Islander Attends 9/11 Terror Trials in Guantanamo

By BILL STUTTIG

Islander Dan D’Allara’s twin brother, John, was killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. In January 2017, Dan was invited to visit Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to witness the pre-trial proceedings in the case against those accused of plotting the attacks on the World Trade Center. Dan met with the families of other victims of 9/11 and military personnel assigned to the naval base (top photo, bottom row, l. to r.: Casser Baksh, Debra Burlingame and U.S. Army Sgt. Mac MacDonal. Top row: NDP Det. Ret Frank Favilla, PAPD Sgt. Ret. James Hall, Marveena Baksh, Eunice Hanson, Dan D’Allara, Lee Hanson, and USN Captain Karen Loftus. Dan took time to visit the historical marker honoring the first casualties of the Spanish American War, where he posed holding a Leonard Hawkins Post t-shirt.

Ever since 9/11, the day his fraternal twin brother, John, a 14-year veteran of the NYPD’s Emergency Services Unit, was killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center, City Island’s Dan D’Allara has dedicated much of his life to not letting anyone forget what happened that terrible morning.

In making countless appearances and giving numerous media interviews over the last 15 years, Dan, along with the families of many other victims, has succeeded to some degree in keeping the memory of those attacks alive in the minds of the American public. He is proud of his work on behalf of that cause.

But late in January came an opportunity to make what he believes to be his most important appearance on behalf of the victims and their families. He was invited, along with 400 other family members, by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Justice to visit Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to witness the pre-trial proceedings in this nation’s case against Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others accused of plotting the attacks of the World Trade Center.

“A few days before, Dan flew to Andrews Air Force Base, and there we were briefed on what we could do and what we couldn’t do,” Dan said. They then flew to the naval base on the isolated southeast tip of Cuba. He and the other family members could not speak during the proceedings and were only able to watch from a glass-enclosed booth next to the room where the tribunals were taking place. Audible testimony from the proceedings was only fed into the soundproof booth after a 40-second delay.

After returning home in late January, Dan told The Island Current that, despite the seemingly slow pace of justice, he was heartened by the mountain of evidence he was told about and the thoroughness of the military prosecutors as they worked painstakingly to bring these alleged war criminals to trial. He was, however, discouraged by the slow pace of defense attorneys, paid out of U.S. taxpayer pockets, who continue to “successfully throw roadblocks in an attempt to grind justice to a halt.”

“We live in a great country,” Dan said, “as we give incredible legal counsel to people who openly admit that their purpose is to kill Americans. What we witnessed down there is a legal morass, or what is called ‘lawfare,’ fighting a war with lawyers in a courtroom.”

Dan said he was not alone in his representation of families of the 9/11 victims. Accompanying him was retired Port Authority Sergeant James Hall, who gives credit to Dan’s brother for saving his life by showing him a safe way to leave the north tower moments before it came down, killing John and more than a thousand others.

Also on the trip to Cuba were families of victims killed when American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the Pentagon that morning, but Dan was most moved by Lee Hanson and his wife, Eunice. Mr. Hanson had been on the phone with his son Peter, who was on United Airlines Flight 175 just before it flew into the South Tower, along with his wife and two-year-old daughter, who was the youngest victim of the 9/11 attacks.

Now 84, Mr. Hanson was asked to give a deposition, but a judge ruled that Dan and the other family members could not attend; the defendants were allowed but chose not to do so since it was Friday, their day of worship. After Mr. Hanson returned to the family lounge, Dan recalls that “he was sobbing, and I and the others were sobbing along with him. With this case, acts of courage and heroism fall on the backs of everyday people like the Hansons.”

Later in the week, Dan had his chance to come face-to-face with one of the defendants in the proceedings. “I locked eyes with him and when he looked at me, I made the Sign of the Cross. He just turned and walked away. . . . If this were fiction or a movie, the hero would have kicked these guys out of a C-130 flying 20,000 feet above the Pacific, but the real world is that we bring them down there and give them lawyers, all incredible legal minds to defend them,” Dan said, adding that there are 19 lawyers defending the detainees just in this particular case. “I feel we will see justice. Justice is going on right now with the prosecution of these guys. But real justice will be the death penalty, and I think I will see it.”

“However,” he went on, “we in this nation, both the defendants and the families of the victims, have the right to a speedy trial and that has not happened. How about the victims of this massive crime? Are my rights being trampled? Are the rights of the Hansons being trampled? The 9/11 family is a distinct community with statutory rights. Families have been destroyed by the people who planned this horror, and we have a right to pursue justice.”

Dan has been invited by the Department of Defense to return to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in March. “I am going,” he said, “I am going as many times as I am invited and as long as it takes to see justice prevail.”

When asked if he still thinks 9/11 is in the mindset of the American people more than 15 years after it happened, Dan said. “It is. It is in the American mindset when we talk about Islamic terror, when we talk about executive orders. If it does not continue to be in our mindset, we have a lot to lose. This is an open society, and the government has an obligation to protect us. This is what this is all about. To make America safe. There is no appeasing. This is not about forgetting 9/11. It is remembering that something far, far worse can happen going forward that could make 9/11 look like a fender bender if we do not continue to deal with this constant threat consistently and effectively. The quest for justice in these terrible attacks is and has to continue to be part of that vital effort.”

SUPER SCOUTS!

Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

It has been a busy 2017 so far for City Island’s Cub Scout Troop 211. On Feb. 10, the Cub Scouts Troop 211 held its annual Pinewood Derby at Trinity United Methodist Church (top photo). They also competed in the 2017 Klondike competition at Alpine Camp, NJ. For the first time in many years, the Troop sent two teams, the Hornets and the Bootlegs. The Hornets took first place in the North Pole race, and the Bootlegs took fourth place in the West Meridan race. Overall, Pack 211 took first place in both the North Pole relay and speed races for an impressive sweep. Congrats to the City Island Scouts for being the Bronx Champions once again!”
BRIEFLY...

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will present Craig Lucas’s charming “Prelude to a Kiss” on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 11, Friday, March 17, Saturday, March 18, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 19 and 19 at 1 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. For tickets please call 718-885-0566 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting the CITG website www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

AUDITIONS for the City Island Theater Group’s next production of Philip Barry’s comedy “The Philadelphia Story” will be at Grace Hall on Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m. Performance dates are April 28, 29, 30, May 5, 6 and 7.

The Island Current March 2017

THE HUNTINGTON FREE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

celebrating its 125th anniversary, is pleased to announce the following events: From Saturday March 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. through April 8, there will be free poetry workshops, with instructions by John Maney Jr. There will be a free public reading of various poets on Saturday, April 15, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. On Sunday March 12, at 2 p.m., the Red Monkey Theater Group will present William Shakespeare’s, “Much Ado About Nothing.” Tickets for students and seniors is $5 and for adults at $10 are available on-line at RedMonkeyTheater.org and BronxNYC.com. On Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. the East Bronx History Forum will hold its 119th meeting, where members and friends will present short report on their favorite woman in Bronx history. All meetings are free and open to the public. On Saturday, March 18, from noon to 3 p.m. there will be a free arts and craft “recycle art” workshop with artist Star Negro through the generosity of the Bronx Council on the Arts. Saturday, March 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. will be Jazz Age Night with historic music boxes and cocktails of the 1920s and ’30s and prizes for period costumes. Tickets are $20, which will be donated to the Library program fund. More information at BronxNYC.com or HuntingtonFreeLibrary.org.

