

# The Island Current

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One Dollar



## WARM HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

From the Staff of The Island Current

## BRIEFLY...

**THE NUTCRACKER BALLET** will be performed by the Ajkun Ballet Theater, whose artistic director is City Islander Chiara Ajkun. There will be a performance on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Whitney Theater on the New Rochelle High School campus (265 Clove Road). Then there will be six performances on Saturdays and Sundays from Dec. 2 to 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Center located at 130 W. 56th Street in Manhattan. For more information and tickets, visit the website [www.ajkunbt.org](http://www.ajkunbt.org).

**CHRISTMAS FAIRS ON CI:** Do some holiday shopping, grab some delicious baked goods and support our local organizations at the same time this December. The American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post's Holiday Fair is on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 550 City Island Avenue. St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue. Trinity United Methodist Church will do Advent decorating and crèche setup on Saturday, Dec. 2. Trinity's Christmas Fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street.

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 – ROBBERY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents for the period from Oct. 23 to Nov. 19, 2023.

10/26 – A robbery occurred on City Island Avenue at 8:50 p.m. Two off-Island victims were sitting on a bench when three unknown males wearing dark clothing and black masks approached them, displaying a black firearm. The perpetrators stated, "Give me what you have." They removed cell phones, cash money, credit cards and jewelry from the victims and fled the scene in a gray SUV.

10/28 – On Minneford Avenue at 5:55 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with

property damage only was reported. An off-Island female told police that she was driving on Minneford Avenue when an unknown driver collided with her, causing damage to the front of her vehicle and the airbags to deploy. Perpetrator stayed on the scene.

11/12 – At 9:30 p.m. on Pilot Street, an off-Island female reported an act of criminal mischief. Victim states she parked her vehicle and upon return found that it had been spray painted with the words B\*tch/P\*ssy. She believes she knows who may have done it.

11/16 – An off-Island male reported grand larceny auto on City Island Avenue at 11 a.m. Victim states he was working when the alarm to his car, which was parked in the driveway, went off. When he went to check, he saw an unknown male inside his vehicle, who then sped off in it.

### REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (January/February 2024) will be published and on sale at the end of January. Happy New Year!

## City Island Murder Stories

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Murder doesn't happen often on City Island, but when it does, the community wants to know more about what has become of the murderers responsible. Because trials leading to conviction usually take place months if not years after the actual event, it is easy to lose sight of the perpetrators.

Not so with the man who was responsible for killing Gabriela Aguilar-Valinosa on Sept. 11, 2015, hitting her with his car near the City Island Bridge as she was biking home after work at Sammy's Fish Box. Although the driver, Michael Moreno, sped away after the accident without reporting it, he was eventually caught and served six years in prison for criminally negligent homicide.

Apparently, the prison stretch had little effect on Mr. Moreno, who was allegedly responsible for injuring eight people in a multi-vehicle crash in Queens on the afternoon of Oct. 28, 2023. His car hit several vehicles and a 14-year-old pedestrian,

and he was subsequently charged with driving while intoxicated, driving while ability-impaired and refusing to take a breathalyzer test. Let's hope that his next stretch in prison, which seems likely, will have some permanent effect on his future behavior.

A more recent murder on City Island took place on April 14, 2021, when off-Islander Jose Reyes shot and killed a woman named Lizbeth Mass at a construction site near the bridge on City Island Avenue. He had befriended Ms. Mass during her time directing traffic on the Island, but when she introduced her boyfriend to him, he left the scene, allegedly to find a revolver, and returned to shoot her, an act that was caught on camera. He has been charged with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter and additional charges but has not yet gone to trial, although he remains in prison. His next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 30, 2023.

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# WINTER AT ORCHARD BEACH

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



“Pelham Bay Ark,” an 82-foot-long mural depicting the four seasons in Section 9 at Orchard Beach was painted by Lovie Pignata, more of whose work can be seen on Instagram (@LovieNY).

Although winter is coming fast, Orchard Beach remains an interesting place to visit, not for swimming or picnicking but for looking at what is going on there.

Before you do anything else there, go look at the huge mural, “Pelham Bay Ark,” by Lovie Pignata. It measures 8 by 82 feet in Section 9 and depicts a large painted ship, whose sails are the actual sails on the promenade. Every season is depicted in the mural, reminding viewers that Orchard Beach is a year-round destination.

Fall is represented by the Native American flag colors in the heron’s feathers at the prow of the ship. The red, yellow, white and black are taken from the native medicine wheel, which was also used as a compass and applied to all aspects of indigenous life. Harbor seals take residence in Pelham Bay each winter, and one can see them in two of the ship’s portholes. Horseshoe crabs can be found along the shoreline each spring when they mate, and summer brings seagulls, beach balls and schools of native bluefish. Along the mural, there are places to pose and interact, or you can pretend to be a mermaid/merman by standing behind the utility box in the center where a tail is painted.

The mural by Lovie Pignata was commissioned by the Friends of Pelham Bay Park and supported by the Pelham Bay Park Administrator’s Office and New York City Parks Department. She is a Bronx-based art-

ist known for her site-specific installations and murals in which she depicts local history, culture, green spaces and waterways.

While you admire the mural, take a look around at all the scaffolding that is part of the renovation of the Pavilion, which had deteriorated over the years, in spite of its being a designated landmark.

Behind the scaffolding, contractors are hard at work restoring the structural systems and architectural details that have made it an important monument since it was first opened in 1936. In addition to restoration, the construction will include changes in the entrance to the beach that will make it more accessible to visitors, as well as public amenities such as new concessions offering food, beverages and merchandise.

Completed so far are the exterior demolition and the salvage of pieces from the historic façade of the building, including ornamental metals. Renovation of historic materials will continue, along with the installation of roof slabs and loggia columns. The installation of new utility services is being investigated and commenced. Hours of construction are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with occasional work being done on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, you may e-mail questions to [orchardbeachpavilion@edc.nyc](mailto:orchardbeachpavilion@edc.nyc).

# HART ISLAND OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Hart Island has undergone dramatic changes since the Parks Department took it over from the Department of Corrections in 2021. The chapel remains, but 16 other buildings were demolished, and the landscape has been improved with new plantings. Park Rangers will now offer tours to visitors twice a month describing the island’s history.

After nearly 40 years during which few people were allowed to visit Hart Island, the Department of Parks and Recreation, which took over jurisdiction for the island in 2021 from the Department of Corrections, has launched a program of the general public to visit the island and learn on site about its fascinating history.

Although Hart Island has been the location of many different activities since the city purchased it in 1868, its principal use has been a burial ground where as many as a million unidentified, unclaimed or indigent people have been buried by the city of New York. Earlier this year, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) completed the demolition of 16 buildings on the island with emergency funding provided by the city. The Parks Department has reworked the landscape to replace the dilapidated buildings that had been abandoned and uncared for since the middle of the last century with gardens and walkways. Only one old building remains, a chapel built by the Catholic Church in 1932 that needs restoration and is currently surrounded by a sturdy fence.

The Parks Department, working with the Department of Transportation, which operates a ferry from Fordham Street on

City Island to Hart Island, will reserve two days a month for families of those buried on the island. Thirty members of the public will be able to visit on two other days each month and given tours by Urban Park Rangers. Registration is required and if the tour reaches capacity, individuals will be selected by lottery. For registration, visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events>.

Limited visitation is necessary because burials continue to be carried out on the island, under the supervision of the Human Resources Administration, led by Martin Thomson, who has worked on Hart Island for 20 years. The DDC continues to work on the island as well, including the crushing of foundation remnants that could not be removed from the island.

“There is so much history here that we want the public to know and understand and enjoy this beautiful space in a way that’s respectful of the fact that it’s still an active burial site, and the transfer has allowed that,” Sue Donoghue, commissioner of the Parks Department, told invited members of the media on Wednesday, Nov. 15. “Our Urban Park Rangers have created informative and reflective programming that highlights the island’s important role in New York City history.”

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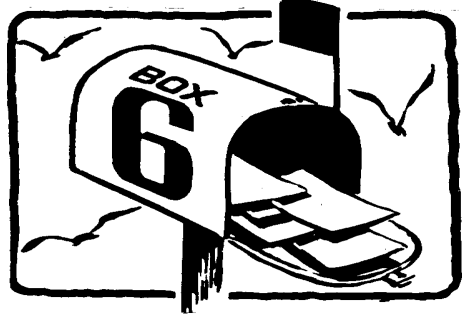
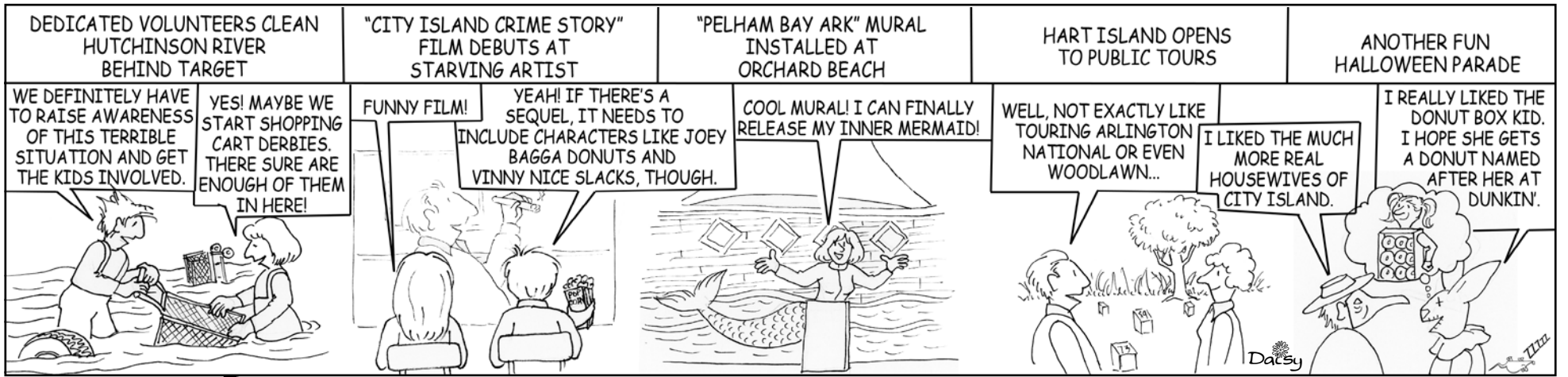
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We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot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

**“Light the Holidays” on City Island**

To the Editor,

The City Island Chamber of Commerce wishes one and all a happy, healthy, and hope-filled holiday season. We are most grateful for your support of our member businesses throughout the year.

We give thanks to the City Island businesses who are collecting for our Holiday Lights in their shops, and for all who have contributed in this way.

If you have ever enjoyed a drink or dinner, lunch or brunch, a family celebration or a friends’ gathering at one of City Island’s restaurants . . . If you’ve ever visited City Island’s unique shops and spaces . . . If you’ve ever contacted City Island’s professional service businesses . . . we invite you to help light the way for



*Photo by KAREN NANI*  
The holiday lights along City Island Avenue were strung on Marathon Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for turning City Island into Holiday Island!

others—and yourselves—to visit and do the same this holiday season!

Contributions for the lights at this time will help defray the cost of lighting City Island Avenue for the holidays this year. Our member businesses are contributing as well. Learn more at this link: <https://bit.ly/CIHolidayLights>. Your donation will add your own “sparkle” to the season!

**Paul Klein, President**  
City Island Chamber of Commerce

**First CI Blues Festival**

To the Editor,

Something new happened on City Island on Saturday, Oct. 7. The first Blues Festival took place and I hope it will be an annual event.

It got off to a slow start with a 29-minute rain delay but kicked off at The Gallery at 278 City Island Avenue, a very appropriate location, a store with a tin

ceiling and walls. So like the blues, it goes way back.

Opening was trio: Randy Borra on piano, Mike DiMaggio on harmonica, and Robert Marcus on drums. There was some old stuff from the ‘20s and ‘30s that was highlighted by Randy’s very nice piano work. The two hours of music came into the modern era with a selection of material that included Jelly Roll Morton, Bes-sie Smith, Louis Jordan and Ray Charles.

It was a small turnout, but the audience really liked it, especially the piano playing. Drummer Robert used his brushes a number of times, and that was a nice touch (too many modern drummers don’t even know what the brushes are!).

The second part of the program was at the Starving Artist. The basic set-up was three guitars, bass, harmonica, drums and sax with changing guitar, bass and harmonica players. There was a better turnout for the later session, a good thing because there were more seats at this location. Best solo of the night was “Stormy Monday” by a tall guitar player who did all the vocals.

I hadn’t been to the Starving Artist in a while, and I must say I appreciated the improvement in the menu and the wait staff. The acoustics were also better.

I am looking forward to the second Blues Festival in the future.

**Mickey Burke**

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# Saving the Hutchinson River

By ADJIE HENDERSON, TAI MONTANARELLA and MELISSA WRIGHT

As most Islanders know, the Hutchinson River flows from an origin in Scarsdale through lower Westchester County and into the Long Island Sound in the Bronx via Eastchester Bay. It runs through areas of Mount Vernon, Pelham, Eastchester, Co-Op City, Baychester, Country Club, City Island, Edgewater Park and other neighborhoods. Critically, it passes leaking outflows called CSOs (combined sewage overflow) and storm sewers, as well as runoff, illegal dumping and industrial and waste disposal. The most contaminated regions are those located from Mount Vernon downstream to Long Island Sound, about five river miles.

What many Islanders may not be aware of is that the river is dying from neglect. Raw sewage is discharged from CSOs located all along the river. City Island has its own on east Schofield Street. Dead fish and plastic bags float on the river surface, and oxygen levels are often exceedingly low. In a typical year, 323 million gallons of this “combined sewer overflow” are dumped into the Hutchinson. Industrial waste and illegal dumping also occur, particularly in the last five miles of the river, where there are industries and junk yards. Each of these augments the seriously polluted state. There is no single factor; the Hutchinson River is simply a mess.

The Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP) was formed in 2008 with the initial aim of reclaiming the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. Two years ago, the organization incorporated in response to an increasingly polluted state of the river with the understanding that cleaning the river in all aspects was necessary. With neighborhood participation, HRRP is concentrating on removing shoreline debris from Westchester County south into Eastchester Bay.

The Sanctuary, which is located on the east bank of the Hutchinson River in Pelham Bay Park, is the second largest salt marsh habitat in New York City. It is not easily accessible by land and must be cleaned from the river by people in wading boots. The HRRP cleanups began in 2012 and were eventually extended north to the I-95 bridge. HRRP collaborates with the NYC Park Rangers and about 30 eco-volunteers who go out onto the river in canoes supplied by the Rangers in order to pick up shoreline trash.

Garbage and trash cause the erosion of shorelines by carrying nutrients, phos-

phorus and nitrates (think lawn fertilizer) into the water. This provides food for algae growth, which along with bacteria from animal and human waste can affect human health. People use shorelines as a repository for all kinds of garbage, from couches and mattresses to cars and car parts, fuel containers and paint cans. Common household trash also finds its way to the river, including plastic cups, bags and wrapping materials, bottles and other plastic containers.

These plastics wash into the bay and break up on the rocks, which creates microplastic loads in the water. Depending on their size and form, the microplastics can be ingested by marine life causing internal organ failure or strangulation, and, of course, they also enter our water supply and wind up in our bodies. Organic waste, dead bodies, oil, AC fluid and more are often dumped, since it is difficult to find places to dispose of them. The water becomes deprived of dissolved oxygen as the wastes decompose, resulting in devastation of the river water.

