

The Island Current

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One Dollar

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
FROM THE STAFF OF THE ISLAND CURRENT

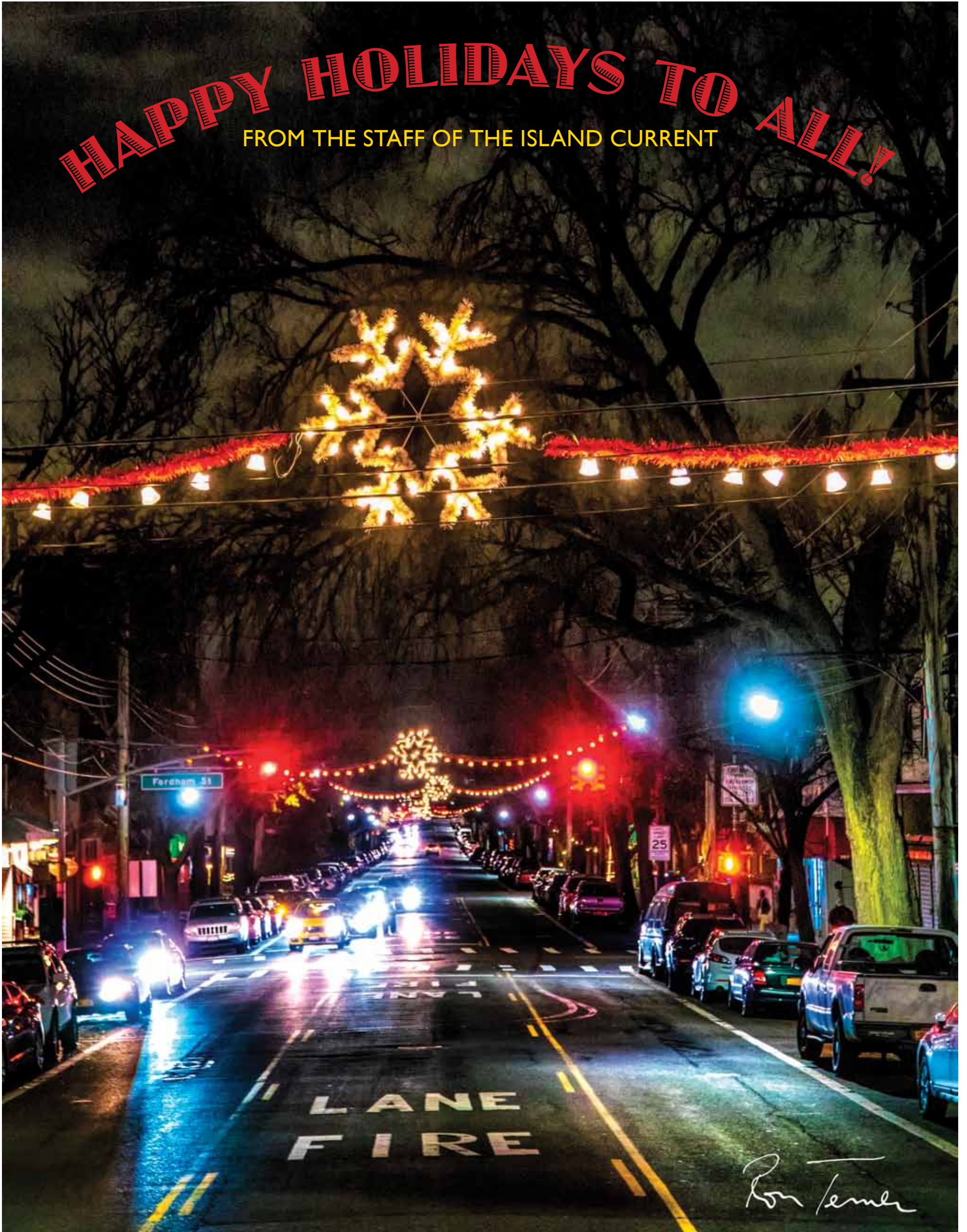


Photo by RON TERNER

BRIEFLY...

HOLIDAY ART SHOW at Clipper Coffee, 274 City Island Avenue, and the Mary Colby Studio Gallery, 276 City Island Avenue, curated by Mary Colby, Alex Evans and Kate Dowd, will open on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 9 p.m. with art, conversation and holiday cheer.

CHRISTMAS FAIRS ON CI: Do some holiday shopping, grab some delicious baked goods and support our local houses of worship at the same time this December. The Trinity United Methodist Church Christmas Fair will be on Friday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch will be served from 11:30 to 1 p.m., at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street. St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue. Finally, the Grace Church Holiday Fair will take a hiatus this year, but they will have an Advent/St. Nicholas/Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. with dinner, dessert and entertainment by the Grace Tones at 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

GS HOLIDAY BAKE SALE: Girl Scout Troop #1115 will hold a holiday bake sale on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The enthusiastic scout bakers will be offering cupcakes, cookies, cakes and other holiday treats, so go and grab some goodies and support their camping trips in 2020!

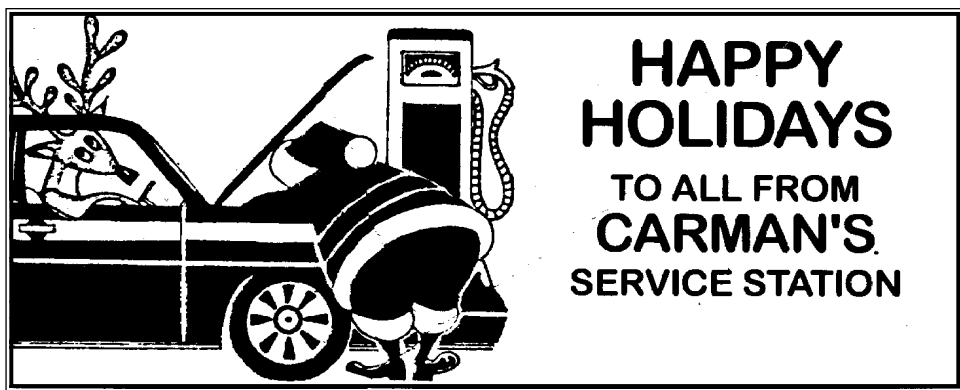
ARTISTS' CHOICE EXHIBITION will be the 45th holiday exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) with a reception on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Artists are asked to bring in their work ready to hang no later than Dec. 4; the show will be on view until Dec. 31. There is a \$20 hanging fee for each picture and the gallery will charge 30 percent of the retail price if the work is sold.

COMMUNITY CENTER 10TH ANNIVERSARY CARNIVAL AND HOLIDAY SALE: Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 4 p.m., 190 Fordham Street. Publisher Honey Tomes invites everyone for entertainment, games and activities for the young and young at heart, including food and beverages, book readings, sale items and Santa.

CITY ISLAND CHAMBER DINNER DANCE will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, starting at 7 p.m. at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course. Many Islanders will be honored, including Dino Esposito, Tom Smith, the Ulmer Family, Barbara Hoffman and Barbara Harrison, along with Island organizations and businesses, including Michele Debitetto of the Crab Shanty; Jojo and Marie Mandarino of the Lobster House; Jill's Cottage; Janos and Theresa Gallery; Clipper Coffee; John Foley's Rarities & Obscurities and Dominick's Market. For information about reservations, call 718-885-9100.

THE CITY ISLAND OYSTER REEF invites all volunteers to its first annual Holiday Soiree at the Harlem Yacht Club on Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. We look forward to meeting new and old friends and welcome your support in 2020. More than 10 committees need volunteers, so join us and sign up. E-mail Rose at rrodstrom@gmail.com, Sally at sallypageconnolly5@gmail.com or cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com for more information or to reserve your spot. The \$20 suggested donation can be made in advance or at the door. Checks should be made payable to City Island Oyster Reef for your tax-deductible contribution; cash or checks welcome.

PICTURE THE GREAT OUTDOORS! The Friends of Pelham Bay Park invites photographers to submit images to a contest with five sections: Seasons, Wildlife, Secret Treasures, Explorers in the Park and Hidden History. Each section will start at different times, the first one to begin on Jan. 5. All images must be submitted via e-mail to friendsofpehambaypark@gmail.com during the period of submission for the specific category. A panel of judges will choose their five favorites in each category and these will be posted on the Friends Facebook page, where visitors can vote for their favorites. The judges will then decide on one Grand Prize winner to be announced at the Spring Fundraiser on April 2, 2020. Each photographer is asked to include a caption, subject of the image, when and where it was taken and the photographer's name. For more information, e-mail friendsofpehambaypark@gmail.com.



THE ISLAND CURRENT
P.O. Box 6
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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL TRESSPASS
- 4 – ASSAULT
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Oct. 22 to Nov. 18, 2019.

10/27 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested a male, 36, and charged him with criminal trespass on City Island Avenue at 3:14 p.m. The defendant entered a yacht club and remained unlawfully on the premises.

10/31 – On Fordham Street, an Island

male, 24, and an Island female, 19, reported an assault at 10:30 p.m. A verbal dispute over egg throwing led to a physical altercation with an unknown male. Both victims were allegedly struck several times.

11/3 – At 2:39 a.m., an unknown driver smashed into a gas pump at a station on City Island Avenue, causing the pump to malfunction. The driver fled the scene of the accident.

11/3 – An Island female reported an incident of harassment at 9 a.m. on Minneford Avenue. The complainant claims that her tenant was making false statements about her.

11/7 – On Minneford Avenue, an Island male, 43, was arrested and charged with aggravated harassment. The defendant allegedly threatened to release his dog on police officers from the 45th Precinct.

11/9 – At 12:20 p.m. on City Island Avenue, cross complaints of assault were filed by an Island male, 49, and an Island female, 47. The defendants reportedly pushed and shoved each other during a physical altercation.



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LEONARD H. HAWKINS POST 156
AMERICAN LEGION**

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<i>CORY MAYER</i>	<i>AIC EDWARD WATSON</i>

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE
SERVICEMEN'S FUND**

Hart Island Moves Over to Parks Department

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The New York City Council voted on Thursday, Nov. 14, to approve legislation transferring jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Correction to the Department of Parks and Recreation. The vote was 45 to 2, with Councilmember Mark Gjonaj voting against three of the four bills relating to Hart Island in response to objections raised by a group of Island residents and the City Island Civic Association.

That evening, at a meeting of the Parks Committee of Community Board 10, which was held at Grace Church on City Island, a number of residents spoke out against the change in jurisdiction, as they had during the October meeting of the Parks Committee. Since the transfer had already been voted on that day, all the Parks Committee could do was pass a resolution recommending that the Community Board draft a letter to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) asking for the board to have a formal role in its transportation study of Hart Island. This request had already been made to the Council itself by Community Board District Manager Matthew Cruz at a hearing on Oct. 24.

The City Council has been weighing the transfer of jurisdiction for several years, since 2012, when Elizabeth Crowley, then the Council chair of the Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee, introduced several bills relating to Hart Island, some of which dealt with visitation. The jurisdiction change did not pass, and Ms. Crowley reintroduced the bill in 2015, but that too failed to pass.

In 2018, a new transfer bill was introduced, this time by Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, chair of the Council's Transportation Committee, along with three other bills, one of them proposing a study by the DOT regarding ferry service to Hart Island, and the other two relating to burial practices.

This time, the City Council Chair, Corey Johnson, expressed strong determination to effect the transfer, and he persuaded nearly all Council members to support him. The Department of Correction agreed to the transfer, as did the Parks Department, although Parks does not want to supervise burials on the island, as they have never had responsibility for an active cemetery. Nevertheless, the Mayor supported the transfer, and after a hearing on May 31, where three Island residents gave testimony (two against and one in favor), the bill eventually came out of committee on Nov. 13 and was voted on by the full Council the following day.

History of Hart Island

As many Island residents know, Hart Island has served as a potter's field for

over 150 years, and it is estimated that as many as one million people have been buried there. When the island was purchased from the Hunter family by the city in 1868, before City Island was part of New York City, it was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Charities and Correction. There was a prison on the Island, but there were also hospitals, asylums and workhouses. In 1895, the department was divided in two, and Hart Island remained with the Department of Correction, which continues to administer the island, including the burials, which are performed by inmates of Riker's Island.

The island remained open to the public for many years, and in fact there are said to have been as many as 2,000 residents on the Island in the past, several of them related to residents of City Island. During the Second World War, the Navy took over the island for use as a disciplinary barracks for Navy, Coast Guard and Marine personnel, with as many as 2,800 servicemen in custody. In 1946 the island was returned to Correction, and the jail was reactivated. From 1955 to 1961, on a 10-acre area of the island, the U.S. Army housed Nike Ajax missile silos, which were operated by the army's 66th Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion. Phoenix House was a residential drug rehabilitation program on the island from the 1960s, when the jail was closed, but it moved to Manhattan in 1976. Although ferry service to the island was limited, Hart Island was otherwise unguarded, and the buildings, burial records and graves suffered from repeated vandalism.

In the 1980s, prisoners convicted of "quality of life" misdemeanors lived on the island for about a decade, and it was during this time that AIDS victims were buried at the southern tip of the island away from other graves. In 1991, the inmates on Hart Island were transferred to Rikers, and today, the inmate work details are bused from Rikers Island during the week to perform burials, disinterments and maintenance of the island. In 1985, the Department of Sanitation studied the soil on the island, and concluded that there was a great deal of pollution. Soon after the study, the missile silos were capped by the Army Corps of Engineers, the fuel tanks were filled with concrete and the lead paint cans were removed. It was about this time that the Department of Correction closed off access to the island, and it has remained so ever since, with only limited visitation allowed.

In 1994, New York artist Melinda Hunt started a nonprofit organization called the Hart Island Project, which is devoted to improving access to the island and its burial data. The organization helps families obtain



Photos by MATT PANZA and courtesy of SENATOR BIAGGI

A Community Board 10 Parks Committee meeting was held on Nov. 14, 2019 (top photo), following the vote by the New York City Council to transfer jurisdiction of Hart Island to the Department of Parks and Recreation. On Nov. 12, City Island Rising members joined New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi and Bronx CB 10 District Manager Matt Cruz for a tour of Hart Island to review current conditions and restrictions (bottom photo, l. to r.): Lauren Nye, Mr. Cruz, John Doyle, Stephanie Fisher, Kim Woodruff Jones, Senator Biaggi, Dan Treiber and Kerry Fellegara.

copies of public burial records, organizes visits to grave sites and enables people to find relatives buried on the island. Since 2009, the city has given burial records for the island to the Hart Island Project, which maintains an online database of burial records from 1980 to the present. The project has led to reforms of access to Hart Island, such as opening the island monthly to anyone and legislation that requires the Department of Correction to publish burial records online.

The Way Forward

Many of the buildings on Hart Island that were constructed during the late 19th century have fallen into disrepair, many of them with collapsed roofs. A report prepared by the Department of Buildings and the Parks Department several years ago recommended the demolition of sixteen buildings on the island; two were recommended for restoration, and the remaining two were to be protected as ruins. There are also a number of religious structures on the island, including a chapel and several monuments.

A big question for everyone concerned with Hart Island is where is the funding going to come from to do this work. The Parks Department is regularly underfunded, and if the department refuses to bury the dead, city funding that now goes to Correction is likely to be unavailable. There is now a major program funded by FEMA under way on the east side of the island, where there has been erosion caused by storms, but that funding is limited to shoreline restoration.

Clearly, there is a great deal of study necessary before any change of jurisdiction can take place, and three of the four bills passed on Nov. 14 designed to deal with issues of transportation and burials will undergo study and evaluation.

