

# The Island Current

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## New City Island Bridge Opens

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MATTIA PANZA

The new City Island Bridge officially opened on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, when hundreds of City Islanders attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony in spite of the rain. DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg gave a brief history of the bridge project, followed by elected officials State Senator Jeff Klein, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz, Assemblyman Mike Benedetto and Council Member Jimmy Vacca. Civic officer Barbara Dolensek thanked members of the community for their support in getting a design more appropriate for City Island and accepted one of the finials, which will be installed outside the City Island Nautical Museum.



In spite of the pouring rain, hundreds of City Islanders gathered at the south end of the new City Island Bridge at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, when various officials cut the ceremonial ribbon and proclaimed the bridge open to traffic.

Echoing the ceremony that took place on July 4, 1901, when the former City Island Bridge was opened to traffic by New York City officials, this long-awaited event attracted many Islanders who had been watching the years-long process since the year 2000, when the old bridge was condemned by the city of New York.

After the presentation of the color guard from the American Legion, Island tenor Freddie Lando sang the national anthem to cheers from the group, which also included representatives of the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and the bridge contractor, Tutor Perini. The DOT commissioner, Polly Trottenberg, representing the mayor, opened with a brief description of the bridge's history, in which the community had played a major role in changing the proposed cable-stayed design to one more in keeping with City Island's character.

Ms. Trottenberg then introduced several elected officials who had helped the community succeed in its efforts: State

Senator Jeff Klein, who enabled the Civic Association to file a lawsuit against the city in 2014 to delay the project into the De Blasio administration; Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz; Assemblyman Mike Benedetto, Council Member Jimmy Vacca and Ali Caddick, executive vice president of Tutor Perini, which provided breakfast for all, as well as keychains commemorating the event. Civic Association officer Barbara Dolensek then thanked Islanders for their support of the project, along with the Chamber of Commerce, the elected officials and representatives of DOT, especially Ms. Trottenberg, Joannene Kidder and Bob Collyer.

Although many on City Island still deeply regret the loss of the old bridge, the new bridge offers something of a victory for the community in its battle to change the 176-high cable-stayed bridge design imposed on the project by Mayor Bloomberg and his administration.

In spite of community objections, which were expressed over a decade ago, DOT refused to waver on its decision, and early in 2013 awarded the construction contract to Tutor Perini, who estimated that a temporary bridge would be completed within a year and the old bridge demolished soon after. However, a staff member in the Borough President's office discovered that a specific permit had not been applied for by DOT, and thanks to the Civic Association lawsuit filed in November 2014, the construction process was delayed until the permit could be granted.

By that time, New York City had elected the new mayor, Bill de Blasio, who was immediately informed of the bridge issue by Council Member Vacca and Senator Jeff Klein and who quickly appointed Polly Trottenberg as the new DOT commissioner. Because she had grown up in Pelham, she was well aware of City Island's small-town atmosphere. In March, she contacted representatives of the Civic Association and reported that she and her department were working with Tutor Perini to revise the cable-stayed design for a more suitable bridge, a causeway style that was approved a few weeks later.



Although the new bridge design was supposed to be somewhat less expensive than the cable-stayed version, which was contracted for at about \$105 million, weather and other issues delayed the completion date of the project by more than a year. The temporary bridge suffered damage in September 2015 and did not open until December, when the old bridge was closed to traffic with a ceremony not unlike the one that took place on Oct. 29, when pedestrians were allowed to walk across the new bridge, admire the wider lanes and handsome streetlights. Present at the ceremony were old-timers Jackie Kall and Buddy Pontecorvo, who at 93 was one of the first to cross the new bridge, followed by the Chamber of Commerce Land Ferry.

Shortly before the bridge was officially opened to regular traffic, Ms. Trottenberg presented one of the finials from the old bridge to Barbara Dolensek as administrator of the City Island Nautical Museum, where the finial will be installed in front of the building at 190 Fordham Street. The Welcome to City Island sign will also

be turned over to the museum, which will work with Dan Treiber at 239 City Island Avenue to display the sign outside his shop for everyone to see.

Although the rain became more intense as the event continued, few were eager to leave, especially the many photographers and videographers who captured on film the children, dogs and happy Island residents making their way back and forth across what is now officially the City Island Bridge.

The next step in the bridge project is the installation of the new American Legion Memorial Triangle, which is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year and which will require the closing of Bridge Street until it is finished. Although the northbound bicycle and pedestrian lanes are now open, the southbound lanes will be delayed until they are completed as the temporary bridge is dismantled. Those biking or walking to the Island will be asked to use the lane on the temporary bridge for at least two weeks or until further notice.

**BRIEFLY...**

**BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE** will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 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. Refreshments, including pizza, will be provided. Please come and give the gift of life.

**P.S. 175 ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER:** Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fun, food, prizes, baked goods. Take some chances for the raffles donated to the P.T.A by business owners and families of City Island. Make your vote count and help the school at the same time!

**A PREVIEW OF "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE"** will be presented at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m. Members of the cast from the City Island Theater Group's fall production of Arthur Miller's play will present a scene followed by a short discussion, as well as light refreshments. Admission will be free.

**HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLS,** Sat. Nov. 25, Hawkins Park, 7:45 p.m. Sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

**THE REAL DIRT ON COMPOSTING:** At the Dec. 4 meeting of the Garden Club of City Island, representatives of the NYC Composting Program will explain how composting works. Learn how your kitchen scraps and garden trimmings become "black gold." The presentation is open to anyone interested in learning more about the program: why and how it works and how to participate. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on the west end of Pilot Street. Parking is limited so please arrive early and be prepared to park on City Island Avenue if necessary.

**"A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE"** by Arthur Miller will be presented by the City Island Theater Group over two weekends in November. Evening performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10; Saturday, Nov. 11; Friday, Nov. 17, and Saturday, Nov. 18. Matinee performances will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, and Sunday, Nov. 19. All shows will be in Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com). Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com).

**MILITARY MUSICAL COMEDY SALUTE TO VETERANS DAY** will be presented by the Manor Club Drama Section on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy songs such as "You're in the Army, Mr. Jones," "I'll Be Seeing You" and more. RSVP by calling 914-738-1528 or e-mail [www.themanorclubofpelham.org](http://www.themanorclubofpelham.org). The club is located at 1023 Esplanade in Pelham.

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**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September and October 2017. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – DOA
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – VEHICULAR ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Sept. 20 to Oct. 18:

9/22 – Members of a movie production crew told police that equipment had been removed from one of their vehicles without permission on Minneford Avenue and Cross Street at 7 p.m.

9/22 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 28, and charged him with criminal mischief at 5:57 a.m. The defendant allegedly broke the window of the vehicle of an Island male on Beach

Street.

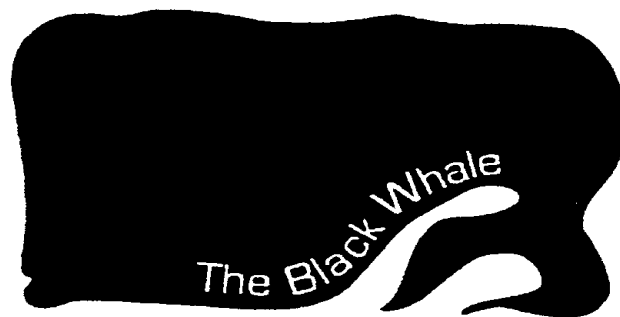
9/24 – At 7 p.m., an Island female reported that her parked vehicle on Fordham Street had been struck and damaged by an unknown vehicle that fled the scene.

9/25 – A male Islander, 46, was arrested at 4 a.m. on City Island Avenue between Bowne and Ditmars Streets and charged with DWI.

10/1 – An off-Island male, 67, was arrested and charged with vehicular assault at 5 p.m. on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street. The defendant's vehicle collided with a motorcycle and the operator suffered a broken leg.

10/12 – An Island female reported an incident of harassment on City Island Avenue. The complainant alleged that two unknown persons kicked her front door and yelled profanities.

10/16 – On Hawkins Street at 12:31 p.m., police and EMS workers pronounced an Island male, 45, dead at the scene. A spokesperson for the 45th Precinct could not confirm the cause but said that police on the scene did not report any suspicious cause of death. Detectives conducted a routine canvass of neighbors on Hawkins Street following the discovery of the deceased.



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# Chamber of Commerce Honors Islanders and James Vacca

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its 107th dinner dance on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Pelham / Split Rock Golf Course in Pelham Bay Park, and several Island businesses will be honored for their contributions to the community.

Three businesses will receive the Catherine Scott Achievement award for 20 or more years in business: JJ Burck Hardware and Marine, the City Island Diner, and the Starving Artist Gallery.

Joe Burck, who has lived on City Island his entire life, attended P.S. 17 and Mount Saint Michael High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and received an honorable discharge as a GM1. Joe was married to the late Frances Henning, and they raised two children: Teresa Riordan and Joseph Jr. And he now has three grandchildren. Joe's father started Burck's Boat Store in 1928, and it is still in the family, being managed by Joe and his son. They have a huge inventory and sell to customers all over the world. Until he retired, Joe was the Supervising Dockmaster for the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. He serves as head usher at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, is a member of the American Legion Post #156 and is a Catholic War Veteran.

When the City Island Diner became

available 20 years ago, Susan McGowan Hayes and Donna McGowan decided to give it a go. At that time, they had five children between them, ages 1 through 7, but with the help of families, friends and an amazing, loyal staff, it has been a great ride so far. Their children have grown up in the business and been an important part of the Diner's success. The Diner has been very good to the family, thanks to the patronage of loyal customers. Susan and Donna find it extremely rewarding to know that they work hard every day to provide the community with a charming meeting, greeting and eating place on the Island that they call home. The McGowan and Hayes families are grateful to the City Island community for its friendship and support, and they look forward to serving breakfast, lunch and dinner for many years to come.

In May 1997, encouraged by the artists he met in the community, Elliott Glick opened the Starving Artist Gallery on City Island, where he featured his own handmade jewelry and the work of local artisans. In February 2004, he decided that musical artists also needed a venue, and as a singer-songwriter himself, he wanted to provide a space for that art form, so he moved Starving Artist a block down the street to a space where he could have more room for tables and chairs and for these



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

## City Island Diner

musicians and songwriters. Since that 2004 opening, there have been hundreds of performances by songwriters, blues, jazz and funk performers, as well as special evenings and young musicians' nights. Starving Artist has become a gathering place for musicians living in the community, and a space where Elliott teaches guitar to over 50 students and holds jewelry-making classes.

Monica Glick has accompanied her husband on the Starving Artist's journey these past two decades, handling promotion, including the location's website and Facebook page, helping to manage staff and to schedule acts. She's even taken the stage with her music-artist spouse. Outside the Artist, Monica continues her three-decade career as communications director for the Pope's mission societies at the U.S. national office of the Pontifical Mission Societies (MISSIO). Monica is also active in St. Mary, Star of the Sea-Our Lady of the Assumption parish on City Island as lector and eucharistic minister and as a religious education teacher (seventh grade).

The Tom Ceretta Community Service Award will be presented to Council Member James Vacca, who has represented Council District 13 for 12 years. James, known by many as Jimmy, is a life-long Bronxite, born and raised in Pelham Bay. He took to activism early in life, organizing demonstrations against the MTA for increased bus service and fighting for the preservation of the North East Bronx Senior Center as a teenager. After a stint in the Peace Corps, he began his government service as a community liaison in the Office of the Bronx Borough President. Looking to do more for his local community, Jimmy then became District Manager for Community Board 10, where he spent 26 years fighting for his neighborhood. Whether it was overdevelopment, quality-of-life issues or crime, Jimmy Vacca was a fixture in finding a solution. In 2005 he ran for City Council and won what would be the first of three terms in office. As Council Member, he has crafted and passed landmark legislation in the fields of transportation, civil rights, building safety and open data. He has also remained stalwart in advocating for his community, continuing to fight better services, more resources and programing for his constituents. At the end of this year, Council Member Vacca will leave office because of term limits, but he intends to continue in public service.

The Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award will be given to Captain Chris Cullen of the *Island Current* Fleet. Chris grew up in Edgewater Park, Throggs Neck, along the waters of the western Long Island Sound, and he fished day and night throughout his childhood. When he was in eighth grade, he worked as a mate aboard the *North Star II* under the tutelage of Captain Pete Anderson, and this hands-on experience allowed him to gain knowledge of navigation, fishing, and mechanics. Chris worked throughout his college years on board the boat and graduated Iona College in 1995. He went on to complete his master's degree in elementary science in 1997. In May 2000, as Captain Chris, he started the *Island Current* Fleet, which now operates three U.S. Coast Guard-certified vessels. These are all diesel-powered fiberglass vessels, capable of carrying 6 to 131 passengers.



Elliott Glick and the Starving Artist Gallery and Café.

The fleet provides daily daytime and night open-boat trips to the general public, private fishing charters, sightseeing and NYC cruises down to the Statue of Liberty. Chris now lives in Connecticut with his wife, Peggy, and their five children. He teaches third grade in Irvington, NY, and his 23-year teaching career continues to push his thinking and to motivate his students to think outside the box and to be prepared for the 21st century.

The Community Service Award will be presented to the Masonic Temple on City Island. Freemasonry (also called Masonry) is the world's first and largest fraternity, based on the belief that each man can make a difference in the world. Freemasonry enhances and strengthens the character of the individual by providing opportunities for fellowship, charity and education. The first lodge in what is now the Bronx was organized in 1796, when the Westchester Lodge was established; eleven more lodges were chartered in the area between 1852 and 1918. After the formation of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1781, lodges were arranged in districts. In 1898, when the State of New York completed its incorporation of counties, Bronx County was formed.

The Masters and Past Masters' Association was established to provide a forum for district concerns, to provide for Masonic relief to the Brothers of the district and their widows and orphans, to promote the spirit and unity in the district, and to undertake charitable endeavors. Since 1918 the Brothers of the Bronx have made the pursuit of charity one of the most important Masonic endeavors. In the early years, funds were raised for the purpose of welfare relief for Brothers and their families, but eventually, with the introduction of medical and life insurance, the organization's efforts were redirected to organizing and supporting local charities to provide economic relief and social programs for Bronx residents; these include such organizations as Calvary Hospital, Trinity United Methodist Church, Grace Church, the City Island Community Center, and various Boy and Girl Scout troops. The Masons also organize four blood banks during the year, clothing and food drives for residents of the South Bronx, and three to four Child ID programs at Bronx schools.

Masonic lodges have met in numerous places throughout the Bronx, from private homes to buildings designed for use as Masonic halls, or temples. The oldest of the seven temples in the Bronx is the former mercantile building on City Island at Schofield Street, which is owned by the Pelham Lodge.

Other awards will be presented to new businesses, honoring Andrew McGuire of the City Island Laundromat, the architect Robert A. King, and the attorney Teddy Pryor.

Reservations to the dinner dance can be made by calling 718-885-9100. Tickets are \$85 per person; cocktails will be served at 7 p.m. and the dinner at 8:30 after the presentation of awards.

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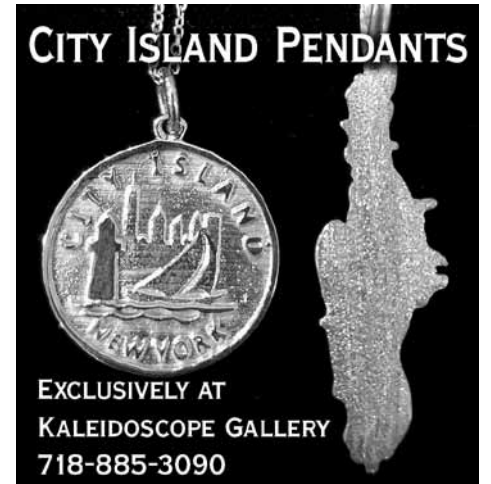
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Photo by RON TERNER

Family and friends held a fundraiser softball game on Oct. 7, 2017 in memory of Islanders Dan Barry and Robert Vivolo at Ambrosini Field. Organized by Paul Saulnier and Timmy Byrnes with help from City Island businesses, the friendly competition raised over \$2,500 which was donated to the City Island Little League.



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

**More About CI Rocks**

To the Editor:

We are delighted to report that City Island Rocks is now an annual event. Thanks to all the fans, dancers, sponsors and volunteers, and a shout out to Andy Giordano for literally helping me cross the street, hanging signs, carrying my chair and just about everything I could not do at the time. Most important were all the musicians who played for a reduced rate and gave us the great shows.

Sunday, Sept. 17, was the show of the season and one of the best, thanks to Christina and Lance of Stomp Society, a seven-piece swing band that really had the joint jumping and jiving with songs from the '30s through the '50s. If you want to see them live, call Portofino Restaurant on City Island and ask Mario for the next date when they will perform. That Saturday we also had the park debut of John Eric Valenti on keyboards/vocals, and his mother, Jeanie, who sang a Carole King song, perhaps the best moment of the day. After John was Reckless Jester playing all the songs from the 60s to the present with some great Beatles stuff and Top 40 hits. All in all, a great summer of live music!

Last but not least: Thanks to Filomena's Pizza and Augie's Pizza and Deli for donating more than enough pizza for crowd and band. We are also grateful to Louise and Skip Giacco of Lickety Split for donating the electricity to power up the amplifiers and to the following sponsors, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, the Snug, the Diner, Ted Pryor and Fran McGuire of McGuire/Sena Real Estate.

See you next year at Hawkins Park and in June at the 2018 City Island Reunion. Volunteers, please call 718-885-0088 or just come on in to the office at 300 City Island Avenue.

**Bob Carmody**

**Overdose Treatment Training**

To the Editor:

Earlier this year, the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship group asked for ideas on how they could help the community with its drug problems. My friend Doreen Wall, a nurse who lives on City Island, stepped up and recommended training in the use of Narcan, the first and only FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. She is independently certified to give trainings and to administer Narcan, and in August she hosted a training session with the support of Gilder group, as well as Staten Island Hospital Northwell Health. She hosted another session on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Community Center.

Attendance has been pretty good at these sessions, and community response has been great. Doreen, who is working with Chris Hennessy on the program, is currently planning to host more sessions in November and December, and into 2018. Watch Facebook and other forms of social media for dates.

As we all know, the drug situation has hit home on City Island, and while a lot of people are saying "we have to do something," Doreen is actually doing it. So far, all training sessions have been publicized by word of mouth, and it would be really great if everyone could help spread the word.

**Ann-Marie Goonan**

**Thanks to Karl**

To the Editor:

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude towards Karl at Buddy's Hardware for supplying me with all the materials I needed to complete my Star Scout Project. Because of his gracious donation, I was able to complete my project and earn the rank of Star Scout.

**Brandon McGaughan**

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
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All children 2-12 years of age are welcome to join in lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, at 10 AM.

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Photos by MATTIA PANZA

A successful and spooky collaboration between Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the City Island Theater Group turned the mansion into a haunted house on Oct. 27 and 28, 2017. Costumed performers, directed by designer Joe Burck (above left) acted as guides and ghouls through the immersive experience that was a real thriller for those who attended.

# Maria Caruso and James Vacca Honored

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and courtesy of the BRONX BP'S OFFICE

Maria Caruso and Jimmy Vacca at the Italian Heritage Month celebration (photo above), and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. presenting a citation to Maria.



Island resident Maria Caruso and Council Member James Vacca were honored by Rubén Díaz, the Bronx Borough President, at a celebration of Italian-American Heritage Month, on Columbus Day, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017.

After a festive dinner in Schiff Hall at the Bronx Zoo, the program included a musical presentation by Francesco Castiglione and a series of proclamations and citations from the Borough President.

Maria was honored as Director of Tourism for the City Island Chamber of Commerce and in turn honored her family as she accepted the citation. She was born in East Harlem to first-generation Italian-American parents. Her paternal grandparents, the Carusos, had emigrated from Naples in 1900, and her mother's parents came from Sicily in 1920. When Maria was two years old, her parents moved to the Bronx, where she spent most of her adult life until she moved to Queens for few years when she married her French husband, Stephane Kane. In 2010, the couple made their way back to the Bronx and moved to City Island, where they established Bistro SK, which is still the only French Restaurant

in the Bronx!

Being a restaurant owner, however, is secondary to Maria's real career and passion as a luxury travel consultant, and for the past 36 years, she has owned and operated her own business as a travel agent. She has planned many vacations throughout the world for her clients, and though she has visited many beautiful places, Maria is happy to report that Italy is her #1 destination, for both her clients and herself. It was a natural fit for Maria to join the Board of the City Island Chamber of Commerce as Director of Tourism. She now educates her worldwide friends and colleagues about her second favorite destination in the world—City Island, the Bronx!

Council Member Jimmy Vacca was also honored at the event and is being honored again in November by the City Island Chamber of Commerce which will present him with the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award at its annual dinner dance on Saturday, Nov. 18 (see page 3).

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Photo courtesy of REGINA SANGLIER

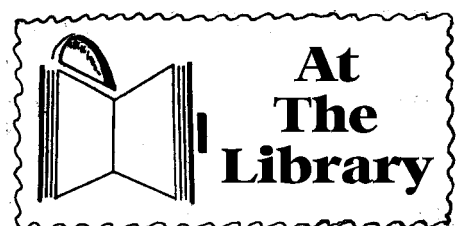
This array of artworks produced by Island artist Regina Sanglier feature City Island themes.



**Atlantic Emeritus Realty** (300 City Island Avenue) announces that three new agents will join the team in November. They are currently serving as assistants in the office and are now taking the required 75-hour real estate course. One is a current resident of the Island, another is a former Islander who is planning to move back here, and the third is a resident of lower Westchester with family ties to City Island. Stop by and ask about our commission policy, which is to donate a percentage of our share of each commission on the sale of all exclusive listings to a local group or organization.

**Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue) was opened in September by Mary Jo Byrne, Patrice Cashen and Joanne Rooney to provide state-of-the-art laser-based skin care treatments to residents of the Island and surrounding communities. Kristin and Emerald are two highly qualified certified aestheticians, who provide clients with a specialized treatment plan regarding hair removal, acne, age spots, rosacea, fungal nails and facial veins. Microdermabrasion, body contouring and skin tightening are other treatments offered. For a full list of their offerings, visit [www.complexionsci.com](http://www.complexionsci.com) or call 718-885-0188 for more information.

Island artist **Regina Sanglier** will hold an open house on Nov. 4 at 293 Paulis Place on City Island to display her work, which combine local artifacts, photography exclusive to City Island and calligraphy in a unique blend of natural materials and craftsmanship. She currently teaches lettering crafts at the PSS Senior Center and is a seasonal employee at Larchmont nurseries. Her handcrafted greeting cards are available at several Island shops.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY  
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Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Lego League:** Bring your imagination and join us for fun with Legos!

Blocks of various sizes will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5 through 11. A limit of 10 children with their caregivers. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Bilingual Birdies:** This fall, families will explore the harvest with us while we take them on a Birdie Adventure to collect fruits, ride a bicycle and visit a farm! Families will learn new vocabulary words and partake in a truly cultural bonding experience. Every Monday at 11 a.m.

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

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

**It's Bin Fun!:** Toddlers and preschoolers can play and explore our various sensory bins that will encourage curiosity through touch, sight and sound! Parent and child participation required. Ages 2 through 4. Every Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, Nov. 17, at 11:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Storytelling Through Art Workshop:** In this workshop, teens and tweens will prepare a selected story under the guidance of storyteller-puppeteer Nicola McEldowney. We will then make all the necessary items (characters, props, etc.) to put that story "onstage." Workshop will culminate in an informal story performance; all materials will be provided. Monday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m.

**Creative Carnival:** Step right up to this interactive event, where you'll learn how to build popular rides and games out of Lego bricks! You'll also learn to "power up" your creations with Lego Power Functions. Each workshop is 90 minutes long. Wednesdays, Nov. 1 and 8, at 3 p.m.

**After School Lounge:** Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** On Fridays at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Nov. 3: Wii and Board Games; Nov. 17: Roll up Art; Nov.

24: Wii and Board Games.

**NOVEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Men's Health:** Learn about common health risks, screenings and healthy lifestyle tips. Presented by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield. Thursday, Nov. 9, at 4 p.m.

