

The Island Current

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Two Dollars

Happy Holidays To All!



**FROM THE STAFF OF
THE ISLAND CURRENT**

"Primary Sentinels" by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

BRIEFLY...

CONCERT RETURNS: After a four-year absence, St. Mary, Star of the Sea’s Christmas concert returns on Dec. 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of Ken Far-num. All are welcome, so put it on your calendar.

THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM is closed for the winter, but the shop is open on line at www.cityislandmuseum.org if you want to select some nauti-cal gifts for your friends and family. Or you can drop by Kaleidoscope Gallery at 271 City Island Avenue if you prefer to purchase gifts in person.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS ON CI: Do some holiday shopping, meet Santa, grab some delicious baked goods and support our local organizations at the same time this holiday season. Trinity United Methodist Church’s Christmas Fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street. The American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post’s Auxil-iary Holiday Fair is on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 550 City Island Avenue. St. Mary’s Thrift Shop Christmas Sale will run from Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Thrift Shop and in the school gym at 595 Minneford Avenue. Santa Claus will appear in Hawkins Park with strolling carolers on Saturday, Dec. 14, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. On Sunday, Dec. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a Children’s Christmas Party at the American Legion Post, and a jolly old elf is expected to join the fun. Merry Christmas to all!

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during Octo-ber and November 2024. Unfounded com-plaints are not included in the list.

1 – ARSON
1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
1 – LOST PROPERTY
2 – HARASSMENT
2 – PETIT LARCENY
1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the follow-ing incidents and arrests for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 19, 2024.

10/22 – On Pell Place at 5:45 p.m., police took a report of harassment from an Island male. Victim states he was home when a neighbor started banging on his door with an unknown object, causing him to feel panic and alarm.

10/27 – Police from the 45th Pre-cinct arrested an off-Island male, 69, and charged him with arson on City Island Avenue at 4:30 a.m. Upon arrival, the individual was standing next to a fire with a lighter in hand. After the FDNY arrived, there was a crack at the bottom of the window from an explosion of fire. A witness approached police and stated that the individual was banging on the business window prior to fire and then was seen bending down, lighting hay and flowers in front of the commercial establishment.

10/28 – An Island male reported grand larceny auto on Hawkins Street at 4:19 a.m. Victim parked his vehicle in his drive-way overnight and when he returned, the vehicle was no longer there. There was no broken glass where the vehicle was parked. There are no cameras with video available.

10/28 – On Cross Street at 12:10 p.m., police took a report for leaving the scene

of an accident with property damage. Com-plainant states he was driving straight when the driver of an Amazon van attempted to make a right turn in front of him, causing his vehicle to be sideswiped. The driver of the Amazon truck did not give any infor-mation and left the scene of the accident.

11/01 – An Island male reported an incident of petit larceny on City Island Ave. at 12 p.m. Complainant states he realized his Department of Sanitation badge/ID and NYS driver’s license was missing. He last saw items in his vehicle side door when he parked at the gas station.

11/01- At 5:25 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an Island male told police that he was coaching baseball when an unknown defendant began cursing at him and told him to watch his back. Victim further states that the defendant frequents location, causing him to be alarmed for his safety.

11/07 – An off-Island male reported lost property on City Island Avenue at 9:30 p.m. Victim states that he went to have a few drinks and claims he had \$1,000 in his pants pocket. As he was leaving, he real-ized the cash was missing.


11/07 – On Pilot Street at 6:55 p.m. an Island female told police that another female has been sending her threatening text messages and voicemails in an act of aggravated harassment. She calls victim from blocked numbers and claims she is waiting for her outside the house to fight her. Victim is in fear for her safety. No weapons were reported.

11/12 – An Island female reported an incident of petit larceny on Pilot Street at 8 a.m. Victim states that an unknown defen-dant used her EBT card to make multiple purchases.

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (January/February 2025) will be pub-lished and on sale at the end of January. Happy New Year!