"We must turn Hart Island into a proper final place of rest," according to Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, the bill's sponsor. "This is about giving respect and dignity to the people who are buried on the island and the family members who must go through a lengthy and at times complicated process to be able to visit their loved ones who are buried there."

Councilmember Rodriguez was also the sponsor of the bill that is designed to expand Hart Island's public accessibility by adding ferry service, and this will require the development of a "transportation plan." Concerns raised by Islanders include the inability of City Island's infrastructure to support an active ferry service to and from the burial ground, given the lack of parking near the Fordham Street dock. Fears have also been expressed that graves would be disturbed and religious customs violated if the public were allowed free access to the island.

Changes in the public burial system are the subject of the two related bills, one that mandates a hearing on public burials, providing the public with a chance to recommend policy changes, and the other requiring the city's Department of Social Service to create an office to help people arrange public burials. This fourth bill was supported by Councilmember Gjonaj at the Council, where he spoke at length before the vote about the respect that should be shown to the dead and their relatives. He spoke on this issue again at the Parks Department meeting on City Island.

Taken together, the bills represent much-needed steps toward reforming the public burial system. As Councilmember Mark Levine, who chairs the council's health committee and represents parts of Manhattan, said: "There are going to be years and years of advocacy ahead. This is only the beginning."

Steve

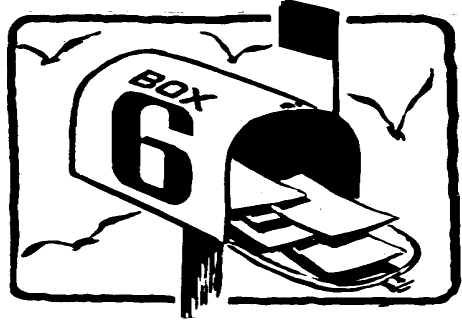
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We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot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

Thanks for Donations

To the Editor,

The Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 and Judi Lanci of the Theodore Korony Post 253 would like to thank all who donated and continue to donate to "Support The Troops." With your help, we have sent an extra 400 packages to Afghanistan for a total of 8,242 packages shipped to our soldiers. Our drive is ongoing. Bins have been placed at the Leonard Hawkins Post, the Morris Yacht Club and the City Island Pharmacy. Thank you for your continued support.

Joanne Valletta, First District VP, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Angels in Motion

To the Editor,

We are writing to you on behalf of a City Island resident, Jennifer Glick. Many of you know Elliott and Monica Glick from the Starving Artist (The Artist). They have given back to the community for more than 25 years. They have been recognized by the City Island Chamber of Commerce for their business contributions, and they have entertained us with their talent, musical revues and off-Broadway performances.

Their daughter Jennifer is an award-winning pastry chef and has hosted many of those events with her delectable pastry, pies and cakes. It is now time for us to give back to a family that has given so much to our community. This past March, Jennifer was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her treatment continues and consists of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, multiple surgeries and associated treatments. Naturally, we are concerned about Jennifer's welfare and well-being. She can no longer work because of her treatments nor can she maintain her everyday activities.

As many of you know, breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women. Twenty-five percent of women undergoing breast cancer treatment have out-of-pocket expenses exceeding \$8,000, and 15 percent pay more than \$18,000 and as much as \$30,000. Jennifer has applied for temporary disability, and she is now having difficulty meeting her basic needs. The rising costs of medical treatment, combined with peripheral costs, such as rent, transportation, essential home-care materials and dietary requirements, have added a further burden to her many challenges.

We invite you to be a part of our fundraiser drive by donating in one of two ways: an online donation through the Starving Artist's secure website: <https://squareup.com/store/StarvingArtistCI> or by sending a check payable to Monica Glick or Elliott Glick (to be in trust for the care of Jennifer Glick). Please contact one of our committee members for drop-off times and locations: Mary Lou Lachman, Loulou324@aol.com, 917-692-6653; Dianne O'Sullivan, travelo@aol.com, 718-885-9346; Joanne Valletta, jcute53@aol.com, 646-321-8902;

Maureen Grogan, ginmojo@aol.com, 718-885-2319; Margaret Knapp, mknapp1053@gmail.com, 646-499-0291; Dottie Payne, dotpayne11@gmail.com, 914-438-7373; Susan Roublick, shsroublick@aol.com, 917-860-5306; and Maria Sipas, mariasi-pas@yahoo.com, 917-807-5933.

In addition, please support us by passing this letter on to your family and friends although we kindly ask that you do not post it on social media. We would love for you to be part of this community outreach event. Thank you in advance for your contribution and support.

Friends of Jennifer "Angels in Motion" Committee

Hart Island Traffic Concerns

To the Editor,

On Oct. 10, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Parks Committee at Community Board 10, where the main topic was the transfer of Hart Island from the Department of Correction (DOC) to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Representatives of the City Council were there, along with Melinda Hunt of the Hart Island Project and members of the City Island community.

There were several outstanding issues, but the most important one for City Island, I believe, was the issue of transportation to City Island after the transfer of jurisdiction to the Parks Department. As the Council staff described it, it was like saying that they will build the house first and put the foundation in later. There was no real answer, just a series of ideas being kicked around.

Because it is a cross street, Fordham Street on both sides of City Island Avenue is one of the busiest on the Island, and as with most side streets, parking has become quite a challenge to residents who do not have the luxury of driveways. Without a convincing plan on transportation, the transfer is leaving me cold. DOC has been doing the job with little confusion for many years, Fordham Street does not want to become a transportation hub to Hart Island, and its residents, including myself, deserve better.

The Department of Transportation needs to come up with a more comprehensive plan for this transfer, and Ms. Hunt proposed the idea of working with a committee from City Island to help address their concerns. We must speak up to make sure that access to Hart Island for the general public is by a ferry that does not originate on City Island.

Carol Fitzpatrick

Thank you, City Island!

To the Editor,

Almost a year ago, I began the Eagle Scout process. I am so happy to report that as of September, I achieved this goal, for which I owe a lot to the City Island community. My goal was to refinish the wood floor in Fellowship Hall at Trinity Methodist Church, put a fresh coat of paint and help update the electrical work.

I realized early on that I needed a lot of help from the community to raise the required funds to get the job done properly. I held two big fundraisers in the summer. One was a pasta dinner and the other a car wash. I could not have done it alone. My fellow scouts were with me and volunteered their time to help. So many of you in the community learned of my projects and found ways to donate. Whether the donations were large or small, they all helped tremendously in the process and allowed me to achieve the great challenge of Eagle



Scout. People I didn't even know were so willing to help. I am very grateful to each and every person that helped me achieve this goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few community people who really went above and beyond. Thank you to Carol Esposito and Ginger Kotoff, Michelle and John Debitetto of the Crab Shanty for alerting their distributors (Sassone Foods, Endico foods and Nicosia Bakery), for their great and generous donations toward my fundraising pasta dinner. Thank you to Tom Tomsen, Stephen Lischinsky of Ultra-Automotive Center, Caruso & Sons Electric Company, and American Legion Post 156 for letting me use the parking lot for my fundraiser. Also a special thanks to the City Island Culinary Club for their dessert donations for pasta night. And finally I am grateful to Friends of Scouting who made a large donation toward my project.

John C. Doyle

I am tremendously thankful to all those who have donated and helped in any way. This outpouring of support not only helped me achieve my goal of raising funds and completing my project, but I also learned how lucky I am to live in the City Island community where neighbors really rally together. Thank you!

Brandon McGaughan

Corrections to Catering Hall Story

To the Editor,

I write today in response to last month's article "Catering Hall Concerns" (see November 2019 issue of *The Current*). I believe the article contains some factual errors and speculative claims that I would like to correct.

The piece attributes the delay in the construction of the Catering Hall to construction conditions "beyond [the owners'] control" and a delay in the delivery of window frames. However, a quick trip to the Buildings Department's website reveals that two Stop Work Orders and four violations have been issued in the past year. These were matters very much in the control of the construction company and owner, but they were not mentioned in this article.

The last remaining opportunity for the community to weigh in on this development is through the State Liquor Authority's approval process. The first step in the process is a hearing of the Economic Development Committee of the Community Board. Historically, agendas are sent out around the first of the month with different community items on each committee's agenda. Unfortunately, in February of this year, the Community Board changed its notification system and non-members were not notified. Although several City Islanders sit on Community Board 10, none brought this matter to the attention of the community-at-large, nor did any City Islander attend the Economic Development meeting to oppose the project outright. Given how vocal people in our community are about traffic, it was easy to foresee that a large-scale catering hall and the traffic it would attract would be a contentious issue for City Island.

Additionally, the article claims the applicants haven't "created serious issues for the community." The applicants currently run Seafood City, which has had matters brought before the community and the State Liquor Authority in the past.

A matter correctly reported in this article is that City Islanders still have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed catering hall's liquor license. I urge everyone who is concerned to write to Licensing.Information@sla.ny.gov with the subject '435 Hunter Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10464.' Your voice can still be heard.

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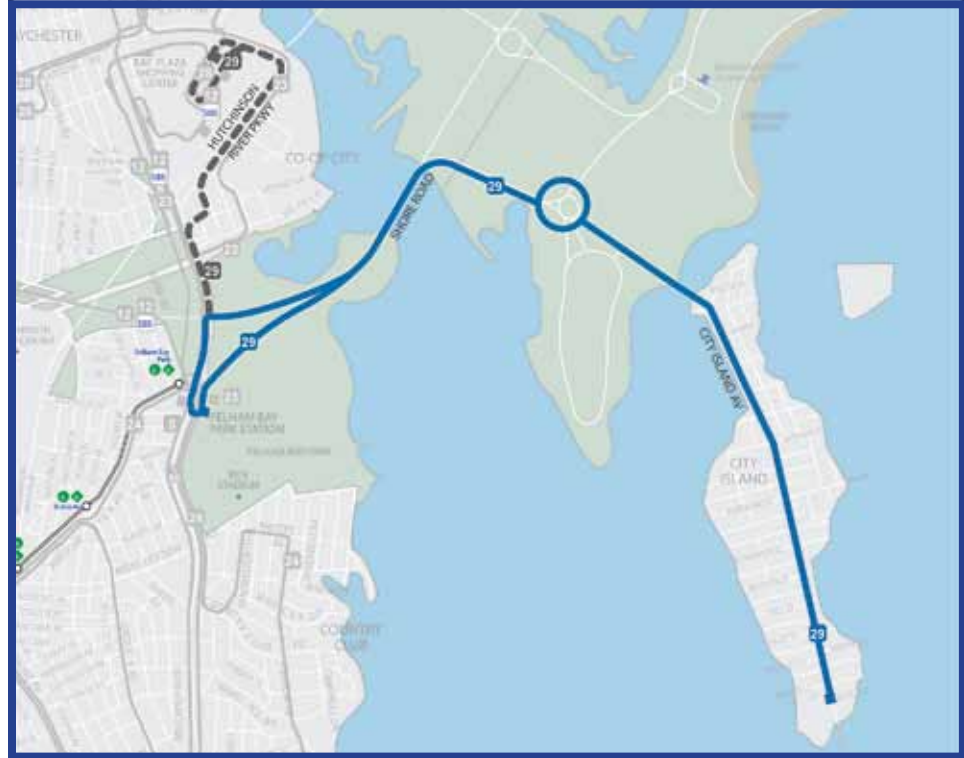
MTA Bus Final Plan for BX29: Pluses and Minuses for CI

By KAREN NANI

Bx29 Local	Toward Pelham Bay (Westbound)	Toward City Island (Eastbound)	Avg. Frequency (Min.)				
			AM	Noon	PM	Eve	Night
Weekdays	24 hours	24 hours	15	30	15	20	40
Saturdays	24 hours	24 hours	20	20	20	30	40
Sundays	24 hours	24 hours	30	20	25	30	40

Images courtesy of MTA

The new 24/7 schedule for the BX29 bus to and from City Island is shown above. The bus will now run exclusively between City Island and Pelham Bay Station, a change from the most recent route that included a stop in Co-op City (bottom map).



The Bronx Bus Network Redesign Final Plan was issued in October 2019 by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and it includes both route and schedule improvements for BX29, the only daily public transit on and off City Island. However, like other NYC projects, there are some parts of the plan that Island residents welcome and others they object to.

The new plan calls for the buses to run between City Island and Pelham Bay station 24 hours a day, seven days a week (see chart). In response to rider complaints of delays resulting from the BX29 route that previously included a loop to Co-op City via I95, the bus will now run exclusively be-

tween City Island and Pelham Bay station (see map). Riders will then make connections to the subway or other bus lines (BX5, 12, 23, 24 and Q50 Limited).

The reduced late night service has been an issue for several years. The Bx29 stopped running after midnight, and it was this lack of service that was considered a factor in the tragic death of Gabriella Aguilar-Vallino in 2015. Ms. Aguilar-Vallino and other restaurant workers were forced to ride bicycles to work because there was no other way for them to get home after their shifts ended. As she was attempting to ride home and cross the road from the south bike path to the north bike path around midnight, she was

struck by a vehicle and later died from her injuries.

Meanwhile, complaints were mounting up about the service from Pelham Bay station to City Island. “Younger working residents were stuck waiting at Pelham Bay for long times, then several buses would show up at once,” Islander John Doyle told *The Current* earlier this year (see July/August issue). He explained that this was due to “bunching” of buses that had to travel to Co-op City via I95, which was often bottlenecked off the ramp from Pelham Bay during rush hour.

The part of the final plan that may not be welcome to Islanders is the elimination of some bus stops on both sides of Cross Street, Schofield Street and Pell Place, part of the MTA’s “new alignment” to improve stop spacing from 1,480 to 2,072 feet. According to the MTA, “By removing these stops, we’ll improve reliability along the route.” Many Islanders fear that these changes will pose unnecessary hardships for senior citizens and residents with disabilities.

The removal or adjustment of bus stops will happen across the borough, not just on City Island. The MTA explained, “Currently, New York City has the shortest distances between its bus stops of any major city, with an average of 805 feet between stops. In the Bronx, that average is slightly higher, at 882 feet. While it may be super convenient to have a bus stop right outside your door, too many bus stops too close together dramatically slow down the bus and worsen reliability.”

Organizations such as the City Island

Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce have worked to implement changes in the service to and from City Island. Meetings with MTA officials were followed up by a petition signed by more than 750 Islanders, and the Civic Association Facebook page gathered numerous complaints and comments about service, which were passed along to the MTA on a regular basis.

The Civic Association has reached out to elected officials, including Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Assemblyman Benedetto and Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, to ask for their support in persuading the MTA to keep the existing bus stops on the Island.

According to the MTA, this redesign was long overdue. “The proposed redesign updates the Bronx’s bus routes, which have largely remained unchanged since they were converted from trolley lines nearly a century ago or absorbed from private bus lines that were consolidated into the MTA decades ago.”

The entire plan can be reviewed at the website <https://new.mta.info/document/11321>. The sections on BX29 are on pages 103, 104, 246 and 247. According to the MTA, “our work on the Bronx Bus Network does not end with the release of this report or the implementation of the proposed changes, but will continue as we refine service based on ridership and performance, and respond to feedback we receive from customers.”

Public hearings will continue through December, and the MTA Board will vote on the plan in 2020, after which the changes will be implemented.



Photos by ROSE KOLB and KAREN NANI
High winds during October and November 2019 caused several boats to break from their moorings and wind up on Horton Street beach (photo, left) and up against the City Island bridge. Both boats were towed safely away.



Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season

Assemblyman
Michael R. Benedetto

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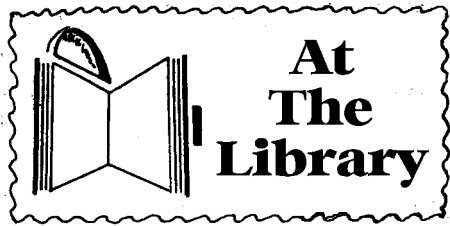
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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 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.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Dec. 13, at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

How Mindfulness can Positively Impact My Music: Students will undergo a series of four Mindfulness Techniques, which they will do before they start on a four-step Music Project based on the concept of "Expression." Students will walk away from this experience with strategies for achieving wellbeing in their daily lives and new approaches to finding creative inspiration within music making. For ages 13 to 18. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.

Books and Bites: Every week, come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! We will be reading "The Bridge Home." Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, at 4 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Hang out in the teen zone to catch up on homework, read and relax. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. This month's activities are Dec. 6: Lego Freebuild; Dec. 13: Wii and Board Games; Dec. 20: Card Making Craze; Dec. 27: Wii and Board Games

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Scrapbooking Fun: Come get crafty at the City Island Library! Regardless of your experience level, please join us and glue, tape, cut, stamp, string, embellish and decorate your way to a beautiful keepsake or a thoughtful gift. The keys are self-expression and, of course, fun! Thursday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 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. Thursday, Dec. 12 and 26, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Dec. 2 and 16, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to help one another along in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resumé Instruction: Stop in, or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m.: Dec. 7, "On The Basis of Sex"; Dec. 14: "Mary Poppins Returns"; Dec. 21: "Five Feet Apart"; Dec. 28: "A Dog's Journey"

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



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Join us **December 14th** from 7:30pm to 11:00pm for Marina's 1st Annual **Holiday Party** come and enjoy live music, dinner and dancing featuring **JOHN VILASI**

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PELHAM BAY LANDFILL BACK TO NATURE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Images courtesy of the NYC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The aerial photograph shows the extent of the Pelham Bay Landfill, which measures about 95 acres with a mile and a half of internal roads. Once a city dump, the landfill was considered an inactive hazardous waste site, but since 1991 the NYC Department of Environmental Protection has undergone a great deal of remediation and in 2013 was transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation for eventual use as a passive park. FEMA funds are being used to repair the shoreline of the landfill, which suffered damage in Hurricanes Irene and Sandy in 2011 and 2012 (above photo).



South of Shore Road, just before the drawbridge, is a large hill that was once a hazardous landfill, about which many Island residents have complained over the years. On Oct. 10, 2019, Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, gave a presentation to Community Board 10 updating the status of what is known as the Pelham Bay Landfill in order to reassure nearby communities that significant progress has been made in mitigating the toxic substances that were once present on the 95-acre site.

least 30 years, but the remedial efforts have been successful enough that the landfill was reclassified in October 2010 to allow limited public access. In 2013 the DEP transferred jurisdiction to the Department of Parks and Recreation, which accepted with the intention of converting the site to passive parkland. The Parks Department has been working with the DEP as well as the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to monitor stormwater, leachate, landfill gas and groundwater on regular intervals, some of which have been eliminated or reduced in scope.

The landfill is the result of a municipal dump that operated from 1963 until it was closed on Dec. 31, 1978, after years of complaints from nearby residents. In 1982 New York State placed the landfill on the list of inactive hazardous waste sites, and the Department of Transportation transferred it to the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 1991.

At the present time, Parks is awaiting DEC approval of two petition requests: a work plan for decommissioning and demolishing most of the leachate management system and a request that the discharge of drain water be into Eastchester Bay rather than the Hunt's Point Water Pollution Control Plant.

Since that time DEP has been testing soil and air quality, participating in health studies in conjunction with the city's Department of Health and undertaking the final grading and capping of the landfill, which was completed in 1998. Remediation activities included the installation of a landfill cap over a 24-inch soil/barrier layer, a geomembrane and a 12-inch gas-venting layer. A gas collection and flare system was installed, along with a stormwater management system and a leachate collection system.

In 2011 Hurricane Irene damaged the seawall of the site, and a year later Hurricane Sandy did more damage, so that sections of the seawall were eroded, some fence footings were exposed and placed in danger of collapse, and the edge of the landfill cap liner was exposed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved funding for a new 19.5 foot seawall that would mitigate flooding hazard and take into account the eventual rise in sea level. The city's Department of Design and Construction is working on a design, and after bids have been obtained, construction is scheduled to start in the summer of 2022 with completion scheduled for 2024.

Originally it was estimated that the site would not be available for public use for at

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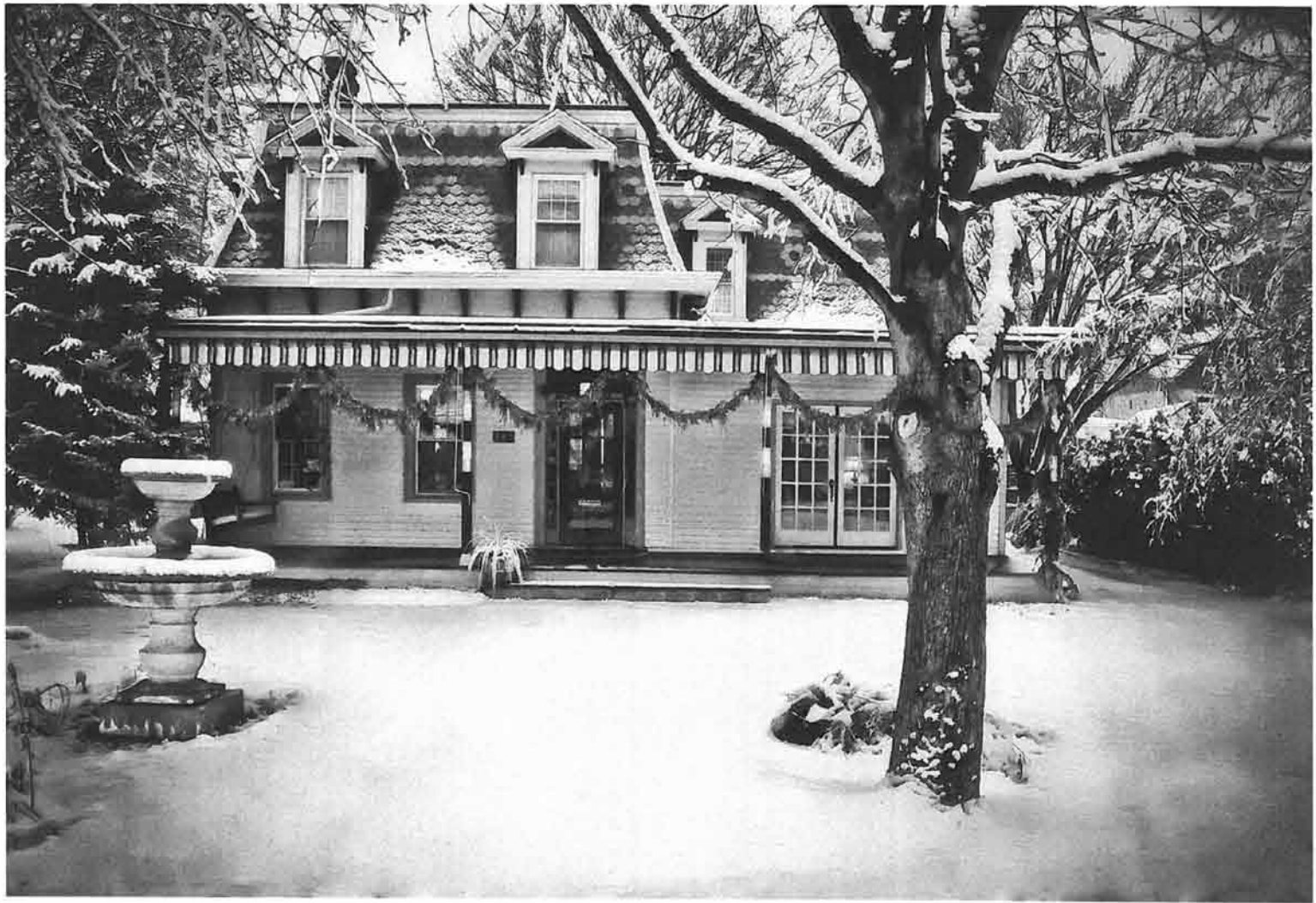
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Photo by MATT PANZA

The 2019 annual Holiday Tree lighting in Hawkins Park is scheduled for Nov. 30. Hopefully, this year's event will have better weather than the 2018 tree lighting and carol singing (shown above). The Chanukah Menorah lighting will be held on Dec. 22 also in Hawkins Park, so join members of the City Island Chamber of Commerce for both these joyous celebrations.



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A Current Review

Mamma Mia! Wins the Heart of City Island

By BRUCE A. WEIS

For its final production of 2019, the City Island Theater Group put the ball through the goal posts with an energetic, thoroughly enjoyable performance of the mega-hit "Mamma Mia!" In a production dedicated to the memory of City Island Theater Group stalwart Christopher McGowan, the group displayed a level of skill and execution one would expect from a Broadway show. I believe City Island Theater Group has graduated to a new level.

The heart of "Mamma Mia!" is a musical play written by British playwright Catherine Johnson based on a group of songs composed by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, former members of the Swedish pop group ABBA, and some songs by Stig Anderson. The show's plot isn't dense, but it serves well to set up one song after another, which isn't a bad thing if you are an ABBA fan.

The setting for the musical play is a small Greek island, where young Sophie Sheridan dreams of a perfect wedding, one in which her father gives her away. Unfortunately, Sophie doesn't know who he is, because her mother, Donna, the former lead singer of a 1970s pop group, Donna and the Dynamos, refuses to talk about her past. Sophie takes matters into her own hands when she reads her mother's old diaries and discovers that Donna had enjoyed a particularly amorous month 21 years earlier. So she learns that there are three possible fathers: Sam, Bill, and Harry. Unbeknownst to her mother, Sophie invites all three to her wedding, certain that she will know her father on sight. When all three men actually show up, the story begins.

At ground level, where we all live, it was City Island Theater Group's skill in the production of this play that made this story line so entertaining. The cast was huge for the group: 23 actors, including the ensemble, as well as a three-piece band. A 10-foot runway was added to the small Grace Church stage, and extra lighting was brought in. The action took place on and off the stage, and the new runway flowed down the stage into the center aisle, as if the entire audience was part of the show.

"Mamma Mia!" is a great jukebox musical, and the City Island Theater Group managed to wring every bit of potential from the show's soundtrack. Set-ups for each

song stayed true to the plot, and the dialogue was delivered effectively and believably. Individual performances were simply great. Each singer took full command of his or her song, and choreography was performed at a professional level.

The musical first opened at Toronto in May 2000 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre; the show's United States debut was at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco, on Nov. 17, 2000. "Mamma Mia!" stormed ashore on Broadway at the Winter Garden Theatre in October 2001, with Louise Pitre as Donna and Tina Maddigan as Sophie Sheridan. It became one of the longest running shows in Broadway history, moving in November 2013 to the Broadhurst Theatre, where it ran until September 2015, after a total of 5,773 performances. "Mamma Mia!" has been produced in more than 50 countries on six continents, and more than 65 million people have seen the show worldwide.

A movie version was released in 2008 with additional music by Benny Andersson, featuring Amanda Seyfried as Sophie, Meryl Streep as Donna and Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgård as Sophie's trio of possible fathers. In spite of mixed reviews, the film was wildly popular with audiences, grossing \$615 million worldwide and becoming the fifth highest-grossing film of 2008.

On City Island, the play received no mixed reviews. Heidi Martinez took the lead in the role of Sophie Sheridan, whose marriage provides the basis of the show's story. Heidi was very effective as a headstrong young bride determined to discover her past. Jennifer Edwards presented a strong performance as Donna Sheridan, a role that called for a transition from not wanting or needing a man in the first act to accepting a proposal by the show's close. Jennifer accomplished this effortlessly, as she gradually dropped past resentments and accepted newly understood affections.

Stephen Franciosa was one of Sophie's possible fathers as Sam Carmichael, and over the course of the show, he managed to convince Donna, over her strident objections, that he was one part of her past that she should enjoy a future with. Stephen was particularly convincing and enjoyable in this role, his first musical performance.

Scott Harwood played Bill Austin, an-



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

MAMMA MIA!, the final production of the City Island Theater Group's 20th season, featured an extraordinarily talented cast (front row, l. to r.): Bryce Kylie, Michelle Martinez, Heidi Martinez, Susan Rauh, Jennifer Edwards, Elizabeth Paldino, Thomas Losito, Stephen Franciosa, Morganne Melcher, Jana Monteiro; (back row): Brian Argiento, Florencia de la Rosa, Giny Rosa, Sharendalle Murga, Sarah Brown, Armin Pascal, Gino Irizarry, Scott Harwood, Astor Sage, Annemarie Tomsen and Karen Andronico.

other potential father, and at one point he may have been the audience favorite for the role. Scott convincingly portrayed a good man who had been invited to a wedding only to learn that he might be the father of the bride; he was surprised and a little confused but determined to make the best of things.

Thomas Losito was the third of Sophie's potential fathers, as Harry Bright, a character who had undergone a major transition himself, from youthful head-banging guitarist to staid British banker. Thomas gave a convincing impression of an executive grappling with a business problem, one that followed him throughout the evening.

Susan Rauh as Tanya, a former bandmate of Donna's and now a wealthy divorcee, has arrived on the island to attend Sophie's wedding, eager to relive her musical past with Donna as part of Donna and the Dynamos. Susan's best moment of the evening may have been with the song "Does Your Mother Know?" in the second act, but she was enjoyable throughout the show.

Elizabeth Paldino appeared as Donna's other Dynamo bandmate Rosie, now an author. She was clearly happy to revisit her singing past with Donna and Tanya and had a special moment of her own near the end of the second act in "Take a Chance on Me," although she too was entertaining throughout the whole show.

Gino Irizarry, who played the role of Sky, Sophie's husband-to-be, seems committed to the pending marriage at the beginning, and he spends most of the show trying to hold on to that commitment in the face of waves of youthful angst. Gino was great in this role, surfing these waves with aplomb.

Armine Pascal as Eddie and Astor Sage as Pepper were local friends of Sky's and workers at Donna's hotel. They were alternately in trouble with Donna and supportive of their friend, especially by drinking at Sky's bachelor party. They played each role very effectively.

Sarah Brown as Ali and Sharendalle Murga as Lisa were Sophie's friends and her confidantes, as she searched her mother's diaries for clues to her past. The two girls provided Sophie with the kind of support a girl needs to invite multiple fathers to her wedding.

Brian Argiento was at the center of the

climatic wedding scene as a priest trying to decide which couple he is supposed to marry, effectively shifting gears from Sophie and Sky to Donna and Sam. Michelle Martinez appeared in the shadows on stage as a young Sophie while Donna sang "Slipping through My Fingers." I doubt there was a dry eye in the house.

One of the significant features of "Mamma Mia!" is the large ensemble of talented actors who appear throughout the show in untitled roles. Their contribution to the show is vital, and without it, the show really couldn't have been mounted. This talented ensemble didn't merely appear in scenes; it completed them and often drove them with expert singing, dancing and additional dialogue.

The ensemble for "Mamma Mia!" included (alphabetically): Karen Andronico, Florencia de la Rosa, Bryce Kylie (dance captain), Morganne Melcher, Jana Monteiro, Giny Rosa, Nick Rueger and Grace Church's own Annemarie Tomsen.