**City Island Scrabble Club:** If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursdays, Nov. 9 and 30, at 1 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Nov. 13, at 5 p.m.

**The Island Writers:** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Regardless of experience level, we're here to help each other become great writers. All are welcome, so come check us out! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

**One-on-One:** Computer Training: Stop by or call to make an appointment for one hour of instruction that focuses on

your questions and interests.

**Résumé Workshop:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Wednesdays, Nov. 8 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Thursday Writing Club:** Research is our theme for the month of November. Creative imagination gets our writing started, but at a certain point, we realize we need to know more about a specific aspect of our story: "How do I cut a big block of ice?" "How many pizzerias are in the Bronx?" "Who was Secretary of State when grandfather came to the USA?" The proper research techniques can help us answer these necessary questions. No registration required, all are welcome. Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies** at 1 p.m.: Nov. 4: "The Sense of An Ending"; Nov. 18: "Everything, Everything"; Nov. 25: "Kong-Skull Island"

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



A new skin salon, Complexions, opened on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street. The new business was started by Patrice Cashen, Joanne Rooney, Mary Jo Byrne and two certified aestheticians.

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# Arlene Byrne: At the Helm of St. Mary's Thrift Shop

By BILL STUTTIG

St. Mary's Thrift Shop in the basement of the rectory began in 1981 as an idea to make a few extra dollars for the parish. The shop quickly blossomed and has continued for more than 37 years, with Arlene Byrne in charge of that effort since the beginning.

Arlene told *The Current* that the shop began operating under herself and Patty Grondahl in June of 1981 after they noted the success that the other two churches on City Island were having with their thrift shops. It has been a passion of hers and a financial boost for the parish ever since.

"We have had wonderful success," she says. "For me it has been wonderful. I have met so many people over the years. I feel that we perform a good function for the community. There are a lot of people here that are in need and they come in and we help them."

All the items that are sold in the Thrift Shop are donated by Island residents and others. Business is booming, Arlene reports, so much so that the shop is able to give many of the excess items to another church in the Bronx to help them financially. "The people are so generous, and we would not have the success that we have had without their generosity," she says.

"Donated items have to be clean and usable, and we try not to take obsolete items like old electronics," she explains. "But we find that someone is always happy with something that they can get for \$20. Very little of what we receive gets thrown out."

Clothes make up most of the donations, but the variety of items available at the shop vary greatly, from art to kitchen gadgets, books to sports memorabilia. "We have a menu for standard items, such as \$6 for coats and jackets and \$1.25 for articles of clothing. Sometimes we get designer clothes. I wish I could say that I know the

value of everything, but I have to call for help. We have volunteers here who are very good. They know the value of art and other items."

She reports that "the most expensive item the thrift shop ever sold was an antique roll-top desk that we sold for \$1,200. Even after that, people said we sold it for too little. I know we have had items that people buy here for \$5 and turn around and sell it for \$400, but we do the best we can. We had an expensive Persian coat that was donated by my mother-in-law. It sat here for three years. One day a woman came in, tried it on and said 'This is my coat.' We sold it for \$100."

"We have had very few bad experiences," she recalls. "One day two men started arguing over an item. I told them to stop and leave and never come back and they didn't. My favorite memory is of one woman who came in looking for a dress to wear to her daughter's wedding on Sunday. I said to her 'Hello, it is Thursday, but I think I have just the dress for you.' She tried it on and said this is the dress. She wore it to the wedding and shared pictures with us. We were delighted. These are the little things that make us happy."

She says the most important thing is that the Thrift Shop helps the church financially. She remembers earlier pastors who really understood the value of the Thrift Shop and what it meant to the church and the community.

"Father [John] Scanlon would come down here and ask me kiddingly 'Arlene, what are you doing down here?' but he really appreciated the value of it—not just financially but the social value as well. Father Michael [Challinor] was also a big supporter. He would say to me 'Do you have any idea what you are doing for these people. This is important.'"

on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to get fit and learn about the history of your own backyard at the same time. Co-op City resident, and fitness enthusiast Amelia Zaino and Friends of Pelham Bay Park member Barbara Burn Dolensek will lead a fun, casual walk along the restored Hutchinson River Greenway to the mansion, where refreshments and house tours await. Then enjoy a return walk back to Co-op City. The total distance is approximately 5K. Rain or shine. Meet at the entrance to the Hutchinson River Greenway on Bartow Avenue and the Hutchinson River Parkway overpass, near 2100 Bartow Avenue in Bay Plaza. Registration requested. Cost: Free.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. take a stroll down memory lane and experience the Bronx of yesteryear with historian Steve Samtur during a nostalgic and entertaining talk that includes about 500 photos of the Bronx the way it was back in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. Cost: BPMM Members Free; Not-Yet Members \$10.

Bartow's Literary Elevesens, an historical fiction book club led by Museum Guides Laura DeRiggi and Caitlyn Sellar, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Contact BPMM for the current book being explored. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration requested. Cost: Free.

Beyond the Oak Tree Treaty—Part IV "Taino Zen—Poetry from the South Bronx Reservation" will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, join our second Treaty program of the month with acclaimed multicultural motivational speaker, storyteller, and poet Bobby González. Born and raised in the South Bronx, Bobby grew up in a bicultural environment and draws on his Taino and Puerto Rican roots to offer a



Photo by BILL STUTTIG

The volunteer spirit is alive and well at the St. Mary Thrift Shop. Arlene Byrne has been in charge since the shop opened in the basement of the rectory in 1981. Shown above are some of the dedicated volunteers who have helped keep the shop open for more than 37 years (l. to r.): Virginia Ferrara, Arlene Byrne, Deborah Erickson and Sister Bernadette Hannaway.

The current administration of St. Mary, Star of the Sea also greatly appreciates what Arlene and the rest of the volunteers contribute to the church and the community in general. Father Augustus Onwubiko, who presides over most of St. Mary's functions now under the existing partnership with Our Lady of the Assumption Church, believes that the financial benefit of the shop in secondary to the more Christian functions the shop provides, such as finding and providing free, needed items for low-income people in the community and elsewhere, and by providing a social outlet for the volunteers and the dozens if not hundreds who come to the shop on a regular basis.

"There is a social side to it," Arlene says. "I make tea for the customers. We have visits from nursing homes and special needs schools, and we provide for them."

A grandmother and great-grandmother, Arlene Byrne has been living on City Island since she was 16 years old. She has been married for 59 years and says that she and her husband, John, look forward to celebrating their 60th anniversary with the entire family next year.

"At one time I did try to retire," she recalls, "and they said you can't retire because there is no one to take your place."

You heat and electrify this place so you absolutely are not allowed to retire. I toy with the idea of cutting back—maybe in a few years. It is the physical part that is tough," she says.

Aside from the hours that the shop is open, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays, there is the job of moving, sorting and preparing all the donated merchandise for display. "We devote many, many hours to the Thrift Shop even when it isn't open. I love it. It keeps me sane. The crew of volunteers is so wonderful—30 volunteers doing all sorts of jobs. I love them. They go away on vacation, and the first thing I hear after they get back is 'Didn't you do anything while I was away?'"

St. Mary's Thrift Shop volunteers are Jean Anderson, Mary Arena, Evelyn Berardo, Rose Booth, Betty Carman, Mary Carman, Marlene Cioffi, Nancy Clancy, Ann Cox, Rosette Dietz, Deborah Erickson, Margaret Fennel, Virginia Ferrara, Julia Gleeson, Maureen Grogan, Patty Grondahl, Sister Bernadette Hannaway, Marie Hauptner, Barbara Hoffman, Teri Kurtz, Ethel Lott, Gigi Lyons, Netta McDaniel, Vivi McGuire, Helen Michaels, Susan Strazzera, Frankie Torres, Maria Torres, Barbara Whelan and Rosetta Woods.



## Bartow-Pell Events

First Friday will be celebrated on Nov. 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with music by City Island's own Skip Giacco and his Jazz Quartet. Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

While you are at the mansion, be sure to see the new exhibition: "The 'Quiet Circle': Women and Girls in 19th-Century America." What was it like to be female in 19th-century America? Explore the diverse lives of women and girls—from household servants to society ladies—through artwork, clothing, books, decorative arts, domestic items, and more.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. enjoy Beyond the Oak Tree Treaty—Part III, a Native American fashion and pop-up exhibition. Melissa Oakes, known as Lako:wihe'ne, will display her couture pieces inspired by contemporary living and fashion infused with First-Nation flare alongside traditional Mohawk regalia. She will discuss her designs and historical preservation techniques of Mohawk traditional Native American attire. Cost: Free with museum admission.

Join the Bartow to Bartow Challenge

Continued on page 9

## Friends of St. Francis



Photos by MATTIA PANZA

Dreary skies didn't dampen the enthusiasm of pets eager to receive their annual blessing from Deacon Bill Mueller in St. Mary's schoolyard on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017. The prayer service, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, concluded with pets lining up to receive an individual blessing and pat on the head from Deacon Mueller.



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# 100 AND STILL COUNTING

By KAREN NANI



A centenarian lives on Bay Street! Leo DeCristofaro was born in 1917 and marked his 100th birthday on Sept. 24, 2017 with family and friends at several celebrations around the Island.

He has lived on City Island since 1964, but Leo's story began elsewhere in the Bronx. According to his daughter Joanie Mellusi, he was the oldest of three children born to Silvio and Anna DeCristofaro, immigrants from Italy who settled in the Gun Hill Road section of the borough. Leo and his family were active parishioners at their neighborhood church, Immaculate Conception, where Leo was an altar server and a member of the Youth Club.

His life changed when he attended Evander Childs High School and learned how to type, a valuable skill that came in handy after he enlisted in the Army before the start of World War II. He was assigned to telecommunications at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and eventually transferred to the naval station in Bermuda.

Leo left the Army in 1945 and returned to the Bronx where he met Assunta (Tina)



Madalena at a church dance. They were married in 1949, continued to live near Immaculate Conception church, and had three children, Anne Marie, Joanie and Bob.



Photos by MATTIA PANZA

Islander Leo DeCristofaro received a special blessing at St. Mary, Star of the Sea church, on his 100th birthday on Sept. 24, 2017. He was joined by his family at the service (top photo, l. to r.): Vinny Mellusi, Bill Gerhard, Rev. John Knapp, Anne Marie Gerhard, Mr. DeCristofaro, Gina Mellusi, Joanie Mellusi, Anthony Vadala, Gianna Vadala and Carla Vadala. A lifelong Yankees fan and a veteran, Mr. Cristofaro also received happy birthday wishes at Yankee Stadium (photos left).

As fate would have it, Dom Madalena, Leo's father-in-law, was a builder and was constructing brick houses on Bay and Tier Streets. Once they were complete, the DeCristofaro family moved into one of the homes on Bay Street and began a new chapter on City Island.

Although he continued to attend services at Immaculate Conception, Leo's family eventually became members of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church and all three children attended St. Mary's school. Meanwhile, Leo worked in Accounts Payable at Montefiore Hospital on 210th Street in the Bronx.

He retired from Montefiore in 1987, but at the age of 70 started a new career at his nephew's jewelry store in Tarrytown. He worked as a bookkeeper in the back office of Harnik Brothers Jewelers until 2014, when he retired at the age of 96!

His extended career and healthy lifestyle seem to be the key to Leo's longevity.

"He is still sharp, but a little hard of hearing," his daughter told *The Current*. "He eats healthy, vegetables and fruits, and has his glass of red wine every night. He also walked a lot and had many hobbies."

A lifelong Yankees fan, Leo was recognized on the scoreboard at the stadium during a September game and then received a special blessing at St. Mary's on Sept. 24 (see photos). The celebration of his birthday continued at the American Legion post with his children, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Leo is a past president of the AARP chapter that met at Trinity Church for many years, and he continues to attend church at St. Mary's.

Islanders wish Leo many more happy birthdays (and better Yankee seasons)! If readers know of other centenarians on City Island, please send their names and photos to *The Current*. It's a milestone worth recognizing.

## Bartow-Pell Events

*Continued from page 7*

unique repertoire of discourses, readings, and performances that celebrates his indigenous heritage. His most recent publication, "Taino Zen," is a unique volume of meditative verses that deliver a reflective message urging all people to reconnect to their cultural origins. Cost: Free with museum admission (\$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students, free for children under age 6).

On Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Michael Spierman, Artistic Director of the Bronx Opera Company, is putting together a wonderful program featuring three members of the company accompanied by solo piano. Cost: BPMM Heritage Members and above: \$10; Not-Yet BPMM Heritage Members: \$20.

Holiday First Friday! will be on Dec. 1, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Experience the mansion decked out for the holidays and

enjoy the mellifluous and merry sounds of the a cappella MetropoliTones—back by popular demand—from 6 to 8 p.m. Holiday shopping and refreshments add to the fun. The free Bronx Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

Holiday Family Day complete with Santa, crafts, and a magic show, will be on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate the spirit of the holidays! Explore the 19th-century mansion decorated for the season and enjoy hot cocoa and crafts, shop for unique gifts, and meet Santa in a historic setting (professional photos with Santa available for an additional fee)! Space is limited. Registration requested. Cost: \$20 children one year and up; BPMM member children \$15 (children under one year and adults free when accompanied by a child).



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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

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 7, **Election Day**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat., Nov. 18, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, 7 to 11 p.m., Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

#### Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs., Nov. 23, **Community-wide Thanksgiving dinner** at Trinity Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street. Free and open to all from 12 to 3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 25, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7:45 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Nov. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

Tues., Nov. 28, **Bronx Masons Blood Drive**, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

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

#### DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 1, and Sat., Dec. 2, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 2 to 6 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Sat., Dec. 2, and Sun., Dec. 3, **St. Mary's Christmas Fair**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop.

Sat., Dec. 9, **Grace Church Holiday Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Tues. Dec. 12, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m.

#### City Island Indivisible

Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, voter rights, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. Become active in our democratic process and be sure to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7. If you are not registered, you can register to vote online through the NY DMV. Visit the MyDMV website, and sign in or create an account. You can then register to vote by clicking "Electronic Voter Registration Application."

Our next meetings will be on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. For more information, visit our Facebook page, City Island Indivisible.

**Barbara Zahm**

#### American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m. after the Legion Family Veterans Breakfast sponsored by Leonard H. Hawkins Legion Auxiliary Unit 156. Dues are past due; they are \$55 (incorrectly reported in a prior issue). Please drop the dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

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

help fund projects around the Post. Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion for all that they do to assist in our success.

The turkey raffle chance books will be hitting mailboxes soon. Proceeds go toward gifts for our service members from City Island.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the flag pole.

Thanks to John McGowan, who installed our new mailbox next to our new door.

The following are dates and upcoming events. Nov. 5: Veterans Breakfast, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Post. There will also be a Quilt of Valor ceremony for Bill McGee at 10:30 a.m.; Nov. 5: Regular Post Meeting at 2 p.m.; Nov. 10: NY County National Commander Visitation, 6:30 p.m. at the Golden Unicorn, 19 East Broadway, \$50 per person; see Joe Goonan; Nov. 10: SAL, Executive Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Morris Yacht Club; \$40 per person; see Peter Booth; Nov. 11: Pelham Grove (Winged Victory Monument) Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:30 a.m. in Pelham Bay Park; Nov. 11: Veterans Day Parade, which begins at 26th Street and Fifth Avenue at 1 p.m. The uniform is a blue jacket, gray pants, shirt and tie, plus Legion cap.

Also, mark your calendars for the annual Post Servicemen's Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. Please sign up at the Post. The usual menu of roast pork and chicken will be served with all of the trimmings. Music and dancing will be included and turkeys will be raffled off at the dinner.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 98 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

**Peter C. Del-Debbio**

#### City Island Republicans

Remember to vote for John Cerini for City Council, Nicole Malliotakis for mayor and the rest of the ticket on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at P.S. 175. Also, don't forget to stop by the Election Day sale after voting.

**Fred Ramfl Jr.**

#### 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. The latest lessons have been on the Acts of the Apostles. All children are welcome to attend.

Adult Bible Study began Oct. 22 and will continue until Nov. 19. It is led by George Cavalieri, Trinity's Lay Servant, and is held in Fellowship Hall from 11:15 to 12:30.

The study is of the New Testament, 1st Letter of John. Themes to be discussed, according to the subjects presented in the text, are: "the Word of Life, Eternal life, God is light, the new (yet old) commandment to love, the Antichrist, God is love, the Son of God, the true God" and other subjects as presented in the texts.

Trinity will again host a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 23 from noon to 3 p.m., serving until around 2.

Mark your calendars now for the Christmas Fair on Friday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 to 3 with lunch served from 11:30 to 1:30.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the

web ([www.trinityofcityisland.org](http://www.trinityofcityisland.org)), where you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister, Reverend David Jolly.

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

**Rick DeWitt**

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Watch for our November specials. And mark your calendars for the Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 and 3 at both the Thrift Shop and the school gym.

**Arlene Byrnes**

#### City Island Theater Group

Arthur Miller's play "A View From the Bridge" is a story of family and immigration, "us" and "them." The CITG is proud to produce this drama on Nov. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m., as well as Sunday, Nov. 12 and 19, at 3 p.m. For ticket information please see the BRIEFLY notice on page 2.

The fall production brings with it CITG's opportunity to give back to the community, which is taking two forms this fall. On Saturday, Oct. 21, members of the cast presented a short scene from the play and participated in a talk back with the actors at the Huntington Free Library in Westchester Square. The event was free to the public. The cast will again present a scene at the City Island Nautical Museum on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m. There will again be a talk back with the audience, as well as light refreshments. This event will also be free to the public. Both of these events were supported by the Bronx Council on the Arts.

The Board of Directors of CITG is asking audience members to bring with them new, unopened packages of batteries, all sizes, when they come to see "A View From the Bridge." These will be donated to the 45th Precinct's NYPD Hurricane Relief Drive.

**Mary McIntyre**

#### City Island Garden Club

Our October meeting featured the return of Daryl Beyers, author and landscape design instructor at the New York Botanical Garden for Garden Design. Members enjoyed part 2 of his garden design presentation. The planters along the Avenue are still in bloom, thanks to the tender loving care of the beautification committee chaired by Kathy Gibbons. A big thanks goes to the Avenue's local businesses who along with club members share the task of watering the planter boxes when they need it. Later this fall club members and the Helping Hands auxiliary will refurbish the boxes with winter foliage, pinecones and other natural materials. Upcoming projects include holiday wreath making for local places of worship, the NYC Public Library and American Legion, to name a few.

Interested in civic beautification? Become a member of the Garden Club of City Island. Join us for an exciting season of projects, presentations by experts and field trips. You will enjoy informative presentations put together by our program co-chair Carol Wilkinson, as well as day trips to nearby private and public gardens, such as the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, New York Botanical Garden and Sagamore Hill, a National Historic Site in Oyster Bay, the summer home of our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt.

In September members met at the Cloisters in upper Manhattan for a guided tour of the Bonnefont garden and its medieval healing plants. Members enjoyed lunch in the outdoor café and a walk through the cloistered gardens decorated with 8th- to 15th-century fountains and stonework.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month (except August) at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club at the west end of Pilot Street. Annual dues are \$35. Our next meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 6, when



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

The library of the City Island Nautical Museum was filled to the brim on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017, as visitors watched and listened to James and Tommy Breen as they showed videos of the City Island Bridge construction project—from the construction of the temporary bridge to the demolition of the old bridge and the completion of the new bridge. The Breens have been posting their work on Facebook: [The New City Island Bridge](https://www.facebook.com/newcityislandbridge), but many Islanders do not use Facebook, and this event gave them the opportunity to ask questions. Of special interest were the drones that the Breens have used in filming the construction from above (photo above: Tommy with one of the drones), and the dramatic removal of the signs and finials from the old bridge.

we will have an expert speak about the care of trees. All meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our Hospitality Committee.

Want the real dirt on composting? Join us Monday, Dec. 4, at our membership meeting, when we will have representatives of the NYC Composting Program explain how composting works. Learn how your kitchen scraps and garden trimmings become "black gold" through composting. The project's goal is to improve the soil by harnessing the power of compost in our neighborhoods by distributing finished compost to community greening groups and through volunteer powered stewardship events. This presentation is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the program: why and how it works and how to participate. The presentation will begin at 10:10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Parking is limited so please arrive early and plan to park on City Island Avenue if necessary.

**Carol Hansen**

#### AARP Chapter 318

We meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Trinity Methodist Church Hall. On Nov. 1, we will have a regular meeting with bingo. On Nov. 8, we will go to Hunterdon, NJ, to see "A Playhouse Christmas." The cost is \$66 per person, and the bus leaves at 8 a.m. On Nov. 15, we will have a regular meeting and a turkey raffle.

Looking ahead: Dec. 6 will be a regular meeting with bingo. Dec. 13 will be our Christmas luncheon for \$45 per person (plus \$2 tip) at the Lobster House (near the bridge). Jan 3, 2018, will be a regular meeting. Jan. 17: regular meeting. Hope to see everyone at our meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring friends. All are welcome!

**Rosetta Woods**

**Molly Schroeder, Ph.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Cognitive/ Behavioral  
Psychotherapy  
**914-473-1447**  
office in New Rochelle  
[www.westchestertherapy.com](http://www.westchestertherapy.com)



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

Thank you for your response to our annual CICC Membership Drive. We could not keep the center safe, warm and clean without your support. We hope to hear from even more of you. If you did not receive a flyer, please call the number below. Remember, the annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent our "BIG" room for family events and parties at very reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit: [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

#### COMING EVENTS

**Annual Holiday Party:** Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. With music, dinner, and friends, it is a great way to begin the holiday season.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to this open meeting.

**City Island Knitting Club:** Fridays 7 to 9 p.m. Come on by and have fun with friends and learn a new winter social hobby. Make gifts for the holidays. Bring \$20 for your first set of needles and yarn. No reservations needed. For information, call Dana Caton at 678-591-1846.

**City Island Indivisible:** Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. Join other concerned citizens to discuss actions such as letter writing, marching and phoning that can help preserve American ideals. For more information, like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Art Classes for Children:** Saturdays, beginning Sept. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 7 to 12 register now for this exciting art program and explore drawing, painting and sculpture. To enroll, contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or [ceasar-dante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasar-dante@optonline.net).

### 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 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

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

**Irish Dance for Children:** Mondays, resuming Sept. 11, 5:30 to 8:30. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

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

**Jill's Playgroup:** Wednesdays 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize and play. To register or for information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

**Spanish Classes for Children:** Enroll now for Wednesday or Thursday after-school classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For more information, call 917-889-4938 or visit [www.espanolexperience.com](http://www.espanolexperience.com).

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Ballroom Dance:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Fox Trot and Tango into the fall with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

**Bollywood Dance:** Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail [lalithadance@gmail.com](mailto:lalithadance@gmail.com).

**Chess & Card Club:** Tuesday at 7 p.m.: come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m.: chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

**City Island Community Supported Agriculture:** Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m. The CSA welcomes new joiners at a discounted rate. Fresh organic fruits and vegetables will continue until Nov. 13 and will resume again next year. For information, e-mail [lauren-briggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:lauren-briggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Mondays, Nov. 6 and 20, at 7 p.m. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Pick up some new cooking skills as well. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Drawing Society:** Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

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

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with Deborah Weiss. We need a few more members to resume meetings. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Now is a good time to join. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com) or call 917-853-4719.

**Yoga with Ryan:** Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. In this class, expect a series of yoga poses with emphasis on alignment, coordinated with breath to build strength, increase flexibility and balance, and ending with deep relaxation to integrate the practice. Good for new students or students with limited experience. For information, contact Ryan at 914-356-6673 or [ryangillyyoga@gmail.com](mailto:ryangillyyoga@gmail.com).

**Zumba with Julia and Lettie:** Satur-

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

**Zumba with Lettie:** Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### PSS City Island Center

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

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org).

#### Highlights

Nov. 2, Thursday: Shop Rite Nutritionist 12:30 p.m.

Nov. 3, Friday: Elder Abuse Presentation 12:30 p.m.

Nov. 5, Sunday: Clocks fall back

Nov. 20, Monday: Thanksgiving luncheon (12 noon) with music starting at 1 p.m.