The library is located next to Apple Bank at 9 Westchester Square, Bronx, NY; parking is free after 7 p.m.

45 BLOTTER

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

1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
2 – BURGLARY
3 – ASSAULT
4 – PETIT LARCENY
5 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
6 – HARASSMENT
7 – DEAD ON ARRIVAL

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Jan. 10 to Feb. 26, 2017.

1/10 – An Island female reported that she was harassed by an Island male at 8 p.m. on City Island Avenue. The complainant stated that there was a dispute and the male threatened to kill himself. An ambulance took the man, 61, to Jacobi Hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

1/25 – On Carroll Street, an Island male reported a burglary at 2:45 p.m. While the victim was away on vacation, an unknown perpetrator forcibly entered the home and caused damage. Power tools were left on the scene, and detectives are examining them for fingerprints and investigating the incident.

1/26 – At 6 p.m., police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 55, and charged him with criminal mischief on Pell Place. The defendant tried to enter the home of a female Islander. When he was denied, he broke through a fence to gain entry to the backyard and banged on the window. The victim feared for her safety and called 911.

2/1 – A fatal car crash occurred at 11:45 p.m. at the City Island circle over the bridge. According to reports, an off-duty police officer, 27, was killed when the car, driven by another off-duty police officer, flipped and burst into flames. The driver, 32, was pulled from the burning vehicle by two other off-duty police officers. The 45th Precinct confirmed that the injured officer remains in the hospital, and the incident is under investigation.

2/3 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 24, and charged him with criminal possession of a weapon at 8:15 a.m. The arrest was made pursuant to the execution of a search warrant. The defendant was apprehended on Morningside Avenue when a quantity of drugs and an imitation pistol were found at the scene.

2/4 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault by another off-Island female at 8 p.m. The victim claims that she and the perpetrator got into an argument and that the woman struck her with a closed fist, causing pain and bruising.

2/4 – On Fordham Street at 4 p.m., an off-Island female reported that her cell phone was taken from the table of a commercial establishment without permission in an act of petit larceny.

Temple Beth-El of City Island

“Your Shul by the Sea”

Requests the pleasure of your attendance at our 83rd Annual Gala Dinner and Dance.

Honoring:

David Stark & Rachel Singer

on the signing of their Ketubah & upcoming wedding

& City Island resident Brenda Prohaska for community service

Saturday, April 8, 2017

7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses

870 Shore Road

Bronx, New York 10464


$85.00 per person

RSVP by March 18, 2017

Silent Auction to support our Temple’s future. Items can be previewed and bids accepted prior to our event at Kaledoscope Gallery 290 City Island Ave

For additional information contact Paul Klein 718-885-3090.

* If Glen Kosher food is required please notify with RSVP
The Island Current

March 2017

Page Three

COURTS ISSUE JUDGMENTS IN SAILMAKER DISPUTE

By KAREN NANI

One of the aftereffects of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 was the damage done to the Sailmaker Condominium complex and marina on Schofield Street. The issues of who is responsible for the repairs related to the contends that the court's direction, the summary judgment issued on Oct. 3, 2016, "although this resolved a central issue, the parties are unable to reach agreement as to their remaining contentions." These remaining issues included whether the defendants lawfully converted their four parking units into a floor-to-ceiling storage structure within the first-level parking garage. Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano acknowledged that they converted a portion of the internal parking space into storage.

The court cited the Condominium Declaraton (property law) that says parking units may only be used for the non-exclusive purpose of parking one vehicle. Judge Lizbeth Gonzalez of the Bronx County Supreme Court stated in the ruling that the defendants "wrongfully converted their parking units to a private enclosure ... contrary to both the Condominium Declaraton and the Building Code."

Defendant Laddomada maintained in his affidavit that the "lower-level parking lot has always been used to service the Marina since, as a public facility, it cannot function without adequate parking." He argued that in its amendment to the condo bylaws passed when he was president, the marina was given exclusive use of the lower-level parking lot.

According to the complaint: "we feel bad that it came to this because we are all neighbors. We prefer to resolve these issues without legal action." Board members also expressed regrets that this situation could not be resolved without lawyers. Ella Roundtree Davis told the Current: "we want to repair the seawall."

Meanwhile, Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano have chosen not to support repair of the marina. Mr. Laddomada and Ms. Mandrano presented an affidavit to the court that they had received notification of a mandatory minimum term of 20 years in the conspiracy to distribute heroin. As part of that conspiracy, on or about Oct. 21, 2016, Diaz exchanged text messages with Robert Vivolos, a 25-year-old heroin addict who lived on City Island, in the Bronx, New York. In those messages, Diaz arranged to sell heroin to Mr. Bharara praised the investigative work of the NYPD and also thanked the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the New Rochelle Police Department for their assistance in the investigation. Mr. Bharara noted that this investiga- tion remains ongoing. This matter is being pursued by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorney David W. Denton Jr. is in charge of the prosecution.

On Feb. 3, 2017, Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and James P. Neill, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), announced the unsealing of a complaint charging Fabrice Diaz, 24, of City Island with narcotics dealing that resulted in the overdose death of Robert Vivolos, 25, also of City Island.

The complaint alleges that Mr. Diaz participated in a conspiracy to distribute heroin and that the heroin he distributed resulted in the death of Mr. Vivolos on Oct. 21, 2016. Diaz was presented in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge Katharine H. Parker and faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum term of 20 years in prison.

Mr. Bharara stated: "Once again, we are confronted with the lethal effects of the opioid epidemic. As alleged, Fabrice Diaz sold the heroin that sadly killed Robert Vivolos. Thanks to the outstanding partnership- ship with the New York City Police Depart- ment, we seek to combat the deadly opioid crisis one alleged drug dealer at a time." According to the complaint: "From at least in or about October 2016 up to Janu- ary 2017, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, Fabrice Diaz and oth- ers conspired to sell heroin. As part of that conspiracy, on or about Oct. 21, 2016, Diaz exchanged text messages with Robert Vi- volos, a 25-year-old heroin addict who lived on City Island, in the Bronx, New York. In those messages, Diaz arranged to sell her- oin to Vivolos, and Diaz delivered heroin to Vivolos's home. A short time later, Vivolos overdosed on that heroin and died. After Vi- volos's death, Diaz was arrested on separate charges in New Rochelle, NY, on or about Jan. 11, 2017, in possession of 17 envelopes of heroin."

Mr. Bharara praised the investigative work of the NYPD and also thanked the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the New Rochelle Police Department for their assistance in the investiga- tion. Mr. Bharara noted that the investiga- tion remains ongoing. This matter is being handled by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorney David W. Denton Jr. is in charge of the prosecution. The charges contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until prov- en guilty.

Islander Arrested in Drug Overdose Case

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

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Rodman’s Neck Victory

To the Editor:

I can’t begin to tell you how thrilled I am that $275 million was included in the City’s preliminary budget to fund the total renovation of the police facility at Rodman’s Neck. The City Island community has been tirelessly advocating for this allocation, and I have echoed your voice at City Hall.

