

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Happy Holidays To All!

From the Staff of The Island Current



BRIEFLY...

CHRISTMAS FAIRS ON CI: Do some holiday shopping, grab some delicious baked goods and support our local houses of worship at the same time this December. The Trinity United Methodist Church Christmas Fair will be on Friday, Dec. 2, from 2 to 8 p.m. (including dinner) and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street. St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue. Finally, the Grace Church Holiday Fair and Café will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 114 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

TOY DRIVE: Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, will again this year sponsor a toy drive by collecting new toys for kids in the hospital until Dec. 15. Any toys purchased in the store for this worthy cause will receive a 25 percent discount, and customers will receive buyer rewards points in the gallery's Fivestars program on all purchases.

THE ART OF MARK WHITCOMBE will be celebrated at the City Island Nautical Museum in the spring with a retrospective exhibition of his work, ranging from tiny etchings to large paintings. All who are fortunate enough to own works by Mark are invited to lend one or more to the museum for the show, which will extend from March 1 to June 30. If you are willing to participate, please contact the curator, Ron Turner, at the Focal Point Gallery (718-885-1405), who will be curator of the exhibition, to ask for more details.

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS: The City Island Nautical Museum will be mounting an exhibition devoted to the City Island Bridge and all artists (painters, photographers, print makers, etc.) who have created images of the bridge over the years are invited to submit their work for the show, which will be on view from March 1 to June 30. Please call Barbara Dolensek at 718-885-0507 for more information or e-mail images to barbara@barbaraburn.com.

ANNE HUTCHINSON YEAR & TRIBUTE TO BILL TWOMEY will be featured on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Huntington Free Library in Westchester Square, cosponsored by the East Bronx History Forum. A special documentary film made 20 years ago by Bronx historians Bill Twomey and John McNamara will be shown. No admission charge but donations are welcome.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2016. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 20, 2016.

11/1 – At 10:15 a.m., an Island male

reported that he was pushed by an unknown person at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue. There were no injuries and the perpetrator fled the scene of the harassment.

11/2 – On City Island Avenue at 2 p.m., an off-Island female reported that her phone was removed from the table of a commercial establishment without her permission in an act of petit larceny.

11/4 – A female off-Islander reported an incident of harassment. While eating in her vehicle on King Avenue at 6:50 p.m., an unknown female approached the vehicle, reached in and grabbed the victim's arm.

11/18 – At 10 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, a female Islander returned to her parked vehicle to find that the windshield was cracked and had been vandalized.

DRIVER SENTENCED FOLLOWING CYCLIST DEATH

By KAREN NANI



Photo by PETER QUINONES

A "ghost bike" memorial appeared in September 2016 in memory of Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos who was killed by a hit-and-run driver in 2015. The driver was sentenced in October 2016.

After 13 months of moving through the criminal court system, Michael Moreno, 26, was sentenced on Oct. 25, 2016, in the tragic death of City Island restaurant worker, Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos on Sept. 11, 2015.

Mr. Moreno was convicted after he struck and killed the 27-year-old victim as she was riding her bicycle off the Island after work at Sammy's Shrimp Box last summer. According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, he was convicted of both criminally negligent homicide and leaving the scene of an accident without reporting. The two sentences will run concurrently, so Mr. Moreno will serve two to six years.

The victim was a well-liked worker at Sammy's Shrimp Box, on the corner of Horton Street and City Island Avenue. According to police from the 45th Precinct at the time of the accident, she was riding her bicycle off the Island after work on Friday evening around 11:56 p.m. and had just crossed over the City Island Bridge.

As she was attempting to cross the road from the south bike path to the north bike path, she was struck by a vehicle moving "at a high rate of speed." Ms. Aguilar-Vallinos was knocked to the pavement and suffered head and neck trauma. Mr. Moreno fled the scene of the collision to an unknown location, according to police. He later surrendered to Bronx prosecutors on Sept. 22, 2015.

The fatality drew attention to reckless drivers around the bridge construction and to the reduced Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bus service (see article in the September 2015 issue of *The Current*). According to someone who worked with the victim, "she didn't normally ride her bike,

but she was trying to save money and the bus didn't run regularly that late when she got off work." She didn't want to pay for a taxi to her home in the Soundview area of the Bronx.


Islander Bill Stuttig told *The Current* at the time that this tragedy could have been avoided. "Dozens of restaurant workers need late night transportation from the Island. But the MTA has failed to recognize this, and now a young girl is dead."

The City Island Civic Association held a meeting with the MTA regarding the poor service Islanders were experiencing on the Bx29 bus from Pelham Bay Station to City Island. Bus service to City Island stops at midnight on weekdays and 1 a.m. on weekends, and it does not begin again until 5 a.m. Because of this, many restaurant workers are forced to take taxis to get to and from work. According to an MTA spokesperson, the agency is looking at extending service hours for the Bx29.

In response to this, John Doyle of the Civic Association told *The Current*, "I think City Islanders are by and large patient people. That said, we all have our limits, and we've been waiting on bus improvements for over a year. They say the wheels of justice grind slowly, but it appears the MTA moves at an even slower pace."

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* will be published at the end of January 2017.




The Black Whale

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BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Congressman Joseph Crowley

Paid for by Crowley for Congress

2016 ELECTION RESULTS

By FRED W. RAMFTL

Much like the rest of New York State, City Island's voter turnout was high during the historic 2016 presidential election. About 1,895 residents cast ballots representing 62 percent of all registered voters from the Island's four Election Districts (60, 61, 62 and 63). This turnout was higher than the New York City average (56 percent) and the national average (55.6 percent), according to the NYC Board of Elections.

In the presidential race, Island voters favored Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by a margin of 51 percent to 44 percent. Other races were not as close, with Islanders voting to return US Senator Charles Schumer, NY State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Congressman Joseph Crowley to their posts by large majorities.

The following table indicates the tallies, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat (D), Republican (R), Conservative (C), Green (G), Libertarian (LBT), and other party lines.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
President		
Hillary Clinton (D)	971	51%
Donald Trump (R)	836	44
Jill Stein (G)	33	2
Gary Johnson (LBT)	33	2
Write-Ins	9	1
<i>National winner: Donald Trump</i>		
State Senator		
Jeffrey Klein (D)	1,391	86%
Alexander Micci (C)	166	10

Carl Lundgren (G)	57	4
Write-Ins	2	1
<i>Statewide winner: Jeffrey Klein</i>		

United States Senator		
Charles E. Schumer (D)	1,266	69%
Wendy Long (R)	524	29
Robin Wilson (G)	21	1
Alex Merced (LBT)	11	1
<i>Statewide winner: Charles Schumer</i>		

United States House of Representatives		
Joseph Crowley (D)	1,124	64%
Frank Spotorno (R)	630	36
<i>District winner: Joseph Crowley</i>		

NYS Assembly		
Michael Benedetto (D)	1,152	69%
Noel Lopez (R)	398	24
William Britt (C)	116	7
<i>Statewide winner: Michael Benedetto</i>		

Bronx Supreme Court (Vote for 3)		
Doris Gonzalez (D)	880	34%
Donald Miles (D)	851	33
La Tia Martin (D)	845	32
Write-Ins	30	1
<i>Borough winners: Doris Gonzales, La Tia Martin, Donald Miles</i>		

Bronx Civil Court (Vote for 3)		
Marian Doherty (D)	845	28%
Patsy Gouldborne (D)	711	24
Myrna Socorro (D)	767	25
Robert Siano (R)	703	23
Write-In	16	1
<i>Borough Winners: Marian Doherty, Patsy Gouldborne, Myrna Socorro</i>		

WOMAN IN COMMAND

By KAREN NANI



Deputy Inspector Danielle Raia (above, right) of the 45th Precinct was interviewed by Island Current editor Karen Nani on Oct. 27, 2016.

She is not the first woman to command the 45th Precinct, but Deputy Inspector Danielle Raia is one of a select group in the New York City Police Department (NYPD), one of only six female commanding officers in the 106 precincts in New York City. To add to her impressive resumé, she was promoted from Captain to Deputy Inspector in July 2016.

Deputy Inspector Raia's story of rising in the NYPD ranks may surprise you. She grew up in Queens and Brooklyn, but she is not from a law enforcement tradition. "I am the first police officer in my family," she told *The Current* in an interview at the precinct house on Barkley Avenue on Oct. 27.

What then drew her to the job? "I always had respect for police officers and I thought they were cool. As I got older, I realized joining the force fits my personality. I feel it was what I was meant to do," she said as she loosened the tie from her dress uniform. The inspector had just attended the funeral of a longtime police chaplain.

Deputy Inspector Raia now has 17 years with the NYPD and has worked in Brooklyn and the Bronx. She served in different precinct-based units, including Weapons, Search Warrants, Dignitary Protection, and Narcotics. As a commanding officer, her administrative duties now take priority. "In the past, I was always in the streets, and I miss it a little," she admitted.

Nevertheless, she has settled into command of the 45th Precinct, the second largest in the NYPD, and has formed strong working relationships with many of the senior members of the squad. She expressed praise for those officers who have worked closely with City Islanders, including Officers Hannah Rahn, Frank Malafrente, Anne-Marie Morrison and Vicky Alier. She has also added a new Special Operations Lieutenant, Waldys Arias, who came from the Gangs Unit and will be working closely with the City Island community as Lt. Paul Trapani did in the past.

When asked about City Island, Deputy Inspector Raia said she had visited the Island over the years when she went to practice at

the Rodman's Neck range and had dinner at our many restaurants. "It's a special community, and the 45th will continue to work to improve traffic congestion, reduce illegal drug usage, and prevent other crimes."

She was asked specifically about recent tragic drug overdoses among younger Islanders. "We know who some of the players [dealers] are on City Island and elsewhere in the precinct, but there is nothing to indicate an increase or a new problem." She acknowledged the continuing efforts of officers and detectives to reduce illegal drug usage on City Island, "but we do not have reports of any specific K2 [synthetic marijuana] incidents or any new forms of heroin being sold."

As commanders before her have said, "we rely on residents to report drug sales and criminal behavior. If they see something, they must say something, and call 911." Residents can report suspicious behavior or drug exchanges anonymously, and the 45th Precinct will investigate. She cautioned that results take time and that cases have to be built before an arrest can be made. "This is especially true if drugs are being sold from a private home."

She also addressed the perennial traffic problem on City Island. "The feedback I am getting is that the traffic congestion improved this past summer, but I am proposing additional plans for the upcoming holidays." She told *The Current* that she is working with the Parks Department to get shuttles from Orchard Beach so visitors can park their cars in the beach parking lot and ride a convenient shuttle to Island restaurants.

"The use of shuttles could reduce the car traffic by one quarter and would be quicker than sitting in traffic, because they would be allowed to use the fire lane." She hopes to have these shuttles running by Valentine's Day 2017.

Another issue that has plagued Islanders in recent years are the tow trucks racing up and down the avenue at high speeds. "We heard the community's concerns and issued over 70 summonses to the tow truck owners. But because they are considered 'emergency vehicles' the summonses are being dismissed. Unfortunately, it's a loophole."

To prevent other crimes, Deputy Inspector Raia reminded Islanders to lock their doors and not to leave valuables, like cell phones and cash, in their cars. "It doesn't matter how safe a neighborhood is, there will be incidents of petit larceny if valuables can be easily seen and taken."

So what's next for the single, 40-year-old commander? "I would be happy to stay here in the 45th, but you never know. The phone can ring, and you can be moved at any time to another precinct or assignment." Until then, watch the Civic Association website and *The Current* for upcoming events when Deputy Inspector Raia will be on City Island and meet the NYPD rising star.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Heavy voter turnout for the 2016 presidential election helped make the P.S. 175 Election Day Sale a landslide success. Sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association, about \$10,000 was raised to support arts and after-school sports programs at the City Island school. Shown above working the tables offering raffles and baked goods are the busy volunteers and PTA board members (l. to r.): Bernadette Piri, Kim Fusco, Nina Rosenqvist Doyle, Michelle Del Pozzo, Gigi Lyons and Kathy Dellacerro.

Election Day Bake Sale a Winner

By NINA ROSENQVIST DOYLE

Although the election on Tuesday, Nov. 8, left many surprised by the results, no one was surprised by the success of the bake and raffle sale held by the PTA of P.S. 175, given the large voter turnout. After the polls were closed, the PTA was delighted to learn that the event had raised \$10,000.

Under the guidance of project manager Susan Goonan, more than 100 prizes were donated and raffled off, including gift certificates (to restaurants, stores, and Visa cards), wine baskets, electronics (e.g., Kindle Fire, Fitbit watch), toys (e.g., American Girl doll), Westchester Broadway Theatre tickets and scratch-off lottery tickets and cash. Generous donations also came from businesses and other organizations, as well as individuals and families.

The funds raised will help fund edu-

cational and enrichment programs for the students of P.S. 175, including the Bronx Arts Ensemble (fifth-grade play and visual arts), buses for school trips, Hollyrock Game Show (a fun educational show), a gardening program and caps and gowns for the eighth-graders.

The PTA was recently designated a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS, which means that all charitable donations are tax-deductible.

Members of the PTA are grateful to the entire City Island community for its loyal support.

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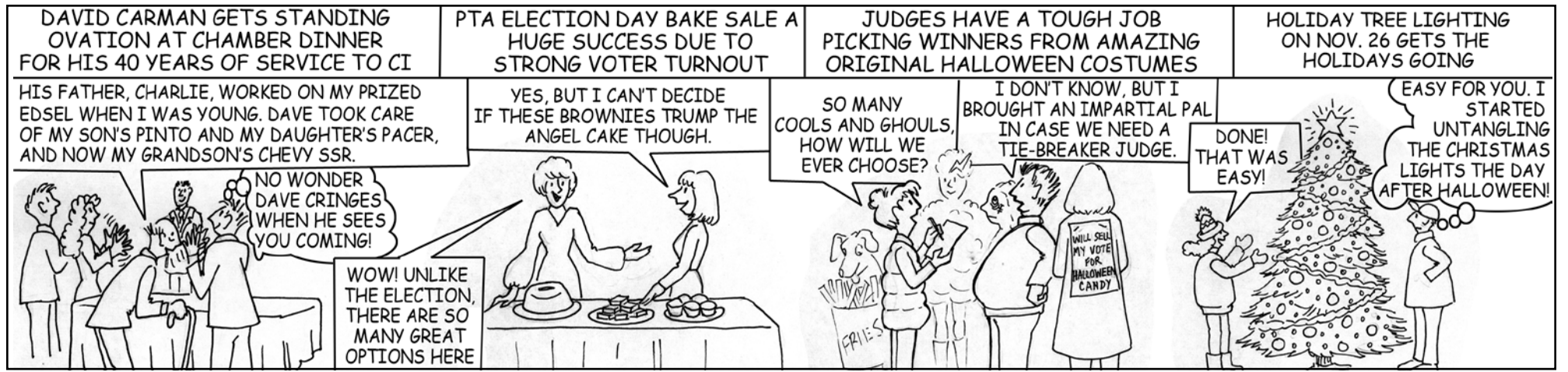


Photo by MARK NANI

Vehicular accidents on and around City Island seem to be increasing, including this collision on Oct. 22, 2016 on the Pelham Bay Bridge. Police urge drivers to slow down and drive carefully on all bridges, especially as winter weather makes roads more hazardous.

United We Stand: An Editorial

Over the past year, City Island has experienced a number of serious blows—several accidents on the temporary bridge; the tragic death of two young Islanders from drug overdoses; the passing of several beloved Islanders and a revered P.S. 175 teacher; the closing of the 126-year-old Stuyvesant Yacht Club, the final crossing of our wonderful old bridge and the removal of the signs and finials. But there were bright spots as well—new businesses that brought pleasure to the Island, including frozen yogurt, toys at 239 Play! in the old Trader John’s store, our very own barber and a handsome new condo development at the east end of Fordham Street. Although the presidential election showed City Islanders on nearly equal opposing sides, there were no demonstrations here, no blaming of neighbors for making bad choices.

The sense here on City Island is that we all face the same problems—drug sales to our young people, traffic jams, uneven bus service, inconvenience caused by film crews—and we usually manage to face them together, even if we don’t always agree on the solution. City Island organizations hold events that bring us together, whether we are raising funds for those in need; helping our kids develop athletic skills and a sense of fair play; fighting City Hall about Rodman’s Neck, or simply enjoying ourselves by getting together. A sense of anxiety or uncertainty may affect many of us at this time, but the City Island community will continue to provide an emotional safety net for all of us who appreciate what each of us has to offer.