Nov. 22, Wednesday: We close early, at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30.

Nov. 23, Thursday: Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 24, Friday: Closed

**November Physical Exercise:** The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Balance Class at 1 p.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

**November Programs:** Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m., Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 14 and 28; Jam Session at 11 a.m., Crafters Corner 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: Board games at 1 p.m., Rummy Q and more; Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda at 1 p.m. Nov. 8 and 29, for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party Nov. 16 with Zumba at 12:30 p.m.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance.** Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

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

**Transportation Services.** Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Roe at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**

#### Grace Episcopal Church

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

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

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Our enthusiastic group of children in Grace's Sunday School meets regularly on the first and third Sunday of each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

Rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Pageant will begin in November, so join us for this Grace Church tradition. There will be three rehearsals for the pageant (Sundays, Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and 17). The pageant will be presented at the start of the Christmas Eve service (tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. on Dec. 24).

The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is well into our second year! Comprising members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, the group performs at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. On Nov. 5, we will serenade our veterans at the pancake breakfast at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post on City Island. On Nov. 18, we will sing at Gold Crest Nursing Home in the Bronx. If you would like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

**Sandy Dunn**

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Twice a month Rabbi Shohama Wiener and/or Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Other times services are led by congregants in a joyful celebratory manner. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory Oneg, refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. We look forward to seeing you at our services.

Temple Services are held on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea:

Nov. 3: Community-led

Nov. 10: Rabbis Shohama and David

Nov. 17: Community-led

Nov. 24: Rabbi David

Adult Education: Rabbi David will lead a four-session series on Jewish Angelology this winter, and another four-session series will follow in spring on Jewish ethics and Pirkei Avot. The first session will introduce themes and approaches of Jewish angelology, ranging from the mystical to the rational. Come with your questions, and we'll set a course to learn about angels, including the angels among us. Sessions after this first one will be the third Tuesday of each month. Each semester is \$72. See website for details: [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

*Continued on page 15*



## Hidden Treasures Part 2

**The Contender** (2000) is a film about the possibility that a woman, Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen), could be appointed by President Jackson Evans (Jeff Bridges) to replace a deceased Vice President. At first, Governor Jack Hathaway (William Petersen) seems to be a shoe-in for the appointment, but that is nixed when he becomes entangled in an accident that generates some negative publicity. Hathaway is favored by GOP Representative Sheldon Runyon (Gary Oldman), who embarks on a campaign to ruin Senator Hanson's reputation. To everyone's dismay, she refuses to defend herself. This is a thought-provoking and surprising film.

**Finding Forrester** (2000) stars Sean Connery as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who befriends a black teenager, Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown). Jamal, though brilliant and a fine writer, has been an underachiever in high school, but his athletic prowess and high SAT scores cause him to be offered a scholarship to a private academy. There he is befriended by the headmaster's daughter, Clair (Anna Paquin), and proves challenging to his snobbish English professor (F. Murray Abraham). How old man Forrester and the teen-aged Jamal learn from each other is truly inspiring.

Director Woody Allen returns to slapstick comedy with a sophisticated flair in **Small Time Crooks** (2000). The film stars Woody as Ray, who is always scheming with get-rich-quick ideas. He is married to Frenchy (Tracey Ullman), who winds up making a fortune selling home baked cookies. She hires David (Hugh Grant), an opportunistic art dealer, to tutor them in culture, language and art. Elaine May has a hilarious role as Frenchy's cousin May.

**Saving Grace** (2000) is a hilarious British comedy in which Brenda Blethyn appears as Grace Trevelyan, a cheerful upper-class housewife and gardening enthusiast whose philandering husband leaves her destitute. Out of desperation, with the help of her oddball Scottish gardener Matthew (Craig Ferguson), Grace puts her green thumb to work and converts her greenhouse into the biggest marijuana farm in Cornwall. In order to actually sell her product, she unexpectedly finds help from her late husband's mistress, Honey (Diana Quick). Unfortunately, their scheme is threatened by a French drug lord (Tcheky Karyo).

**Bread and Tulips** (2001) is a sweet Italian film set in Venice. When Rosalba (Licia Maglietta) is accidentally forgotten by her tour bus and left at a roadside restaurant, she decides to hitchhike home, but on a whim she goes to Venice instead. Stranded without enough money to buy a ticket home, she is taken in by a somber waiter named Fernando (Bruno Ganz), who lives next door to Grazia (Marina Massironi), a "holistic beautician and masseuse." Soon Rosalba is gainfully employed by an old florist, Fermo (Felice Andreati), while her husband Mimmo (Antonio Catania) grows increasingly agitated at the interruption in his routine. He hires the bumbling Costantino (Giuseppe Battiston), a plumber and amateur detective, to track her down with entertaining results.

The story of the making of **Antwone Fisher** (2002) is almost as interesting as the film itself. Derek Luke is outstanding in the title role of a young Navy man whose terrible bouts of temper have him sent to the base psychiatrist, Dr. Jerome Davenport (Denzel Washington). The real Antwone Fisher wrote the screenplay of his history of abuse, and it so impressed Denzel Washington that he chose it for his directorial debut. Also on hand is

Joy Bryant as Cheryl, another sailor and Antwone's love interest, who helps him learn what normalcy can be. This is an extremely moving film about a man whose triumphant spirit is a true inspiration.

From India, **Monsoon Wedding** (2002) is the story of the Verna family of Delhi, which has arranged a marriage for their daughter Aditi (Vasundhara Das) with Hemant (Parvin Dabas), a computer programmer from Houston. The meeting, engagement and wedding all take place within a few days, but there are complications, as Aditi is in love with a married man. There is a delightful romantic subplot with P. K. Dube (Vijay Raaz), the wedding planner, who is smitten with the family maid, Alice (Tilotama Shome). There is also a very serious undercurrent with Aditi's cousin Ria (Shefali Shetty) and her aversion to an old family friend.

**The Station Agent** (2003) is a quirky comedy set in New Jersey, starring the always excellent Peter Dinklage as Finbar McBride, a four-foot-tall man who chooses to live the life of a hermit in an abandoned train station he has inherited. He unexpectedly meets and befriends a couple of fellow loners. Troubled Olivia (Patricia Clarkson) is an artist who is devastated by the loss of her son and a separation from her husband, while carefree and verbose Joe (Bobby Cannavale) runs a hot dog stand. The three unlikely friends each deal with their need to connect, which conflicts with their individual need for isolation. This film won the Audience award at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival.

**In Her Shoes** (2005) stars Toni Collette as Rose, a dowdy lawyer who is plagued by the antics of her gorgeous alcoholic sister, Maggie (Cameron Diaz). After a huge fight between the two, each embarks on a new life, and it is enchanting to watch them blossom in their own ways. Shirley MacLaine is terrific as the grandmother they never knew they had, in this poignant and well-written film.

Will Ferrell stars in **Stranger Than Fiction** (2006) as Harold Crick, a socially isolated IRS agent whose every move is documented by a disembodied female voice. With the help of college professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman), Harold discovers that his life is the subject of a book currently being written by best-selling author Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson), whose creative block has stunted her repeated efforts to kill him off. Kay's continued efforts to kill her perplexed subject finally provide him with the incentive needed to fully experience life and to seek out the source of the voice that plagues him. Also featured are Queen Latifah as Penny Escher, Kay's assistant, and Maggie Gyllenhaal as Ana Pascal, Harold's love interest and a baker of cookies.

**Man on Wire** (2008) is a documentary account of the most astonishing performance stunt of the 20th century. On Aug. 7, 1974, a 24-year-old French high-wire artist named Philippe Petit strung a thin cable in between the two towers of the World Trade Center. Not only did he walk across from one building to another, but he also did a nerve-wracking series of knee-bends and acrobatic movements on the cable before being arrested by Port Authority policemen. James Marsh's documentary of these events some 34 years after they occurred is riveting.

**The First Grader** (2010) is the remarkable true story of Kimani Ng'ang'a Maruge (Oliver Musila Litondo), an illiterate member of the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya, who at the age of 84 decided to enroll in a rural primary school. The film moves back and forth in time between his 2003 interactions with the primary school teacher, Jane Obinchi (Naomi Harris), and brutal memories of his participation in the Mau Mau uprising against the British in the 1950s. This film provides a rich glimpse of Kenya and shows the inspiration that a person of any age can be to a nation.

**Up** (2010) is the computer-animated adventure of Carl Fredricksen, a 78-year-old balloon salesman, who has spent his entire life longing to wander the wilds of South America. One day, he shocks his neighbors by tying thousands of balloons to his home and finally taking flight. Carl is unaware that he has a stowaway; on his

front porch is Russell, an excitable eight-year-old wilderness explorer. When the house touches down on the world's second largest continent, Carl and his unlikely traveling companion step outside to discover that not only is their new front lawn considerably larger, but that the predators are much more ferocious than anything they ever faced back home. It is a wonderful film that adults can really enjoy.

Based on a true story, **The Intouchables** (2011) recounts the friendship that forms between Philippe (Francois Cluzet), an aristocrat who became a quadriplegic from a paragliding accident, and Driss (Omar Sy), a young man from the projects hired to be Philippe's caretaker. There are huge cultural differences between the two, but they become and remain friends. This film is inspiring, uplifting and extremely funny at times, and is a must-see.

Inspired by a true incident, **Danny**

**Collins** (2015) stars Al Pacino in the title role of an aging pop singer, whose manager/best friend, Frank (Christopher Plummer), presents him with an extraordinary birthday gift, a 1971 letter written to Danny by John Lennon which he never received. Disenchanted with his extravagant empty life of drugs, booze and absurdly younger women, Danny embarks on a journey to meet his grown son, Tom (Bobby Cannavale), a blue-collar worker who lives in New Jersey with his pregnant wife, Samantha (Jennifer Garner), and their special-needs daughter, Hope (Giselle Eisenberg). The outstanding cast also includes Annette Bening as Mary, the hotel manager of the Hilton where Danny is staying, and with whom Danny enjoys wonderful banter. How Danny slowly but deliberately insinuates himself into their lives is a fascinating and touching process.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

**CRAB SHANTY**

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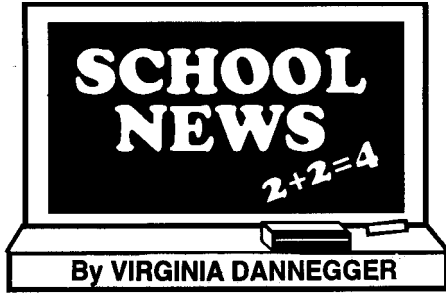
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*Saturday, November 18th*  
*Pelham Split Rock Golf Course*  
*870 Shore Road, Bronx, NY 10464*  
*Cocktails 7 PM - Awards 8 PM*  
*Dinner 8:30 PM*  
*\$85 Per Person RSVP By Oct. 31st*  
*Reservations: 718-885-9100*





Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start. In addition to the academic work students do each day, teachers are planning terrific trips to supplement curriculum. Some of the exciting trips that have taken place so far this year or will take place in the coming weeks, include the second grade going to the Morris Yacht Club and Orchard Beach Nature Center as part of their study of New York City; fourth- and sixth-graders going to the Queensboro County Farm, and seventh- and eighth-graders going to see the movie "Marshall." In addition, seventh- and eighth-graders went on their first Reward Trip to Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach.

Student government elections will be held in the coming weeks. Elected fourth-through eighth-grade students will work with our student government leader, Ms. Minor, on various school leadership activities throughout the year.

Thanks to the generosity of Councilman Vacca, we are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide musical and theatrical arts to our students. Fifth-grade students will put on a spring performance (the name of the show to be announced in the near future). We will also be providing visual arts for all students

through funds raised by our generous PTA. The building continues to buzz after regular school hours. The Sports & Arts program, which serves students in grades six through eight, includes a sports component that changes throughout the year, homework help, guitar, dance and games. Another component of the Sports & Arts program is the many exciting trips that students attend during school holidays. Mosholu Montefiore Community Center continues to operate a fee-based after school program for students in grade K through 5.

