

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Happy Holidays To All!

### From the Staff of *The Island Current*



This cover illustration was created by Island artist Mark Whitcombe for the December 1975 issue of *The Island Current*. It depicts City Island Avenue and the businesses from the residence next to what is now Lickety Split looking south. Mark, who passed away this year, and his wife, Tibby, can be seen at the far right.

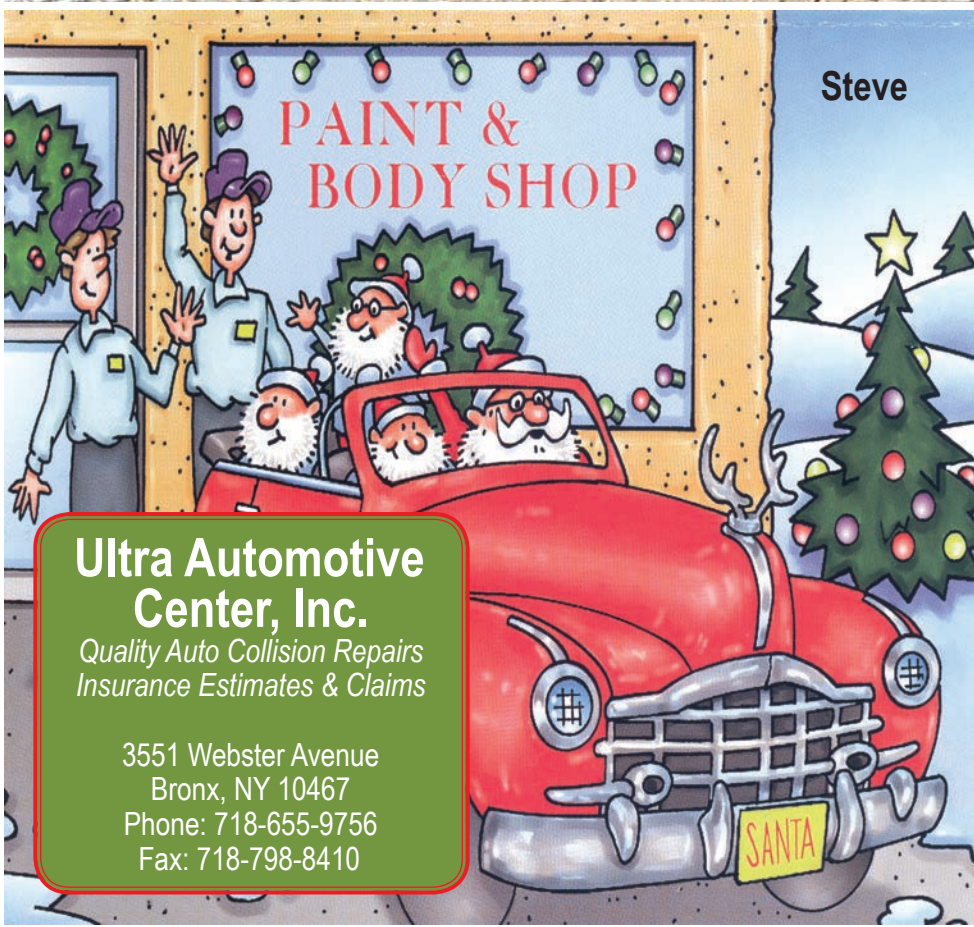


# BRIEFLY...

**SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM AT TEMPLE BETH-EL.** On Sunday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 480 City Island Avenue. Jeffrey Werbock will present an educational musical program of instrumental solo improvisations based on traditional Azerbaijani mugham, a monophonic modal music that conveys a mix of sorrow and joy as well as an overall sense of both antiquity and mysticism. Mr. Werbock has performed often at Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, Asia Society, World Music Institute, and he presents lecture demonstrations at colleges and universities all over the English-speaking world. For more information about mugham, visit the site [www.mugham.net](http://www.mugham.net). Suggested donation \$10.

**“A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS”** will be presented at the Manor Club Theater (1023 Esplanade in Pelham) on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., followed by hot chocolate, cookies and a visit with Santa in the main room after each show. Come celebrate with Charlie and the whole Peanut Gang, as they discover the true meaning of Christmas in this heart-warming classic, now celebrating its 50th anniversary. Produced by the SOOP Theater Company, the play will feature an ensemble of professionals from Broadway. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at <http://www.sooptheatre.org>.

**NAUTICAL MUSEUM HOLIDAY PARTY!** On Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m. at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, Tom Nye will give an illustrated talk on City Island’s boat and yacht building history, the subject of the museum’s fascinating new exhibition. All are invited to attend and to enjoy some holiday cheer and shop for Island-related gifts in the museum’s shop.



THE ISLAND CURRENT  
P.O. Box 6  
City Island, N.Y. 10464



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# 45 BLOTTER

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 2 – BURGLARY
- 1 – MENACING
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 22, 2015.

10/21 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 25, and charged him with menacing and criminal possession of a weapon at 10:30 p.m. An off-Island male, working as a security guard on Centre Street, told police that the perpetrator pulled a rifle out of his vehicle and pointed it at the victim, placing him in fear of his life.

10/22 – At 7:40 a.m., a female motorist struck the retaining wall of a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue causing damage. She then fled the scene of the accident. Police have a description of the vehicle.

10/31 – On City Island Avenue and Fordham Street at 4 a.m., an Island resident reported that she was walking home when she was assaulted by two perpetrators who struck her on the face and threw a bottle at her head. The incident is under investigation.

11/4 – The 45th Precinct’s Evidence Collection team is responding to a reported residential burglary on Ditmars Street at 7 a.m. A female Islander told police that while she was at work, unknown perpetrators smashed the rear sliding door of her house. No property was found missing.

11/19 – A male Islander reported an incident of grand larceny. His wallet was missing after he left it unattended at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue.

11/21 – On Fordham Place at 1 p.m., an Island male reported that the rear window and door of his home were broken, but no property was removed.

11/22 – Police arrested an Island male, 51, on City Island Avenue at 8 p.m. and charged him with assault. A female victim alleges that the defendant struck her in the face with his fist, causing pain and swelling.

**REMINDER**

The next issue of *The Island Current* will be produced at the end of January 2016.

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**St. Mary Star of the Sea Church**

**Christmas Schedule 2015**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT**  
Sunday, December 20  
7:30 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
Carols: 7:30 PM  
Mass: 8:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
Mass: 5:15 PM  
(Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**  
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God-Holy Day of Obligation)  
Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM



# DOT Year-End Report on Temporary Bridge: Jacked Up and Strengthened

By KAREN NANI



Photo by CAROL FITZPATRICK

Since the collapse of a section of the temporary bridge in September, DOT has used hydraulic jacks to lift the depressed section. The contractor also placed timber blocks to stabilize the structure (photo above), as well as removed damaged materials.

Although many residents remain wary of the integrity of the temporary bridge, plans are moving ahead to repair, test and open the structure soon, according to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Since the collapse of a section in September 2015, engineers and other DOT officials have attended three City Island Civic Association meetings, including the latest on Nov. 24, to allay Islanders' concerns about what caused the collapse and DOT's ability to guarantee a stable structure.

Robert Collyer, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Bridge Engineer, again addressed the crowd at the meeting and summarized the progress since the collapse. "Since the last meeting, we have jacked the bridge into [the original] position. There has been another inspection, and there is agreement between the designer and the engineers," he explained. The agreement is that the collapse was caused by a "design flaw," which resulted in buckling of the pie-shaped sections where the temporary bridge changes direction.

He and Roland Rigos, DOT Community Liaison, explained that the damaged sections have been removed and that new materials are being fabricated and "should be installed during the next two weeks" to replace the damaged portion of the truss. The process includes placing timber blocks to stabilize the structure (see photo), as well as removing damaged materials. Lifting of the depressed section of the temporary bridge was accomplished with hydraulic jacks.

According to DOT, the replacement materials will consist of high-strength beams and bracings. After completing the installation of these members, the contractor will finish the asphalt paving and install guide rails along the temporary bridge roadway. DOT will then conduct a strength test in cooperation with FDNY before opening the temporary bridge.

It is this testing that drew skeptical questions from residents. When asked how many

tests would be conducted, Mr. Collyer said "one," and if the bridge passed, it could be opened three weeks later. The stress test will be accomplished using FDNY fire trucks moving across the bridge to confirm that it will support 80,000 pounds, the maximum weight limit for bridges in New York City.

Some Islanders worried that large vehicles, such as the asphalt truck that was on the bridge when it collapsed and the flatbed trucks carrying cranes to the work sites on Fordham and other streets, weigh more than 80,000 pounds and will overstress the temporary bridge. If a collapse happens again, some demanded to know if an emergency plan was being developed, so that Islanders aren't cut off from the mainland. DOT said they would work on an emergency plan, but "over-dimensional and overweight vehicles are supposed to apply for a permit from DOT."

Mr. Rigos also provided an update to *The Current* on the Turtle Cove construction zone. "New prefabricated culvert boxes have arrived over the past couple of weeks. The contractor completed installing 7 out of 10 of these culvert boxes thus far." He projected that construction in this area and road restoration to normal four lane traffic is expected to be completed on or about Dec. 31.

Resident John Sheridan noted at the Civic meeting that since the old conduit was replaced, the tide rushes in and out of the pond much faster than it did before. Before, the pond didn't have time enough to drain completely so there was always water, but, he noted, this is not the case anymore and this has caused an abrupt change in the ecosystem. When the tide rushes out so much faster, it pulls with greater force at whatever happens to be in the pond near the new conduit; John said that he had pulled a dead swan off the grate after it was caught in the rushing water.

Mr. Rigos said that he would look into the situation, to see if this might pose a danger to people as well as animals.

# CITY REMOVES ABANDONED BOATS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Custom Marine, working with the Parks Department, recently removed *Lady Rage*, a 22-foot Catalina sloop from the spartina grass near the west end of Ditmars Street as part of its new program to clean up abandoned boats in the city.

Along with beautiful sunsets and views of handsome yachts tugging at their moorings, City Island has some less attractive sights—unwanted boats littering the shoreline, having been washed ashore by storms and abandoned by their owners.

If an abandoned vessel is considered a hazard to navigation in a federal channel, the Army Corps of Engineers will remove it, and if it poses an environmental hazard or interferes with commercial navigation, the Coast Guard will deal with it. But there are many hundreds of boats lying on or near the shores of New York City that remain in place because the removal cost is high and the city has not, until recently, stepped in to remedy the situation.

Several years ago, before Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, the Police Department worked with Parks and the Department of Sanitation to remove derelict boats from the shores of Rodman's Neck. But the shoreline quickly filled up again, and because most of the boats are made of fiberglass, they do not rot and disappear like the wooden boats of yesteryear.

As reported in the *New York Times* on Nov. 2, 2015, the Department of Parks & Recreation recently contracted with a salvage company called Custom Marine as the

first step in a new cleanup program. City Island was featured in the article, which described the removal of two boats, one from the wetlands at the west end of Ditmars Street and the other near the City Island Bridge.

Using a second-hand military landing craft and a crane, Custom Marine was able to retrieve the red 22-foot Catalina sloop that had been blown ashore three years ago by Hurricane Sandy. The boat near the bridge had come off its mooring and was submerged at high tide but visible at low tide.

Usually it is the responsibility of the owners of these boats to pay for hauling them away, but too often in recent years, owners who wish to discard their boats remove identifying registration numbers so that they cannot be identified. There is a serious fine for doing so, but it is difficult to catch the perpetrators.

The boats that are being removed from the area around City Island are those on public property; those on private beaches or sea walls are the responsibility of the land owners if the boat owners cannot be found. The barges that were once attached to the shoreline at International Underwater Contractors are being removed by the developer of the property as part of the construction project (see page 23).

# 2015 Election Results

By FRED W. RAMFTL

Much like the rest of New York City, City Island's voter turnout was down this November when compared to previous years. According to scanner totals from the NYC Board of Elections, fewer than 400 registered City Island voters showed up this year at P.S. 175 to cast ballots for candidates in the races for Bronx District Attorney, and NY Supreme and Civil Court judges.

Longtime Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announced he was leaving earlier in the year to run for NY Supreme Court. This left an opening which was contested between Republican Robert Siano and Democrat Darcel Clark. Ms. Clark prevailed, making her the first female DA in the history of Bronx County. Mr. Johnson was voted to the NY Supreme Court.