The choreographer for "Mamma Mia!" was Angelique Cruz, and musical direction was provided by Patrick Harris. The costume design for the show was by Carol McCabe, who is celebrating her 20th year with City Island Theater Group. There were a lot of costumes, but thankfully, she had a team helping her with this production that included Cheryl Brinker, Barbara Dennis, Kathy Gibbons and Jane Protzman. (Special praise should also be given to the cast here, which changed costumes so often I lost count!) Lighting design and operation for the play were managed by Dylan Friedman. The set was designed by Carl Tallent and Sarah Harris and constructed by Dan Srdoc. Props were gathered by Barbara Dolensek and Pam Johnston, who also served as Production Stage Manager and was responsible for the very complicated goings-on backstage. Margie Guzman handled sound design and operation. Nick Sala deserves a great deal of applause himself for his expert direction of a complicated show.

This impressive production of "Mamma Mia!" was the final show of City Island Theater Group's 2019 season, and the group has set a very high bar for itself in 2020. Needless to say, we look forward to what next year will bring.



Photo by MATT PANZA

The first City Island Film Festival took place at Trinity Methodist Auditorium on Nov. 9, 2019, presented by City Island's Focal Point Gallery. Filmmakers James and Tommy Breen and Hyonok Kim are shown above with Ron Turner discussing the films "City Island Bridge: A Farewell," "For Sunrise," and "The Memory Keeper," with the crowd.



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Benza, Joyce	DelVecchio, Connieann	Guerra, Ray	Lazar, David	Montano, Joseph	Roccamo, Anthony & Christine	Tallent, Carl
Beqiraj, Anita	DelVecchio, Mary	Guzman, Margie	Lazu, Giovanni	Montee, Teddy	Rodriguez, Arianna	Terner, Ron
Berardo, Andrea	DeMatteo, Christian	Hale, Arlene	Leavy, Robert	Monteiro, Jana	Rodriguez, Keith	Thompson, Melissa
Berger, Delia	Demers, Jeremy	Hamady, Adam	Leclere, Jennie	Montuoro, Alexandra	Rodriguez, Torrey	Tierson-Wool, Eve
Bermudez, Angela	DeMonte, Rose	Handman, Linda & Husson, Didier	Lederway, Greg	Moore, Abby	Rodstrom, Justin	Tollinchi, Ray
Beruh, Benjamin	Dennis, Barbara	Hanglow, Amanda	Lee, T. Abram	Morabito, David	Romanovitch, Cathy	Tomsen, Annemarie
Betesh, Heidi	de Pirro, Richie	Hanglow, Lauren	Leon, Lisa	Morales, Kyle	Rosa, Eugenia	Torres, Donna
Birmingham, Barbara	Dewitt, Joe	Hansen, Rena	Letourneau, Virginia	Morra, Greg	Rosa, Jonathan	& Halperin, Jeff
Blackman, Andrew	DeWitt, Rick	Harmon, Tatum Kai	Lindh, Eric	Morrissey, Sharon	Rose, Taliesen	Tramontana, Vicki
Bligh, Christen	Diloria, Kristina	Harris, Patrick	Lindy, Phyllis	Morton, Bill	Roskam, Cathy	Trauceniek, Keith
Bloom, Howard	Dino, Eric	Harris, Sarah	Lipson, Amy	Moses, Timothy	Ross, Ken	Trinity Methodist Church
Blumgold, Leslie R.	Dolensek, Barbara	Harrison, Barbara & Smith, Darrell	Liski, Ann	Muccio, Dorothy	Rota, Beth	Turner, Jeff & Pam
Boiano, Antonette	Dolensek, Phillip	Harrison, Robbin	Livingston, Bob	Muenster, Nadine	Rota, Matt	Tyler, Andrea
Bonilla, Eva	Donahue, Bill	Harrald, Sarah	Livingston, Robbie	Mulroy, Mary	Roublick, Susan	Ullman, Jack
Bowen, Eileen	Dooner, Carol	Hartigan, John	Livingston Martin, Amanda	Mulroy, Robert	Roublick, Cori-Ann	Vacca, Elizabeth
Brand, Maya	Dorin, Debra	Harwood, Scott	Lloyd, Thomas	Mumm, Michael J.	Rueger, Nick	Vacca, James
Brant, Tara	Drake, Christina	Hayes, Janie	Lomurno, Emmy	Muniz, Angel	Ruggiero, Bobby	Valenti, John
Breen, James	DuMars, Valerie	Hazell, Jason	Losito, Thomas	Murdock, Daniel & Carleen	Ruggiero, Tina	Valesio, Mary
Brinker, Cheryl	Dunton, Lisa	Heben, Betty	Lott, Ethel	Murdock, Stephanie	Sage, Astor	Vargas-Caba, Natalia
Brooks, Margo	Earley, Scott	Heck, Jo	Lourenco, Stephanie	Murga, Sharendalle	Sala, Nick	Vasquez, Germania
Brown, Sarah	Eccles, Sarah	Heim, Dianne	Ludemann, Hannah	Murphy, Kenneth	Salzberg, Ellen	Velchek, Susan
Brownlee, Mary Ann	Ecker, Casey Marie	Hennessy, Emma	Ludemann, Mary & Ed	Myers, T.J.	Salzberg, Marvin	Velez, Angela
Brundage, Howard	Edwards, Heather	Hennessy, John	Lynah, Vanessa	Naclerio, Paul	Sanacore, Michael	Vesce, Kristin
Bruno, Megan	Edwards, Jennifer	Henry, June & Kenneth	Macari, Gabrielle	Nagle, Marie Louise	Santiago, Sam	Vivolo, Annalise
Bryant, Elizabeth	Eifert, Jean	Henry, Mya	MacDonald, Lyla	Nagy, Blakely	Santoro, Brandon	Weingarten, Lois
Burck, Joe	Eismann, Sarah	Hernandez, Paula	Magaliff, Bill, Patrick	Nagy, Jonathan	Sapeta, Kenn	Weis, Bruce
Burkart, Louise	Emmert, Samantha	Hernandez, Victoria	Maldari, Gabi	Nagy, Samantha	Sarco, Theresa	Weiss, Greg
Burke, Daniel	Erickson, Deborah	Higgins, Beth	Maldonado, Tara	Nani, Paul & Karen	Scarogni, Luigi	Weppler, Tom
Cabella, Carmen	Ernest, James M.	Hill, F. Marshall	Mamara, Joan	Nanko, Lorraine C.	Scavello's on The Island	Werkhoven, Reece
Calabro, Nic Anthony	Evangelista, Peter	Hirschman, Kimberly	Manetakis, Chris	Nash, Martin	Schera, Steven	Wetter, David
Campbell, Kirkland	Evers, Charlene & Charles	Hitt, Gail	Manfredonia, Annalise	Nelson, Ted	Schiffer, Michael	Wexler, Stanley
Cantor, Constance	Facchiano, Kyle	Hluschewsky, Mr. & Mrs.	Mancuso, Joseph	Nixon, Joseph	Schock, Riley	Whelan, Brianna
Cardinalli, Sandra & O'Connell, Margaret	Fazio, Toni	Hoffman, Barbara	Mancuso, Michael	Nourae, Nader	Schroeder, Miriam	White, Julie
Carman, Mary	Fedako, Eleanor	Holden-Greco, Beth	Mankiewicz, Phoebe	Nowacka, Alicia	Schwam, John	Williams, Dawn
Carpenter, Jeannine	Ferrara, Angela	Hopkins, Eileen	Marcus, Ben	Nye, Thomas	Schwartz, Joanne M.	Williams, Sarah
Caruso, Elizabeth T.	Figueras, Daniel	Hopkins, Gwyn	Marcus, Eileen	O'Connell, Natalie	Schwartz, Zachary	Williams, Shane
Caruso, Maria & Kane, Stephane	Files, Demerre	Hopkins, Lauri	Marcus, Stephen	O'Donnell, Linda	Serrano, Carol	Woods, Tom & Rosetta
Casey, Thomas & Sharon	Finelli, Denise	Huffell, Paula	Markowe, Ruth	Omobono, Fabian	Sevensky, Daniel	Wool, Ashley
Cashier, Barbara	Finnegan, Shane & Maura	Ignario, Luis	Martin, Dakota	Orzo, Anthony	Sexton, Gregory	Worden, Thomas
Caso, Kyle	Fitzpatrick, Kaylin	Imperioli, Alaura	Martin, Maritza	Orzy, Alize	Sexton, Elizabeth	Wyckoff, Wendy
Cassini, Brad	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	Incle, Ed	Martinez, Heidy	Ottaviano, Anthony	Sexton, Emily	Yamashita, Miki
Castagnetta, Anna Maria & Robert	Flanagan, Michael	Infortunio, Lucy	Martinez, Henry & Emily	Pacheco, Drucila	Shaham, Lior	Yang, Angela
Casten, Nicole	Flannery, Annmarie	Jacob, Sharon L.	Martinez, Janette	Paduano, Anthony & Carolann	Shanley, Emmett	Zak, Basia
Castro, William T.	Flick, Jean	Javier, Vanessa	Masotti, Rich	Pagano, Peter	Shanley, Michael	Zambrana, Aimee
Catanzo, Mario	Flood, Colleen	Jett, Mike	Massi, Carolyn	Paganelli, Armand	Shanley, Tieman	Zapata, Lindsey
Cavinee, Robert	Flynn, Katie	Johnson, Amanda	McAllister, Katie	Paldino, Elizabeth	Sheehan, Bill	Zepeda, Denis
	Flynn, Liam		McCabe, Carol	Pappas, Catherine J.	Sheehy, Hannah	Zrioli, Romane
	Fogarty, Jason			Pascal, Armin	Shelly, Laura	Zupko, Ed
					Shenkman, Scott-Robert	

All the Words For This Holiday Season Are Right Here On City Island

By MONICA GLICK

What word describes the holidays for you? From joyous to jolly, magic to merry, and everything in between, the shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses on our Island home have what you need for all those festive feelings.



The Black Whale

Joyous. There's joy in abundance this holiday season at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue), from the delectable choices at Sunday brunch to the decisions (all good!) among desserts, dinner specials and seasonal soups.

And your taste buds will be delightfully happy at the dishes served up Wednesdays through Sundays at **Archie's Table and Tap** (536 City Island Avenue). Try an "Archie Burger" while you're there: LaFrieda short rib blend on a house-made bun, with beef-steak tomato, lettuce and onion, and served with fries. And in this joyous season, add some applewood bacon and gruyere cheese.



Jill's Cottage

Joy is always blooming at **Jill's Cottage** (152 City Island Avenue) where Jill herself will help you find a plant, a bouquet, something special for a holiday table and more to make the season festive for family, friends—and yourself!

Children's book author and publisher **Angela Parrino** (GP's Honey Tomes) invites you to an event sure to be joyous: the 10-year anniversary and holiday sale at the Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 4 p.m., featuring GP's books, skincare products, honey, glass and other items for sale. There will be entertainment, games and activities, everything needed to jump start your joy!

Jolly. Get your "ho ho ho" ready as you gaze at the jolly choices in ornaments, candles, artwork, jewelry and other gifts at **Kaleidoscope Gallery** (280 City Island Avenue).

And what's more jolly-making than shooting a game of pool and enjoying Diego's quesadillas and other fine fare at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue)?!

Check out the joy on tap at **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue), or kick back with a fine cigar at **Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue), and maybe even

grab a box as a gift for a friend.

Imagine how jolly you'll be if your laundry is washed and folded while you're holiday shopping! **Clam Digger's Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue) or **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue) can help with that.

Or maybe your "happy place" is feeling fit. That's covered too at **Club Fit** (466 City Island Avenue), or Tae Kwon Do at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue). Stay stress-free this season at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue).

If you're forward thinking about joy-filled times, think spring when Skip and Louise Giacco return with their ice cream crew at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue). And there's also juice jolly in the making on our Island home with the soon-to-open **City Island Juice Bar** (327 City Island Avenue).



Antiques, Collectibles and More

Whimsical. **Antiques, Collectibles and More** (474 City Island Avenue) is the newest shop on our Island home to feature the fanciful. Ask owners Danny and mom Dianne to show you around. There to greet you as well are Lucy and Ricky, Mae West and W.C. Fields—dolls, of course—as well as vintage photos and signs, even a costume jewelry corner.

Further down the avenue, the winds of whimsy continue at **J. W. Foley Rarities & Obscurities** (270 City Island Avenue), with everything from musical instruments to furniture, superhero clothing to cool lighting, and more.

Go three for three on the fun factor, and travel a couple of blocks further down the avenue to **239 Play!** (239 City Island Avenue), where whimsy is packed all around on shelves and in bins, in showcases and in corners.

When you're finished shopping, make your way back to **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue) for dinner, maybe a combo platter of wood-grilled T-bone and BBQ baby back ribs and dessert; Artie's deadly chocolate cake will chase holiday stress far away. And while you treat your palate, you'll feast your eyes on the always amazing holiday decorations adorning this Island eatery.

Warm and Fuzzy. Get cozy by the fire in the lounge of the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), sipping a piña colada or tropical punch (hey, it's got to be summer somewhere!) and snacking on some baked clams, fried calamari or mozzarella sticks (or all three!).

The coffee is warm and can be flavored (cheesecake and butter pecan are possibilities) at **Clipper Coffee** (274 City Island Avenue) mid-Island. Talk to proprietor Peter Gennari about what's happening this season, and don't forget to say "Hi!" to Jenn on Thursdays.

On the same block, a few doors away, the lights of the **János & Theresa Gallery** (278 City Island Avenue), run by János Arányi and Theresa Llorente, will draw you into a world warmed by art and events, like saxophone and piano music on Thursday evenings.

Fun and Fabulous. **Mary Colby Studio and Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) is offering a way to keep the fun going after the holidays, with painting classes on Saturdays

in January and February. For holiday gifts, how about a portrait of your child, done from a photo or a photo session? Mary can help with that; find out more by calling 917-804-4509. Always fabulous is what fills the windows of **Cheryl Brinker's Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue).

After your fun and fabulous shopping experience, you'll find the family at the new **Sea Breeze Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) ready with food to take home or enjoy there. Or before you get started with shopping, stop by **Augie's City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) or **Dunkin'** (636 City Island Avenue) for coffee and more.

Solve your decorating and wrapping needs at **Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue). And for gift-giving, why not some City Island red wine, available at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue).

And besides **Sea Breeze Deli**, which is open to 10 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, **Fire House Corner Deli** (240 City Island Avenue) is also open late, which is definitely fabulous.

Delightful. What's more delightful than a meal that tastes the way your mother made it? Well, the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue) is here to help with that this holiday season. And there's lots to please next door at the **Snug** (302 City Island Avenue), whether it's half-price burger night Tuesday (with waitress Hannah) or Mexican night Thursdays. And any night in between can offer comfort from the cold, especially with an Irish coffee!

If fast is what delights you in this fast-paced shopping season, then check out the day's dishes at Chef Rafael's **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), get your takeout from **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue), or visit **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue) for one of their daily specials.



Dominick's Market

There's much to help with your holiday home or office party planning at **Dominick's Market** (385 City Island Avenue). You'll find pre-made meals, a selection of desserts, fresh produce and meats, and a full catering menu. Don't forget to say "hello" to Angie and the catering crew!

Delicious. Although all the restaurants on City Island serve up delicious dishes, if it's destination flavors you want, we can help with that too! First, watch for the opening of **Anthony's** (273 City Island Avenue), formerly Filomena's. Anthony, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, with Peter and son Anthony, will offer a new Italian restaurant on our Island, offering the same tasty foods and more from this team.

If "delish" is a dish from Italy, there's also **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue), or **Scavello's on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue).

