Protzman, Frank Koller, Mike Rauh, Mary Colby, Judy Rauh and Ed Heben. The staff is dedicated to keeping City Island residents (past and present) up to date for another year.



Photo courtesy of DAVITA DIALYSIS CENTER

In December, the City Island Community Center received an unexpected but very much appreciated gift of \$1,000 from the Davita Soundview Dialysis Center. Cross Street resident Elizabeth Sosa asked her broker, Robert Carmody, for advice on where to direct the gift, and he suggested the Center. The check was presented at a holiday ceremony (l. to r.): Maria Swieciki, Patty Grondhal, Sharon Talbot, Brenda Prohaska, Yadira Arce and Elizabeth Sosa.

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