The following table indicates the tallies for Election Districts 60, 61, 62 and 63, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat, Republican and Conservative party lines.


| Race/Candidate   | # C.I. Votes | %   |
|--|--------------|-----|
| <b>Bronx District Attorney</b>   |              |     |
| Robert Siano (R)   | 201          | 60% |
| Darcel Clark (D)   | 132          | 40% |
| Boroughwide winner: Darcel Clark (D)   |              |     |
| <b>NY Supreme Court</b> – (choose six)   |              |     |
| Lizbeth Gonzalez (D)   | 178          | 13% |
| Steve Mayo (R)   | 175          | 13  |
| Guy T. Parisi (R)  | 170          | 12  |
| Reuben Franco (D)  | 170          | 12  |
| Robert Johnson (D)   | 163          | 12  |
| Diane Renwick (D)  | 147          | 11  |
| Mitchell Danziger (D)  | 146          | 10  |
| Sallie Manzanette-Daniels (D)  | 143          | 10  |
| Christopher Garvey (C)   | 103          | 7   |
| Statewide Winners: Lizbeth Gonzales, Reuben Franco, Robert Johnson, Diane Renwick, Mitchell Danziger and Sallie Manzanette-Daniels |              |     |
| <b>NY Civil Court</b> – (choose 2)   |              |     |
| Ben Barbato (D)  | 187          | 52% |
| Marsha Michael (D)   | 176          | 48  |
| Citywide Winners: Ben Barbato and Marsha Michael   |              |     |

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**P. S. 175 Needs Your Help!!!**

When the walls were built on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor we did not receive funding for books so our SLT has started a campaign to raise money for this cause.

Please visit  
<https://www.gofundme.com/PS175CityIsland>  
and show your support by making a donation.

You can also share our campaign with friends and family on Facebook and Twitter.

Thank you!!!





|   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION IS A STUMBLING BLOCK FOR NEW NAUTICAL MUSEUM WINDOWS. | WHAT LOOK LIKE FLIMSY REPAIRS TO TEMP BRIDGE CAUSES CONCERN. | GRACE CHURCH DEDICATES RESTORED STAINED GLASS WINDOWS ON NOV. 1. | LAW & ORDER SVU AIRS ANOTHER EPISODE BASED ON CI ON NOV. 11. | RAIN FOR HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING DOESN'T DAMPEN SPIRITS. |
|---|--|--|--|--|

WOW! THE STORM THAT BROKE THE WINDOW IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE STORM OF PAPERWORK TO GET THE NEW WINDOW APPROVED!

DON'T WORRY, I BROUGHT MY JENGA GAME PIECES, SO AS YOU JACK UP THE COLLAPSED SECTION, I'LL STACK THEM UP UNDER IT!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

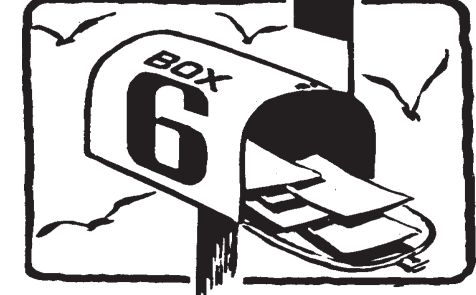
WITH ALL THIS RESTORATION AND CLEANING OF THE STAINED GLASS, I CAN REALLY SAY I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! I'LL NEED TO CONDUCT SERVICES WITH SUNGLASSES FROM NOW ON!

YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW, EVERYONE ON CITY ISLAND KNOWS EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS.

CAREFUL, ASSEMBLYMAN BENEDETTO! YOU'RE STANDING IN A PUDDLE. WOULDN'T WANT THE HOLIDAYS TO GET OFF TO A SHOCKING START!

HMMM...I CAN USE THAT!



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.

**Bridgegate?**

To the Editor:

After viewing the photos of the temporary bridge collapse in the October issue of *The Island Current*, and speaking as a layman, I think the issue may be more with the approach ramp than with the bridge. The lack of proper support under that area seems to be the problem.

The photos I have included (see photos on page 3 and below) show what seems to be a temporary fix to prevent further collapsing, which should have had concrete supports from the onset in this area of the ramp. This might have prevented this problem from occurring at all.

After reading about the Sept. 28 meeting with the DOT bigwigs, I hoped that their inspection could have at least narrowed down what the cause of the problem is. Instead, they told of the many problems that may be the cause and offered no suitable explanation how to resolve it. The outcome was many unanswered questions, which only led to frustration.

The lack of communication is not giving me a warm and cozy feeling of confidence with DOT or Tutor Perini.

In closing, Washington had its Watergate, City Island now has its Bridgegate, and all we seem to want is a logical explanation and a safe and sound resolution to this very serious problem.

**Carol Fitzpatrick**



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I Wish Each of You A Very Happy & Healthy Holiday Season

*It is an honor to serve as your representative in the New York State Senate and I thank you for your continued support.*

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# Disposition of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club: What Islanders Need to Know

By KAREN NANI

Events surrounding the closing and possible sale of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club on Centre Street have unfolded quickly during the last two months. The City Island Civic Association is trying to insure that Islanders, especially residents of Centre Street, have a voice in the proposed changes, but options appear to be limited.

On behalf of the Civic, Greg Clancy attended a meeting on Nov. 19 between the NYC Parks Department and board members from the Stuyvesant, which is in dire straits: they have only nine members and must sell or donate the property.

The club's financial problems escalated after damage inflicted by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The lack of funds to rebuild the dock and seawall and to pay real estate taxes and insurance premiums became so severe that the club's board offered the property for sale. Although other proposals and offers have been considered, it appears that the most likely option is the Parks Department proposal.

According to Mr. Clancy, Parks is proposing a scenario in which it will lease the property from the club for the next two years and operate it as a NYC Parks Marina, similar to the 79th Street Boat Basin in Manhattan or the World's Fair Marina in Queens. During this period, the agency will undergo a ULURP process to change the zoning of the club's three lots from residential to mapped parkland. If the process is successful, the city will take possession of the property and map it as parkland, specifically a marina.

Parks has promised a draft agreement to the Stuyvesant board by Dec. 10. The board will meet and consider this proposal, along with a separate offer from a private individual to turn the property into a bed and breakfast (B&B). Because the club is on the verge of a property tax default, board members claim they cannot delay the decision past the end of the year.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, Parks representatives said they plan to make the property a marina, not a public recreation area, but there were few specifics. Because of the urgency of the situation, Mr. Clancy developed recommendations on behalf of the Civic to address the Parks proposal for taking over the property. These recommendations were voted on and accepted at the Civic Association meeting on Nov. 24.

1. Both the short-term leasing and the permanent transfer of the property must designate the use of the property as a marina or boatyard only. The property must be restricted from being used as a public park or for public recreation, fishing, playgrounds, sports fields, etc.

2. The membership of the proposed NYC Parks Marina must be capped at 80 full members and no more than an additional 20 social members.

3. The operating procedures of the facility must require that the gate be closed and locked at all times. Only members will have access.

4. The general public will not be permitted to enter the facility, unless as a guest of a member.

5. Any bar or restaurant concession must be limited to the use of members and guests only. The bar and restaurant must remain closed in the off season when the boatyard is full of boats and no parking exists on the premises. This time should be designated as being from Oct. 1 to May 15.

6. The clubhouse will not be available for rent to the general public.

7. The beach on the southernmost tax lot may not be developed. It may not be accessed by the general public for use as a recreation area.

8. The general public may be permitted to launch kayaks or canoes from the property, but they may not launch dinghies, jet skis, or any other craft. Under this scenario, a kayak user would come up to the main gate and get "buzzed" in, and then be permitted by Parks Department staff to launch their kayak or canoe.

In presenting these recommendations at the meeting, Civic board member John Doyle emphasized that the community's options are limited: Islanders can either try to block the proposal or try to influence it and include some restrictions. Since the Stuyvesant board ultimately controls the decision, it was the consensus of those in attendance at the meeting that the best course of action was to try to retain the property as a boatyard and make the community's concerns known to Parks.

If the Parks Department proposal for the two-year license is accepted by the Stuyvesant board, with or without consideration of the Civic recommendations, Islanders will have the opportunity to determine if management of the yard has resulted in negative effects on the surrounding community. Their response can then be expressed in the public hearings that are part of the ULURP process and conveyed to the elected officials involved in approving or rejecting the zoning change.

Islanders who could not attend the meeting but who wish to be heard on this issue should send their thoughts to the City Island Civic Association via e-mail to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). They can also send their ideas to *The Current* at [info@theislandcurrent.com](mailto:info@theislandcurrent.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

# LIGHT UP THE SEASON!



Photo by MATTIA PANZA

A rainy night hid the full moon but couldn't dampen the holiday spirits on Nov. 28, at the annual holiday tree lighting in Hawkins Park, with lights installed by the Owens Brothers. Chamber of Commerce officers Skip Giacco and Paul Klein joined Assemblyman Benedetto to light the tree, followed by the joyful voices of the choir led by Elizabeth Farnum.

# Be Part of the Solution

By JANE La SCALA

Part of the Solution (POTS) is a social service program located on Webster Avenue that provides food, clothing and remedial services to those in need.

At this time, POTS has an overwhelming influx of homeless and out-of-work clients who are in great need of basic daily items, so we are working with POTS to reorganize our holiday gifting program to better meet their needs.

For this year, our holiday collection (number 15!) will concentrate on the following: men's and women's sweat suits (sizes M, L, XL; please tie sets together with a ribbon); men's and women's winter underwear (sizes M, L, XL); warm socks, hats, gloves and scarves (please tie sets together with a ribbon); men's and women's winter jackets (sizes M, L, XL); disposable razors; travel-size soap, mouthwash, toothbrushes and shampoo.

All items should be new in keeping with holiday gifting.



Photo by MARC HOHENSTEIN

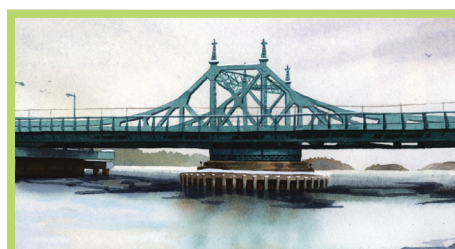
Jane La Scala was honored at the recent City Island Chamber of Commerce awards dinner for her work with POTS.

Items can be dropped off in the lobby of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church from Dec. 6 through Dec. 15. For more information please contact Jane at 718-885-2137.

City Islanders also continue to provide POTS with a hot meal once a month, and we are starting our 18th year. Each month there is a designated dish, and each of us is asked to prepare enough to feed 10 people. If cooking is not your forte, basic staple items can be donated (coffee, sugar, juices, flour, cookies, cleaning products, diapers and formula with iron, to name a few).

Your food donation should be delivered to St. Mary, Star of the Sea school yard between 4:30 and 5 p.m. on the designated Saturday. To be added to this monthly giving, please contact Rosetta at 718-885-0926. You can also check *The Island Current* for the menu and date for the upcoming month.

Thank you for caring and sharing.



Happy Holidays from BRIDGE MARINE!

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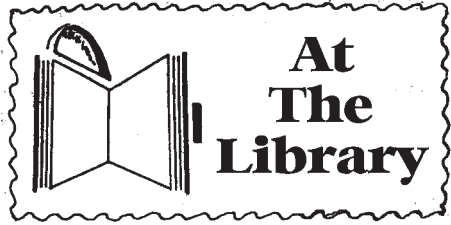
I have been chosen as a 2015 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner. Less than 5% of agents receive this award. Look for me in the October Issue of Westchester Magazine.





**What's Going On In There?**

There are some new programs at **Dragons Path Academy** (229 City Island Avenue): LiL Dragons, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 4:30 p.m.; KickNfit Kids: Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 6:30 p.m.; Zen Meditation Class: Monday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m. For more information, call 347-945-3172.



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**DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Monkey Monkey Music:** Get ready to play air guitar, jump high, go innie and outie, count the odds, pop the bubbles and stroll in the garden with Monkey Monkey Music. For children ages 3 to 6 years old with parent/caregiver. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 11 a.m.

**Circle Time:** Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited, so attendance will be on a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

**Read & Play:** Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited, so attendance will be on a first come / first serve basis the day of the program. 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 3 to 11. Friday, Dec. 18, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

**DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Checkmate Chess with Ramon Hernandez:** Are you a chess champion? Show off your best moves against other chess fans! Whether you're a chess master or just starting out, come join us for some board time. For ages 12 to 18 years old. Thursday, Dec. 3, at 3:30 p.m.

**After School Lounge:** Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Every Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

**After School Activities:** Every Friday at 3 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4: Wii and Board Games  
Friday, Dec. 11: Holiday Craft: Make Your Own Snow Globe  
Friday, Dec. 18: Holiday Movie

**DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**NEW! Afternoon Computer Classes:** These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics and are ready to begin tackling more specific questions. Every Thursday from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 3: E-Mail 101.  
Thursday, Dec. 10: Trouble With Tablets.

Thursday, Dec. 17: What is Social Media?

