

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Joyous Holidays
To All!

**FROM THE STAFF OF
THE ISLAND CURRENT**

The Amulet • Photo by LIZ MONTALBANO

BRIEFLY...

CITY ISLAND HOLIDAY EVENTS: American Legion Post 156 Children's Christmas Party, Dec. 18, 2 to 5 p.m.; Christmas Party, Dec. 19, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; New Year's Eve Party Open House. City Island Nautical Museum, Christmas Party, Dec. 18, 3 to 5 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church Christmas Café and Fair, Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary, Star of the Sea: Christmas Fair, Dec. 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Temple Beth-El: Chanukah Menorah Lighting, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Hawkins Park. Trinity United Methodist Church: Christmas Fair, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Christmas Party and Pageant on Dec. 18, 10 a.m.

INSURANCE REDUCTION PROGRAM, approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. The course will be held at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway. This six-hour course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips. Those who complete the course will receive a reduction of approximately 10 percent from the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years. The cost for this class is \$30. For more information and to register, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

SPECIAL RAFFLE: Boy Scout Troop 211 will hold a "No Guilt 50/50 Raffle" for Grace Church, which means that the winners will take the money. The plan is to have 10 prizes. Tickets are \$50 each with a limit of 500 tickets. The raffle winners will be pulled at the fundraiser dinner on Jan. 21, 2023, in the Grace Church parish hall; all are invited, but the winners do not need to be present. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Grace Fair on Dec. 17, and the Boy Scouts will be around the Island selling them as well. For more details, check on Grace's website, www.gracecityisland.net, or call 718-885-1080.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 4 - HARASSMENT
- 5 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 - STRANGULATION
- 1 - TRESPASSING
- 1 - ARSON
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 2 - LOST PROPERTY
- 2 - GRAFFITI
- 1 - MENACING

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Oct. 14 to Nov. 21, 2022.

10/19/22 - At 10:40 p.m. on Minneford Avenue, an Island female told police she was being harassed by a neighbor who prevents food deliveries to her door, as well as friends and family from coming to visit. The neighbor prevents access by locking gates and is causing her to be annoyed and alarmed.

10/24/22 - An incident of arson was reported on City Island Avenue at 3:20 a.m. An unknown person intentionally set fire to a female Islander's unoccupied vehicle, causing damage.

10/25/22 - On Fordham Street at 8 a.m. an off-Island female saw a white GMC vehicle with a New York license plate sideswipe her parked vehicle and flee the scene without leaving any information.

10/26/22 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 39, and charged him with strangling another male Islander at 8:15 a.m. on City Island Avenue. Complainant told police that the perpetrator approached him and said "you jumped me," then grabbed the complainant by the neck, choking him and causing visible marks. Perpetrator then slammed him to the ground and punched him on the nose.

10/27/22 - At 2 p.m. three minor victims were harassed on City Island Avenue. All stated that they were playing at location when an unknown male on a blue motorcycle motioned for them to come over to him. This caused fear for their safety, and they all ran back into school. No weapons, no injuries.

10/28/22 to 11/2/22 - The owners and an employee of four commercial establishments on City Island Avenue reported incidents of aggravated harassment. The complainants received letters

containing anti-Semitic and racist images mailed to their places of business, causing them annoyance and alarm for their safety. Letters depict a cartoon of an African-American man with the word "N----" and a Jewish man with the words "Bad News." The cartoon contains the name of Ben Garrison, a right-wing conservative cartoonist. (See story on page 3.)

10/28/22 - Two incidents of graffiti were found on City Island Avenue at 11:50 p.m. An officer observed graffiti on a mailbox affixed to sidewalk at location. The graffiti are 10x10 in white marker. Officer also observed graffiti, 4x4 in purple marker, on an MTA bus schedule affixed to pole at the location.

11/1/22 - On Pilot Street, an incident of harassment was reported at 3:47 p.m. Complainant states he was driving an MTA bus when he stopped at the location. An unknown perpetrator made verbal threats to complainant stating "One of these days I'm going to shoot you in the face," which caused the victim to become annoyed and alarmed for his safety.

11/2/22 - Police arrested an Island female and charged her with menacing another Island female on Cross Street at 6:20 p.m. Complainant states defendant came to her door waving a knife in her face and saying "I'll kill you."

11/3/22 - On City Island Avenue at 10:04 a.m., police arrested an Island male, 39, and charged him with trespassing. Witnesses told police that the perpetrator got into a verbal dispute with staff members inside the school in regard to picking up his daughter. Witness stated perp made a statement like "If I come back, watch what will happen," which caused witnesses to become annoyed and alarmed. The perpetrator left the location but returned, and police tried to speak with to him. He then ran toward the back of the school passing through a gate and refused lawful orders to stop. He ran around the school playground and exited through attached park entrance. Police then arrested him.

11/6/22 - At 5:18 a.m. on Cross Street, an Island female told police that another Island female threw rocks at her window, causing her to feel annoyed, alarmed and harassed. There were no physical injuries.

11/10/22 - The owner of a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue received a letter in the mail addressed to his business at 12 p.m. in an act of aggravated harassment. The letter read: "You decided to call the news you f----g subhuman. The Nazi party has resurrected. We have agents everywhere. Hail Hitler." A swastika was also drawn on letter. (See story on page 3.)

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Islanders Denounce Hate Mail Sent to CI Restaurants

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI

Islanders were unified in their condemnation of anti-Semitic and racist hate mail sent to four City Island businesses in November 2022. A cartoon was sent in an envelope postmarked in New Jersey to four City Island restaurants: Seafood Kingz, Caliente's, Archie's Tap and Table, and Little Frida's Eatery.

The City Island Avenue restaurants are owned by Jewish, African-American and Hispanic business people. The letters contained racist speech and references to the Nazi party. Alex Pertsovsky, owner of Archie's, first reported the letter to the New York City Police Department, followed by Darryl Lelie, the owner of Seafood Kingz, who held a news conference in front of his restaurant on Nov. 12, 2022.

The event was attended by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who posted on her Facebook page: "To address a rising trend of hate crimes across the country, Congress has passed legislation to expand reporting of hate crimes at the local and state levels, passed the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act to strengthen reporting requirements for right-wing terrorists, passed the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, and more. While there's still more to do legislatively, we will continue to show up for our community in the face of division and hate."

On Sunday, Nov. 20, more than 50 Islanders and clergy from all four houses of worship gathered at Grace Episcopal Church for a multi-faith Thanksgiving Service. The previously scheduled event took on new meaning after the hate mail incidents and focused on a universal message of standing together in rejecting hate.

Rev. Kevin Moroney of Grace Church turned the pulpit over to Rabbi David Markus of Temple Beth-El to provide an account of the events. Rabbi David was notified of an incident on City Island involving anti-Semitic mail by the synagogue board, which is kept informed of such incidents by the police. "It sent shock waves through our congregation and the City Island community," he told those gathered. He explained that the terrible message contained in the mail is meant to scare and divide us, but "it did not work. We have

come together against this hate."

The cartoon contained the n-word and references to Hitler. The cartoon, signed Ben Garrison, is actually based on a drawing by A. Wyatt Mann ("a white man"), who drew bigoted cartoons for a white supremacist group in the 1990s, according to the Bronx Times. Mr. Lelie subsequently received a letter with the same handwriting on the envelope as on the first one, also postmarked in New Jersey, complaining about the fact that he had told the media about the letters and announcing, in illegible handwriting and with several misspellings, that the "Nazi party has resurrected."

A number of residents recalled that racism was not uncommon on City Island in years past, but no evidence has emerged indicating that this attack was local in origin. As of press time, a suspect had been identified by the NYC Police Department, but the individual was not a City Islander or suspected of being part of a larger operation. In fact similar mailings were received by other Island businesses but not reported and by businesses in other precincts. Rabbi David told the gathering at Grace that residents, law enforcement, the FBI and elected officials are working together diligently to find those responsible for the hate mail.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez was joined at Seafood Kingz by Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Assemblywoman and newly elected State Senator Natalia Fernandez, and Captain Johnny A. Orellana, the new Commanding Officer of the 45th Precinct. They met with the owner of the restaurant and with members of the City Island Civic Association to express their concern about this hateful incident. Ms. Velázquez was joined by Eric Dinowitz, Councilmember representing District 11 and Chair of the Council's Jewish Caucus. The two are working on a resolution to combat racist behavior of this kind throughout the city.

Marjorie Velázquez released the following message: "There is no room for anti-Semitism or racism in our community. This behavior is inexcusable, and seeing our local businesses, the very entities serving our com-



Photo by KAREN NANI

A multi-faith service was held at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Nov. 20. Clergy from all four houses of worship (above, l. to r.) Rev. Kevin Moroney from Grace, Fr. Augustus Onwubiko from St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Pastor David Jolly from Trinity United Methodist, Rabbi David Markus from Temple Beth-El and Fr. John Knapp from St. Mary's led more than 50 Islanders in prayers for unity and rejection of the hateful messages sent to businesses on City Island.



Photo by ADRIENNE GRANT

On Nov. 20, elected officials met with members of the City Island Civic Association at Seafood Kingz. Above (l. to r.) Ricardo Garcia of the Civic, Assemblywoman Natalia Fernandez, Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Councilman Eric Dinowitz, and Barbara Dolensek of the Civic.

munity, become a target of this behavior is disheartening. . . . We must stand together to end racism and hold these individuals accountable for their actions. If you have any information on these recent attacks, I encourage you to contact the 45th Precinct or the NYPD Hate Crimes Division (hctf@nypd.org).

Vanessa Gibson, the Bronx Borough President, who also attended the opening of Seafood Kingz in March, posted: "The hateful messages we have seen targeting our business community on City Island are disgusting

and egregious. We will never accept any form of hate, bigotry, racism or antisemitism in our borough and stand in solidarity with Seafood Kingz, Caliente's, and Archie's Tap and Table in condemning these acts of hate."

Rabbi David told *The Current* that even if the perpetrator is caught this should not be the end of the story. "We need to continue the deep conversation and come together as a community on projects to emphasize respect for all." Rev. Moroney concurred and reminded those gathered that we are all God's children.

City Island's Newsworthy Marathon Man

By JUDY RAUH



Photos by JAMES BREEN

Mike Rauh, 75, showed off his streak of 43 consecutive New York City Marathons on Nov. 6, 2022.

Island resident Mike Rauh completed his 43rd consecutive New York City Marathon on Nov. 6, 2022. Despite temperatures that climbed into the 70s and humidity that exceeded 80 percent, he crossed the finish line of the 26.2-mile TCS Marathon in 7 hours, 4 minutes and 12 seconds.