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.

Concerts in the Park

To the Editor:

We hope that City Islanders and visitors who attended the City Island Rocks Summer/Fall Concert Series on Sunday afternoons had a great time dancing and singing along. We would like this to be a part of the summer on City Island for years to come.

Our office organized and sponsored the events along with the following merchants and businesses: Edmond (Teddy) Pryor Esq., the McGowan/Hayes Family (The Snug and CI Diner), the McGuire family (CI Laundromat), and Louise and Skip Giacco (Lickety Split) for supplying electricity for amps, etc. But most of all,

the musicians played for half the normal rate or less!

Thanks to the City Island Garden Club and NYC Parks for keeping Hawkins Park bright and shiny, NYC Parks Dept. Staffer Maria Bortoluzzi and Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa for clearing up a snafu at the last moment, all of the musicians for putting on great shows but, most important of all, those who attended the events.

Bob Carmody, AER Realty

POTS

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To: Mrs. Jane La Scala, St. Mary, Star of the Sea

As an invaluable friend to POTS community, we are excited to share an update of this year’s accomplishments. Thanks largely to support from individuals like you, the organization undertook a number of new initiatives aimed at helping those most at risk climb the ladder from crisis, to stability and ultimately, self-sufficiency. For example, in 2016 POTS:

- *Introduced a job-training program which, when fully implemented, will help hundreds of individuals find workforce training opportunities and employment every year;
- *Expanded Food Pantry hours to

weekends, allowing POTS clients who were previously unable to access the food pantry due to work schedules the opportunity to make their paychecks go even further by utilizing another one of POTS’s stabilizing services;

*Grew its emergency eviction prevention program, preventing imminent homelessness for nearly 300 families.

Yet more work needs to be done. POTS’s unique “one-stop shop” approach of delivering emergency food and nutrition, social and legal services is an effective model for helping families address crises, stabilize their lives and move closer to self-sufficiency. We are motivated by positive early results of our new programs and look forward to growing them in 2017 and sharing their results with you throughout the year.

Again, thank you for your previous support of POTS. It has helped us serve thousands of people who are all too easily forgotten by society and continue to build upon POTS’s decades of success in serving those most in need in New York City.

Christopher A. Bean
Executive Director, POTS (Part of the Solution)

Respect for Holy Days

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Hon. Bill DiBlasio
Mayor, City of New York
Council Member James Vacca
New York City Council

We write with concern that the City of New York persistently ignores our request to suspend shooting at the NYPD Rodman’s Neck Firing Range during High Holy Day services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Regardless of what other steps the City may take concerning Rodman’s Neck, we ask that the NYPD suspend Rodman’s Neck shooting and explosions during the few pivotal hours of the Jewish High Holy Days so that our synagogue is not rocked with the sound of gunfire and the reverberation of explosions during our holiest times of the year.

Our synagogue on City Island Avenue is exposed, just a few thousand feet from Rodman’s Neck, across the open water of Eastchester Bay. Often on Shabbat and other observances, congregants entering synagogue are greeted with the sound of gunfire. Like many on City Island, we know the importance of keeping New York’s Finest well trained, and we bear some of that price on behalf of the entire city.

While broader public policy issues are beyond this letter’s scope, what concerns us here is that the City makes no reasonable accommodation even on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Repeatedly we have asked the Community Affairs Office of the 45th Precinct to request

curtailment of noise from Rodman’s Neck shooting operations during our scheduled High Holy Day services. Our requests repeatedly have been ignored. Worse, this year NYPD planned detonations for Yom Kippur itself – the most solemn day of the Jewish year. Plainly NYPD knew that its detonations could alarm the public because NYPD arranged e-mail alerts for that morning. We received the alert from NYPD Community Affairs, at 8:30 a.m. on October 12, 2016, on Yom Kippur morning, informing us that Rodman Neck explosive detonations would occur that day. Understandably dismayed, our synagogue president immediately called the 45th Precinct and then Rodman’s Neck, explained the Yom Kippur situation three times, and asked that NYPD please postpone the detonations until after services ended that afternoon. He was transferred three times and then ultimately ignored. Detonations rocked our Yom Kippur morning services, including during Yizkor, Yom Kippur’s memorial service, the most solemn hour of the most solemn day of the Jewish year. Our synagogue shook. Congregants, already in a sensitive state because of the solemnity of the day, were shaken.

We are confident that Rodman’s Neck would not schedule shooting, much less explosive detonations on Christmas or Easter. We ask that the Jewish community receive similar consideration.

Given our synagogue’s unique exposure to the NYPD firing range at Rodman’s Neck, we ask that it suspend shooting during our High Holy Day services and never again schedule detonations on the High Holy Days. We also ask that a representative of the Mayor meet with us to arrange an operations schedule that will not literally shake our synagogue and our congregants during our most important holy days.

Rabbi Shohama Wiener
Rabbi David Evan Markus
Paul Klein

Theater Group Thanks CI

To the Editor:

The board of directors of the City Island Theater Group joined with our audiences during the last production each year to give back to the community. We have been very fortunate to be able to make significant donations in the past four years, and this fall was no exception. During the production of “Sweeney Todd,” we asked our audience members to donate men’s and women’s disposable razors to be sent to our troops overseas through *supportourtroops.com*. We are proud to acknowledge the generosity, once again, of our audiences. In early December, CITG will be sending more than 1,000 razors to the men and women who serve our country.

Thank you all for your kind generosity.

Mary McIntyre
City Island Theater Group

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Chamber Honors Local Institutions and Individuals

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER

Honorees, elected officials and Chamber officers gathered at the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 12: (top photo, l. to r.) Dave Carman, Trevor Cooke of Park Place Café, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Rick Nielsen of Park Place Café, Janie Blanks, John Doyle, Reina Mia Brill of 239 Play!, Patricia Attis of the PSS Senior Center, Dan Treiber of 239 Play!, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Tom Messina representing Congressman Joseph Crowley, Alison McKay of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Hilary Chernin, Paul Klein and Skip Giacco. Betty Carman (bottom left) congratulated her husband on his award and Dan Treiber and Reina Brill (center, bottom right photo) accepted their award from Skip Giacco (left) and Paul Klein.

The annual Chamber of Commerce awards dinner dance attracted more than 160 diners and dancers on Saturday, Nov. 14, one of City Island's most popular annual events. The master of ceremonies, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, praised the Chamber for its commitment to the City Island community and praised the community as a very special place to live and work.

This year, several of the awards were given to individuals who represent organizations that have contributed immeasurably to the Island, but the award presentation started with the recognition of new businesses on the Island. Dan Treiber and his wife, Reina Mia Brill, received a special salute, not only for opening their new toy store, 239 Play!, but for restoring the building that once was the location of Trader John's marine store. Other recipients included City Island Cuts, Hilary Chernin Esq., City Island Yogurt, Z. L. Sanchez, Turtle Cove's Park Place Café and Scavello's on the Island, which provided a fine dinner, good service and efficient valet parking for the event.

The high point of the evening was the standing ovation for Dave Carman, who is celebrating his family's 71st year and Dave's 40th in running Carman's Service Station on City Island Avenue at Winters Street. Cheers went up from family, friends and customers as Dave came to the podium to collect the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award, and he gave thanks to all who had supported his business, especially

his family and his employees over so many years.

The Tom Ceretta Community Service Award was presented to Patricia Attis, director of the PSS City Island Senior Center, which offers an abundance of programs for seniors, including a daily lunch, exercise classes, instruction in the arts, shopping trips on and off the Island and assistance with health issues and support for caregivers. Patty expressed her thanks and noted that one of her longtime goals has been to persuade seniors to join the program even if they don't feel "old."

Janie Blanks, introduced by John Doyle, who explained her role as recording secretary of the City Island Civic Association, was the recipient of the Catherine Scott Achievement Award. In her time on the Island, Janie has helped with numerous causes, such as saving the firehouse, helping the library plant a garden and clean-ups on City Island Avenue and the Hutchinson River.

Although not on City Island, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is nearby in Pelham Bay Park, and a number of Island residents are members, serve on its board or provide volunteer work for numerous activities. Its new executive director, Alison McKay, accepted the Special Recognition for Tourism Award, on behalf of Bartow-Pell, and she expressed gratitude to the City Island community for its support over the years. She also informed the dinner crowd of numerous forthcoming activities that would be of interest to the City Island community, such as a bird walk led by Island resident Jack Rothman.

Although the Chamber intended to present a special certificate of appreciation to Greystone Property Developers for their On the Sound development at the east end of Fordham Street, no one was present to accept the award, which was the only disappointing note of the evening.

Aside from that, everyone in attendance had a wonderful time, especially those who danced the night away to the wonderful music provided by Chamber president Skip Giacco and his talented band. Some day perhaps the Chamber will give an award to Mort Ellis as the most enthusiastic dancer at this yearly celebration of City Island.

Rodman's Neck Noise Continues for Foreseeable Future

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Members of the City Island community, residents of other communities on Eastchester Bay and representatives of Community Board 10 and the NYPD 45th Precinct Community Council were given an in-depth description of the proposed renovations in store for the Rodman's Neck police firing range at a meeting held at the range on Friday, Oct. 28. Unfortunately for those who are advocating for sound abatement, as promised over 20 years ago by Mayor David Dinkins, the actual installation of effective abatement is unlikely to take place for at least another five years.

Mayor Bill de Blasio assured the City Island Civic Association at a town hall meeting in October that funds for the sound abatement would definitely be in his capital budget, which will be released early in 2017. He did not at the time indicate that this was a 10-year budget, but the NYPD, represented by Deputy Chief Dennis DeQuatro, made it clear at the Oct. 28 meeting that cost estimates have not yet been established, since the design process is still under way, and suggested that funding would not be available until after a workable plan has been developed for the range, possibly five years down the road.

Because Rodman's Neck has an inadequate infrastructure, from electric wiring to sanitation to flood control, all of these issues must be remedied before construction can begin on the range itself. And in order to determine the extent and cost of the infrastructure improvements, acceptable designs must be submitted and requests for estimates submitted to contractors. Once the infrastructure issues have been addressed, installation of sound abatement can presumably begin. Deputy Chief DeQuatro did promise that the range would be first in line for renovation, before the renovation or replacement of the various buildings and tactical area.

Peter La Scala, a former member of the Community Board 10 and past president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, expressed his determination to force the city to move the range and the bomb squad to a less populated region of the city, although he acknowledged that this would cost upwards of a billion dollars to achieve. DC DeQuatro agreed with that assessment and estimated that the renovation of Rodman's Neck would be far less, perhaps \$300 million.

Although Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced in 2007 that firearms training (but not the bomb squad) would be moved to College Point in Queens to become part of the new Police Academy, former Police Commissioner William Bratton reversed this decision, presumably because of the expense. This aroused the concerns of East Bronx residents, who are increasingly bothered by the excessive noise, which is far louder and more frequent than it was when sound abatement was first promised in 1993.

NYPD officers at the Oct. 28 meeting reported that nearly 100,000 officers train

at the Rodman's Neck facility each year, including new recruits, all officers (who are required to certify twice a year), plus other groups (Corrections, Sanitation, EMS and U.S. Customs officers). The increased numbers of officers, plus the use of more powerful weapons, has led to a greatly increased noise level during the week, when the range operates from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., in addition to one Saturday a month.

Councilmember James Vacca, State Senator Jeffrey Klein and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto recently attended a meeting with the NYPD at which these issues were discussed and the same scenario outlined. Councilman Vacca described the meeting for *The Current* as "disheartening," given the fact that this decades-old promise is only now getting attention. He was somewhat encouraged, however, that the sound abatement issue was finally being moved from the NYPD back burner to the front.

Everyone who has visited Rodman's Neck in recent years has been appalled by the conditions there. Originally constructed as a temporary facility over 50 years ago, the range is, many believe, an embarrassment for the city of New York, whose police department is one of the finest in the world and yet must train in conditions that are primitive at best.

Because New York City is considered a prime target for terrorism and is now the residence of the President-elect, the NYPD must provide even more security than in years past. Yet this crucial aspect of the training process remains inadequate and seriously outdated in spite of increased demands on the NYPD.

Councilmember Vacca has proposed that the Police Department investigate the possibility of temporary sound abatement as an interim project and that New York State, which approved the use of Pelham Bay Park for the NYPD firing range be brought to task for the city's failure to follow through on promises regarding sound abatement and lead removal.

Bomb Squad

Although the NYPD bomb squad has been located on Rodman's Neck for decades, it is not part of the firing range and was never slated for a move to College Point. Residents have recently been given advance notifications by the Office of Emergency Management about bomb detonation activity, and there have been nearly a dozen such detonations since mid-August. In a telephone conversation with members of the City Island Civic Association, however, a spokesman for the bomb squad explained that most of the recent detonations are, in fact, part of the training program, not the result of additional bombs found in and around the city. He wished to reassure those who are troubled by the frequency of the detonations that there was no cause for alarm, even though the noise was often troubling to residents living close to Rodman's Neck.



Photo by RON TERNER

The Blue Collar musicians (l. to r.) George Macia, Genie Swinson, Thomas Tantillo and Frank Strazzera were part of a series of Sunday musical events held in Hawkins Park sponsored by Bob Carmody during the summer of 2016. City Island Community Pride thanks Bob for organizing "Music in the Park." The group would also like to honor City Island Cuts and the way in which barber Mikey McMahon is keeping his storefront looking great.

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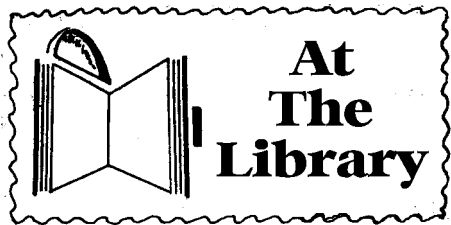
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The Manor Club, 1023 Esplanade, Pelham, will present the classical music trio Les Trois Amies on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 1:30 p.m. The program will include "Wildflowers" by Eric Ewazen, "Trio from Rio," by Donald Draganski, "Trio" by Madeleine Dring, "Fantasiestucke" by Robert Schumann and "Sicilienne" by Gabriel Fauré. The trio, which has performed throughout the tristate area, includes Magee Hickey, a television news reporter and flutist; Sarah Monte, a painter, jewelry designer and clarinetist; and Danielle Errico, a conservatory trained concert pianist. The program is free and all are invited.

For holiday shoppers who don't want to leave City Island, there will be a **Holiday Fair and Tag Sale at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club** on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with a wide range of vendors featuring cosmetics, jewelry and gifts for the home, there will be door prizes, raffles, holiday music and refreshments provided by Chef Michael. The club is at 25 City Island Avenue south of Rochelle Street. Call 718-885-1596 for more information.



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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Winter Wonderland Music and Comedy Show: A snowy musical experience that is designed to engage children through music, comedy and movement, featuring original winter tales and themes! The show is crafted to be inclusive for kids of all abilities, including children on the autism spectrum, and a great time for parents and caregivers. Ages 2 and older. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.

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

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

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

It's Bin Fun!: Toddlers and preschoolers can play and explore our various sensory bins that will encourage curiosity through touch, sight and sound! Parent and child participation required. Ages 2-4. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 17, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2-5. Friday, Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After-School Lounge: Come to the

library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Dec. 2: Graffiti Workshop; Dec. 9, 23 and 30: Wii and Board Games; Dec. 16: No Sew Pillow.

The Amazing World of Animals: Join the staff of the New Canaan Nature Center for an all-around furry, scaly and feathery adventure into the world of the animal kingdom. Meet a variety of live animals and get an up-close look at what makes them all so awesome! Monday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.

Manga Drawing Workshop: Do you have the next manga series ready to pour through your fingertips? Join Masiko Rocks and learn how to draw your own characters, plot stories and more! Monday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m.

Family Movie: Feature movie titles varying in length. "The Jungle Book" on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 3 p.m.

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Historical Lecture: Join us as local historian Jeremy McCue presents his latest lecture, which will cover some of the most important events of the first half of the 20th century. Discussing topics ranging from imperialism to the rise of unions to the Treaty of Versailles and the aftermath of World War II, Mr. McCue will give an in-depth look into the mindset of the people living through those times. Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m.