But if you're craving more Latin flavors, try **Vistamar Restaurant and Lounge** (565 City Island Avenue) with a selection of mofongo flavors and other choices.

For a mix of locations—Latin with hibachi dishes—visit **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue).

Maybe your destination for delicious is the sea. Well, there's a net full of options, from **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue) and the **Lobster House** (691 Bridge Street) as you drive on the Island, to **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the **Original Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City



Sammy's Shrimp Box

Island Avenue) or **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue) at the far end. And in between, there's the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue) with "Joe V's deep divers feast," featuring more than a fisherman's net could hold!

If it's speedy seafood you want, try **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue) mid-Island, or drive to the end for some fare at **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue). **Johnny's Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) will be back in the spring to serve up seafood goodness.

Memorable. Memories of times past and some present fill **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue). If it's City Island history you crave, visit the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturdays and Sundays until Dec. 15. Maybe even gift someone in your life—or yourself—with a membership here or some wonderful items illustrated with nautical charts of City Island.

The "memory keeper" of City Island, Ron Turner, provides at his decades-old City Island mainstay, **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), much to help you remember your holidays: from event and family photography to photo framing and restoration, and including your favorite family or pet photo or artwork on a signature brick. Stop by to say "hi" to Ron and wife Susan Lamantia Turner, who will help you select a jewelry gift, while you enjoy the holiday group show art exhibit.

Magic. Live music magic takes the stage weekends at Elliott Glick's **Starving Artist** (The Artist) (249 City Island Avenue) this holiday season, including Rob Stoner from Bob Dylan's band (Saturday, Dec. 7) and Broadway at The Artist (Saturday, Dec. 21). There's even a paint afternoon event (Sunday, Dec. 8). The full schedule for December may be found at StarvingArtistOnline.com. Looking for a stage to practice or perform? Talk to Elliott about those possibilities.

If it's personal magic you're seeking, there's **Eden Beauty Bar** (310 City Island Avenue) with a full range of beauty services for skin, body and hair.

If it's nail magic you're after—fingers, toes or both—try a gel powder manicure at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue), good for your nails at a good price. **Nail Island** (460 City Island Avenue) is also ready to help you get set for celebrating the holidays. The beauty crew at **Art of Beauty** (413 City Island Avenue) can help with nails, hair and more! Visit **Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue) for the latest and greatest in advanced skincare.

Merry. If your holiday "merry" is tied to the seas, **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) has everything you need. There's **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue) for a "deep dive" into the spirits of the season. **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) has all loose holiday ends "sewn" up, and home and boat essentials are found in this season and more at **Buddy's Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) and **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue).

A new season of shows from the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG) is sure to make the merry last. Visit the CITG's website (CityIslandTheaterGroup.com) for those details, and information on how to become a subscriber.

And this year especially, wish your merriest best to the family that forms the team

Continued on page 17

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

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 6, **St. Nicholas Party and Dinner**, Grace Church, 7 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 6, and Sat., Dec. 7, **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. 7, and Sun., Dec. 8, **St. Mary's Christmas Fair**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in both the school gym and the Thrift Shop.

Sun., Dec. 8, **10th Anniversary Carnival and Holiday Sale**, noon to 4 p.m. City Island Community Center, Fordham Street.

Sat., Dec. 14, **Blue Christmas Worship**, a service of remembrance and hope, Trinity Methodist Church, 10 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 14, **Holiday Fair**, Morris Yacht & Beach Club, 5 to 11 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 14, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, 7 to 11 p.m., Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

Sun., Dec. 15, **Girl Scout Troop #1115 Holiday Bake Sale**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Community Center, Fordham Street.

Sat., Dec. 21, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: meat loaf with vegetable and potatoes.

Sun., Dec. 22, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m. Reception follows at Kaleidoscope Gallery

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage with peppers and potatoes.

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

City Island Nautical Museum

As winter draws near, the museum is preparing to end its public hours on Saturday and Sunday as of Dec. 15, when we will hold our annual meeting at 4 p.m. and a Christmas reception for all members. We will be refurbishing some exhibits, organizing books, photos and artwork over the winter. If you are interested in City Island's history you are welcome to join us. Call 718-885-0507.

Our shop has some wonderful City Island gifts on sale, including scarves, hand towels and our ever-popular t-shirts and hoodies. Please visit our website at cityislandmuseum.org for a list of items and information about ordering.

We are hard at work on our oral history project, which we plan to present when we open in the spring. In the meantime, happy holidays to all.

Barbara Dolensek

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 1, at 12 noon. Dues (\$55) are past due for 2020. Please drop them 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, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the post's flag pole.

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. And we are especially grateful to all Legion family members and our community partners who helped to make the 100th Anniversary & Serviceman's Dinner a sold-out event!

The following are upcoming events:

Dec. 1: Post 156 regular meeting at noon.

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Service sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron #156 at noon at the Post. The ceremony will be conducted at the Legion Triangle.

Dec. 14, 2 p.m.: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 invites all to our Quilts of Valor Awardees, Michael Treat and Frank Hoffman.

Dec. 15, 2 to 5 p.m.: Post 156 Children's Christmas Party. (Please bring a wrapped gift to be presented by Santa and Mrs. Claus.)

Dec. 16, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.: Executive Meeting and Christmas Party at Post 156.

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas to all.

Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve): Party Open House, pot-luck shared dinner.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

On Nov. 10, new and long-time members of Unit 156 represented City Island at the annual Bronx Veterans Day Parade honoring our local veterans and military personnel, while raising community awareness of their sacrifices and ongoing needs. Many thanks to Cheryl Riordan, leader of Brownie and Girl Scout Troop 1115, for marching beside our unit.

The American Legion Centennial Dinner on Nov. 23 is sold out! Thank you to all who bought dinner tickets, sold raffle tickets and loaned us photos of family veterans.

At our ALA meeting on Dec. 3, we will start early, at 7 p.m., for a brief meeting, followed by our Holiday Party, tree trimming and annual Pick-a-Vet.

Susan O'Keefe Vaughan, Bronx County President, is organizing our annual visit to the James J. Peters VA Medical Center Gift Shop on Sunday, Dec. 1. ALA members will meet in Room 1B-07 (first floor) at 10 a.m. for light refreshments, team pairing and a review of hospital protocol. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Auxiliary bulletin board at the Post. Please plan to carpool from the Post to the VA. A special shout-out to Cheryl Riordan, leader of Brownie and Girl Scout Troop 1115, Vicki Weidemann of Troop 1165, and Nancy Lotrionte of Parsons School in Harrison, who led youngsters in crafting more than 100 holiday cards and letters for our veterans for the Gift Shop day.

On Dec. 14, there will be a dual Quilts of Valor ceremony at 2 p.m. at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post to award quilts to local veterans Frank Hoffman and Mike Treat. Following the ceremony, we will serve light refreshments. All are invited.

Children are invited to the Leonard H. Hawkins Post for the annual party on Dec. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. Adults must bring a gift for their own child with his/her name on it. Please limit gift value to \$20. For further information, contact Joe Goonan at the Legion hall, 718-885-0639.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York Mid-Winter Conference is Jan. 24-26, 2020, in Albany, NY. All ALA members are encouraged to attend. Please contact Doreen Wall, president, for further information.

Regarding our Support the Troops Program, remember that we have active service military stationed in Afghanistan. Contact Joanne Valletta at jcute53@aol.com for a list of the personal care items they need. There are drop-off bins at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post, Island Pharmacy, Trinity Church and Morris Yacht Club.

There will be no Auxiliary meeting in January.



Photo by MATT PANZA

The American Legion Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 celebrated its 100th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, with a gala dinner dance at Scavello's on the Island that was attended by nearly 400 guests. Legion officers who hosted the event were (standing, l. to r.): Robert Mennona, Victor Anderson, Peter Booth, James Livingston, Peter Del-Debbio, Joseph Goonan; (seated): Susan Michaels, Joanne Valletta, Laura Booth, Susan Vaughan.

Are you thinking about joining the Auxiliary? Come to any of our meetings, talk to our membership chairwoman Viki Trifari (wik99@me.com) about eligibility and meet the members of the largest, oldest and most active women's group in our community. We're growing and doing more every year.

Harlan Sexton

Holiday Services

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 (2 to 6 p.m.) and Dec. 7 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Christmas Fair.

Saturday, Dec. 14: Blue Christmas Service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 15: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the Bridge

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8, St. Mary's Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. School gym and the Thrift Shop.

Sunday, Dec. 22: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Mass at 8 p.m. Carols at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, Mass at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Friday, Dec. 6: Advent/Christmas/St. Nicholas party, Parish Hall, 7 p.m. Dinner and dessert.

Sunday, Dec. 22: Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m., Baptism

Tuesday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service and Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Sunday, Dec. 22, Chanukah Menorah Lighting, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Friday, Dec. 27, Chanukah Shabbaton at 10 a.m. with afternoon classes and learning.

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington with Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. On the first Sunday of the month, birthday and anniversary prayers are offered during the service; on a different Sunday, healing prayer is offered for those wishing to come forward for anointing.

You are invited to join Father Covington's Bible Reading Group, which meets

during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the book of Judges.

Plan to join us for an Advent/Christmas/St. Nicholas party on Friday, Dec. 6, in the Grace Church Parish Hall, beginning at 7 p.m. Families and friends are welcome to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert. Limited tickets will be available for pick up at Grace Church during coffee hour from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 1. Adults: \$5; children: free. If you like, bring beer or wine to share. After dinner, the GraceTones will lead us in singing carols. We will have our own version of a Jesse Tree named for the father of King David, ancestor of Jesus of Nazareth, and decorated with symbols of those great women and men preparing the way for the Christ (the Jesse Tree inspired the family tree of today). For more information, contact Bruce Weis at cityvisler@msn.com.

Sunday School: The group meets on the first and third Sunday each month at 10 a.m., led by Karen Nani. Rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Pageant will be on Sunday, Dec. 1 and 15. Anyone participating this year must attend these rehearsals or let Mrs. Nani know you are interested (karenrnl@optonline.net) even if you cannot make both rehearsals. The pageant will be at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 24 and is always a joyous celebration of the birth of the baby Jesus.

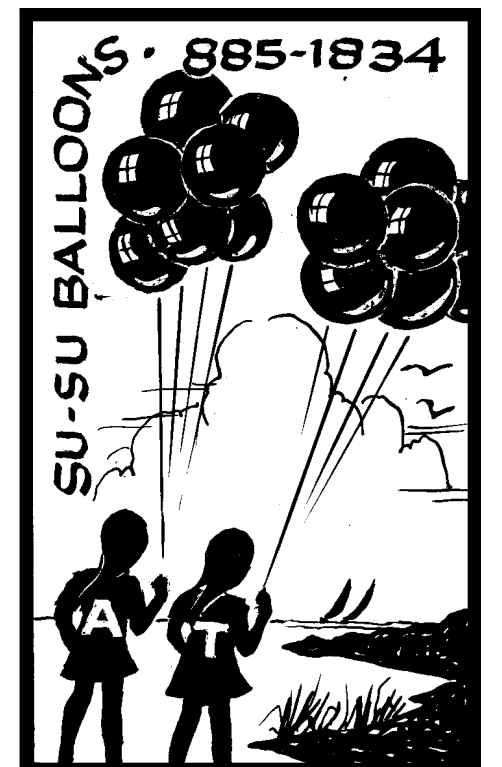
The Christmas Eve Service and Pageant will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, the Christmas Eucharist begins at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Sandy Dunn

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church hall. We have two meetings in December, on the 4th and the 18th. These will be regular meetings. On Dec. 11, we will have our Christmas luncheon at the Lobster House. The price is \$50; you must have your money in by the meeting on Dec. 4. If you are interested in attending, call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Carroll A. Reid





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

We wish you all happiness and peace this holiday season. We will have a Winter Brunch with delicious fare and light entertainment on Sunday, Jan. 12, from 12 to 3 p.m. for members. Thank you for renewing and joining, and if you haven't had a chance, our membership drive continues into the New Year. As always, we depend on all of you to keep the Center warm, clean and safe. If you don't receive a renewal notice in your mailbox, please call 718-885-1135 and we will mail you one.

Membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members are entitled to rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or 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. And we always want to hear your ideas and thoughts about how to serve the community better.

EVENTS

10th Anniversary Carnival and Holiday Sale: Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 4 p.m. Publisher Honey Tomes invites everyone for entertainment, games and activities for the young and young at heart, including food and beverages, book readings, sale items and Santa.

Craft Crop and Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. DeMail Handcrafts is bringing "Create Pretty Things Crops" and classes to you. For information, contact Desiree Demail at 914-562-5857 or demailhandcrafts@aim.com.

New Year Celebration: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Ring in the New Year with friends and entertainment from Freddy Lando and Caroline DelGuidice. Please bring your own refreshments. The cost is \$30 per person. For reservations, please call Diane at 718-885-9346.

Winter Brunch for Members, Sunday, Jan. 12, 12 to 3 p.m. All members are invited to delicious brunch with light entertainment. For information, call Patty at 718-885-1891. A Taste of Italy: Sunday, Feb. 23. This popular Italian marketplace is coming back to City Island. Mark your calendars and call Francesca at 914-837-6830 for more information.

NEW

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

Dealing with the Holidays: Survival Skills for Parents: Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. with John Scardina.

Chair Yoga: Call to join Joann for this gentle class with an emphasis on the benefits of stretching and flexing. Contact joannngny@aol.com or 917-853-4719.

Compassionate Journey: Wednesday, 7 p.m. Dec. 11. Open support group for anyone who has lost a loved one. Goals are to create a safe, empathetic and supportive environment and offer coping mechanisms for those working through bereavement. Please sign up with Jillian Cea via jcea@gmail.com or 347-419-1222.

Mambo: Community Dance Workshops: Sundays at 3:30 p.m. One World Arts and Retumba invites all ages to join the fun of learning to dance mambo and play an instrument through Dec. 16. These free classes will be back in February. Call Yvette Martinez for information at 718-885-2574

Zumba with John: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Have fun, feel energetic and get in shape with John Molina. Call 914-882-0245 for details.

NEW CLASSES: JANUARY

Apothecary of Essential Oils: Tuesdays at 7:30, begins Jan. 9. Learn about the benefits today and how they were used thousands of years in the past. Visit www.thehealingforce@gmail.com or call Francesca at 914-837-6830.

Italian for the Traveler, Day and time to be announced. Learn basic conversational Italian with Maria Bortoluzzi and special guest Freddie Lando. Register now; please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Scrapbooking: Wednesdays, 5:15 to 7 p.m. Preserve precious memories using the latest crafting techniques. All ages welcome. Fee is \$5 per class. Scrapbooks for purchase. Contact CICC at 718-885-1145 or rsangler10464@gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Beginning Calligraphy: Thursdays, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Ages 11 and up. Must have some knowledge of script. To register, or for more information, call 718-885-1145 or e-mail rsangler10464@gmail.com.

Creative Arts Workshop for Ages 4-6: Tuesdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Fun with collage, finger painting, mask making plus. Call 914-837-6830 to register for this free class.

Cursive Handwriting: Tuesdays, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Ages 8 through 11. Limited to seven students. Call 718-885-1145 to register, or for more information e-mail rsangler10464@gmail.com.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. To register for fall classes or information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. Register for the fall with Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Thursdays, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish program for kids grades K through 8 at all skill levels. Register for the fall at espanol-experience.com or call 917-889-4938.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

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

City Island Culinary Club: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Dec. 18: Cookie recipes and exchange. Jan. 13 and 26: Tailgate foods. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters, and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information, contact Barbara Zahm at 914-882-7963 or cityislandtrg@gmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Feldenkrais Class: Call to join future classes. Find greater ease of movement, flexibility, relief from pain, relaxation and improved posture. Feldenkrais exercises involve a combination of gentle movements, rest and self-awareness to improve the way your body feels and functions. Contact Julie Kavee at 347-266-6247 or juliekavee@gmail.com.