Mike, who is 75 years old, became a local celebrity this year because of his amazing history. Pix11 News ran a segment on his marathon streak. NET NY TV, a Catholic station, broadcast a story that focused on Mike's running as well as his faith and his service as a Vietnam veteran. He was also the subject of a two-page article by Bill Miller in *The Tablet*, the newspaper of the Brooklyn Diocese. In addition, Mike was featured in *Welcome-2TheBronx*, an online local news site, in a story written by Ed Garcia Conde.

He is one of only three runners who have done the race 43 times (Connie Brown and James Laprel were the other two). The longest New York City Marathon streak belongs to Dave Obelkevich, who finished his 45th that day, and Dave Laurance completed his 44th. These five remarkable athletes are all in their 70s!

Throughout the New York City race, Mike was followed by local videographer James Breen and his brother, Tommy, and was cheered as well by family and friends. The Breen brothers have been documenting Mike's marathon journey for several years, and many of their photographs were featured in the Pix11 story. The back of Mike's shirt touted that he was running the marathon for the 43rd time, which brought loud cheers from the spectators along the course.

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Editorial

City Island has long been famous for its restaurants, most of them specializing in seafood, but in recent years, residents and visitors alike have been happy to see an increase in the variety of menus offered here—from Italian and Hispanic to Chinese and Japanese. It was with enthusiasm that the community recently welcomed Seafood Kingz, which offers soul food along with seafood and has received glowing reviews from Islanders and off-Islanders alike. But residents were shocked to learn about the vicious racist literature being sent to four restaurants on City Island that are owned and operated by Black, Hispanic and Jewish proprietors. Islanders have joined with law enforcement, clergy and our elected officials in denouncing these cowardly hateful acts. Respect for all is a message circulating throughout the community this Thanksgiving and we hope it continues well into the new year.



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.

Thanks for Islander Generosity

To the Editor,
Seasons Greetings, friends and neighbors.
For two years through the Covid shutdown, Trinity United Methodist Church has had its challenges and struggles, which

have had resulting effects on our services and ministers. However, through it all, this community has continued to give. So many have given in so many ways.

Some gave time, food, money or all three to help keep the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry going. Some gave their time and expertise to repair or upgrade parts of our church that truly needed it. Some of you fund-raised on behalf of Trinity. A great many of you responded to these fundraising efforts and donated. Some of you just simply saw or heard that Trinity needed help, and you spread the word to those who could come to our aid. I feel as if every Islander has helped us in some way.

On behalf of Trinity United Methodist Church, I want to thank you all for your time, your funding, your skills, your spirit and your faith. You have made us see that the light is not at the end of the tunnel or over the horizon, but that it has always been

here, on City Island. To quote our own Pastor Dave, "God loves you and so do I."

**Peter Chadwick,
Chair of Trustees and Ad Council
Trinity United Methodist Church**

Distant Memory

To the Editor,

Thank you for the profile of our family business, Owens Tree Service, in the November 2022 issue of *The Current*. My brother and I are proud to carry on the "family tree" begun by our father Robert in 1959.

When I dropped off the photos requested by the editor to accompany the article, I realized that I had been in her house more than 40 years ago under unusual circumstances. My friend Michael Oates and I were teenagers in 1979, and we decided to go out in a dinghy on Thanksgiving Day around 2:30 p.m. and head for David's Island.

Our boat capsized off the north end of City Island in icy waters, and we held on for 25 minutes. We were spotted by Neil Cronin, who lived in a house on King Avenue. He noticed Daniel Pirraglia walking home from nearby Sonny's Boat Club, which was owned by his parents. Mr. Cronin told Mr. Pirraglia about the capsized boat, and they ran and got the launch at the club to rescue us.

They brought us back to the dock and

then took us to Mr. Cronin's house, which I remembered when I dropped off the photos. The Coast Guard and the police arrived a few minutes later and administered first aid to us. CIVAC (City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps) took us to Jacobi Hospital, where we were treated for hypothermia and exposure.

We were very lucky, and the story of the rescue was in the December 1979 issue of *The Island Current*. "It is very hard to find a boat in the water at this time of year and on Thanksgiving Day," Mr. Cronin told *The Current*. "If we had arrived only a few minutes later, it might have been too late."

I will always be grateful to Neil and Dan for their life-saving efforts. Seeing the house on King Avenue brought back the memory of a most unusual Thanksgiving Day.

Dennis Owens

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DOMINICK'S MARKET

2022 Midterm Election: High Turnout and Some Surprising Results

By FRED W. RAMFTL and KAREN NANI

Although midterm elections usually draw less attention, turnout in 2022 was high around New York State, including on City Island. Interest in the New York governor's contest, as well as other races that determined the overall control of Congress, fueled voter turnout in record numbers for a midterm election.

More than 1,600 residents cast ballots at P.S. 175 on Nov. 8. City Island now makes up the 41st and 42nd Election Districts of the 82nd Assembly District. Island residents were with the majority on contests for New York State Senator, Comptroller and Attorney General, all won by Democrats. However, based on the totals below, slightly more Islanders voted for Republican Lee Zeldin for Governor than the eventual winner, Kathy Hochul, and for Tina Forte, who was defeated by incumbent Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Islanders were most in agreement about Proposals 1, the Environmental Bond Act, and 4, Measuring the True Cost of Living. 64 percent of residents voted Yes "to address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022." 63 percent voted to "Require the City to create a true cost of living measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions." Both proposals were approved statewide.

Many voters also stopped by the P.S. 175 P.T.A. annual Election Day bake sale on Nov. 8. Volunteers were delighted with the high turnout and the support of residents who purchased baked goods and raffles.

The numbers below reflect the scanner totals from early voting and Election Day for all parties and write-ins. Absentee and affidavit ballots are counted later on by the Board of Elections and will be reflected in the certified results due out by the end of the year.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
Governor		
Lee Zeldin (R)	822	51
Kathy Hochul (D)	805	49
Statewide winner: Kathy Hochul		
Comptroller		
Tom DiNapoli (D)	835	53
Paul Rodriguez (R)	752	47
Statewide Winner: Tom DiNapoli		
Attorney General		
Leticia James (D)	812	51
Michael Henry (R)	792	49
Statewide Winner: Leticia James		
U.S. Senate		
Charles Schumer (D)	840	52

Joe Pinion (R)	770	48
Diane Sare (LaRouge)	3	<1
Statewide Winner: Charles Schumer		

U.S. House of Representatives		
Tina Forte (R)	808	51
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D)	741	48
Desi Cuellar (C)	26	2
Write-In	9	<1
Winner: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez		

State Senator		
Samantha Zherka (R)	784	50
Natalia Fernandez (D)	774	50
Winner: Natalia Fernandez		

State Assembly		
Michael Benedetto (D)	842	53
John Greaney (R)	742	47
Write-In	3	<1
Winner: Michael Benedetto		

Bronx Supreme Court (Select up to 3)		
Myrna Socorro (D)	775	
Connie Morales (D)	727	
Findel Gomez (D)	700	
Write-In	52	
Winners: All 3		

Bronx Civil Court Countrywide (Select 4)		
Steven Alfasi (R)	724	
Nicholas Marricchio (R)	713	
Michele Davila (D)	691	
Sophia Hershman (D)	676	
Cynthia Isalez (D)	653	
Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor (D)	642	
Write-In	31	
Winners: Davila, Hershman, Isalez, Gonzalez-Taylor		

Bronx Civil Court District 1		
Lucy Locorotondo (R)	789	51
Taisha Chambers (D)	758	49
Write-In	2	<1
Winner: Taisha Chambers		

Proposal 1 NYS Environmental Bond Act		
Yes	899	64
No	500	36
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		

Proposal 2 Statement of Values (NYC Charter)		
No	716	53
Yes	643	47
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		

Proposal 3 Racial Equity Commission (NYC Charter)		
No	758	57
Yes	575	43
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		

Proposal 4 Cost of Living Measurement		
Yes	853	63
No	503	37
Projected Statewide Decision: Yes		

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (January/February 2023) will be published and on sale at the end of January. Happy New Year!



Photos by PAUL KLEIN and RON TERNER
With temperatures in the mid-70s, it didn't feel like Christmas when the decorations were hung on City Island Avenue in early November (sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce). It was also mild for the annual holiday tree lighting in Hawkins Park on Nov. 26 to the delight of those joining the caroling and countdown.

Save the Sound Saving the Sound

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Save the Sound, a nonprofit organization based in Connecticut and New York that has been analyzing water quality in Long Island Sound for many years, announced the results of their 2021 season at the Harlem Yacht Club on Nov. 17, 2022. Although the waters in the Western Narrows, which includes New York City, remain poor, the overall health of the Sound has improved during the past year.

Of particular interest to City Island is the fact that the Western Narrows shows a promising improving trend in dissolved organic carbon, but efforts must continue to protect and restore water quality in this area. The water quality in the eastern end of the Sound is excellent, because there is greater tidal exchange with the Atlantic Ocean, whereas the western end of the Sound suffers from pollution coupled with

impacts caused by climate change.

For more information about the methods used by Save the Sound and the results of their research during the past year, visit www.savethesound.org and review the 2022 report card.

Save the Sound has recently become increasingly active in the Western Narrows, working with the City Island Oyster Reef in determining locations for oyster reefs and assisting in water-quality training. The organization also recently received a \$400,000 grant from New York State, thanks to Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, to study watershed management for the Hutchinson River as part of a larger effort to clean up portions of the lower Hutchinson River that flows into Long Island Sound (see July-August issue of *The Current*).

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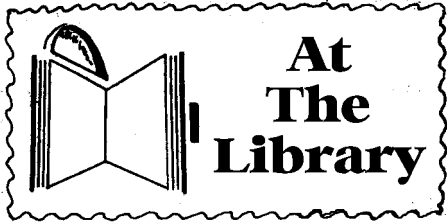
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DECEMBER-JANUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at the City Island Library. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that storytime is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

Books and Bites: Every week, come together to read the selected book while enjoying some snacks! Ages 10 through 14. Mondays at 4 p.m.

Spanish Storytime: It is Spanish story time! Gather your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun! / ¡Tiempo de Lectura para niñxs! ¡Media hora de cuentos cortos, rimas, música, y diversión! First come, first served. Limit of 15 children and caregivers per session. Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Saturday Storytime: Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Ages birth through 4. Saturday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m.

DECEMBER-JANUARY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Twisted Stitches: A teen/tween knitting, crochet and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to

learn a new skill. Every Thursday at 3 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m. Dec. 2: Learn a Language with Mango; Dec. 9: Activism Through Art; Dec. 16: Card-Making Workshop; Dec. 23 and 30: Unplug & Relax; Jan. 6: Maker Club; Jan. 13: Drawing Twins; Jan. 20: Unplug & Relax; Wild Collages: Jan. 27.

Goal Getters: Learn how to manage your time, set realistic goals and plan for how to meet those goals—for teens and young adults. Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m.