The most recent adventure of the HRRP was on Sunday, Oct. 21, when a group of “boots on the ground” volunteers of HRRP, along with the Environmental Coalition of the Pelhams (EcoPel) and Mario Bulfamante & Sons Landscaping, arrived for a unique land/water clean-up experience at East Sandford Boulevard at Glover Field behind the Target parking garage.

Using a small excavator and rig pulley on land, Bulfamante's crew worked with HRRP board members and staff waders in the water to remove decades worth of visible trash pollution in three hours. Here's what they pulled out from about a 100 ft. area: nine shopping carts, two bicycles, one wheelchair, one iron lamp and two iron plant stands, car tires, rugs and blankets, large sheets of heavy scrap metal and asphalt blocks.

On land, armed with gloves, trash grabbers, and reams of heavy-duty trash bags, HRRP, EcoPel, Pelham Boy Scouts, the Village of Pelham Sustainability Advisory Board, Town of Pelham Board members and other community volunteers cleaned the riverside edge, gathering more than thirty 50-gallon bags of mixed litter; metal pipes, a large knife, one car tire, a 18” x 20” metal sign directing the public to “Please pick up and return carts here.” The Pelham Union Free School District assisted in loading two pickup trucks of



Photos by TAI MONTANARELLA  
An area on the shore of the Hutchinson River near the Target parking lot in Mount Vernon before the cleanup on Oct. 21, 2023. Volunteers waded into the water to dig out trash from the mud before pulling it up on shore (l. to r.): Danny Wright, Melissa Sotelo-Wright and Sky Dominguez. The piles of trash pulled out of the river filled a large truck.



Environmental Conservation; the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund; Seed-time, Inc. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For more information or to offer help, contact [Hutchinsonriver.org](http://Hutchinsonriver.org); Instagram @hutchprotector; or the Environmental Coalition of the Pelhams, [EcoPel.org](http://EcoPel.org), Instagram @ecopelny, Facebook [Ecopelny](https://www.facebook.com/ecopelny), and Save the Sound's Hutchinson River Watershed Plan at [savethesound.org/hutchplan](http://savethesound.org/hutchplan).

trash from the river and disposing of them.

As Benny Bulfamante commented: “We have to clean this place up and we have to stop polluting. And, we have to get the kids involved.” The work has begun.

Note: The Hutchinson River Restoration Project is supported by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of

## 2023 Midterm Election: Some Surprises

By FRED W. RAMFTL and KAREN NANI

Although the turnout was lower in the 2023 midterm elections than in 2022, some surprising results emerged. For the first time in almost 20 years, the City Island community will have a Republican representing us on the New York City Council.

More than 800 residents cast ballots at P.S. 175 on Nov. 7 compared to 1,600 in 2022. City Island now makes up the 41st and 42nd Election Districts of the 82nd Assembly District. Island residents were with the majority on the ballot propositions but favored Democrat Marjorie Velázquez by 5 percentage points. Ms. Velázquez lost to Republican Kristy Mamorato, who also campaigned on City Island.

Islanders were most in agreement about Proposals 1 and 2, voting “Yes” 58 percent and 66 percent, respectively. Proposition 1, School Debt Limit Removal, removed small city school districts from constitutional debt limitation. Proposition 2, Extending Sewage Project Debt Exclusion, was set to expire on Jan. 1, 2024. The amendment extends the sewer debt exception that cities, towns and villages can incur until Jan. 1, 2034. Both proposals were approved statewide.

Many voters also stopped by the P.S. 175 P.T.A. annual Election Day bake sale on Nov. 7. P.T.A. volunteers appreciate all the residents who purchased baked goods and raffles and thank the many City Island businesses that donated raffle prizes.

The numbers below reflect the scanner totals for all parties and write-ins.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
<b>New York City Council District 13</b>		
Marjorie Velázquez (D)	418	52%
Kristy Mamorato (R)	382	47
District Winner: Kristy Mamorato		

All other candidates ran unopposed:


Bronx District Attorney	# C.I. Votes	%
Darcel Clark (D)	419	95
Write-in	25	5

<b>Bronx Supreme Court</b>		
Sharon Aarons (D)	419	34
Michael Fishman (D)	399	32
John Howard-Algarin (D)	378	31
Write-in	38	3
<b>Bronx Civil Court (Countywide)</b>		
Joaquin Orellana (D)	429	97
Write-in	15	3
<b>Bronx Civil Court (District 1)</b>		
Carol Elaine Malcolm (D)	445	52
Edit Shkreli (D)	385	45
Write-in	26	3
<b>Proposal 1 School Debt Limit Removal</b>		
Yes	439	58
No	312	42
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		
<b>Proposal 2 Sewage Debt Limit Removal</b>		
Yes	493	66
No	254	34
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		



Photo by KAREN NANI  
The P.S. 175 Parent Teacher Association held its annual Election Day sale on Nov. 7, 2023. Along with baked goods and raffles, voters could purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts with the elementary school's Sharks logo proudly worn by (above, l. to r.) Kurstin Laue, Theresa Cavinee and Melissa Rosado.

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



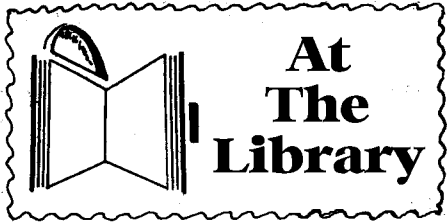
**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE  
2023**

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

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

**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
(No Evening Mass)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY/ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD  
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)  
MONDAY, JANUARY 1**  
Mass: 7:00 A.M.



The New York Public Library's City Island branch will be closed for several more weeks to facilitate necessary repairs owing to the extensive rainstorm that occurred recently.

During this temporary closure, patrons are encouraged to use the following nearby branches, which are all fully accessible:

- Pelham Bay, 3060 Middletown Road
- Baychester, 2049 Asch Loop North
- Eastchester, 1385 East Gun Hill Road

All hold items currently on the hold shelf or in transit to City Island Library will remain on-site. To request items while the branch is closed, please place a new request using our website, <https://www.nypl.org/>, and select another branch for pickup.

**Rickey Collado, Library Manager**



### Bartow-Pell Events

Start the holiday season off with a bang by attending the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's festive annual holiday luncheon on Friday, Dec. 1, from noon to 2 p.m.

Enjoy the company of friends and delicious food, and shop for gifts and home-baked goods while you are there. Cost: Winterberry \$95, Snowdrops \$125 (includes listing in the program).

Holiday First Friday will take place the

evening of Dec. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. Experience the mansion decked out for the holidays and enjoy the mellifluous and merry sounds of the a cappella MetropoliTones—back by popular demand! Cost: Bartow-Pell Heritage Member Free; Bartow-Pell Friend Member \$5; Not-Yet-Member Senior/Student \$10; Not-Yet-Member Adult \$15.

The annual holiday evening celebration will be Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. Celebrate—and support—the museum in holiday splendor. Enjoy cocktails, buffet dinner, auction and raffles amid trees decorated for the season! Cost: Amaryllis \$200; Poinsettia \$400 (includes listing in program).

Enjoy Selfies with Santa and Cookies and Crafts on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come enjoy some time at the mansion! Families are invited to explore the museum decorated with festive holiday trees in each of the period rooms and take selfies with Santa. Children can get creative decorating their own holiday cookies to take home in the conservatory. There will be two sessions: 11 a.m. to 12 noon and 12 noon to 1 p.m. Cost: Children (1+ and up) \$15; Adults: Free when accompanied by a child.

Don't miss "A Christmas Carol," Dickens's classic story of love, compassion and redemption set against the backdrop of a Victorian magic show. Join Ebenezer Scrooge to discover what the spirit of Christmas is really about and delve into the mystery and magic of the holiday season. Cost: Adults \$40; Seniors/Students \$30. Dates: Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 23 at 4 and 7 p.m.; Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 29 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present and cultivate appreciation for the area's historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, call 718-885-1461 or visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org).

*Imagine That! on City Island*  
**Holiday Sale Days**

Hey Everyone! Stop by and see what local crafters have made for the 2023 Holiday Season at *Imagine That! on City Island*  
280 City Island Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10464

Holiday Sale Day Hours  
November 25th, December 2nd, December 9th,  
December 16th, December 23rd  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

November 26th, December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th  
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

December 24th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

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# PERFECT PARADE



Photos by PAUL KLEIN, KAREN NANI and RON TERNER

Nice weather, elaborate floats, creative costumes and a well-behaved crowd made for a wonderful continuation of the annual Halloween parade on City Island Avenue on Oct. 31, 2023. Officers from the 45th Precinct were on hand to manage the traffic and the large turnout, and everything ran smoothly. Paul Klein of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the traditional event, and the judges trolled the crowd and voted for these as the best costumes: Best Group: Alice in Wonderland (McSherry Family); Best Adult #1: Reading Rainbow (Cortney Cooper); Best Adult #2: Leftovers (Mike Mervilde); Best Boy: Goku (Goku Herrera); Best Girl: Donut Box (Jose Charles); Scariest: Zipper Head Kid (Logan Camacho); Best Infant: Baby Mike Wazowski (Mike O'Keefe); Best Pet: Octopus and Baby Octopus (Jane Caro with Frankie); and Most Original: Sledgehammer Rabbit (Justo Maduro). Special thanks also to the Island businesses that supplied prizes.

## Sewer Installation at North End Begins in 2024

By KAREN NANI

The City of New York Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will begin to install new water mains and sewers on the north end of City Island during the winter of 2024. The area has long been plagued by flooding and sewage overflow during storms, extreme high tides and heavy rains.

DDC held a pre-construction meeting for residents of Minneford Avenue, Terrace Street and Bridge Street on Nov. 21 at the American Legion Post 156. The project, which was approved eight years ago, was presented by Jose Sarmiento and engineers from DDC. They described it as "short-term pain, long-term gain."

On the plus side, DDC told Islanders that the new water mains will improve water quality and flow. The new outfall and the sanitary and storm sewers will improve overall drainage to reduce local street flooding. As to "pain," there will be street closures, detours, construction equipment, trenches, water shutoffs and reduced parking during the project.

The three-year project will be completed in the Fall of 2026 at a cost of approximately \$12.1 million. One Islander at the meeting asked why the project, which covers a relatively small area of City Island, will take so long? DDC explained that on City Island, there is a "summer embargo" on construction, so no work can be done between late May and early September. They also have to allow for delays caused by extreme weather during the months they are installing new water mains.

The locations where the water mains and sewers will be replaced are: Minneford Avenue from Terrace Street to Sutherland

Street; Terrace Street from Minneford to King Avenue; and Bridge Street from Minneford to City Island Avenue. The new outfall, which diverts the excess water that the sewer system can't handle (think Hurricane Sandy) will be constructed on Eastchester Bay off the parking lot for Riptide III at 701 Minneford Avenue. Old catch basins will be repaired, and new ones will be added along Minneford and some of the other streets.

DDC seemed responsive to the concerns of Islanders with disabled family members. Kristin McConaghy, who lives on Minneford Avenue in the construction zone, told DDC that her mother has difficulty walking, so her car and driveway need to remain clear to take her mother to doctor appointments and if there is an emergency. DDC told Ms. McConaghy that all residents would be notified either 24 or 72 hours in advance of any work impacts, depending on the nature of the closure. Individuals can contact DDC with special needs, and they will do their best to accommodate requests.

Residents at the meeting expressed hope that this project will eliminate the severe flooding and sewage backflow they have experienced in basements, driveways and the streets in front of their homes. DDC explained that while they cannot control extreme flooding during severe weather like hurricanes, they believe many of the problems will be resolved by this project.

Work hours during construction will be from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday with potentially noisy operations. The Construction Community Liaison is Mr. Sarmiento, who may be reached at [minniefordprojectcc1@gmail.com](mailto:minniefordprojectcc1@gmail.com) or 347-913-4413. The project's construction office is located at 107 Carroll Street.

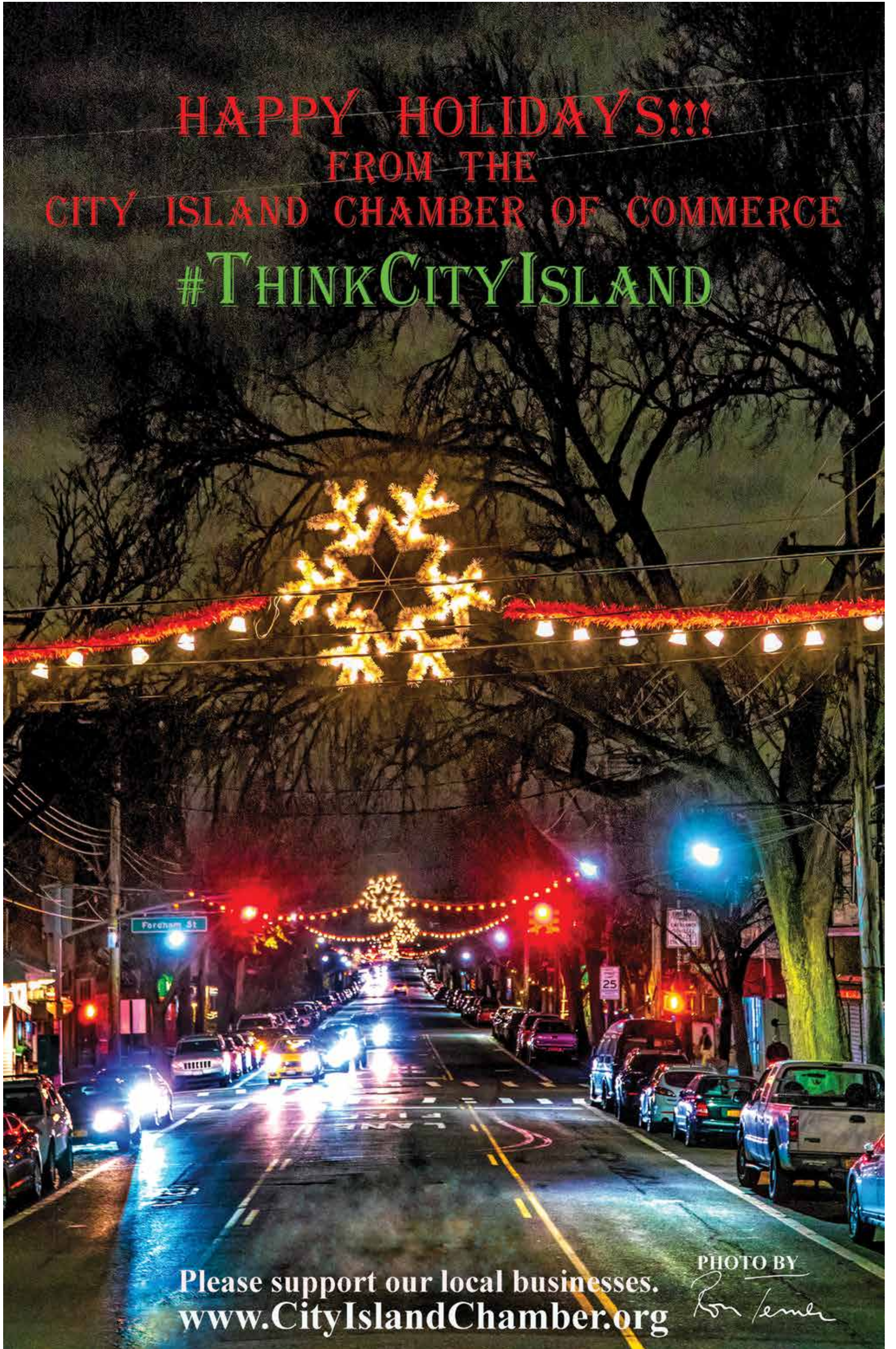


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**#THINKCITYISLAND**



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[www.CityIslandChamber.org](http://www.CityIslandChamber.org)

PHOTO BY  
*Ron Tenner*



# #Think City Island this Holiday Season

By MONICA GLICK

No matter what you're "thinking" for this Holiday Season, City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafes and businesses are ready to make it happen!