Several exciting events will be taking place in the weeks to come. These include our annual "Halloween Fun Morning" for students in grades K through 3, Halloween movie and snacks for fourth- and fifth-graders, and the Halloween Dance for our students in grades six through eight. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale on Nov. 7. We hope to see many of you there! As always, we are greatly appreciative for all of the support we get from our community.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 7: Election Day; school closed for students; Nov.16: Half day for students; Parent/Teacher Conferences, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 23 and 24: School closed for Thanksgiving.

September Citizens-of-the-Month were Terrell Gibbs (kindergarten); Ashlee Lestyne and Waverly Treiber (first grade); Robert Howard and Naomi Boyle (second grade); Daniella Padagas and Thomas Cullen (third grade); Saniya Smith (fourth grade); Gabriella Gierum and Matthew DeSantis (fifth grade); Sonya Doyle (sixth grade); Victoria Alicea and Kenzi St. Clair (seventh grade); Adriana Testa and Skylar Powers (eighth grade).



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The old P.S. 17 school building on Fordham Street, home of the City Island Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center, as well as a number of private condominium residents, has just undergone a major restoration effort. Teamwork, a Brooklyn construction firm, removed rampant ivy, repointed weather-damaged bricks and repainted the exterior with weatherproof paint. Next step will be beautifying the front lawn and gardens, which will be undertaken by the Nautical Museum, thanks to funding from Adelaide Bialek (daughter of the museum's founder) and Council Member James Vacca.

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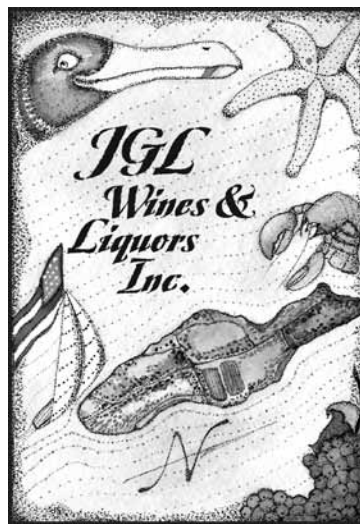
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I received the 2017 Five Star Award, and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for the third year in a row!



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# John Hoffman, Island Veteran

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



John Hoffman

Over a hundred years ago, in April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, joining Britain and other European nations in what became known as World War I, or the "Great War." A young electrician from New Jersey named John J. Hoffman soon enlisted in the U.S. Army, but at the age of 26 he was considered too old, so he joined the New Jersey National Guard and served as private first class with the 29th Infantry Division, also known as the "Blue and Gray," which was formed in 1917 and deployed to France as a part of the American Expeditionary Force.

After arriving in Cherbourg, France, in June 1918, John served at the front as a scout, or "forward observer," for the Army, and was responsible for being alert to the

location of the enemy. The photograph at left shows him on duty in the war zone that year. He was honorably discharged on June 3, 1919.

Flash forward to the summer of 1928, when John, now an employee of Con Edison, and his fiancée, Kathleen Bohan, whom he had met at an Irish dance in Manhattan, visited City Island to enjoy an afternoon at Casino Beach (which was once at the east end of Ditmars Street). On their way to Belden Point to catch the bus back to the mainland, they noticed a sign advertising an auction of property on the Island.

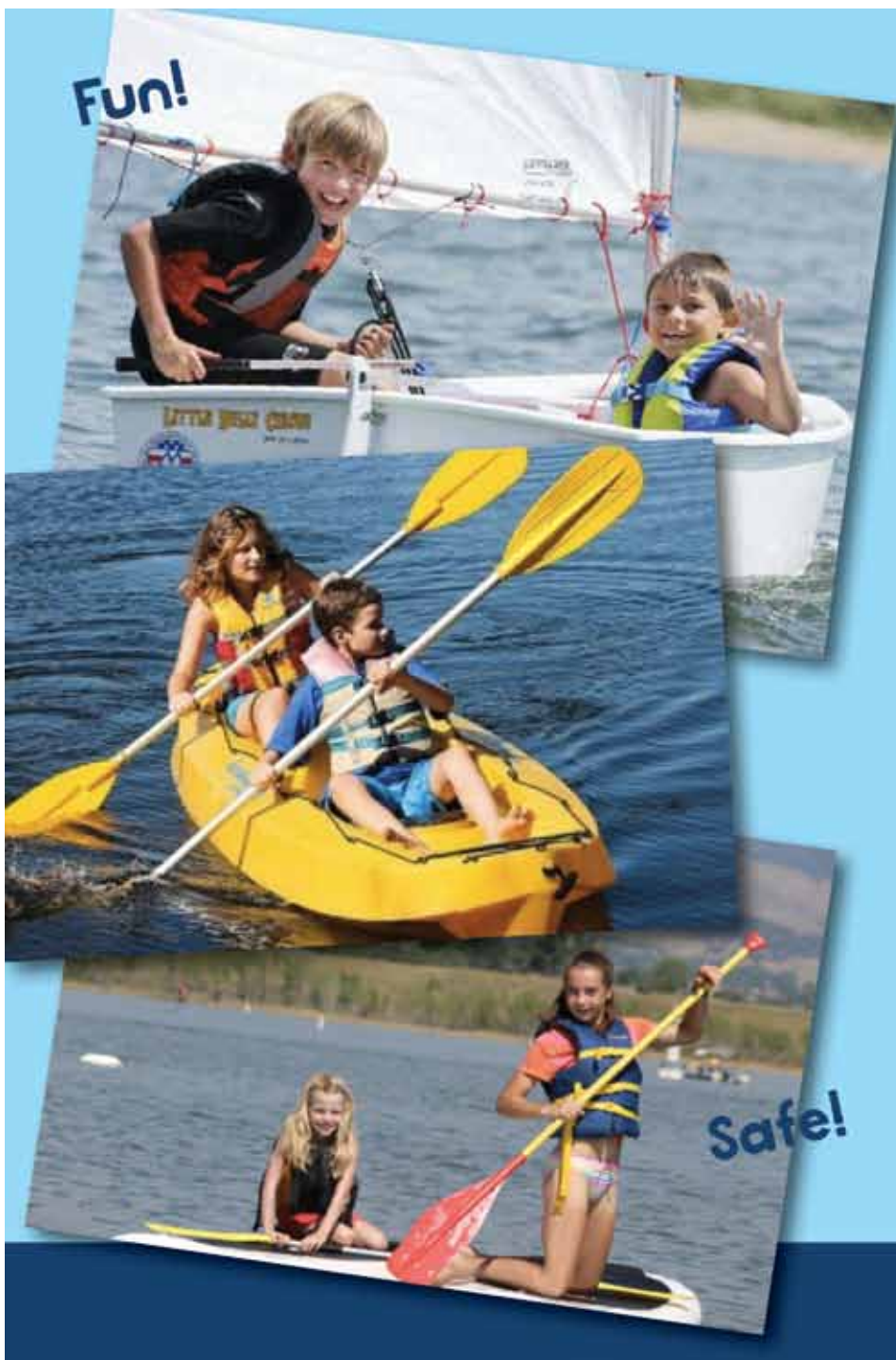
Not long afterward, they successfully bid on two lots on Winter Street, and John proceeded to build a house on one of the lots. He and Kathleen were married in Manhattan but held their wedding reception in the new house, where they eventually raised a family, including Frank Hoffman, a true clam digger, who now lives on King Avenue.

Frank recalls his father telling the story about that reception, which was, of course, held during the era of Prohibition. One of the guests was a Federal agent, who was curious about the source of the liquor being served. John told him that it came from a supplier on Fordham Street, and the agent apparently went and bought his own bottle after the party.

John passed away in 1950, and his widow died in 1979. An interesting side note is that Irish-born Kathleen immigrated to the United States on the *RMS Arabic* in May 1915. On May 6, the captain of a submarine in the water off the coast of England chased the *Arabic* intending to torpedo it, but the ship was too far away, so he turned to the *Lusitania* instead, sinking it the following day.

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| Session II                      | July 2 - July 20 |
| Session III                     | July 23 - Aug 10 |

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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

**NOVEMBER 2017**

| DAY                                                              | TIME  | HEIGHT | TIME  | HEIGHT | TIME  | HEIGHT | TIME  | HEIGHT | DAY    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
|                                                                  | HH MM | FEET   | HH MM | FEET   | HH MM | FEET   | HH MM | FEET   |        |
| 01 Wed                                                           | 0317  | 0.51   | 0921  | 8.00   | 1558  | 0.20   | 2146  | 7.69   | Wed 01 |
| 02 Thu                                                           | 0404  | 0.10   | 1004  | 8.41   | 1647  | -0.34  | 2232  | 7.93   | Thu 02 |
| 03 Fri                                                           | 0450  | -0.25  | 1048  | 8.76   | 1734  | -0.76  | 2319  | 8.10   | Fri 03 |
| 04 Sat                                                           | 0536  | -0.49  | 1133  | 8.99   | 1821  | -1.03  |       |        | Sat 04 |
| All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 5 |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |
| 05 Sun                                                           | 0007  | 8.15   | 0522  | -0.57  | 1120  | 9.05   | 1810  | -1.10  | Sun 05 |
| 06 Mon                                                           | 0000  | 8.08   | 0611  | -0.49  | 1209  | 8.93   | 1903  | -0.97  | Mon 06 |
| 07 Tue                                                           | 0048  | 7.89   | 0704  | -0.24  | 1300  | 8.63   | 2002  | -0.68  | Tue 07 |
| 08 Wed                                                           | 0145  | 7.61   | 0803  | 0.13   | 1358  | 8.19   | 2113  | -0.32  | Wed 08 |
| 09 Thu                                                           | 0253  | 7.32   | 0921  | 0.50   | 1506  | 7.69   | 2229  | -0.03  | Thu 09 |
| 10 Fri                                                           | 0425  | 7.16   | 1053  | 0.67   | 1648  | 7.34   | 2339  | 0.11   | Fri 10 |
| 11 Sat                                                           | 0544  | 7.25   | 1209  | 0.58   | 1813  | 7.29   |       |        | Sat 11 |
| 12 Sun                                                           | 0044  | 0.11   | 0650  | 7.50   | 1314  | 0.30   | 1918  | 7.40   | Sun 12 |
| 13 Mon                                                           | 0143  | 0.02   | 0748  | 7.79   | 1413  | -0.05  | 2016  | 7.55   | Mon 13 |
| 14 Tue                                                           | 0237  | -0.10  | 0839  | 8.04   | 1507  | -0.37  | 2107  | 7.66   | Tue 14 |
| 15 Wed                                                           | 0326  | -0.17  | 0927  | 8.21   | 1556  | -0.59  | 2155  | 7.70   | Wed 15 |
| 16 Thu                                                           | 0412  | -0.16  | 1012  | 8.27   | 1641  | -0.68  | 2239  | 7.66   | Thu 16 |
| 17 Fri                                                           | 0454  | -0.05  | 1053  | 8.21   | 1724  | -0.62  | 2321  | 7.55   | Fri 17 |
| 18 Sat                                                           | 0532  | 0.14   | 1130  | 8.07   | 1803  | -0.44  | 2359  | 7.39   | Sat 18 |
| 19 Sun                                                           | 0604  | 0.38   | 1202  | 7.88   | 1838  | -0.18  |       |        | Sun 19 |
| 20 Mon                                                           | 0033  | 7.21   | 0620  | 0.62   | 1221  | 7.69   | 1904  | 0.11   | Mon 20 |
| 21 Tue                                                           | 0059  | 7.05   | 0629  | 0.77   | 1237  | 7.56   | 1911  | 0.34   | Tue 21 |
| 22 Wed                                                           | 0115  | 6.96   | 0659  | 0.88   | 1306  | 7.47   | 1934  | 0.49   | Wed 22 |
| 23 Thu                                                           | 0143  | 6.92   | 0739  | 1.01   | 1343  | 7.37   | 2010  | 0.62   | Thu 23 |
| 24 Fri                                                           | 0221  | 6.92   | 0824  | 1.14   | 1427  | 7.24   | 2054  | 0.74   | Fri 24 |
| 25 Sat                                                           | 0305  | 6.94   | 0913  | 1.23   | 1515  | 7.10   | 2142  | 0.82   | Sat 25 |
| 26 Sun                                                           | 0354  | 6.99   | 1007  | 1.25   | 1609  | 6.99   | 2234  | 0.84   | Sun 26 |
| 27 Mon                                                           | 0448  | 7.12   | 1106  | 1.14   | 1707  | 6.93   | 2330  | 0.75   | Mon 27 |
| 28 Tue                                                           | 0544  | 7.34   | 1209  | 0.87   | 1808  | 6.97   |       |        | Tue 28 |
| 29 Wed                                                           | 0029  | 0.55   | 0641  | 7.64   | 1317  | 0.46   | 1910  | 7.12   | Wed 29 |
| 30 Thu                                                           | 0127  | 0.26   | 0737  | 8.00   | 1424  | -0.06  | 2010  | 7.33   | Thu 30 |
| <b>DECEMBER 2017</b>                                             |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |        |
| 01 Fri                                                           | 0225  | -0.07  | 0830  | 8.37   | 1525  | -0.57  | 2107  | 7.55   | Fri 01 |
| 02 Sat                                                           | 0321  | -0.37  | 0922  | 8.67   | 1620  | -1.01  | 2201  | 7.74   | Sat 02 |
| 03 Sun                                                           | 0415  | -0.60  | 1014  | 8.87   | 1714  | -1.29  | 2254  | 7.84   | Sun 03 |
| 04 Mon                                                           | 0509  | -0.70  | 1105  | 8.90   | 1808  | -1.39  | 2347  | 7.85   | Mon 04 |
| 05 Tue                                                           | 0604  | -0.66  | 1158  | 8.76   | 1903  | -1.31  |       |        | Tue 05 |