The City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our new Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. You may even learn a thing or two while you're making some new friends. Note: Limited to 12 participants; registration required. Call 718-885-1703 or stop by the branch to reserve your spot! Thursday, Dec. 15, 1 to 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Saturday Afternoon Movies: at 1 p.m. Dec. 10 "A Hologram for the King"; Dec. 17: "I Am Wrath."

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

For events in January, call 718-885-1703.

The "Jam Man" Returns to City Island

By EYVONNE BAKER



Steve Geisel

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Grace Church is happy to announce that Steve Geisel of B&B Jams, aka "The Jam Man," will be at the Grace Church Christmas Café and Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. He will bring his one-of-a-kind flavors, such as apricot jalapeño and pear ginger, which Steve says are

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A Current Review

SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

By KAREN NANI



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group's production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" attracted huge audiences during its three-week run in November. Here are the major players (l. to r.): Nick Sala (director), Stephanie Murdock, Robert McEvily, Megan Bruno, Joshua Judin, Eugenia Rosa, Vanessa Lynah (seated in front), Maurice Richard, Carol Serrano, Dominick Acocella (kneeling), Jack McGuirk, Karen Andronico, Thomas Losito, Brian Alvarado, Katie McAllister, Demerre Files, Mary Del Vecchio, Sandra Benedetto (kneeling), Ryan Slone, Alex Arlotta (kneeling), John Hartigan, Dennis DeLeo, Heather Edwards (musical director).

Audiences flocked in November to the City Island Theater Group's ambitious production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," which enjoyed capacity crowds at nine performances at Grace Church Hall. The final show of 2016 was the most ambitious in CITG's 17-year history, with a cast of 21 performers, 70 costume changes and a complex stage set that revolved and evolved many times throughout the show.

Despite some opening night glitches, the talented CITG cast, director and crew effectively re-created one of Broadway's more unlikely musical hits, which features frequent throat slitting, full body dismemberment and (unwitting) cannibalism, all set to composer Stephen Sondheim's wonderful score.

The character of Sweeney Todd had its origins in a form of serialized Victorian popular fiction known as "penny dreadfuls." A story called "The String of Pearls" was published in a weekly magazine during the winter of 1846-47. The CITG playbill summarizes the plot as follows: "After spending 15 years in exile in Australia for a crime he did not commit, a barber named Benjamin Barker, who now calls himself Sweeney Todd, returns to London to hear that his beloved wife has died and that his daughter has been adopted by the evil Judge Turpin who had convicted him."

Mr. Sondheim's musical was actually based on Christopher Bond's 1973 spooky melodrama, which introduced a psychological background to Todd's crimes. "The now-anxious man vows his revenge, charming unsuspecting customers, applying his razor and shutting their bodies down to Mrs. Lovett's pie shop," according to the CITG synopsis.

Music proved to be a key element behind the tremendous impact that "Sweeney Todd" had on audiences, both on Broadway from 1979 to 1980 and in the film version in 2007. Over 80 percent of the production is set to music, either sung or orchestrated underneath dialogue. According to Wikipedia, "the score is one vast structure, each individual part meshing with others for the good of the entire musical machine. Never before or since in his work has Sondheim utilized music in such an exhaustive capacity to further the purposes of the drama."

This reporter saw the Broadway production in 1980 starring Len Cariou (now on the television series "Blue Bloods") and Angela

Lansbury. I recall thinking halfway through the somewhat morbid show: "Well, this certainly isn't 'The Sound of Music.'" But Mr. Sondheim's score won me over, as it did with younger audiences who enjoyed the film version starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

The City Island production starred two excellent performers making their CITG debuts. Brian Alvarado, with his rich baritone voice, brought his operatic experience to rise to the challenging role of Sweeney. Newcomer Katie McAllister played Mrs. Lovett and delivered a complete package of singing, acting and even comedic relief when called for by the complex script and libretto. We hope these two performers return soon to City Island to sing more amazing duets.

Former City Islander John Hartigan also made his CITG debut playing Beadle Bamford. John had lots of fans in the audience and did an excellent job with the villainous role and its challenging vocal accompaniment.

Two scene stealers were the portrayals of Adolfo Pirelli by Ryan Slone, and the Beggar Woman, played by Sandra Benedetto. Mr. Pirelli's extensive operatic resum  was in perfect pitch when he burst onto stage singing the humorous number "Pirelli's Miracle Elixir." And Ms. Benedetto provided much-needed comic relief with her shrill begging in Act I and her dramatic part in the final sequence, "City on Fire."

As with other Sondheim musicals, such as "Company" and "A Little Night Music," I am partial to his ballads, and "Sweeney Todd" features two wonderful ones: "Johanna" sung sweetly by Demerre Files, who played Anthony, and "Not While I'm Around" a beautiful duet between Tobias (Alex Arlotta) and Mrs. Lovett.

The main cast was rounded out by Mary Delvecchio, who was convincing and lovely as Johanna, and Dennis DeLeo, who played Judge Turpin and was part of one of the best numbers in the show, "Kiss Me," a quartet that featured complex dueling harmonies and lyrics.

During intermission on opening night, a number of the audience members commented, "There is so much talent on this stage!" She was referring to the main cast and also the very talented ensemble, which featured some familiar City Island faces, including

Maurice Richard (from the Black Whale) and Dominick Acocella (a clam digger). The ensemble was rounded out by the strong voices of Karen Andronico, Megan Bruno, Joshua Judin, Thomas Losito, Vanessa Lynah, Robert McEvily, Jack McGuirk, Stephanie Murdock, Eugenia Rosa and Carol Serrano.

But the costumes, staging, scenery and lighting deserve equal credit in making the CITG production a rousing success. With almost 70 costume changes, Carol McCabe, assisted by Cheryl Brinker and a number of Island seamstresses, once again outdid herself in finding numerous period outfits and wigs creating the look of 19th-century London.

The rotating set was nothing short of an engineering feat, and the use of different levels effectively conveyed the contrast of the upstairs and downstairs of Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop. I wax nostalgic (and am showing my age) by wishing that we had had such great set designs when we performed in Marie Foster's dance recitals and Grace Church Sunday School Christmas shows on the same stage in the parish hall many years ago.

I particularly appreciated the CITG's use of lighting to convey the more lurid scenes of "Sweeney Todd" rather than the use of fake blood and slit throats that I found distasteful in the original Broadway production. Kudos to stage manager Simon Shields-Munger, to

Joseph Burck, who created the lighting and scenic design, to Dan Srdoc, who constructed the set, and to Barbara Dolensek who hunted down all the props. The efforts of the tireless stage crew, John Garcia, Jay Langkamp, Joseph Mancuso, Michael Mancuso and Matthew McGrath, also deserve much applause.

The four-piece orchestra, led by musical director Heather Edwards, wonderfully delivered Mr. Sondheim's complex range of songs from the nightmarish "Epiphany" to the comic relief of "A Little Priest." They even created bird sounds led by Lisandra Hernandez on flute and piccolo. Wyeth Tvenge on bass and Zach Berns on percussion rounded out the hard-working musical group.

Last but certainly not least was the director and CITG president, Nick Sala, who was very busy being congratulated at each performance on this amazing finale to the City Island theater season. Nick's dedication and tireless direction continue to draw new talent to City Island and insure intense, original performances to the delight of residents and visitors. His assistant director for "Sweeney Todd" was Shante Skyers.

We all look forward to 2017 and the continued creativity of the CITG, as well as the return of *The Current's* resident critic, Bruce Weis.

Grace Church Welcomes Father Covington

By KATHY LONERGAN



Photo by KAREN NANI

The congregation at Grace Episcopal Church welcomed their new pastor, Father John Covington, on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016. Shown above is Grace's new spiritual leader with several members of the vestry (l. to r.): Paul Nani, Kathy Lonergan, Fr. Covington and Joanne Delaney.

The parishioners of Grace Church welcomed their new pastor with a celebratory brunch on Nov. 6, 2016. The Reverend John E. Covington, who has served as priest at Grace on several Sundays in the past months, will officially assume the role of regular pastor beginning Jan. 1, 2017. Father Covington comes to Grace with a rich history in the Episcopal Church and community involvement.

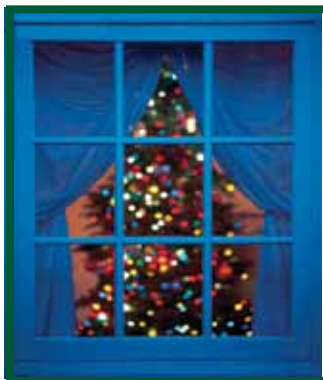
Father Covington is a native of Charlotte, NC, a state where his family has lived for many generations. He is a graduate of General Theological Seminary in New York City. Before seminary, he received an undergraduate degree in English literature from Trinity College and taught middle school in Easton, MD, followed by a year of law school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was ordained in 1975 at the first church he served in Easton. From there he moved to St. John's Episcopal Church in Larchmont, where he was curate and later priest in charge.

Father Covington's longest tenure was at St. Alban's on Staten Island, where he spent 20 years growing the congregation and accomplishing a total restoration of the landmark church building, with the enthusiastic support of the members. In the process, he discovered and achieved the purchase of an

historic 1883 Hook & Hastings tracker pipe organ, which was restored by Dan Angerstein in Boston and moved to the parish. The organ is recognized by the Organ Historical Society. The restoration of the building was given one of the first Lucy Moses Awards by the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Father Covington ended full-time work and served as an interim priest at St. Peter's at Westchester Square in the Bronx and at Christ Church Riverdale. Since retirement, he has been enjoying Sunday work at various parishes, occasional visits to North Carolina and the energy of New York City. He lives in the Chelsea area of Manhattan. He says "he is energized by the continual search for meaning, and the comfort of church, friends and family, and by the prospect of forging a new relationship with Grace Church, City Island."

Beginning in January, Father Covington will be leading Sunday worship at Grace as well as offering pastoral support services. For over 165 years, Grace Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street has provided a spiritual home and "shelter from the storm" for local residents and passing wayfarers; families and individuals; young people and seniors; life-long Christians, and those just beginning to explore a relationship with our Lord. All are welcome to meet Father Covington and join in Sunday worship.



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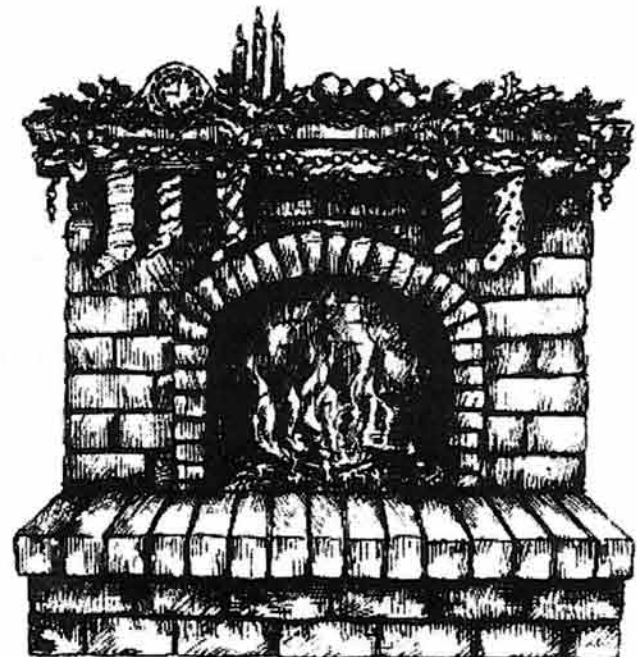


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.



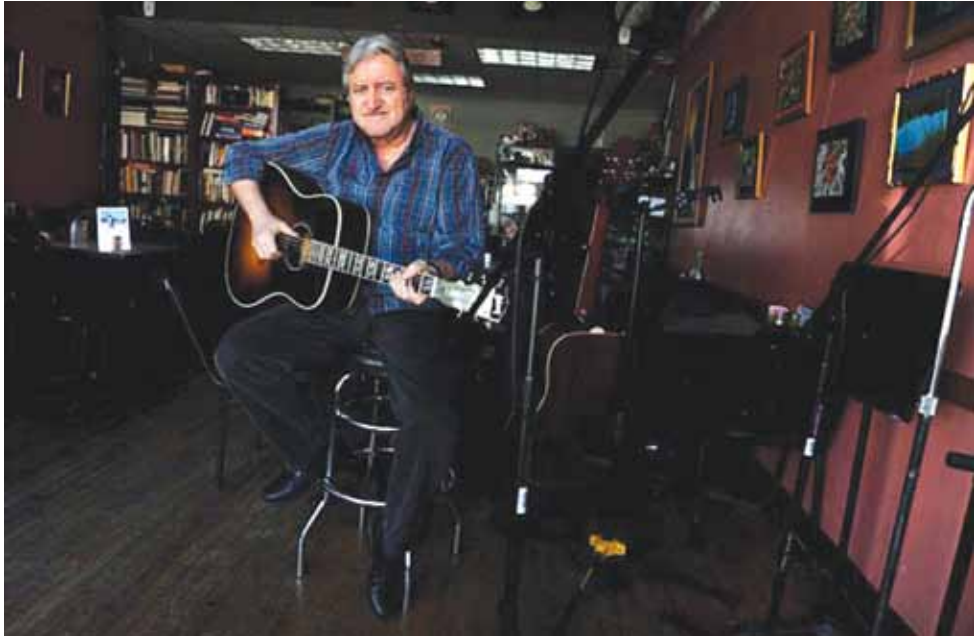
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Starving Artist Café Revives the Music Café Tradition

By BILL STUTTIG



Elliott Glick at the Starving Artist Café.

Elliott Glick, the proprietor of the Starving Artist Café, has by his own admission learned a lot of useful skills—some of them not of his own choosing.

From selling, cooking and jewelry making to running a small business, Elliott has done it all, while also creating and playing music throughout his life. “I was in the newspaper business selling advertising, and the paper wasn’t doing very well, and I wasn’t doing very well for it. So I came home one night with a spool of wire and a pair of pliers and said to my wife Monica: ‘This is my new business,’ and she said: ‘You are going to starve to death.’ And that’s where the name Starving Artist came from.”

While trying to make a living from a wire and a pair of pliers might seem like a crazy idea, Elliott was not talking out of his hat that night nearly 20 years ago. He actually thought he might make it work, and a short time later he did make it work. Thus began the Starving Artist Gallery, which eventually morphed into the Starving Artist Café.

When he first graduated from high school, Elliott was pushed into training as a jewelry maker after he went through a skills assessment. He soon found himself training with and then working for a jeweler on West 47th Street, creating and repairing jewelry and making twice the average wage of the time, all before he was in his 20s.

“Everything was going great, and then I got drafted during the Vietnam War,” Elliott recalls. “On the day I moved into my first apartment, I got my draft notice, so what was the best day of life turned into the worst day of my life just a few hours later. But I was one of the lucky ones. I was stationed in New Jersey for two years, and I was assigned to cook. So now I had another useful skill that I did not ask for.”

Elliott remembers that when he left the Army still a very young man, he intended to start his own jewelry business, but he was talked into owning and operating snack bars at an upstate Catholic college, where he says he spent most of his time arguing with the nuns about the virtues of making a profit—with little success.

After a few years of snack bars, he was hired by the accounting department of a major newspaper and learned how to manage revenue and expenses on a scale the nuns could not have imagined, another skill he never really asked for that but that would serve him the rest of his life.

With three distinctly marketable job skills—plus playing gigs as a talented musician—he went from job to job. But by the mid-1990s, discouraged and desperate, Elliott decided that pliers and wire were the way to go. He soon began to make a good living at jewelry parties and craft shows, traveling up and down the East Coast and working evenings and weekends selling his wares.

But the pace and the time spent away from home were taking its toll, so he decided to look for a shop space on City Island, because he noticed the arts community beginning to flourish here back then. And so, in 1997, space was leased, and the Starving

Artist Gallery was created in a storefront between Carroll and Hawkins Street, the former home of Thirsty Boots. “I opened up, and the first day I made the rent. On that same day, a horse named Silver Charm won the Kentucky Derby, so I took that as a sign and that we were going to be okay.”

Elliott says that aside from the jewelry, he soon began representing other artists in the gallery and marketing their work for 40 percent of the sale price. He also forged a partnership with the recently reopened Black Whale for them to provide food for his artist receptions; in exchange he would refer customers to the new restaurant. “Everything worked well and the business began to really take off.”