In the Mayor’s announcement, he detailed how the money would be spent. Most importantly, the plan calls for fully baffled gun ranges, which would greatly mitigate, if not entirely eliminate, the constant sound of gunfire that currently plagues City Island. The plan also calls for the building of a new tactical village, a new training facility and funds for environmental remediation of the soil. The allocation will allow our officers to have the state-of-the-art training facility they deserve, one that is fit for “New York’s Finest.”

It’s been a long road to get to this point. There have been failed promises dating back to the 1980s and ’90s. I feel that the turning point came when I was able to get former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton to admit on the stand that Rodman’s Neck was a “disgrace.” From that moment, there was continual pressure on the administration to do what’s right. The Mayor even heard from City Islanders directly at a town hall I hosted last summer.

City Islanders deserve so much of the credit for this victory! They gave my words and advocacy the strength of the community. As we have done before with the bridge and our firehouse, we were able to get government to act according to the will of the people. The Mayor listened and acted. We now must work together to design a project that meets the needs of both our police and the communities that have long been negatively impacted by the facility at Rodman’s Neck.

James Vacca
Council Member, 13th District

Thanks to the Community

To the Editor:

The Schaller family would like to thank all of City Island for their kind words and support throughout a very difficult time with the passing of our beloved Russell. Your coming to visit, sending flowers, sharing a story or saying a prayer provided us all solace beyond measure.

Our father meant the world to us and he obviously meant a great deal to you as well. The unique experience of growing up and raising a family on City Island provides us all with insight into the caring nature of those we are lucky enough to call our neighbors. Our father loved City Island and all those privileged to call it home. Thank you.

The Schaller Family

City Island Post Office Not Closing

To the Editor:

A copy of the following letter was sent to The Current:

To the Editor:

Thank you for reaching out concerning the City Island Post Office. Today I spoke with the Bronx Postmaster, Lillian Rodriguez. She assured me that there are no plans to close the City Island Post Office. Thank you for contacting me and feel free to do so concerning any community concerns.

Council Member James Vacca

Editor’s note: A similar confirmation was given to the City Island Civic Association by the office of Congressman Joe Crowley.

Deer Alert

To the Editor:

About a month ago, as I was coming home after work, I approached the crosswalk between the City Island Circle and Orchard Beach. It was a rainy night and the visibility was poor. Suddenly a herd of deer appeared in front of me and the car next to me. The other driver saw them too, and of course we both stopped. He honked his horn, and the deer crossed into the area near the water at Turtle Cove. In the meantime, another group of about five deer stayed on the grass to our left. I saw them only at the last minute.

At dawn and dusk, when the deer are more active, visibility is poor, and I hope that all drivers would slow down and be especially cautious to avoid an accident.

Diane Duryea

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
The storm on Feb. 9, 2017, dumped about a foot of snow on City Island, with even bigger drifts caused by high winds. New York City schools announced the night before the storm that all schools, including P.S. 175, would be closed, so students enjoyed a rare snow day. Our intrepid Island Current photographer caught the beauty of the snow covering Orchard Beach after the storm abated. After the snow, several Fordham Street residents were delighted to find snow penguins were left in their front yards by person/persons unknown.

As he promised at the Town Hall in Throggs Neck last August, Mayor Bill de Blasio has put funding into his capital budget for the renovation of the Rodman’s Neck firing range, in response to renewed complaints about the noise that affects communities on Eastchester Bay, most prominently City Island.

The mayor made it clear that he intends to keep a promise made to the community in 1994 but never kept, and on Jan. 24, 2017, he and the NYPD announced that he had in fact put $275 million into the city’s capital budget. As the New York Times reported, this investment in Rodman’s Neck “would represent an ambitious effort to modernize and enhance the training accommodations for the city’s 35,000 police officers. The project is expected to be completed in two to five years.”

For decades, residents of City Island have been fighting the city to do something about the noise pollution from the detonations and firing exercises that plague the communities surrounding Eastchester Bay. The noise has increased substantially over the years since 1994, thanks to the increased number of police officers (including those in the Corrections and Sanitation departments), the requirement that each officer requalify twice a year, and the use of louder weapons. According to information provided to representatives of the City Island Civic Association and Community Board 10 in October by Deputy Chief Dennis DeQuatro, there are approximately 90 thousand officers who train at the range each year.

DC DeQuatro explained at that meeting that certain infrastructure issues, such as electricity, sanitation and flood prevention would have to be dealt with before work can begin on the ranges, because much of Rodman’s Neck has not been upgraded since the Police Department took over the grounds, including the firing ranges, in 1986. He confirmed that the sound abatement might not be in place for a few years.

Councilmember James Vacca, who has been instrumental in making sure that the sound abatement Plant, be set up for this project. We have been fighting the city to do something about the noise that affects communities on Eastchester Bay, most prominently City Island.

Many residents of the affected communities are happy with the city’s promise of sound abatement, but others are skeptical, given the city’s history of reneging on promises over the past 25 years.” He advised that this mayor or subsequent mayors can always remove the funding from the capital budget and fail to communicate this information to the public.

To help prevent this from happening, the 45th Precinct Community Council has written to the mayor and the police commission as follows: “We would propose that a monitoring committee, similar to what was done with the Cotton Water Filtration Plant, be set up for this project. We ask that the committee be open to all, that local community groups like our Council and Civic Associations receive representation on this committee and that these meetings take place on (at least) a seasonal basis. We believe this transparency would go a long way to ameliorating the lingering feelings of mistrust many have about this project and foster a new partnership with community stakeholders within our community.”
March 2017

The Island Current March 2017

operation and robot building. Space is
capped at 15 children, so please register in
advance at the library. Every Tuesday at 3 p.m.

New York City Kids Series: An
interactive sing-a-long with music for
Aardvarks’ songs celebrating growing up
in New York City. This program includes
singing songs, movements and rhythms
that the whole family can enjoy. Presented
by Music for Aardvarks. Every Monday at
11 a.m.

Lego League: Bring your imagination
and join us for fun with Legos! Blocks of
various sizes will be provided. Children
must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5
through 11. A limit of 10 children with
their caregivers. Every Thursday from 3 to
4 p.m.

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

Read & Play: Children from birth
to 3 years old and their caregivers can
enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while
spending time with other toddlers. Limit
of 15 children with their caregivers. Every
Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

It’s Bin Fun!: Toddlers and pre-
schoolers can play and explore our various
sensory bins that will encourage curiosity
through touch, sight and sound! Parent
and child participation required. Ages 2
through 4 years old. Saturday, March 11
and 25, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

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

MARCH TEEN AND TWEEN
PROGRAMS

Afterschool Lounge: Come to the
library after school for studying and
holidays. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, March
17 at 11:30 a.m.

MARCH CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Robo Takeover: This is a hands-on,
robo workshop series for kids! Learn the
basics of circuits, conductivity, motor
operation and robot building. Space is

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.