Photos by MATTIA PANZA

Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. raised the kickstand on the 23rd Tour de Bronx on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017. Thousands of cyclists pedaled under sunny skies through one of two routes (25- or 40-mile rides), which included a loop through City Island streets (shown above). The Tour de Bronx is New York State's largest free bicycling event, and it is held in conjunction with the Bronx Tourism Council, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx Lebanon, St. Barnabas Hospital and Mercy College.



**The Recent Buzz**

For years we've been hearing of Central Park's storied destinations for birders: the Ramble, the Meer and the Sheep Meadow, to name just a few. They are world-renowned and not without cause. Their names alone evoke tranquility and time well spent. One can easily imagine Audubon himself spending quality time there. Our own Pelham Bay Park is not without its own destinations, but somehow they don't ever seem to measure up. Take, for instance, this year's newest addition: the Puddles at Orchard Beach. Some of the most spectacular pictures of a lifetime were taken at the Puddles this year, and yet who but only the hardest of hard core birders knew?

What seemed to be happening was that the large puddles that sometimes form in the parking lot at Orchard Beach had become the repository of insect eggs like never before, so much so that shorebirds would come to feed on the hatchlings when the tide was high and the pickings slim at the beach. While they fed, some photographers were treated to especially close close-up shots. What made the photographs spectacular, however, was the mirror image of the wading bird that was often captured in the stillness of the puddle water. For a glimpse at some of these amazing photos, check out the "recent

work" link at Bob DeCandido's website, [www.birdingbob.com](http://www.birdingbob.com). Our favorite is the one of the red-necked phalarope.

The insects at Orchard Beach were not the only bugs to create a buzz recently. One September afternoon, there suddenly appeared more than a hundred gulls, zigzagging furiously back and forth in the air over our house. It was wild, like a scene from a Hitchcock classic, until we were able to ascertain that the birds were feeding. This almost chaotic behavior, we subsequently came to learn, is known as hawking for insects, and it is not uncommon to the laughing gull, which we have in abundance on City Island. What we were unable to ascertain were the kinds of insects being hunted. They may have been flying ants or something else migrating through our area. Anyone with information to share on this subject can do so at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

On City Island, we are accustomed to all sorts of behavior from gulls when it comes to feeding. They are notorious scavengers; they like a good French fry, don't you know; they have been seen (and heard!) dropping shellfish from the sky to break shells; they have also been seen hunting smaller, weaker water fowl. Now we can add hawking for insects to the list. Is there a more resourceful bird on the planet?

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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

## A Morning with the Artist Mary Frank

I have always been inspired by Mary Frank and her art. How fortunate I was to have made her acquaintance at the Elena Zang Gallery in Shady, NY. The conversation finally got around to growing things, and I was delighted to hear that she needed some new ideas for her garden.

So one September morning I sat and waited for Mary Frank on a chair overlooking her garden. When she had finished in the kitchen, she sat facing me and said, "Have you ever seen the egg of a monarch butterfly? You know it is the size of a pinprick. I collect the leaves of the butterfly weed and bring them inside; there is only one egg per leaf. The tiny caterpillars emerge in the form of a hook," and she crooks her finger to show me. "They eat quite a lot and they make a lot of feces in the process. Then they weave their chrysalises, pale green and gold, which are so beautiful. It is a double metamorphosis. This gives me great pleasure," she says, and so has this little introduction to my morning chat with Mary Frank.

We assessed her garden, which is beautiful, wild, and, like Mary, magical and curious. Her sculptures dotted the lawn, lying in repose on the grassy field.

Presently she returned inside and asked me to wait in her studio. She is in the process of preparing her work for a show that will be at DC Moore Gallery in Chelsea from Nov. 9 through Dec. 22. I was surprised to see that Mary had painted pictures on the floor of her studio. She uses them as a backdrop for her sculpture and adds dried plants and bric-a-brac to the scene. Photographing these setups creates a three-fold conglomeration of practices—Painting, Sculpture and Photography.

She explained how workers and friends come and go walking on the paintings and how art really doesn't have to be so precious but lived with and communed with on a personal level. Her art is personal mythology. She vanquishes ghosts, battles dragons and tells stories of life, both beautiful and sad.

## Bronze sculpture by Mary Frank.

Mary loves talking about gardening and plants, and after I showed her a picture of Piet Oudolf's garden in the Netherlands, her interest was piqued in regard to his immaculately trimmed yew hedges. She imagined she was looking at a maze. Well, a sort of maze. Rooms to walk in and out of and to screen one garden from another. Since she paints many labyrinthine-like images I could see the lure.

I suggested that she plant more grasses of varying heights and colors, to blend the garden together, more hazy swaths, and I explained Piet's 70 percent rule: 70 percent of a garden should contain structural plants (shrubs and evergreens) and the other 30 percent should be filler; annuals, perennials and grasses. Yet Mary would like it the other way 'round, I'm sure.

Repetition is also needed, as in art. Repeating plants gives a garden long seasonal interest as it adds rhythm and variety. Layered planting for texture is another trick. Trees would be one layer, grasses another and flowers for color. Leave the beautiful seed heads as she does for the birds and also for the visual effect they create in winter.

It was getting late, but Mary had to show me one more thing that is very dear to her heart: solar cooking. Impoverished areas of the world need to cut down trees to use as firewood for cooking, which results in denuded forests and ultimately famine. The poverty and hunger in these areas are abhorrent. Solar cookers are nothing more than foil-wrapped cardboard that gathers the sun's rays. She opened hers and deposited tomatoes in a small pot. Just before I left a nice stew was hotly brewing, like my heart in the autumnal Catskills. (To learn more, go to [www.solarcookers.org](http://www.solarcookers.org) or [info@solarcookers.org](mailto:info@solarcookers.org).)

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. [www.theartistgardener.com](http://www.theartistgardener.com).

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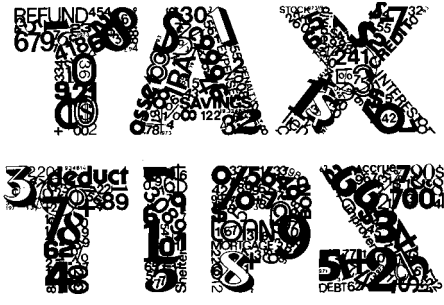
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

### What You Need to Know About the Equifax Data Breach

Equifax is one of three major U.S. credit reporting bureaus. The other two are TransUnion and Experian. There is also a smaller, less well-known credit-reporting agency called Innovis (aka CBCInnovis), which operates in a slightly different way, in that its main purpose is to provide mortgage credit reporting services to the financial services industry.

Equifax, like TransUnion and Experian, tracks the financial histories of consumers and uses this information to analyze whether a person is “credit-worthy” by issuing a credit score. The credit score is based on the credit history contained in the credit report, a record of consumers’ financial histories. Credit reports are composed of information about your bill payment history, loans, current debt and other financial information. Credit reports also contain information about where you work and live and whether you’ve been sued or arrested or have filed for bankruptcy.

Credit reports, which are also called credit records, credit files and credit histories, help lenders decide whether or not to extend you credit or approve a loan, and they determine what interest rate you will be charged. Prospective employers, insurers and rental property owners may also look at your credit report. Typically, the information collected on consumers is sold by the credit bureau (e.g., Equifax, Experian or TransUnion) to credit card companies and other financial institutions.

#### What Happened?

The hackers had access to data from May 2017 to July 2017, including names, birth dates, Social Security numbers, driver’s license numbers and credit card numbers.

As many as 145.5 million people in the United States were affected, as well as 400,000 in the United Kingdom and 8,000 consumers in Canada. Credit card numbers for approximately 209,000 U.S. consumers and certain dispute documents with personal identifying information for approximately 182,000 U.S. consumers were accessed, according to Equifax.

#### What You Can Do

The first thing you should do (if you haven’t already) is to obtain and review your credit report(s) and determine whether there’s been any unusual activity. Next, check whether your data has been hacked using the special website Equifax set up for data breach victims ([www.equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com)). You will need to provide your last name and the last six numbers of your Social Security number. From there you can sign up for their free credit monitoring service. You won’t be able to enroll immediately; however, but you will be given a date when you can return to the site to enroll. Keep in mind that Equifax will not send you a reminder to enroll so you should mark the date on your calendar so that you can start monitoring your credit as soon as possible. (Note: Equifax removed the arbitration clause from the website that was set up for data breach victims. The arbitration clause stated that, by signing up for the free I.D. theft protection and monitoring from its TrustedID service, a consumer could not take legal action against the company—including participation in any class-action lawsuits that might arise from the breach.)

Freeze your credit report accounts at each of the credit bureaus. Freezing your credit reports prevents anyone (including new creditors) from accessing your account. Equifax has waived the fee until Nov. 21, 2017, and has agreed to refund fees to those who have paid since Sept. 7, which is the date that the data breach was announced.

If you do not want to freeze your credit account, you can place a fraud alert on the account. A fraud alert warns creditors that you may be an identity theft victim and that they should verify that anyone seeking credit in your name really is you. (Note: Unfortunately, a freeze on your credit report does not necessarily mean that your bank accounts and other identity-related information is safe. Furthermore, if you do need access to your credit report, you will need to pay a fee to “unfreeze” it.

Get in the habit of periodically checking your bank, credit card, retirement and other financial accounts that could potentially be impacted now or down the road. Also, make sure your Internet security (antivirus, firewall, malware detector, etc.) is working properly.

Finally, filing your taxes earlier, rather than later (i.e., at the last minute) helps prevent a hacker from filing a tax return using your stolen identifying information.

Even if the Equifax data breach website states that you were not affected, it’s a good idea to keep an eye on your credit reports, bank accounts, credit card accounts and other financial information. You can freeze

your credit accounts as well (see above) and sign up for fraud protection.

If you receive a phone call and the person on the other end says, “This is Equifax calling to verify your account information,” hang up immediately. It’s a scam, because Equifax will not call you out of the blue. Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly—calling you by your first name, making small talk and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send e-mail or place ads to convince you to call them.

If you get a call from someone you don’t know who is trying to sell you something you hadn’t planned to buy, say “No thanks.” And, if they pressure you about giving up personal information—like your credit card or Social Security number—

don’t give in. Simply hang up.

#### Tips for Preventing Phone Scams

Don’t give out personal information. Don’t provide any personal or financial information unless you’ve initiated the call and it’s to a phone number that you know is correct. Don’t trust caller ID either. Scammers can spoof their numbers, so it looks like they are calling from a particular company, even when they are not. If you get a robocall, hang up. Don’t press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other key to take your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.

If you’ve already received a call that you think is fake, report it to the FTC. If you gave your personal information to an imposter, change any compromised passwords, account numbers or security questions immediately. If you’re concerned about identity theft, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov) to learn how you can protect yourself.