How Do I Study? Studying is a part of school, from first grade to college graduation, but where do you start and how? Come chat about research tips, information retention, making time to study and more! For ages 16 through 24. Saturday, Jan. 14, 3 p.m.

DECEMBER-JANUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Introduction to Computers: Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our Library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, Dec. 1 and 15, and Jan. 5 and 19, at 11 a.m.

Adult Coloring: Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, Dec. 8 and 22, and Jan. 12 and 26, at 11 a.m.

Spanish Café: Online Advanced Spanish Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and more exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself. Coffee or tea encouraged! Every Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, Dec. 5 and 19, and Jan. 9 and 23, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
383 King Avenue	\$634,000	6/30/22
610 Minneford Avenue	\$670,000	7/14/22
647 Minneford Avenue	\$630,000	7/27/22
169 Reville Street	\$430,000	8/12/22
68 Tier Street	\$320,000	8/29/22
98 Centre Street	\$685,000	9/07/22
652 City Island Avenue	\$400,000	9/27/22
229 Ditmars Street	\$775,000	10/21/22
153 Hawkins Street	\$418,000	10/31/22
90 Carroll Street	\$575,000	11/04/22
Multi-Family Houses		
28 Fordham Street	\$555,000	8/08/22
81 Schofield Street	\$750,000	9/15/22
Condominiums		
1 Island Point	\$665,000	6/20/22
9 Windward Lane	\$535,000	6/24/22
14 Windward Lane	\$477,000	8/01/22
4 Landing Way	\$570,000	8/02/22
19 Island Point	\$950,000	8/30/22
1 Leeward Lane	\$530,000	9/07/22
170 Schofield Street	\$513,000	9/23/22
41 Leeward Lane	\$430,000	10/19/22
Commercial		
450 City Island Avenue	\$775,000	9/15/22
456 City Island Avenue	\$775,000	9/15/22
104 Hawkins Street	\$660,000	10/12/22
530 City Island Avenue	\$400,000	10/20/22

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Watercolors by Island artist **Carleen Murdock** will be on view during December at the City Island Art Gallery, 278 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Hawkins Street. There will be an opening reception on Dec. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery will be open Saturday and Sunday and by appointment; call 914-299-4713. A percentage of the sales will be donated to the City Island Oyster Reef.

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City Island Chamber of Commerce 2022 Awards

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, the City Island Chamber of Commerce held its 112th Awards Celebration at the Harlem Yacht Club, where guests and honorees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to music provided by the Lickety Split Band.

Paul Klein, Chamber president, introduced Adolfo Carrión, Island resident, former Borough President and now Commissioner of the NYC Housing Development Commission, who praised the Chamber, along with the awardees, for their efforts on behalf of the City Island community.

Paul then introduced the first award recipient, the New Business Appreciation Certificate, to A Taste of Italy, located at 250 City Island Avenue, which is run by Anthony Dangelo, who brings fresh Italian specialties from Arthur Avenue to the Island and offers catering services as well as sandwiches, cold cuts, cheeses and other deli favorites. Alex Anderson joined Paul to give him and the other award recipients a certification of recognition from Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez.

The Special Community Service Award was given to Cheryl Brinker and her husband, Steve Bussmeir, who have been active members of the City Island community since 2003. They moved from Seattle, WA, in 1990 and settled in Soho, where they resumed working with high-tech startups that had just begun to flourish in New York City. It was their lifelong dream to live in New York, which had more museums and art galleries than any city in the world at that time. As retirement years approached, Cheryl began a year's worth of research to find a wonderful, waterfront community similar to Seattle where she could create an art studio and a new home, and they chose City Island, where they have lived since 2003.

Cheryl is involved with the Garden

Club of City Island and is a trustee of the City Island Historical Society/Nautical Museum. She also supports many art projects in the community, and she and Steve offer their storefront windows for art installations highlighting many local artists. City Island is their favorite place to live and their family's favorite place to visit.

The Catherine Scott Achievement Award was presented to the American Legion Post 156, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion in light of their great contributions to the City Island community over the past century. Peter Del-Debbio, commander of the American Legion Post, expressed his gratitude to City Island for its support of the Legion, and to its members, who have contributed so much over the years.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in March 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization, and the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on City Island was chartered four months later, on July 23, 1919. The Post was named for the first soldier from City Island to die in World War I. Over the past hundred years, the Post has been active in the City Island community and dedicated to the aid of veterans and their families. The Post once sponsored the Drum and Bugle Corps and is still an active supporter of a Little League team and other activities for City Island children, including trips to big league ball games, a Christmas party, an annual clambake, a pig roast, the all-important pumpkin sale, orchestra lessons and, of course, the Memorial Day Parade.

Doreen Gallagher accepted the award on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 156, a support organization for those who have served in the armed forces and their families. The mission statement reads "In the spirit of Service, Not Self." The



Photo by SANDY DUNN

The American Legion Post 156 received the Catherine Scott Achievement Award at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Celebration on Nov. 12, 2022. Included here are members of the Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary.

group advocates for veterans, educates our citizens, mentors youth and promotes patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. Some of their projects have included ALA Bingo, a fall Bake Sale, the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast, the Holiday Pick A Veteran, the VA Holiday Gift Shop, Spring and Christmas Craft Fairs, Paint Night and the Memorial Day Parade. All fundraising proceeds go toward ALA veteran-approved programs to assist veterans and their military families.

Bill Clancy spoke for the Sons of the American Legion (Squadron 156), which was founded in 1939 to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Although SAL has its own membership, it is not a separate entity but a committee of the American Legion, and many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

Sue "K" Kawczynski was given the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award for her work as a real estate agent and for her accomplishments as a musician with the band Innuendo. Sue graduated from Lehman College (CUNY) with a BA in music management and has been a performer since the age of 14, when her mother began dating a guitar player. She started in country music but through the years has worked in various genres and now works with Innuendo, a five-piece band performing country, classic rock, Motown and the music of 80s and 60s female icons. She is also part of Innuendo Duo with Frank Pisani.

Sue is also an accomplished professional photographer and has shot for Eclipse Sportswire (www.eclipsesportswire.com) since 2010, covering equine events, especially racing. Her work can be seen on numerous major racing and sports websites here and abroad and in print, including Sports Illustrated and sports pages in the New York Times, the Daily News and the Boston Globe.

Sue has been a real estate agent since 1999 and currently works with Bob Car-

mody at City Island Realty One on City Island. She and Bob, along with Daniel Garcia, have formed City Island Rocks LLC, whose goals are to promote live music free to the community in several venue, particularly Music in the Park.

Jerry Landi earned the Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award for his unique vision and implementation of Cinema On The Sound at 270 City Island Avenue, and he asked Peter Gennari of Clipper Coffee to join him in accepting the award. Jerry moved to the Bronx when he was nine years old, graduated from the Herbert H. Lehman High School and studied film at the School of Visual Arts. His love for the camera led him to a career as a professional photographer, starting as a staff photographer and dark-room technician for the Bronx Times Reporter. This work introduced him to many different facets of photography, including weddings, horse racing, work as a private eye and, finally, medical photographer, which he was for 20 years.

When Jerry retired to raise his daughter, his studies as a filmmaker became a way for him to get back into art. His first film, "Krackoon," won multiple awards and started his film career. His love for films began with a screening of "Night of the Living Dead," which inspired his love of horror movies. Although he is mostly known for those, Jerry has also made a few award-winning documentaries, including his new film, "Devils Among Angels," which recently won Best Documentary at the Shawna Shea Film Festival.

Jerry's dream of one day having his own venue came to life when he and Peter Gennari of Clipper Coffee opened Cinema On The Sound, which gave him a chance to screen independent films from fellow filmmakers and to curate movies from around the world. Cinema On The Sound has also become a venue for fringe theater and film and is proud to introduce new filmmakers to the world. Jerry especially loves having the filmmakers on site to participate in question-and-answer sessions with the audience.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
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Photo by SALLY CONNOLLY

A group of volunteers put in a few hours of work for the City Island Oyster Reef bagging many shells that were collected from City Island restaurants this year and placed out-of-doors to cure in the sun.



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Focus on Joy for the Holidays on City Island

By Monica Glick

This year City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses are offering the joy of the holiday season!

Joy from...tasty travels. No boarding passes are needed, just a drive up and down City Island! Along the way, you'll find two new businesses with the flavors of Mexico and Italy: **Little Frida's Eatery** (415 City Island Avenue) features burritos, fajitas, quesadillas and nachos, along with burgers, salads and desserts. A bit further down make a stop at **A Taste of Italy** (250 City Island Avenue) and try some fresh mozzarella or a killer sandwich. Ask Anthony or Patty about their holiday platters.



A Taste of Italy

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

For Italian dishes accompanied by the sounds of Italy this holiday season, join "Sinatra Fridays" at **The Snug** (302 City Island Avenue) complete with red-and-white checkerboard placemats. This fam-

ily eatery is also offering a free appetizer when you order two entrées during December and January. And while you're dining, have a drink mixed by bartender Hannah or Alex or Michael, among others, to take the chill off the coldest of winter days. Next door, at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), comfort food awaits.

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

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



Sammy's Shrimp Box

Joy from...the sea. For a great "catch" any time, our Island home has lots to offer. At

the start of the Island, there's the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue) with holiday wooden soldiers to welcome you, as well as **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minnieford Avenue) and **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue). Mid-Island you'll find **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), ready this holiday season to serve up a lobster special with clams and shrimp. Take a trip to the far end of the Island for two more options: **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) and the Original **Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue).



Seafood Kingz

At the start of the Island, **Seafood Kingz** (634 City Island Avenue), a seafood / soul food restaurant, has selections including catfish and lobster, and sides including mac and cheese, collard greens, candied yams and cornbread.

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

If it's the thrill of the "catch" that you like, you've got options: **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Daniel Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). And "discover diving" at **Captain Mike's** (530 City Island Avenue). Learn about lessons and explore the gear you need and want.

For your needs on land or sea, there's help for all the tasks at **Buddy's Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) or **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue). And look into the services offered by **Remy's Cushions** and neighbor **Jai Upholstery** (272 City Island Avenue).



Elliot Glick's Starving Artist

Joy from...sights and sounds. At **Elliott Glick's Starving Artist (The Artist)** (249 City Island Avenue), the holiday season includes a mix of performances—music and comedy among them—along with a photo exhibition. A full schedule of shows and events may be found at www.starvingartistonline.com. Expect more theater performances in 2023 where "it's all about the show." And it's about desserts too, from **Jenny's Sweets** (Instagram/ Facebook); available for custom orders.

The "sights" of the holidays are always magical in the décor of the season found at **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue). And while you're gazing around, sample the food fare—maybe caprese salad truffle burrata, followed by angel hair pasta with shrimp, scallops, artichokes, black olives and tomatoes, or pork chops Italian style, and finish with a delicious dessert special, maybe even the jumbo sundae for two (or more).