**Island Writers' Creative Writing Group.** This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out. It's free and special! Meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**Autumn Writing at the Library:** Before the holiday season, you will explore purposeful writing that creates an impact. Along the way you will learn how to design

a good story, to prepare a piece for publication and to write with joy. Led by Gail Hitt. Every Thursday until Dec. 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Computer Q & A:** Tuesday mornings are all about the basics. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I use a mouse?" "How do I get on the Internet?" "How can I sign in to use a computer at the library with my library card?" If you've asked yourself any of these questions, then we can help you! No signup required. Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search:** Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

**One-On-One:** Computer and Tablet Assistance. Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:**  
Saturday, Dec. 5: "What You Thought You Knew About World War II"  
Saturday, Dec. 12: "San Andreas"  
Saturday, Dec. 19: "Max"  
Saturday, Dec. 26: "Aloha"

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

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**Happy Holidays!**

**Food for Thought!**

By SENSEI EDDIE

Childhood obesity has rapidly become a serious issue, linked to numerous health issues. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity rates have more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents over the past 30 years. Physical activity is one of the best ways to help weight loss and what better way than to participate in martial arts? Here we break down the many reasons how you can combat childhood obesity with martial arts:

**Obesity** is defined as having excess body fat, a condition more severe than merely being overweight. It can be influenced by both genetics and environmental factors that are more complicated than simple diet. With over one third of children and adolescents being classified as obese in 2012, this is a large-scale issue that needs to be addressed. A caloric imbalance—when more calories are consumed than expended—is the most common cause of obesity.

Obesity can lead to many health problems, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure, early heart disease, diabetes, and bone problems. Although it seems like a no-brainer that obesity should be tackled, it is a lot easier said than done, as it is very difficult to change lifestyle and habits.

**Exercise**

In terms of calorie expenditure, exercise is key. The majority of martial arts provide a highly vigorous form of exercise. Some media representations of martial arts focus on violence and pure combat, but most martial arts and martial arts schools are focused on self-improvement and a positive attitude to life. Additionally, the martial arts are a fun and highly interactive way to introduce physical activity, especially with those afflicted by childhood obesity.

On top of that, the philosophies taught in traditional martial arts can create a sense of positive well-being that is key to improving one's health. The ranking system allows people to have a sense of direction and accomplishment in a way that helps guide their journey and boosts motivation. This approach in the martial arts uses positive reinforcement and builds self-esteem, which is important in enabling students to follow through and create lifelong change.

**Nutrition**

When a healthy physical activity program such as the martial arts is introduced to combat childhood obesity, healthy eating comes a bit more naturally. Most martial artists incorporate some aspects of nutrition in their teachings, especially at competitive schools. Nutrition is not only important for high performance but also for weight loss. As mentioned before, the biggest factor of obesity is the caloric imbalance. Speaking from a position of authority, martial arts instructors and fellow students help to encourage kids to stick to a healthier diet, through positive group goals.

**Self-Confidence**

One of the greatest benefits in combating childhood obesity with martial arts may not lie in the exercise or nutritional aspects but rather in the sense of empowerment they give. Self-doubt and insecurity can hinder many attempts at overcoming obesity, but thanks to the increase in mental fortitude provided by the martial arts, such a program can help one not only overcome childhood obesity but many other challenges in their lives as well.

*Sensei Eddie (Edwin Castro) is the director of Dragons Path Tae Ki Do Academy ([www.dragonspathacademy.com](http://www.dragonspathacademy.com)), 229 City Island Avenue.*

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**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**Holiday Shopping?**

Don't forget the Museum's gift shop when you plan for the holidays. We have unique nautical and City Island-themed items that make great gifts for yourself, family, and friends. T-shirts, baseball caps, coasters, trivets, magnets and cups with the true nautical chart of City Island, monkey-fist key rings, wristlets, bookmarks, tote bags, and bone china mugs with flying spinnakers. See our website for a complete list of gifts. Stop by any Saturday or Sunday afternoon or call 718-885-1616.

**City Island Nautical Museum**  
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For a list of gifts and prices, visit [cityislandmuseum.org](http://cityislandmuseum.org)



# Chamber of Commerce Hosts Its 105th Awards Celebration

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MARC HOHENSTEIN

Honorees at this year's Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14, included Mary Colby (above with Paul Klein, Chamber vice president, and Adolfo Carrión, former Bronx Borough President; Bob Carmody (top right) with Skip Giacco, Chamber president, and Paul Klein; and (below) Rubén Díaz Jr., Bronx Borough President, with (l. to r.) Olga Tirado, executive director of the Bronx Tourism Council, Ellen Bruzelius, executive director of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Cherrie Greenhalgh, president of the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, and two BPMM board members and Island residents, Bill Rainford and Barbara Dolensek.

Scavello's on the Island was hopping on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, as the banquet room filled up with enthusiastic diners celebrating the contributions made by the honorees selected this year by the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber president Skip Giacco introduced Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, who welcomed the crowd of over 100 to the

event and introduced the first honoree, Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. Mr. Díaz received a special certificate of appreciation for his achievements in making the Bronx the outstanding borough that it has become in recent years, or, as he put it, "the best borough in the state." He spoke enthusiastically about the progress that has been made in the Bronx and acknowledged the important part



that City Island has played.

Paul Klein, Chamber vice president, introduced Jane La Scala, who received the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award for her company, Hailing Port Services, and for her contributions to the City Island community. Jane, the wife of former Chamber president Peter La Scala, was responsible for bringing the charitable organization POTS (Part of the Solution) to the attention of City Islanders, who generously provide food and clothing for those less fortunate. Jane acknowledged the support of her husband and her two daughters, Lauren and Anita, and the fact that City Island is a community of neighbors. "Let's keep it that way," she told the appreciative audience.

Peter La Scala was honored to give the Community Service Award to his longtime friend Madeline Provenzano, who passed away in 2014 after having served the community for many years, most recently as Councilwoman. The award was presented to Madeline's husband, Nathan Simmons, and her daughter, Maria Provenzano, both of whom spoke of Madeline's fondness for City Island, as well as her ability to handle a multitude of issues, quoting her favorite saying: "We can't stop the waves, but we can learn to surf." Peter then announced a generous donation of \$1,200 from the family to the Chamber of Commerce.

Skip Giacco praised the next honoree, Robert Carmody of AER Realty for his dedication to City Island and presented him with the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award

for his many years of contributing his time and effort, from coaching Little League to sponsoring numerous community events and much more.

Mary Colby was given the Catherine Scott Achievement Award for her many years on the Island working as an artist and helping to support the artistic community here, an effort that the Chamber would like to expand in the future. Mary first worked here as a decorative artist at her gallery Fe Fi Faux, but now she devotes her time to her painting and to garden design. Mary expressed gratitude to the Chamber and other Island organizations, including the Garden Club of City Island, for their contributions to making City Island a special place.

Skip proudly announced that his longtime dream of a City Island Trolley had at last come to life, with a beautifully painted vehicle ready to transport visitors to City Island from off the Island. Its first official voyage took place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 17, when the City Island Land Ferry picked up visitors from the new Marriott Hotel and brought them to Island restaurants.

Following this announcement, Mark Gjonaj spoke briefly about his commitment to City Island and happily announced that although he was a mussel sucker, his children were proud to be clam diggers. Former Borough President Adolfo Carrión then sang for the guests, who spent the rest of the festive evening dining and dancing to the music of the Lickety Split Band. A great time was had by all.



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Photo by DOLORES HERNANDEZ

The pier at the Boatyard Condominium was lighted with colors of the French flag on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, the day after the terrorist attacks in Paris. A resident of the Boatyard learned that his son, a commercial pilot, was very impressed by the sight as he flew into La Guardia Airport that evening.





# Merry Christmas

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# HISTORIC DEDICATION AT GRACE CHURCH

By PAUL NANI



The restoration of the historic stained-glass windows at Grace Episcopal Church was finally completed in 2015, and a plaque commemorating the event was unveiled in the parish hall on Nov. 1, at a special dedication and thanksgiving service (top photo). Restoration of the historic Bolton altar window, "The Trial of Christ," included repairs to the middle panel image of Jesus' face and the right panel area around Pontius Pilate's hands (see before and after photos). The frame around the west window, "Jesus Calms the Storm," was also repaired (bottom right).

It took 10 years and thousands of dollars from parishioners, City Island residents and off-Island organizations, but the restoration of the historic stained-glass windows at Grace Episcopal Church is finally complete. A plaque commemorating the completion of the projects was unveiled in the parish hall on Nov. 1, 2015, at a special dedication and thanksgiving service.

Lifelong parishioner Karen Rauhauser Nani addressed the congregation gathered on All Saints Sunday and recognized everyone "who helped restore the historical treasures and buildings that make up this special edifice on City Island."

She chronicled the history of the church and the damage that had occurred over the years to the buildings and the windows.

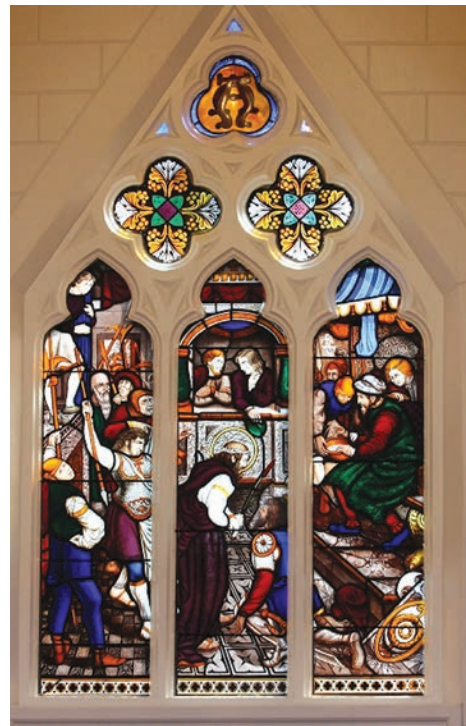
Grace Episcopal Church was built from 1862 to 1863 by ship's carpenters from the David Carll Shipyard on Pilot Street (where Consolidated is now). The large figural win-

dow depicting "The Trial of Christ" was made by John Bolton probably based on a design by his brother William Jay Bolton, creator of first-known American-made figural window ("Nativity" at Christ Church Pelham) and the first "Trial of Christ" in Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn.

Ms. Nani explained that "the beautiful stained-glass window above the altar was installed in Grace in 1863 as a gift to the new church being erected under the persistent supervision of Adele Bolton, John's sister and founder of Grace. I think you'll agree, our window is even more beautiful than the other 'Trial of Christ' in Brooklyn."

The window depicts the moment when the Roman soldiers led Jesus into the governor's headquarters. According to the New Testament book of Matthew, "they stripped him and put a purple robe on him and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" The right panel shows Pontius Pilate washing his hands before the crowd, saying "I am innocent of this man's blood."

But the years and storms like Hurricanes Irene and Sandy took their toll on the his-



toric window, which dates back to the Civil War period and faces east. The right lancet suffered damage with glass breakage around Pontius Pilate's hands (somewhat ironically, Ms. Nani noted); the lead came deteriorated; the wood frame rotted; the protective glazing and storm panels were poorly vented; and there was paint and color loss.

Repairs were first made to the Bolton window sometime after 1950, but inadequately, according to restorers from Rohlf's Studio in Mount Vernon and other experts. There was a slash through Jesus' face, heavy leading around the centurion guards and observers, and some repainting that was not the same quality as the original.

In 2005, Evyonne Baker and Barbara Dolensek ordered a conditions survey of Bolton window, obtained estimates for restoration, and consulted with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where another example of Bolton stained-glass is on display in the American wing. In 2006, Ms. Dolensek registered Grace with the National Register of Historic Places.

The "AIA Guide to New York City" called Grace Church and its rectory "a pair of gems that befits an off-the-beaten track seafaring community. The church is a paragon of Gothic Revival wood craftsmanship."

In 2012, members of Grace's Curatorial Committee applied and were awarded a New York Episcopal Diocese Property Support grant toward the Bolton window restoration. Then in 2013, they applied to the New York Landmarks Conservancy and received a Sacred Sites grant.

Parishioners pledged matching funds and after receiving several bids, Rohlf Stained-Glass Studio was awarded the contract. Work began in November 2013. Grace applied to the New York Altar Guild for a grant in 2014 to help with remaining costs and with the repair of the other stained glass window "Jesus Calms the Storm".

Ms. Nani highlighted the restored areas of "The Trial of Christ," saying "This scene is now as close as possible to its original state. No more slash through Jesus, no more cracks around Pontius Pilate, and no more heavy leading. The colors are vibrant again and, on the outside, new hurricane proof glass will protect it for hopefully another 150 years."