THE ISLAND CURRENT
P.O. Box 6
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PRINTING COST INCREASES

The Island Current has not raised its newsstand price (\$1 per issue) in more than 20 years, but printing and delivery costs have increased steadily, so it’s time for us to catch up. The newsstand price will increase to \$2 per issue starting December 2024. We rely on all our distribution outlets and on those who purchase *The Current* at City Island businesses, so we hope you understand the need for this increase and will continue to be loyal readers. Thank you for your continued support of *The Island Current*, City Island’s only newspaper, which has been published for 53 years.

This Holiday Season,
May Your Blessings Be Many,
Your Worries Few And Days
Spent With The Ones You Love
Who Mean The Most To You!



Happy Holidays &
a Great New Year!

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Photo by MONICA GLICK

Many Islanders joined Council Member Kristy Marmorato and several New York Public Library (NYPL) officials at the City Island Library on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, to celebrate the allocation of \$4 million in City Council funding to the branch for the replacement of the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system (l. to r.): George Mihaltses, NYPL Vice President of Government and Community Affairs; Kathleen Carrasco, NYPL Bronx Borough Director; Dawn Chance, Associate Director, NYPL East Bronx Library Network; Council Member Kristy Marmorato; Rickey Collado, Manager, City Island Library, and Garrett Bergen, NYPL Senior Director of Facilities Management. Although the branch is relatively small, it welcomed over 29,000 visitors in the past year in spite of continuing issues with leaks and lack of heat caused by a faulty HVAC system.

Street Paving Stops for the Holidays

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by MATT PANZA

Schofield Street was the last street paved before the DOT project takes a break.


The Department of Transportation got as far as Schofield Street in milling and paving the side streets on City Island Avenue but has called a halt to the project until the weather warms up in the spring of 2025. In the meantime, damage caused by the milling is being fixed on various

streets, and speed bumps are going to be restored on Minneford Avenue before the end of the year. The original schedule called for all streets other than City Island Avenue to be milled and paved before the end of the year, but the job has taken longer than anticipated.


CORRECTIONS

From the November 2024 issue: The bridge that will replace the Shore Road Bridge will not be located alongside the current bridge but in its place; the temporary bridge will be next to the current bridge during the construction period. The photograph labeled as Sam Bierman in the same issue actually depicts Gerald Ford, the yacht agent; this is Sam Bierman.






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BAER & MCINTOSH

2024 ELECTION: RECORD CI TURNOUT

By FRED W. RAMFTL and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and DAVID DIAZ

On Nov. 2, City Island Indivisible hosted a “Coffee and Conversation” event at Clipper Coffee. Their invited guests were New York State Senator Nathalia Fernandez and Assembly Member Michael Benedetto. Shown at right is Democratic District Leader John Doyle enjoying some refreshments with Senator Fernandez. On Nov. 5, the P.S. 175 Parent-Teacher Association held its annual Election Day sale. Along with baked goods and raffles, voters could purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts with the elementary school’s Sharks logo worn by PTA volunteers Denise McGarry, Jackie Ciarletta and Melissa Rosado (photo above).



More than 2,000 residents cast ballots at P.S. 175 on Nov. 5, exceeding totals of around 1,800 in previous presidential elections tracked by *The Current*. City Island now makes up the 41st and 42nd Election Districts of the 82nd Assembly District. Island residents, some of whom waited in long lines to vote, were with the majority on all the congressional and statewide races, and ballot propositions, but favored Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris by 7 percentage points. Ms. Harris lost to Republican Donald Trump in the national result.

A majority of Islanders voted to re-elect U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York State Senator Nathalia Fernandez and State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. All won their contests. More Island residents were also in agreement about New York State Proposition 1, expanding the state Constitution’s anti-discrimination language, and New York City Propositions 2 through 6, voting “Yes” a majority of the time on all six, which passed state and citywide.

Many voters also stopped by the P.S. 175 P.T.A. annual Election Day bake sale on Nov. 5. P.T.A. volunteers appreciate all the residents who purchased baked goods and raffles, and thank the many City Island businesses that generously donated raffle prizes.