For more sights to delight, there are the beautiful paintings by **Mary Colby** at her **Studio and Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue); inquire about a painted portrait of your baby, a loved one, your garden or your dog, as well as her art and drawing



Cheryl Brinker's Studio/Gallery

classes. Just down the block, the windows of **Cheryl Brinker's Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) offer the work of guest artists, which, at this writing, are tie-dyed wonders from Christine Crows.

Watch for what's new with the **City Island Theater Group (CITG)** in 2023 (CityIslandTheaterGroup.com).

Just opening is **The Greenhouse** (310 City Island Avenue), where you will find coffee beans, spices and herbs from around the world, as well as health and wellness drinks. Visit and talk with owner Diego about his "urban farmer's market."

Joy from...looking your best. Our Island has lots of locations to help get you ready for the holidays, including at two spots renamed with new owners: **Ma Be's Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) and **Before and After Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue). There's also **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue) for a manicure or pedicure—or both!

"Unmask a new you" at **Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue); call for your appointment, 718-885-0188.

When you're done with your beauty sessions, step inside **Clipper Coffee** (274 City Island Avenue) for a coffee or cappuccino and take home their coffee beans, roasted on the premises—a great gift for the coffee lover in your life.

Joy from...taking a break. Tired from a long day of work or shopping? Leave the cooking to **Dominick's Market** (385 City Island Avenue) and grab one of their pre-made meals. They also have a full catering menu and a newly-remodeled deli area. For your late-night needs, the **Firehouse Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) has you covered.

You can also "take a break" with take-out from the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84–86 City Island Avenue), **Sea Breeze Deli** (325 City Island Avenue), **Augie's City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) or **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue), where you can also eat in. **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) is waiting for you as you start your day of work or shopping. And mid-Island check out the pop-up to be located at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue) to see what's on the menu to grab and go.



Cinema on the Sound

Perhaps take a break from reality during the holidays by taking in a film at **Cinema on the Sound** (270 City Island Avenue).

And if you need a break from doing the laundry, have it washed and folded by **Clam Digger's Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue) or the **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue).

Joy from...treasure-hunting. See what's on hand this season at **Lollipop Antiques Collectibles and More** (474 City Island Avenue) or on display at the **Island Gallery** (278 City Island Avenue).

And although the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street) is

Continued on page 18

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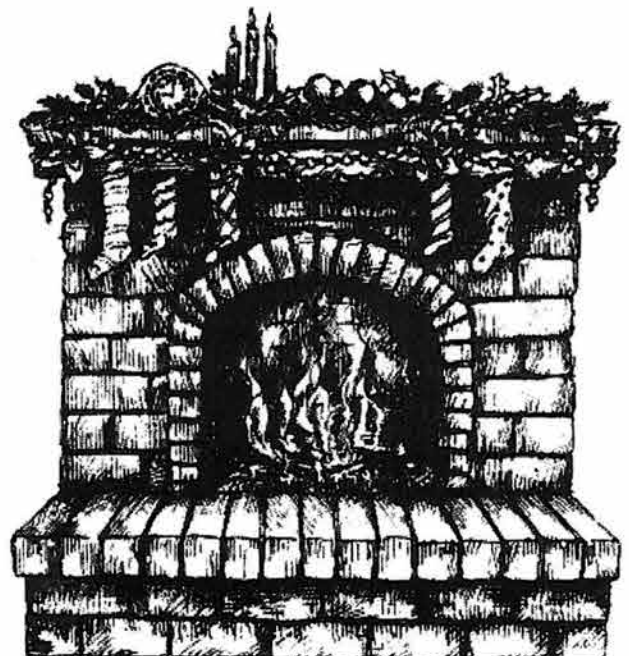


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.



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Photos by RON TERNER

Thanks to the warm weather and the post-pandemic atmosphere, the Halloween parade on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, was one of the best-attended in a long time, with fabulously creepy costumes and young Islanders enjoying the enthusiastic crowd. Prizes were awarded by the Chamber of Commerce. Best Group was the Wizard of Oz (the McSherry family); the Best Adult #1 was Sarah Quane Smith's The Garden and Best Adult #2 was Rachel Roos' Frog Witch. The Best Boy was Arlo Ford's Red Plane with Pilot, and the Best Girl was Chloe Cappello's Witch-Fairy Hybrid. The Best Infant prize went to Ethan Erosa for his Baby Ninja Turtle, and the Best Pet was Jack the dog as the Pope and Pope Mobile. The Scariest was Estephanie's Nun; the Most Original was the McGowan family's Killer Bees, and the Best Nautical prize went to the Cavinee family of Fairies, Pirates and Pixies. Honorable Mentions were the Clam Digger Float, Brenda Prohaska's Hearse, Michael Proietti's Eat the Rich, Chewbacca the Wookiee, the Giant Squid and Andrew Blackman's Body Parts.

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.

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street at 1 p.m.

A reminder: Our holiday dinner will be held on Dec. 7 at the Lobster House at 12 noon. There will be no December meeting.

The next meeting after the New Year will be on Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. Dr. Richard Chernaik will be our guest speaker.

We would like to wish everyone happy holidays!

Joyce Kennedy

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity has been blessed for more than a century in being able to host innumerable community programs, events and celebrations. From Scouts to Seniors, 12-Step Programs and Blood Drives, picnics, youth programs, and the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner—the list of groups and individuals who have been welcomed to Trinity's facilities is long and joyful.

And these same groups and individuals—the entire City Island community—have always given Trinity the generous support that allowed us to provide a community home for everyone.

Unfortunately, for several months we have been unable to fully offer the facilities needed. Because of aging, we had to remove the kitchen stove, and at this point the 50+ year-old kitchen is in real need of modernization.

We are asking the community to once again help Trinity continue our role as partner in the life of City Island. With your financial assistance, we will be able to implement badly needed renovations—so please help us “close” the kitchen (for approximately one month) so we can then re-open it fully, going forward in service and ministry.

Donations by mail can be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464. Electronic giving may be made through “Givebutter” at <https://givebutter.com/trinity>.

Every Sunday at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall we have a class on the Holy Spirit based on Max Lucado's book “Help is Here.” On Wednesdays we offer a Youth Group at 4:30 p.m. for all children in the 5th through 12th grades, followed at 6 p.m. by a Community Supper of soup and bread and then at 6:30 p.m. by a time of prayer. Prayer Time in Fellowship Hall is held on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. All are invited.

Special events in December include the Christmas Fair on Dec. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Blue Christmas, an uplifting service for those feeling lonely or sad during the Christmas season, at 10 a.m. on Dec. 17, and a Christmas Party and Pageant on Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. during the service. Dec. 24 the Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 10 p.m., and on Christmas Day, there will be no in-person worship but we will have a joint service in the morning with the Bronx Cooperative Parish.

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.), and our Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for all. Greater focus of the Sunday morning worship (10 a.m.) is on how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

Pastor Dave and
Trinity United Methodist Church

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

For those who don't know about our organization, we represent the uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Coast

Guard and serve the community of City Island and its neighbors on Long Island Sound. Our mission is to promote a safe, enjoyable boating experience by educating the boating community and their families and by inspecting their vessels to make sure they meet all safety requirements. We also support the local Coast Guard station by adding our two vessels to their water patrols and by serving as an escort for kayak races or marine safety events.

The City Island Flotilla is one of the busiest units in New York City and is recognized annually for its achievements in vessel examinations and public education courses. Our flotilla is made up of 40 members, whose qualifications range from certified instructors and vessel inspectors, specialists in communication, marine safety and public outreach, and emergency medical technicians.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Harlem Yacht Club. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., but our members and officers are present and available as early as 5 p.m. Our next two meetings will be on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and Feb. 7. If you want to learn more about our organization, stop by and visit us.

David Mooney, Flotilla Commander

Grace Episcopal Church

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

New to Grace: Our new priest, Father Kevin Moroney, is now presiding over our worship services. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m., and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Grace Church Christmas Café and Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The café will offer hot soup, salad, quiche, coffee and tea, and baked goods will be available for purchase as well. Boy Scout Troop 211 will be on hand to hold a “No Guilt 50/50 Raffle” for Grace Church, which means that the winners must take the money. The plan is to have 10 prizes. Tickets are \$50 each with a limit of 500 tickets. The raffle winners will be pulled at the fundraiser dinner on Jan. 21, 2023; winners do not need to be present. You will also be able to buy holiday gifts at the Christmas Fair, as there will be a variety of vendors offering jewelry, skin products, crocheted items and more! And the GraceTones will be singing Christmas carols around the Christmas Tree starting at 12 noon. All are welcome!

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m. We are currently reading the book of Judith. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, we will have our next meeting on Sunday, Dec. 11. All are welcome.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School are preparing for the Christmas Pageant to be held on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) at 7:30 p.m. We will also begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

The GraceTones will sing Christmas carols at The Artist on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m., and we have been invited to sing at the Harlem Yacht Club on Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. If you haven't yet made plans for New Year's Eve, please stop by the City Island Gallery, on the corner of Hawkins Street, from 10 to 11:30 p.m., where the GraceTones will entertain you and then lead you over to Hawkins Park for the Ball Drop and a rousing “Everyone Sing! Chorus of Auld Lang Syne”! We are seeking male tenor and bass singers. Remember, you don't have to



Photo by ADRIENNE GRANT

Temple Beth-El held a gala fundraiser on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 13, to honor Jodie Sadovsky and Phyllis Maucieri, the Temple band, and Lay Leaders Bob Berent, Shari Berkowitz, Jim Colbert, Stu Goldstein, Leslie Lichtman-Berland and Monty Renov. Pictured here (l. to r.) are Monty Renov, Stu Goldstein, Shari Berkowitz, Leslie Lichtman-Berland, Phyllis Maucieri, Jodie Sadovsky and Bob Berent.

sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

Holiday Services

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Sunday, Dec. 18, Chanukah Menorah Lighting; 6:30 p.m. at Hawkins Park.

Saturday, Dec. 30: Special New Year's Shabbat. Check www.yourshulbythesea.org for details.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the Bridge

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, St. Mary's Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. School gym and the Thrift Shop.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Mass at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 9 and 11 a.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. 17: Christmas Fair & Café, Bake Sale and Raffle, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Saturday, Dec. 10: Christmas Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17: Blue Christmas Service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18: Children's Christmas Pageant and Party, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m.

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

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Sunday, Nov. 27, marked the beginning of the holy season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior at Christmas. We wish you a happy peaceful season!

Religious Education Program: Thank you to all who participated in this year's Religious Education Thanksgiving Raffle. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Special thanks to Janet Cerrato, Monica Glick, Teri Kurtz, Theresa Panza and the SMSS Religious Education staff and teachers for their prize donations. Once again we must give special thanks to Seafood City for their gen-

erous contribution of the turkeys. Congratulations to our winners: 1st Prize, Theresa Gronewaldt; 2nd Prize, Nilda Nye; 3rd Prize, Anna Narvaez.