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.

For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

WW/Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We are an official WW site with a great new leader, Alex Sokoloff. For more information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia: Saturdays, 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: Thursdays, new time, 6:30 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

PSS Senior 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 and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

Dec. 6, Friday, 12:30 p.m.: Elder Abuse Presentation

Dec. 16, Monday, 1:15 p.m.: Holiday Concert

Dec. 18, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.: Fire Safety, FDNY

Dec. 24, Tuesday: Close at 1 p.m.

Dec. 25, Wednesday: Closed

Dec. 26, Thursday: Open

Dec. 31, Tuesday: New Year's Eve Party

Dec. 31, Tuesday: Close at 1

Jan. 1, Wednesday: Closed

Jan. 2, Thursday: Tentative, NYBG Holiday Train Show

Jan. 10, Friday, 12:45 p.m.: "Streetwise" (NYC DOT)

Jan. 17, Friday, 12:30 p.m.: Nutrition Presentation, Sugar Addiction

Jan. 20, Monday: Closed

New Series, Money Made Simple, on Fridays at 1 p.m. (open to the public), Anthea Perkinson, CFP, EA

Jan. 24: Beyond Budgeting: Managing Cash Flows and Making Smart Financial Decisions

Jan. 31: Understanding Credit and Managing Debt Before and After Retirement

Feb. 7: Keys to Successful Investing

Feb. 21: Putting it All together: Constructing a Retirement Income Plan

Daily Programming

Mondays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exercise levels

10:30 a.m. Balance Exercises

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Library Day, Dec. 9 and 30; please call for January date

12 to 1 p.m. Lunch

1:15 Singing Group through Dec. 26

Tuesdays:

9:15 a.m. Cardio Fit: Vigorous aerobic and strength training

10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Blood-pressure screening

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Yoga Stretch

Wednesdays:

9 a.m. "Stuff: Let's Talk," discussion group with continental breakfast

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Workshop, exercises for all joints

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Calligraphy on the second and fourth Wednesdays

1 p.m. Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 on Dec. 11, 18; Jan. 8, 22. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays:

9:15 a.m. Tai Chi for Arthritis, for all exer-

cise levels

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m.: The Wonderful Crazy Brain, Dec. 19, 26, every week in January

Fridays:

9:15 a.m. Fit for Life: Vigorous cardio and toning; last day Dec. 20

11:15 a.m. Yoga Stretch

12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch

12:30/1 p.m. See Highlights above.

We have a social worker who visits every week on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to answer questions, apply for benefits and help in any other way. Call 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9 a.m. and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for more information or for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Garden Club of City Island

Garden Club members got together Thanksgiving week for a wreath workshop under the direction of our beautification committee. We hope the community will enjoy the resulting Christmas wreaths, which are hung in various public spaces on City Island. Early this month, the beautification committee, together with club members and our Helping Hands auxiliary, will be refurbishing the planter boxes along City Island Avenue with a selection of winter foliage, pinecones and other natural materials.

You are invited to join us at our meeting on Monday, Dec. 2, for a presentation by Lyn Thompson, who will give a flower-arranging demonstration (the originally scheduled speaker will join us in March). The next meeting, Jan. 6, will not have a presentation; committees will meet to plan their activities for the coming year.

Garden Club meetings are held monthly, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All of our meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee.

Sharynne Wilder

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

George Cavalieri is leading an Advent Bible study in the Gospel of John for the five Sundays in December. It will take place after the worship service.

Our annual Christmas Fair is Friday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served Saturday from 12 to 1:30.

On Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Trinity United Methodist Church will welcome everyone to a Blue Christmas Service, A Service of Remembrance and Hope. For those who experience pain or loss during the holiday season, come and lay down your burden for a few minutes with us.

The children's Christmas Pageant is Sunday, Dec. 15, during the 10 a.m. worship service, and the Christmas Party will be held immediately after the service. Christmas Eve Candlelight service is Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.

Thanks to all those who helped with the Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, particularly to members of Temple Beth-El who led the organization efforts and helped to set up, serve and clean up.

Each weekday morning, Pastor Dave opens the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time,

Continued on page 19



The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,....

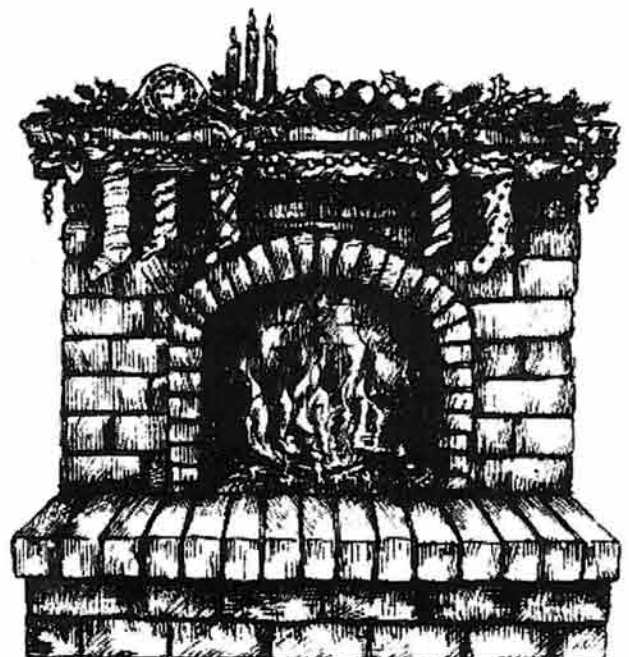


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.

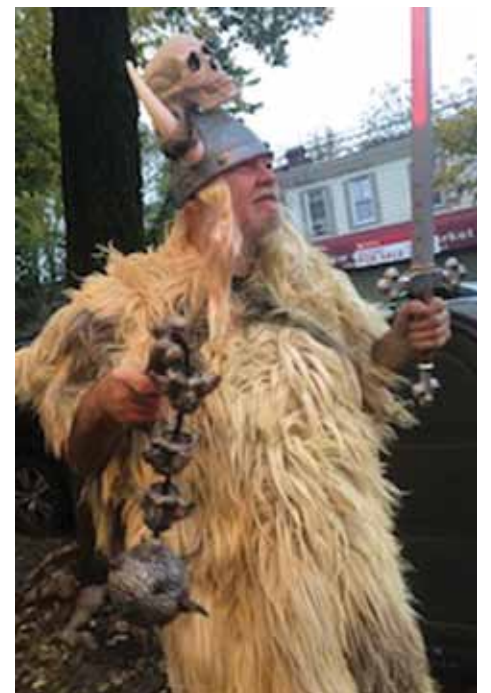


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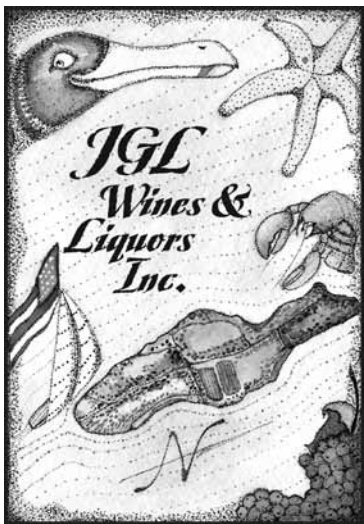
NO RAIN ON OUR PARADE!



Photos by CHERYL BRINKER, MARIA CARUSO, TONY ROCCAMO and BILL STANTON

The forecasted wind and rain held off long enough to complete the annual City Island Halloween parade on Oct. 31, 2019. It was a different route up City Island Avenue this year and Captain Thomas Fraser, Community Affairs Officer John Souhrada, and other officers from the 45th Precinct were on the Island to make sure everything ran safely and smoothly. As always, the judges had plenty of imaginative and original costumes to choose from for prizes (many of which are shown here): Most Original: Sarah Smyth as Flower Girl; Best Group: Harlem Cowboys; Scariest: Matteo as Cyclops; Cutest boy child: Arlo Farl as The Gorton Fisherman; Cutest girl child: Aubrey as Bat Girl; and Best Pet: Jelly Ciarletta as Moana. Honorable Mention: Priscilla Piri as Raccoon; Jorge as Venom; Manny the dog as Hot Dog; Erielisse as Daenerys Targaryen, Mother of Dragons; the Riordans as Pirate Family; Bill Wolf as Lost Viking; Andrew Blackman as Blowing in the Wind; and Clementina and Gus Esposito as Ziggy Stardust and T Rex. The Chamber of Commerce thanks all of the participants and the judges: Cheryl Brinker, Maria Caruso, Tony Roccamo and Bill Stanton. Special thanks to the businesses that supplied prizes: Sammy's, The Lobster House, The City Island Diner, Seafood City, Man Overboard, John Foley's Rarities & Obscurities, Island Pharmacy, The Black Whale, Lickety Split and Kaleidoscope Gallery. Finally, kudos to Bob Carmody for working with the 45th to extend the parade route and procure many of the prizes.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by REBECCA ALLEN

Tulip Viridifolia "Spring Green"

Winter Flowers

The longest night of the year is nearly here, the winter solstice. Willow, dogwood and goldenrod will sleep, but I keep awake thinking of what to plant come Spring. Bulbs arrived from Brent and Becky's weeks ago. Putting off planting to the last moment has afforded me a late gardening experience. Wearing hat, gloves and layers of sweaters, I arrange the bulbs, which I hope will accompany my gray, green and white garden next year. Santolina and lavender will be the gray, boxwood the green, and for white roses, foxglove, tulips and Madonna lilies. With white, the early evening glows and looks mysterious. It lights up the garden at the time one comes home from work. Thalia daffodils and viridiflora tulips will be fresh and fit the scheme.

Pruning is certainly a controversial matter. Some say March or late February is the right time, just before the sap rises. Yet I am chopping and pruning three large corylopsis spicatas, a beautiful early-blooming hazel shrub that has grown its wiry branches into an


ever-expanding Norway spruce. I don't think it will do harm, but many flowers have been sacrificed. I've brought the branches inside to see if I can force them to bloom. They also made a lovely arrangement in a large pot outside with whips of pine. Hopefully, some will root for gifts next year.

Witch hazel need not ever be pruned, because new growth will not emerge from the cuts, so it is best to leave well enough alone. Early American settlers first found this shrub in Virginia, hamamelis virginiana. They used the forked twigs for divining water. Any branch that shakes near moisture certainly must have had magical properties, so they called it witch hazel. Now the Virginia variety holds its leaves all winter and becomes an unsightly thing, so please get the Chinese variety, *h.mollis - intermedia* or any of its children. Diane, Arnolds promise, and Aphrodite are all beautiful. Be prepared to be amazed. Precious and undaunted, the weird ribbonlike flowers unfurl in the snow and perfume the air. Broken Arrow Nursery has a nice selection online.

I have also planted colchicums, the autumn blooming crocus and a tiny cyclamen given to me as a gift. Such a small dainty thing, it has made me want a collection. Patches of these stalwart toughs would shiver my expectations come November. Along with the bear's foot hellebore, it makes a pretty picture in part shade. Camellia oleifera 'Lu Shan Snow' is exquisite in white, with powdery cinnamon-colored bark. She is blooming now at the NYBG Ladies' Border. And while we are on the subject of winter flowers, let us not forget winter jasmine, which can be tacked to a wall or left to scramble over one. The hand of a child has drawn these simple flowers that cheer us in March.

A small garden can have each season's gift, and, as Cicero said: "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." I quite agree. To all my readers, good health, friendship and interesting endeavors, this holiday season and always.

CLIVE'S TITLE IS FUNERAL DIRECTOR, BUT HIS REAL JOB IS CAREGIVER



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Bartow-Pell Events

Start the holiday season off with a bang at Bartow-Pell's festive annual holiday luncheon, which will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. Enjoy the company of friends, delicious food and shopping for gifts and home-made goods. Reservations required. Cost: \$70 and \$90 (includes listing in program).

The First Friday on Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. will feature Julia Blenzig and her band performing contemporary holiday songs. Enjoy the music, explore the museum and indulge in some light refreshments. 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: Bartow-Pell Heritage Members and above: Free; Bartow-Pell Friend Members: \$5; Not-Yet Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

Our Holiday Family Day featuring Santa, crafts, and a magic show, will be on Saturday, Dec. 7, 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 crafting in the conservatory, shop for unique gifts and meet Santa for a photo-op (professional photos with Santa available for an additional fee). Space is limited. Registration requested. Cost: Member Child 1 year + \$15; Non-Member Child 1 year + \$20. Adults and children under 1 year free.

Bartow-Pell's Holiday Party will be on Saturday, Dec 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. Celebrate—and support—the museum in holiday splendor! Enjoy cocktails, buffet dinner and a live auction amid trees decorated for the season! Reservations required. Cost: \$175 at the door.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-cen-

ture holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere while you enjoy wassail and holiday snacks in the conservatory. Registration requested. Cost: Bartow-Pell Members: Free; Not-Yet Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents holiday classics in a string quintet concert on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m., a memorable afternoon of elegant music in the parlors. Registration requested. Cost: Free with museum admission.

A beloved Bartow-Pell favorite, the Teddy Bear Tea, has been brought back and will take place on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate the season with a child-approved, bright, colorful and deliciously decadent holiday-themed menu, story time with the Bartow snow queen and a sing-along. Perfect for kids 3 to 5 years old, accompanied by a parent, grandparent or favorite adult. Registration required. Cost: \$25 per person.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, from 12 to 2 p.m., drop in with your little ones to decorate some holiday cookies to take home after exploring the mansion decked out for the season. Recommended for ages 4 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Free with museum admission (\$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students, free for children under age 6).

Join the Pelham Bay Park urban rangers on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. for a hike through this diverse ecosystem of forest and wetlands. The Rangers will guide you to the best wildlife viewing spots in the urban jungle that surround Bartow-Pell and call attention to the seasonal opportunities. Winter is the best time of year to spot owls as the leaves are gone, making it harder for them to hide, and the days are shorter, which is perfect for these nocturnal residents of Pelham Bay Park. The walk will begin at the mansion and will be followed by hot chocolate in the Orangerie. Please be prepared with warm clothes, snow-ready walking shoes and water if needed. Cost: Free.

Carnegie Hall and Bartow-Pell will present a Citywide: Ensemble Connect on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m. The Ensemble Connect members are fellows in a two-year Carnegie Hall program that prepares them for careers as performers and teachers. The afternoon program will include Mozart's Quintet for Horn and Strings in E-flat Major, K. 407, and Britten's String Quartet No. 2 in C Minor. Cost: Free with admission to the museum.

What is your Parenting Style?

By JOHN SCARDINA

So the holidays are coming up, and you will have kids home from school for a good chunk of time. How about trying out some new parenting ideas?

Let's imagine there are two sets of descriptors for our style as a parent: high or low affection and high or low control. Let me explain:

AFFECTION: Warmth, appropriate praise when necessary (always true, specific and helpful), physical contact, laughter and shared joy

CONTROL: Be the adult, set bedtimes, know where your kids are, limit screen times, have chores, expect respect for all, have consequences for wrong choices

Here is a graphic for how this might look:



High affection/low control: "My Johnny can do no wrong! You feel sad about that poor test grade? Here, have a cookie and a hug. I am going to bed but you can stay up with your video games." Spoiled chil-

dren abound these days: you are creating a recipe for future disaster!