**#ThinkGifts.** Holiday ornaments and decorations, as well as toys, artwork, ceramics, jewelry, wall hangings, **City Island Nautical Museum** items, collectibles, garden statues and sculptures, and much more may be found inside **Kaleidoscope Gallery** (271 City Island Avenue), a spot to find the perfect gift for all on your list. Kaleidoscope Gallery also features handmade cards from local artist **Margo Makes Cards**, as well as **City Island Gold Honey**.

As in any season, Ron Turner's **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) offers a plethora of gift possibilities, including t-shirts and bricks featuring Turner's amazing photography, and an expanded line of work from Jannete Mendoza (**JM Creations**). During the Holiday Season, Focal Point Gallery will be filled with "Artist's Choice" artwork; be there for an opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m.

If there's a cigar lover on your list, visit owners Humberto and Gladis Amadiz at **Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue). They'll tell you that all who visit this 15-year-old City Island business are family and will help you find just the right selection—perhaps the cigar named after Humberto's mother, Minerva.

**#ThinkArt.** Art to love may be found at **Mary Colby Studio and Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), which celebrated 30 years on City Island this year. Mary paints on commission beautiful portraits in pastel, including wonderful pet portraits, all affordably priced. Ask Mary about stocking stuffer paintings as well. Just down the block, see the art on exhibit at the **City Island Gallery** (278 City Island Avenue). While there, learn more about the yoga classes offered here on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, and the weekly Sunday "Arts and Crafts" from 1 to 3 p.m., for young people; art supplies are provided.

Continuing down the block, check out the windows of **Cheryl Brinker's Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) to see what guest artist is featured, and be sure to wave "hi" to the cute cat who always lounges lovingly with the art on display.

The art of film is featured at our own movie theater, **Cinema on the Sound** (270 City Island Avenue). Movies are typically shown on Wednesday and Saturday nights, with a schedule available monthly at <https://cinema-on-the-sound.ticketleap.com/>.



Photos by MONICA GLICK

## A Taste of Italy

**#ThinkGoodTimes.** If parties are planned at home, visit the D'Angelo and Labatte families at **A Taste of Italy** (250 City Island Avenue). They'll set you up with holiday party platters. And when you're placing your order, enjoy a slice of their delicious pizza, especially after a long day of shopping. Don't forget to bring home some of their homemade mozzarella!

Or take the family out for a celebration. The parking attendants, bartenders, servers, managers, chefs, busboys and kitchen staff are ready to offer you a happy holiday welcome at the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue). With decorations to delight the eye while you eat, be sure to start your meal with Sea Shore's award-winning New England clam chowder, the perfect choice for a cold winter day or night. There



## Seashore Restaurant

are more places for good times at the far end of the Island: **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) and **Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue). Enjoy family celebrations year-round at any of these three locations.



## The Black Whale

The possibilities for good times abound as well mid-Island at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue). This iconic City Island location posts daily specials on their Facebook page ("The Black Whale City Island"). November featured dishes that included a fried sushi special, as well as a fig salad with feta and candied pecans, chickpea with bacon soup and ricotta stuffed chicken breast over rigatoni in a vodka sauce.

Get the spirits for the season for your home holiday gatherings at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue). Or "cheers" in person at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue) or **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue).

**#ThinkTheShow.** At Elliott Glick's **Starving Artist** (The Artist) (249 City Island Avenue), the Holiday Season includes a mix of performances—music and comedy among them. There's an ornament painting event on Sunday, Dec. 10, and holiday music shows on Sundays, Dec. 3 and 17, as well as Saturday, Dec. 2. A full schedule of shows and events may be found at [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com) under the "Calendar" tab. Elliott offers guitar lessons, as well as instruments for sale; he also repairs guitars.

Watch for what's new with the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG) in 2024 ([www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com](http://www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com)).

**#ThinkTakingABreak.** "Take a break" during the busy Holiday Season with take-out from the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue), Augie's **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue), or **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue), where you can also eat in. **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) is waiting for you as you start your day of work or shopping. And your next "ice cream break" will have to wait until the spring when **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue) will be open again to serve you a scoop of delicious ice cream.

There are rewards for taking that break at **Sea Breeze Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) this Holiday Season. This family-run City Island business is providing a complimentary small coffee with any of their breakfast platters in the morning, and free churros or soda with purchases above \$30 in the late afternoon/early evening. Visit and find out more—and get some handmade tamales, to be featured weekly.

With time at a premium, take a break from doing the laundry, having it washed, dried and folded by the crew at the **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue). Ask about tailor services offered here.

**#ThinkPampering.** Get ready for your holiday celebrations at **Ma Be's Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) or Nail Island (462 City Island Avenue). Get a new hairdo—or hair color—at **Before and After Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue). And call **Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0188) to pamper the "skin you're in"!

**#ThinkSeafood.** At the start of the Island, step into **Seafood Kingz** (634 City Island Avenue), a seafood/soul food restaurant, to sample their famous catfish dish, as well as sides like mac and cheese, collard greens, candied yams, and corn bread. Gather friends and family here to celebrate, to explore the books written by customers, and to see the signed record by regular patron Melba Moore inscribed, "I love Seafood Kingz." Ask about their New Year's Eve celebration.

Also at the top of the Island you'll find scrumptious seafood at the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue), maybe Norwegian salmon or red snapper filet. Or sample the seafood fare at **JP's Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue).

Mid-Island you'll find **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue) and their "winter specials," including a "Platter for Two" (2 clusters of snow crab legs, 10 broiled or fried shrimp, 4 pieces of broiled or fried lobster tails, served with corn on the cob and 2 sides).

For "fast fish," there's **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue) mid-Island—perhaps fried porgies or fried whiting, or **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue) on the far end—maybe lobster tails and fried shrimp. And **Johnny's Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) will be back serving up the seafood in the New Year.

**#ThinkFunAndFunTimes.** There's fun in exploring the treasures and toys and more at **239 Play** (239 City Island Avenue). Betty Boop, Trolls, Gumby, Raggedy Ann and Andy are just some of the fun folks who have been ready for purchase at this location in the past. See who's there this Holiday Season!

Fun and food may be found at **The Snug** (302 City Island Avenue). While you're dining, have a drink—maybe an Irish coffee or hot toddy—made by bartender Hannah or Alex or Michael, among others, to take the chill off the coldest of winter days. Next door, at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), comfort food awaits, including meat loaf or roast beef dinners, served with creamy mashed potatoes. Check out their daily soup selections, especially their Monday chicken soup!

Moving to the start of the Island, have fun with friends at **Archie's Table and Tap** (536 City Island Avenue), perhaps at a bourbon- or whiskey-tasting event, for brunch, or for lunch or dinner. Archie's also hosts private parties.



## City Island Aquarium

**#ThinkAdventure.** Stop by one of City Island's newest businesses, **City Island Aquarium** (316 City Island Avenue), where you can see and purchase beautiful fresh and saltwater fish, and maybe get a tank for a complete holiday gift package!

If it's the thrill of the "catch" that you like, stop by **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue). Marking 80 years on City Island in the New Year, Jack's offers a full line of fishing equipment, bait and boat rentals as well. There's also **Daniel Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) across the street.

Use your purchases aboard the **Island**



## Jack's Bait and Tackle

**Current Fleet** (551 City Island Avenue). You can book a fishing trip from their Facebook page ("Island Current Fishing Fleet") and see the catch of those who have made the journey!

"Discover diving" at **Captain Mike's** (530 City Island Avenue). Learn about lessons, and explore the gear you'll need, including special sales. Ask Captain Mike about underwater adventures and about his work with the City Island Oyster Reef ([www.cioysterreef.org/](http://www.cioysterreef.org/)).

There are adventures in learning and making at the newly opened City Island space **Imagine That!** (280 City Island Avenue). Talk with Denise about this "Makers Space Dedicated to Inspiration and Creativity," and check out their holiday sale days in December.

Explore City Island's past at the **City Island Historical Society/Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street; [www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org)) when it reopens in Spring 2024.

**#ThinkMagicalMoments.** The "sights" of the holidays are always magical in the décor of the season found at **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue). And while you're gazing around, sample the food fare—maybe pan-roasted Maryland crab cakes to start, followed by frutta di mare (shrimp, mussels and clams sautéed in a spicy tomato sauce served over fettuccine) or chicken Francese served with rice, and finished with a delicious dessert special.



## Jenny's Sweet Treats

And for "cake magic" look no further than the creations from Jennifer Glick of **Jenny's Sweets** (Instagram @jennys.sweets / Facebook @JennysSweetsSA); custom orders accepted.

**#ThinkTastyTravel.** No boarding passes are needed, just a drive up and down City Island Avenue! Along the way, you'll find the flavors of Mexico at **Little Frida's Eatery** (415 City Island Avenue), and of Italy at our newest restaurant, **City Island Pizza Company** (273 City Island Avenue). Check out their exciting weekly events, such as "Wine Down Wednesdays" (selection of wines at half price), or "Savory Saturdays" (unveiling the chef's creativity, introducing new, innovative pizza creations), or "Sunday Supper" (an Italian feast that will transport you straight to Nonna's kitchen).

For more of the flavor of Italy visit **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue) at the start of the Island—maybe fettuccine Alfredo or risotto Portofino—or **Scavello's on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue) near the end, perhaps rigatoni Bolognese or gnocchi al filetto di pomodoro.

You'll find flavors with a Latin flair at **Vistamar Restaurant and Lounge** (565 City Island Avenue), along with signature cocktails. **Caliente** (414 City Island Avenue) features Latin flavors and more.

Continued on page 20



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

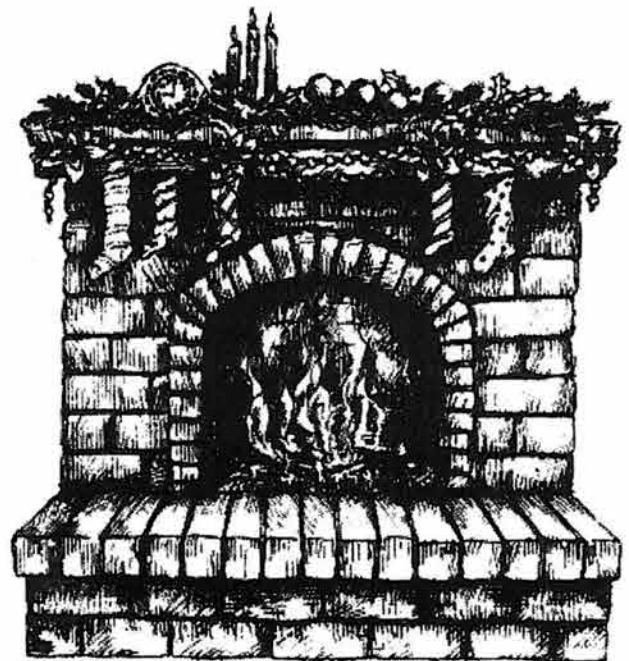


*In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.*



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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# THE ORIGINAL MOVIE COWBOY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



In 1900 Harry Carey, (back row, third from right), later a famous Western movie star, was a member of City Island's Volunteer Life Saving Corps, also known as Carey's Gang.

Harry Carey, whom John Wayne called "the greatest Western actor of all time," grew up on City Island, where he volunteered with the Lifesaving Corps. Even after he moved to Hollywood, Carey ran a movie company on City Island.

Many *Current* readers may not be aware that Movie Mania's subject this month, Western movies, owes a huge debt of gratitude to a City Islander named Harry Carey, who made hundreds of Western movies before the invention of sound for films.

Harry was the son of Judge Henry Carey and grew up on the northeast corner of City Island, then known as Carey's Point. Legend has it that young Harry was discovered by the famous movie director D. W. Griffith in Pelham Bay Park with his friends, riding the horses that pulled his father's stagecoach. The story goes that the director immediately took him out to Hollywood to make the first Western movies. This isn't exactly true, as Harry was already 30 years old when he met D. W. Griffith in 1908, but the real story isn't any less interesting.

Born in the Bronx in 1878, Harry moved with his family to City Island in 1884. He grew up here and attended the City Island School, which was then a building located in what is now Hawkins Park. Young Harry loved fishing, boating, watching the mounted police officers work their horses in the park, and riding the horses that pulled his father's stagecoach with his friends, a group known as Carey's Gang. In 1894 he was part of a baseball team known as The Pelhams (City Island was still part of Pelham at the time), and he later became a member of City Island's Volunteer Life Saving Corps, which held annual water carnivals to demonstrate their skills and efficiency.

Harry wanted to be an actor from an early age, but at his father's insistence he attended law school at New York University until he dropped out in 1904 because of a bout of pneumonia resulting from a boating accident in Long Island Sound.

While he recuperated, Harry wrote a Western-themed play called "Montana," which premiered in New Rochelle and was so successful that he toured with it for three years, complete with a live horse on stage. His next venture, a play called "Heart of Alaska," was a flop, in spite of the wolves he is said to have kept on High Island, which was then owned by the Carey family.

Since Harry had run out of money by this time, he took a job in 1908 at the American Mutoscope and Biograph Studio (founded by a former partner of Thomas Edison) and became part of D. W. Griffith's stock company. His first significant movie was a short Western called "Bill Sharkey's Last Game," filmed in 1909, probably in Pelham Bay Park near Hunter Island, where other silent film pioneers and camera crews were regularly sent to film scenes of the Wild West. In 1911, Harry moved west with Biograph and appeared in several films for director D. W. Griffith, but his career as a Western star began after he joined the Universal Film Manufacturing Company in 1915. He first played a good-hearted outlaw character named Cheyenne Harry in a 1916 feature, "A Knight of the Range." Carey's first film with John Ford (who went by Jack then, rather than John) was "The Soul Herder" (1917), a three-reel short and Ford's fourth directorial credit. "Straight Shooting" the first feature-length film made by Ford and Carey, was followed by 21 more Westerns made by the pair. Carey appears in most of these films as Cheyenne Harry, although the character itself was somewhat different in each film.

Harry's early interest in film making, however, went well beyond acting. In April 1912, the *New Rochelle Evening Standard* published the following item: "The latest

thing in motion picture manufacturing concerns is the new Union Picture Film Company, which is the development of the Carey Motion Picture Company located on City Island." According to the newspaper, the firm "intends to produce feature pictures of the Northwest. For this purpose the companies have been working all winter on City Island and other islands in the Sound, utilizing the ice in the Sound for frozen North settings."

City Island continued to play a role in the movie business even after Harry Carey moved to California in 1913. On Sept. 6, 1914, an ad in the *Pittsburgh Press* asked for investors to help fund the establishment of the Progressive Motion Picture Company, which had two studios, one in Los Angeles and one on City Island, and which promised to release within the next three weeks three of the most sensational films of the year. One of them, "The Master Cracksman," was written and directed by Harry Carey, who also had the starring role, and another was "McVeagh of the South Seas," also called "Brute Island," which Carey also directed and starred in with his first wife.