Elder Law
Estate Planning
Wills & Trusts

30 Years Experience

NAELA

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

Member

Ralph Merigliano
Ralph Merigliano
Ralph Merigliano

Please Contact:
Ralph Merigliano
Voice Mail: 212-802-5504
Cell: 914-262-6912
Home: 718-885-0915
rmerig3@msn.com

Call 718-885-1703 or stop by the branch to
reserve your spot! Thursday, March 9 and
23, at 3 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Please call
the branch or stop in for more informa-
tion. Monday, March 13 and 27, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group
for all who are interested in writing pro-
essionally or personally. Come check us
out! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Intro to Computers: Come to the
library, ask questions about how to
use computers and sharpen your skills
through computer use. “How do I turn
the computer on?” “How do I set up my
own e-mail account and e-mail family
and friends?” Every Tuesday from 10 a.m.
to 12 noon.

Resume Workshop: Designed to
assist in creating a new or updated resume.
Topics include cover letters and resources
for job opportunities. A flash drive is
required. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m.
to 12 noon.

One-on-One: Computer Training:
Stop by or call to make an appointment
for one hour of instruction that focuses on
your questions and interests.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: at 1 p.m.
March 4: “Florence Foster Jenkins”;
March 11: “The Accountant”; March 25:
“Ben Hur.”

Some programs require advance regis-
tration, which can be done in person, or
by phone. All programs are free.

March 2017

The Island Current

What’s Going On In There?

Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue,
will have an artists’ choice exhibi-
tion from March 3 through March 26.
The opening reception will be on March
3, from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are an artist
and would like to be part of the exhibition,
there is a $20 hanging fee per picture and
30 percent charge if the artwork is sold.
All work must be ready for hanging. For
more information, please call 718-885-
1403.

Mac Lindsey, a sales representative
for 1st Light Energy, a solar installation
and service company, can be found in the
AER office at 300 City Island Avenue.
His firm, which has been in business since
2004, installs solar paneling systems so
that you can produce your own power and
pay less for your energy. Call Mac at 561-
316-5225 or stop by the office to make an
appointment. This is a government-funded
program that pays for installation; you
pay nothing and you receive discounted
monthly bills for your electric usage.

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30 percent charge if the artwork is sold.
All work must be ready for hanging. For
more information, please call 718-885-
1403.
The Island Current March 2017

By GREGORY CLANCY

In January, Islander Greg Clancy and his family attended the 2017 Boat Show at the Javits Center in Manhattan.

Matthew and his family watched in wonder at Sprio’s seamless performance of classic German grace. “An intriguing choice, at least to his parents. As the old adage goes, “you can’t fight the genes.”

As for the other Clancys, the young boys’ grandparents gravitated to the Sabre line with both a twin-screw Sabreline and a single-screw diesel Back Cove. These navy hulled Dories remain the company’s highest quality finish, traditional lines (the boat kind) and longest (the annoyed kind).

Pat Clancy stuck to the practical Cutwau- nee line of compact cruisers for his preferred pursuit. Jonathon Clancy’s name appeared on the report staff to Island Current’s Boat show writer, preferred to rest his pur- sue, and as a Marine (which means sea soldier for you landlubbers), and so we had to soldier on.

So what possibly could have been heartening about a claustrophobic, chaotic boat show floor with 20-minute lines to see even dinkily little boats? Well, over a fast lifetime of visiting the Boat Show, I have watched a story of decline, much like watching the demise of so many of our boardrooms here on City Island. I have watched the Boat Show get smaller and smaller, and then, some years back, the Javits center showed the time- ing of the show to a very undesirable New Year’s week. It seemed like a death knell and attendance plummeted. We suffered through years where the floor was empty and the silence deafening. Then, in 2015 Governor Cuomo gave the boat show some help by adding a third entrance, a plan that was timing back to a preferred late January time slot.

I cannot help but feel that the show has restored the desired resurgence, but two years later I can say that I witnessed the most heavily attend- ed Boat Show floor I have ever seen!

For the past few years I have tried to work up a theme for my annual Boat Show article. Last year I pursued the elusive (and very luxurious) Hinckley, which had made its first and only trip to the NY Boat show. Hinckley is a very popular boat, but the salespeople get a D for blowing it with their NY crowd. Not so surprisingly, Hinckley didn’t come back this year. Two years ago I ventured on a quest to see engine rooms. This sounds simple, but believe me when I say that the last thing that many people who want to do on the floor of the boat show is to open up the engine room. This year, I decided that my theme would be to report on the show through the eyes of my compan- ions. “Report” being the operative word. As for my companions, they change over the years too. Sometimes I have my wife and kids; sometimes I have friends; sometimes my brother Bill attends. Really, Bill is supposed to be my primary (manda- tory) companion, but he was busy making soup for Kurst and Pirate the cat, Turkey, not chicken. Dark meat is not light. Celeri, no carrots. Hmmm. Okay. Bill. You have a good Saturday too, pal.

Fortunately, my lovely musselsucker wife came to rescue our boys. So when I took my theme to heart, I had a thought. At ages 10, 8, and 2, my boys are getting wise in their old ages, and awfully boaty be- sides. Maybe you could use them to help me. I de- cided then and there that I could use some of this small-town columnist bit. This year I would be in-curious yet judicial reporter. I decided to do a genuine investigative piece and inter- view my young subjects amidst some other pieces of investigative research. I led with a few basic lines of questioning: best part of the show, most interesting part of the show, the most marketable part of the show, etc. The final question: if money were no object and you could make one purchase at the Boat Show, what would it be? So here goes the beginning of my journalistic career.

The Progressive NY Boat Show, held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center from Jan. 25 to 29, 2017, hosted record crowds this year.

Mother Pat Clancy, age 10, of City Is- land, was quite impressed at this year’s Boat Show. When asked what he liked most about the show, he instantly replied that the water Flybridge cruiser topped the list for him. Mr. Pat, himself the owner of a fly- bridge convertible, agreed that flybridges seem to have made a big comeback at this year’s show. Over the past several years, very few flybridges were present, and two years ago, only one, a Carver. This year there were a variety of flybridges, including Flybridge on the show floor. With mounts for four outboards, this Everglades 355 “Tournament” fishing boat, a traditional open center console, which also sports a flybridge mounted atop a hard. With mounts for four outboards, this Everglades maxes out with a 1,050 horse- power capacity. Mr. Pat had never recalled seeing a center console with a flybridge be- fore.

Flybridges atop high-powered center consoles were not the only noteworthy ex- hibits of this year’s show. Master Matthew Clancy, age 8, of Center Street, thought it quite “weird” that there were not only boats at the boat show, but cars and pianos as well. Although cars are unusual for the boat Show (GM and others have maintained an annual presence), seeing a piano exhibit was a shock for many visitors. Steinway Piano Company made their first-ever appearance, pairing with Chris Craft to show off their new self-play- ing baby grand, the Steinway Spiro, selling for a special price of $90,000. Young Mr.

In January, Islander Greg Clancy and his family attended the 2017 Boat Show at the Javits Center in Manhattan.
Garden Club of City Island

A spectacular collection of 300 camelias greeted club members on Feb. 8, 2017, at the Garden Club of City Island Historic State Park, formerly the home of William R. Coe, in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Members were given a guided tour of all the greenhouses, including the Camellia House, and enthusiastically photographed camellias in bloom. There was also a catered box lunch in the Haybarn Visitor Center, after which they went to the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site for a tour of President Theodore Roosevelt’s home filled with the family’s original furnishings. It was a beautiful warm day for the outing, which was declared a success by everyone who attended.