"The window is a triptych, three main panels, with a total of 14 people depicted, including Jesus and Pilate, along with the

centurion or soldier who is supposedly the handsome self-image of John Bolton, the window's creator. It has different floor patterns, which makes me think of a close out sale on linoleum, because John Bolton used whatever stained glass was left over from this and other projects. The SPQR in the upper right is an acronym of a Latin phrase, Senatus Populusque Romanus ("The Senate and People of Rome"), and you can find this symbol even today in Italy on manhole covers and other structures."

But the congregation's work wasn't done. After several nor'easters and hurricanes, problems arose with the west-facing stained-glass window, "Jesus Calms the Storm" (also known as "Jesus Stills the Waters"). This beautiful window, an especially fitting subject for City Island, was created by Durhan Studios, according to church records, and was installed in 1968 in loving memory of longtime rector, the Reverend Henry R. Coleman.

The Gospel according to Mark explains the scene. "Jesus was teaching near the Sea of Galilee. After teaching a large crowd of people, evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, 'let's go over to the other side of the lake.' They left the crowd behind. And they took Him along in a boat, just as He was. There were also other boats with Him. A wild storm came up. Waves crashed over the boat. It was about to sink. Jesus was in the back, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke Him up. They said, 'Teacher! Don't you care if we drown?' He got up and ordered the wind to stop. He said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down. And it was completely calm."

After years of not-so-calm City Island storms, the bottom middle panel of the window slipped down and the resulting gap cut Jesus in half visually. The parishioners thought the lead came had weakened and just needed to be reset. But when Rohlf's team took a closer look, it turned out that the entire window frame had rotted and needed to be replaced. Funds from the Altar Guild and Grace's Vestry made the repairs possible.

After the service on Nov. 1, a plaque commemorating these restorations, along with the renovations of the rectory and parish hall, was unveiled in Grace's parish hall. The plaque features original artwork of Grace's three buildings painted by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. The names of every individual, City Island business and organization who supported these projects are noted on the plaque.

Reverend Ruth Anne Garcia and the Vestry of "Amazing Grace" invite all Islanders to stop by any Sunday at 10 a.m. or for coffee hour at 11:15 and view the beautifully restored stained-glass windows, the new floor and lighting in the parish hall, and the names of everyone that made these gifts possible.

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



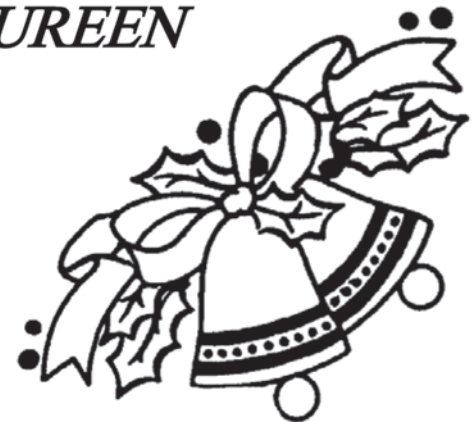
*In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there*



# Merry Christmas

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# “Count” on a Great Holiday Season on City Island!

By MONICA GLICK

Count from 10 down to one! And with each number, you'll see how City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses make it easy for you to count on them for the greatest holiday season!

**Ten...** You'll find 10-plus ornaments, toys, gifts, garden flags, jewelry pieces and more at **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue) this holiday season. And further down the avenue you can stop in at **Chase** (207 City Island Avenue) to get a \$10 or more holiday gift card for that special someone on your list to spend at any number of Island spots, including for the baubles to be had at **Calico Juno Designs** (310 City Island Avenue).

For more than 10 years—and moving closer to two times that, in fact—the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG) has brought us musicals, comedy and drama. CITG's 2016 Season includes “The Diary of Anne Frank” (March 2016), “Love, Sex and the I.R.S.” (May 2016) and “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” (November 2016). Be part of the “theater magic” by becoming a subscriber or giving someone on your list that awesome treat. Visit CITG's website ([www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com](http://www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com)) for more details and for other ways to lend your support—and check out the photographs of 10-plus seasons past!



**Starving Artist Café & Gallery**

**Nine...** There are at least nine musical performances ready to delight and dazzle during this holiday season at **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue). That includes a holiday party with “sweetheart” Theresa Sareo (Dec. 20) and a New Year's Eve celebration with jazz legend Lou Volpe (Dec. 31). Stop in and ask owner and music-artist Elliott Glick for more details, and maybe even sign up for nine (or more) of his guitar lessons!

Gift wrapping, holiday lights, decorations, cards, and gift tags, plus makeup, nail polishes, beauty supplies and vitamins. There are those nine items—and more—for the choosing at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue). There are even gift ideas and stocking stuffers. Say “hi” to Joe, and especially to the lovely Olivia!

**Eight...** Need chairs for the family holiday gathering? Get eight or more at **Amandabear Party Rentals** (474 City Island Avenue), and check out the other possibilities for your party, including paper goods and popcorn makers. Be sure to say “hi” to all, including Alanis!

You're sure to find at least eight pieces of artwork to love at **Mary Colby Studio Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), not to mention eight ideas about how to transform your walls with a mural or some faux marble. And while you're mid-Island check out the art in the window of **Cheryl Brinker's Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) or maybe they'll be the awesome LEGO® holiday village from Joseph Burck in the window nearby.

**Seven...** We are indeed “lucky” here on City Island with seven fine seafood spots. Sip something warm or feast by the fireplace in the lounge at the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), while checking out the spectacular tree and chatting with bartend-



**Sammy's Fish Box**

ers Louis or Mario. The other six places to sample the treasures of the sea: **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the **Original Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue), and the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue). In fact, a recent article in a Holiday Gift Guide touted the Lobster House for its “exceptional cuisine, spectacular view and festive holiday atmosphere.” Ask about the five-course dinner for \$24.95.



**The Black Whale**

**Six...** Six chafing dishes filled with tempting brunch treats from fluffy scrambled eggs to hearty corned beef hash and, at times, from penne alla vodka to lemon chicken. That's what you'll find at the Sunday brunch buffet at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue). Stop in during the week for some meatloaf, and while you're feasting, count the whale images and items in both rooms. You're definitely going to find more than six!

Select a half dozen of the world's finest cigars at **Humberto Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue), making someone on your gift-giving list super happy. While you're there, check out the possibilities for special events, parties and weddings.

**Five...** For breakfast before you start your day of shopping, for lunch or for late-night light bite items, there are five spots on our Island home that have what you need. Maybe start with eggs and bacon, and some coffee, at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue), then perhaps a sandwich from the **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue). And it's always the right time to have a donut and a salted caramel hot chocolate from **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue). Or get more doughnuts to share with your companions on the shopping journey.

And if you want to grab some snacks at the end of a long day, **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) and the new **Bayview Food Mart** (632 City Island Avenue) are open late.



**Focal Point Gallery**

Necklace? Bracelet? Earrings? Artwork? Family photo? Any and all of those five options may be found at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue). Ron Terner and wife Susan Lamantia-Terner are on hand to show you the possibilities and tell you more!

**Four...** Don't feel like firing up the stove or oven after a long day of shopping or holiday fun? City Island has four possibilities for takeout, and two where you can choose to eat in too. Check the day's special dishes at Chef Rafael's **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue) and grab something to go, or get your takeout from **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue). Or you could opt to sit and enjoy the fine fare on location, maybe a slice and some garlic knots at **Filomena's Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue), or one of the specials at **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue).

Maybe you want to travel a bit this holiday season, or at least have your taste buds do so. There are the tastes of the world right here on our Island home. Try fine French fare with your hosts Stephane Kane and wife, Maria, at **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue). Check out the beautiful holiday lights on the “Eiffel Tower” outside! Maybe you crave Italian. A feast awaits at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue). Catch a show with your meal at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue), or enjoy tasty Puerto Rican classics while enjoying the view at **Don Coqui** (565 City Island Avenue).



**Artie's Steak & Seafood**

**Three...** Every day there are three soups in the spotlight at **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue): creamy New England and hearty Manhattan clam chowders, and the “soup of the day.” There are definitely more than three types of seafood in this eatery's Zuppa Di Pesce, as featured on Good Day New York, including king crab, whole lobster, clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops and calamari. And don't forget to enjoy the classy decorations while you are dining.

And we've got three spots to help you look your best this holiday season. Stop and see the team of pampering professionals at **Art of Beauty** (240 City Island Avenue) for some highlights, a new hairdo, or a manicure and pedicure combination—or all three! Amy and the crew at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) are ready to provide a gel or powder manicure that will shine brightly through any 12 days of the season, or even longer! Maybe choose to get ready for your holiday party with a visit to **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue).

There are three spots for some speedy seafood treats. Mid-Island visit **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), or journey to the end for a basket of shrimp or some fried clams at **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue) while looking at the lighthouse and the waters surrounding our Island home, or stop by **Johnnie's Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) right across the street until it's shuttered for the winter season.

Thinking fitness or physical well-being this holiday season? City Island has three locations that fit that need. Work out mid-Island at **Club Fit** (440 City Island Avenue), or learn from Master Edwin Castro about martial arts, boxing or Tae Kwon Do at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue). Or perhaps relief from the shopping and trekking of the holidays is to be found for you at **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue).

**Two...** On City Island, two spots stand ready to provide all you need to battle any bothersome storm that may be part of this holiday season. Karl Hoedl at **Buddy's Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) and Jo-

seph Burck Sr. at **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) are ready to assist you. And Buddy's also has some holiday lights for decorating, even tea light candles to light your night.

Front and center on the Island are two places to kick back and relax when it gets too stressful this holiday season. Have fun in the middle of the Island at the **City Island Ale House** (288 City Island Avenue), maybe even join in on Tuesday trivia night, or find fun toward the front of City Island with a game of pool and a cold beer or hot toddy at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue).

Red or white? Choose between these two wine choices and more at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue). Ask Jerry for help with gift sets or gift baskets.

Two spots help you tour the past. Stop in for a visit to City Island's past at the **City Island Historical Society** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturday and Sunday afternoons. And have Ruth or artist Anooch Donahue show you around the treasures at **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue). Combining City Island's past and treasures from time is **Trader John** (239 City Island Avenue).

Maybe you're yearning for the blue of the waters surrounding our Island home. You'll find all you need to set out on the waters in search of your own fish dinner at two locations: **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). And in two related spots, **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) has got the season sewn up nicely, while with **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue), you can get “deep”!



**Archie's Tap and Table**

One of two new businesses opened since the last holiday season is **Archie's Tap and Table** (536 City Island Avenue), where you can enjoy brunch on the weekends and dinner Wednesday through Sunday. This spot is also open for lunch on Friday. Chef Alex Pertsovsky introduced Islanders to his unique cooking and pastry at Sugar and Spice Bake Shop (formerly at this location). His twist on comfort food is still on the menu, now adding amazing craft beer and wine selections to complement your meal.

**Scavello's on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue) opened in early 2015, offering party rooms and catering options. And talk with **Scavello Catering** at the **IGA Supermarket** (385 City Island Avenue) for all your “home for the holidays” party needs. Maybe you just need to pick up a few items for a quick dinner or tomorrow's lunch, or a snack while wrapping gifts. Visit Sara at **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue), and she will surely have at least two or more suggestions.

Don't forget the mid-Island spots for keeping you decked out in clean style: **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue) and the new **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue).

**One...** There's a one-of-a-kind Irish



**The Snug**

Continued on page 19



## 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. 4, and Sat., Dec. 5, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Friday) and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Saturday).

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 5 and 6, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

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

#### Happy Chanukah!

Sat., Dec. 12, **Grace Church Annual Christmas Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 19, **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.

#### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

#### JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 30, **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.

Tues., Jan. 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### Grace Episcopal Church

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

#### Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Priest-in-Charge Ruth Anne Garcia. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Contemplative prayer service meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church. A quiet evening service, it includes scripture reading, reflection and meditation.

#### December Events

Sunday, Dec. 6, at 11:45 a.m. New Music Ministry rehearsal.

Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Annual Christmas Fair and Café. Continental breakfast will be served from 10 to 11 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will offer handmade items, and the Jam Man will delight us with his delectable preserves. Mrs. Claus will also be on hand to greet children with gifts, and your kids can participate in Christmas crafts while you shop. A 50/50 raffle will take place too. Please join us for a day of fellowship and fun!

Monday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Hearts and Hands Ministry.

Thursday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Friday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. Christmas Day Service.

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to these and other events. Please visit our website at [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

Sandy Dunn

#### Rotary Club of the Bronx

Under the leadership of our new Club President, Toba LaCrown, a Gulf-War veteran, the Rotary Club of the Bronx is increasing its outreach to veterans.

The meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, was a dedicated "Feed the Veterans" luncheon. All veterans were invited to attend a free lunch at Sammy's Shrimp Box, courtesy of the Club. The word was spread through local political representatives, and the RSVPs came pouring in.