But Sept. 11, 2001, changed everything. That catastrophic day, Elliott explains, aside from the tragic human loss, caused the markets to tumble, and this caused the price of precious metals to increase significantly. Gold went from \$200 to \$2,000, and silver went from \$5 to \$200. As Elliott puts it, “As a whole this community was not going to pay those prices for jewelry, so I quickly needed another plan.”

That other plan was inspired soon afterward by a business trip to Italy with his wife. As part of the trip, the couple would visit cafés and sip wine and listen to music from local artists who were playing for free. “The audience chipped in to pay the musicians, and I thought what a great concept. I thought I could do that.”

Elliott began to float the idea, and when the first musicians asked him to play in a newly leased space—the site of the old City Island Paint Store—it was a seven-musician ensemble playing Middle Eastern and flamenco music. He recalls asking: “How am I going to pay you guys, and they said ‘Don’t worry; we’ll pass the hat.’” And that started the tradition that has lasted nearly every weekend for the past 12 years. A \$10 minimum fee is charged to each customer, and then they are asked to help pay the musicians whatever they can afford. “Some nights the band can make as much as \$300 with a full house.”

“I never thought this would work,” Elliott says. “It was just something I wanted to do, because I like to go out at night. And through that, I got to meet so many famous musicians who come here to play—side men whom only musicians would know, like Tony Bennett’s bass player and Tina Turner’s sax and piano player, but great musicians nonetheless. I met a class of musicians I never would have met otherwise, and they come to play here because it is a listening room, of which there are few left.”

Elliott explains that what distinguishes Starving Artist from bars and restaurants that feature live music is that in those places the musicians are an afterthought or part of the background, as people generally talk over them while they eat and drink. “Here people come to listen to the music, and that is what the musicians want. People don’t come here for any other reason but to be entertained.”

City Island resident Freddie Lando, oth-

erwise known as “The Golden Voice of the Bronx,” has played at all types of venues, but he calls the Starving Artist one of his favorites. “I love working there,” he told *The Current*. “They have great people, very warm and welcoming. The people all know you, and when I screw up nobody seems to mind. It’s just a lot of fun.”

Singer songwriter Theresa Sareo (theresasareo.com) says she has been playing at the Starving Artist for more than 12 years. “It was the first time I got to meet the real soul of the Island. The customers of the café really embrace original music and enjoy it. The place brings you back to the days of the old downtown cafés. The mutual respect between the singers and the different musicians is great. It is just a real supportive atmosphere.”

Islander Mary Lou Lachman has been a regular customer of the Starving Artist Café for several years. “They are very welcoming,” she says. “When you come in, Elliott and Monica make you feel that you are part of the family. You can listen to live independent music in an intimate setting. I think it is one of greatest things that we have in the city, not just City Island, and I think it is important that people support it.”

Regular patron Dianne O’Sullivan says: “It one of our favorite places. Monica and Elliott are wonderful people and fabulous hosts. Over the years we have met such talented singers and performers who come to the Starving Artist, and we have become very close friends with many of them.”

Elliott still sells art works and crafts through the café, but music is still the attraction that drives him and his family to keep doing it every weekend, 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays.

An accomplished guitarist and singer himself, Elliott a few years ago released a CD of love songs, “Once Upon a Time,” produced by renowned musician and producer John Guth, and at first it received some commercial success. He has also recently written

a musical play, which he now is in the midst of peddling to producers.

Despite the creative energies, the Starving Artist Café remains Elliott Glick’s base of operation. “This place has been a dream come true, but it has also been in my way, because I am a musician, and I think I should be out playing somewhere and I’m not because I’m preparing for next weekend’s shows. This frustrates me, but everyone tells me I’m wrong. ‘You are a success,’ they tell me, ‘because what you do breeds love and you have love.’ And I say, ‘yeah, but I got no dough.’”

In spite of his misgivings, he says he stills plans to keep the café going, and he hopes to expand it into a small theater setting in the near future. He performs at the café occasionally, with his wife Monica, and daughter Hannah, along with other musicians. His daughter Jennifer, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, brings pastries for the customers.

Elliott also teaches guitar to young people, an accomplishment he is perhaps most proud of. “None of all those young people I taught ever had any problems with drugs or got into trouble, and many of them still come back and play with me, even though some of them are in their 30s now. If you give a person that gift, the gift of being able to play music, then that is a form of expression they will have their whole life. They can be alone and discouraged the way we all get some times, but they still will have that ability to express themselves through music.”

“I could have been a lawyer—and I probably would have been a good lawyer—but I don’t think I would have been happy,” he laments, “because I would be playing music on the side and wishing that it wasn’t on the side. So when I think about it, this is a good life and I still enjoy it.”

Elliott and the Glick family are planning a series of holiday-themed shows throughout December. For the exact schedule, log on to www.starvingartistonline.com.



Photo by JAMES BREEN

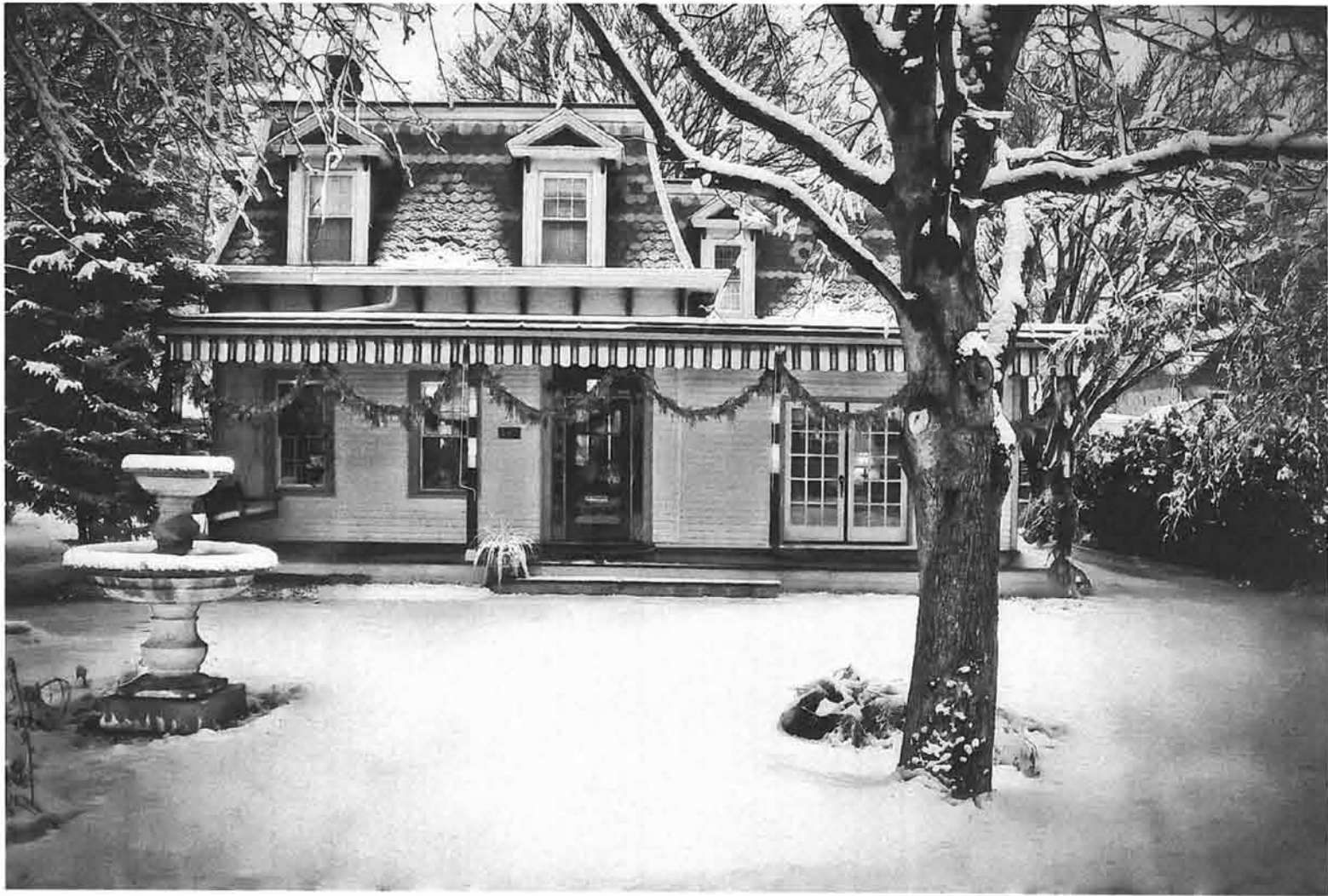
The sun is setting over the old City Island Bridge, which is now no longer connected to either the mainland or City Island. No date for the completion of the new bridge has yet been announced by the Department of Transportation.

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GETTING THOSE HOLIDAY FEELINGS ON CITY ISLAND!

By MONICA GLICK

Joy. Fun. Magic. Love. City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses have the makings of those feelings and more this holiday season!

Joy... There's abundant joy with the world of choices for gifts found at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue). Ron Terner and wife Susan Lamantia-Terner can offer idea after idea for gift-giving with jewelry, artwork and more. Maybe have him take a family photo or take home an image of a City Island scene.

You can get your joy to go at the start of any day this Holiday Season at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) or **Augie's City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue), perhaps an egg sandwich and a large coffee! **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) is chockful of choices with season-themed donuts and a chance to add a joyful swirl to your morning beverage—peppermint mocha or salted caramel perhaps.

And if you find yourself in need of an item or two at day's end, the **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) is open late.

Frenzy... What with shopping in crowds and setting up for celebrating, the holidays are filled with a whirlwind of activity that would wear out even the Energizer Bunny! Press stop with an appetizer sampler and a moment or two of relaxation at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue). Sunday is also a good day to find refuge and savor the all-you-can-eat brunch buffet. After hostess Hannah seats you, be sure to say "hi" to owner Calliope.

After a day of frenzied activity, you probably don't feel like firing up the stove to fix dinner. Fear not! City Island has four possibilities for takeout; at two of them, you can also opt to eat in. Check the day's dishes at **Chef Rafael's To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), or get your takeout from **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue). At **Filomena's Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue), sit and have a slice or a sandwich, or one of the specials at **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue) may be just what you need.



Filomena's Pizza & Pasta

Family... It's a "family feeling" that **Paddy's on the Island** (288 City Island Avenue) owners Chip and Pat want to foster. The newest City Island restaurant is working on kid-friendly menu choices. Stop in with your family and sit for a bit!

If all the family is coming to your house, **Amandabear Party Rentals** (474 City Island Avenue) has you covered, with everything from rental chairs and tables to balloons and more for a festive holiday feel. Be sure to say "hi" to Alanis if you find her behind the counter!

Visit with the Scavello family at their two Island spots: **Scavello's on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue) for a special event, like "Italian Christmas," on Friday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m., or something to eat; spaghetti carbonara sounds good! "Uptown" on the Island, you can pick up your party platter at **Scavello Catering** at the **IGA Supermarket** (385 City Island Avenue). Need a few items for a quick dinner or tomorrow's lunch? Sara and her family at **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue) are ready to help with that.

Magic... Be a part of a new season of

theater magic from the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG). Visit CITG's website (www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com) for details about upcoming shows and information about becoming a supporter or a subscriber.

Take a break from holiday magic-making and chill at the **Snug**. An Irish coffee and something from their new menu—nicely designed by Megan!—is sure to please. Before the season passes, you must select one choice from the "Hot Diggity Dog" menu. Right next door at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue) could be where you start the day with breakfast. As you say "hi" to Kim behind the counter on weekdays, check out Donna's most recent baked creations in the showcase right below!

If you want to make some magic happen at home and need some tools and such to start the job, check in with Karl Hoedl at **Buddy's Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) and Joseph Burck Sr. at **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue). Or if you find yourself drawn to the magic of the seas surrounding our Island home, you'll find all you need in that department at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) and **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). And don't forget **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) to sew up the situation, and **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue) for some "deep" thoughts!



Starving Artist Café & Gallery

Musical... Humming holiday tunes in your head? Well sit and listen to some at the Cartoon Christmas Cabaret Show at **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. More music on the menu for December is found at StarvingArtistOnline.com, including information on how to ring in the New Year with jazz master Lou Volpe (Dec. 31), or how to celebrate the season wild-style with Papa Guyo Guyocious and friends (Dec. 23). Don't forget to order Jenny's Sweets baked goodness for your holiday celebrations, to make your sweet tooth sing, or sign up for guitar lessons with owner Elliott Glick.



Bistro SK

Maybe you're yearning for the sounds of faraway places? If you've no time to travel there this holiday season, your taste buds can! Stephane Kane and wife, Maria, at **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue) invite you to sample their French food fare, perhaps the classic coq au vin. Visit for Sunday brunch and enjoy French toast brioche with

fresh fruit, along with your bottomless glass of mimosa or a bloody mary. Italian feasts await you at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue), and delicious Japanese hibachi—with a show—can be found at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue). At **Don Coqui** (565 City Island Avenue) authentic Puerto Rican cuisine and a dazzling view are served up daily.



239 Play!

Fun... There's nothing but fun to find at **239 Play!** (239 City Island Avenue), where husband and wife Dan Treiber and Reina Mia Brill of City Island have packed this new shopping spot with everything from sports signs and nautical items to Troll Dolls and make-your-own-sign letters. If it's in your playful heart, no doubt it's on their shelves or in the treasure-filled bins outside. Stop by for a visit Wednesdays through Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fun times and fine food await those who venture inside **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue) during the holidays and any time of year. Stop by and celebrate their 20 years on City Island with some buffalo chicken wontons with blue diavolo sauce to start, followed by "Artie's Clam Bake" (whole lobster, shrimp, clams, mussels, andouille sausage, red bliss potatoes, corn on the cob and garlic toast). Wash it all down with a smoke maple old fashioned or a pom-pear martini.

A game of pool and a cold beer or hot toddy can be fun-find at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue).

Nostalgia... No ghosts of Christmas past, but plenty of memory lanes to stroll down, City Island style, at the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 until Dec. 18, with plenty of City Island-themed gifts. There are more memories to be seen, and treasures to take home, at **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue). Just let Ruth or artist Anoosh Donahue lead you on the journey.



Early Ruth Antiques

Once back in the hurried present, get some speedy seafood treats before starting back on holiday shopping. Mid-Island visit **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), or journey to the end for a basket of shrimp or some fried clams at **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue). **Johnny's Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) across from Tony's is shuttered for the winter season, but just a glimpse will bring back good memories of some cherrystone or littleneck clams.

Generous... Feel like lavishing more on your loved ones this holiday season? Choose from the many possibilities at **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue), toys, gifts, ornaments, garden flags, jewelry, candles, artwork and more! Perhaps a fine cigar, or a box of them, is what that someone on your gift list would like. **Humberto Amadiz Ci-**



Kaleidoscope

gars (470 City Island Avenue) can help you make that happen.

And if you're stuck for a specific idea, stop in at **Chase** (207 City Island Avenue) to purchase a gift card—always the right fit!

Once you're done shopping, take a seat at **Archie's Tap and Table** (536 City Island Avenue) for generous portions. Choose from dishes like king crab mac and cheese (cheddar, goat cheese, parmesan, gruyere) or an Archie Burger (Lafrieda short-rib blend, house-made bun, beefsteak tomato, lettuce and onion served with fries), maybe with some applewood bacon. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, the spot serves dinner Wednesday through Saturday, lunch Friday through Sunday, and brunch on Saturday and Sunday.



Sea Shore Restaurant

Merry... All is "merry and bright" inside the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue). Sip something sweet by the fireplace in the lounge, gaze at the spectacular tree and chat with bartenders Louis, Mario or Debbie. Sumptuous seafood selections are available here or at any of these eateries: **JP's Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the **Original Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), the **Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue), and the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue).

You'll be set for merry-making after visiting with the team of beauty professionals at **Art of Beauty** (413 City Island Avenue). Make an appointment for a cut-and-color or a manicure and pedicure—or both! Let Amy and the crew at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) get you ready for your holiday party, or make a stop at **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue). Newly opened **City Island Spa** (327 City Island Avenue) offers foot reflexology, body work, facials and more. Check out their holiday specials!

The murals on the window of the **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue) will give you that festive feeling, just like the lights in the windows of **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue).

There is "good cheer" in abundance at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue), with a fine selection of gift sets and gift baskets, including City Island wine!