Harry Carey managed to survive the transition from silent to talking films thanks to his success in his first talkie, "Trader Horn (1931), and his career continued for another 20 years. In 1939 he was cast by director Frank Capra as president of the Senate in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award. Ironically, the winner of that award was Thomas Mitchell for his role in a Western called "Stagecoach." The newfound fame connected with Carey's nomination may have been what prompted the *New York Times* to interview him in 1940 about growing up on City Island.

In spite of his age, Harry Carey continued to star in Westerns, which had

regained popularity during the 1930s, and he also played supporting roles in other films until he died in 1947 at the age of 69. Although he and John Ford did not work together during the 1930s and 1940s, Ford often cast Harry Carey Jr. (born 1921) in important roles, and he dedicated his film "Three Godfathers" to Harry Carey Sr., calling him "Bright Star of the early western sky."

John Wayne, as Marion Morrison, had grown up watching Harry Carey's Westerns, and they eventually became close personal friends in Hollywood. Carey appeared memorably as Wayne's partner in "The Spoilers" (1942), and he and his son appeared with Wayne in the classic Western "Red River" (1946, released in 1948), which made Wayne a superstar. Unfortunately, father and son did not share any scenes, and it was the only film in which they appeared together. John Wayne, who called Carey "the greatest Western actor of all time," gave him an especially significant tribute in the very last shot of "The Searchers" (1955), where he imitates a distinctive hand gesture that Harry Carey often used in his own roles.

Even after he became world-famous, however, Harry Carey never forgot his roots. Captain Ed Sadler, who saw many of the Carey films at the Scenic Theater and Nickette, a silent movie theater in the building where the Crab Shanty is now, remembered that Carey came back to City Island in the early 1920s and addressed his hometown from the stage of the Raymond Theater (present site of Dominick's Market), pulling some members of Carey's Gang up on stage with him.

*Bernard Witlieb, longtime contributor of historical articles to The Island Current, profiled Harry Carey back in the 1990s and was helpful in providing information for this article, for which I am very grateful.*

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Photos by Paul NANI

The annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Nov. 25, 2023, turned Hawkins Park into a festive scene with lights and carolers led by Ken Farnum and St. Mary, Star of the Sea choir. It was the 25th anniversary of the first tree in the park when Peter LaScala and Elliott Glick, then Chamber of Commerce board members, worked to start the annual tradition. Elliot's granddaughter, Zoe Glick, lit the 2023 tree to the delight of a large crowd under a full moon. Thanks to the City Island Chamber of Commerce for both these joyous celebrations and for the lights above the avenue.

## 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.

### Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the New Year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," a stimulating, non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Our offerings are either on Zoom only, or take place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. To participate in any of our offerings, please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in or arrive 15 minutes early. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for December 2023:

Friday Evening Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m.)

Dec. 1: Erev Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Levy and band (TBE and Zoom)

Dec. 8: Erev Shabbat Service, with Shari and Monty (Zoom only)

Dec. 15: Erev Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Levy and band (TBE and Zoom)

Chanukah Menorah Lighting; Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:30 p.m. Hawkins Park: All Welcome!

Special Screening of the movie "Golda" on Sunday, Jan. 7, at Cinema on the Sound

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We would be happy to host you.

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

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

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

**Rachel Stark, President;**  
**Shari Berkowitz, Vice President**

### Sons of the American Legion

This month, I would like to start this posting by thanking all who came out on Veterans Day to the Winged Victory monument at Pelham Bay Park to recognize and honor those who have served in our armed forces. It was especially wonderful to see all the Scouts and Girl Scouts who attended. Please continue to show your appreciation to our servicemen and servicewomen every day. It means more than you know.

Our December meeting is on the 14th at 7:30 p.m.

The Legion Auxiliary will be holding their Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Dec. 9, the Legion Family will be having our Pearl Harbor Day service. We will gather at the Post at 11:30 a.m. and then proceed to the Memorial Triangle for the 12 noon service. Afterwards, attendees are

welcome to return to the Post for contemplation and light refreshments.

Also on Dec. 9, the SAL will be hosting the Army-Navy game, starting at 3 p.m.

There will be a Children's Christmas party at the Post on Dec. 17 starting at 1 p.m. All are welcome. There will be a certain jolly old elf making an appearance (parents please BYOG).

On Dec. 18 the Legion's annual Christmas party will be starting at 6 p.m. The entire Legion family is invited to enjoy some Christmas cheer.

In January, our meeting will be on the 11th at 7:30 p.m.

January is also the time for NFL playoffs, and we invite all fans to come out to the Post to watch the games. The Wild Card playoffs will be on Jan. 13 and 14; the Division Playoffs will be on Jan. 20 and 21, and the Championship games will be on Jan. 28. And stay tuned for our plans for Super Bowl Sunday in the February issue of *The Current*.

Here's wishing everybody Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

**Peter Chadwick**

### American Legion Auxiliary

On Oct. 29, 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 held a memorial service to honor nine members who have gone before us: Theresa Carmody, Jean D'Allesandro, Margaret Fennel, Virginia Gallagher, Helen Mc Mahon, Martina Meienhofer, Carmelia Ramftl and Ann Sullivan. We gathered with their families to share some wonderful memories and our utmost respect. A big thank you goes out to Carol Mennona and Nilda Nye for organizing this beautiful ceremony.

Please note that there will not be a January meeting. We will meet again on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

**Michelle Del Pozzo**

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street.

Our priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services since last August and is also very active in the Island community. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Christmas Services: Sunday, Dec. 24, Advent IV, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. The Christ-Mass and Church School Pageant.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month. They will lead the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m., a joyous retelling of the birth of Jesus with narrators, Bible roles, costumes and carols. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

Annual Meeting: Grace's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, Jan. 28, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Agenda items include the 2024 budget and Vestry election.

Minister of Music: Grace has an opening for the Minister of Music, the organist and choir director for the church. If you are interested or know of someone who might want to apply for the position, please contact Fr. Kevin Moroney at [kevinjmoroney@gmail.com](mailto:kevinjmoroney@gmail.com).

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects



Grace Episcopal Church held its first Halloween fundraiser on Oct. 28, 2023. Costumes were welcome, and the enthusiastic music from the live band (Tyrone Cox, Kevin Moroney, Charlie Palmieri, Amanda Rains, Frank Strazzera and Victor Washington) brought everyone out on the dance floor. The event was a success, and Grace is planning to make it an annual tradition.

non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

**Karen Nani**

### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity welcomes all of you to our times of worship, prayer, Sunday school and youth group and to the times of helping others.

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.

We have two prayer times. On Wednesday mornings at 10 we study the Bible and pray. On Wednesday evenings at 6:40 in the Sanctuary we pray, sing hymns and hear the Word of God read and preached.

On Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 we have our Youth Group for 5th through 12th grade.

Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Our Sunday School has reopened in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and young people: Won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and young people, and we do so with love, joy and peace.

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission: "That by the power of the Holy spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ." Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won't you come?

**Rick DeWitt**

### Holiday Services

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

City Island Avenue near the Bridge  
Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3: St. Mary's Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. School gym and the Thrift Shop.

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 31: No evening Mass  
Monday, Jan. 1: New Year's Eve (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 7 a.m.

#### Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue  
Sunday, Dec. 10: Chanukah Menorah Lighting: 4:30 p.m. at Hawkins Park.

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street  
Saturday, Dec. 2: Advent decorating and crèche setup.

Saturday, Dec. 9: Christmas Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16: Blue Christmas Service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 8 p.m.

#### Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street  
Sunday, Dec. 24: Advent 4, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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

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

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. and Vigil Saturday Evening at 5:15 p.m.; and Sunday 9 and 11 a.m.

Our Religious Education Program is grateful and thankful to all who participated in our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle. Your generosity and support made this year's raffle our most successful to date. Congratulations to our winners: first prize Rachel Denehy; second prize Mary Carman; third prize Judy Rauh. And special thanks to our donors: Seafood City, the Religious Education Staff, Janet Cerrato, Theresa Panza and Teri Kurtz.

Our monthly holy hour will take place on the First Friday, Dec. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

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

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

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

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 17, 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, Sunday, Dec. 24. Masses on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, will be at 9 and 11 a.m. A very Merry Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (not a holy day of obligation this year). The Mass will be on Monday, Jan. 1, at 7 a.m.

**Rosette Dietz**



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

Season's greetings. We wish all of our members, friends and residents a healthy and happy holiday season.

Rentals have returned at the Community Center for approved special celebrations and events. Celebrate your holidays in our spacious center with access to a full kitchen and restrooms. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 if you are interested in any upcoming dates.

Our fall schedule of offerings is below:  
**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

**City Island Civic Association:** Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

**Children's Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga & Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date Center information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook! And Happy Holidays!

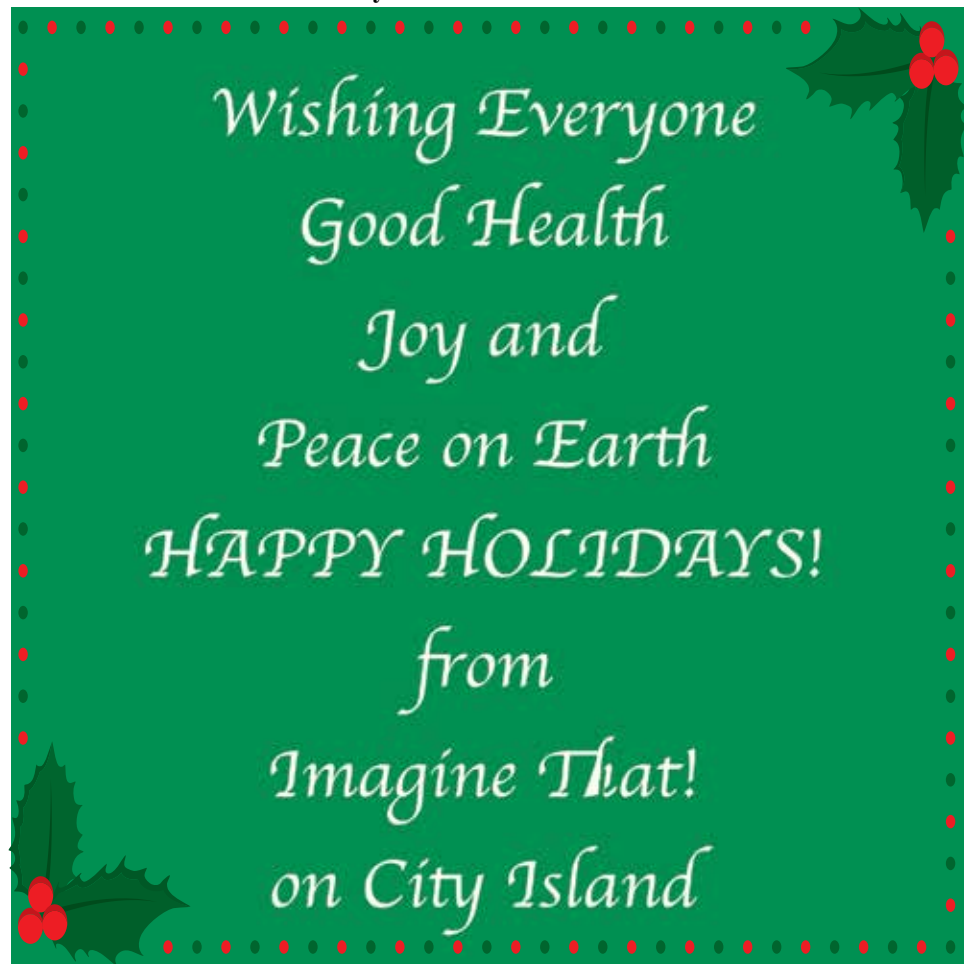
Melissa Cebollero

**AARP Chapter 318**

There will be no December meeting this year, so the next meeting will be Jan. 11, 2024, at 12 noon in Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Note that all future meetings will be at 12 noon.

On Feb. 21, we will attend Mardi Gras at the Staaten on Staten Island. Call 718-824-0037 for more information.

Cathy Kehoe



**City Island Republicans**

Kristy Marmorato will be the new councilwoman for City Island. For the first time in almost 20 years, our community will have a Republican elected official. When we vote, we win. She narrowly lost City Island but can easily win it again in two years. She is looking forward to working with everyone on City Island.

A big thank-you goes out to all of the hard-working poll workers who kept the poll site running smoothly.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

**St. Mary's Thrift Shop**

St. Mary's Christmas Fair will be on Dec. 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the shop and in the St. Mary's School Gym. The thrift shop will be closed Dec. 28 and 30 and will reopen on Jan. 4, 2024. Happy holidays and thanks for your support.

Arlene Byrne

**Garden Club of City Island**

At our November general meeting, members Barbara Dolensek and Hailey Clancy gave an informative update on the activities of the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR). They talked about the purpose of building oyster reefs, and their presentation included photos of CIOR volunteers and their many, many activities. It was great to share information about this important initiative for improving the waters around City Island.

In December, the Garden Club will host a flower-arranging demonstration by Nancy White of the Flower Bar in Larchmont. In January, Hailey Clancy will present the second in her series about native plants—the why and how of using them in our gardens. You will not want to miss this great presentation, which will start around 10:15 and run for 45 minutes. All are welcome!

Members continue their beautification projects. They are looking after the Post Office garden and thank Enrique Mendez and James Kisiday for donating the beautiful chrysanthemum display. The summer plants in our containers have faded, and the Garden Club thanks Scout Troop 211, under the leadership of Jake Diaz, whose Life Scout Project this was, for removing the old plants. As the old plants were being removed, Garden Club members wasted no time installing winter greenery, which looks fabulous and festive for the holidays. Club members distributed holiday wreaths to our public spaces, including the front of Hawkins Park, Ambrosini Field and Pel-

ham Cemetery as well as the Post Office, the fire house, library and group homes. As in past years, we will be donating five wreaths to the Veterans Home in Montrose, NY.

These projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to Island residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meetings will be Monday, Dec. 4, and Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Happy holidays to all!

Judy Judson

**City Island Oyster Reef**

P.S. 175 students are actively studying and protecting Long Island Sound. CIOR has been lending a hand as the students seine off the Living Shoreline, identify biodiversity and do water-quality testing with the Waterfront Alliance. In December, the students will design and construct "spat catchers" with Colonel Mike Clancy and Captain Mike Carew. Through generous support from Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, P.S. 175 will receive extensive science equipment, lifejackets and waders to enable the students to study the local marine environment in greater detail.

CIOR is moving forward on design plans and permit applications with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for oyster reef construction at three sites; Ambrosini Field, Delmour's Point and Pilot Cove. The City Island community has shown strong support of these restoration projects.

Our seasonal shell collection is complete, and we recycled more than 10,000 pounds of hard clam and oyster shells that are donated to support environmental efforts in Long Island Sound. Oyster shells will be seeded with spat by the Cornell Cooperative Extension's hatchery and returned to CIOR's oyster cages that are hanging from moorings and docks around City Island.

Brian Hickey of the City Island Scouts Troop 211 has focused his service project on improving and assisting the bagging and transportation processes of cured shell. We need your help loading and transporting the cured shell to Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Center in Southold, Long Island. The final date for loading bags of cured bagged shell is Dec. 10 (9 a.m. to noon) at the Pelham Bay Landfill, and the shell will be transported to a marine hatchery the next day. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to Luna Placchi, Community Outreach and Educational Coordinator, at [luna.placchi@cioystreef.org](mailto:luna.placchi@cioystreef.org).