Race/Candidate# C.I. Votes* . %

U.S. President

Kamala Harris (D)1,084..... 53
Donald Trump (R)951..... 46
Write-In25 1
National winner: Donald Trump

U.S. House of Representatives District 14

Alexandria
Ocasio-Cortez (D)995..... 50
Tina Forte (R)977..... 49
Write-In11 1

District Winner: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand (D)1,099..... 55
Mike Sarpricone (R)894..... 44
Diane Sare (LaRouche)15..... 1
Statewide Winner: Kirsten Gillibrand

State Senator District 34

Nathalia Fernandez (D)1,044..... 54
Edwina Herrera (R)888..... 46

District Winner: Nathalia Fernandez

State Assembly District 82

Michael Benedetto (D)1,131 58
Juan DeLa Cruz (R)820 42
District Winner: Michael Benedetto

Bronx Civil Court (Countywide)

Eleizer Rodriguez (D)854..... 17
Diedra Moore (D)847..... 17
Dawn Guglielmo (D)835 16
Angel Cruz (D)806 16
Scott Krompinger (D)798 16
Dromarys
Escano-Bell (D)792 16
Write-in140 2
All were elected to Bronx Civil Court

One candidate ran unopposed:

Bronx Supreme Court

Matthew Parker-Raso (D) 1,085 97
Write-in31 3

NYS Proposal 1: Unequal Treatment

Yes1,204 62
No752 38

Statewide Decision: Yes

NYC Proposal 2: Cleaning Public Property

Yes1,079 56
No838 44
Citywide Decision: Yes

NYC Proposal 3: Fiscal Responsibility

Yes1,012 54
No855 46
Citywide Decision: Yes

NYC Proposal 4: Public Safety

Yes1,094 58
No803 42
Citywide Decision: Yes

NYC Proposal 5: Capital Planning

Yes1,025 55
No825 45
Citywide Decision: Yes

NYC Proposal 6: Minority- and Women-Owned Business and Modernization of City Operations

Yes1,156 62
No712 38
Citywide Decision: Yes

*Votes reflect scanner totals. Absentee and affidavit ballots will be in the certified count to be released later this year.

NEW MURAL NEAR BRIDGE HIDING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

THEY'RE CALLING IT A "MURAL."

I'D CALL IT A CONSTRUCTION FENCE SCREEN MADE WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM CANVA.

ROAD PAVING TAKES A HOLIDAY

(SANTA DICTATES HIS TO DO LIST)

AND TO THE PEOPLE OF CITY ISLAND, I WILL GIFT THEM A CESSATION OF ALL ROAD PAVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

CITY ISLAND LIBRARY GETS \$4,000,000!

IT'S A FABULOUS AMOUNT WE WERE GIVEN!

YES! LET'S HOPE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TRY TO CONTROL WHAT READING MATERIALS WE CAN OFFER BECAUSE OF IT.

CAN WE SAY "FAHRENHEIT 451?"

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT RETURNS

OKAY, MY CHRISTMAS CHORUS! IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

I'M A LITTLE RUSTY. MY VOICE MIGHT ONLY BE GOOD FOR THAT VERSION OF "JINGLE BELLS" THAT THE DOGS BARK.

CITG'S CURIOUS SAVAGE A HIT

MY GOODNESS MABEL, WE BETTER GET ALL THE SENIORS HERE TO SEE THIS.

I HOPE IT DOESN'T GIVE MY KIDS IDEAS.

MY PLAN IS TO SPEND ALL MY MONEY ON LUXURY TRAVEL.



The holiday lights along City Island Avenue were strung on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, under clear skies and unseasonably warm temperatures. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for season greetings to all who drive and walk on the avenue.



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.

A Season of Gratitude

To the Editor,

In these months of gratitude, the City Island Chamber of Commerce offers thanks to our City Island businesses and community and to all who visit our Island for their support throughout this past year.

We thank all who voted for our City Island businesses in the Best of the Bronx, congratulating the 2023 winners which we celebrated this past February: Artie's Steak & Seafood, City Island Diner, City Island Lobster House, Clipper Coffee, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Lickety Split, Sea Shore Restaurant, The Artist (Starving Artist) and Tony's Pier Restaurant.