Love... Art to fall in love with is to be found mid-island in the windows of two galleries, **Mary Colby Studio Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) and **Cheryl Brinker's**

Continued on page 14

Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar

DECEMBER

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

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 3 and 4, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale,** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

Sun. Dec. 4, **Holiday Fair/Tag Sale, Morris Yacht and Beach Club,** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Sat., Dec. 17, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: meat loaf with vegetable and potatoes.

Sat. Dec. 24, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting,** Hawkins Park, 5 p.m.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 28, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage with peppers.

Tues., Jan.31, **City Island Civic Association meets,** 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Temple Beth-El

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

Temple Services: Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with music by Your Band by the Sea: Dec. 2, 9 and 23—congregant-led; Dec. 16 and 30—clergy; Jan. 6 and 27—clergy; Jan. 13 and 20—congregant-led; Feb. 3 and 17—congregant led; Feb. 10 and 24—clergy.

Adult Education Classes: Dec. 27, Jan. 24 and Feb. 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David for a year-long adult education series entitled "Seeking and Spirit: Re-Introducing Judaism for the Renewal Age." This offering, co-sponsored by the Miller Program at American Jewish University, is suitable for all, including longtime Jews deeply engaged in spiritual practice, Jews seeking to learn (or reconsider) the contours of Jewish identity, and non-Jews seeking to learn about Judaism. We will meet on fourth Tuesdays of each month through June 2017.

Events: Dec. 4—Mitzvah day at Willow Towers in New Rochelle, coordinated by Elissa Weindling; her contact information is pielet12@yahoo.com or 914-428-9602. We will be singing and planting with residents; Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.—new member potluck dinner before Shabbat services, organized by Helen Lerner; contact her at 914-337-0936 or helenlerner@hotmail.com; Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.—candle lighting for Chanukah at Hawkins Park and reception to follow at Kaleidoscope Gallery, directly

across the street at 280 City Island Avenue; Feb. 10—Kabbalat Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat Seder from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a special Kabbalat Shabbat coinciding with Tu B'shevat, the mystical New Year for the Trees, spiritual precursor to spring, and our commitment to steward our living planet. Join us for a Tu B'shevat seder enfolded into Kabbalat Shabbat and feel the sap of spring and liberation rise within.

Activities: Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Yoga at TBE—Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served after the sessions. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 8, from 7 to 11 p.m. will be our 83rd annual Gala Dinner and Dance at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Courses, a highlight of our year. Join Temple Beth-El for an evening of dinner, music and dancing to support Your Shul by the Sea. We will honor long-time Temple supporters David Stark and Rachel Singer in celebrating their upcoming marriage as well as giving a special Community Service Award to Brenda Prohaska. Silent auction items are needed. To volunteer or support this event, please contact us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com or stop into Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue.

Oneg sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, yahrzeit or memorial) can be a joyful, moving community celebration as we warmly invite you to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith as 718-885-0978 or violetsmi@aol.com.

Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Republicans

Thank you to all of our hardworking poll workers. We could not have such a smooth election without you.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

AARP 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity Methodist Church on Bay Street. On Dec. 7, we will have a regular meeting. On Dec. 14 we will have our Christmas luncheon at the Lobster House Restaurant (near the bridge) at 12 noon. Cost per person is \$45. Be sure you are signed up for this gala afternoon. There will be no meeting on Dec. 21. We will meet on Jan. 4 and 18 at 1 p.m. for regular meetings. There are no meetings in February. Happy, healthy holidays to all!

Rosetta Woods

Trinity United Methodist Church

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



Photos by JOANNE VALLETTA

The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Drive was in full swing on Election and Veterans Days in November 2016. Chairwoman Maggie Myers is shown above (top photo) displaying her hand-made poppy portrait on Veterans Day. Members of City Island's Brownies and Daisies Troop 1115 (bottom photo) participated in a fun-filled day of patriotism and poppy craft-making. Funds raised were donated in memory of Island servicemen and women.

Joseph in Egypt and progressing through the story of Moses. All children are welcome to attend.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), where you will find all things Trinity, including the texts of Reverend Yew's sermons.

Holiday Happenings at Trinity: Mark your calendars!

Christmas Fair: Dec. 2 and 3; Friday, Dec. 2, from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parsonage Open House: Dec. 4, right after the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service at the parsonage (113 Bay Street, City Island).

Church School Children's Special Performance: Dec. 11 during the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service.

Christmas Pageant by Church School children: Dec. 18, Sunday, at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (A Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols): Saturday, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.

Christmas Service: Sunday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m.

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

Rick DeWitt

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The American Legion Auxiliary's annual baby shower on Nov. 1 was well attended. We thank all who generously donated and participated in this event. Special thanks to Megan Clancy for organizing and delivering all donations to Fort Drum.

The American Legion poppy drive was in full swing on Election and Veterans Days. Many thanks to Maggie Myers and auxiliary members who distributed the pop-

pies. We appreciate those who took a moment to support and donate to our poppy drive in memory of our servicemen and women. Please display and wear your poppy proudly.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, Jane Gelsi, vice president and chair of our Children & Youth Program along with Maggie Myers, who is chair of our poppy program, held an event at the American Legion Post 156 in honor of Veterans Day. Cheryl Riordan and her Troop 1115 of the Brownies and Daisies were invited to a fun-filled day of patriotism, poppy craft-making and snacks. Many thanks to the Brownies & Daisies, who worked tirelessly to make poppies for Veterans Day. In our spirit of "Service Not Self" we continue to be involved in our community and youth to carry out our mission for decades to come.

The VA Holiday Gift Shop will be held on Dec. 3 at 10:30 p.m. at the Bronx VA. This is our annual visit to our veterans to distribute holiday cheer and gifts. Many thanks to Susan O'Keefe Vaughan, vice president and chair of our VA & Rehab Program. Sue has dedicated many years of service to the Legion Post, our veterans and this vital program.

Members are asked to please mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. when we will have our December meeting and a holiday and tree trimming party. Please bring your holiday cheer and an appetizer or a baked good. It will be a fun night for all with some surprises.

Please consider being part of the American Legion Auxiliary. Membership opens the doors to friendships, opportunities and experiences we may not have experienced otherwise. It empowers us to make a difference and continue carrying on a legacy that is almost a century old. If interested in membership, please contact Doreen Wall at americanlegionmembership156@gmail.com.

Happy and blessed holidays to all.

Joanne Valletta



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

We are hoping a few more people will take advantage of the Early Bird Membership drive, especially since all members are all invited to our festive holiday party on Dec. 9.

Please take a look at some of the new classes beginning in December and January, and call the instructors if you are interested so they can make plans. Remember that the Community Center is here for you and your families, so let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent our big room for family events and parties at very reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunity-center.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors, who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations. Think about it.

EVENTS

Annual Holiday Party: Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. A fun-filled tradition for our members with live music by Johnny Valenti and great food with desserts provided by the Culinary Club.

NEW PROGRAMS

AA: Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Open meeting all are welcome.

HUGS Healing, Understanding, Giving & Support: Thursdays at 7 p.m. beginning Dec. 1. A new social support gathering for anyone interested in connecting with people to cope with feelings of loss or isolation. Open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Moderated by Doreen Gallagher Wall, RN.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesday and Friday after school and Saturday afternoon. New sessions begin Jan. 3. An exciting new educational program for children at the Center taught by experienced school teachers. The Español Experience teaches conversational Spanish to children grades K-5 through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. For more information and/or to register your child, visit www.espanolexperience.com.

Spanish for Healthcare Professionals: This 10-week course is designed to empower you with literacy skills to communicate with your Spanish-speaking patients, their families and healthcare providers. This course will first introduce basic Spanish grammar and vocabulary to provide the foundation for speaking intelligibly in Spanish in healthcare environments. Will meet once weekly for two hours. Fee: \$20 per class. Meeting day and time to be determined. Contact Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Storytime with GP's Honey Tomes: GP's Honey Tomes, publisher of children's books and materials, will present monthly 1.5 hour readings for children ages 3-9. Meeting day/time to be determined. Fee \$20 for reading session, post health and literacy activities, copy of storybook and a snack. Contact Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851, gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Spanish Classes for Adult Learners: Always wanted to learn Spanish, but never did? These enjoyable and practical classes will set you on your path to becoming bilingual. Participants will learn songs, role play, watch videos and engage in other activities that facilitate language acquisition. Will meet once weekly for two hours. Fee: \$20 per class. Meeting day and time to be determined. Con-

tact Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Healing Service: Thursdays by appointment: Rev. Francesca Vitale, Polarity/Cranio-Sacral Practitioner, formerly of the New York Open Center, is offering healing. A person can heal and become empowered receiving clarity of mind and balance within. A portion of the suggested donation for the services will be given back to the Community Center. For further information, visit www.thevital-forcefoundation.org. For an appointment, call Francesca at 914-837-6830.

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. In December, the featured dances will be Salsa and Rhumba with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

Bollywood Dance: Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 2:30 to 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. In January, Teens/Adults, 3:30 p.m. To register or for more information, e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art for Children: Saturdays 10:30 to 12 noon. Ages 7 to 12 explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study art from the 15th to 21st century with Lorraine Cantori. Register now for classes that run from Jan. 7 through March 11 at ceasardante@optonline.net or call 914-552-5268.

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

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

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Belly Dance/Shimmy by the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves. Saturday or Sunday. To enroll, call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575.

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

Chess & Card Club: Tuesday at 7 p.m. Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

City Island Community-Supported Agriculture: The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables. It will begin again in the late spring. For information, e-mail laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 and 19 focus on soups. 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 Drawing Society: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at (new time) 6 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Now is a good time to join. New group begins in early January. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia/Kickbox with Maria: Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is

your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514 or Maria at 347-267-0591.

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

Patty Grondahl

PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to pat-tis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

Dec. 7: Holiday Party: baked ziti, tossed salad, pull-apart rolls and butter, potato croquettes, pork tenderloin, baked zucchini, dessert. Tickets are needed to attend.

Dec. 14: Wednesday at 1 p.m.: Talent Show. Sign up to show your stuff.

Dec. 21: Battling the Holiday Blues at 12:15.

Dec. 23: The Hanukkah Story, told by Lorraine Greenspan at 11:45.

Dec. 23: We close at 1 p.m.; lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30.

Dec. 26: Closed

Dec. 30: We close at 1 p.m.; lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30.

Jan. 2: Closed

Jan. 16: Closed

December/January Physical Exercise:

The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Dance Party at 9:15 a.m. and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: There will be no December classes for Learn Tai Chi at 9:15 a.m. but classes will return in January; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15, Yoga Stretch at 10:30, Balance Class at 1 p.m. in January. Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes suggested donation is \$1 each. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

December/January Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m., Jewelry Making at 1 p.m. but no classes in December; will resume in January; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Seasonal Crafts at 10; no December classes but will resume in January; Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 on Dec. 6 and 20; Jan. 10 and 24; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m. but no classes in December; will resume in January; Haircuts by Brenda on Dec. 14; Jan. 11 and 25 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Donut Drop Off on Jan. 5 at 1 p.m.; Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 and Jan. 12; Birthday Party on Jan. 26 at 12:30; Fridays: Bake and Tag Sale Jan. 13 at 12:30.

Information, Referrals and Assistance. Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Caregivers Support. If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services. Off-island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take

advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Roe at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Christmas fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thrift Shop and in St. Mary's school gym. We will be closed for the holidays and reopen on Jan. 5. Watch for our winter sales.

Arlene Byrne

Holiday Services

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

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

Sunday, Dec. 4: Parsonage Open House, following the worship service.

Sunday, Dec. 11: Church School Special performance during the worship service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18: Church School Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

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

Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Service, 10 a.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Friday, Dec. 16: New member potluck dinner before Shabbat services, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Chanukah Menorah Lighting and Celebration, 5 p.m. in Hawkins Park. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Tuesdays, Dec. 27, Jan. 24 and Feb. 28: Adult education series entitled "Seeking and Spirit: Re-Introducing Judaism for the Renewal Age," 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Ave. near the Bridge

Sunday, Dec. 18: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Saturday, Dec. 10: Crafts Fair, Bake Sale and Holiday Café, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

American Legion Post #156

The children's Christmas party will be on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.

In lieu of a monthly meeting, Monday, Dec. 19, will be the annual Post Christmas party at 7 p.m.

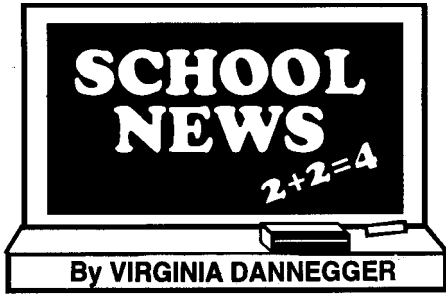
The SAL will hold its annual Pearl Harbor ceremony at the Post on Saturday, December 3 at noon.

Dues for 2016 are now due.

Thanks to Mike Jawski for everything that he does and thanks to Mike Treat for all of his hard work managing our membership. Thanks to all those who do for Post 156.

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

There are many people to thank for the Servicemen's dinner. The kitchen crew was Bob Mennona, Bob Salerno and Fred Ramftl. The wait staff was Alanna, Kira, Allison and Jackie McIntyre. The chance
Continued on page 14



Public School 175

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

Several enriching educational trips took place in November: Kindergarten and first grade—Green Meadows Farm; second grade—Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, NYC Transit Museum and the Skyscraper Museum; third grade—the Museum of Chinese in America; sixth grade—Queens County Farm Museum; American Museum of Natural History; seventh grade—St. Paul's Church; eighth grade—Immigration Tour of NYC; high school tour of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (KAPPA).

Councilmember James Vacca has once again given P.S. 175 an arts grant that goes toward funding our fifth-grade play and after-school vocal program, both of which are run by the Bronx Arts Ensemble. We will be announcing this year's play in the next coming weeks. In addition, Sports & Arts continues after school for students in grades six through eight.

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

Please keep in mind these important dates: Dec. 23, last day of school for the winter recess; Jan. 3, students return to school.

October Citizens-of-the-Month were Gianna Dinome and Alyssa Macagnone (kindergarten); Robert Howard and Edwin Miranda (first grade); Daniella Padagas and Ava Frey (second grade); Marissa Sanfratello (third grade); Danelly Reyes and Leila Rexhaj (fourth grade); Kelvin Bacelli (fifth grade); Laci Howard and Kenzi St. Clair (sixth grade); Kaia Alston and Samantha Kucerak (seventh grade); Daemeon Kong and Joseph Goonan (eighth grade).

If you have not already done so, please download the P. S. 175 app so that you can receive the latest school news and alerts as well as other important information.

Our School Leadership Team has set up a "Go Fund Me" site to raise much-needed funds for books for our school library. Please go to www.gofundme.com and enter "P.S. 175 School Library" for more information.

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving!

Organization News

Continued from page 12

books were stuffed and delivered with the help of Carol Mennona, Diane Lott, Judy McCormack and Peggy Eberhart, along with Ann, Alanna, Allison, Kira, and Jackie McIntyre. The bar was decorated by Jim Livingston, Pete Zvara and Peter Booth. The hall was set up by Carol Mennona, Dianne and John O'Sullivan, Ann Sullivan, Betty Jordan and Regina Murphy. Bruno scrubbed the kitchen. Now we can see our reflection! Noel "Scouse" McIntyre installed new lighting and as a result the

kitchen is much brighter. Thanks to everyone who helped with this annual tradition whom we failed to mention.

Remember to play the Queen of Hearts game each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot starts at \$500 and grows each week until someone hits. Game is open to all. Proceeds from the game already paid for our new portholes in the side doors and are now going towards installing a new awning in the front of the building.

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

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post should contact John Muhlfeld at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated. We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all of your support over the past 97 years.

John Muhlfeld

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Dues (\$30) are now due. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:30 a.m. At noon that day we will have our annual Pearl Harbor ceremony. This year it will be held at the Post due to bridge construction. We would like to get a good turnout.

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

Our Oktoberfest was a great success. Thanks to Vic Anderson, Jim Livingston, Peter Zvara, Walter Natiw, Joe Scotti, Tom Vivolo, Gene and Mary Valesio, Mike Jawski, Peter Booth and everyone else who helped cook and put this great event together.

Bill Clancy Jr.'s campaign for state commander is moving forward. The election will be held next July.

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

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to join our service, Holy Communion Rite II, on Sundays at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Grace's Christmas Pageant is planned for Saturday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), at 7:30 p.m. If your child would like to participate as an angel, shepherd, wise man, Mary, Joseph or narrator, please join us! All interested parents and children are welcome.