The sun room at Sammy's was packed with veterans, who enjoyed themselves immensely. The program started, as always,

with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation; then Officer Waterman played taps to honor all fallen veterans and all who are currently actively serving overseas.

The scheduled speaker was POW/MIA Robert Feliciano, American Legion County Commander. There was also a talk about flag etiquette, recognition of the Bronx Rotarians who have served in the military, and the recital of an award-winning and moving poem, "A G.I.'s Prayer" by its author, Sgt. Gerald Brown, a Vietnam vet.

The event was such a heart-warming success that the Club intends to expand on it for next year.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

The calendar of events for the 2015 holiday season includes: the Christmas Fair, Friday, Dec. 4, 2 to 8 p.m. (dinner 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.); Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.); Parsonage Open House, Sunday, Dec. 6, immediately following the worship service; Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 20, during the worship service; Candlelight Service, Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.

The Budget Shop is now open. It is open the first and third Tuesdays each month, and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

#### City Island Republicans

Republican candidate for Bronx District Attorney Rob Siano won almost 61 percent of City Island's vote on Election Day, although he ultimately lost to Darcel Clark. The judicial candidates also did well.

First, a big thank you goes out to Ann Sullivan, Betty Jordan, Mary Spera and Mary Conefry for handing out Rob's palm cards before Election Day.

We would like to thank all of our hard-working poll workers of both parties and those sent by the Board of Elections since they kept the day running smoothly. A big thanks goes out to coordinator John Ulmer, who keeps our poll site in working order.

The annual Christmas Wonderland will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Bronx Republican office, which is located at 3029 Middletown Road. Santa will make a visit.

The annual Bronx Republican Lincoln Dinner will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at Villa Barone Manor. The price is \$150; cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner starts at 7.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Fair will be held both in the school gym and the Thrift Shop on both days. Lots of new and used items, something for everyone. Don't miss it.

The Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Dec. 19. We will close for the Christmas holidays and re-open on Jan. 7. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Arlene Byrne



Photo by JIM ROMEO

The Rotary Club of the Bronx treated 57 veterans to a delicious luncheon on Nov. 10, 2015 at Sammy's Shrimp Box in recognition and honor of their service.

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. The congregation is led by our clergy: Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

#### Temple Services and Activities:

Friday, Dec. 4, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a musical and uplifting welcome to Shabbat immediately before the start of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. Celebratory oneg sponsored by Rachel Singer.

Sunday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Chanukah Menorah Lighting. Join Rabbi Shohama, your shul family and area dignitaries for the ceremonial start of Chanukah, the festival of lights. Meet us at Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Fordham Streets. All in the City Island community are welcome to join us. Dessert reception to follow at Kaleidoscope Gallery 280 City Island Avenue.

Friday, Dec. 11, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat

Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Chesed Outreach Circle will meet for a workshop led by Rabbi David on "The Dynamics of Spiritual Need," including a healing circle led by Rabbi Shohama. What approaches in addition to prayer might be helpful? We will clarify our vision of healing approaches/modalities for others in need, as well as for ourselves as possible "first responders" giving spiritual support. Even if you did not attend the first meeting, you are more than welcome to attend this one. We look forward to praying with you and extending our prayers to others. Please join us.

Friday, Dec. 18, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David and Your Shul by the Sea Band for a prayerful, musical and uplifting service as we welcome winter. Oneg.

Sunday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Jeffrey Werbock will present both an educational and a musical program of instrumental solo improvisations based on traditional Azerbaijani mugham played on oud—fretless wood face, short neck lute; tar—fretted skin face long neck lute—and kamancha—skin face spike fiddle. Azerbaijani mugham is monophonic modal music, highly microtonal, meter free, densely ornamented, composed of complex melodic lines that are somewhat improvised according to the Eastern tradition of theme and variation, and convey a mix of sorrow and joy as well as an overall sense of both antiquity and mysticism. Mr. Werbock has been giving presentations for well over three decades and has performed often at Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, Asia Society, World Music Institute; he presents lecture demonstrations at colleges and universities all over the English-speaking world. He has been awarded an honorary degree by the

National Music Conservatory of Azerbaijan, in Baku, and was recently sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan to perform a solo concert. Suggested donation \$10.

Friday, Dec. 25. Happy Holidays to all who celebrate Christmas. There will be no Shabbat service at TBE.

Friday, Jan. 1, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ring in the secular New Year 2016 with Rabbi David and Your Shul by the Sea Band. Celebratory oneg.

Friday, Jan. 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat.

Friday, Jan. 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbis Shohama and David and Your Shul by the Sea Band. Celebratory oneg.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mitzvah and Mysticism: Session 1. Join Rabbi David for this inaugural session of our 2016 Adult Education Series. Dive deep into the traditional roots and spiritual experiences of core mitzvot of Jewish life. We will explore their origins as well as how mystical traditions, such as the Zohar, shed light on these traditions. Free for members; \$10 for nonmembers. Sessions will continue on the third Tuesday of each month (Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, May 17 and June 21).

Friday, Jan. 22, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat.

Sunday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7:00 p.m. Join Rabbi David for our annual mystical seder in honor of Tu B'shevat, New Year for the Trees and spiritual first awakening of Jewish spring. Come ready to experience the sap rise as we do our part to bring the first fruits of spring physically and metaphorically into our lives. Traditional foods and drinks to be served.

Friday, Jan. 29, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community-led Shabbat.

Sponsoring an oneg (refreshments) for a Shabbat or holiday service is a significant and wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life-cycle event) and give back to the community. For more information, call Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or e-mail [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For further information, visit our website at: [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Ellen Ruth Topol

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

#### Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

#### Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

#### Overeaters Anonymous:

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





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

We were happy that everyone enjoyed a wonderful Haunted House this year, thanks to the creative efforts of Dusty Prohaska and her best friend, Anita Beqiraj, and the P.S. 175 eighth-grade volunteers. We're proud of them all, as well as Bella and Sophie Debitetto and Laci Howard, young people who stepped up to present a puppet show. Three cheers for our young volunteers. Pumpkin Bingo, organized by our newest board member, Lauren Briggs, was a resounding success with volunteer help from Anita once again.

Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs below and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please think about it and consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit: [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

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 volunteers and donations.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Members Annual Holiday Party:** Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. What can we say? It's a fun-filled tradition and a wonderful way to begin the season: great food with dessert provided by the Culinary Club, a great band and great people!

**Family Bingo Night:** Friday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun, games and outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available. Members get a free card.

#### NEW PROGRAMS

**Kickbox Aerobics:** Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Cardio for all levels plus an ab workout with Maria Marino. Call 347-267-0591 for more information.

**Natural Tones Meditation:** Thursday at 7 p.m. Nada Yoga, the yoga of sounds, relieves stress and promotes wellness. With John Martino. \$10 per class. Contact John at [naturaltonesmeditation.com](http://naturaltonesmeditation.com).

#### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Irish Dance for Children:** Monday, step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots, 6 to 6:30 p.m., beginners, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., intermediate, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes are taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail [caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com) or call 914-262-4517.

**Jill's Playgroup:** Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

**Hip Hop, Jazz & Ballet:** Friday, ages 4 and 5, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.; ages 6 through 8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 9 and above, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Have fun with professional dancer Kara Tremel. For information, e-mail [karatremel@gmail.com](mailto:karatremel@gmail.com) or call 281-799-9869.

**Art for Children:** Saturday, 10:30 to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture. Study art from the 15th to the 21st century with Lorraine Cantori. For information, e-mail [ceasaradante@optonline.net](mailto:ceasaradante@optonline.net) or call 914-552-5268.

**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:** Sunday, Mon-

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

**Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea** with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 3:30 p.m. \$20 per class. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for beginning date and for information.

**Chair Yoga with Michael:** Fridays, 10 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

**Chess Club:** Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

**City Island CSA:** Sign up now for Community Supported Agriculture providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, e-mail [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. Dec. 7, Second annual cookie recipe exchange. Dec. 21, Bring in and share your favorite cookies. Jan. 4, Bring in pasta recipes. Jan. 18, Share pasta dishes to taste. We're still accepting canned goods for a holiday collection. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

**Orchard Beach AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Open meetings. All are welcome.

**Parenting Group:** Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesday, 7 to 8:30 a.m. and now Saturday, 8 to 9 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com) or call 917-853-4719.

**Zumba with Julia:** Want to lose that belly fat? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour with toning. \$10 per class. Note the new time: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. \$10 per class. For information, call 917-601-5514.

**Zumba with Lettie:** Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

#### Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Keep a look out for our New Year newsletter, which will have important dates for upcoming events. We will be sponsoring an essay contest for eighth-grade Islanders; more information will be in the next issue of *The Current*. Remember to save the date for our Cancer Bingo on April 22 at the Morris Yacht Club.

I wish everyone a very safe holiday season.

**Laura Booth**

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2016 dues (\$30) are now due. The money can be mailed or dropped off at the Post and put in the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran as of the



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Helping out with this year's Thanksgiving dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church on Nov. 26 was (l to r): Lucia Yew, Carmen Melicharek, Frankie Mercado, Richard Jannaccio, Michael Bonilla, Violet Smith, Debbie Vilegas, J.P. Gonzalez, Adjie Henderson, Claudia Lynch, Rose McCabe and Nicholas Farfan. Not pictured: City Island Boy Scouts, Peggy Jordan and Ron and Nicole Sizemore.

dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

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

Saturday, Dec. 5, is the annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony, which will be held at noon at the triangle.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

#### Holiday Services

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church**  
City Island Ave. near the Bridge

Sunday, Dec. 20: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 31: Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God, 5:15 p.m.

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

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 (2 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and 5 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Dec. 6: Parsonage Open House, following the worship service.

Sunday, Dec. 13: Youth Bell Choir performance during the worship service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

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

**Temple Beth-El**  
480 City Island Avenue

Sunday, Dec. 6: Chanukah Menorah Lighting and Celebration, 5 to 7 p.m. in Hawkins Park. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Friday, Dec. 11: Community-led Shabbat. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Chesed Outreach Circle Workshop led by Rabbi David, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18: Welcome Winter service, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 25: Happy Holidays to all who celebrate Christmas. No Shabbat service.

Friday, Jan. 1: Ring in the secular New Year 2016. Celebratory oneg, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Saturday, Dec. 12: Arts and Crafts Fair and Holiday Café, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 7:30 p.m.

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

#### American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

Thanks to Bob Balbi for supplying the soda to the bar that keeps us burping throughout the year. A big thank you to Mike Treat for all that he has done with membership over the years. Thanks to all of those who participated and took part in the annual Bronx Veterans Day Ceremony at Pelham Bay Park. The turnout was great.

Service Officer Bob Mennona would like to thank everyone who helped with the stuffing and delivering the turkey raffle chance books and those who assisted with making the annual Servicemen's Dinner a huge success. Thanks to DJ Ray, who got everyone out on the floor dancing. Thanks to Mike Jawski for taking care of the flags at the Post and the triangle in the wake of the Paris attacks.

In addition, we would like to thank the following people and businesses who also helped with the pumpkin sale: Edward Koester, John from J.P.'s Restaurant, Cormac McEnery, Seafood City, City Island Gold Apiary, Jack's Bait and Tackle and Tom Nye from UK Sails.

Past Commander Bob Booth has been at the Pelham Parkway Nursing Home for rehabilitation. We hope to welcome him home soon. Brian Sullivan is back in the VA Hospital.

There will be a key card/alarm system installed soon at the front door. Cards will cost \$5. Cameras will also be installed to maintain security by being preventive instead of our having to say: "Oh, we should have done that!"

Saturday, Dec. 5, is the annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony to honor the 17 City Islanders who died in World War II. We will meet at the Post at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will be at noon at the triangle, since the monuments have not yet been moved, then we will meet back at the Post. Please try to attend. Bring your friends and family members. We had our largest turnout ever last year.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, starting at 7 p.m., Dianne O'Sullivan will hold a fundraising concert with music, drinks and light refreshments.

The Post annual children's Christmas party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. Remember to bring a kid and a wrapped gift. The adult party will be held on Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. There will also be a New Year's Eve party.

Save the date: the Cancer Bingo will be held in April 2016 at the Morris Yacht Club.

The Post is in need of a webmaster. Anyone interested should contact the Post.

We have space for your next party and we can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

We are thinking of having early afternoon monthly meetings on Sundays during the winter months.

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

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post should contact John Muhlfeld at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

We are always in need of new members.

*Continued on page 14*





Public School 175

November at P.S. 175 was a busy month, which 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, which will be used to provide students with enriching programs, including our long-time collaborations with the Lincoln Center Institute and the Bronx Arts Ensemble. 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 Card Party Chairperson!!