February meeting, held at the Harlem Yacht Club, focused on the Garden Club’s committee’s workings. The Helping Hands and Green Thumb committees were chaired respectively by Judy Jackson and Kathy Gibbons, are busy monitoring the City Island area’s street trees. All club members and volunteers are always welcome.

Joanne Valletta

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), “your shul by the sea,” 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating non-denominational place of worship. The spirit of Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual disciplines of breath and body, con- necting our weekly Siddur services to transformative, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all ages, both experienced and new. Services are levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes. Participants can take part on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served after sessions. Suggested free-will offering of $10 per session. RSVP to Danella at kyonce@aol.com.

Adult education: March 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Rabbi David leads classes in Seek- ing and Spirit: Re-introducing Judaism for the Renewal age. This is an ongoing series.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 8, from 7 to 11 p.m. Klezmer Gala and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses. A highlight of our year! Join Temple Beth-El in an evening of dancing, music, food and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea. We will honor longtime Temple supporters David and Rachel Zaren as our couple of the year. To volunteer or support this event, please contact us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com or stop by Kaledoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

On April 11 from 6 to 10 p.m., there will be a community Seder led by Rabbi David. Ong sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, yahrzeit or memorial) can be a joyful moving community celebration as we warmly invite you to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0679 or violet@skogg.com.

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is happy to be producing “Prelude to a Kiss,” a romantic fantasy written by Craig Lucas. On the day of the wedding of Peter and Rita, an old man approaches to kiss the bride. During their honeymoon, Peter begins to realize that there is something not quite right about Rita, and he struggles to under- stand what has happened. He comes to realize that he is truly in love with Rita, no matter what form she takes. Craig Lucas’s play was first performed in 1990 and was considered by many to be a metaphor for the AIDS epidemic in which a man could find himself in a relationship with someone who was suddenly old and sick before his time, the couple’s love and commitment.

Thomas Lotiss is directing “Prelude to a Kiss,” whose cast includes Phil Dante, Carol Dooner, John Garcia, Gary Krigs- man, Jack McGuirk, Bob Meier, Adicio, Ritacito, Sarah Smyth and Shane Williams. For more information about the produc- tion and purchasing tickets, please see BRIEFLY on page 2.

McIntyre

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 11th City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite H. Sundays at 10 a.m. with Father John Covington. After the service, we offer coffee, a time for refreshments and fellow- ship. All are welcome. New Grace: We now do birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School: A new season of Amaz- ing Grace Sunday School has begun, but registration is still open for the enthusiastic group of children. It meets on the first and third Sundays each month and is led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12, and newcomers are welcome. Extra time is needed: students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for Sunday School on their own, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the ser- vice. They will rejion the congregation after the exchange of peace. Students will begin preparing for the “Passion of Christ” to be presented during Holy Week in April.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is starting its second year! The group, made up of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, performs at area menses homes and in rehabiltiation centers. Rehearsals take place on the second Sunday of the month and on the Monday before a performance.

In March the Grace Tones are scheduled to perform at United Hebrew in New Rochelle. If you would like to join us, please call Sandy Dunn at 917-866-1296 or e-mail acoustic2@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

St. Mary’s Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will be closed on March 23 and 25 but will reopen on March 30 with the spring collection. There will be a Pop-Up Thrift Shop at St. Mary’s Gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arline Byrne
Your Community Center needs you. Your ideas for programs, your input on use of the facility and your attendance are vital to the success of the Center.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only $30 for families and $15 for individuals. We invite you to join us and become part of our “BIG” room for family events and parties at very reasonable rates. To join the Center, fill out the application and drop it off for pickup or trips. For information, call 212-269-6620 or e-mail csaradante@pssusa.org.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting, and sculpting. Study art and history from 15th to the 21st century with Lorraine Cantor. For more information, e-mail csaradante@pssusa.org. Irish Dance for Children: Monday, Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. medium 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes are taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information or call 914-262-4517.

Introduce to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school students or just for fun. To enroll, call Gertz Smith at 718-885-1503. Jill’s Playgroup: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Play, Preschoolers and children ages 2 – 3 years can have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. Call Jill at 907-766-4043 for information.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay trim with cross fit/aerobic strength training and refreshments available. Members get one free class.

Pysanky Egg Craft and Decoration: Sunday, April 3, 9 p.m. Young people are invited to make the most beautiful eggs for the season with Jay Howard.

NEW PROGRAMS

AA: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. Open meeting; all are welcome.

Art Camp: July 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children 7 to 12 register for 1 week of art instruction and program and explore drawing, painting and sculpture. To enroll contact Lorraine Cantor at 962-5208 or csaradante@pssusa.org.

Spanish Classes for Children: New sessions begin on March 6, 9 a.m. to 12 noon after school and Saturday afternoons. Enroll now for this exciting new educational program geared towards Spanish-speaking school teachers, the Spanish Experience teaches conversational Spanish to children grades K through 5 with fun filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Spanish Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don’t know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For information call 917-889-4938 or visit www espanolesonline.com.

Yoga with Ryan: Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. In this class expect a series of yoga poses with emphasis on alignment, coordinated breathing with breath to breath stretch, increase flexibility and balance, and ending with deep relaxation to integrate the practice physically, mentally, and spiritually with limited experience. For information, contact Ryan at 212-356-6673 or ryangilbert@ymail.com.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Come lose those pounds and that belly fat! Well, here is your chance. Join this high energy 90-minute class accompanied with tropical music for information. call 917-601-5515. Zumba with Lettie: Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie’s very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are $30. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

City Island Republicans

Wednesday, March 8, is the annual Bronx Republican Dinner. Tickets are $150 and cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m. Our next meeting will be held in April in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. Our monthly meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. 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 invited to attend. Please join us. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. Think about it.

COMING EVENTS

Puppet Theater: Sunday, March 19, 4 p.m. Join Jay Howard and his group of puppeteers as they explore the themes of Friendship and Gratitude. Fun for children of all ages.

Josie Cookie Sale: Sunday, April 2, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Support City Island Girls Scouts and Brownies at this walk-in sale. Stocked with the full variety of delicious GSI cookies right in front of the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Fun for the whole family with great prizes and refreshments available. Members get one free lunch.

Pysanky Egg Craft: Sunday, April 3, 9 p.m. Young people are invited to make the most beautiful eggs for the season with Jay Howard.

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 5 at 12 noon. Dues are past due. Dues are $30 and will be held on Thurs day, March 9, 7 to 7:30 p.m.

New members are always welcome. If you are a member or interested in joining or adopted descendant of a veteran as set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application. We will also need a copy of a DD-214 from your relative.

Thanks to Gene Valesio, who made the food that went up to the hospitality suite the highlight of the event. Thanks to Gene and to Tom Vivo, Peter Zvara and all those who helped make the annual psg’s-knuckles party a success.

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A Selected Filmography of Tom Hanks

Tom Hanks is well known as the voice of Woody in the three Pixar children's Tor Story films. Hanks also appeared in the recurring role of Harvard Professor of Symbology, Dr. Robert Langdon, in three mystery thriller films based on Dan Brown's books, The Da Vinci Code (2006). Angels & Demons (2009) and Inferno (2016). His career has spanned 30 years, in which he demonstrated a wide range of talent.