Our thanks to the vendors and shoppers at our Spring and Fall Arts and Crafts Fairs in June and September, as well as to all who helped to organize those weekends, our volunteers, and the ever-supportive community on our Island home. We thank the restaurants who participated in our annual fall Clam Chowder Contest this September: Artie's Steak & Seafood, City Island Diner, Crab Shanty, Harlem Yacht Club (Anne Booth Catering), Johnny's Reef, Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, Sea Shore Restaurant & Marina and Tony's Pier Restaurant. These City Island eateries offered 11 chowders—New England and Manhattan—to hundreds of delighted tasters! The City Island Chamber of Commerce also gratefully acknowledges Council Member Kristy Marmorato's support of the contest.

We are grateful to the 13 locations (Aquarium, Captain Mike's Diving, City Island Diner, City Island Library, City Island Nautical Museum, Clipper Coffee, Focal Point Gallery, Jack's Bait & Tackle,

JJ Burck Hardware, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Little Frida's Eatery, Little Greece, and Sea Breeze Deli) and all the young people who participated in our "Pell the Parrot" Scavenger Hunt this past October. Also in October, we offer a grateful shoutout to all who were part of the Chamber's annual Halloween Parade: the overflowing crowd walking in the parade, the judges for our costume contest (Cheryl Brinker, Ora Morrison, Tony Roccamo, Jerry Landi, Maria Caruso and Phil McDonnell), the generous City Islanders along the way who provided treats to participants and the welcoming businesses who cheered all on, providing treats of their own.

Finally, the City Island Chamber of Commerce joyously welcomed more than 110 people—a record crowd—to celebrate City Island business and community leaders as part of our 114th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Harlem Yacht Club. Please see the story on page 7 about the honorees for that evening, as well as the new businesses recognized at this year's event.

We look forward to celebrating the upcoming holiday season on City Island, including Tree Lighting with caroling in Hawkins Park (Nov. 30), Santa Claus in Hawkins Park with strolling carolers on City Island Avenue (Dec. 14), and Menorah lighting in Hawkins Park (Dec. 29). Check our website (CityIslandChamber.org) for more details. And special thanks to those businesses and community members who have contributed to this year's Holiday Lights on City Island Avenue.

We give thanks for the legacy of leadership of Gerard "Skip" Giacco, former Chamber President (2009 –19), who passed away in September. And we were delighted to have Skip's predecessor as President, Peter LaScala, join us at our recent Awards Dinner Dance. With grateful hearts, we continue to build on the relationships with businesses that they have nurtured. We are now 92 businesses strong and growing at the City Island Chamber of Commerce—a record! On behalf of those shops, restaurants, cafés, galleries, stores and service businesses, we encourage all to shop and celebrate local this holiday season, with our profound thanks!

Paul Klein, President
City Island Chamber of Commerce

With gratitude for your support,
The Artist wishes one and all
"Happy Holidays"!



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City Island’s City of Not Much

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, two City Council committees voted in favor of Mayor Eric Adams’ “City of Yes” housing plan, which has faced months of resistance from local communities, including City Island. The plan is intended to overhaul the city’s zoning rules to allow the construction of about 100,000 new units during the next 15 years, presumably to address the city’s housing shortage and affordability crisis. However, certain elements of the plan were not approved, which means that City Island’s Special District Zoning is not likely to be seriously affected by the plan after it is approved by the full City Council.

City of Yes has been criticized by residents who wish to preserve the existing character of their communities and who have expressed skepticism about the true purpose of the plan, which they feel is unlikely to address the shortage of affordable housing but will undoubtedly enrich developers and contractors. The City Island Civic Association was very active in opposing the proposal, as were Community Board 10 and Council Member Kristy Marmorato.

The plan, which was billed as an effort to “build a little more housing in every neighborhood,” included some proposals that would have affected City Island, but the Council chose to scale it back, such as voting not to eliminate parking mandates in lower-density areas of the city. The measure allowing the construction of ADU’s (accessory dwelling units) in backyards and basements was eliminated for areas prone to flooding. Research indicates that there are 604 properties in City Island, representing 44.1 percent of all properties there, that have risk of flooding over the next 30 years.