Several enriching educational trips took place this month. Second-graders visited the Queens Museum to view the NYC panorama exhibit; third-graders went to the Bronx Zoo to study animals from different continents; fifth-graders went to Queens College for a performance by the Thunderbird-Native-American Indian Dancers; seventh- and eighth-graders went to see the movie "Suffragette" and eighth-graders went on a walking tour of New York City.

Councilman Vacca has once again given P.S. 175 an arts grant that goes toward funding our fifth-grade play and our after-school vocal program, both of which are run by the Bronx Arts Ensemble. We are excited

to announce that this year's play will be "The Lion King." In addition, Sports & Arts continues after school for students in grades 6-8.

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

Please keep in mind these important dates: Dec. 23, last day of school before winter recess; Jan. 4, students return to school.

We are pleased and excited to announce that the P.S. 175 App is up and running! Parents/guardians can download the app to their phones or tablets to receive the latest school news and alerts as well as other important information.

Our SLT has also set up a "Go Fund Me" site to raise much needed funds for books for our school library. Please go to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and enter "P.S. 175 School Library" for more information.

November Citizens-of-the-Month are Madelyn Hayes and Christopher Fragola (kindergarten); Alyssa Sciara and Anthony Macagnone (first grade); Michael Burton (second grade); Sarah George and Bella Gonzalez (third grade); Yzabella Padagas (fourth grade); Ryan Whelan and Mikalah Cancel (fifth grade); Adriana Rexhaj and Daniel Vo (sixth grade); Francis Padagas and Angelyn Almedina (seventh grade); Gesilda Noka and Nicholas Kola (eighth grade).

Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year!

Organization News

Continued from page 13

The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

All of us at the Post would like to thank the City Island community for its continued support! Have a happy and healthy New Year!

John Muhlfeld

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our monthly Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Our annual Christmas Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's gym and in the Thrift Shop. Old and new items will be available. Come and look around for great bargains.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13, after the nine o'clock Mass. All are welcome to join in fellowship in the rectory to enjoy some light refreshments.

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 20, 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, Dec. 24, preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols at 7:30 p.m. Masses on Christmas Day will be at 9 and 11 a.m. A very Happy Christmas to all!

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

Sr. Bernadette, osu

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church Hall at 1 p.m.

On Dec. 2, we will have our regular meeting at 1 p.m. and play bingo. We will also be sharing the spirit of Christmas by collecting warm hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, underwear (t-shirts, briefs, boxers, etc.) and toiletries for the POTS program. Please bring all items to our December meetings. Items must be new but not wrapped.

On Dec. 16 our chapter will have our Christmas luncheon at Scavello's on the Island at 12 noon. The cost is \$40 per person. Be sure to sign up for this wonderful afternoon. We take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year. We will see you all at our meeting on Jan. 6.

Rosetta Woods

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## Nautical Museum Has Window Crisis

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

A broken window at the Nautical Museum (above, l.) and one of the windows through which ivy has grown (above, r.).

During a northeast storm in October, one of the windows in the City Island Nautical Museum blew in, and although it was quickly covered with plywood, the museum's effort to replace the window hit a stumbling block: the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The museum board opted to try to replace all 17 of its windows, since five others were in bad shape (ivy was even growing through one of them!), having been installed beginning in 1988 when the museum was converted from a public school to an apartment building.

An application was filed with the Landmarks Preservation Commission, but the museum board was informed that the rule governing window replacements calls for the installation of "historic" windows rather than actual replacements. A postcard image in the museum's collection dating to 1903 shows that the original windows were six over six double-hung windows with a transom at the top that opened in rather than out, as transoms do today. Although there is not enough detail in the image to determine the material, it seems likely that the windows were made of wood.

At an open hearing on Dec. 8, the museum will argue for windows that look like the existing windows except that they will be of better quality. All the other apartments in the building have the same kind of window design, and if the museum has to install historic windows, all the other tenants will be required to replace their windows accordingly.

The museum's replacement windows are likely to run at least \$25,000, but custom-made wood windows with transoms could run many thousands more. In any case, the museum will have to mount a major campaign to raise money for the replacements; but if Landmarks insists on historic windows, the broken windows will probably have to be boarded up rather than replaced.

This chilly state of affairs is not preventing the museum from hosting its holiday party on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m. In addition to celebrating the new exhibit about boat building on City Island with some holiday cheer and refreshments, Tom Nye will give a talk about the Island's boat yards. All are invited to attend and to keep their fingers crossed for the fate of the window project.

## A Current Review

### PLAZA SUITE, SO SWEET!

By BRUCÉ WEIS



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group's production of "Plaza Suite" in November delighted audiences. Standing (l. to r.): Steven Bendler, Elizabeth Paldino, Jonathan Abbruzzese, Ivette Yambo-Easley, Camille Kaiser, Dave Lazaar, and Hannah Ludemann; seated (l. to r.): Gary Krigsman, Paula Rocheleau Hernandez, and Maria Provenzano (director).

The City Island Theater Group wrapped up 2015 with a homer, hitting Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" way out of Grace Church Park. The play first opened on Broadway at the Plymouth Theatre on Feb. 14, 1968, and ran for 1,097 performances. The play is divided into three acts, each revolving around a different couple but all taking place in Suite 719 of the Plaza Hotel.

In the original production, directed by Mike Nichols, each couple was played by George C. Scott and Maureen Stapleton. "Plaza Suite" was well recognized at the 1968 Tony Awards: Mike Nichols won for Best Director, and Neil Simon and Maureen Stapleton were nominated for Best Play and Best Performance by a Leading Actress, respectively. Interestingly, Noël Coward, who had written "Suite in Three Keys" three years earlier, later said of "Plaza Suite": "Such a good idea having different plays all played in a hotel suite! I wonder where Neil Simon got it from."

A film version of the play was released in 1971, directed by Arthur Hiller, with screenplay by Neil Simon and starring Walter Matthau in all three male roles along with Maureen Stapleton, Barbara Harris and Lee Grant as his co-stars. Neil Simon was unhappy with the results. "I didn't like the cast. I didn't like the picture." At the 1971 Golden Globes, the film was nominated for Best Motion Picture, and Maureen Stapleton received a nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, but the film went unrecognized at the Academy Awards.

In most of his plays, Neil Simon delves into family relationships, with story lines that are either bittersweet dramas tinged with humor or outright comedies. True to form, the first act of "Plaza Suite," called "Visitors from Mamaroneck," introduces the audience to Sam and Karen Nash, a badly married couple who are revisiting their honeymoon suite in a forlorn attempt by Karen (Paula Rocheleau Hernandez) to bring love back into their marriage. Things begin blissfully, as Karen happily flits around Suite 719, bothering the bellhop (Jonathan Abbruzzese) as she tries to get every remembered detail of her honeymoon night just right.

The mood turns ugly, however, with the arrival of her husband (Gary Krigsman), who seems unhappy with the whole idea and does his best to pour cold water on the evening. Soon we find that Sam has urgent business with an associate, Jean McCormick (Ivette Yambo-Easley), and he finally destroys the evening when he confesses to Karen that he is having an affair with Jean. Karen ends the evening drinking alone and reflecting how things have changed since she was young. Thanks to the excellent actors, Sam and Karen provided a sobering experience for the audience, forcing us to think about our own relationships.

"Plaza Suite's" second act, "Visitors from Hollywood," veers wildly away from thoughtful to comedic, focusing on a meeting between movie producer Jesse Kiplinger (Steven Bendler) and his old flame, suburban housewife Muriel Tate (Elizabeth Paldino). Early on, we find that Muriel, now a wife and mother, has closely followed every step of Jesse's professional and romantic career and is well

aware of his reputation as a smooth-talking ladies' man. Ostensibly, she has come to Suite 719 for nothing more than an afternoon with an old friend, and she repeatedly promises she won't stay too long. Jesse, purportedly on the mend from a broken heart, heartily agrees, as he slowly but surely moves the course of the afternoon from a chat to a seduction. The slow disintegration of Muriel's virtue in the face of Jesse's advances was perfectly timed and hilarious to watch.

Neil Simon ramped up the comedy in the third act with "Visitors from Forest Hills," which centers on a married couple, Roy (David Lazaar) and Norma (Camille Kaiser) Hubley, on the wedding day of their daughter, Mimsey (Hannah Ludemann). In a fit of pique (or something), Mimsey has locked herself in Suite 719's bathroom and refuses to come out. This is the funniest of the acts, filled with wonderful slapstick moments, as Roy risks life and limb while Norma becomes increasingly hysterical as they attempt to alternately force or cajole their daughter to come out and attend her own wedding. Jonathan Abbruzzese makes a brief but effective appearance (as Mimsey's betrothed) in a final effort to extract Mimsey from the bathroom.

CITG's sets are always excellent, and this set, designed and built by Joe Burck and Dan Srdoc, was both interesting and effective, as it featured a dropped center wall in order to fit a two-room suite on the small Grace Church stage. Joe Burck also designed the lighting, and Jay Langkamp handled the lighting operation. Sound design for "Plaza Suite" was by Denis Zepeda, and I heard every word clearly. CITG's Prop Mistress, Barbara Dolensak, located, borrowed or purloined the props necessary to replicate a Plaza suite in the 1960s.

Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker have a world of experience transforming performers into their characters through costumes, and this play gave them another opportunity to showcase their skills.

"Plaza Suite" was Maria Provenzano's most recent directorial effort for CITG, and she did a wonderful job, using a crisply timed production to initially create a sober mood with an introspective first act and then turning that mood on its head with the show's remaining acts, each of which were hilarious. Production stage manager was the "bride," Hannah Ludemann, who took a break from running things in the background to take the stage in the last moments of "Visitors from Forest Hills." CITG's president, Nick Sala, served as production manager.

As has become a CITG custom of giving back to the community, donations of shampoo and conditioner were solicited at each performance and were donated to My Sister's Place, a shelter in Westchester County that offers housing, counseling and support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Nick Sala was also happy to be able to announce City Island Theater Group's entire 2016 season: in March, the group presents a newly adapted version of "The Diary of Anne Frank"; "Love, Sex and the IRS" is scheduled for May and the season will end with the brilliant musical "Sweeney Todd" in November.



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# IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

## A Touch of Frost

It is not unusual at this time of year to get plunged into a puddle of despair. The days are shorter, and the deepening dark and the cold come on like a thicket. To boost my spirits, I get outside and prune everything down (except the grasses) and decorate my shed with berried branches, dried miscanthus plumes, and polished tools.

Outside I also have two large terracotta pots that are fitted with wire mesh to support plant cuttings that will make a festive display: blue cypress, Norway spruce, large-leaved ivy, and the tall red-lacquered stems of cornus sericea. These decorations will last well into January.

I also like to make my own dried pot-pourri. Lavender, rose petals and monarda give a heavenly scent and are easy to dry. Put them in little bags and give them as gifts or tie them onto holiday packages.

What could be better than to sit by the fire and sift through seed packets to see which will be viable and ready to plant next year? The heads of many seeds have been dried. Pack and label them, and then into the fridge they go. These also make nice little gifts for gardeners.

Not being sure of my next sentence, I stir from my armchair to take a stretch in the woodland, shouting hellos as I go. The weather has chilled, but there still may be bears about. The little pines that were so diminutive 10 years ago have grown up. They form a belt of green among the russet leaves on the forest floor. The beech trees still retain their leaves way into the winter months; they crackle and twist in the wind as I come upon a stand of hemlock that is pitch green. I cut some of their branches and walk past the smoke pit that will give me wood ash to distribute throughout the garden. Potash is one of the best forms of power for flowers.

I'm wishing for snow, as it has been a very dry year, and if this season is searing cold, plants will survive with more of it. The woods seem older than time itself. My spirit soars here. As winter approaches, the cycle of death and renewal are more evident.

In Greenburgh, NY, up the Sprain Parkway is Carlson's Greenhouse and Nursery. It is one of the last stalwarts of good plants in our immediate area, along with Lieb's Nursery off the Hutch. Carlson's has beautiful things: natural decorations, gloves, trugs, all the accoutrements that a gardening person would love at Christmas time (hint, hint!). I bought a lovely rustic window box there and filled it with miniature evergreens. As I get older, this may become the way of the future.

Bartow-Pell and the New York Botanical Garden shop also highlight gifts and books for the garden enthusiast, and both sites sport delightful season festivities. In Kingston, NY, you can ride the Polar Express, check for times and tickets! Dec. 5 is the Sinterklaas Festival Day In Rhinebeck, NY. It's fabulous; don't miss it. Bryant Park, designed by Lynden B. Miller, is a Christmas destination.

The Colbys will have hot chocolate and cakes, and this year just in time for the holidays a package has arrived, the best present of all, a new grandson, Dean. Our new precious sprout, to be nourished and loved and grown into the most unique and beautiful flower.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 176 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.