Our monthly Holy Hour will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

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 the Thrift Shop. Come take a look. You will be sure to find great gifts.

All are welcome to attend our Coffee Hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 11.

The joyful celebration of the Birth of Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Masses on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, will be at 9 and 11 a.m.

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Masses are 9 and 11 a.m.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Rosette Dietz

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons have been off to a strong start this season. Our events have been a huge success. We have had Sunday football, barbecues and pig roasts, and we hosted a festive Veterans Day for both the scouts and veterans.

In December we will hold our annual Pearl Harbor ceremony on Dec. 3 at 12 noon at the Legion Triangle. The following week is the Army/Navy game at 3 p.m.

The Post's Christmas parties will be Dec. 18 for children and Dec. 19 for adults. In January we will have football playoff games on our six television sets. It's not too soon to sign up for our traditional Pig's Knuckle Party on Feb. 25.

We at the SAL are in full support of our veterans and our community. Please, if you haven't done so already, pay your 2023 dues ASAP. Dues can be mailed to 550 City Island Avenue, Attn: Fred.

Here's wishing you all the best this holiday season, and a healthy and Happy New Year to all.

Tom Vivolo

Quilters by the Sea

On Nov. 6, we awarded Quilts of Valor to two Island brothers, Billy and Tommy Nye, surrounded by family, friends, quilters and Legion Family members. They were wrapped in their quilts at the Nautical Museum, where Tom Nye is president and curator. Both brothers are Vietnam War veterans and served in the U.S. Navy. Five years ago, our group became part of the national Quilts of Valor Foundation. Since then we have awarded 21 Quilts of Valor to Island veterans and 17 to off-Island veterans. See you next year for more quilting and more award ceremonies!

Harlan Sexton



Classic Sci Fi of the Fifties

Before special effects became the central scene-stealing star of science fiction films, interesting plots and concepts captivated the minds and imaginations of people in the 1950s. **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (1951) stars Michael Rennie as Klaatu, an emissary from a federation of planets, who wants to save the Earth by forbidding nuclear testing. Otherwise, the federation will eliminate the planet. He arrives in Washington on a flying saucer, which is guarded by a huge robot he calls Gort. Klaatu escapes from government custody and lives among people for a while, to see how they think and live. He is befriended by young Bobby Benson (Billy Gray, of "Father Knows Best" fame) and his mother, Helen (Patricia Neal). It is with the help of Dr. Barnhart (Sam Jaffe), a famous American scientist, that Klaatu is finally allowed to get his message to the people of Earth. This is a film that stands the test of time with its relevant and thought-provoking message. George Lucas even paid homage to the film by naming a "Star Wars" action figure after the main character, Klaatu.

When Worlds Collide (1951) is the story of the discovery of a new planet called Zyra and a star called Bellus, which are detected by Dr. Emery Bronson (Hayden Rorke). He asks his fellow astronomer Dr. Cole Hendron (Larry Keating) to check the data, which was flown to the United States by pilot David Randall (Richard Derr). The horrifying conclusion is reached that Zyra will pass closely to the earth in a matter of months, causing major devastation a few weeks before Bellus crashes into the earth that will result in the total destruction of our planet. Along with Hendron's daughter, Joyce (Barbara Rush), they present these findings to the United Nations. Many are disbelievers, but others decide to build arks to transport select groups of individuals to Zyra in the hope that it is habitable so they can make sure that humanity does not become extinct.

The original **Invaders from Mars** (1953) is the story of David MacLean (Jimmy Hunt), a boy whose mother and father (Hillary Brooke and Leif Erickson) go over their backyard hill to investigate the supposed landing of a flying saucer. When they come back "changed," David runs to the local police station for help. There he is taken under the wing of Dr. Pat Blake (Helena Carter), who takes David to see her scientist friend, Dr. Stuart Kelston (Arthur Franz). What is so refreshing about this film is that this young boy is believed by these people of science when he explains about the transformation of his parents into unfeeling strangers. The special effects in this classic sci fi thriller are very funny indeed.

In **It Came from Outer Space** (1953) amateur astronomer John Putnam (Richard Carlson) and his fiancée, Ellen Fields (Barbara Rush), are stargazing in the desert when they witness the crash landing of a spaceship. Just before a landslide buries the ship, a mysterious creature emerges and disappears into the darkness. Of course, when Putnam tells his story to the sheriff (Charles Drake), everyone is convinced it was just a meteor. But before long, strange things begin to happen, and the tide of disbelief turns. Differing from other alien invasion films, trust develops between Putnam and the invaders who only want to repair their ship and leave. It is up to Putnam to delay the sheriff and his posse from harming the visitors from outer space. This film is based on a story by acclaimed writer Ray Bradbury.

War of the Worlds (1953) is a vivid adaptation of the H.G. Wells novel, which was greatly influenced by the Orson Welles radio broadcast hoax that scared millions

of people. Originally set in London in the 19th century, the film version is located in 20th-century California. When a tremendous meteor crashes into the mountains, a scientist, Dr. Clayton Forrester (Gene Barry), is called upon to investigate. He is quite smitten with Sylvia Van Buren (Ann Robinson), whose uncle is the town pastor, Matthew Collins (Lewis Martin). Once the aliens start to attack, it is evident that the military might of the earthlings are primitive indeed. The special effects were state of the art for that time period in Hollywood history.

The original **Godzilla** (aka Gojira) was filmed in 1954 in Japan featuring a giant monster awakened by a nuclear test who winds up destroying Tokyo as it stomps through the city. As violent as this movie is, it sends a message about the possible consequences of testing this form of energy. A research scientist invents a device capable of destroying Godzilla, but he is afraid to use it, as it might become a doomsday device in the hands of other governments. For the American version, they took the same film and added Raymond Burr as newspaper reporter Steve Martin, who provided narration throughout. Unfortunately, this version erased any message about the dangers of nuclear weapons and testing before it was released in America.

Unlike many of the sci fi movies of this era that are in black and white, **This Island Earth** (1955) is in Technicolor. When the world's greatest scientific minds are brought together to determine how to generate and store nuclear power, scientist Cal Meacham (Rex Reason) is included in the group when he solves a mysterious puzzle that allows him access to a highly secretive program that is led by the mysterious Exeter (Jeff Morrow). With the help of fellow scientists Ruth Adams (Faith Domergue) and Steve Carlson (Russell Johnson), Meacham soon discovers that Exeter is on a mission to save his dying planet where the scientists are transported in the hopes that they will help fight an interplanetary war.

In **Them!** (1956) Sergeant Ben Peterson (James Whitmore), while investigating a series of mysterious deaths, finds a young girl (Sandy Descher), who is unable to speak. As Peterson joins forces with FBI agent Robert Graham (James Arness) and scientist Dr. Harold Medford (Edmund Gwenn) and his daughter, Dr. Pat Medford (Joan Weldon), he discovers that all the incidents are caused by gargantuan ants that have been mutated by atomic radiation. The Medfords, Peterson and Graham, with the aid of the military, attempt to find the queen ants and destroy the nests before the danger spreads.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956), is based on a novel by Jack Finney and is one of the great cult classics of its time. The story is told in flashback form by Dr. Miles Bennel (Kevin McCarthy), who has escaped to San Francisco from the town of Santa Mira, raving that an alien invasion is under way.

When he returned home from an out-of-town trip, many of the town's inhabitants were complaining that their loved ones seemed very different than before. He and an old girlfriend, Becky Driscoll (Dana Winter), have dinner with friends Jack and Theodora (King Donovan and Carolyn Jones), and to their horror discover giant pods growing in their greenhouse, which upon opening look like replicas of each of them. It turns out that once the humans fall asleep, they are taken over by the clones and awake with no emotion. This version is definitely superior to the remake filmed in 1978.

Forbidden Planet (1956) takes place in 2200 A.D. on the planet Altair-4, where a group of colonizers from Earth settled 20 years earlier. When Commander John J. Adams (Leslie Nielsen) and his crew arrive, they find the planet is now inhabited only by Dr. Moribius (Walter Pidgeon), his daughter Altaira (Anne Francis), and the doctor's creation, the very amiable Robby the Robot. They are the only survivors of some evil force that inhabits the planet and is out to get them too. There are also some pretty funny scenes, especially one where Altaira learns how to "kiss." Shot in Eastmancolor and CinemaScope, it is considered one of the great science fiction films of the 1950s. It was the first science fiction film to depict humans traveling in a faster-than-light starship of their own creation and set entirely on another planet in interstellar space, far away from Earth. The Robby the Robot character is one of the first film robots that was more than just a mechanical tin can on legs; Robby displays a distinct personality and is an integral supporting character in the film.

20 Million Miles to Earth (1957) is the

story of a manned space flight from Venus that crash lands in the Mediterranean, losing its most precious cargo: reptilian eggs from the planet's surface. They become the possession of an Italian zoologist (Frank Puglia), who watches as one hatches to become a rapidly growing monster. His American granddaughter, Marisa (Joan Taylor), and returned astronaut Calder (William Hopper) must battle with the American and Italian military to catch the creature before it destroys everything in its path.

A film from my childhood that I always remembered was **The Crawling Eye** (1958), known as The Trollenberg Terror in England. In a small Swiss resort town, sisters Anne (Janet Munro) and Sarah Pilgrim (Jennifer Jayne) are worried by Anne's telepathic sense, which feels danger. Reporter Philip Truscott (Laurence Payne) and United Nations worker Alan Brooks (Forest Tucker), who is in the area to investigate unusual radiation levels, also sense something is amiss. It turns out that a vicious extraterrestrial is living in a radiation cloud in the Alps, brutally killing anyone who comes near and threatening to descend upon the town. The group sets out to find the creature (the Crawling Eye) residing in the mountains seeking to destroy the human race. It's up to the American scientist to save the day.

Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959) is renowned for being the worst movie ever made, while others feel that it's so bad that it's good. My review: I shut it off a few minutes in.

And until next time, stay safe and healthy, and happy viewing...



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Photo by JUDY JUDSON

Members of Boy Scout Troop 211 helped the Garden Club remove plants from our containers on Nov. 19. Jayden Martinez (front row, second from the right) was the scout who headed up the project along with Judy Judson.

City Island Culinary Club

By KENNETH SELESKY

Hello and season's greetings from the City Island Culinary Club. Yes, friends, the holiday season is in full swing with the smell of pine and sugar cookies in the air. This year we will do our annual cookie exchange, which is a great way to enjoy a homemade assortment of cookies since each person only makes one kind and then everyone swaps. As they say, you can never have too many cookies during the holidays, and of course you do have to leave some out for Santa.