Please visit our website at www.gracecity-island.net.

Sandy Dunn

Garden Club of City Island

Flower arranging can be one of the genuine joys of the November–December holiday season. This was Nancy White's message to the Garden Club at its meeting on Nov. 7. Our speaker, from the Flower Bar in Larchmont, demonstrated a Thanksgiving table arrangement and gave many useful tips on such details as cutting stems and how to save money when purchasing from flower shops.

The club met on Nov. 28 at 9:30 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club for its traditional wreath decorating. The completed wreaths will be distributed to community locations as the Garden Club's contribution to holiday beautification.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Dec. 5 at the City Island



Photo by MARY CARMAN

The co-winners of City Island's AARP Chapter 318 first ever T-shirt contest were Joyce Kennedy, Chapter President, and member Charlie Carman, who are smiling at their success. Or are they smiling at the prospect of sinking their teeth in the beautiful cake honoring Charlie's 75th birthday! Congratulations to both of you.

Yacht Club at 10 a.m. The members' holiday luncheon on Dec. 9 at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club at noon will conclude our 2016 meetings.

The planter boxes on City Island Avenue will be maintained throughout the winter months according to our beautification co-chair, Kathy Gibbons. On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m., club members and Garden Club Helping Hands will meet at Hawkins Park to put winter greenery in the street-side planter boxes.

As we look forward to the coming year, our program co-chair, Carol Wilkinson, is planning a number of garden trips to nearby locations. Club members visited the Steinhart Gardens in October.

As always, the Garden Club welcomes like-minded people interested in horticulture and civic beautification. Our annual dues are \$35. Meetings, which are followed by refreshments, take place on the first Monday of each month, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, at the west end of Pilot Street. Check out our Facebook page, maintained by publicity co-chair Charline Evers. Good holiday wishes to all.

Carol Hansen

City Island Nautical Museum

Don't forget to visit the Nautical Museum before we close on Dec. 16 for the winter. This will be your last chance to see the wonderful exhibit in our library about the history of boat and yacht building on City Island and to visit our gift shop for City Island-themed gifts.

Also, this is the time of year to renew your membership in the City Island Historical Society (which you can do on line through PayPal by visiting www.cityisland-museum.org) and to make a donation to our window fund. Keep in mind that members will be admitted free to the museum, since we now charge \$5 for adult visitors. Because we are a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are entirely tax-deductible.

Happy holidays to all..

Barbara Dolensek

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the school gym and in the Thrift Shop. Come take a look. You are sure to find great gifts.

Our monthly coffee hour will take place in the rectory on Sunday, Dec. 11, after the 9 a.m. Mass. Come join your fellow parishioners for light refreshments.

Monday, Dec. 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have a special Mass in the church that evening at 7 p.m.; a

reception follows in the school gym. All are invited to attend.

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols Concert will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come and enjoy this spectacular performance.

The celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Our Masses on Christmas Day will be at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Merry Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, on Jan. 1. It is a holyday of obligation. There will be an anticipated Mass on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. and Masses on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 9 and 11 a.m. A happy and healthy New Year!

Rose Dietz

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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

Holiday on CI

Continued from page 11



City Island Laundromat

Studio / Gallery (276 City Island Avenue). And once you've finished finding gifts for your loved ones, you will love the selection of gift wrapping, cards and gift tags, not to mention holiday lights and decorations there for the choosing at the nearby **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue). There are gift ideas and stocking stuffers. Be sure to tell Joe, and the lovely Olivia and Samantha that *The Island Current* sent you in!

You'll love what you look like after spending some time at **Club Fit** (440 City Island Avenue). Maybe some lessons in martial arts, boxing or Tae Kwon Do with Master Edwin Castro at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue) are more to your liking. Or perhaps you seek some relief from the stress of the season. Look no further than the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue).

And what's not to love about the possibility of a new business opening soon on City Island: **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue); or our friends Skip and Louise returning with their ice cream crew come spring at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue).

As you can see, during this holiday season and all year round, there is bound to be a City Island shop, gallery, restaurant, café or business that will make you feel just right!

ALL HALLOWS HIJINX



Winners of the Halloween parade costume contest were as follows, top row, l. to r.:

- Best original costume individual category - Raincloud by Sara Smith
- Best original costume group - Pirates of the Caribbean, "The Black Pearl and Jackie Sparrow" by Samantha Erosa and Jackie Spiros
- Best Pet - "French Fry Doodle" by Eric Stoltze
- Best Infant - "Cabbage Patch Doll" by Vivian Sheeran
- Best Blood & Fright - "Serial Killer" by Andrew Blackman (at right)
- Best Toddler - "Wee Witch" by Sophia Rodriguez Overman (far right)
- * Best Popular Character - Prince/Purple Rain by Randi Hansen (middle below)
- Best Makeup by "Voodoo Doll" - Christie Blondell (middle right below)



Photos by RICK DeWITT, PATRICIA DANIELLA HANEY and LAURA QUAGLIARELLO
 The 2016 Halloween hijinks started early in the day at Mary Immediato's aerobics class at the Community Center (photo left) and finished with the timeless City Island tradition on All Hallows Eve! The judges for this year's Halloween parade, Cheryl Brinker, Laura Quagliarello, Elaine Belasco, Michael Louis, Lois Wagh and Patricia Daniella Haney, had many eerily entertaining costumes to select from on Monday, Oct. 31. The parade was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and prizes were donated by the City Island Diner, Filomena's Pizza, Lickety Split and Kaleidoscope Gallery.

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Taking Care of Ourselves and Our Planet for Our Children

By JOHN SCARDINA

Part of my faith practice involves sustainability: "Live simply so others may simply live." My daily lifestyle choices have global effects:

- Am I purchasing products that were produced through practices that hurt the environment or other living things?
- Am I recycling/reusing/reducing as much as I can?
- Do I compost?
- Do I walk when I can, use a bicycle when I can, take advantage of public transportation when I can, and manage my driving to minimize energy use and air pollution?
- Am I leaving a legacy for my children that will allow them the same bountiful experiences of a beautiful planet that I was fortunate enough to experience?

There is much talk now about the upcoming new administration in Washington, DC, and potential changes in environmental laws. The Paris Accords are in question, and the enforcement of current laws is questioned. But our lifestyles are not governed by government policy; they are governed by our own commitment to sustainability.

We need to be clear—with ourselves

and with our children—that sustainability begins at home. During World War II, families grew food, recycled all scrap metal, rationed gasoline and found many personal ways to support our national response to hatred and imperialism in Europe and the Pacific. This is a part of our "yes we can/sí se puede" mentality as a people that I am most proud of as an American. Now we seem to act as if we can do anything that we want to do if we can afford it. There is research to suggest that the clock is ticking for many of our resources and that we cannot sustain our present lifestyle indefinitely. There is enough food to feed the entire world, but our challenges with distribution leave many hungry folks, even here in the USA. There is something very wrong with this picture.

As we enter the holiday season, let's look at ways to teach our children how to live well on Earth. American Indian wisdom has suggested that we make decisions as though we were thinking ahead seven generations to ensure the well-being of our progeny. Change one thing—no more plastic water bottles, or composting food scraps or walking to the store more often—and it will make a difference.

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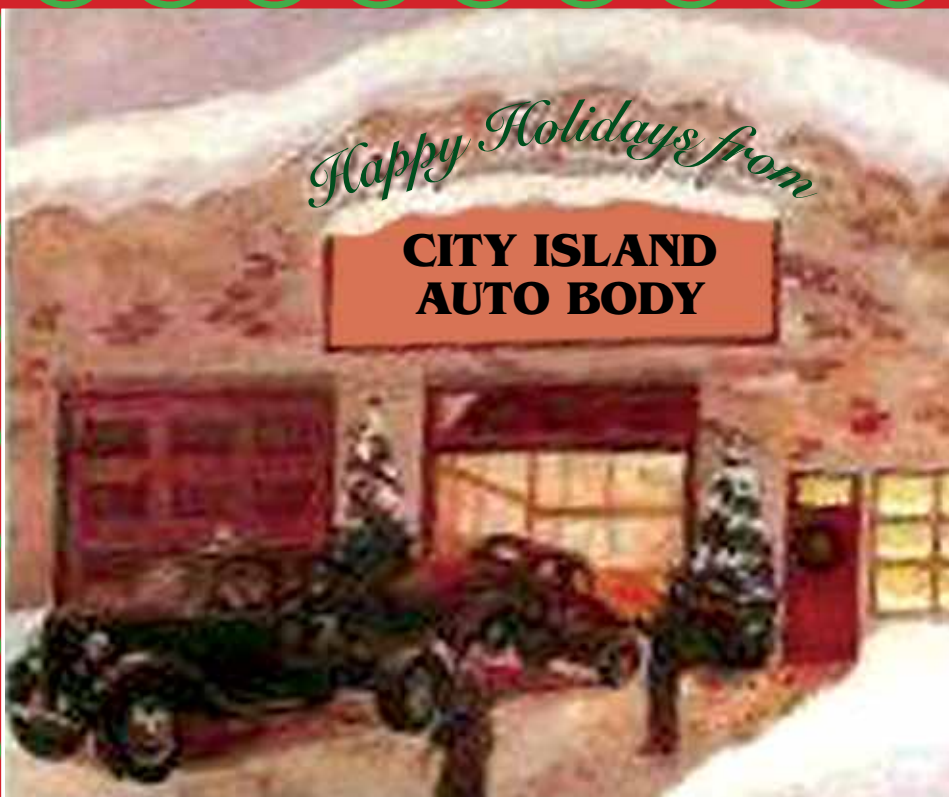
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If you would like to write to any of the above contact the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue.
E-mail : Post156@Live.com 718-885-0639

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE SERVICEMEN'S FUND EVERY YEAR.

IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Painting of the lily pond at Giverny by Mary Colby.

The Artist Gardener

The art of gardening has a deep connection to the art of painting. I would have to guess that most artists love to tend gardens, as flowers and plants are the paint and the sky and earth are the canvas. In effect they paint with plants, creating a personal world in which to garner inspiration.

The most famous of these artists was Claude Monet, in his garden at Giverny. He experimented with light and color in his paintings as well as in his plantings. He also played with rectangular beds of monochromatic color themes. Areas were planted up in opposite primary colors, yellow tulips with blue bells. Blue and yellow were his favorite combination, just like his kitchen, and he wove these colors throughout the plantings. Red tulips with blue forget-me-nots from a distance became violet. Red and pink geraniums with their deep green leaves were planted in front of his house, echoing the pink stucco and green shutters.

With pastel colors in the distance and saturated deep colors of the same family in the foreground, a sort of mist or depth of field became illusionary. Giverny is separated into two gardens, upper and lower. The lower is the famed waterlily pond. Monet dammed the river Epte to create this ethereal, watery confection that he

would paint for the remainder of his life. Gerald van der Kemp became the curator of the house and garden, and the restoration began in 1977. Fortunately for us, it is preserved in all its beauty to study and revel in.

Celia Thaxter, a poet and gardener, lived in the mid 1800s on Appledore, an island off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Although not a painter herself, she had a deep love of beauty, and her poetry drew many artists to her flowery oasis. There Childe Hassam would set up his easel. His charming gouaches can be seen in her book, "An Island Garden."

Madoo, the garden of painter Robert Dash in Sagaponack out in the Hamptons, is another example. Dash made a very unusual and interesting garden that afforded him vistas to paint. Likewise, Jack Lenor Larsen, a famous textile designer, had 16 acres in East Hampton, now Longhouse Reserve. Here landscapes are an art form, and the gardens are enhanced with more than 60 sculptures, which surprisingly includes a geodesic dome by Buckminster Fuller. These are just a handful of wonderful places to visit to see artists at work in their paradisaal settings.

My method of designing gardens takes an artist's approach. I take pictures of the landscape and draw my ideas directly on the photographs. Instead of getting a bird's-eye view as in blueprints and layouts, the client and the designer can quickly see how the garden will take its form. Marco Polo Stephano, the designer of Wave Hill, used this simple method to great advantage.

I'm thinking of one of my favorite paintings at the Metropolitan Museum: "Joan of Arc" by Jules Bastien-Lepage; in the foreground are exquisitely painted teasels. Also Albrecht Durer's watercolor "The Great Piece of Turf," a superb rendering and arrangement of botanically correct weeds. Leonardo da Vinci's flower studies, oh! There is one of an ornithogalum that is perfection. Did Leonardo have a garden? I would have to venture a speculative yes! And upon looking up the matter, it does seem that Leonardo owned a vineyard, although perhaps for more reasons than strictly botanical.

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

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Happy & Healthy Holiday
Season



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

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL FROM
CARMAN'S
SERVICE STATION



Happy Holidays

'Tis the season to be getting into the holiday spirit, and watching a host of Christmas movies certainly puts one in the mood. The classics are inescapably wonderful, beginning with films for people who love the old musicals. **Holiday Inn** (1942) stars Bing Crosby as songwriter Jim Hardy who wants to "retire" from show business and live on a farm. In order to make ends meet, he decides to open "Holiday Inn," doing business only on holidays throughout the year. He is assisted by singer/dancer Linda Mason (Marjorie Reynolds). Jim tries in vain to prevent Linda from meeting his friend Ted Hanover (Fred Astaire), who always steals Jim's love interest. The happy ending, of course, includes the classic song "White Christmas."

Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) is the story of the Smith family living in St. Louis at the turn of the century. The plot hinges on the possibility that Alonzo Smith (Leon Ames), the family's banker father, might have to relocate the family to New York, ruining the romance of his daughter Esther (Judy Garland) with boy-next-door John Truett (Tom Drake) and causing similar emotional trauma for the rest of the household. The rest of the cast includes Mary Astor as Ames's wife, Lucille Bremer as another Ames daughter, and Marjorie Main as the housekeeper. The most fascinating character is played by six-year-old Margaret O'Brien, who won a special Oscar for her remarkable performance. The songs include "The Boy Next Door," "The Trolley Song" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

In Frank Capra's classic **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946), George Bailey (James Stewart) grows up in Bedford Falls with wanderlust in his soul. But his basic decency and circumstances conspire against him. He marries and settles down with his high school sweetheart, Mary Hatch (Donna Reed), and becomes a pillar of his community by heading the Building and Loan Association, which guarantees decent housing for the poorer citizens. When his Uncle Billy (Thomas Mitchell) accidentally loses a large sum of Association money, George's nemesis, Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore), tries to ruin him. Feeling certain that his life has been a complete waste, George contemplates killing himself. However, his guardian angel, Clarence (Henry Travers), gives him the opportunity to see what life would have been in his town had he never been born, with the requisite happy ending occurring on Christmas.

A yearly classic staple is the original **Miracle on 34th Street** (1947), which stars Edmund Gwenn as the last-minute stand-in for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Santa, a kindly old man with whiskers who believes he is Kris Kringle, the real Santa Claus. Kris was hired by the bitterly divorced Doris Walker (Maureen O'Hara), who has taught her daughter, Susan (Natalie Wood), to be realistic about life, and to understand that there is no Santa Claus. Romantic interest is provided by neighbor Fred Gailey (John Payne), a lawyer who takes on the task of proving that Kris is Santa Claus in this perfect family film.

While there have been many remakes, the 1951 version of **A Christmas Carol**, starring Alistair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge, remains the classic film to see. When the past, present and future ghosts of Christmas take him through his life, we are shown how Scrooge came to be an embittered miser. The love in the household of Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit (Mervyn Johns) and Scrooge's nephew Fred (Brian Worth) is inspiring, indeed. Of course, amends are made as Scrooge makes the most of his opportunity to turn his life

around.

In **White Christmas** (1954) Bing Crosby is Bob Wallace, who teams up with war buddy Phil Davis (Danny Kaye). These two song-and-dance men fall in love with two sisters, Betty (Rosemary Clooney) and Judy (Vera-Ellen), and follow them to Vermont. There they run into their former commander, General Waverly (Dean Jagger), who can barely make ends meet on his New England ski resort. Of course, they all help out in this sweet, romantic musical comedy.