Splash! (1984) was the first release from Disney's Touchstone Pictures division. It stars Hanks as Allen Bauer, who as a child called the mermaid who saved him from drowning. When she grows up, Madi- son the mermaid (Darryl Hannah) goes in search of him to see if he's found love and land, miraculously on legs; but the smallest splash of water makes her revert to her half- fish state. When she is captured by government researchers Korbluth (Eugene Levy) and Ross (Richard B. Shull), Bauer's brother Freddie (John Candy) insists that Allen must rescue her. In the comedy drama Nothing in Common (1986), Hanks is a brash, hot- tempered advertising executive who has to pick up the pieces when his partners, Jack Glee- son and Eva Marie Saint, decide to divorce. The supporting cast includes the gorgeous Sela Ward as Cheryl Ann, a client he lusts after, and the hilarious Harve Presnell as his best friend, and the delightful Hector Eli- zondo as Charlie Gurgs, his understanding boss, who is a Vietnam veteran. Allen's father and son are surprised by how David handles this role.

In Big (1988), 13-year old Josh Baskin makes a wish at an amusement park fortune- telling machine, and the next morning he wakes up to discover that he has grown into an adult overnight (Hanks). Still mentally and emotionally an adolescent, Josh decides to go to school and work at FAO Schwarz with toy company exec William McMillan (Robbie Loggia) to bring in some much needed cash. He falls in love with Susan (Pierce), a fellow employee Susan (Elizabeth Perkins). He still misses his home and family. Hanks received much praise for his role.

In A League of Their Own (1992), women are recruited to keep baseball fever alive while men are at war. The film stars Geena Davis as Dot Rivers, Madonna as Blanche DuBois and Rosie O'Donnell as Annie, playing the role of co-pilot Jeff Skiles (Aaron Eckhart) and his girlfriend, Kelly (Helen Hunt). While on an assignment, an unexpected fling results on the beach in the aftermath, be located to the East coast of America with an investigation of the United States Coast Guard. The film co-stars James Donovon (Tom Hanks), who has been recruited by the CIA to negotiate Powers' release. Donovan arrives in Berlin, hoping to win the young man's freedom through a prisoner exchange, wherein the Russians would get Rudolf Abel (Best Supporting Actor Oscar winner Martin Sheen), a spy who was convicted of espionage for the United States.

Bridge of Spies (2015) is the story of a German law student who was sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison as a convicted spy. Powers' only hope is New York lawyer Jonathan Pollard (Hanks), who was driven to espionage for the United States.

A Hologram for the King (2016) is an original, unpredictable and charming film about American businessman Alan Clay (Hanks) who arrives in Saudi Arabia despar- ete a close transnational spaceflight deal: selling a holographic teleconferencing system to the Saudi king. He is befriended by Yousef (Alexander Black), a funny street-smart taxi driver, and Zahra (Sarita Choudhury) a beau- tiful doctor. The supporting cast also includes Tom Skerritt as Alan's dad, Tracy Faraday as a chance encounter; an American art dealer, and Za- sen as Danish worker Hanne, who is looking for romance.

Directed by Clint Eastwood, Sully (2016) is the story of “Miracle on the Hudson,” which took place on Jan. 15, 2009, when Cap- tain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger (Hanks) landed his disabled plane on the Hudson River in New York City, saving the lives of all 155 aboard. However, even Sully was being praised by the media for this extraor- dinary feat of aviation skill, an investigation that threatened to destroy his reputation and his career; much to the dismay of co-pilot Jeff Skiles (Aaron Eckhart) and Sully’s wife, Lorriane, who has been through so much. And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Organisation News

Who is now our interim commander.

Sunday, March 12, is the annual Post Saint Patrick’s Day. Stop by the post for door prizes.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion for all their help. Unfortunately, we cannot do all the things we wish.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole. Any retired veterans wishing to help out around the Post contact John Muhlfiel at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated. We are always in need of members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

Thanks to the Garden Club of City Island for the wonderful wreath they gave us to decorate our front door. The entire City Island Community for all of your support over the past 37 years.

John Muhlfiel

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of penitence and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Ashes will be blessed for use during the week.

Our monthly holy hour will be held on Friday, March 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory on Sunday, March 12, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Join us for light refreshments.

The beautiful Lenten devotion, Stations of the Cross, will take place on all Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m., with the exception of Good Friday, when Stations will take place at 12 noon.

Rose Dietz

A Missouri Village

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Rose Dietz
Public School 175

Although a short month, February has been quite busy. Thanks to a another grant from Councilman James Vacca, we are able to provide an after-school musical arts pro-
gram for students in grades 3 through 8. Students are working with teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble on a choral performance. Rehearsals have been going very well, and students will be putting on the performance for their families in the middle of April.

Our fifth-graders have also been busy working with the teaching artists from the Bronx Arts Ensemble and their classroom teachers on their March performance of “Shrek, Jr.” After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! A portion of the grant from Councilman Vacca is also being used to sub-
sidize this performance.

We received a Project Boost Grant from State Senator Jeff Klein that will enable stu-
dents to participate in a visual arts program at different points throughout the year. Stu-
dents will be exposed to a variety of mediums, including acrylics, tempera, oil, pastels and clay.

In celebration of Black History Month, and to learn about the amazing African- 
American women who enabled NASA to put a man on the moon, all of our students in grades 4 through 8 saw the movie “Hidden Figures.” Many of our students came back embarrassed, and to work for, the rights of women.

The F.S. 175 tradition of the sixth grade going to Camp Greenkill will continue this May. Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun- and learning-filled trips that will be taking place in the coming months. In March they will go to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social studies.

Our eighth-grade students are working hard to be ready for their momentous June event. This month they held a Valentine’s Day bake and candy-gram sale, which pro-
vided an opportunity for their schoolmates to pre-register their children for Kindergarten, should they do so immediately.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 23, at 9 a.m. The eighth-
grade dance will be the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 14, at 6 p.m.

The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 21, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.

January Citizens-of-the-Month were Daniel Mandarino and Waverly Treiber (kin-
dergarten); Terrance Howell and George Ramirez (first grade); Jason Reyes and Jack
son Baumann (second grade); Jacey Chen (third grade); Kostadinos Vergis and Alfredo Ferrante (fourth grade); Sonya Doyle (fifth grade); Robert Baumann and Patrick Liv-
ington (sixth grade); Benjann Noniello and Skylar Powers (seventh grade); Ayan Masytry and Francis Padgas (eighth grade).

February Citizens-of-the-Month were Sarah Ramirez and Matthew Cullen (kin-
dergarten); Sofia Reshaj and Naomi Boyle (first grade); Jordan Shirkshun and Grace Rice (second grade); Mia Paljas (third grade); Campbell Weppler and Gabriella Gerum (fourth grade); Kylee Archambault (fifth grade); Max Wieder and Fiorela Miria (sixth grade); Joseph Burton and Michael Gerum (seventh grade); Maria Leni and Ava Fierro (eighth grade).