## A Current Review

# The Treasure of Hart Island

By GARY MAKUFKA

The Treasure of Hart Island  
By Mike Monahan  
Available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

“Avarice, murder, betrayal.” Those are just a sampling of the elements that make retired NYPD detective Mike Monahan’s new mystery novel such an exciting tale that conjures up the legend of buried treasure hidden away on Hart Island. It is a fast-paced tale of how different groups accidentally stumble upon a treasure chest allegedly buried by Captain Cook 300 years ago on what is now New York City’s potter’s field.

The main character, Mick O’Shaughnessy, who is, like the author, an NYPD detective, witnesses a major accident that takes place on the Hart Island ferry returning to the Fordham Street pier and results in the death of five prisoners. He begins to investigate the events leading up to the “accident,” and his search introduces us to different characters and groups, such as the prison guards, Irish revolutionaries, the Black Outlaws Gang and a powerful drug dealer, all of whom meet and confront one another as they race to find the mysterious treasure chest filled with silver and gold coins.

The story begins as officers from the NYC Corrections Department are transporting prisoners from the Fordham Street ferry to Hart Island for burial duties. When



the prisoners are digging away, they accidentally hit an old chest, which is removed and opened, revealing the treasures inside. What happens next is unexpected, but that’s as much of the story as I am going to reveal.

One doesn’t have to be a resident of City Island to enjoy this plot of good vs. evil, but it has special meaning for those who live here. The book reads like a movie, always turning up more surprises just when you think all have been exhausted. The characters are vividly described, as well as locations right here on City Island. Fictitious characters who work at both the Diner and the library come to life. Interspersed throughout the novel are hilarious boat names, which gives the reader a bit of a break in the seriousness of the investigation, which involves backstabbing, arson and death. The excitement begins on the very first page and doesn’t let up.

I recommend this book, not only for City Island residents and mystery but for anyone who enjoys good plot-driven fiction.

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# Obituaries

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



### Carl Henry Olsen

Carl Henry Olsen, who grew up on City Island, passed away on Oct. 14, 2017, at the age of 83.

He was born on Oct. 7, 1934, the son of the late Captain Henry E. Olsen (Kolding, Denmark) and Pearl V. Olsen (Chippewa Lake, MI), who lived more than 50 years on City Island. Carl attended P.S. 17 and graduated in 1952.

Carl worked at the Ratsey and Lapthorn sail loft in March and April of 1953 and then at the Minneford Ship Yard during May and June that year. From July through October 1953, he worked for the Military Sea Transportation Service in Brooklyn, and in late October he joined the U.S. Coast Guard as a small arms Gunners Mate.

His Coast Guard career included assignments as the Range Control Gunners Mate in the U.S. Treasury Building in Washington DC, where he instructed

FBI, Secret Service, DC Metro Police, White House Police and other law enforcement personnel in pistol marksmanship. He enjoyed being a member of the USCG and White House Pistol Teams, and he had the distinct honor of providing pistol lessons for President John F. Kennedy. Other assignments included several trips to Antarctica aboard the USCG Cutter *Glacier*. He furthered his career as a Special Agent in the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service and later as a Marine Safety Officer in Wilmington, NC, where he retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 31 years of service.

He was married for 61 years to Maxine Carol Olsen, and they raised two daughters and a son. Carl enjoyed life after the Coast Guard with his family and golfing buddies as he moved about the United States to Raleigh, NC; Tucson, AZ; Dothan, AL; Tampa, FL; they finally settled in Florence, SC. Carl's positive attitude, easy-going nature and big heart gave so much to many. He will be truly missed by his family and all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife; his daughters, Mary Jane Slavin of Denver, CO, and Juli Olsen of Raleigh, NC, and his son, Robert Ontjes of Raleigh; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

### Marlene Vogt

Former Islander Marlene Vogt passed away on Sept. 21, 2017, at the age of 80.

She was born Marlene Schlosser in the Bronx on Aug. 7, 1937, and went to school at St. Helena's School in Throggs Neck.

She was married to Richard Vogt Sr. for 60 years, and for 40 of those years they lived on City Island, where their children attended P.S. 17 and 175.

Marlene and Richard moved to Hudson, FL, 30 years ago, but she is still remembered by many for her piano skills and her volunteer work at school functions on the Island. The Vogts are also remembered for their beach club in Throggs Neck and for Portside Marina (aka Vogt's Boatyard).

Marlene is survived by her husband; her sons, Richard and William; and daughters Diane, Lorraine and Janice, and many grandchildren.


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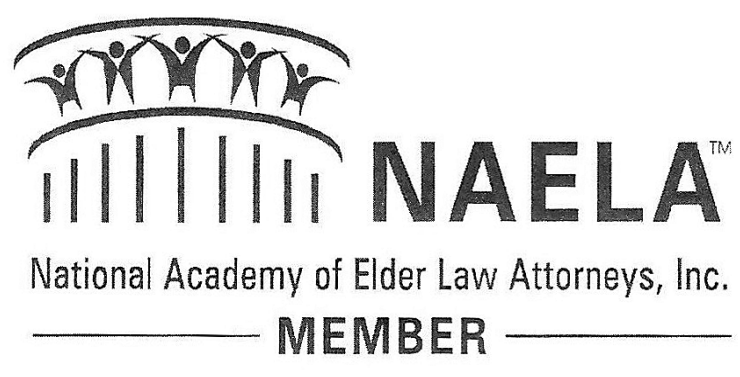




Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

ALA Unit 156 President Laura Booth and members at the Legion Pumpkin Bake Sale.

## Organization News

Continued from page 9

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

Looking ahead: Community Chanukah Lighting. Join Rabbi David and the TBE family for the lighting of the City Island Chanukkiyah at Hawkins Park on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., followed by a dessert reception across the street at Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

Oneg sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion can be a joyful moving community celebration. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or at [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For additional information, check out our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Ellen Ruth Topol

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

We begin the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts—the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) and the Commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2).

Our monthly Holy Hour will take place on Friday, Nov. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our coffee hour will take place in the rectory after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Nov. 12. Come enjoy light refreshments with your fellow parishioners.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Let us give thanks together as a community of faith for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods which will be distributed to those less fortunate. All are invited to attend. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Dec. 3, is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the preparation for the coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ. The advent candle will be placed in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of His coming. Let us pray for world peace as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop. Come take a look; you are sure to find great gifts.

Rose Dietz

### American Legion Auxiliary

Many thanks to Ellen Patterson Lynch and Sue Michaels who organized the Legion Pumpkin and Bake Sale on Sept.

30 and to those who donated baked goods. It was a fun and successful day for the whole Legion family. We could not succeed our goals without the support of our community and volunteers.

The American Legion Auxiliary celebrated its Annual Baby Shower/Family Clothing Drive on Oct. 3 for Fort Drum. Many thanks to Meaghan Clancy, who coordinated and delivered donations to assist the troops and military families stationed at Fort Drum.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m., the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 will host a Veteran's Pancake Breakfast, free for all veterans. Billy McGee Sr. will receive the "Quilts of Valor," and City Island's Grace Tones will serenade our veterans. We hope this event is well attended to salute and honor those who have served and continue to serve.

The Veteran's Day Parade is scheduled for noon on Sunday, Nov. 12, on East Tremont Avenue. Auxiliary members have been invited to march. Please support this annual event.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, an American Legion Veteran's Memorial Service will be held at the Bronx Victory Memorial in Pelham Bay Park (The Grove) at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

The Bronx County Holiday Gift Shop Program will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 to 12:30 at the Bronx VA on Kingsbridge Road. Susan Vaughan, Bronx County President, will be taking donations of holiday wrapping paper at the next meeting. Auxiliary members will assist in wrapping backpacks for veterans at the VA Hospital. If you'd like to make a donation to the Gift Shop, please make the check payable to Leonard Hawkins Unit 16, c/o Susan Vaughan, 152 Tier Street, 202A. Bronx, NY 10464. Please submit no later than Nov. 15.

Our next ALA meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Joanne Valletta

### Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

2018 dues (\$30) are now due. New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran as set forth in the dates established by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative.

Thanks to all of the volunteers in the kitchen and everyone else who helped make the Octoberfest a great success. Proceeds went to State Commander Bill Clancy's campaign.

On Thursday, Nov. 9, State Commander Bill Clancy III will host a meet-and-greet with other state SAL officials at the Post at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, Nov. 10, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a luncheon with the State Commander Clancy and other officials at the Post. Following that event, at 1 p.m. will be a series of meetings with different reports from around the state. At 5:30 p.m. a happy hour and dinner will be held at the Morris Yacht Club. Stop by the Post for details. All members of Squadron #156 are welcome to attend these events.

Sunday, Nov. 12, will be the annual Veterans Parade along East Tremont Avenue. We would love to get a good showing.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

# CLASSIFIED

All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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

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CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).



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SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017: Holiday Fair at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lots of amazing vendors and an opportunity to take your holiday photo with Ron Turner. Come on out and do your holiday shopping. E-mail [kimfmybc@gmail.com](mailto:kimfmybc@gmail.com) with any questions.

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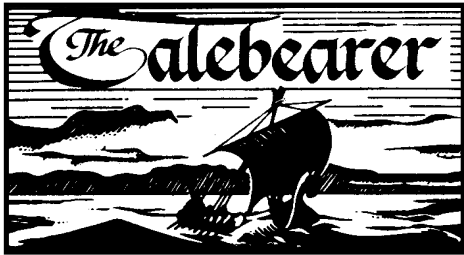
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



**Valerie DellaCerra and Freddy Colon were married on Sept. 22, 2017, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.**

Congratulations to Kurstin (Laue) and Amer Ishaq on your new arrival—Leila Marie Ishaq, born Sept. 21. Leila is the fifth generation to live on City Island and a clam digger! With love from Grandma Donna and Grandpa Heinz Laue.

Vincent and Catherine Della Cerra would like to congratulate their daughter Valerie on her marriage to Freddy Colon on Sept. 22 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. A reception at the Marina Del Rey followed.

Wishing Ethel Lott a very happy 90th birthday on Nov. 23, with love from your family and friends!

Birthday wishes on Nov. 12 are being sent across the miles in Newport, RI, to Bobby Swieciki, who turns 30. With love from the Swieciki and Iovieno families.

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*Photo courtesy of ROSE RODSTROM*  
**Matthew and Lisa Rodstrom were married on October 9 at St. Ann's Chapel in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

Danielle and Phil! You make a great couple! Lots of love from Mom and Dad.

Pell Place's Rosette Dietz will be blowing out candles on her birthday cake on Nov. 15. Enjoy!

Get well wishes to Minneford Avenue's Hans Dannegger, who is recuperating at home after knee replacement surgery.

Happy birthday wishes to Richie Ferris on Nov. 4, with lots of love from your family and friends.

If you're running in the TCS New York City Marathon, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. They would like to get a group photo of the runners for *The Island Current*.

Birthday greetings to Nick Ruggiero on Nov. 21, with love from your family and friends.

Good luck to the "Ebinger Express," who walked on Oct. 22 in the JDRF/One Walk for a world without Type 1 Diabetes. The Ebinger Express is proud to announce that they have raised and donated over \$40,000 since they started seven years ago.

Many thanks for their service to all our veterans on Veterans Day—and every day!

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Matthew and Lisa Rodstrom, who were married on Oct. 9 at St. Ann's Chapel in Fayetteville, AK. Lisa is the daughter of Mei Cao and Shue Ng and Matthew is the son of Rochelle Street's Rose and Walter Rodstrom. The happy couple honeymooned in the National Ozark Forests in Arkansas

And a very happy, healthy and blessed Thanksgiving to all our neighbors and friends on Nov. 23.

**Maria Swieciki**

# MUM'S THE WORD



*Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and MATTIA PANZA*

Plenty of pumpkins, flowers and sunshine helped to make this year's American Legion sale on Sept. 29–Oct. 1, 2017, a huge success. Enthusiastic Legionnaires shown above (l. to r.) included John Ulmer, Keith Shipp, Maureen Grogan, Ed Shipp, Linda Ulmer, Carol Mennona, Joe Goonan, Gene Valesio, Bob Mennona and Bob Salerno, who helped people pick out the perfect Halloween décor.

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