Low affection/high control: "Do this because I say so? Why are you so stupid? Go to your room. I wish I never had kids." Drill sergeant parenting can be joyless for all: you may get results, but they are based upon fear and shame.

Low affection/low control: "I don't care where you go, just get out of here. I am going out; there's \$10 on the table for dinner. Why can't I just have some peace? Get lost, will you?" Parenting that is this self-centered is bound to fail and lead to recklessness for all. Kids need loving guidance—something to push against—if they are to understand boundaries, have respect for others and develop a sense of responsibility to family, community and the world at large.

High affection/high control: "Yes, I love you, but that behavior is unacceptable. You will pay for the broken toy through chores around the house. I know you are sad about school today, but you still have to stay in and study for that re-test." You get the picture, yes?

Our children are not our friends: we need to be the adults in the room. Children are also not ready to be in charge of themselves without loving guidance. Think about your style within this framework: Perhaps you want to try some new ideas?

Blessings to all as this holiday season approaches. Please join me for a free parenting discussion at the City Island Community Center on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. "Dealing with the Holidays: Survival Skills for Parents."



By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

November was a busy month at P.S. 175 and began with our hard-working PTA's Election Day Sale. Thanks to the support of the many City Island residents who came to vote, the PTA raised much-needed funds that will be used to provide students with enriching programs. Many thanks to those who participated in the sale and to the many hard-working PTA volunteers who helped to make the sale a huge success, especially Susan Goonan, our Election Day Chairperson!

Several enriching educational trips took place this month: The kindergarten visited Pizzeria Uno; the second grade went to Orchard Beach and then with the third grade went to Queens College to see "Charlotte's Web"; the eighth grade took a community service trip to Astor Byron School to prepare food for the needy for Thanksgiving.

Our arts program is going strong this year. Thanks to an outside grant, we have

a part-time NYCDOE music and theater teacher on staff and this year's fifth-grade play will be "The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever." In addition, Councilmember Gjonaj has given P.S. 175 a grant that is being used this year toward funding a visual arts teacher through the Bronx Arts Ensemble.

Several exciting upcoming events include Hollyrock and our annual Holiday Sing-Off, which will take place in the weeks to come.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 28 and 29: Thanksgiving; no school; Dec. 20: Last day of school for winter recess; Jan. 2: Students return to school.

Best wishes for happy holidays for all and a bright New Year.

Holiday Island

Continued from page 11

at **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue), offering the greatest of our thanks and love for their presence these many years.

What's the word this holiday season? City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafes and businesses are ready to help you find and celebrate all your favorite feelings.



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Spoofs & Satires

Hollywood has a history of presenting satires of historical events and silly spoofs of many other films. Stanley Kubrick's **Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb** (1964) is a black comedic satire concerning unhinged Brigadier General Jack D. Ripper (Sterling Hayden), who orders a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. Peter Sellers plays three roles in the film: U.S. President Merkin Muffley, British RAF exchange officer Group Captain Lionel Mandrake, and the title role of Dr. Strangelove, the wheelchair-bound nuclear war expert and former Nazi. George C. Scott appears as super-hawk top Pentagon advisor General Buck Turgidson, who is actually delighted with this turn of events seeing it as an opportunity to get rid of "the Russkies" once and for all.

Although the President, his advisors and Joint Chiefs scramble to recall the bombers, they cannot contact an aircraft loaded with thermonuclear weapons and piloted by Major T.J. "King" Kong (Slim Pickens). To make matters worse, Soviet Ambassador de Sadesky (Peter Bull) informs Muffley and his staff that if the Russians are attacked, a "Doomsday Machine" will automatically be deployed, ending all life on the planet. The film marked James Earl Jones's debut on the silver screen as a member of the bomber crew. A particularly hilarious sequence is a phone call in which the President informs the Soviet Premier of the situation. Filmed in 1964 with the Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold War much on people's minds, as well as the new and frightening hydrogen bomb, Stanley Kubrick dared to make a film about what could happen if the wrong person pushed the wrong button—and successfully played the situation for laughs. It was originally scheduled to be released the day that JFK was assassinated, thereby delaying its run in the cinema until the end of January.

The favorite cult comedy classic **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** (1974) is one of several entries in the revered British wacky series of films. The ensemble cast features members of the British comedy troupe: Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin, all of whom collaborated on the script. The story is set in the England of King Arthur, with gags galore, including an attempt to enter an enemy castle using a Trojan "rabbit." Monty Python is certainly an acquired taste, but for those who enjoy parodies, this uneven film can be a lot of fun.

Airplane! (1980) is a spoof of the Airport series of disaster movies that were released in the 1970s. Robert Hays stars as alcoholic pilot Ted Striker, who has developed a fear of flying caused by wartime trauma. When he boards a jumbo jet in an attempt to woo back his stewardess girlfriend Elaine Dickinson (Julie Hagerty), food poisoning decimates the passengers and crew, leaving it up to Striker to land the plane. He must rely on the help of a glue-sniffing air traffic controller McCrosky (Lloyd Bridges) and Striker's vengeful former captain Rex Kramer (Robert Stack), both of whom must talk him down. Leslie Nielsen appears as Dr. Rumack and Peter Graves as Captain Oveur, and there are several cameos, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Ethel Merman. This film relies on ridiculous sight gags, groan-inducing dialogue and deadpan acting—a comedy style that would be imitated for the next 20 years. The trio of directors, Jim Abrahams, Jerry Zucker and David Zucker, responsible for the film would eventually go on to successful solo careers.

Carl Reiner's **Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid** (1982), a neo-noir comic mystery, stars Steve Martin as trench coat-wearing private detective Rigby Reardon (Steve Martin), who is hired by cheesemaker heiress Juliet Forrest (Rachel Ward) to solve her father's murder. His investigation brings him face to face with such movie legends as Humphrey Bogart, Bette Davis, Lana Turner, Barbara Stanwyck, Alan Ladd and Burt Lancaster, via footage from classic film noir and crime films. Reiner seamlessly inserts these clips from about two dozen movies, which allows the film's modern actors to interact with scenes and characters from actual period thrillers. This technique enables the then late Humphrey Bogart to have a significant role in the film.

Following in his dad's footsteps as a comedic director, Rob Reiner's **This is Spinal Tap** (1984) is a mockumentary about a fictitious heavy metal band. Rob appears in the film as documentary filmmaker Martin "Marty" Di Bergi, who trails the English rock group Spinal Tap on their 1982 U.S. concert tour to promote their new album "Smell the Glove." The band consists of childhood friends David St. Hubbins (Mike McKean) and Nigel Tufnel (Christopher Guest) on vocals and guitar, bassist Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer), keyboardist Viv Savage (David Kaff) and drummer Mick Shrimpton (P.J. Parnell). With the tour going very badly, David's girlfriend Jeanine Pettibone (June Chadwick) makes so many suggestions that eventually their manager Ian Faith (Tony Hendra) quits. The sense of humor is very dry indeed, but it earned critical acclaim largely because of the fact that audiences believed the group really existed.

Hot Shots (1991) is primarily a spoof of **Top Gun** in which former U.S. Navy pilot Topper Harley (Charlie Sheen) is haunted by an accident in which his father died having lost control of a fighter jet. Lt. Commander Block (Kevin Dunn) asks him to return to active duty as a pilot in the U.S. Navy, to

help with a new top-secret mission. Topper agrees, much to the consternation of his therapist, Ramada Thompson (Valeria Golino). Operation Sleepy Weasel is commanded by the incompetent and oblivious Admiral Benson (Lloyd Bridges), and Topper finds himself a pawn in a devious arms manufacturing conspiracy. Cary Elwes is on hand as Topper's rival Lt. Kent Gregory, and Efram Zimbalist Jr. as Mr. Wilson, the man who wants the mission to fail so the Navy will replace their planes with his. There are scenes which also parody the films **9 1/2 Weeks**, **The Fabulous Baker Boys**, **Dances with Wolves**, **Marathon Man**, **Rocky**, **Superman** and **Gone with the Wind**.

Matinee (1993) is set in Key West, FL, during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. It is the story of Gene Loomis (Simon Fenton), a teen-age boy who befriends a charismatic Alfred Hitchcockesque movie producer, Lawrence Woolsey (John Goodman), who specializes in gimmick-filled horror films. While Woolsey prepares to screen his latest creation in the local town with the help of his assistant (Cathy Moriarty), Gene and his girlfriend Sherry (Kellie Martin) face their very real fears of a possible war with the Russians. The juxtaposition of fantasy and reality creates an intriguing story in this homage to horror film director/producer William Castle (who loved using gimmicks to advance his films), on whom Woolsey is based.

Barry Levinson's **Wag the Dog** (1998) is a biting satire of the extreme lengths a campaign will go to in order to get a candidate re-elected. When the current president (Michael Belson) is caught in a sex scandal two weeks before the election, a diversion is needed. His top advisors, Conrad Brean (Robert DeNiro) and Winifred Ames (Anne Heche), hire a top Hollywood producer, Stanley Motss (Dustin Hoffman) to fabricate an international crisis in Albania. Singer Johnny Green (Willie Nelson) writes a song, "Good Old Shoe" about fabricated "hero," Sgt. William Schumann (Woody Harrelson). Kirsten Dunst appears as a fictional Albanian girl fleeing with her kitten (which is actually just a bag of chips). This is a witty, over-the-top satire with teeth.

Parodying television series such as Star Trek and its fans, **Galaxy Quest** (1999) is the story of the TV show "Galaxy Quest," whose actors have been relegated to appearances at Sci Fi conventions subjected to dotting fans. The cast of the defunct television series includes Tim Allen as Jason Nesmith (Commander Peter Quincy Taggart), Sigourney Weaver as Gwen DeMarco (Lieutenant Tawny Madison), Alan Rickman as Alexander Dane (Dr. Lazarus), Tony Shalhoub as Fred Kwan (Tech Sergeant Chen), Sam Rockwell as Guy Fleegman (unnamed character/Security Chief "Roc" Ingersoll), and Daryl Mitchell as Tommy Webber (Lieutenant Laredo) as the child pilot. At a convention, Mathesar (Enrico Colantoni), the leader of an alien race who believes the TV show is real, asks the actors for help. They mistake him for an enthusiastic fan, with hilarious results. The TV show's stars wind up embarking on an intergalactic voyage that is all too real to

them.

Down With Love (2003) is tribute to the old Rock Hudson-Doris Day comedies. Set in 1962 Manhattan, Barbara Novak (Renée Zellweger) has written a book that takes the world by storm. Playboy journalist Catcher Block (Ewan McGregor) pretends to be a naïve astronaut in order to seduce her. David Hyde-Pierce is Peter McMannus, Block's editor, and Sarah Paulson is Vikki Hiller, Novak's publisher. The clothing is a treat for the eye in this comedy, which has a twist that you won't see coming.

In **Spy** (2015) Melissa McCarthy plays Susan Cooper who, despite having solid field training, has spent her entire career chained to a desk as a CIA analyst. Using high-tech equipment and a hidden earpiece, Susan assures the safety of her partner, suave field agent Bradley Fine (Jude Law). However, when he falls off the grid and other top agents Rick Ford (Jason Statham) and Karen Walker (Morena Baccarin) are compromised, she begs her boss, Elaine Crocker (Allison Janney), to let her go into the field undercover to prevent a global disaster. Her assignment is to penetrate the world of treacherous arms dealers, including Rayna Boyanov (Rose Byrne), middleman Sergio De Luca (Bobby Cannavale), and terrorist Solsa Dudaev (Richard Brake). With her best friend, Nancy (Miranda Hart), providing remote intelligence through an earpiece, Susan sets out to save the world. This is a laugh-out-loud film, with hilarious end credits featuring different aliases that Susan will eventually assume. There is also a scene after the end credits are finished that is definitely worth the wait.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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Happy Holiday Season
To All Our Friends And Neighbors
Thank You For Your Support Throughout The Year

Organization News

Continued from page 13

we pray for children, the schools, families and individuals, businesses and those who are grieving, and for the health of any who we have heard are ill. If you would like to have yourself or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Ave. Prayer requests can also be sent to david.jolly@nyac-umc.com. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

The Budget Shop is open. Our volunteers are hard at work stocking the shelves and sorting the communities generous donations.

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth-El

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

Services take place on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors may be locked. Please knock and be patient. Thank you.

Dec. 6: Community-led

Dec. 13: Kabbalat Shabbat. Join Rabbi David and the Band for a celebratory welcome to Shabbat.

Dec. 20: Community-led

Dec. 27: Chanukah - Kabbalat Shabbat. Join Rabbi David and the Band for a musical welcome to Shabbat. Chanukah-themed oneg to follow.

Other Activities

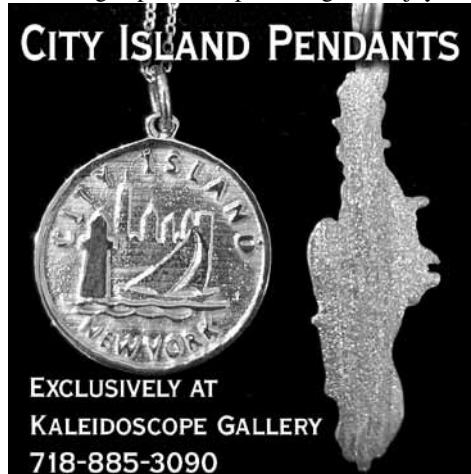
Dec. 22: Cuba on City Island. Two "Chosen Islands" from 3 to 4:45 p.m. Join R. David and TBE's Cuba delegation for a heart-warming journey into Jewish Cuba. With photos, discussion and "show and tell," we will explore what Cuba teaches us about the deep meaning of being Jewish and how we can continue to give back from "Chosen Island" to another. Cuba event will open into Chanukah's first light at Hawkins Park at 5 p.m. Reception to follow at Kaleidoscope Gallery.

Dec. 22: Chanukah's first light from 5 to 6 p.m. Join Rabbi David and the City Island community to light our public chanukkiyah and bring in the light of Chanukah. Gather mid-island at Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue. Reception to follow at Kaleidoscope Gallery (280 City Island Ave.), where hot apple cider and jelly-filled donuts will be served.

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

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

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community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yearzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to find out more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Paul Klein

City Island Civic Association

Captain Tom Fraser, commanding officer of the 45th precinct, spoke at the Oct. 29 meeting. He responded to a request that 911 responders be able to locate the new development (On the Sound) at the east end of Fordham Street.

John Sheridan introduced the 45th Precinct officers and those in Harbor Patrol who had assisted with efforts to reduce unsafe water traffic around City Island. They received recognition citations from a representative of Councilmember Mark Gjonaj expressing the gratitude of Islanders for their efforts. The Water Safety Committee will continue to work with its sources on the high priority request for a Harbor Unit in the Bronx, with the incoming NYC Police Commissioner Shea.

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee will be Fred Ramftl (first vice president), Tom Smith (treasurer), and Mark Limardo (corresponding secretary).

The members voted unanimously that letters be written to our elected officials asking for their support in our appeal to the Metropolitan Transit Authority to keep the eight bus stops that it is threatening to remove in its revised transit plan. Those who wish to comment on the plan online are invited to do so at https://mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/comments_bronxbus.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, in the Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Please bring your annual dues to the meeting (\$20 per year or \$50 for a three-year membership). If you cannot make the meeting please take the time to send your dues to PO Box 117, City Island, or pay online at [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com). The e-mail to send money to is city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option, so that a service charge is not deducted.