The Council’s Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises voted 4 to 3 in favor of the compromise measure, followed by an 8-to-2 vote in the Land Use Committee, with one member abstaining. The City Planning Commission will now review the changes and send the measure on to the full Council for a final vote on Dec. 5.

For a complete summary of the changes approved by the two Council subcommittees, visit <https://council.nyc.gov/land-use/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2024/11/ZHO-COUNCIL-MODS-SUMMARY.pdf>.

City Island’s New Mural

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



This handsome mural was installed by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) on the fence near the bridge at the north end of City Island Avenue on Nov. 15, 2024, at the request of the Bronx Commissioner of the Bronx office of the Department of Transportation (DOT) in response to complaints about the unsightly property by the community nonprofit Gateway, Inc. DOT has granted DDC access to the unsightly property for the parking of vehicles during their project nearby replacing water mains and sewers.

For City Islanders who have never grown accustomed to the unsightly weeds and debris at the north end of the Island next to the bridge, the sudden appearance of a colorful mural featuring images of marine life, sailboats and an occasional lemon (?) came as a welcome surprise.

Although several murals on the Island have been created by artists working with residents, including the 9/11 painting on the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue, this mural was designed and made by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), which is currently replacing water mains and sewers on Minneford Avenue, Terrace and Bridge Streets, at the request of Anthony Perez, the Bronx Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mr. Perez has been working with the

nonprofit Gateway, Inc., a group of City Island community leaders that has for several years attempted to obtain a maintenance agreement for the property in order to improve its appearance and eventually provide a space for community use. He has expressed support for this plan, so when DDC requested use of the space near the bridge for parking vehicles during their construction period, he agreed but asked DDC to improve the appearance of the property.

When the board of the Gateway offered to remove the unsightly weeds, the commissioner turned to DDC, which quickly responded by producing the mural that now covers the fencing along City Island Avenue before the bridge. The weeds are still in place, except along the base of the mural, but DOT will soon arrange to have the remaining weeds removed.

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PARKING AVAILABLE

St. Mary’s Popular Christmas Concert Returns

By KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

Ken Farnum, top photo, will lead St. Mary’s Christmas Concert once again.

After a four-year absence, St. Mary, Star of the Sea’s Christmas concert returns on Dec. 22, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of Ken Farnum. Ken is thrilled to bring the joyous event back this season.

Ken has been St. Mary, Star of the Sea church’s music director since May 1998. “We had a Christmas concert every year until 2019. We cancelled the concert from 2020 to 2022 because of the pandemic and concerns about the safety of choir members and musicians,” he told *The Current*.

Last year, he was still uncomfortable bringing back the event as it depends on the generosity of Island businesses, St. Mary parishioners and concert attendees. “The event costs about \$5,000 to put together and since many businesses and residents were hurting financially, we were worried about asking for donations.”

This year, he was encouraged to bring the concert back, which usually plays to packed St. Mary’s pews. The costs include paying professional musicians and singers who work with the regular members of St. Mary’s choir. Ken’s wife, soprano Elizabeth Farnum, also sings, along with George Wyman, St. Mary’s cantor. Island businesses have been stepping up to sponsor the event, and Ken hopes attendees will also put donations in the baskets in the church at the event. “There is no suggested donation, just whatever people can afford to give,” he explained. The program will feature classics like “O Holy Night” and the “Hallelujah Chorus,” as well as a Christmas carol sing-along.

Ken is proud of his tenure at St. Mary’s. He moved to City Island in 1998, and he lends his talents to a variety of Island events and organizations. His love of music began with his mother, an organist,

and his grandmother, a piano teacher. They gave him lessons until he was 12; after that he taught himself.

Ken took his music to Fordham Prep, where he joined the choir and played the organ for their performances. In 1981, he met the prep’s piano tuner who offered to teach him the technical side of music. He became a trained tuner and a member of the Piano Technicians Guild.