We will meet on Dec. 5 to plan who is making what, and again on Dec. 19 to exchange recipes in time for Christmas. Looking ahead to January, we will do tailgate foods and recipes.

Here, in the meantime, is a great and unusual holiday cookie recipe.

Eggnog Meltaway Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup blanched almonds (skinless)
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon bourbon
- 2 teaspoons rum extract
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated nutmeg, plus more for serving

Directions:

Step 1: Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Step 2: Put the almonds and 1/2 cup of the confectioners' sugar in the bowl of a food processor and process until very finely ground, about 2 minutes. Add the butter and process until smooth, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Scrape the dough off the inside of the bowl if needed. Add the bourbon and rum and vanilla extracts and pulse until smooth. Add the flour and salt and pulse until the dough forms a ball.

Step 3: Roll mounded teaspoons of the dough into balls about 1 inch wide and place on the prepared baking sheets an inch apart. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Step 4: Position oven racks in the top and bottom thirds of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F.

Step 5: Bake the cookies for 20 to 25 minutes, rotating the baking sheets from top to bottom and front to back halfway through, until the cookies are firm when gently pressed, completely dry, and just beginning to crack at the top. Cool the cookies on the sheets for 5 minutes; they will firm as they cool.

Step 6: In the meantime, put the nutmeg and remaining 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar in a pie plate or wide baking dish and mix well. Toss the warm cookies very gently in the sugar mixture until they are evenly coated. Note: The cookies need to be warm for the first coating of sugar to stick. Cool the cookies on a wire rack completely, about 30 minutes, and then toss again in the sugar mixture until they are very white. Sprinkle with additional grated nutmeg.

Step 7: Store the cookies in a little bit of extra confectioners' sugar in an airtight container for up to a week.



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The Precious Present: Be the Light This Holiday Season for Yourself and Your Family

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Years ago I was given a short book, "The Precious Present" by Spencer Johnson. A gift is described in a number of ways, only for the reader to discover that the "present" is the "now" of our lives.

Take a moment. Just stop. Pay attention to your breath. Look at something beautiful in your environment—a plant, a child, a piece of fruit, a photograph. Realize that this is all we have, a series of "presents" that we somehow make into a movie, the movie of our lives.

This is the season of the winter solstice. Indigenous people living close to the natural world paid close attention to the movements of the sun, moon, planets and stars. As days got shorter, they built bonfires to light up the night and ask the universe to bring back more time in the sun.

Religious holidays of the fall and winter all revolve around light: Diwali, Hanukkah,

Christmas, Kwanzaa. We light candles, wear sparkly clothing, decorate our houses with bright lights and hold the darkness at bay for another year. We tell stories of the triumph of light over darkness, miracles, a star in the east, and the integrity of a whole continent of people.

As Robert Hunter says in one of my favorite Grateful Dead songs, "Wake up to find out that you are the eyes of the world." We are part of creation, and that creation as seen by us can be a force for goodness. I would add that each of us is also "the light of the world" when we are present and loving with those around us. What better "present" could we ever give? Be the Light that your children, your family, our community, our nation and our world sorely need right now.

May you find light and love and much to celebrate this holiday season.



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Happy
Holiday
Season**

Assemblyman
Michael R. Benedetto



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- Be a sponsor: Event Journal ads and table sponsors
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- Items can be picked up by members of Troop 211.

Any questions, requests for raffle tickets, or for more information please contact:
CI_Troop211@gmail.com or 718-530-4251.

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City Island Theater Group
See you in 2023!

NEW COMMANDER AT THE 45TH PRECINCT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Every two years or so, the 45th Precinct welcomes a new Commanding Officer, but Captain Johnny Orellana was already very familiar with the precinct when he arrived in October to replace Captain Isaac Soberal, who is now Deputy Inspector for the 42nd Precinct. During his 25 years as a police officer, Captain Orellana has had many different responsibilities, but for four years he was Executive Officer at the 45th and oversaw the Orchard Beach operation each summer, so he is very familiar indeed with City Island.

Johnny Orellana was born in Ecuador and moved with his mother to East New York, a residential neighborhood in Brooklyn when he was seven years old. He has five younger siblings, four brothers and a sister, but he isn't the only police officer in the

family; one of his brothers is an Inspector for the NYPD and another is a detective in New Jersey. After graduating from college with a major in political science, the captain moved to the Bronx, where he has remained ever since, playing many different roles for the NYPD—from uncover narcotics to his most recent assignment, as Commanding Officer for the Yankee Stadium detail this past year.

Beginning in 2017, while he was supervising Orchard Beach, he was determined to try each of City Island's restaurants, and he thinks he has enjoyed up to 90 percent of them so far. He took the unusual step of using police bikes to visit the Island instead of a car, so he became aware of the smaller businesses along the avenue and of the trails through the park. He well understands

the traffic problems here during the warm months and believes that a police officer parked in the fire lane just after the bridge will help minimize speeding, which is an issue here even in the cooler weather. He also believes that an officer at Cross Street to wave traffic through could help minimize back-ups.

He shared with *The Current* his goals for his tenure as Commanding Officer, both short and long term. He has already begun to target quality-of-life and repeat offenders, such as shoplifters, by working with local businesses and overlapping precinct shifts that offenders often take advantage of, in order to prevent crime from taking place. He wants to hear from the community about such problems, not just the serious shootings and robberies. He also believes that much can be done with crime prevention by watching and helping troubled youngsters.

His long-term goal is simple: "By the time I leave, I want good citizens to love me and lawbreakers to hate me!" By taking a proactive approach to prevention, his chances for achieving this goal look promising indeed.

When asked about the hate crime committed recently on City Island, when restau-



Photo courtesy of the 45TH PRECINCT
New Commanding Officer of the 45th Precinct, Captain Johnny Orellana.

rants received hate mail in the form of an offensive racist cartoon, he reported that the NYPD had identified a "person of interest," who had apparently sent similar cartoons to businesses in other Bronx precincts. He advised anyone receiving such mail to call 911 right away and to be careful not to handle the material, as there could be fingerprints that could provide evidence.

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Blue Christmas Service - 10 a.m. Saturday, December 17th
Christmas Pageant & Party - 10 a.m. Sunday, December 18th
Christmas Morning Service - 10 a.m. Sunday, December 25th

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Holidays on CI

Continued from page 9

closed until next spring, visit the website at www.cityislandmuseum.org and discover the treasures found in the museum's 2022 webinar series, including "City Island Boatyards: Past and Present" and "The History of Oystering in New York." And look at their shop, which features monkey-fist tree ornaments and wine stoppers.

Joy from...endless gift possibilities. As in any season, Ron Turner's **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) offers a plethora of gift possibilities, including t-shirts featuring Turner's amazing photography. This Island mainstay now includes the work of JM Creations.



Kaleidoscope Gallery

Take a stroll to the next block and look for the welcoming angel in the window of **Kaleidoscope Gallery** (280 City Island Avenue), where there are many gift ideas for all on your list. And, of course, there is pure joy with every purchase at **239 Play**

(239 City Island Avenue).

And for the cigar lover on your gift-giving list stop by **Humberto Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue) to find just the right selection.

Joy from...feeling healthy and well. Looking for a brand-new you for the New Year? Check out the possibilities at **Club Fit** (466 City Island Avenue). Explore the offerings at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue), and inquire about what's possible at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue) for the best you for 2023.

Joy from...good times. Your tastebuds will be filled with joy while dining with friends at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue); check out their Facebook page ("The Black Whale City Island") for daily specials. Near the start of the Island, Chef Alex Pertsovsky at **Archie's Tap and Table** (536 City Island Avenue) is prepared to host your holiday gathering, or stop by with friends any night for appetizers like raspberry habanero BBQ wings or main dishes like chicken and waffles. There's also brunch!

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

This year, City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses deliver on the joy as you celebrate the holidays!

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Organization News

Continued from page 13

The end of the year is approaching, and we are encouraging all of our members to renew their membership for 2023, and of course we would love to sign up Islanders who have not yet joined. Individual memberships are \$25 a year; family memberships \$35; and corporate memberships \$75. Membership enables you to visit the Museum without paying the \$5 admission fee, a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop, and offers exclusive communications about ongoing activities at the museum.

Additional donations are always welcome, of course, and are fully tax deductible. To renew and make your donation, send a check to City Island Historical Society, PO Box 82, Bronx, NY 10464, or renew your membership at <https://www.cityislandmuseum.org/services>.

In 2023 we will be hosting more events to engage and share these stories and histories with you! Community support is very important because it helps us offer new exhibits, keep the Museum in good shape and present City Island's history to visitors from around the world. We hope that Island residents might be interested in joining the board or volunteering for a special project so that the museum can continue to remain a resource for City Island.

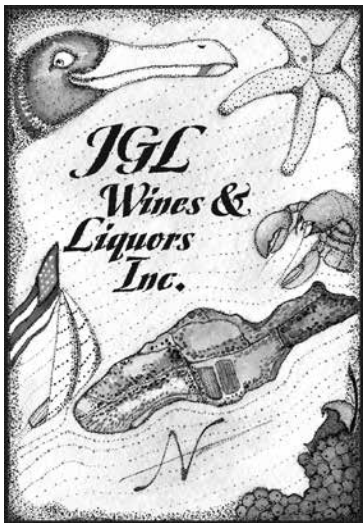
Tom Nye

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our annual Christmas fair will be held on Dec. 3 and 4 at our shop and in the school gym. Watch for our January sales.

Happy holidays to all. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



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City Island, NY 10464
jgl358@verizon.net
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Art Exhibition for November & December Paintings by Cassandra Complex

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Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club is in the process of removing the plants from our containers on City Island Avenue and replacing them with winter greenery, with help from Boy Scout Troop 211. Club members are busy distributing holiday wreaths to public spaces on City Island, including Hawkins Park, Ambrosini Field, the American Legion Triangle, the Post Office, library, museum, fire house, P.S. 175, and the cemetery. Wreaths are also being donated to the Veterans Home in Montrose, NY, to Providence Rest Nursing Home in the Bronx, and to the 45th Precinct. Members are looking forward to the Club's holiday party, which is being held at Artie's Restaurant this year.

Our November meeting featured a flower-arranging demonstration by Nancy White of the Flower Bar in Larchmont. She created two beautiful holiday arrangements, one traditional and one contemporary, which were raffled off to two lucky Club members. At our Dec. 5 meeting, Jennifer Cappello-Ruggerio, instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, will present the third in her series on the Fundamentals of Gardening. Whether you are new to gardening or have been gardening for years, this series is for you. Jennifer will be covering new ideas based on recent research. These presentations are open to the public. All are welcome!

We thank all of you who contribute to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. We wish everyone happy holidays!

