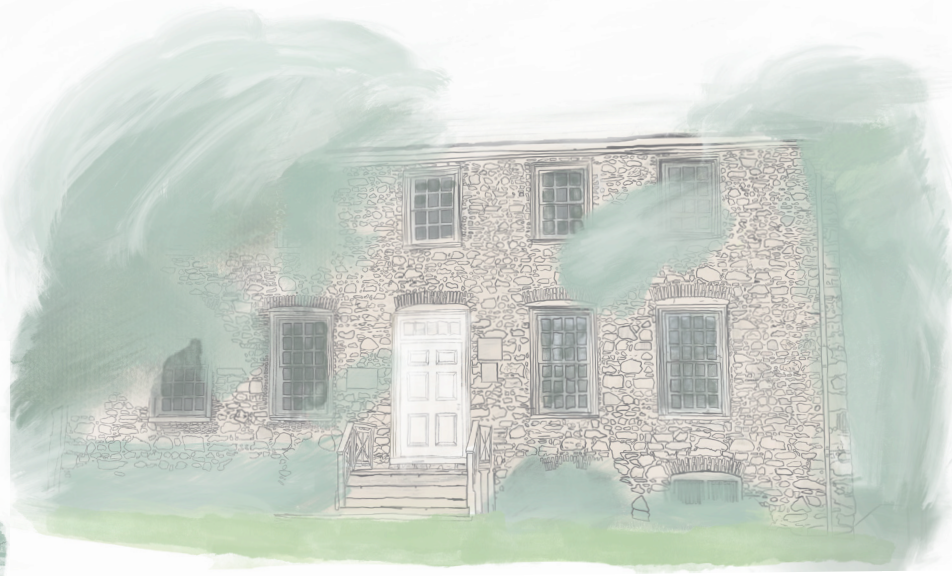


# Once Upon a Time in Staten Island



By: The Student Authors of  
CSI's Creative Exchange Program



E

stablished in 1975 exclusively at the College of Staten Island/CUNY (CSI), Creative Exchange is one of the first post-secondary programs of its kind nationally, serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities age 21 and over in a non-degree lifelong learning program.

This children's book was written during the 2021-2022 academic year by Creative Exchange students from the program's "Everyday Writing for Future Authors" class, who want to share places that are special to them in their community.

Their instructor, Mrs. Lenore Marchese, is a retired Special Education teacher for the NYC Department of Education for almost 25 years. Mrs. Marchese is also the author of "The Grumpy, Grumpy Grandpa" children's book series, whose proceeds are donated to Operation Smile.

The student authors of "Once Upon A Time on Staten Island" are:

*Jeffrey Mamet*  
*Edwina Filbert*  
*Angela DeNucci*  
*Caroline Rafanan*  
*& Angela Privitera*