After graduation, Ken formed a community theater group in 1985 in the Bronx. He described it as a “portable repertory theater” that gave performances at senior centers and for shut-ins throughout the Bronx. Although the group dissolved, it was to have a lasting effect on Ken’s life. The group placed a newspaper ad for sopranos for an upcoming show they planned to produce. The ad was answered by an attractive singer named Elizabeth Henreckson, who sang Cole Porter’s “I Get a Kick Out of You” for her audition in 1986. The show never quite got off the ground, but the relationship did. Ken and Elizabeth were married in 1991.

Ken and Elizabeth live on Minneford Avenue and provide beautiful music for several City Island events, including the Holiday Tree Lighting in Hawkins Park every November.

The return of the St. Mary’s concert will be particularly poignant for Ken. He is dedicating the event to his father, Ken, who died during the pandemic. Ken’s mother, Judy, is now 96 and hopes to attend the 2024 concert and proudly applaud for her son.

So if you want a special start to Christmas week, put St. Mary’s concert on your calendar. Doors open at 7:10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22.



exp REALTY

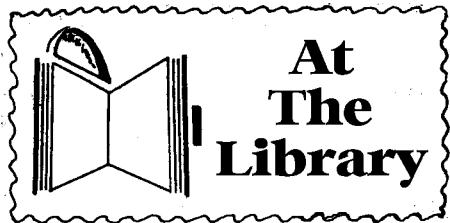
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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children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

DECEMBER TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS
Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. Crafternoon: Create art—painting, crochet, writing, drawing and more—in any way you wish! Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 3 p.m. Unplug & Relax: Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles and anything else without a screen. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. Happy Birthday Bingo! Celebrate Bingo's birthday month by playing—you guessed it!—bingo! Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. **No programs for Tuesday Dec. 24 and 31 due to early holiday closure.**

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS
One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: To explore job searching and help with resu-més, register online with Google Meet at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.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. Monday, Dec. 2, 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. **No programs for Tuesday Dec. 24 and 31 due to early holiday closure.**
Why Knot?: Declutter your yarn collection by crafting for a cause! The City Island Library invites knitters / crocheters of all levels to meet up and make scarves and hats to be donated to a non-profit organization that supports veterans. This program will be hosted by a staff member, and we will learn from each other as we work on our projects. Beginners should bring size 7 or 8 knitting needles or a size J or K crochet hook and a ball of worsted weight yarn to begin their crafty journey. Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Movie: "5,000 Blankets": Saturday, Dec. 28, at 2 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.



Ron Turner's Holiday Exhibition at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), featuring work by Island artists, will open on Saturday, Dec. 7, with a reception from 1 to 4 p.m.

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Deserving Awards and a Remembrance Highlight Chamber Dinner

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Harlem Yacht Club was bustling with lively music, delicious food and great enthusiasm on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, as more than a hundred people gathered for the annual awards dinner dance given by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, its 114th anniversary celebration of businesses on City Island.

Paul Klein, president of the Chamber, welcomed everyone to the celebration, including Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato, but he noted with sadness the absence of its former president, Skip Giacco, who passed away in September.

The first award recipient was Arlene Byrne, who received the **Exemplary Community Service Award** for her stalwart efforts at St. Mary's Thrift Shop for more than four decades and for her dedication to City Island and its residents.

Arlene Giorno was born in Holy Rosary Parish in the Bronx and attended nearby public and parochial schools. After high school, she worked for Guarantee Trust Company and then for Eastern Securities in Manhattan. When she married clam digger John Byrne, she moved to City Island, where she worked at Ray's Chris Craft and raised two children, Clare Louise and Thomas John.

Arlene started the Thrift Shop at St. Mary's in 1981 with Islander Patty Grondahl, and her dedication and heart-driven commitment are a big part of the Thrift Shop's success. She loves passing on treasures to new homes and preserving history in the process.

The **Catherine Scott Achievement Award** was presented to Ron Turner, "for his heroic five decades as a working artist and photographer on City Island, for his chronicling our community and our businesses and for his endless energy for art." Last September, Ron celebrated 50 years as owner of the Focal Point Gallery on

City Island, where he has preserved innumerable priceless moments for those five decades.