Judy Judson

The Schaller Dynasty

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

For many years, Russell Schaller Sr. was probably the busiest man on City Island. Not only did he work for Bell Telephone Company for 44 years, after serving in the Air Force in World War II, but in his spare time, before and after his retirement in 1989, he also served as an officer of the City Island Nautical Museum and the Civic Association, and he put in time working for CIVAC and as a cartoonist and writer for *The Island Current*. For as long as anyone can remember, Russell also offered to help his immediate neighbors and other City Islanders as a handy man, doing house painting, concrete work, carpentry and, most of all, landscaping. There wasn't much that he couldn't or wouldn't do. Feeding, clothing and putting six children through school provided a great incentive.

Russell also found time to enjoy a long marriage to Eileen Schaller, with whom he raised six children, and it was not long before he got his boys to help with his side jobs, including mowing lawns and doing other garden chores. Although his eldest son, Joe, became a police officer and eventually Police Commissioner for the city of New Rochelle, he too contributed to the family gardening business by managing the enterprise in his spare time. Over the years, Joe's brothers, brothers-in-law, sons, nephews, grandchildren and friends of all of the above participated at times in the business, and as time went on, the extracurricular family activity became a real business.

Russell's grandson and Joe's son, the late Conal Schaller, decided to take the landscaping business seriously, and about

15 years ago he established CAS Property Care, LLC. He studied lawn and garden care and eventually expanded the mowing to mulching, fertilizing, irrigation and other forms of serious groundskeeping. After his death in 2016, the family stepped up to form CJS Property Maintenance, which continued Conal's work and is managed by his brother, Corley; his father, Joe; his uncle Mot, and his cousin J.R. Kearns.

Although CJS now has a staff of employees to handle chores as diverse as power washing, deck repair, snow removal, tree service, gutter cleaning and fencing, in addition to garden maintenance, the Schaller legacy as a family venture lives on, as Russell's sons, grandsons and even great-grandsons continue to serve City Island families much as Russell did for his neighbors on King Avenue years ago. Their continued dedication to the business reflects the Schaller work ethic, which has been described by some as the inability to sit still but which is also a gift to the community.

There are now a number of other landscaping firms that one sees around the Island, but many Islanders take special pride in this family enterprise, especially when we see a retired police commissioner helping to trim hedges along the sidewalk.

Happy Holidays!

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

The early Witch Hazel, Arnold's Promise The Winter Garden

Although winter is the midnight of the year, it is couched in promise even as we retire indoors to a fire which is the greatest of all human discoveries. Many plants are beginning to wake up and flower beginning in November. I have the green bears-foot hellebore already nodding its green drooping bells outside my house.

It's been an unusually warm autumn, with plenty of time to edit and prune the garden. So now what? Holiday season, yule suppers, sledding and snowmen. 'Tis the season to be jolly, so they say, but Mother Nature has her own view, for January may be the coldest month. The world goes to glass, the air is like knives, and it is very hard on the birds and other animals. We see the birds grow thin, so I feed them and have bought a Gesail bird bath heater to defrost the water. The nuthatch, titmouse, cardinal, jay, dove and flicker have all returned.

The gardener in winter sits by the fire turning over page upon page of seed catalogs. He rarely emerges into the garden except for some exercise or to peruse the frozen paths and empty beds. But if you have been reading me for some years and have paid attention, you will know or be terrifically bored by my insane love of winter flowers. Partially this love persists because I hate endings of any kind. I want the garden to go on, thus the evergreen furniture and my obsession with hellebores, the Christmas rose. But there are other flowers

in winter that will bring good tidings of spring.

Yesterday I cut whips of the winter jasmine and pegged them down all in a row to root in the garden. It's essential to have winter jasmine directly outside your front door. They will be blooming in late February-early March. The best witch hazel and the largest is Hamamelis Moilis, but any variety will be quite the thing at the end of January when you have become irrevocably done with the chill. If you grow snow drops, be sure to order Galanthus "Elwesii," for they are the largest of the species and possibly one of the least expensive. Be sure to start with at least 50 to 100 and plant them in bunches. Tucking them under trees and shrubs prevents you from digging them up next spring when you are planting your pansies or tomatoes. To have tall-stemmed hellebores, you must grow them in the deepest shade. The English sometimes put them under glass cloches to elongate their stems even further. Bringing them cut inside only requires a slit half way up the stem.

But to get back to my ubiquitous green garden furniture: boxwood, yew and holly. Repeat them throughout the garden, leaving spaces for perennials or roses or grasses in between. Hollies shimmer and sparkle and have such red berries, and the variegated English holly with shiny dark green leaves edged in creamy white is another favorite. Just one makes a dazzling focal point in the winter garden. Sarcococca hookeriana is glossy dark green, a beautiful small shrub

with fragrant flowers. Or you can set the whole thing ablaze by planting red twig dogwoods with heather and grasses. You will amaze your friends and yourself with so much color in the darkest part of the year.

So why have a garden of sticks? If

you concentrate on evergreens and winter plants, the garden will be forever more.

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

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

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2022

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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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:15 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY/ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 A.M.

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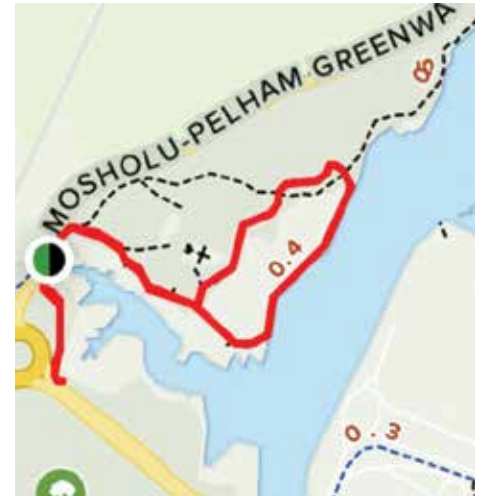
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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary 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 2022									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01	Thu	0604	7.20	1231	0.47	1834	7.00		Thu 01
02	Fri	0059	0.20	0705	7.48	1334	0.09	1936	Fri 02
03	Sat	0156	0.10	0801	7.74	1431	-0.30	2031	Sat 03
04	Sun	0248	0.01	0851	7.94	1523	-0.60	2122	Sun 04
05	Mon	0337	-0.03	0938	8.05	1612	-0.77	2209	Mon 05
06	Tue	0421	0.01	1022	8.05	1657	-0.78	2253	Tue 06
07	Wed	0503	0.13	1103	7.97	1739	-0.65	2335	Wed 07
08	Thu	0540	0.32	1140	7.81	1818	-0.41		Thu 08
09	Fri	0013	6.94	0610	0.55	1211	7.63	1853	Fri 09
10	Sat	0049	6.84	0628	0.75	1235	7.45	1921	Sat 10
11	Sun	0118	6.76	0649	0.89	1258	7.31	1936	Sun 11
12	Mon	0142	6.71	0722	1.01	1330	7.18	1958	Mon 12
13	Tue	0210	6.72	0803	1.10	1408	7.04	2034	Tue 13
14	Wed	0247	6.75	0849	1.17	1452	6.88	2117	Wed 14
15	Thu	0330	6.81	0940	1.18	1541	6.72	2204	Thu 15
16	Fri	0418	6.90	1034	1.11	1635	6.58	2254	Fri 16
17	Sat	0509	7.05	1133	0.94	1733	6.50	2347	Sat 17
18	Sun	0602	7.27	1235	0.65	1832	6.51		Sun 18
19	Mon	0042	0.53	0656	7.54	1341	0.28	1932	Mon 19
20	Tue	0138	0.33	0750	7.85	1444	-0.15	2030	Tue 20
21	Wed	0234	0.11	0843	8.15	1543	-0.55	2126	Wed 21
22	Thu	0331	-0.09	0936	8.39	1639	-0.86	2221	Thu 22
23	Fri	0427	-0.24	1029	8.52	1734	-1.05	2315	Fri 23
24	Sat	0524	-0.30	1122	8.51	1828	-1.09		Sat 24
25	Sun	0010	7.39	0623	-0.27	1217	8.34	1924	Sun 25
26	Mon	0107	7.39	0726	-0.16	1316	8.03	2021	Mon 26
27	Tue	0210	7.34	0835	-0.01	1422	7.62	2122	Tue 27
28	Wed	0318	7.27	0948	0.11	1539	7.20	2224	Wed 28
29	Thu	0428	7.24	1059	0.15	1658	6.89	2327	Thu 29
30	Fri	0535	7.27	1207	0.08	1808	6.72		Fri 30
31	Sat	0029	0.16	0637	7.35	1309	-0.08	1907	Sat 31
JANUARY 2023									
01	Sun	0121	0.20	0729	7.51	1403	-0.25	2002	Sun 01
02	Mon	0215	0.26	0822	7.59	1457	-0.36	2054	Mon 02
03	Tue	0306	0.31	0912	7.64	1547	-0.42	2143	Tue 03
04	Wed	0353	0.36	0958	7.65	1633	-0.40	2229	Wed 04
05	Thu	0436	0.43	1041	7.62	1715	-0.30	2311	Thu 05
06	Fri	0514	0.52	1119	7.54	1753	-0.15	2349	Fri 06
07	Sat	0545	0.62	1151	7.43	1826	0.03		Sat 07
08	Sun	0022	6.79	0605	0.69	1211	7.32	1848	Sun 08
09	Mon	0044	6.79	0624	0.69	1229	7.25	1858	Mon 09
10	Tue	0100	6.84	0655	0.65	1258	7.19	1922	Tue 10
11	Wed	0127	6.93	0733	0.63	1334	7.09	1956	Wed 11
12	Thu	0202	7.02	0815	0.63	1416	6.93	2036	Thu 12
13	Fri	0243	7.09	0902	0.64	1502	6.72	2120	Fri 13
14	Sat	0329	7.13	0953	0.67	1553	6.48	2208	Sat 14
15	Sun	0419	7.17	1049	0.67	1649	6.26	2301	Sun 15
16	Mon	0515	7.23	1153	0.61	1751	6.13	2359	Mon 16
17	Tue	0615	7.34	1309	0.42	1900	6.16		Tue 17
18	Wed	0104	0.62	0719	7.53	1435	0.06	2013	Wed 18
19	Thu	0215	0.45	0825	7.79	1543	-0.40	2122	Thu 19
20	Fri	0328	0.15	0929	8.07	1640	-0.84	2223	Fri 20
21	Sat	0435	-0.20	1029	8.30	1733	-1.17	2319	Sat 21
22	Sun	0536	-0.52	1127	8.40	1824	-1.34		Sun 22
23	Mon	0012	7.74	0633	-0.73	1223	8.35	1913	Mon 23
24	Tue	0103	7.88	0729	-0.80	1319	8.12	2003	Tue 24
25	Wed	0156	7.88	0826	-0.72	1416	7.75	2054	Wed 25
26	Thu	0251	7.75	0925	-0.52	1517	7.30	2147	Thu 26
27	Fri	0351	7.55	1027	-0.27	1623	6.86	2244	Fri 27
28	Sat	0453	7.35	1132	-0.04	1729	6.51	2345	Sat 28
29	Sun	0557	7.20	1235	0.11	1833	6.31		Sun 29
30	Mon	0047	0.61	0658	7.15	1336	0.17	1934	Mon 30
31	Tue	0146	0.75	0756	7.18	1432	0.15	2029	Tue 31
FEBRUARY 2023									
01	Wed	0241	0.77	0850	7.28	1523	0.10	2120	Wed 01
02	Thu	0331	0.74	0939	7.38	1610	0.05	2207	Thu 02
03	Fri	0415	0.68	1023	7.45	1651	0.04	2249	Fri 03
04	Sat	0454	0.62	1102	7.46	1728	0.07	2327	Sat 04



Shore Road

One of our favorite drives in the area is going to Pelham and New Rochelle along Shore Road. It is as bucolic as it gets around here, a reminder of what life used to be like and of the nearby refuge for wildlife. For example, on one recent drive we saw a red fox, on another a bald eagle. The horse crossing sign by the golf course is priceless for its perseverance, and, of course, there is the old Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, which is a not-so-subtle reminder of the area's rich human history.