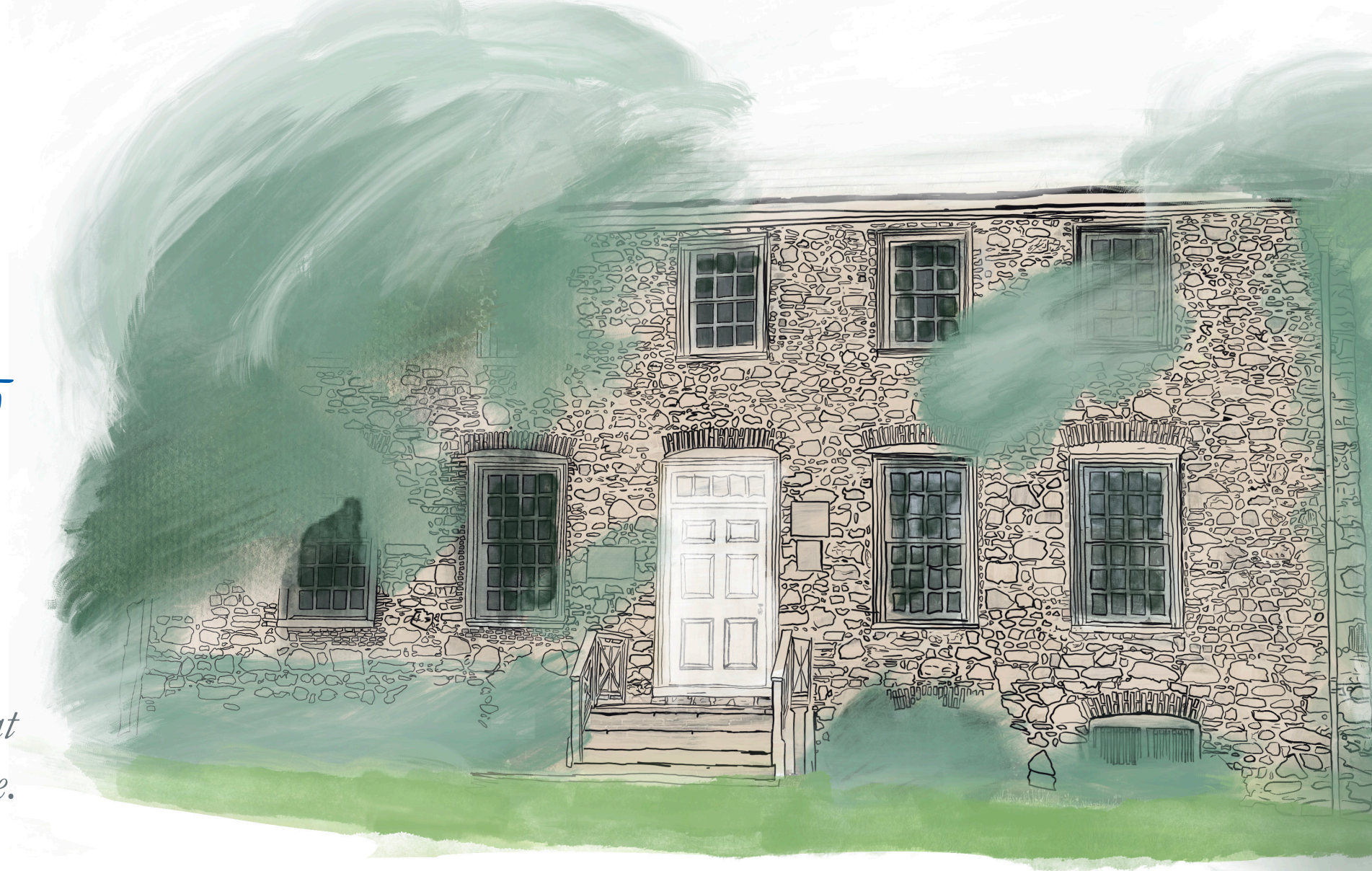
# My Conference House Trip

By: Jeffrey Mamet

Once upon a time in Staten Island,  
I went to the Conference House on a trip.

When we went there, it was closed, but that  
didn't stop me from having a good time.

I looked in the window and saw  
uniforms and a rocking chair that was  
rocking with no one in it except a ghost!



It was very dark inside the Conference House.  
It was closed to the public,  
but it was a fun-filled trip for me.

# My Day at the JCC

By: Edwina Filbert

The JCC is a place where  
I go five days a week.

We have a great time.