Our Sports & Arts after-school program has been in full swing, with students partici-
pating in art, dance, athletic activities, ping pong and knock-hockey tournaments and homework help.

Please keep in mind these important dates.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 9, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair Display will take place on this day, as well.

Families from our City Island with chil-
dren turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2017, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for Kindergarten, should do so immediately.

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

There is a relationship between paint-
ing and gardening, especially when it comes to composition.

Take the following example: I worked on a large painting for a month, tweaking little things here and there, nipping at it, noddling away. Yet from the beginning the main figure was all wrong. Still I con-
cluded, and after an evening of having at it, after hour upon countless hour of fruitless endeavor, I took my brush and obliterated the offense. Alone the painted hedge was fine, but in conjunction with the rest of the painting, it was a sore reminder of the fail-
ure of good components working together.

This is also true of gardening. Many people garden safely, refusing to throw out any living thing and thereby contributing to their jumble of inchoate planting and ruining the overall effect for the sake of one plant. What I’m trying to say is that if you have a tired garden or if you are just plain tired of it, rust a few things; it makes one feel lighter to have a change.

There are very few plants I would consider ugly, but when plants do not cohabit well, it may be because they don’t naturally grow together in the same con-
ditions. Let the skunk cabbage and the primrose have their bog, as the yucca, daisy and poppy might populate a beach. A plant species may be beautiful, but there are some varieties that are really just awful. Performance, shape and color are as important to consider as how beautifully a flower holds its head.

Telipus in a display bed are another problem, as their leaves hang on tattered and forlorn for months. There is no plant I rejoice in moving more. You, dear tulip, have been splendid, but I will dig you up and relocate you to a sunny dinch near the vegetable bed until autumn. Or you might buy new ones, with an exciting color scheme to herald the next growing garden. I confess this is one of my life’s little luxu-
ries.

In early spring I trundle my wheelbar-
row about with a spade and some spare plants. If the plants are languishing, leave be. We do not garden to be annoyed. I remember a stand of red oriental poppies intermingling with a red twig dogwood. They outgrew each other, and because I thought the poppies would be so much better off with the irises, I replanted them there to the benefit of both.

Spring is the best time to move plants, and for great success dig the hole first, add compost and water the hole. Water the plant and then only dig it up and plant it in the new hole. It is a very satisfying experi-
ence to visit a garden and have the owner be glad to give you pieces of this and that. Gardeners are a generous lot; it’s never divide and conquer, only divide and repro-
duction.

Consider the lilies, a flower that flor-
rists seem to love. Purple pompoms on a stick, blooming from the top down. By the time the last flower blooms, the apex is an embarrassing shade of dung. I’ve pictured it here with the painting I am in the process of revising. So all the digging and repaint-
ing may lead you to another open-ended question, and that’s the experience and the adventure of it, but no lilies, please!

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. www.theartis-
gardener.com
Carl Gold

Carl Gold, DMD, a retired orthodontist and long-time faculty member in the Montefiore Orthodontic Department, died after a long illness on Dec. 19, 2016, at the age of 84. He lived in Philadelphia, where he received his DMD from Temple University. His orthodontic degree is from Columbia University. He served as a dentis- t in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Carl and his wife Barbara, a psycho- therapist, came to City Island nearly 25 years ago, so that Carl could sail. They found that the friendly sense of community here made them feel at home like nowhere else. Carl served on the board at the Boat- yard Condominium.

Carl loved adventure and traveled widely; trips to Africa and China were highlights. Carl had been a pilot of a small aircraft; he also made several trips to Cen- tral America and Haiti, where he served as a missionary dentist. He was known for his generosity and a creative, spontaneous humor.

He is survived by Barbara and his first wife, Claire, his sons Larry, Aaron and Sholom; his daughters-in-law Phyllis and Yuko; and four grandchildren: Nathan (Gary) Adkin, Pam (Tom) McClellay, Wendy (Jeff) Cartin, Kim Stumpf, Cathy (Rob) Goshard and his foster daughter, Laurel Quinones and her family; his grand- children, Lindsay (Ken) Macdonald, David Adkin, Brittney Cartin, Ryan Cartin, Emma Goshard, Ruby Goshard, Susie (Gary) Fernandez and Tom McClellay Jr.; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan Mayberry, Lewis, Quentin and Nathaniel Fernandez and Tommy McClellay.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Parkinson’s Disease Founda- tion.

Robert T. Stumpf

Robert T. Stumpf, 85, of Bethel, CT, passed away on Jan. 23, 2017. He was born on City Island on Dec. 23, 1931, to Peter and Edith Stumpf and grew up on King Avenue. He attended P.S. 17 and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx.

On July 14, 1956, he married Ruth Coleman, daughter of the Rev. Henry R. Coleman of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island. He had met her at the age of 12 through the church.

Bob was proud of his lifelong work at Norden Systems, a division of United Technologies, especially their contribution to NASA’s shuttle program. He retired in 1994.

Bob had the patience of a saint and genuine kindness for those around him. He was a devoted caregiver to his wife, Ruth, throughout her long battle with Alzheim- er’s disease. Later in life he faced with his own struggle with Parkinson’s disease his “never give up” attitude served him well. In the face of adversity, Bob enjoyed life and the good company of family and friends and the staff at Bethel Health Care.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth, and is survived by his children, Susan (Gary) Adkin, Pam (Tom) McClellay, Wendy (Jeff) Cartin, Kim Stumpf, Cathy (Rob) Goshard and his foster daughter, Laurel Quinones and her family; his grand- children, Lindsay (Ken) Macdonald, David Adkin, Brittney Cartin, Ryan Cartin, Emma Goshard, Ruby Goshard, Susie (Gary) Fernandez and Tom McClellay Jr.; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan Mayberry, Lewis, Quentin and Nathaniel Fernandez and Tommy McClellay.

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

Beware of Ransomware:

The Newest Virus That Can Really Destroy Your Files

Images signing onto your computer and seeing the following screen message: “Your files have been encrypted, use the enclosed link to pay us to decrypt your files.”

Yes, your files are being held for ransom. Hackers have penetrated your computer’s defenses and have now encrypted all of your files and have likely disabled your internet browser so that the only website you can go to is theirs. Now what?

If you have a detachable back-up drive that is currently connected to the computer, you will discover that those files have been encrypted as well.

Anti-virus software will detect some types of ransomware, but ransomware is designed to install itself in seconds, wholesale encrypt your data files and uninstall itself seconds later.

This means that when you run a virus scan, the virus will not detect the virus because it’s no longer there.

Windows has a recovery mode. You can “restore” your computer to an earlier time. It leaves your data files alone but any soft- ware installed after the restore point will be wiped out. This is useful when a Windows update has disabled a particular feature on your computer. However, since the process specifically excludes data files, the function will not restore the data files to their previous encrypted state.

If you bring it to a professional IT, cur- rently there isn’t anything you can do either. Typically, the encryption methodology is fairly advanced, so he cannot restore your files.

The only “solution” is that the computer be restored to its factory settings and you re-load your software. Your data is gone forever. Do not pay the ransom, and get a professional technician involved if necessary.

Some defenses include:

1. Do not check your e-mails on your laptop while traveling. Use your phone. If your phone cannot open the e-mail, delete the e-mail from your phone. Do not try to open the e-mail on your computer because you have not been able to open it on your phone. Ever.