# The Lost Art of Conversation: How to Create Healthy Dialogues

## Within Our Families

By JOHN SCARDINA

We all know how hard it is to just sit down and talk with one another. Given how many ways there are to communicate these days, it's no wonder that face-to-face conversation can feel like a dying art form.

Children need—as Jesse Jackson used to say—“our presence and not just our presents,” especially at this time of year! Here

are some pointers for how to have a conversation with your child:

- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Listen like you mean it: eye contact, open body language, loving tone of voice.
- Give undivided attention (turn off the phone!).
- Suspend judgment (“I know what you are going to say,” “Here we go again,” “This is so childish/boring/typical.”)
- Avoid “interrogation.”
- Wait without interruption.
- Respect the silence: just sit together!
- Find common ground: there certainly are places where you agree.
- Take advantage of “captive audience” times (like riding in the car, where there is “shoulder to shoulder” intimacy rather than “face to face” intimacy).
- Create family rituals: use a talking stick held by the speaker/share three things about your day/take turns picking a topic of conversation.

We can all benefit from one another's loving attention. What are you waiting for?

As the holiday season approaches please consider a gift to Quaker Bolivia Link ([www.qbl.org](http://www.qbl.org)), an organization I work with that helps to provide clean water and adequate nutrition to the Aymara people of Bolivia.

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**PARANORMAL PARADE?**



*Photos by RICK DeWITT*  
 Creepy, clever costumes were the highlight of the 2015 City Island Halloween parade that drew a large but well-behaved crowd on Saturday, Oct. 31. The parade was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and prizes were donated by Kaleidoscope Gallery, Lickety Split and the City Island Diner. This year's winners included: Most Original, "Frieda Kahlo" by Eileen; Scariest, "Edward Scissorhands" by Raphael Demenech (photo, left); Most Difficult to Maneuver, "Hart Island Grave Digger with Corpse" by Andrew Blackman and Pam George (third photo); Best Group, "The Addams Family" by Sherry and Ron Van de Ross; Cutest Child, "The Mummy" by Danny DeCicco; and Best Pet, "Marilyn Monroe" by Eddie Chiarletta's dog Jelly. Honorable mentions went to "Mr. and Mrs. Nerd" by Marg Cioffi (top right), "The Joker" by Moises Guzman and "Puppet Gravedigger" by Eric and Serafin. Children jumped for joy (top left) during trick or treating, which wiped many residents out of candy completely, and the Haunted House at the City Island Community Center returned this year as "St. Lucifer's Home for Wayward Children" (fourth photo).



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### Plastic Surgery

Plastic surgery had its beginning in Hollywood cinema as a means of concealing the identity of criminals. In **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (1940) Chan's testimony results in a death sentence for convicted murderer Steve McBirney (Marc Lawrence). However, Birney escapes and heads to a wax museum, a secret mob hide-out run by Dr. Cream (C. Henry Gordon) a crooked "facial surgeon," who operates on McBirney and gives him a new face. Chan is lured to the wax museum on the pretext of sparring over an old case with Dr. Otto Von Brom (Michael Visaroff), wherein Chan disagreed with the testimony that convicted an innocent man. Victor Sen Yung is featured as Chan's son Jimmy, who sneaks into the museum to investigate, much to the consternation of his father.

**Dark Passage** (1947) stars Humphrey Bogart as Vincent Parry, a man convicted of murdering his wife and who escapes from prison in order to prove his innocence. Bogart finds that his features are too well known and is forced to seek backroom plastic surgery. Before the surgery, the film is shot from Bogart's viewpoint. The audience is only permitted to see the fugitive for the first time as he starts to recuperate from the operation in the apartment of Irene Jansen (Lauren Bacall), a sympathetic young artist for whom he soon finds affection.

**Johnny Handsome** (1989) stars Mickey Rourke as petty career crook John Sedley, who is called Johnny Handsome because of his deformed face. While involved in the robbery with seasoned criminals Sunny Boyd (Ellen Barkin) and Rafe Garrett (Lance Henriksen), the couple double cross the others, killing everyone else on the job except Johnny. Johnny goes to prison, where he is attacked by two other inmates and sent to the hospital. He is approached by Dr. Steven Fisher (Forrest Whitaker), who gives Johnny a second chance at life by offering to repair his cleft palate and reconstruct his face. Johnny agrees to the medical procedures and is permitted to re-enter society with a parole, which police Lt. A.Z. Drones (Morgan Freeman) looks upon dubiously. Johnny gets a job on a construction crew where he meets Donna McCarty (Elizabeth McGovern), who sees something special in him.

Playing like an episode of "The Twilight Zone," **Seconds** (1966) stars John Randolph as Arthur Hamilton, a lethargic Manhattan businessman who lives with his wife in the New York suburbs. When he runs into an old friend (Murray Hamilton) who he thought had died, he is enticed into the grip of The Company, a high-tech service which, for a price, provides older men with plastic surgery, a beefed-up body and a fresh start in life. Hamilton submits to an operation that will turn him into a "Second," and when the bandages are removed, he has shed 20 years, has been renamed Tony Wilson and

is portrayed by Rock Hudson. The Company creates a new identity for Hamilton by relocating him into a hedonistic California beach community with an identity as a painter. Celebrating during a local wine festival, Hamilton realizes that all his pleasure-seeking new young friends are Seconds like himself, and suddenly he feels trapped in these surroundings. Unfortunately, finding a way out isn't nearly as easy as it was to find a way in.

**Death Becomes Her** (1992) is a black comedy fantasy film about a childish pair of rivals who drink a magic potion that promises eternal youth. Helen Sharp (Goldie Hawn), a writer, and Madeline Ashton (Meryl Streep), an actress, have hated each other for years. Madeline is married to Ernest (Bruce Willis), who was once Helen's fiancé. After she recovers from a mental breakdown, Helen vows revenge by stealing back Ernest and plotting to kill Madeline. After drinking the youth serum, each tries to eliminate the other, but they discover that they have become immortal and must use plastic surgery to keep their bodies from deteriorating.

Terry Gilliam's controversial satirical black comedy **Brazil** (1985) is set in an Orwellian future. It stars Jonathan Pryce as Sam Lowry, a low-level government employee for the nation's Ministry of Information (MOI). When his boss, Mr. Kurtzmann (Ian Holm), assigns him the task of trying to rectify an error that caused the incarceration of the wrong man, Lowry meets Jill Layton (Kim Greist), the innocent man's upstairs neighbor, and coincidentally the woman of his dreams. During this time, Sam comes in contact with Harry Tuttle (Robert De Niro), a renegade air conditioning specialist who once worked for the government but left because of his disdain for the amount of bureaucratic paperwork. Lowry decides that the only way to get to know Jill is to accept a promotion to the Information Retrieval department, where he would have access to her classified records. He requests the help of his vain and well-connected mother, Ida (Katherine Helmond), who is addicted to rejuvenating and rather horrifying plastic

surgery.

In the excellent mystery thriller **LA Confidential** (1997), Russell Crowe plays LAPD Detective Bud White, a tough guy in love with a Veronica Lake look-alike, Lynn Bracken (Kim Basinger). Bracken is one of a group of high-priced call girls who are required to have plastic surgery to satisfy the clients' desires to be with famous actresses. The film also stars Kevin Spacey as Jack Vincennes, a police detective upon whose life a TV series is based and who is in cahoots with publisher Sid Hudgens (Danny DeVito) in setting up arrests of celebrities. This film also features Guy Pearce as by-the-book Police Lt. Ed Exley and James Cromwell as the enigmatic Irish Captain Dudley Smith.

**Face/Off** (1997) is an action thriller directed by John Woo. For years, FBI Agent Sean Archer (John Travolta) has been chasing Castor Troy (Nicolas Cage), a psychotic terrorist who caused the death of Archer's young son. A violent encounter results in Troy falling into a coma before Archer can determine the location of a biological bomb he planted. Archer must assume Troy's identity by taking his face and being placed in prison to learn the location from Castor's brother Pollux (Alessandro Nivola). But Troy awakes from his coma and takes Archer's face and assumes his identity. The supporting cast includes Joan Allen as Archer's physician wife, Eve; Dominique Swain as Archer's nubile daughter Jamie; and Gina Gershon as Troy's girlfriend, Sasha.

In **Darkman** (1990) Dr. Peyton Westlake (Liam Neeson) works feverishly to perfect his latest invention—artificial skin that could be used to treat burn victims. In the process he neglects lawyer and love interest Julie Hastings (Frances McDormand). When Westlake falls victim to a grossly disfiguring explosion and is left for dead, he receives an experimental medical treatment that renders him super-strong, impervious to pain and prone to heightened fits of rage. Rebuilding his lab into an underground hideout, Westlake begins using his synthetic skin to imper-

sonate various characters and to engineer his revenge against those who destroyed his life. Reconnecting with Julie, however, becomes the hideous vigilante's biggest challenge.

**The Skin I Live In** (2011) is a rather strange and haunting film by Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar. It stars Antonio Banderas as a brilliant plastic surgeon who is preoccupied by past tragedies and is striving to create a type of synthetic skin that is impervious to any kind of damage. His guinea pig is Vera Cruz (Elena Anaya), an enigmatic and unstable woman who holds the key to his obsession.

**Lovely & Amazing** (2001) is the story of Jane Marks (Brenda Blethyn), her adult daughters Michelle (Catherine Keener) and Elizabeth (Emily Mortimer), and her pre-teen adopted African-American daughter Annie (Raven Goodwin), each of whom is unable to overcome her own personal insecurities. Jane, longing to look younger and thinner, opts for liposuction, with near tragic results. When Michelle's artistic talents fail to produce any income for her family, much to the dismay of her husband, Bill (Clark Gregg), she takes a job as a one-hour photo developer and finds herself falling for the attention of her teenaged co-worker Jordan (Jake Gyllenhaal). Aspiring actress Elizabeth questions her appeal when she is rejected for a role based on her looks and foolishly seeks reassurance from film heart-throb Kevin McCabe (Dermot Mulroney). Overweight Annie tries to fit in better with her white adopted family by having her hair straightened.

In a society where "celebutantes" like Paris Hilton dominate newsstands and where models who weigh less than 90 pounds die from malnutrition, female body image is one of the more dire problems facing today's society. The documentary **America the Beautiful** (2008) covers all the issues: child models, plastic surgery, celebrity worship, airbrushed advertising, dangerous cosmetics. No rock is left unturned in this not surprising exposé.

And until next time, happy viewing...



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## Holiday Season on CI

*Continued from page 11*

coffee waiting at the **Snug** to warm you up for the holidays. While you are there, order up some home-style cooking that's sure to please, or visit next door at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue). In either spot, check out Donna's most recent baked—and delicious—creations!

One new Island business is poised to open, maybe even this holiday season; check for news on the opening of **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue). And check out what might be happening at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue) near Hawkins

Street Park. If lights are dim, don't fret; they'll be back scooping ice cream and mixing shakes starting in the spring.

And this holiday season we celebrate the legacy of one-of-a-kind businesses that ended their time on City Island after years where we could "count" on them for service and style! Bravo to John and Carolyn Corona of **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue), and Captain Smitty of **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue).

As the holiday season comes to a close, and you're counting down to a New Year, celebrate the fact that in any season City Island businesses, shops and eateries can always be counted on to deliver the best!

## Ed Heben, the "Tax Tips" Man

By BILL STUTTIG

*The following interview is the fourth in a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support The Island Current by placing ads in virtually every issue for more than 20 years.*

Thirty-one years ago, Ed Heben and his wife, Bette, moved to City Island to establish a foothold here, both financial and social. It turned out that the choice of City Island as the place to raise their sons and to establish a business was not only a good decision for the Heben family, but it was also beneficial for the Island in general.

After moving into his new home in 1984, Ed Heben also established his tax preparation business on City Island, and he has helped residents navigate the tangled maze of tax laws and other financial quandaries ever since.

Over the past three decades, his business has evolved by growing and changing as his expertise grew to encompass many areas requiring financial acumen, including business valuations, financial forensics, valuation analysis and estate planning.

Ed is now managing partner at Heben and Greene, LLP, which is based in northern Westchester, and though his business has grown, City Island still remains a key part of his firm, with City Island residents representing 10 percent of his client base.

He told *The Current* that, just as he did in the beginning, he provides his City Island residents with expert tax preparation services. Many of the 10 percent have been with him for the past 30 years and will likely continue for many years going forward.

"Clam diggers and mussel suckers alike reap the benefits of my tax knowledge," Ed explains. And it is not just clients who directly benefit from his services and knowledge. Thanks to his monthly column in *The Island Current*, Ed has been providing tax tips to Island residents for nearly three decades, and hundreds more have benefited from this pro bono contribution to the community.