Sally Connolly

**PSS City Island Center**

The holiday season is fast approaching, so why not stop by PSS City Island Center for some holiday cheer and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer? Chase the winter blues away and enjoy Spirit Week, Dec. 11–15. Enjoy cookies with Santa on Dec. 15 or watch a webinar on Artists who Made the Holidays Swing on Dec. 20.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the Center on Monday morning to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. He is now offering a Zoom-only class at 11 a.m. and two afternoon classes for i-Phones and android phones. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with

benefits and entitlements, such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the Center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick-up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to take someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat, etc.), please call the Center at 718-885-0727.

**December Activities**

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 11 a.m., Cyber 4 Seniors: Avoid Cyber Crime (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University).

Thursday, Dec. 7, at 12:45 p.m., History of World's Most Legendary New Yorker (webinar at the Center).

Thursday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 p.m., Artists Who Made the Holidays Swing (webinar at Center).

**The Current Schedule**

**Monday**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
- 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
- 8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
- 11 a.m. to 12 noon Zoom class with Julio
- 11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
- 1 to 2 p.m. i-Phone classes
- 1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes

**Tuesday**

- 9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
- 12 noon In the News
- 12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

**Wednesday**

- 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)
- 1 p.m. Board Games-Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg
- 1:15 p.m. In The News

**Thursday**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)
- 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)
- 1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

**Friday**

- 9 a.m. Broadway Dance (in person and remote)
- 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
- 11:30 a.m. Brain Games
- 1:15 p.m. Board Games
- \$20 Haircuts with Tammy on select Fridays in November.)

Transportation is available daily for shopping trips with a donation, which is needed to keep this service on City Island. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note the early closings and holiday hours for the center in December: Friday, Dec. 8, early closing at 1 p.m. (lunch will be served at 11:30); Friday, Dec. 22, early closing at 1 p.m. (lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30); Monday, Dec. 25, closed; Friday, Dec. 29, early closing at 1 p.m. (lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30); Monday, Jan. 1, closed.

PSS City Island wishes our members and our community a very, happy holiday season: Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a very happy and healthy New Year!

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella



### Classic Westerns of the 20th Century

A devoted fan of my column requested that I write about Westerns. Although I've never considered myself a real fan of the genre, I was surprised to note when I compiled the list that I had seen them all. These are the top classic Westerns in the eyes of the critics, examined here in chronological order.

**Stagecoach** (1939): John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Andy Devine, John Carradine. A powerful story of nine strangers learning about each other while traveling on a stagecoach under the threat of Geronimo (1 hour, 36 min.; director: John Ford).

**My Darling Clementine** (1946): Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell, Victor Mature, Walter Brennan, Ward Bond. Beautifully directed low-key Western about Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday leading to the inevitable gunfight at O.K. Corral (97 min.; director John Ford).

**The Treasure of Sierra Madre** (1948): Humphrey Bogart, Walter Huston (Best Supporting Actor), Tim Holt. A tale of an unlikely trio of prospectors for gold showing greed and human nature at its worst (124 min.; director: John Huston, Best Director and Screenplay).

**Red River** (1948): John Wayne, Montgomery Clift, Walter Brennan, Joanne Dru, John Ireland, Noah Beery Jr., Coleen Dru, Harry Carey Jr., Harry Carey Sr., Chief Yowlachie. During a cattle drive, a tyrannical guardian's behavior causes his adopted son to lead a mutiny against him (133 min.; director: Howard Hawks).

**Broken Arrow** (1950): James Stewart, Jeff Chandler, Debra Paget, Will Geer, Jay Silverheels. Authentic study of 1870s Apache Chief Cochise and ex-Army man trying to seek accord between feuding Indians and settlers (93 min.; director: Delmer Daves).

**High Noon** (1952): Gary Cooper (Best Actor), Thomas Mitchell, Lloyd Bridges, Katy Jurado, Grace Kelly, Otto Kruger, Lon Chaney Jr., Henry (Harry) Morgan, Lee Van Cleef. On his wedding and retirement day, a marshal learns that a gunman is coming to town seeking revenge. The film tells the story in "real time," as the many on-screen clocks will verify. Features Oscar winning song "Do Not Forsake Me, Oh My Darlin'" (84 min.; director: Fred Zinnemann).

**Shane** (1953): Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur, Van Heflin, Jack Palance, Brandon de Wilde, Ben Johnson, Edgar Buchanan, Emile Meyer, Elisha Cook Jr. A former gunfighter comes to the defense of homesteaders and is idolized by their son. The breathtaking cinematography by Loyal Griggs won an Oscar (118 min.; director: George Stevens).

**The Searchers** (1956): John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter, Vera Miles, Ward Bond, Natalie Wood, John Qualen, Harry Carey Jr. An American Civil War veteran embarks on a years-long journey to rescue his niece from the Comanches after the rest of his brother's family is massacred in a raid on their Texas farm. Cited multiple times as among the greatest movies of all time, it was also acknowledged by George Lucas as inspiring aspects of the Star Wars films (119 min.; director: John Ford).

**The Big Country** (1958): Gregory Peck, Burl Ives (Best Supporting Actor), Jean Simmons, Carroll Baker, Charlton Heston, Chuck Connors, Charles Bickford. A New England sea captain in the 1880s arrives at his fiancée's sprawling Texas ranch, where he becomes embroiled in a feud between two families over a valuable patch of land and water rights (166 min.; director: William Wyler).

**The Magnificent Seven** (1960): Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Eli Wallach, Horst Buchholz, James Coburn, Charles

Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter. Popular Western remake of **Seven Samurai**, about paid gunslingers who try to rout the bandits who are devastating a small Mexican town (126 min.; director John Sturges).

**The Sundowners** (1960): Deborah Kerr, Robert Mitchum, Peter Ustinov, Glynis Johns, Dina Merrill. Filmed on location, this is a story of an Australian family who travels to allow the husband to shear sheep at various ranches (133 min.; director: Fred Zinnemann).

**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance** (1962): James Stewart, John Wayne, Vera Miles, Lee Marvin, Edmund O'Brien, Andy Devine, John Carradine. A senator recounts the story of his origins when returning to a Western town for the funeral of an old friend (123 min.; director: John Ford).

**El Dorado** (1967): John Wayne, Robert Mitchum, James Caan, Arthur Hunnicutt, Edward Asner. An aging gunfighter helps a drunken sheriff quell a range war (126 min.; director: Howard Hawks).

**Fistful of Dollars** aka *Per un Pugno di Dollari* (1964, Italian): Clint Eastwood, Gian Maria Volonté, Marianne Koch, Wolfgang Lukschy. The "Man with No Name," a tough wandering gunslinger, plays two rival families against each other in a town torn apart by greed, pride and revenge. This Western remake of *Yojimbo* invented the term "spaghetti Western" (100 min.; director: Sergio Leone).

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** aka *Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo* (1966, Italian): Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach, Lee Van Cleef. Two men form an uneasy alliance in a bounty hunting scam against a third in a race to find a fortune in gold buried in a remote cemetery (2 hours; 58 min.; director: Sergio Leone).

**Once Upon a Time in the West** aka *C'era una volta il West* (1968, U.S.-Italian): Charles Bronson, Henry Fonda, Claudia Cardinale, Jason Robards, Keenan Wynn. A mysterious stranger with a harmonica joins forces with a notorious desperado to protect a beautiful widow from a ruthless assassin working for the railroad. Beware of the chopped-up two-hour, 20 minute version (2 hour; 45 min.; director: Sergio Leone).

**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** (1969): Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Katharine Ross, Strother Martin, Henry Jones, Jeff Corey, George Furth, Cloris Leachman, Ted Cassidy, Kenneth Mars. In 1890s Wyoming, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid lead a band of outlaws in a failed train robbery and find themselves pursued by a posse hard on their heels that forces them to eventually escape to South America. Won Oscars for Cinematography (Conrad Hall), Original Score (Burt Bacharach), Song, "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head" (Bacharach and Hal David), and

Original Screenplay (William Goldman) (112 min.; director: George Roy Hill).

**True Grit** (1969): John Wayne (Best Actor), Glen Campbell, Kim Darby, Jeremy Slate, Robert Duvall, Strother Martin, Dennis Hopper, Jeff Corey. An over-the-hill marshal helps a 14-year-old track down her father's killer (128 min.; director: Henry Hathaway).

**The Wild Bunch** (1969): William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, Edmond O'Brien, Warren Oates, Ben Johnson. Aging outlaws with their own code of ethics find themselves obsolete in 1913 and decide to retire after one final haul (134 min.; reissued in 1981 at 142 min., with two deleted sequences restored; director: Sam Peckinpah).

**Little Big Man** (1970): Dustin Hoffman, Faye Dunaway, Martin Balsam, Richard Mulligan, Chief Dan George, Jeff Corey, Alan Oppenheimer, Aimee Eccles, William Hickey. A reminiscence by a 121-year-old white man who was raised by members of the Cheyenne nation during the 19th century, and his attempts to reintegrate into American pioneer society having been a young pioneer, adopted Indian, drinking pal of Wild Bill Hickok, medicine-show hustler and survivor of Custer's Last Stand. (Originally released at 150 min.; 139 min.; director: Arthur Penn).

**McCabe & Mrs. Miller** (1971): Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, René Auberjonois, John Schuck, Bert Remsen, Keith Carradine, William Devane, Shelley Duvall, Michael Murphy. A deglamorized western set in turn-of-the-20th-century boom town and an ambitious small-timer who opens bordello there (121 min.; director: Robert Altman).

**Jeremiah Johnson** (1972): Robert Redford, Will Geer. A Mexican-American War veteran trying to live the life of a hermit becomes the unwilling object of a long vendetta by the Crow tribe in this chronicle of the life of a mountain man surviving wintry wilderness, Indians, rival trappers in the early frontier (116 min.; director: Sydney Pollack).

**Blazing Saddles** (1974): Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, Harvey Korman, Madeline Kahn, Slim Pickens. In order to ruin a Western town, a corrupt politician appoints a black sheriff, who promptly becomes his most formidable adversary in this hilarious Western spoof (93 min.; director: Mel Brooks).

**The Outlaw Josey Wales** (1976): Clint Eastwood, Chief Dan George, Sondra Locke. Near the end of the Civil War, a peaceful Missouri farmer turns vigilante when Union soldiers murder his family (135 min.; director Clint Eastwood).

**Silverado** (1985) Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn, Kevin Costner, Danny Glover, John Cleese, Rosanna Arquette, Brian Dennehy, Linda Hunt. A misfit bunch of four unlikely comrades join forces to right the injustices

that exist in a small Western town (132 min.; director: Lawrence Kasdan).

**Dances with Wolves** (1990): Kevin Costner, Mary McDonnell, Graham Greene, Rodney A. Grant, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, Tantoo Cardinal, Robert Pastorelli, Charles Rocket, Maury Chaykin, Larry Joshua, Wes Studi. An idealistic young Civil War soldier makes friends with a Sioux Indian tribe and eventually becomes one of them, but the arrival of Union soldiers has tragic results. Oscar winner for Best Picture, Director, Screenplay (Michael Blake, from his novel), Original Score (John Barry), Cinematography (Dean Semler), Editing (Neil Travis), and Sound Recording (181 min.; 237 min. "special edition" expands the story and characterizations; director [debut and Oscar]: Kevin Costner).

**Unforgiven** (1992): Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman (Best Supporting Actor), Morgan Freeman, Richard Harris, Jaimz Woolvett, Saul Rubinek, Frances Fisher, Anna Thomson, Anthony James. Mournful anti-Western about a one-time mad killer, long since reformed, who comes out of "retirement" to make one more hit because he needs the money for his family. Oscar winner for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Film Editing (Joel Cox) (127 min.; director [Oscar]: Clint Eastwood).

**Lone Star** (1996): Kris Kristofferson, Chris Cooper, Elizabeth Peña, Joe Morton, Ron Canada, Miriam Colon, Clifton James, Matthew McConaughey, Stephen J. Lang, Tony Plana, Frances McDormand. When the skeleton of his murdered predecessor is found in the desert, a sheriff unearths many other long-buried secrets in his Texas border town (134 min.; director: John Sayles).

**Horse Whisperer** (1998): Robert Redford, Kristin Scott Thomas, Sam Neill, Dianne Wiest, Scarlett Johansson (14 years old), Chris Cooper, Cherry Jones, Ty Hillman, Jeanette Nolan, Don Edwards. When a teenage girl is traumatized in a horse-riding accident, her domineering mother drives her and the horse to Montana, where a renowned horse trainer tries to rehabilitate the animal and—simultaneously—the girl (169 min.; director: Robert Redford).

And until next time, happy trails, merry everything and happy always, and happy viewing...



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# Girl Scouts of City Island

By DAN HICKEY



Photo courtesy of MELISSA ROSADO

The City Island Girl Scouts in Troop 1814 are eagerly looking forward to a new year of working for badges, serving the City Island community, and enjoying various activities, as well as selling their famous cookies.

City Island Girl Scout Troop 1814 is off to an active new year of service and personal development at the Community Center. Twenty-four girls from second through eighth grades are working on their badges and awards as they plan fun activities for the season that runs from October to June.

The troop began in Parkchester in 2018 and actually grew during Covid through Zoom meetings. As soon as in-person meetings began again, they moved to City Island and have been thriving in our scout-friendly community.

The lively troop has enjoyed water parks, skiing, and sailing together, as well as marching in the Memorial Day Parade. Frequent community-service programs have included a few Orchard Beach clean-ups and food drives for the Trinity Food Pantry and the Community Fridge. Food and toy drives are annual Troop 1814 events. The scouts are currently filling Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes with Christmas toys and necessities for children in underdeveloped nations.

When not serving the community, the girls are working on their badges and awards and planning fun activities that have included Broadway musicals, baseball games and big parties. Of course, we are all familiar with their entrepreneurial skills development selling delicious cookies.

The Girl Scout Cookie business helps the girls become leaders by teaching them goal setting, business planning, decision making, money management and social skills. Troop 1814 is very successful at selling cookies; the girls sold 8,319 boxes last season and donated the earnings to a children's hospital and an animal shelter. You will see them again in late winter hosting cookie booths here on City Island and Bay Plaza Mall.

The troop is almost at capacity with only a couple of openings in certain grades. They meet bimonthly on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Contact Troop Leader Melissa Rosado at [CIGirlScoutTroop1814@gmail.com](mailto:CIGirlScoutTroop1814@gmail.com) for more information.

# Chamber Gala at the Harlem Yacht Club

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER

Recipients of the awards presented at the City Island Chamber of Commerce gala on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, included (top photo, l. to r.): Tom Lucania, senior advisor to the Bronx Borough President, Peter Gennari of Clipper Coffee, who received the Sam Bierman Award for Business and Community Service (and is pictured above with his Clipper colleagues); Calliope Rigos, manager of the Black Whale, who was presented with the Tom Ceretta Business Award; Harlan Sexton, who accepted a Special Community Service Award on behalf of the Quilts of Valor project; Kurstal and Bill Clancy, who were honored with the Catherine Scott Community Service Award; David Ellis, who accepted a new business award for the Gallery; missing: Seafood Kingz and Little Frida's Eatery, recipients of new business awards. Family and friends congratulated Peter Gennari (bottom photo).

The City Island Chamber of Commerce held its 113th award ceremony at a dinner dance held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at the Harlem Yacht Club, honoring businesses and individuals who have made a contribution to the community. Nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate the achievements of the honorees and to celebrate three new businesses on the Island.