Jane Protzman

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Sunday, Dec. 1, 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 the 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 monthly coffee hour will take place on Sunday, Dec. 1, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Come enjoy light refreshments with fellow parishioners.

Our monthly holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the First Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held both in the school gym and in the Thrift Shop. Come take a look; you are sure to find great gifts.

Monday, Dec. 9, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation). Masses are at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

Thursday, Dec. 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady, under this title, has been named the patroness of all the Americas. We will have a special Mass that evening in English and Spanish at 7 p.m. in the church, followed by a reception in the school gym. Come and honor Mary on this special day.

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come

join us for a joyous, prayerful evening as we anticipate the wonderful feast of Christmas.

The joyful celebration of the birth of Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. Liturgy on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24. Masses on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, will be at 9 and 11 a.m. A very Merry Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (a holy day of obligation). We will follow our Sunday schedule: anticipated Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. and Masses on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 9 and 11 a.m. A very Happy, Healthy, Peaceful New Year to all!

Rose Dietz

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Come do your Christmas shopping this year at St. Mary's Thrift Shop. Visit our Christmas Fair on Dec. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thrift Shop and also at the school gymnasium. We will have many new and slightly used items. The shop will be closed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 4, while we update our inventory and get ready for our New Year Specials. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Arlene Byrne

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



Photos by JOANNE VALLETTA

November was a busy month for City Island's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156. They marched in the Bronx Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 10 alongside girl scouts from Troop 1115 led by Cheryl Riordan (top photos). Earlier in the month, Certificates of Appreciation to ALA members Sandra Panzarella and Maryanne Occhicone were given for chairing the Fall Bake Sale and for their continued volunteer service.

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

DECEMBER 2019									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0249	6.95	0849	0.87	1450	7.19	2140	0.47	Sun 01
02 Mon	0345	6.81	0943	1.20	1552	6.86	2231	0.85	Mon 02
03 Tue	0443	6.75	1047	1.42	1659	6.63	2323	1.11	Tue 03
04 Wed	0540	6.77	1150	1.48	1802	6.52			Wed 04
05 Thu	0015	1.23	6.34	6.87	1249	1.39	1858	6.51	Thu 05
06 Fri	0104	1.24	0724	7.00	1342	1.17	1950	6.56	Fri 06
07 Sat	0148	1.16	0809	7.15	1429	0.88	2036	6.63	Sat 07
08 Sun	0226	1.02	0847	7.30	1512	0.57	2116	6.70	Sun 08
09 Mon	0255	0.84	0913	7.45	1550	0.26	2149	6.78	Mon 09
10 Tue	0325	0.63	0932	7.65	1624	-0.03	2213	6.88	Tue 10
11 Wed	0359	0.43	1002	7.89	1656	-0.27	2241	7.03	Wed 11
12 Thu	0439	0.26	1039	8.10	1729	-0.45	2317	7.17	Thu 12
13 Fri	0521	0.14	1120	8.24	1808	-0.54	2358	7.29	Fri 13
14 Sat	0607	0.11	1205	8.26	1851	-0.54			Sat 14
15 Sun	0044	7.35	0655	0.15	1254	8.13	1938	-0.44	Sun 15
16 Mon	0133	7.35	0748	0.26	1346	7.88	2030	-0.26	Mon 16
17 Tue	0228	7.30	0848	0.41	1443	7.52	2130	-0.04	Tue 17
18 Wed	0328	7.24	1000	0.51	1548	7.13	2242	0.13	Wed 18
19 Thu	0440	7.22	1137	0.44	1709	6.83			Thu 19
20 Fri	0004	0.18	0606	7.34	1256	0.12	1845	6.77	Fri 20
21 Sat	0114	0.08	0718	7.58	1401	-0.31	1956	6.88	Sat 21
22 Sun	0216	-0.10	0818	7.85	1500	-0.74	2055	7.03	Sun 22
23 Mon	0311	-0.28	0913	8.08	1554	-1.07	2148	7.18	Mon 23
24 Tue	0404	-0.40	1003	8.21	1644	-1.25	2238	7.27	Tue 24
25 Wed	0452	-0.43	1050	8.24	1732	-1.25	2325	7.30	Wed 25
26 Thu	0538	-0.35	1135	8.15	1817	-1.09			Thu 26
27 Fri	0010	7.27	0621	-0.18	1217	7.97	1900	-0.81	Fri 27
28 Sat	0052	7.20	0701	0.07	1257	7.72	1940	-0.43	Sat 28
29 Sun	0134	7.09	0737	0.36	1334	7.43	2017	-0.03	Sun 29
30 Mon	0214	6.96	0805	0.64	1408	7.12	2045	0.34	Mon 30
31 Tue	0252	6.83	0833	0.88	1443	6.83	2107	0.78	Tue 31
JANUARY 2020									
01 Wed	0336	6.62	0917	1.18	1531	6.41	2136	0.98	Wed 01
02 Thu	0420	6.56	1007	1.30	1622	6.17	2218	1.12	Thu 02
03 Fri	0508	6.54	1107	1.34	1729	6.02	2307	1.20	Fri 03
04 Sat	0600	6.59	1227	1.24	1844	5.98			Sat 04
05 Sun	0001	1.20	0648	6.72	1335	1.00	1942	6.04	Sun 05
06 Mon	0056	1.10	0731	6.93	1429	0.67	2030	6.19	Mon 06
07 Tue	0152	0.92	0813	7.21	1517	0.29	2110	6.41	Tue 07
08 Wed	0245	0.68	0855	7.53	1600	-0.10	2147	6.67	Wed 08
09 Thu	0335	0.39	0938	7.85	1642	-0.45	2225	6.96	Thu 09
10 Fri	0424	0.11	1023	8.12	1723	-0.74	2306	7.25	Fri 10
11 Sat	0513	-0.14	1109	8.31	1805	-0.93	2350	7.49	Sat 11
12 Sun	0602	-0.31	1157	8.35	1848	-1.00			Sun 12
13 Mon	0036	7.65	0653	-0.39	1246	8.24	1934	-0.94	Mon 13
14 Tue	0125	7.71	0748	-0.35	1339	7.96	2024	-0.77	Tue 14
15 Wed	0218	7.67	0848	-0.23	1436	7.56	2119	-0.50	Wed 15
16 Thu	0315	7.55	1000	-0.08	1540	7.09	2222	-0.19	Thu 16
17 Fri	0423	7.40	1121	-0.01	1701	6.69	2337	0.06	Fri 17
18 Sat	0543	7.33	1236	-0.08	1828	6.50			Sat 18
19 Sun	0050	0.18	0657	7.38	1343	-0.27	1938	6.51	Sun 19
20 Mon	0155	0.17	0802	7.51	1443	-0.50	2039	6.63	Mon 20
21 Tue	0254	0.09	0900	7.67	1538	-0.70	2134	6.79	Tue 21
22 Wed	0348	-0.01	0952	7.79	1629	-0.81	2224	6.95	Wed 22
23 Thu	0438	-0.08	1040	7.85	1716	-0.80	2310	7.07	Thu 23
24 Fri	0524	-0.07	1125	7.81	1759	-0.67	2353	7.14	Fri 24
25 Sat	0606	0.01	1206	7.69	1839	-0.45			Sat 25
26 Sun	0033	7.14	0643	0.15	1242	7.50	1914	-0.16	Sun 26
27 Mon	0108	7.09	0713	0.33	1312	7.27	1940	0.13	Mon 27
28 Tue	0137	7.01	0731	0.49	1334	7.04	1948	0.35	Tue 28
29 Wed	0157	6.93	0754	0.61	1401	6.82	2009	0.49	Wed 29
30 Thu	0223	6.88	0830	0.73	1436	6.60	2044	0.62	Thu 30
31 Fri	0259	6.83	0913	0.86	1518	6.37	2126	0.78	Fri 31
FEBRUARY 2020									
01 Sat	0341	6.79	1001	0.98	1606	6.16	2213	0.94	Sat 01
02 Sun	0429	6.77	1056	1.06	1701	6.00	2305	1.07	Sun 02
03 Mon	0522	6.81	1159	1.03	1803	5.97			Mon 03
04 Tue	0003	1.10	0620	6.94	1317	0.83	1911	6.10	Tue 04



YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

With winter just around the corner, we thought some of our regular readers might appreciate a checklist of waterfowl in our area. Take it with you as you explore your wintry surroundings. You may be surprised at what you find.

First, the Dabblers...
 Look for these closer to shore

- mallard
- black duck
- gadwall
- blue-winged teal
- green-winged teal
- American wigeon
- northern shoveler
- northern pintail
- wood duck

Next, the Divers...
 Look for these in the deep water

- bufflehead
- grebe
- loon
- merganser
- scaup
- ruddy duck
- canvasback
- common goldeneye
- scoter

Swans and Geese

- mute swan
- snow goose
- Canada goose
- brant

This is by no means a complete list, but we do assure you that it will not be easy to find all of these birds in and around Pelham Bay Park only. Find them, that is, before they leave again in the spring. For the completists among us, a drive to the wildlife refuge at Jamaica Bay or to Central Park might be in order. If you've got the time, there are some wonderful waterfowl-spotting opportunities way out on Long Island. Our favorite spot so far is Montauk.

Of course, while you are on the hunt for waterfowl, you may as well keep a look out for owls. Some of the owl species that have been spotted around here include the great horned owl, barred owl, long-eared owl, and northern saw-whet owl. For more information about owl and waterfowl walks close to home, check in regularly with Jack at cityislandbirds.com.

Happy hunting! (Figuratively, that is!)

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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.



Catherine E. McDermott

Catherine McDermott, who grew up on City Island, passed away on Sept. 15, 2019, at a nursing facility in Maryland.

She was born in the Bronx on Dec. 13, 1939, to Catherine (Fox) and Thomas Delmour McDermott and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, St. Catharine Academy and the College of Mount St. Vincent, which honored her with an achievement award five years ago.

She lived in Manhattan for several years and, with her cousin Diane Duryea, was a member of the Murray Hill Business and Professional Women's Club. She was also a member of St. Bart's, a social club for single New Yorkers. She later moved to Washington DC, which she believed was the center for health organizations.

Catherine became a leader in health philanthropy and grantmaking and was able to bring much needed change in the delivery of healthcare in the United States by connecting public and private sectors. She served in the charitable trust community for more than 28 years as an officer with the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For over 15

years, she led Grantmakers in Health (GIH), the nation's only organization exclusively dedicated to serving health philanthropy and went on to lead the National Committee for Quality Health Care for 7 years until she retired in 2004. Communication skills and strategic thinking and planning were her professional strengths. She also advocated for women's rights and nurtured and mentored young women with kindness and compassion until her death.

Catherine was predeceased by her brother Del and her sister Sarah and is survived by many first and second cousins. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 23 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Teresa Mary Wright

Teresa Mary Wright of Orlando, FL, lost her battle with cancer and died on Nov. 1, 2019. Daughter of the late Wilfred C. Wright and the late Vera Wright Thompson, Teresa was also the stepdaughter of the late Lloyd (Red) Thompson.

Teresa was born on Feb. 21, 1951, weighing only 1 pound 9 ounces. Thanks to the pioneering neonatal unit at New York Hospital, she survived and was able to succeed in life despite her visual impairment. It was only later in life that she became totally blind in one eye.

Teresa was a graduate of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School on City Island and St. Catharine Academy in the Bronx. She moved to Orlando with her family in 1969 and worked for the state of Florida for 30 years.

Always a devout Catholic, Teresa was a champion for the Latin Mass in the 1980s. She became a Third Order Servant of Mary in 1987. She was part of the movement that brought the Society of St. Pius X to Florida in 1992. She was a founding member and coordinator for St. Thomas More Church in Sanford, FL, which opened its new church building in 2006.

Teresa is survived by her brother, John Wright (Linda), sister, Judith Rauh (Michael); nieces Kathleen Demas, Alison Chase, Elizabeth Rota (Matthew), Susan Rauh, and Leigh Anne Wilkey (Phillip); nephew Daniel Wright; grandnieces and grandnephews Cameron Chase (Jacqueline), Louis, Terrance, Madeline and Mark Demas, Arlo Rota; great-grandniece Lily Chase, and cousins Susan Zima, Barbara Howard, and Mike, Jack, Dorothy and Rich Bunyan.

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

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Photo by MARIA CARUSO

Thanks to the teamwork of Maria Caruso of the City Island Drift, Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Dive Shop and Ron and Rajeev Terner, the vandalized Mark Whitcombe image at 311 City Island Avenue was repaired and rehung in November. After much discussion about how it should be repaired—sewing or taping—Mike's solution was to use the same adhesive that was devised to repair wet suits. Ron Terner and his son, Rajeev (above), reinstalled the repaired picture on the gates where it now hangs for all to enjoy!

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
Sunday, December 22 7:30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday, December 24
Carols: 7:30 pm
Mass 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday, December 25
Masses at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Tuesday, December 31
Mass 5:15 pm

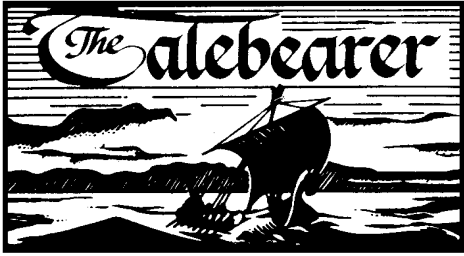
NEW YEAR'S DAY/ ST. MARY
MOTHER OF GOD
Wednesday, January 1
Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Kimberly Nye and Erol Dulos were wed on Sept. 20, 2019.

Kim Nye, daughter of Islanders Tom and Debbi Nye, and Erol Doulos, son of Rich and Pinar Doulos of Long Island, were married in Stony Brook, NY, on a sunny September day, followed by a magical evening of dinner and dancing. The happy couple is excited to begin their next chapter together!

Happy Dec. 10 birthday wishes to Ena Ellwanger, with love from your family and friends.

Best wishes for much success to Anthony and family at their new location and to the Sea Breeze Deli and City Island Bar on behalf of Bob Carmody and the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

Birthday greetings across the miles to



Photos courtesy of MARIA SWEICIKI

Lucy Zec

former Islander Anjulee Sebastian, who will celebrate her big day on Dec. 22. We love you and miss you!

Happy holidays to all new residents and businesses on behalf of City Island Realty One and staff.

Happy New Year's Eve birthday wishes to Bobby Cavinee with love from your family and friends!

A fond farewell to our Bay Street neighbor, Lucy Zec, who recently relocated to the Poconos to live with her son. We miss her and wish her all the best in her new home!

Happy Dec. 23 birthday to one of my not-so-old friends, former Islander Jimmy Raimondi, in California, with best wishes from Bob Carmody.

Happy birthday to our grandson Jake, who will be celebrating his "double digit" 10th birthday on Dec. 26. Wishing you a good school year and a fun sports year too! Love, Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Amazing Islander Mike Rauh completed his 41st consecutive NYC Marathon on Nov. 3, 2019! Mike and a handful of long distance runners who have competed consecutively in the famous NYC race are known as the Marathon Streakers. Island filmmaker James Breen also competed on Nov. 3 and finished his second NYC Marathon. Congrats to both and keep goin'!

Wishing all our readers, neighbors and friends a very happy holiday and all the best in 2020! See you next year!

Maria Swieciki



Photos by SUSAN RAUH and JUDY RAUH

Centre Street resident Mike Rauh (photo above, left) finished his 41st consecutive New York City Marathon on Nov. 3, 2019, and James Breen (above, right) finished his second.



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Halloween costume contests got off to an early start on Oct. 31, 2019, at the PSS Senior Center lunch at Grace Church.

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