"City Island is a small town in a big city and has been a wonderful place to live and work," Ed says. "I have enjoyed providing tax tips via the *Current* over the past 28 years and will continue to do so even though Bette and I have recently moved off the Island to downsize our home, now that our sons have grown and moved away to begin their married lives."

He was happy to note that "the articles and ads in *The Island Current* have helped grow my business over the past 31 years, and we are certainly grateful to the paper and City Island in general for that."

"Living and working with City Island residents has been a pleasure for me. As for my family, we have made many friends and



Ed Heben, CPA

have close ties with lots of great City Island people, and my sons have grown up to lead successful lives. My wife, Bette, is a long-time dedicated educator of young children in the New York City school system. Ben is a CFA (Certified Financial Analyst) who lives with his wife, Lisa, in Silicon Valley in California, where he works for Google. Ethan, now a retired U.S. Naval Lieutenant, lives with his wife, Catherine, in Virginia and works as an operations manager for a prominent commercial and military vessel company in Norfolk. I believe that living on City Island, near Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay, significantly influenced my son Ethan to pursue admission to the Naval Academy in Annapolis and to adopt a career in the U.S. Navy."

Ed himself is a graduate of Pace University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He worked at first in a CPA firm for 10 years and then as a solo practitioner for 25 years. He was a partner for five years at Citrin, Cooperman & Company, one of the top 25 CPA firms in the nation, and then started his own firm, Heben and Greene, LLP. He now manages that firm, specializing in taxation, business valuations, financial forensics and litigation support, including various commercial and matrimonial matters. He currently serves as president of the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts.

In addition, Ed has served on the board of directors of the Bronx's prestigious Calvary Hospital for over a decade.

He also serves as treasurer and board member for the Flexitoon Puppet Theater, a not-for-profit family entertainment organization. When he is not working or contributing his time for charitable causes, Ed is a self-described "avid golfer."

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Tide chart by Tom Smith

DECEMBER 2015

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, and corresponding values for each day of the month.

JANUARY 2016

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, and corresponding values for each day of the month.

FEBRUARY 2016

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, and corresponding values for each day of the month.



By JOHN SHEPIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

Something New for the Holidays

With the holiday season now officially upon us, the temptation is stronger than ever to hunker down indoors with family and friends.

Last year, for example, City Islanders were treated to an influx of American bald eagles. They were observed in backyards, soaring in the skies over Hart Island and riding the ice floes of Long Island Sound in search of food.

Common duck-like visitors to the waters around our island include Mr. and Mrs. Mallard, Black Duck, Ruddy Duck, Canvasback, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Goldeneye, Teal and Scaup.

residence in the waters around the bridge. It will be interesting to see how or even if the construction of the temporary bridge affects their winter plans.

Regular readers of this column will recall our fondness for buffleheads, who are among the first migrants to arrive in our area. At last check, there were many more males on the scene than females.



Hooded merganser

On a different but not unrelated note, City Islanders so inclined might consider helping a homeless cat this holiday season. We certainly have our fair share. Most strays can fend for themselves: they are resourceful creatures even as the temperatures drop, but shelter is always appreciated.

And finally, we at "Sights and Sounds" want to wish all of our readers a happy and safe holiday season.

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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.



### Rocco Nicoletti

Rocco Nicoletti, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away on Oct. 22, 2015, at the age of 88.

Born in the North Bronx, Rocco attended P.S. 113 and the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades. He was drafted in his senior year during World War II and served on the Coast Guard ships *USS Beaufort* and *USS Manitowac*, as fireman first class.

After the war, he met Grace Cutrone, also from the North Bronx, and they married in 1949. They celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this past August.

Rocky, as everyone called him, and Grace fell in love with City Island after renting a summer bungalow for a few years in the early 1950s, in the small bungalow village off City Island Avenue at the corner of Tier Street. In 1959 they purchased a house on Marine Street to raise their growing family.

Rocky enjoyed working for Pepsi Cola for close to 30 years. He drove a Pepsi truck on his route through Larchmont and Mamaroneck, where everyone knew him and he was well loved. He was one of Pepsi's top salesmen in the northeast district. He also started a mail order business selling wooden ship model kits of half hulls. He enjoyed putting the kits together, advertising them in "Yankee Magazine" and mailing kits to customers across the states. He was also an artist who drew and painted oils in his spare time.

You would often see Rocky visiting relatives on Tier Street and walking to yard sales with his brother, Larry. He was

a regular at the City Island Diner, where he shared many conversations with Bryce and Elliot and other Islanders and where Donna, Kim and the staff knew about his sweet tooth for apple turnovers.

Rocky is survived by his loving wife, Grace; his five children, Lorraine, Anthony, Doris and the twins Gerard and Ronald; and his grandchildren, Dennis, Paul, Gerard, Jenna and Benjamin. He is also survived by his sisters Sue Maffia of Georgia, Rosemary Bettencourt of City Island and his brother, Larry Nicoletti, of Westport, CT, as well as many nieces and nephews, including his nephew and godson, Christopher Nicoletti.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Monday, Oct. 26, and he was laid to rest at Pelham Cemetery on City Island.



### Mark Whitcombe

On Oct. 24, 2015, artist Mark Whitcombe, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones. Mark and his twin brother, Joseph Whitcombe, were born on Sept. 8, 1942, in Sydney, Australia, to June and Clive Whitcombe. June's family was in show business; Clive was a drummer and leader of the Clive Whitcombe Jazz Orchestra.

Mark's childhood in Sydney was by turns both idyllic and very difficult. His family was plagued by poverty and addiction, and home life was often tumultuous. However, his memories of the city itself, the pleasant weather, the culture and its serene natural beauty haunted him with longing his entire life.

As a jazz musician, Mark's father was determined to immigrate to America, the home of jazz, and to leave his mark there. Because the family could not afford to bring everyone at once, in 1949 Clive left both Joe and Mark in an orphanage

in Australia's outback while he, June and daughter Judy went ahead to America. This three-year absence tortured Mark for the rest of his life, and he mentioned his time in the outback almost daily. (Indeed, the abuse of children at these orphanages has made front page headline news in Australia and has become a national scandal.)

In 1953 Mark and his brother were sent for by his family and reunited in New York, where Mark attended Music and Art High School and then the Art Students League, the New School and Cooper Union.

For most of his life and career, Mark worked from his home on City Island. Elisabeth, his wife and inspiration, has always been deeply involved in and dedicated to his career. She appears in and has inspired many of his works.

Mark's heart and soul were captured on canvas and etching plate, and his lifelong dedication to art was a passionate devotion. His work has been exhibited for years at The Opening Gallery in SoHo, The Smith Gallery, Ideas and Images Gallery, Starving Artist Gallery, Hole in the Wall Gallery and Focal Point Gallery. Mark was also a regular contributor to *The Island Current* for many years, from his first cover in December 1974 to his last, in November 1993.

Mark is best known for his nautical works, which are often surrealistic, as both paintings and etchings. His etching work alone numbers close to 2,000 different plates and are in numerous private and public collections. He won many awards, including first prize in graphics at the Salmagundi Club in 1978, and his work has appeared in many publications, including *Nautical Quarterly*, *Wooden Boat Magazine*, *Sailing Life* and *Playboy Magazine*. Mark's cubist painting "The Musicians" is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.

Notable collectors of Mark's work include Ethel Kennedy, Walter Mondale, Patrick Kennedy, the musician Rod Stewart, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Library of Congress, Arizona State University Art Museum, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, Citibank, Nautica Brand and the Hollywood directors Peter Bogdanovich and Mike Nichols.

Mark is survived by Elisabeth; his daughter, Alexandra; his grandson, Sebastian, and his younger sister, Judy Dragotta, whom he loved dearly.

Mark Whitcombe's artistry is the product of a very practiced imagination and dedication to detail. His imagination was fueled by a passionate and life-long love of astronomy, sailing and poetry.

### Pasquale Casanova

Pasquale "Pat" Casanova of South Amboy, NJ, and formerly of City Island, passed away on Oct. 21, 2015, at the age of 90. He was the son of the late Eugene and Regina Casanova and brother of City Island resident Jean Anderson.

Pat was a veteran of World War II, having served with the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion and later with the 82nd Airborne. He was a member of the C-47 Club and Catholic War Veterans, as well as the American Legion, Lenape Post 211 and VFW Post 1352 in Sayreville, NJ.

He is survived by his sister, Jean Anderson; his wife, Rita Casey Casanova;

and his children, Patricia, Eugene and John Casanova and their families. He was predeceased by his daughter Virginia Konzcz.

Funeral services and interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery under the direction of the Gundrum Funeral Home in South Amboy.



### Charles W. Rodstrom Jr.

Charles W. Rodstrom Jr., a 55-year area resident, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh, NY. He was 78. Son of the late Charles W. Rodstrom Sr. and Margaret A. Hill Rodstrom, he was born in New Rochelle, NY, on Dec. 22, 1936.

Charles retired in 1976 after 20 years of service as a detective for the NYPD 24th Precinct in New York City. He also worked as assistant vice president of Manufacturer's Hanover Trust and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He was a member of the American Legion Post in Washingtonville, NY, a former member of the Recreation Committee and Zoning Board for the Town of Blooming Grove, was involved with Monroe Pop-Warner Football in Monroe, Umpire with Washingtonville Little League, member of the Washingtonville High School Touchdown Club, and a was member of Monroe Men's Softball League.

He is survived by his wife, Arline Barnett Rodstrom; his daughter, Sylvia Pinto, and her husband, Thomas of Middletown, NY; his sons, Charles W. Rodstrom III and wife, Patricia, of Washingtonville, NY; Walter Rodstrom and wife, Rose, of City Island; Gregory Rodstrom and wife, Anna, of Salisbury Mills, NY; Daniel Rodstrom and wife, Laura, of Furlong, PA; grandchildren, Christopher, Sarah, Justin, Carly, Matthew, Jennifer, Samantha, Chelsea, Rebecca, Heather, Nicholas and Michael; and great-grandchildren Linus and Delilah. He was predeceased by his grandson Charles.

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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.

Happy birthday wishes across the miles to former Carroll Street resident Anjulee Sebastian, who will celebrate her big day on Dec. 22.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Dom and Carol Alia on the occasion of their 51st wedding anniversary on Dec. 26. We wish them many more!

Birthday greetings to new dad, Bobby Cavinee, on Dec. 31.

Happy birthday to our son, Joseph, with love from Mom and Dad Ribaud.

Belated happy 21st anniversary greetings to Bill and Chris Stuttig, who celebrated on Nov. 19. They are looking forward to many happy years and cruises together!

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Class of '58 celebrated yet another reunion (two a year since 1958!) by attending Mass followed by a delightful lunch at the Lobster House. Joining in the fun were William Mueller, Delia Theriault Cacace, Rosetta Shandley Woods, Frank Giacobelli, Carol (Bunny) Sullivan Giacobelli, Joe Gelsi, Mary Fogarty Carman, Charlie Carman, Patricia Wellberg Del Guidice and Angela Mueller along with groupies Barbara Harrison and Darrell Smith.

Happy birthday wishes to our grandson Jake Penny, who will be celebrating his 6th birthday on Dec. 26. With lots of love and hugs from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Merry Christmas across the country to former Horton Street residents, Eric Rauhauser and his daughter, Lyla, who will be celebrating the holidays in California this year. No "White Christmas" is in their forecast, but Santa will still be stopping by.

The staff of *The Island Current* wishes all our neighbors, friends and readers a very happy and healthy holiday and all the best in the New Year. See you in 2016!

Maria Swiecki



Hannah Glick gathered her friends for an "Evening of Broadway" at the Starving Artist on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015. Featured performers (shown above, l. to r.) were: Alaura Imperioli, Nic Anthony, Monica Glick, Jason Damien, Hannah Glick, Elliott Glick, Heather Edwards, Maurice Richard and Freddie Lando.



The St. Mary, Star of the Sea School Class of 1958 had yet another reunion (two a year since 2008), and here's the latest photo so you can see that they're looking younger and younger each year. Following Mass at St. Mary's and enjoying lunch at The Lobster House, here are classmates (l. to r.): William Mueller, Delia Theriault Cacace, Rosetta Shandley Woods, Frank Giacobelli, Carol (Bunny) Sullivan Giacobelli, Joe Gelsi, Mary Fogarty Carman, Charlie Carman, Patricia Wellberg Del Guidice, Angela Mueller, along with groupies Barbara Harrison and Darrell Smith.




Photo by KARINA ADOURIAN

Islander Mike Rauh was among the runners representing the United States in the Parade of Nations at the opening ceremonies of the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon on Oct. 30, 2015. He carried a sign marking the fact that this would be his 37th consecutive running of the race. Only a handful of runners have done this marathon more times than Mike.

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