Peter Gennari, owner of Clipper Coffee, at 274 City Island Avenue, was given the Sam Bierman Award for Business and

Community Service. Calliope Rigos, manager of the Black Whale, was presented with the Tom Ceretta Business Award. Kurstal and Bill Clancy were honored with the Catherine Scott Community Service Award for their many contributions to the Island, and Harlan Sexton, representing the Quilts of Valor project, received a Special Community Service Award.

The new businesses recognized for their contributions to City Island were Seafood Kingz, Little Frida's Eatery and City Island Gallery. The Gallery award was accepted by David Ellis.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season, and THANK YOU!

Thank you for trusting me with your real estate needs. Thank you for embracing me as a neighbor and friend.

Moving here I did not anticipate adding City Island properties to my Manhattan business. But my passion for this uniquely wonderful island and its people had me think otherwise - it became my mission to raise the value of our properties!

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 13

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From Councilwoman-Elect, Kristy Marmorato

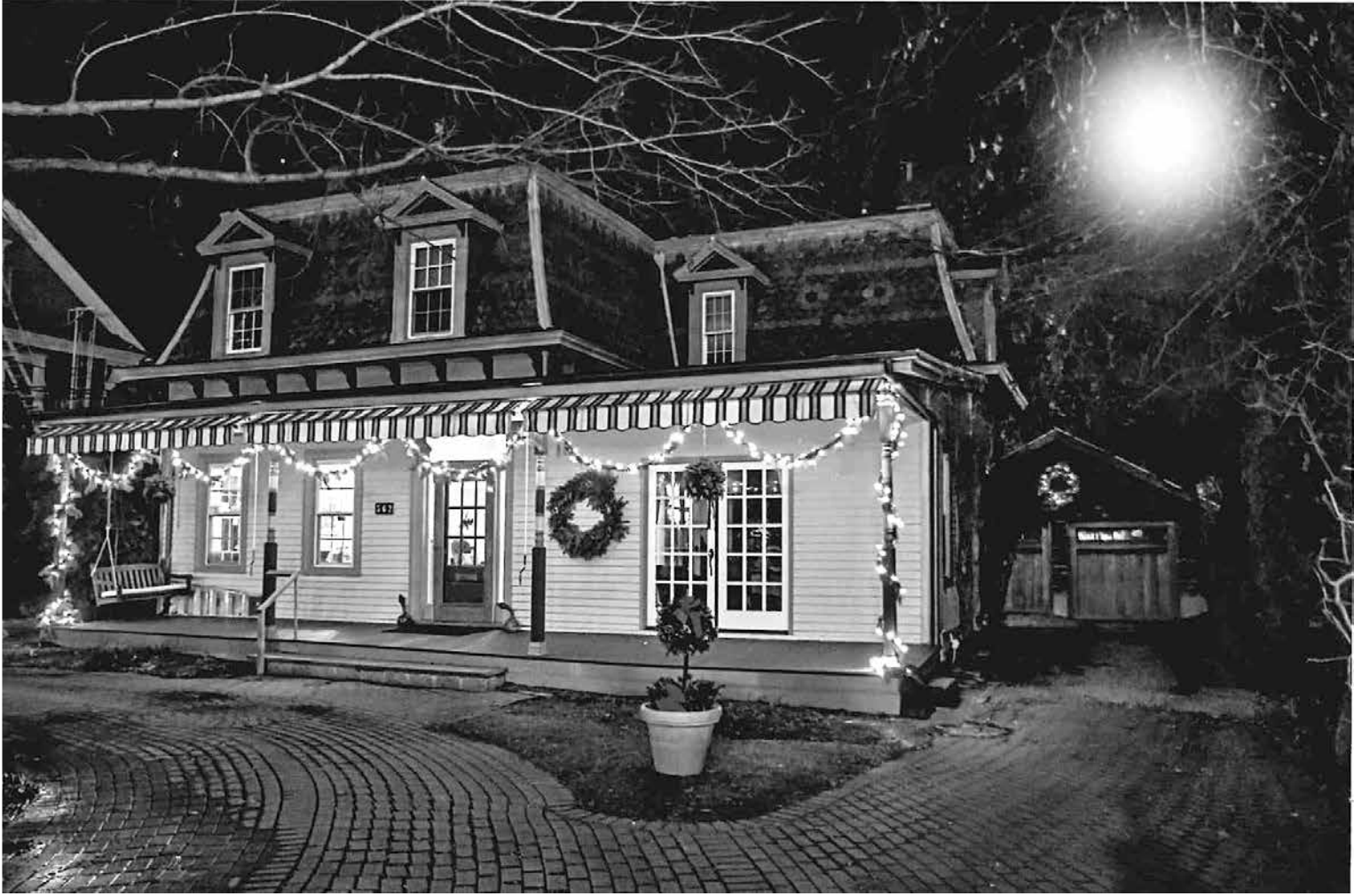
Thank You for believing in me and our vision for a better, more vibrant District 13.

I know this coming year will bring incredible opportunities for our community and our City. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for placing your trust in me. I will not let you down.

Sincerely,  
*Kristy Marmorato*

Although we have not yet officially taken office, if you are in need of assistance please contact us via our website: [www.KristyforNY.com](http://www.KristyforNY.com) and a member of my staff will reach out to help.





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Members of the Garden Club, including (l. to r.) Linda Kyriakos, Ellen Murphy and Maria Mangione, worked hard to put holiday greenery in the planters along City Island Avenue.

# The Beauty of City Island

By KAREN NANI



Photo courtesy of the Pecoraro Family  
Complexions Spa, at 403 City Island Avenue, is owned and run by Island residents Mary Jo Byrne and Joanne Rooney (photo at left). The building at the corner of Ditmars Street and City Island Avenue was the home of Pec's Soda and Candy Shop, run by Ida Pecoraro (photo above) starting in 1958.

## Give the Gift of Service This Holiday Season

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Shirley Chisholm, a Brooklynite and the first black U.S. Congresswoman, used to say that “service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.” As we approach the winter holiday season during a troubled time on our planet, please consider having your family participate in local community service projects. Showing up in person, kids in tow, and pitching in at the project you choose are action steps that put in motion our beliefs.

You might also consider the slogan “think globally, act locally.” We cannot easily relieve the suffering in Gaza or Ukraine, but we can address suffering in our own community. Kahlil Gibran put it this way: “Work is love made visible.” And helping others is a proven antidote to the winter blues. So rest assured that your children will benefit from the experience. What are you waiting for?

Wishing all a blessed December.

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Longtime Islanders may remember the building at the corner of Ditmars Street and City Island Avenue as the home of Pec’s Soda and Candy Shop. Run by Ida and Mary Pecoraro starting in 1958, it was one of the earliest woman-owned businesses on the Island. The tradition has continued into the 21st century with Complexions Spa at the same location, owned and run by Island residents Mary Jo Byrne and Joanne Rooney.

The beauty and wellness spa began as an idea the two women came up with while they were part of the medical staff at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. Mary Jo is a physician’s assistant, originally from Rhode Island, and Joanne is a registered nurse and nurse practitioner who grew up in the Bronx. They both moved to City Island in the 1990s and raised their families at the same time. Their children attended P.S. 175, and Mary Jo and Joanne became close friends.

“As we became more involved in the community, we joined an investment club run by Sue McGowan called ‘Off the Wall.’ For 10 years, we met, researched and invested in different stocks.” Their investments paid off, and when the group disbanded in 2017, they had some seed money to work with.

“We saw all the empty storefronts on the avenue, and we decided to open a business to provide a service to the community,” Mary Jo told *The Current*. They did some market research and found that there was a need for self-care and wellness among residents. So they created a business plan in 2017 and came up with Complexions, a spa to treat all skin types and issues.

“Our mission was to provide affordable, medical-grade aesthetic services and to promote wellness and self-care for both men and women on City Island, as well as from surrounding neighborhoods,” Mary Jo reminisced. “We were fortunate to find a home at 403 City Island Avenue, which is owned by Dean Pecoraro, Ida’s grandson.”

While still working at Montefiore (and eventually Einstein Hospital for Mary Jo), they started with a basic menu of facials and hair removal. As they grew into a “beauty enhancement” business, they added massage therapy and medical-grade aesthetics, including Botox and Juvederm. Joanne administers the microneedling for acne scarring and the injectable fillers to reduce wrinkles and other effects of aging on the skin. After she became a nurse practitioner, she was trained and certified by Allergan, the manufacturer of Botox. “We have been a Silver Level Member of Allergan for the past few years,” they told *The Current*.

The Complexions staff has grown as well. Donna Arcario is a board-certified massage therapist who relocated to City Island from Manhattan during the pan-

demie. Donna had her own in-house massage therapy practice at the well-known Oglivy Advertising Agency, and she also worked at Bliss Spa. “Massage has been shown to reduce stress and enhance circulation, and it is highly effective to reduce pain and release muscle knots,” Mary Jo explained.

Speaking of the pandemic, this reporter asked how the business survived the Covid shutdown. “We had to close for over a year and wait until we got the go-ahead to reopen from New York City. We are grateful to Dean for giving us rent-relief during this time.” According to Mary Jo, they have recovered since the pandemic and “then some.”

Complexions has many loyal customers from City Island, Westchester, Manhattan and even Connecticut. They also welcome walk-in clients. Mary Jo told the story of a boat owner whose yacht experienced some problems and was being serviced on City Island on its way south to Florida last month. “A woman from the boat came ashore looking for a massage and found us!”

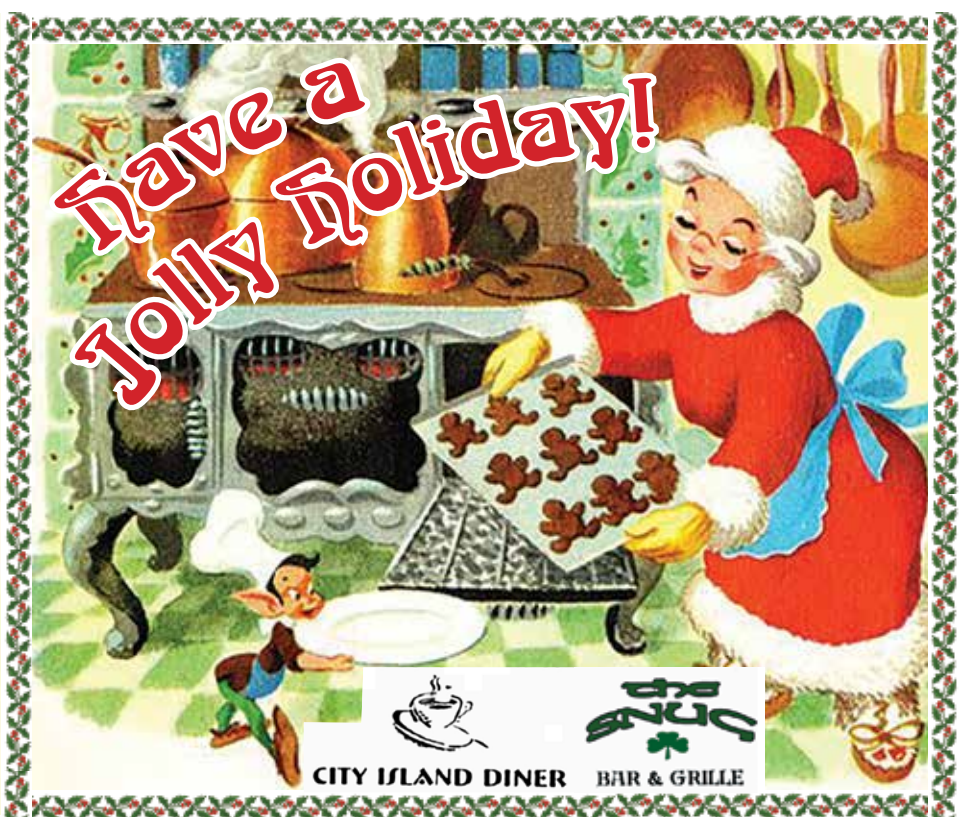
The business is also becoming a family affair. Joanne’s daughter, Sarah Graves, became a certified aesthetician and provides facials customized to the client’s needs and concerns. Each facial includes cleansing and exfoliation, either with enzymes or microdermabrasion using the Pristine device. Masques, steam treatment, extraction if needed, as well as arm and hand massage are included.

As they have grown, they have added specialized devices to their treatment offerings, including the Formatk IPL (intense pulsed light) device for hair removal and IPL photo facials to treat the effects of sun exposure and brighten the overall skin tone.

Complexions also offers a skin care line called Circadia, a collection of organic botanicals produced in Pennsylvania that are GMO and paraben free.

When asked why they have been longtime advertisers in *The Island Current*, Mary Jo said, “I love newspapers! I like to see things in print. My kids always loved to read *The Current* and we used to fight over who read the latest issue when it arrived.” She also explained that she and Joanne want to support as many local City Island businesses as possible. They allocate part of their annual budget to advertising each month in *The Current*.

The holidays are coming, and a perfect gift for someone you know could be a gift certificate to Complexions! The spa is open by appointment, which can be conveniently booked online at [complexionsci.com](http://complexionsci.com) or by calling the shop at 718-885-0188 or cell 347-210-5402. Mary Jo, Joanne and their staff work evenings and weekends as well as weekdays depending on their clients’ schedules. They are flexible and welcoming, and they have kept Ida Pecoraro’s spirit alive at 403 City Island Avenue.



We, Susan, Donna and Jim, along with our families and our amazing staff, want to thank you all for your continued support.

With the winter months approaching quickly, we decided to scale down our menu to ensure the quality we have always demanded and, at the same time introduce some fun, seasonal, new dishes.

*Our back kitchen will be open until 9 p.m. 7 days a week!*

We look forward to seeing you at the Diner and Snug soon for a “cheers” or a delicious homestyle meal. Call 718-885-0362 or 9559 or order online at [cityislanddiner.com](http://cityislanddiner.com).

We wish you all Happy Holidays and a warm, safe, healthy winter! Thank you again for patronage and friendship throughout the years.

# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Two Trees Island in Pelham Bay Park

### A Touch of Frost

It is not unusual, at this time of year, to get plunged into a bit of seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. The days are shorter and the deepening dark and cold takes some getting used to. To boost my spirits, I go outside and prune everything down (except the grasses) and decorate my shed with berried branches, dried miscanthus plumes and polished tools.

Outside I have two large terracotta pots that are fitted with wire mesh to support plant cuttings that will make a festive display. I can gather blue cypress, Norway spruce, large-leafed 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 potpourri. 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. Many seeds from the garden have been dried, packed and labeled. These also make nice little gifts for gardeners.

Have you seen the beauty of Pelham Bay Park in winter? I still can't believe my luck that I live so close to this haven of natural beauty. "None of nature's landscapes are ugly, as long as they are wild" says John Muir, and how right and how perfect the pictures are here out on the Sound and in the woods of our very own neighborhood. I think of how many beating hearts and eyes and teeth are under cover, going about their lives as we are going about ours. The daily business of everyday life diminishes the fact that we are nature as well.

Bartow-Pell and the New York Botanical Garden shops highlight gifts and books for the garden enthusiast, and both places sport delightful season festivities. Online the Garden Heir shop will have

the best gifts you could possibly give a gardener. They have everything from tools to clothes to antiques. Chris and Alex are amiable and eager to help if help is needed.