Historian John McNamara reminds us in his classic book "History in Asphalt" that the Shore Road is "one of the oldest roads in our borough in that it evolved from an Indian trail of long ago." In this way, Shore Road is like a lot of other roads in our area. Eastchester and Williamsbridge Roads, for example, along with Gun Hill and Fordham Roads, the Boston Post Road, even Route 22 and Broadway in Manhattan were once Indian trails. In one very obvious way, however, Shore Road is different from the rest: it retains at least a modicum of its old-world charm.

Road was "the carriage path of the 19th-century squires whose estates lined the shoreline of Eastchester Bay," and before that a road of strategic significance to "both the British and Colonial troops during the Revolutionary War." On Shore Road, it doesn't take much to be transported back in time, to reconnect on some level with those people, places and events that have gone before us. Have you tried reconnecting on Broadway lately?

In 1988, members of the Appalachian Mountain Club thought the Native American presence in our area was worth preserving, and so they created the Siwanoy Trail, portions of which run alongside Shore Road. Today hikers can walk the roughly two-mile trail that begins at Glover's Rock and then proceeds to Bartow-Pell and loops around an area near the water behind the historic home.

Shore Road is our own little diamond in the rough here, far from perfect, but our own. On a recent walk alongside, we were pleasantly surprised by the discovery of an old natural spring, its cold clean water rising to the surface for the animals and, as of old, the casual passersby in need of a drink. While we did not stop for a taste, we continued along our way content to know of its continued existence and the satisfaction, dare we say, comfort that awaited the next person to chance upon it.

McNamara also reminds us that Shore

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Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



Richard Dillon

Former Island resident Richard Dillon passed away peacefully in Denville, NJ, on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, at the age of 90.

Richard John Dillon was born Feb. 11, 1932, to Joseph and Diana Dillon in Flushing, Queens and lived on City Island for 65 years before moving to Denville. He worked as a pressman in the printing trade for 40 years and owned and operated Dillon's Boatyard on City Island, with his parents and his brother, from 1950 to 1972. He married Mary Anderson in 1967 and they raised their three children here.

He served on the Board of Directors for the City Island Yacht Club and as Fleet Captain. He was made Honorary Commodore in recognition of his building the boat dock, ramps and launch operators' shed for the club. He also enjoyed scuba diving, especially the dives he took with his son Rich and daughter Jean.

Richard volunteered with the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC) as a driver, and later, to address the shortage of EMTs at CIVAC, he took classes and became a certified Emergency

Medical Technician. As an EMT, he helped City Island residents and guests for many years and once saved the life of a man who was choking.

He loved the challenge of any construction project. Completely self-taught, he built decks, patios, sidewalks, docks, furniture and toys for family and friends. He had an extensive tool collection and happily lent his tools and expertise to all who asked.

Richard was a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather, who was treasured for his kindness, encouragement and unfailing willingness to help anyone. His ready laugh and appreciation of a good joke endeared him to many. After moving to The Oaks at the Springpoint senior living community in New Jersey, he served as a Welcome Angel to help new residents.

He was pre-deceased by his brother, Raymond, and Mary, his wife of nearly 55 years. He is survived by his children, Patricia Biagi and her husband, James; Richard and his wife, Theresa; and Jean DuBartell and her husband, Michael; his brother, Donald, and his wife, Maureen; seven grandchildren: Matthew Biagi, Kathleen Biagi, Timothy Dillon, Brian Dillon, Emily DuBartell, Kevin DuBartell, and Eric DuBartell; several nieces and nephews, and his very dear friend Maryann Gorman.

His funeral was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Monday, Oct. 31, and he was interred at Pelham Cemetery. Flowers or memorial donations may be made in his name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tunnel to Towers Foundation or the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey.

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Happy Holidays from BRIDGE MARINE!
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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. Show your bridge love!

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HOLIDAY CLEAN UP BEFORE & AFTER. I will clean your house, office or boat. City Island references available. Call Margaret 917-287-1132.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BOATS! Burck's Boat Store, 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York. 718-885-1559. Customer Parking.



Photo by RON TERNER
 The American Legion family attended the Nye Quilt of Valor ceremony on Nov. 6, 2022 (l. to r.): Post Commander Peter Del Debbio, Bob Mennona, Tommy Nye, Billy Nye, Joe Goonan, Bob Swieciki and Auxiliary President Doreen Gallagher.

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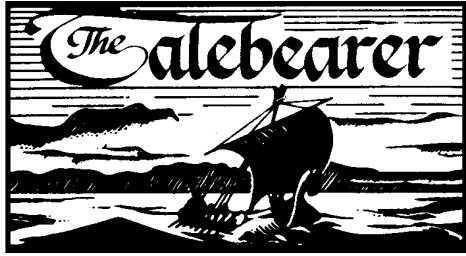
We, Susan, Donna and Jim, along with our families and our amazing staff, want to thank you all for your continued support.

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

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

We look forward to seeing you at the Diner and Snug soon for a "cheers" or a delicious homestyle meal. Call 718-885-0362 or 9559 or order online at cityislanddiner.com. DELIVERY IS FREE.

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



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.



Beth Rota competed in the Disney Wine and Dine Half Marathon on Nov. 6, 2022.



Kristina Dzenis and Stephen Vock were wed on Oct. 1, 2022.

Lots of celebrating in the Ulmer household! Special happy birthday wishes to our daughters, Kristina and Debra, who will blow out candles on Dec. 6, our granddaughter Cameron on Dec. 8 and our grandson John on Dec. 15, and to the "King" of our family, John Ulmer, on Dec. 11.

Best wishes for much success to City Island's Patricia Hennessy, LMSW, who has been named President of the Bronx Community Guardianship Network, Inc. Pat comes to the position with more than 20 years of guardianship experience and will lead BCGN at its new address at 311 City Island Avenue. The BCGN's mission is to provide high-quality guardianship

service to the Bronx's most vulnerable residents.

Congratulations to both Mike Rauh on completing his 43rd New York City Marathon and to his daughter Beth Rota, who competed in the Disney Wine and Dine Half Marathon on Nov. 6, 2022. Beth finished her first 13.1 mile race in three hours, 35 minutes and 48 seconds. As a Disney World fanatic, Beth loved seeing all the Disney characters along the course! She was so happy that her training with the Move Ya Brass team in New Orleans prepared her well for the race. Guess she's following in her dad's foot steps! Mike Rauh and all the family were very proud. Family members were using two online trackers that day, one for Beth and one for Mike!

God bless Siena O'Brien Cebek who was christened on Nov. 5. Proud grandparents are Islanders Cathy and Frank Cebek and Deb and Brian Smith.

Congratulations to Mary and Warren Sheinwald on the birth of their daughter, Ellie Frances, on Nov. 5. Proud grandparents are Islanders Virginia and Hans Dannegger and Jesse and Shelley Sheinwald of Boynton Beach, FL.

Special birthday wishes to my grandson, Jake Penny, on become a "teenager" on Dec. 26. This is the BIG ONE! Lots of love from Grandma Penny.

The Castello del Trebbio in Tuscany, Italy, was the setting on Oct. 1 for the wedding of Kristina Dzenis, daughter of Dr. Peter and Estrellita Dzenis to Stephen Vock, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vock of Switzerland. Kristina is the Senior Director of Ad Operations at Condé Nast in Western Europe. Her mother Estrellita, is a retired nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital, and her father is an orthopedic surgeon at New York Pres-



Ines Camile Dzenis Garcia



Happy birthdays to Arlo and Pippin Ford.



Siena O'Brien Cebek was christened on Nov. 5, 2022.



Ellie Frances Sheinwald was born on Nov. 5, 2022.

Cavinee. Enjoy!

Wishing all of our readers, friends and neighbors a very happy holiday and a healthy new year.

Maria Swieciki

byterian Queens. Stephen Vock is the founder and owner of Vock Software Solutions based in London. God bless and congratulations!

Welcome to the world Ines Camile Dzenis Garcia. The proud parents are Melissa and Josh Garcia of Brooklyn. Grandparents Peter and Estrellita Dzenis of Minnieford Avenue are so grateful for this blessing from heaven. Ines is pure joy. Congratulations to the proud parents!

Happy birthday to Arlo and Pippin Ford! Pip turned two on Oct. 9, and Arlo turned four on Nov. 10. We love our City Island cuties!

Happy December birthdays to Ena Ellwanger, Anjulee Sebastian and Bobby

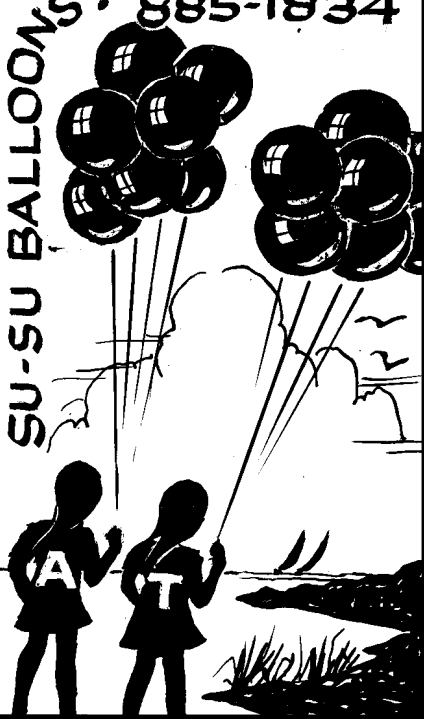


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Our team here at CI Elite is wishing everyone Happy & Healthy Holidays.