2. Do not download any files attached to an e-mail if you are not expecting an attachment from the most frequent senders used by the scammers are Faram Express, Urgent Request, they will claim you have a package and that the attach- ment contains the details.

3. Buy anti-virus software. At the present time these programs cannot catch most ran- somware, but they make progress every day.

4. Buy a detachable hard drive to make periodic “mirror” images of the hard drive in your machine. Once you make the mirror image, detach it, and keep it on a shelf.

5. Invest in cloud backups of your com- puter. Cloud backup services continuously back up your data files. Just like the attached external hard drive, your backup will be encrypted. However, cloud services keep several versions of your data files. If your tenth copy is encrypted, chances are the tenth copy is.

6. Reset the computer back to factory specifications, re-load your software and recover your data files from whatever media you have.
Who Said You Can Never Go Home Again?

Over the years, we have noticed some interesting items in the water between the Pelham Bridge and the Pelham Bay Bridge (aka the Amtrak Hutchinson River Bridge). For example, partially hidden in the salt marsh, at about the point where Rattlesnake Brook empties into the Hutchinson River, there are some curious remnants of an old private dock or two. Then, when the tide is especially low, there are the remains of what was probably the train trestle that preceded the present-day span. Other observations include the derelict barge with the now faded red barnlike structure and derrick on top, an unidentified owl and a pair of black skimmers.

The most recent item in the water there, however, may take the prize for most interesting. Tied up to the working barge that has been moored between the bridges for some time now is what appears to be an old World War II era amphibious landing craft.

We do not presume to be experts on this sort of thing and would welcome any additional or clarifying information on the subject (send to jdsstrat@msn.com). That said, however, here is what we have turned up since the historic vessel came our attention: it appears to be Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) 503, 1 of 25 such vessels attached to the Second Engineer Amphibious Brigade (there were six such brigades). The Second, Third and Fourth saw action in the Pacific theater. Think Guadalcanal!

In one fairly well documented episode of the war in the Pacific, LCM 503 was part of the Allied effort to eradicate the Japanese military’s presence once and for all from the Philippine Island of Caballo. Apparently, there were soldiers who refused to surrender, choosing instead to hide out underground, within the intricate network of tunnels that the Japanese had constructed. Ultimately, the Allies responded by burning them out. The fuel that was used to undertake the operation was carried by pipeline from LCM 503. In fact, there is a YouTube video of the event. It can be viewed at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGxD_eaqh94.

When you get about 2 minutes and 25 seconds into the video, you can clearly see the number 503 on the landing craft’s side. Could it be our 503? How did it get here? Where has it been all this time? And wouldn’t it be interesting to learn that the same vessel was built on City Island? Such craft were built on our Island, after all, along with minesweepers and tugs. But that would be a story for another article—and what a story!
Family Meetings Can Develop Citizenship in the Home
By JOHN SCARDINA

The third week in February—in addition to our children being off from school—was the winter Congressional recess. This is a time when members of Congress return to their home constituencies and hold town meetings. It is a favorite form of citizenship participation in government for many of us; we can speak our mind to our representatives directly and in person.

Why not consider having a “family meeting,” your version of a town meeting, in your home? You can help you and your children find your voice, a civil and appropriate voice that discusses issues in a calm and respectful way, and develop important skills such as listening, self-expression, compromise and problem-solving.

Family meetings can be used for many purposes:
• to solve family problems of living together (who gets to use the bathroom first in the morning or who leaves the empty milk carton in the refrigerator and doesn’t put milk on the shopping list);
• to propose new family rules (“no electronics at the dinner table” or “no skateboards in the house”);
• to reinforce family values (“everyone can speak their mind if the tone is respectful and civil” or “this family gives to charity and believes in community service”);
• to check in with one another (you all might share your schedule for the next period of time and adjust chores and activities if one family member is especially stressed);
• to plan family activities (such as the next vacation or a visit to a museum);
• to enjoy one another’s company!

Here are some useful ideas for setting up regular family meetings in your home:
• Pick a regular time and stick to it (like the second Sunday of the month for dinner).
• Rotate who’s in charge of the meeting (and perhaps have that person plan for a special dessert to share); anyone 5 years old or up can chair a meeting with some guidance and practice.
• Have a “family meeting agenda items” white board in the kitchen so any family member can bring up something for discussion. That way, if something comes up amongst the kids, you can say “put it on the agenda” and you can discuss this next time.
• Begin each family meeting with a round of sharing: a simple routine might be going around the table and sharing one thing that went well today, one thing that didn’t go well today, and one thing each person is looking forward to tomorrow.
• Have simple rules for sharing: use a “talking stick” to prevent interruptions, be vigilant about no put downs, give each person the right to pass, and consider all ideas until you get to the feasible and constructive ones.
• End each family meeting with a round of appreciations: each person goes around the table and expresses one thing they appreciate in each family member who participated in the meeting.

One important point: for me, families are not “democracies” but hopefully more like “benevolent dictatorships” with Mom and Dad having final say. Nonetheless, you will soon see the benefits of treating your children as valued members of the family community, and all of you will become better creative problem-solvers.

Like any skill, having a successful family meeting will take some time. Stick with it and all will be well—you will be helping your children to develop important life skills.

In preparation for this year’s Souper Bowl of Caring, the children at Trinity United Methodist Church presented a skit stressing the importance of sharing and caring for those less fortunate. So far this year, the children have raised over $400, which will go to City Harvest to help many in their own community.
Congratulations to Centre Street’s Grace Kelly Kretzmer on her amazing portrayal of Fantine in the Random Farm’s production of “Les Mis”. We are so proud of you! Love from Mom, Dad and Paxton.

It’s a girl! Congratulations to our son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Mere, and big sister, Scarlett, on the newest addition to our family, Tabitha Reese Ribaudo, who arrived on Feb 5. Love, hugs and kisses, Nonni and Pop.

Best wishes to Jennifer Carman, who celebrates her 25th anniversary with Red Lobster. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Love from Mom and Dad.

Related happy birthday shout-out on Feb 20 to Hawkins Street’s Reid Travers, with best wishes from your sister, Lori, and all your friends.

It will be a fun night as Temple Beth-El members and friends celebrate their 83rd anniversary with an awards dinner dance at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses on Saturday, April 8. Honorees are Temple Beth-El supporters David Stark and his fiancée Rachel Singer and City Island’s own Brenda Prohuska, who will receive a special Community Appreciation Award. Welcome to the world, Asher Rubenstein Swanton, who was born on Jan 10, 2017. Thrilled parents are Jill Rubenstein and Philip Swanton.

March birthday greetings go out to Chris Butterworth on March 8; Joseph Nelson on March 10, and his dad, Joe Nelson, on March 28; Judy McCormick on March 18; and Barbara Stiene on March 31. Celebrate!

Maria Swieciki

Editor’s Note: Congratulations and big thanks go out to Maria Swieciki on writing her 300th Talebearer column for this issue. She began her stint with The Current in March of 1987.

Grace Kelly Kretzmer as Fantine in “Les Mis”.

Tabitha Ribaudo

Asher Rubenstein Swanton