A Christmas Story (1983), set in the 1940s, is based on the childhood memories of the Midwestern humorist Jean Shepherd (who also narrates). Young Ralphie (Peter Billingsley) is completely consumed with desire to obtain a Red Ryder Carbine Action 100-shot Range Model Air Rifle for Christmas, but unfortunately, all of the grown-ups warn him that it'll "put his eye out." Ralphie's parents (Melinda Dillon and Darren McGavin) come up with all sorts of memorable parent dialogue in this sometimes side-splittingly funny and always charming family classic.

In the serious drama **One Magic Christmas** (1985), the Grainger family is at the end of their rope, and the mother, Ginny (Mary Steenburgen), is justifiably depressed. Gideon (Harry Dean Stanton), like no other Christmas angel we've ever seen, is assigned to resurrect Ginny's Christmas spirit. As with **It's A Wonderful Life**, terrible events befall Ginny, and her angel needs to help her find her way. At the point when a horrific tragedy befalls Ginny's loved ones, my younger son, five years old at the time our family was watching the film together (the age his own children are now), turned to me and said, "Don't worry, Mom. Everything will be okay." And he was right.

Action-adventure fans are directed to **Die Hard** (1988), starring Bruce Willis as NYC cop John McClane, who attempts a reunion with his estranged family in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve. During the company Christmas party, the building where his wife, Holly (Bonnie Bedelia), works is taken over by a group of terrorists led by two of the silver screen's great villains, Alan Rickman and Alexander Godunov. The tension doesn't let up for a moment in this roller-coaster ride of a "Christmas" movie.

Prancer (1989) is the story of nine-year-old Jessica Riggs (Rebecca Harrell) whose father, John (Sam Elliott), thinks she should live with her aunt after her mother dies because he can't take care of her. When Jessica finds an injured reindeer, she is convinced it is the reindeer Prancer and begins the complicated venture of secretly nursing it back to health. The characters are completely real, and not at all saccharine in this poignant, coming-of-age film.

In the often hilarious **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** (1989), as the holidays approach, Clark Griswold (Chevy

Chase) wants to have a perfect family Christmas. He pesters his wife, Ellen (Beverly D'Angelo), and children, as he tries to make sure everything is perfect. However, things go awry quickly when his hick cousin, Eddie (Randy Quaid), and family show up unplanned and start living in their camper on the Griswold property.

Elf (2003) is a surprisingly sweet and poignant family film. As an abandoned child who accidentally is whisked away to the North Pole, Buddy (Will Farrell) is raised by Papa Elf (Bob Newhart) and grows up among Santa's (Ed Asner) elves. Because of his ungainly size, Buddy doesn't feel that he fits in and, in full elf uniform, travels to New York in search of his real father. After a DNA test proves that cynical businessman Walter Hobbs (James Caan) is Buddy's father, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results. Also on hand are Mary Steenburgen as Walter's wife, Emily, Daniel Tay as their son Michael, and Zooey Deschanel as love interest Jovie, a young woman who is Buddy's co-worker when he gets a job in a SantaLand at Gimbel's.

In the romantic comedy ensemble film **Love Actually** (2003), the stellar cast includes, Hugh Grant as the British Prime Minister in love with his secretary (Martine McCutcheon) and at odds with the President of the United States (Billy Bob Thornton). Emma Thompson is the Prime Minister's

sister who is married to Alan Rickman, a man contemplating an affair with his secretary. Emma's best friend is recently widowed Liam Neeson, whose grade-school stepson (Thomas Sangster) is suffering the pangs of first love. Colin Firth is a cuckolded writer who falls for his Portuguese housekeeper. Newlywed Keira Knightly is idolized by her husband's best friend. Martin Freeman and Joanna Page are adorable as innocent stand-ins in a porn film. Bill Nighy steals every scene as a has-been vulgar rock star, trying to make a comeback in this wonderful film set during the Christmas season.

Special Agent Oso (2009-2012) is a television children's cartoon starring Oso the bear, who while studying to become a special agent, is given assignments to do such things as teach children to brush their teeth, fold their clothes and recycle. "The Living Holiday Lights," is a special extended episode (Season 2, No. 11) wherein Oso travels around the globe to help three children prepare for three different holiday celebrations: Celeste in France celebrates Christmas, Noah in Israel celebrates Hanukkah and Brayden in Washington, DC, celebrates Kwanzaa. Along the way, Oso learns that family and friends are the most important gift of all.

Have a miraculous holiday season and a healthy new year. And until next time, happy viewing...

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Holiday Luncheon | DEC 2 | 12:30 - 2 PM

Holiday First Friday! Music & Trolley: MetropoliTones | DEC 2 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Holiday Family Day: Santa & Sing-Alongs! | DEC 3 | 10 AM - 1 PM

A Festive Party | DEC 3 | 7 - 10 PM

Gingerbread House Workshop | DEC 7 | 2:30 AND 4 PM

Bronx Arts Ensemble Presents Manhattan Brass Quintet - Holiday Concert
DEC 10 | 1:30 AND 3 PM

Candlelight Tours & Victorian Carolers | DEC 10 | 6 - 8 PM

www.bpmm.org or 718.885.1461 for details. Reservations required.



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The City Island Theater Group wishes you

happy holidays

See you at the theater!

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Be Part of the Solution

By JANE LA SCALA

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

City Islanders should continue to contribute to POTS through the holiday gifting program, because at this time, the program has an overwhelming influx of homeless and out-of-work clients in great need of basic daily items.

For this year the holiday collection (number 16!) will concentrate on the following: men's and women's sweat suits sizes M, L, XL (please tie sets together with a ribbon); men's and women's winter underwear sizes M, L, XL; warm socks, hats, gloves, scarves (please tie sets together with a ribbon); men's and women's winter jackets sizes M, L, XL; disposable razors; travel-size soap, mouthwash, toothbrushes, shampoo, feminine hygiene products; baby diapers are always needed.

All items should be NEW in keeping

with holiday gifting and may be dropped off in the lobby of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church from Dec. 3 through Dec.11. For more information, call Jane at 718-885-2137.

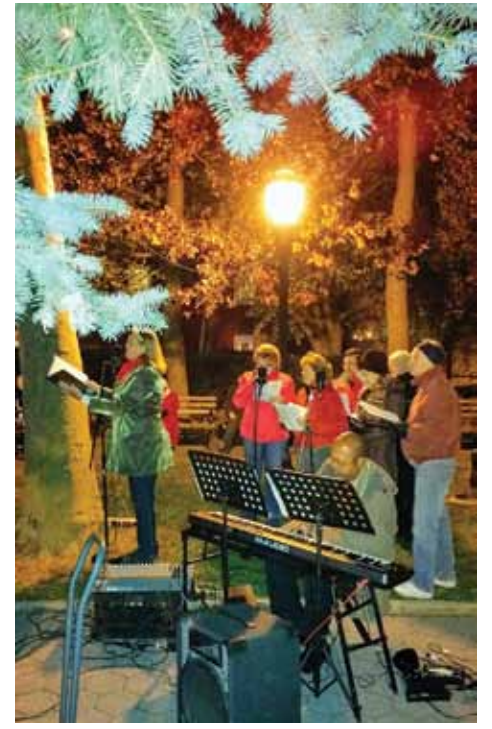
Islanders also continue to provide POTS with a hot meal once a month. After 19 years, this service has grown into a community-wide undertaking. A specific dish is designated each month, and donors are asked to prepare enough to feed 10 people.

If cooking is not your forte, basic staple items can be donated (coffee, sugar, juices, flour, cookies, cleaning products, diapers and formula with iron, to name a few).

The donations should be delivered to St. Mary, Star of the Sea school yard between 4:30 and 5 p.m. on the designated Saturday. Those who wish to be added to this monthly giving should call Rosetta at 718-885-0926 or Jane at 718-885-2137. You may also check *The Island Current* for the menu and date for the upcoming month.

Thank you for caring and sharing. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

GLAD LIGHTINGS OF JOY!



Photos by MATT PANZA

Hawkins Park was once again aglow after the annual holiday tree lighting on Nov. 26. Carol singing, led by Elizabeth and Ken Farnum, made the event, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, even more joyful. The Chanukah menorah will be lit on Dec. 24 to round out the 2016 season of peace and love.

PEACE ON EARTH
 Good friends and neighbors like all of you make the holidays truly wonderful. Thanks!

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Bartow-Pell Events

Holiday First Friday! Dec. 2, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Experience the mansion decked out for the holidays and enjoy the mellifluous sounds of the a cappella Metropoli-Tones—back by popular demand—from 6 to 8 p.m. Holiday shopping and refreshments add to the fun. The free Bronx Trol-

ley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost BPMM Members: free; Not-Yet BPMM Members: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors and students.

Holiday Family Day. Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate the spirit of the holidays! Explore the 19th-century mansion decorated for the season, featuring a festive sing-along of your favorite seasonal tunes led by folk singer Scott Test! Enjoy hot cocoa and crafts, shop for unique gifts, and meet Santa in a historic setting (professional photos with Santa available for an additional fee)! Space is limited. Registration requested. Cost \$20 children one year and up; BPMM Member children \$15 (children under one year and adults free when accompanied by a child).

Gingerbread House Workshop. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2:30 and 4 p.m. Make your own gingerbread house under the guidance of Jon Lovitch, Bronx-based chef and creator of GingerBread Lane, the world's largest gingerbread village. Workshop participants will receive gingerbread pieces, icing, and candy. Recommended for ages 4 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Limit of one house per family. Space is limited. Advance registration required; call 718-885-1461. Cost BPMM Member families: \$20; Not-Yet BPMM Members \$25.

Bronx Arts Ensemble presents the Manhattan Brass Quintet Holiday Concert of holiday classics on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Registration is requested. Cost: Free with museum admission (\$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students, free for children under age 6).

Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers. On Saturday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-century holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere while you enjoy wassail and holiday snacks in the Orangerie. Registration requested. Cost \$12 adults; \$10 seniors, students, and BPMM Members.

Between Christmas and New Year's, the mansion will be open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

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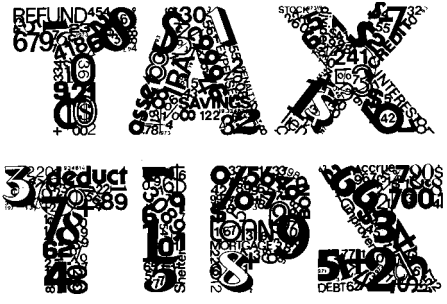
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Year-End Planning Strategies

Tax planning strategies for individuals in 2016 include postponing income and accelerating deductions, as well as carefully considering the timing of related investments, charitable gifts and retirement planning.

General tax planning strategies that taxpayers might consider include the following:

- Sell any investments on which you have a gain or loss this year. (See section on investments.)

- If you anticipate an increase in taxable income in 2016 and are expecting a bonus at year-end, try to get it before Dec. 31. Keep in mind, however, that contractual bonuses are different, in that they are typically not paid out until the first quarter of the following year. Therefore, any taxes owed on a contractual bonus would not be due until you file a tax return for tax year 2017.

- Prepay deductible expenses, such as charitable contributions and medical expenses this year using a credit card. This strategy works because deductions may be taken based on when the expense was charged on the credit card, not when the bill was paid. For example, if you charge a medical expense in December but pay the bill in January, assuming it's an eligible medical expense, it can be taken as a deduction on your 2016 tax return.

- If your company grants stock options, you may want to exercise the option or sell stock acquired by exercise of an option this year if you think your tax bracket will be higher in 2017. Exercising this option is often but not always a taxable event; sale of the stock is almost always a taxable event.

- If you're self-employed, send invoices or bills to clients or customers this year to be paid in full by the end of December.

Caution: Keep an eye on the estimated tax requirements.

Alternative Minimum Tax

The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption "patch," which was made permanent by the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) of 2012, is indexed for inflation, and it's important not to overlook the effect of any year-end planning moves on the AMT for 2016 and 2017.

Items that may affect AMT include deductions for state property taxes and state income taxes, miscellaneous itemized deductions and personal exemptions. Call your financial advisor if you're not sure whether AMT applies to you.

Note: AMT exemption amounts for 2016 are as follows: \$53,900 for single and head of household filers; \$83,800 for married people filing jointly and for qualifying widows or widowers; \$41,900 for married people filing separately.

Charitable Contributions

Property, as well as money, can be donated to a charity. You can generally take a deduction for the fair market value of the property; however, for certain property, the deduction is limited to your cost basis. While you can also donate your services to charity, you may not deduct the value of these services. You may also be able to deduct charity-related travel expenses and some out-of-pocket expenses, however.

Keep in mind that a written record of your charitable contributions—including travel expenses such as mileage—is required in order to qualify for a deduction. A donor may not claim a deduction for any contribution of cash, a check or other monetary gift unless the donor maintains a record of the contribution in the form of either a bank record (such as a cancelled check) or written communication from the charity (such as a receipt or a letter) showing the name of the charity, the date of the contribution and the amount of the contribution.

Tip: Contributions of appreciated property (i.e., stock) provide an additional benefit because you avoid paying capital gains on any

profit.

Investment Gains and Losses

This year, and in the coming years, investment decisions are likely to be more about managing capital gains than about minimizing taxes per se. For example, taxpayers below threshold amounts in 2016 might want to take gains; whereas taxpayers above threshold amounts might want to take losses.

Caution: In recent years, extreme fluctuations in the stock market have been commonplace. Don't assume that a down market means investment losses. Your cost basis may be low if you've held the stock for a long time.

If your tax bracket is either 10 or 15 percent (married couples making less than \$75,300 or single filers making less than \$37,650), then you might want to take advantage of the zero percent tax rate on qualified dividends and long-term capital gains. If you fall into the highest tax bracket (39.6 percent), the maximum tax rate on long-term capital gains is capped at 20 percent for tax years 2013 and beyond.

Minimize taxes on investments by judicious matching of gains and losses. Where appropriate, try to avoid short-term capital gains, which are usually taxed at a much higher tax rate than long-term gains—up to 39.6 percent in 2016 for high-income earners (\$415,050 single filers, \$466,950 married filing jointly).

Where feasible, reduce all capital gains and generate short-term capital losses up to \$3,000.

Tip: As a general rule, if you have a large capital gain this year, consider selling an investment on which you have an accumulated loss. Capital losses up to the amount of your capital gains plus \$3,000 per year (\$1,500 if married filing separately) can be claimed as a deduction against income.

Year-End Giving to Reduce Potential Estate Tax

The federal gift and estate tax exemption, which is currently set at \$5.45 million, is set to increase to \$5.49 million in 2017. ATRA set the maximum estate tax rate set at 40 percent.

Gift Tax. For many, sound estate planning begins with lifetime gifts to family members. In other words, gifts that reduce the donor's assets subject to future estate tax. Such gifts are often made at year-end, during the holiday season, in ways that qualify for exemption from federal gift tax. Gifts to a donee are exempt from the gift tax for amounts up to \$14,000 a year per donee.

Caution: An unused annual exemption doesn't carry over to later years. To make use of the exemption for 2016, you must make your gift by Dec. 31. Husband-wife joint gifts to any third person are exempt from gift tax for amounts up to \$28,000 (\$14,000 each). Although what is given may come from either you or your spouse or both of you, both of you must consent to such "split gifts."

Gifts of "future interests," assets that the donee can only enjoy at some future time, such as certain gifts in trust, generally don't qualify for exemption; however, gifts for the benefit of a minor child can be made to qualify.

Cash or publicly traded securities raise the fewest problems. You may choose to give property you expect to increase substantially in value later. Shifting future appreciation to your heirs keeps that value out of your estate. But this can trigger IRS questions about the gift's true value when given. You may choose to give property that has already appreciated. The idea here is that the donee, not you, will realize and pay income tax on future earnings and built-in gain on sale.

Gift tax returns for 2016 are due the same date as your income tax return. Returns are required for gifts over \$14,000 (including husband-wife split gifts totaling more than \$14,000) and gifts of future interests. Although you are not required to file if your gifts do not exceed \$14,000, you might consider filing anyway as a tactical move to block a future IRS challenge about gifts not "adequately disclosed." Check with your adviser if you are considering making a gift of property whose value isn't unquestionably less than \$14,000.

Income earned on investments you give to children or other family members are generally taxed to them, not to you. In the case of dividends paid on stock given to your children, they may qualify for the reduced

child tax rate, generally 10 percent, where the first \$1,050 in investment income is exempt from tax and the next \$1,050 is subject to a child's tax rate of 10 percent (0 percent tax rate on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends).

Caution: In 2016, investment income for a child (under age 18 at the end of the tax year or a full-time student under age 24) that is in excess of \$2,100 is taxed at the parent's tax rate.