There are so many good shows right now in the city if you love art! It is the 50th anniversary of Picasso's death and MOMA's Picasso exhibition, "Picasso at Fontainebleau," is great. Pace Gallery has his drawings, and at Gagosian "A Foreigner called Picasso" is also on view. The Met exhibits Manet and Degas, and the Morgan Library is showing the drawings of Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo, who ushered in the Baroque. The Guggenheim and Whitney also look to have very promising shows.

Dec. 5 is the Sinterklaas Festival In Rhinebeck, NY. It is such a creative fete and extremely magical. In Kingston, NY, you can ride the Polar Express. Bryant Park NYC, designed by Lynden B. Miller, is a wonderful Christmas destination. You can have hot chocolate and cakes while you shop, and then you might head down to 54 Pearl Street to Fraunces Tavern for an authentic American dinner. Imagine dining where some of the founding fathers once dined, including good old George himself.

Back in the garden. Today the gardener has blown away all the new mulch I had put down with the leaves. Bulbs are still in their brown paper bags waiting to be planted. A new shipment of amaryllis is on the way, and still only half of my tools have been cleaned and sharpened. I come home between 2 and 3 and take a nap. It's winter Season's greetings!

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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# City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the City Island Culinary Club! Here we are with the holiday season quickly approaching. November did not go as well as planned because of plumbing issues at the Community Center, which was unavailable, so we all decided to have dinner together at the Lobster House!

With November behind us, the focus is on our annual cookie exchange. I can just smell all the wonderful, festive, sugary treats now. Coming in January is our second annual soup exchange. Nothing soothes you more on a cold winter's day than a hearty, warm bowl of soup, and club members will make enough to stock your freezer for a few meals. We truly encourage anyone who is interested to drop in and join us at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, to plan our first cookie exchange and on Dec. 20 we will have the exchange just in time for the holidays. We hope to see you there. Here is the recipe for Snowball Cookies.

### Snowball Cookies

This cookie dough is made from just five ingredients in one mixing bowl and needs only 30 minutes of chilling before baking. Without any complicated steps or ingredients, you can be confident that this easy snowball cookie recipe is foolproof. Toasted pecans are optional but add a lovely flavor.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup (16 Tbs.; 226g) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups (281g) all-purpose flour
- 1/8 tsp. salt (see note)

Optional: 3/4 cup (100g) finely chopped and toasted pecans

Coating: 1 1/4 cups (150g) confectioners' sugar

### Directions

1. Using a handheld mixer or stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter in a large bowl for one minute on medium speed until completely smooth and creamy. Add 3/4 cup (90g) confectioners' sugar and beat on medium high speed until combined and creamy. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Next, beat in the vanilla extract on medium-high speed until combined. Switch to low speed and slowly add the flour and salt. The dough will look dry and you may not think the flour will fully combine. Once all of the flour is added, turn the mixer up to high speed. The dough will come together. Finally, beat in the chopped pecans if using.

2. Cover the cookie dough tightly and chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes and up to three days. (If chilling for more than three hours, make sure you let the cookie dough sit at room temperature for at least 30 minutes before rolling it into balls. The cookie dough will be very stiff after being in the fridge for that long.)

3. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside. Pour the confectioners' sugar needed for the coating into a shallow bowl.

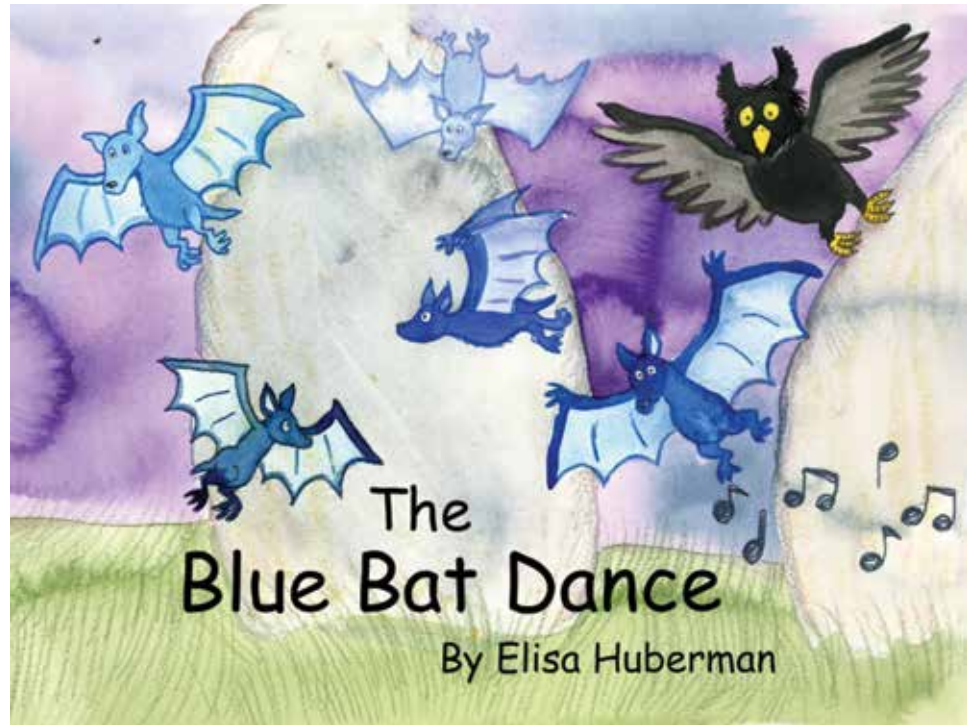
4. Scoop or roll one tablespoon (20g) of cookie dough for each cookie. Roll into a ball and place on the baking sheet at least two inches apart. Bake the cookies until golden brown on the bottom edges and just barely browned on top, about 15 minutes.

5. **Coating:** Allow the cookies to cool for five minutes on the baking sheet, then very gently roll them in the confectioners' sugar to coat completely. Place the cookies on wire racks to cool completely. The confectioners' sugar will melt a bit and get sticky, but that's okay. Once the cookies have completely cooled, roll in confectioners' sugar again. This is when the sugar will really stick.

6. Cookies stay fresh covered at room temperature for up to one week.

## A Current Review

# "The Blue Bat Dance" by Elisa Huberman



Island resident Elisa Huberman is a self-taught artist. She's a young woman with autism who is also a talented author and illustrator of children's books, as well as a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Elisa has a new children's book, "The Blue Bat Dance," a whimsical, slightly spooky tale of blue bats who come out to dance in the moonlight when the witching hour comes. It is a 32-page full-color picture book (available on Amazon), illustrated in watercolor plus pen and ink, and it will appeal to adults as well as young readers.

Elisa's other books, such as "The Upside Down Giraffe," about a giraffe who decides to see things another way, and "The Odd Duckling" tell stories about being different and finding acceptance. Her books feature an assortment of original characters: Thaddeus the one-eyed dragon wizard; Kira, the warrior princess; Hamish, the lost alien; Umbela-Isolba, the Ring Genie; Spotty the Bunny Clown, and a rather unique Odd Duckling.

Self-taught artists (the field is sometimes referred to as "outsider art" or "independent art") like Elisa are often from neurodiverse or marginalized backgrounds. Many have significant limitations in communication or movement, and yet they find their voices by producing amazing art.

More and more galleries in the New York City area, such as the Summertime Gallery in Williamsburg, and the LAND gallery in Bedford-Stuyvesant feature work by self-taught artists. The Autism Museum, a peripatetic gallery, had a 2022 exhibit in Brooklyn by artists on the spectrum which attracted outsider artists from across the U.S. and this year launched an exhibit of outsider art from Ghana. The Outsider Art Fair will be holding its next fair in Manhattan from February 29 – March 3, 2024.

Elisa's artistic home is Pure Vision Arts (PVA), a studio in the Flatiron district run by Shield Institute for artists with a range of disabilities. PVA has a bevy of prominent artists such as Walter Mika, Simone Johnson, Susan Brown, and Alba Somoza whose pieces feature eclectic cats, surreal urban scenes, and striking abstracts.

The highly imaginative illustrations of "The Blue Bat Dance" are easy for young readers to relate to. Some images have no words, which invite readers to use their own imaginations and engage in the delightful nighttime adventure. It will also be on sale at the Focal Point Gallery and Kaleidoscope Gallery on City Island, and Elisa will be doing a book signing at Focal Point on Dec. 2. And next year an Audible Book version of "The Blue Bat Dance" voiced by the author herself, will be available from Amazon.

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# A Current Review City Island Crime Story

By MARSHA TREIBER



George Mascia

On Nov. 15, I had the good fortune to attend the encore showing of the original and delightful short film “City Island Crime Story” presented at The Artist Café.

The film featured City Islanders Aniello Digiovanni as Nicky Conn, Frank Assenze as Frankie Garbage (aka Don Fo),

Tom DiRusso as Bobby Fingers, Elliott Glick as Sergai Restova, Vincent Montemurro as Vinnie Brachole, Tom Vivolo as Tommy Whispers and George Mascia playing two roles as Joey Manno and Bobby Mash. They are all stereotypical members of Italian and Russian mafia-type gangs conversing about robberies and murders and strategizing about how to get away with crimes, such as stealing money and putting the blame elsewhere. The dialogue was hilarious, and the actors were believable as old time B-movie criminals.

I had the great pleasure of speaking to its writer, director, actor and brilliant editor George Mascia. When the pandemic shutdown happened, Mascia used the time as an opportunity to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a filmmaker. He shot all the actors individually and then edited them into having conversations together. It was an amazing cohesive whole. From the opening scene of gun shots to the finale, there was ample opportunity for laughter.

Thanks to the enthusiastic reception of the audience, there is a good chance that there will be another chapter to this story. Congratulations to all participants in this enjoyable undertaking.

## Holiday Island

Continued from page 9

Another spot offering a mix of cuisine is **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue), and you get a “show” as you watch your food prepared table-side.

**#ThinkFitnessAndFixingUp.** Looking for a brand new you for the New Year? Check out the possibilities at **Club Fit** (466 City Island Avenue). Explore the offerings at **City Island Mixed Martial Arts** (229 City Island Avenue)—and learn of their recent competition victories! Inquire about what’s possible at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue) for the best you for 2024.

For your needs on land or sea, there’s help for all the tasks at **Buddy’s Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) or **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue). Have a favorite chair that needs a makeover? Look into the services offered by **Remy’s Cushions** and neighbor **Jai Upholstery** (272 City Island Avenue), or **Ortega Upholstery** (152 City Island Avenue). And if it’s glass you’re in need of—for windows or shelving and more—stop in to see Maria and her team at **Bayview Glass** (104 Hawkins Avenue).

**#ThinkTimeOut.** As the season gets into full swing, you’re going to need to press “stop” to recharge and regroup, so step inside **Clipper Coffee** (274 City Island Avenue) for

a coffee or cappuccino and take home their coffee beans roasted on the premises, a great gift for the coffee lover in your life. Say “hi” to Pete and his team, check out the art on the walls, and be part of the daily survey through the counter’s tip jars!

And if you need time out from the kitchen after a long day of shopping, leave the cooking to **Dominick’s Market** (385 City Island Avenue). Grab one of their pre-made meals. They also have a full catering menu. For your late-night needs, the **Firehouse Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) has you covered, as does the convenience store at the **Sunoco Gas Station** (410 City Island Avenue), which is open 24 hours.

**#ThinkYachtClubs.** City Island’s yacht clubs—**Harlem Yacht Club** featuring **Anne Booth Catering** (417 Hunter Avenue; [www.hyc.org](http://www.hyc.org)), the **City Island Yacht Club** (63 Pilot Street; [www.cityislandyc.org](http://www.cityislandyc.org)), and the **Morris Yacht and Beach Club** (25 City Island Avenue; <https://morrisybc.com/>) offer in-house dining, and special events. Check out the choices for the Holiday Season!

**#ThinkStellarService.** Be sure to check out City Island’s service and professional businesses for your year-round needs. More information may be found at <https://cityislandchamber.org/directory/>.

This year, as every year, no matter what you’re #thinking for the holidays, City Island’s shops, galleries, restaurants, cafes and businesses have just what you need!



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Holiday  
Season**

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

**DECEMBER 2023**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
01	Fri	0202	6.83	0748	0.91	1355	7.30	2047	0.50	Fri 01
02	Sat	0248	6.71	0824	1.21	1438	6.97	2124	0.87	Sat 02
03	Sun	0338	6.62	0909	1.45	1528	6.68	2200	1.15	Sun 03
04	Mon	0431	6.58	1003	1.59	1629	6.44	2239	1.31	Mon 04
05	Tue	0526	6.61	1110	1.61	1739	6.30	2324	1.37	Tue 05
06	Wed	0617	6.70	1222	1.48	1840	6.25			Wed 06
07	Thu	0013	1.32	0703	6.83	1321	1.22	1931	6.27	Thu 07
08	Fri	0100	1.20	0739	7.00	1411	0.89	2015	6.33	Fri 08
09	Sat	0145	1.02	0810	7.22	1456	0.52	2052	6.44	Sat 09
10	Sun	0230	0.81	0843	7.48	1537	0.17	2126	6.58	Sun 10
11	Mon	0314	0.60	0921	7.76	1618	-0.14	2204	6.74	Mon 11
12	Tue	0358	0.41	1002	8.01	1659	-0.37	2244	6.91	Tue 12
13	Wed	0445	0.28	1046	8.18	1742	-0.51	2329	7.06	Wed 13
14	Thu	0533	0.22	1133	8.24	1828	-0.54			Thu 14
15	Fri	0016	7.16	0624	0.23	1222	8.15	1917	-0.46	Fri 15
16	Sat	0106	7.20	0719	0.31	1315	7.92	2010	-0.31	Sat 16
17	Sun	0201	7.20	0820	0.42	1413	7.57	2110	-0.11	Sun 17
18	Mon	0303	7.17	0934	0.51	1519	7.17	2217	0.08	Mon 18
19	Tue	0415	7.17	1100	0.46	1641	6.82	2329	0.19	Tue 19
20	Wed	0534	7.26	1216	0.22	1810	6.67			Wed 20
21	Thu	0036	0.20	0643	7.44	1323	-0.12	1920	6.68	Thu 21
22	Fri	0138	0.13	0744	7.66	1423	-0.47	2021	6.75	Fri 22
23	Sat	0235	0.03	0839	7.85	1519	-0.77	2115	6.85	Sat 23
24	Sun	0328	-0.05	0930	7.99	1610	-0.94	2205	6.93	Sun 24
25	Mon	0417	-0.07	1018	8.04	1659	-0.97	2253	6.99	Mon 25
26	Tue	0503	-0.02	1103	8.00	1744	-0.86	2337	7.01	Tue 26
27	Wed	0545	0.10	1145	7.88	1826	-0.63			Wed 27
28	Thu	0019	6.99	0624	0.28	1224	7.70	1905	-0.32	Thu 28
29	Fri	0058	6.95	0657	0.48	1258	7.47	1938	0.01	Fri 29
30	Sat	0134	6.89	0722	0.67	1327	7.23	2002	0.31	Sat 30
31	Sun	0205	6.82	0748	0.82	1356	6.98	2018	0.68	Sun 31
<b>JANUARY 2024</b>										
01	Mon	0233	6.65	0825	1.05	1432	6.56	2046	0.82	Mon 01
02	Tue	0306	6.61	0908	1.14	1514	6.31	2124	0.94	Tue 02
03	Wed	0345	6.58	0956	1.20	1602	6.08	2209	1.04	Wed 03
04	Thu	0430	6.59	1051	1.21	1656	5.90	2258	1.11	Thu 04
05	Fri	0520	6.65	1154	1.13	1756	5.81	2351	1.13	Fri 05
06	Sat	0614	6.79	1307	0.92	1902	5.85			Sat 06
07	Sun	0049	1.07	0709	7.02	1418	0.59	2006	6.03	Sun 07
08	Mon	0148	0.91	0803	7.32	1515	0.19	2101	6.32	Mon 08
09	Tue	0248	0.67	0856	7.66	1606	-0.22	2150	6.66	Tue 09
10	Wed	0345	0.36	0947	7.98	1653	-0.59	2237	7.02	Wed 10
11	Thu	0440	0.05	1037	8.22	1739	-0.88	2324	7.35	Thu 11
12	Fri	0534	-0.22	1128	8.35	1824	-1.05			Fri 12
13	Sat	0011	7.61	0627	-0.42	1219	8.31	1911	-1.08	Sat 13
14	Sun	0059	7.76	0722	-0.50	1311	8.09	1958	-0.96	Sun 14
15	Mon	0150	7.79	0820	-0.46	1407	7.73	2049	-0.72	Mon 15
16	Tue	0245	7.71	0924	-0.32	1507	7.26	2145	-0.39	Tue 16
17	Wed	0346	7.55	1035	-0.17	1619	6.78	2249	-0.04	Wed 17
18	Thu	0456	7.38	1148	-0.07	1739	6.42	2359	0.25	Thu 18
19	Fri	0610	7.28	1257	-0.08	1853	6.27			Fri 19
20	Sat	0107	0.42	0718	7.30	1401	-0.17	1958	6.29	Sat 20
21	Sun	0211	0.46	0819	7.39	1459	-0.30	2056	6.41	Sun 21
22	Mon	0309	0.41	0915	7.51	1553	-0.40	2148	6.59	Mon 22
23	Tue	0401	0.35	1005	7.60	1641	-0.43	2236	6.77	Tue 23
24	Wed	0448	0.30	1052	7.63	1725	-0.37	2319	6.91	Wed 24
25	Thu	0531	0.30	1133	7.58	1805	-0.23	2359	6.99	Thu 25
26	Fri	0609	0.34	1210	7.46	1840	-0.04			Fri 26
27	Sat	0035	7.01	0640	0.42	1241	7.28	1907	0.16	Sat 27
28	Sun	0103	6.98	0700	0.49	1302	7.08	1918	0.32	Sun 28
29	Mon	0121	6.95	0719	0.52	1323	6.90	1933	0.39	Mon 29
30	Tue	0142	6.95	0750	0.56	1353	6.72	2003	0.45	Tue 30
31	Wed	0213	6.96	0828	0.63	1431	6.52	2041	0.56	Wed 31
<b>FEBRUARY 2024</b>										
01	Thu	0251	6.95	0912	0.74	1514	6.29	2124	0.72	Thu 01
02	Fri	0335	6.92	1002	0.87	1604	6.06	2213	0.91	Fri 02
03	Sat	0425	6.90	1058	0.96	1701	5.89	2306	1.07	Sat 03