*When we are done, I have to do something in the Center.*

*We had a surprise waiting for us.*

*There were all tropical animals for us to see.*

*There are many things to do there:*

*arts and crafts,*

*swimming, yoga,*

*going to the computer room*

*or a workout in the gym.*

*I enjoy the JCC and I made many friends there!*

# My Staten Island Mall Trip

By: Angela DeNucci

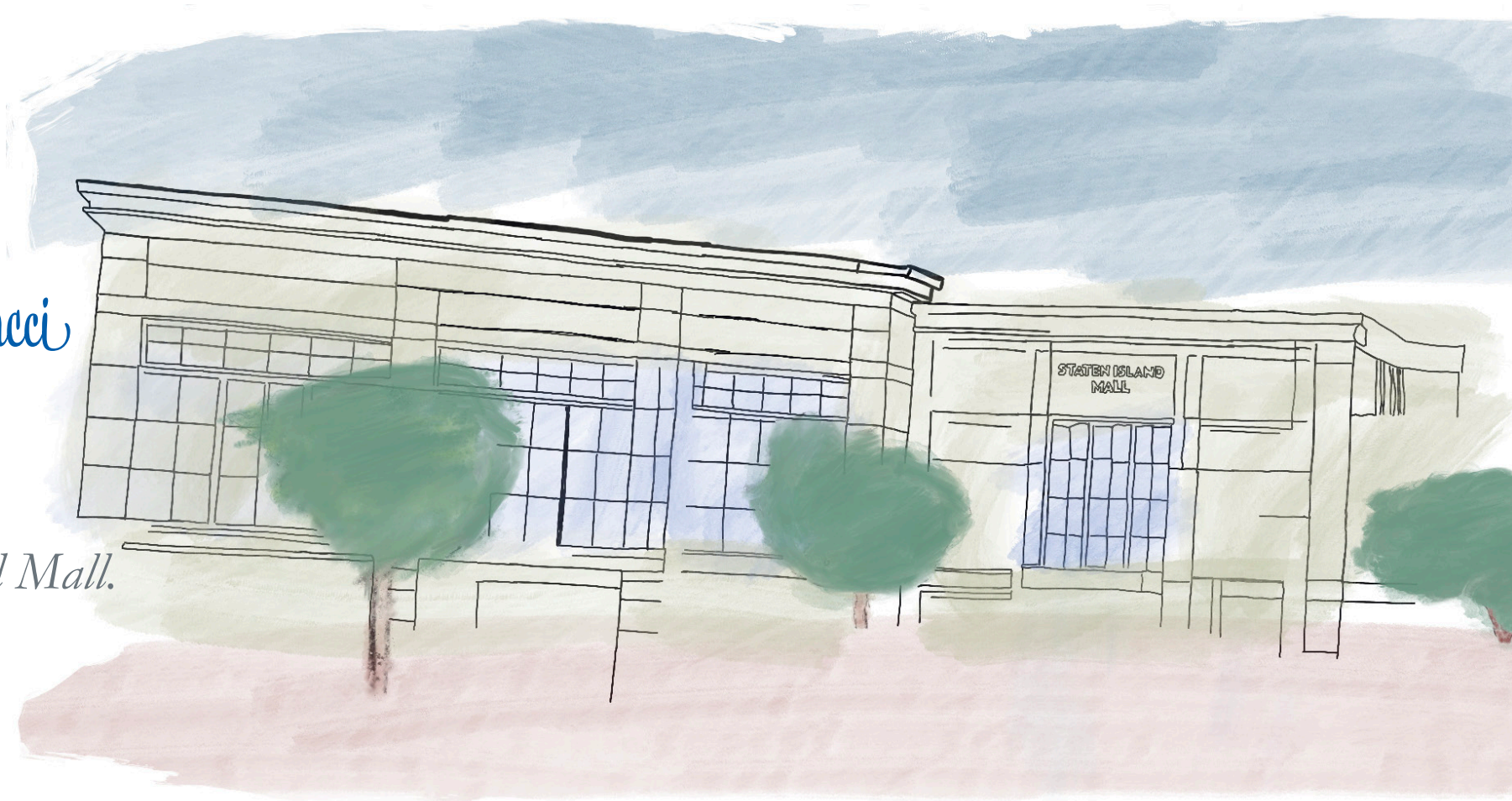
I went to Bath and Body Works at the Staten Island Mall.

Sylvia, from my staff, bought a lotion for me.

Then we went to the Dollar Store.

I did not buy anything there.

I did some window shopping.



This is what my day at the Staten Island Mall looks like.

# My C Room Day

By: Caroline Rafanan

Every day, I go to the C Room.

I like putting Easter decorations on construction paper and coloring an Easter bunny and Easter eggs in different colors.

Annemarie from my staff said to get along with our peers today.

I also do math like addition and subtraction.  
I cut out healthy food from the magazines.

I enjoy talking to my friend, Cynthia, too.  
She is in my C Room class.



# My Dinner at Nino's Restaurant

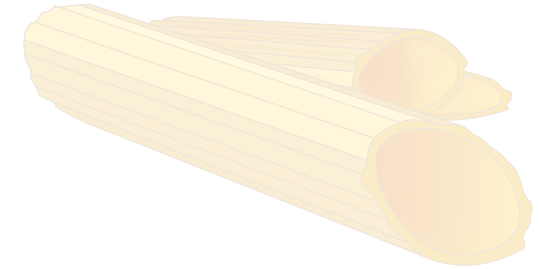
By: Angela Priotera



*One day, my family and I ate a delicious antipasta with my sister and brother-in-law.*

*My cousins from Connecticut were there too.  
They brought pictures to share with us.*

*For dinner, I ate penne vodka.  
It was delicious!*



*For dessert, I ate tartufo.  
It was delicious!*

*I made plans to go to  
my niece's house for dinner later on.*

*I shall never forget my dinner at Nino's.*



*We dedicate our book to everyone we know and love,  
especially our families and friends,  
and most especially to ourselves.*

*We each proved we can be and are authors.  
We are so very proud to share our simple stories.*

*If you can dream it, you can do it  
...and we proved this.*





[csi.cuny.edu/creative](http://csi.cuny.edu/creative)