Other Year-End Moves

Retirement Plan Contributions. Maximize your retirement plan contributions. If you own an incorporated or unincorporated business, consider setting up a retirement

plan if you don't already have one. It doesn't actually need to be funded until you pay your taxes, but allowable contributions will be deductible on this year's return.

If you are an employee and your employer has a 401(k), contribute the maximum amount (\$18,000 for 2016), plus an additional catch-up contribution of \$6,000 if age 50 or over, assuming the plan allows this and income restrictions don't apply.

If you are employed or self-employed with no retirement plan, you can make a deductible contribution of up to \$5,500 a year to a traditional IRA (deduction is sometimes allowed even if you have a plan). Further, there is also an additional catch-up contribution of \$1,000 if age 50 or over.



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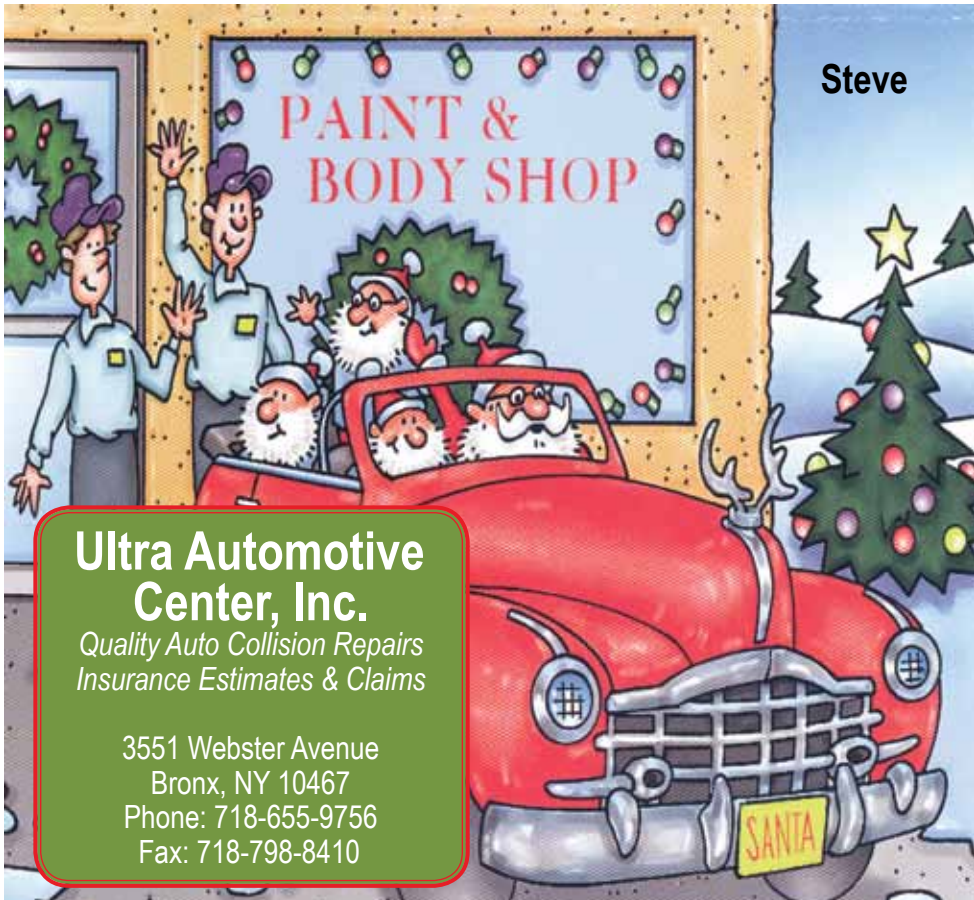
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I received the 2016 Five Star Award and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for a second year in a row!



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

DECEMBER 2016									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0004	7.05	0546	0.62	1148	7.73	1824	0.07	Thu 01
02 Fri	0022	7.10	0621	0.59	1222	7.79	1854	0.07	Fri 02
03 Sat	0055	7.19	0702	0.60	1301	7.79	1933	0.09	Sat 03
04 Sun	0135	7.28	0746	0.63	1346	7.72	2016	0.14	Sun 04
05 Mon	0221	7.34	0835	0.68	1435	7.57	2104	0.21	Mon 05
06 Tue	0310	7.40	0929	0.70	1529	7.38	2156	0.27	Tue 06
07 Wed	0405	7.46	1028	0.65	1628	7.19	2253	0.28	Wed 07
08 Thu	0505	7.57	1135	0.50	1732	7.07	2355	0.21	Thu 08
09 Fri	0608	7.76	1256	0.19	1841	7.07			Fri 09
10 Sat	0103	0.05	0712	8.01	1420	-0.29	1952	7.19	Sat 10
11 Sun	0215	-0.20	0816	8.29	1525	-0.80	2101	7.39	Sun 11
12 Mon	0322	-0.48	0916	8.54	1622	-1.23	2202	7.58	Mon 12
13 Tue	0423	-0.70	1013	8.68	1717	-1.50	2259	7.72	Tue 13
14 Wed	0519	-0.81	1108	8.69	1809	-1.58	2353	7.76	Wed 14
15 Thu	0614	-0.79	1202	8.55	1901	-1.47			Thu 15
16 Fri	0048	7.72	0709	-0.62	1257	8.27	1954	-1.19	Fri 16
17 Sat	0144	7.59	0806	-0.36	1356	7.89	2047	-0.81	Sat 17
18 Sun	0243	7.43	0906	-0.04	1459	7.48	2142	-0.37	Sun 18
19 Mon	0344	7.28	1007	0.25	1606	7.11	2239	0.03	Mon 19
20 Tue	0445	7.18	1110	0.47	1711	6.84	2336	0.36	Tue 20
21 Wed	0544	7.15	1210	0.56	1813	6.70			Wed 21
22 Thu	0032	0.58	0641	7.19	1308	0.54	1910	6.67	Thu 22
23 Fri	0126	0.69	0734	7.28	1402	0.44	2003	6.71	Fri 23
24 Sat	0216	0.72	0824	7.39	1452	0.29	2052	6.79	Sat 24
25 Sun	0302	0.71	0910	7.48	1537	0.15	2139	6.87	Sun 25
26 Mon	0343	0.67	0953	7.54	1619	0.02	2221	6.93	Mon 26
27 Tue	0420	0.64	1030	7.55	1657	-0.06	2259	6.96	Tue 27
28 Wed	0448	0.60	1056	7.55	1729	-0.11	2330	6.98	Wed 28
29 Thu	0505	0.51	1104	7.60	1752	-0.15	2343	7.03	Thu 29
30 Fri	0529	0.38	1126	7.72	1808	-0.22			Fri 30
31 Sat	0000	7.18	0604	0.24	1201	7.83	1837	-0.32	Sat 31
JANUARY 2017									
01 Sun	0033	7.34	0643	0.14	1241	7.92	1913	-0.37	Sun 01
02 Mon	0113	7.49	0728	0.11	1326	7.84	1955	-0.34	Mon 02
03 Tue	0158	7.57	0815	0.13	1414	7.66	2041	-0.25	Tue 03
04 Wed	0246	7.60	0908	0.19	1507	7.38	2131	-0.11	Wed 04
05 Thu	0340	7.57	1006	0.26	1605	7.06	2227	0.04	Thu 05
06 Fri	0438	7.54	1114	0.29	1709	6.78	2329	0.16	Fri 06
07 Sat	0542	7.54	1249	0.15	1822	6.64			Sat 07
08 Sun	0043	0.18	0653	7.63	1416	-0.24	1947	6.70	Sun 08
09 Mon	0213	0.02	0809	7.82	1520	-0.70	2103	6.94	Mon 09
10 Tue	0324	-0.26	0918	8.05	1617	-1.11	2205	7.21	Tue 10
11 Wed	0424	-0.53	1018	8.24	1710	-1.39	2259	7.45	Wed 11
12 Thu	0519	-0.73	1112	8.31	1800	-1.48	2351	7.60	Thu 12
13 Fri	0611	-0.79	1204	8.25	1849	-1.40			Fri 13
14 Sat	0041	7.65	0701	-0.71	1254	8.06	1936	-1.15	Sat 14
15 Sun	0130	7.60	0751	-0.50	1344	7.75	2023	-0.78	Sun 15
16 Mon	0219	7.47	0842	-0.21	1436	7.38	2110	-0.34	Mon 16
17 Tue	0310	7.29	0934	0.13	1531	7.00	2157	0.11	Tue 17
18 Wed	0405	7.11	1030	0.45	1630	6.66	2248	0.51	Wed 18
19 Thu	0501	6.96	1128	0.69	1730	6.42	2341	0.83	Thu 19
20 Fri	0559	6.89	1226	0.81	1830	6.31			Fri 20
21 Sat	0036	1.03	0655	6.90	1323	0.80	1926	6.32	Sat 21
22 Sun	0129	1.10	0748	6.99	1415	0.68	2018	6.42	Sun 22
23 Mon	0219	1.06	0836	7.12	1503	0.50	2106	6.57	Mon 23
24 Tue	0304	0.95	0920	7.25	1546	0.29	2150	6.73	Tue 24
25 Wed	0342	0.78	0957	7.38	1625	0.09	2228	6.88	Wed 25
26 Thu	0414	0.58	1023	7.51	1658	-0.10	2257	7.03	Thu 26
27 Fri	0440	0.34	1038	7.68	1724	-0.28	2312	7.22	Fri 27
28 Sat	0511	0.08	1106	7.87	1747	-0.46	2336	7.47	Sat 28
29 Sun	0548	-0.16	1142	8.01	1817	-0.61			Sun 29
30 Mon	0011	7.71	0628	-0.33	1223	8.05	1854	-0.68	Mon 30
31 Tue	0051	7.87	0712	-0.40	1308	7.95	1935	-0.65	Tue 31
FEBRUARY 2017									
01 Wed	0136	7.94	0759	-0.35	1356	7.72	2020	-0.50	Wed 01
02 Thu	0224	7.89	0851	-0.19	1448	7.36	2110	-0.25	Thu 02
03 Fri	0317	7.73	0950	0.03	1546	6.95	2205	0.06	Fri 03
04 Sat	0416	7.52	1107	0.23	1653	6.58	2311	0.34	Sat 04



We spent a pleasant afternoon recently with a couple of longtime City Islanders, during which the conversation meandered hither and yon until it hit upon the subject of cell phone service providers. After comparing the relative pros and cons of our respective providers—Apple vs. droid, smart phone vs. flip—Bill began to reminisce about the old-school telephone service to City Island.

His earliest recollections of using the telephone on City Island were of party lines. These were the shared service lines that neighbors disposed to gossip revealed in. Because the lines were shared, conversations were usually brief and to the point, but every once in a while. . . . Being the discreet gentleman that he is, Bill kept his juiciest tidbits to himself. We were convinced he had them, though, because his family signed on to a much more private service soon after the opportunity became available.

Using the “new” private lines on City Island still required the services of an operator. Bill recalled exchanges he had with two of City Island’s first operators, Mrs. Knapp and Mrs. Flynn. Long-distance calls, for example, had to be arranged in advance. He remembered one Christmas Eve call the family wanted to make at 11:30 p.m. that had to be planned with the operator three days in advance.

In 1920, the era of operator-assisted telephone calls began coming to an end in New York City. Exactly when the new era of placing a call by specific letter exchanges made its way to City Island is not clear, although if history is any reliable sort of indicator, the answer is probably many years after the rest of the city had converted. Not surprisingly, the first exchange for City Islanders was CI.

By 1930, the telephone company was switching to a three-digit exchange, two letters and a number. City Island’s was TT5, which became 885. Two- to three-digit exchange changes were precipitated by New York City’s rapidly growing population. The company needed a way to account for all the new telephones, which would also explain the introduction of area codes in 1947. Once again, exactly when City Islanders got their first 212 area code is unclear, but got it we did. Then in 1992, 212 was replaced by 718, which is where most of us with a land line still stand today.

If you have an old-school telephone story to tell, juicy or otherwise, we would love to hear from you at jdsstrat@msn.com. As always, we here at Sights and Sounds would like to wish all of our readers and fellow City Islanders a happy and healthy holiday season. See you next year!

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Christmas Schedule 2016

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
 Sunday, December 18
 7:30 PM

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

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

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

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

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Photos by MATT PANZA

It was a packed house for the annual Turkey Bingo held in St. Mary, Star of the Sea gym on Nov. 18, 2016. Organizers gave a special thank-you to Seafood City, which donated the turkeys, and to Ginger Kotoff for her generous Pampered Chef raffle prize. Funds raised will be used for the Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea religious education program.

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Photo by JUDY RAUH

Congratulations to Mike Rauh for completing his 38th consecutive New York City marathon on Nov. 6, 2016. He proudly wears his finisher's medal, now part of his incredible collection of marathon hardware. Mike was also one of the announcers at the TCS Runners Festival on Nov. 4 in Central Park, in which 1,362 school-age athletes participated.

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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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

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CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

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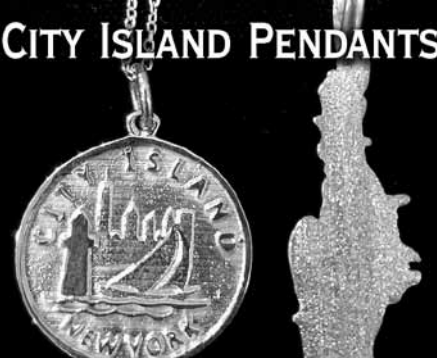
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Donna Buhl and Ena Ellwanger

A very happy birthday to two special ladies who share December birthdays, Ena Ellwanger and Donna Buhl. Have fun!



Jackie Kyle Kall

Best wishes to realtor Jackie Kyle Kall, who recently retired after more than 60 years selling and renting properties both here on City Island and elsewhere. Jackie's distinguished career included being president of the Bronx-Manhattan Board of Realtors in 1978 along with selling and



Kristie Cernuto and Larry Berger were wed on July 16, 2016.

renting homes to several generations of Islanders. Jackie was also a founding member of the Garden Club of City Island more than 50 years ago.

Happy 10th anniversary to my husband, Bob. What a ride it has been! Love always, your wife, Cheryl.

Birthday wishes to our grandson, Jake, who will celebrate his seventh birthday on Dec. 26. Have a fun day! With lots of love from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Congratulations to Patricia Attis on being honored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce in November. The PSS City Island members, staff, volunteers and instructors appreciate everything you do for us and this community. We can't wait to see the new plaque and certificates hanging in your office at Grace Church.

Happy December birthday wishes go out to Jennifer Welsing (40th), Roseanne Micelli (25th) and Katie McCormick (28th). Enjoy!

Godspeed to longtime Marine Street resident Alice Stuttig, who moved to Florida in November to be near her daughter, Kathy. Her many City Island friends wish her the best in her new home and will always remember her service to Grace Episcopal Church, the Girl Scouts and Minneford's Shipyard. Everyone will miss her positive disposition and her delicious Swedish meatballs. Several members of



Photo courtesy of HELEN MICHAELS

Celebrating Helen Michaels' birthday were (l. to r.) Ellen Patterson, Steven Michaels, Helen Michaels, Dony Grove, Susan Michaels Grove, Keith Michaels and Susan Michaels.



Photo by KAREN NANI

King Avenue resident Herb Schaumburg celebrated his birthday on Nov. 6, 2016, during coffee hour at Grace Church.

Grace Church stopped by before Alice left to sing some of her favorite hymns with her.

Happy belated birthday to King Avenue's Herb Schaumburg, who celebrated his big day on Nov. 6 with a musical tribute during Grace Church's coffee hour and at a family brunch in Pelham.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Kristie Cernuto and Larry Berger, who were married at St. Mary's on July 16. The reception was held at the Morris Yacht Club.

Happy birthday on New Year's Eve to



Photo by KAREN NANI

Islanders Peter Klopfer and Evyonne Baker stopped by with best wishes to Alice Stuttig (center) on her big move to Florida.

Bobby Cavinee, with love from your family and friends. Celebrate!

Fordham Street's Helen Michaels was truly surprised last month when she was feted at a party in Florida to celebrate her 80th birthday. Besides family and friends, guests included City Islanders Suelin Kortleven and Mary Horan.

Wishing all of our neighbors, friends and readers happy holidays and all the best in 2017. See you next year!

Maria Swieciki

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