**They're Backkkkkk!**

In the span of about four days in October we welcomed the return of four feathered friends to our little part of City Island. The first common loon of the season made its presence known with an unmistakable yodel. It can be an eerie sound in the dark, but this one happened in broad daylight. And, sure enough, there it was, about 100 feet offshore, intermixing more yodels with deep dives for food.

Another diving bird that made its return to our area from its breeding grounds way up north was the bufflehead. Although drab-colored female buffleheads can be confused with other waterfowl, males almost certainly cannot. They may be small, especially beside a common loon, but their striking, white tuxedo-like appearance is a dead giveaway every time.

On dry land, white-throated sparrows are back. As their name would suggest, these birds are often distinguished from other sparrows by a prominent white throat. They make themselves known in

other ways, too. White-throated sparrows like to scrounge around for food in the leaf litter on the ground, and they usually do it in groups. They also sing an easily recognizable song, one that is often compared to "OLDDDD SAMMMM PEABODY-PEABODY-PEABODY" (that's Old Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody, with the first two syllables slower than the rest).

The bald eagle in the picture below, taken by Stacey Martin, certainly made its presence known.



Stacey spotted it flying in and then ran back into the house to take the picture. Usually, the bald eagles that we see are pinpricks by comparison, riding the thermals, high in the sky. The way in which an eagle circles in the sky is distinctive, though. Being the very strong animal that it is, an eagle soars with its wings straight across, like an airplane's, and it tends not to rock side to side, even when there is wind. Often mistaken for eagles, turkey vultures circle the sky with their wings pointed up in a kind of V-shape. They are much more likely to rock side to side in their relentless search for food. Another, less common vulture in our area is a black vulture. Black vultures are easily distinguished from turkey vultures because they don't have the head shape and color of . . . you guessed it, a turkey.

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# A New Look at Death

By CAROLINE COPPOLA

At the end of every year, some truths and traditions can't be ignored. First, another year has passed, and we may not have accomplished everything we promised ourselves we would. New opportunities presented themselves, and major and minor changes in our everyday lives occurred. Next, we are going to eat too much in the last two months of 2023. And finally, 'tis the season when loved ones leave us in what can be a very rapid and saturated rate.

This, the first in a two-part article on end-of-life events, specifically funerals, is meant to be an education in trends in death care and the language that accompanies it. Much of the information comes from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), and more information can be found on their website. Anecdotes and opinions are my own.

Morticians/undertakers/funeral directors—choose your favorite—have the specific responsibility of caring for the dead, AND for the living as well. We bring newly deceased individuals into our professional care, and we meet with their families to arrange services and disposition. It is our responsibility to file necessary paperwork for death certificates and burial and cremation permits. We are the liaison between families and churches and cemeteries, and we must be sure that no detail is left out. Sometimes, we use professional language, forgetting that the people we are helping don't know what all of these words mean. So here is a list.

**Burial:** Interring a dead body in the ground. In our society, this is usually in a casket, and burial grounds are called cemeteries.

**Green Burial:** A service with an emphasis on environmental sustainability, which may feature a biodegradable casket or shroud, no embalming, and burial in a green cemetery. This is done soon after the death, as only minimal preparation is necessary. It is required by some religions.

**Cremation:** The process of reducing a body to bone fragments through intense heat and flame. These are not really ashes. Cremated remains are bone fragments rather than ashes, which comes burned wood, as in a fireplace.

**Embalming:** The process of temporarily preserving human remains by chemically treating them to slow the decomposition process and restore physical appearance. This is usually done within 48 hours of death.

**Funeral:** A ceremony or service held with the body (or cremated remains) present to commemorate the life of a loved one. Religion plays heavily into funeral traditions. (On the NFDA website search for "Religious Funeral Customs.")

**Memorial Service:** A service or ceremony held without the body present to commemorate the life of a loved one. Location can be house of worship, funeral home,

or other location. Can be held shortly after the death or years later.

**Celebration of Life:** A secular event remembering a deceased. Similar to a memorial service with a "happier" theme.

In addition to the above, two very important changes have appeared in death practice over the past few years.

**Old:** Coffin. Think Halloween decoration. A coffin is six-sided and made of wood; the top hinges up or comes off completely. These are not used in the United States.

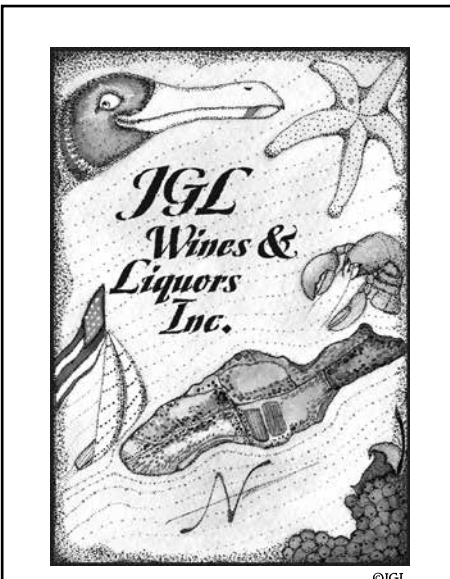
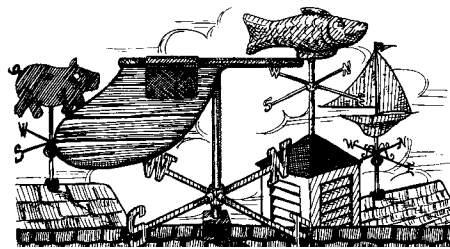
**New:** Casket, a burial container. This can be made of wood or metal (stainless steel or bronze). Containers used for cremation can be cardboard, cloth-covered cardboard, or simple wood; natural burials that do use burial containers must be easily biodegradable, such as a straw basket.

**Old:** "Committed Suicide." The word commit implies a criminal act.

**New:** Died by or of suicide. People die from many causes, "died of cancer," "died from heart failure." "Died by suicide" takes the emphasis off the act and allows us to talk to those who are affected with compassion and without judgment.

The second part of this article will acknowledge or refute some of the myths in the funeral business, give some encouragement to making plans in advance, and suggest appropriate things to say when you don't know what to say to grieving families.

*Caroline Coppola has called City Island her second home for the past 13 years, during which time she has been the Minister of Music at Grace Episcopal Church. After a career in higher education, she felt called to "work with the living and the dead," and she enrolled in the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science online program in January 2020. Classes kept her busy during the Covid-19 pandemic. After a practicum and working part time at funeral homes in Westchester and the Bronx, she is now working in Danbury, CT.*



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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.



### Kevin Clancy

Kevin J. Clancy, who was born and grew up on City Island, passed away on Oct. 19, 2023, in Gloucester, MA, at the age of 81.

Kevin was born on March 10, 1942, the son of William and Anne (Sullivan) Clancy. He graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Cardinal Hayes High School, and, in part through service in the U.S. Marine Reserves, from the City University of New York. He then earned his doctorate in social psychology at New York University and went on to become a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and later Boston University.

In Boston Kevin served as a vice president at BBDO Advertising and then launched a marketing research company, Clancy Shulman and Associates, which merged with Yankelovich, Skelly and White to form Yankelovich Clancy Shulman. Kevin later co-founded Copernicus Marketing Consulting and Research. He wrote multiple business bestsellers and in 2008 was inducted into the Marketing

Research Hall of Fame. In 2015, for "landmark contributions" and "outstanding leadership," he received the Charles Coolidge Parlin Marketing Research Award, joining such giants of the field as Arthur Nielsen and George Gallup.

Kevin and his first wife, Elinor Lentine, raised three children in Bedford, MA. He then married Kathleen O'Meara, and they raised their son, Neville, in Gloucester, where the family became integral members of the community. He provided copious pro bono marketing advice to organizations such as the Gloucester Education Foundation, Pathways for Children and Maritime Gloucester.

No tribute to Kevin would be complete without mention of his great love of boats. As an infant and toddler, he lived on a houseboat, and from then on, he was never happier than in a watercraft of any size or style. For him, a boat was not a refuge but instead something to share: a day on the ocean was a day with family and friends, talking about antics growing up on City Island. Kevin and his brothers, Bill, Tom and Gerald, were close from childhood into adulthood, convening often on land and sea. Some of Kevin's closest friends were those he made when he was just a boy, lifelong friendships that shared many adventures, laughs and life's milestones.

Kevin was predeceased by his parents and his older brother, William. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; and their son, Neville; his children, Susan (Niels Ketelhohn), David (Helen Kim) and Karen (Owen McCormick); and their mother, Elinor C. Clancy. He also leaves his younger brothers, Thomas and Gerald; nine granddaughters; many nieces and nephews, countless other relatives and friends, and his long-term caregiver Jemila McDonald.

A celebration of Kevin's life was in Gloucester on Nov. 13. For those wishing to donate in his memory, the family suggests the Gloucester Education Foundation, the Kaplan House or the Parkinson's Foundation.

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**ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE** by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: [marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com](http://marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com). Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas. Show your bridge love!

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Photo by REGINA MURPHY

On Oct. 29, 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 honored nine members who passed away recently in a touching memorial: Jean Anderson, Theresa Carmody, Jean D'Allesandro, Margaret Fennel, Virginia Gallagher, Helen McMahon, Martina Meienhofer, Carmelia Ramftl and Ann Sullivan, whose families gathered with the unit to share memories, honor and respect for each of them. Nilda Nye and Carol Mennona (above) were the unit organizers.

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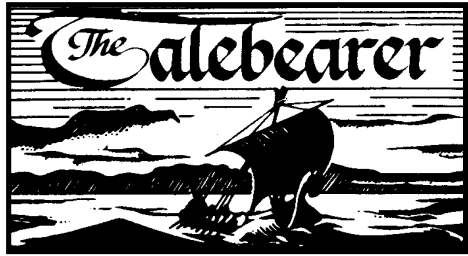
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Clam digger Melissa Dzenis Garcia, a graduate of Fordham School of Law, passed the New York State Bar exams in Fall 2023.

Happy birthday on Dec. 24 to our beautiful daughter, Katie McCormick, with all our love.

December birthday greetings to Jennifer Welsing, Roseanne McCormick and Linda Murphy.

Congratulations to Melissa Dzenis Garcia, a recent graduate of Fordham School of Law, for passing the New York State Bar exams. Melissa is the daughter of Peter and Estrellita Dzenis of Minnecord Avenue. She is currently working at Weil, Gotshal and Manges, a New York-based law firm. God bless and good luck!

Welcome to the world Summer Rosemary. Born Nov. 7 to parents Kimberly and Erol Doulos and proud big sister Lola. Aunt Lauren is elated, and "Grammy & Pop" Debbi and Tom Nye are over the moon in love with both their girls.

Happy birthday to my grandson Jake Penny, who turns 14 on Dec. 26. And congratulations on making the basketball team. Looking forward to your first game. Lots of love, Grandma Penny.

Welcome to the world Natalie Nogueira Nani, who was born on Nov. 1. Proud parents are Horton Street residents Mark and Lorena Nani, and proud grandparents are Karen and Paul Nani and Lydia Dos Santos. The little clam digger has been smiling at her big brother, Christopher, ever since her arrival on City Island.

Happiest of birthdays on Dec. 22 across the miles to former Islander Anjulee Sebastian. Your family and friends wish you a wonderful day!

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

Birthday greetings on Dec. 11 to former Islander Donna Buhl. Your family and friends hope you enjoy your special



Summer Rosemary Doulos was born on Nov. 7, 2023. She is pictured here with her big sister Lola Sage.

Congratulations to Islanders James Breen and Mike Rauh, who finished the New York City Marathon on Nov. 5, 2023. It was James' eighth and Mike's 44th! Tommy Breen videoed and photographed James and Mike along the course.

Wishing our friends, neighbors and readers a very happy and healthy holiday. All the best in the New Year!

Maria Swieciki



Natalie Nogueira Nani was born on Nov. 1, 2023.



Photo by SUSIE RAUH

Congratulations to Mike Rauh, who completed his 44th consecutive New York City Marathon on Nov. 5, 2023, in 6 hours 49 minutes 50 seconds. Family and friends were there to cheer him on, including his wife, Judy, and daughters Susie Rauh and Beth Rota. Beth came up from New Orleans to watch the race, and met up with Mike at the 18-mile mark on First Avenue.



Photo by MARSHA SCHILL

Clam digger James Breen finished his eighth New York City Marathon on Nov. 5, 2023, in 5 hours, 11 minutes, 15 seconds.

Stop waiting for the City Council to lower its budget; we still need more TOUCHSCREEN SUBWAY KIOSKS.

Stop waiting for Albany to lower the state annual budget; they need to deal with the rising costs of the TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE.

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