Ron's father, a parasitologist, worked as a chief technician at Montefiore Hospital, where he established a laboratory, and his mother came from an artistic background. When a friend and coworker encouraged 20-year-old Ron to explore his artistic side by helping him purchase a camera, Ron experienced what he calls "a magical moment" and felt drawn to photography as a career. He decided to join an arts and crafts fair on City Island, which he had visited a few times as a child and was delighted with the positive response to his work. The reception for Ron's work at the fair was exceptional, and when he was offered a space at 296 City Island Avenue, he jumped at the chance; he eventually moved to his current gallery space at 321 City Island Avenue.

Ron is immensely grateful for the incredible amount of support he has had over the past half century from the City Island community, which has enabled him to exhibit his own work and that of local artists, artisans and art students. Perhaps his most memorable achievement has been his portraits of Islanders, which range from passport pictures to exquisite images that celebrate the living and provide memorials for those who have passed away.

The **Tom Ceretta Award for Community Service** this year went to Captain Mike Carew for putting his passion and love for diving into practice in the waters around City Island and beyond and for his selfless service to others. Captain Mike's Dive Shop at 530 City Island Avenue is a five-star PADI Training Facility run by a 10-year veteran of the NYPD Harbor Unit SCUBA Team, with more than 35 years of diving experience.

Mike's experience and expertise make



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Recipients of the awards presented at the City Island Chamber of Commerce gala on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, included (l. to r.): Ron Turner, recipient of the Catherine Scott Achievement Award; Arlene Byrne, recipient of Exemplary Community Service Award; Paul Klein, President of the City Island Chamber of Commerce; Council Member Kristy Marmorato; Andrew McGuire, recipient of the Sam Bierman Award for Business, and Mike Caruso, recipient of the Tom Ceretta Award for Community Service.

the training process to become scuba-diver certified an excellent choice. He offers scuba diving instruction, certification and education on all related topics, from open-water scuba lessons to instructor courses, including rescue and ice diving. He also offers adventures such as wreck diving and lobster and fish hunts, and he regularly hosts trips to destinations such as the Bahamas and the Florida Keys.

For Mike, it's all about safety, a matter he stresses proudly during instruction. "That's the number one priority when I teach students," he says. That safety extends to the selection of diving equipment as well, and he stresses the need for regular service and maintenance.

Currently serving as Vice Chair for City Island Oyster Reef, Inc., a local non-profit initiative, Mike lends his expertise and services to the organization's efforts. He also assists with Michael's Warrior Project, which includes participating in and coordinating fishing trips each year for veterans.

Clam digger Andrew McGuire was the recipient of the **Sam Bierman Award for Business** for his customer-centered business philosophy and his dedicated service to customers and the community at his City Island Laundromat at 310 City Island Avenue, which celebrated 10 years on City Island this past June. His goal as he operates his business is: "I want customers to leave here happy." And that experience begins from the moment one enters the laundromat, where he greets everyone with

a smile and a warm welcome. "This is a repeat customer business," he explains, "and I want people to return, remembering a happy, welcoming space."

City Island Laundromat, located in what he describes as the "heart" of City Island on the corner of Fordham Street, is also a clean space, where Andrew can be frequently found cleaning or sweeping inside, and, particularly in these fall months, leaf blowing outside.

Andrew, the son of Virginia and Christopher McGuire, is the youngest of three children; his older brother, Francis; older sister, Christina; and the entire family live on City Island. Andrew and his wife, Marissa, recently celebrated their first wedding anniversary, although they have been together for 14 years.

When asked about the best part of being a City Island business owner, Andrew says without hesitation: the community. "I like helping people. Laundry can be a hard task, but if I can make it a bit easier, that makes me happy."

In addition to these awards, **New Business Recognition Certificates** were given to three City Island businesses that have made notable contributions to the community: the Aquarium, the City Island Pizza Company and M4 Consulting Services.

Winners of the raffle and successful bidders for beautiful items offered in the silent auction were then announced, and the music, dancing and celebration continued with great enthusiasm well into the evening.

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

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PHOTO BY RON TERNER

Ron Turner

“THE CURIOUS SAVAGE” Visited City Island—on Stage

By BRUCE A. WEIS

The City Island Theater Group (CITG) went outside the mainstream for its second and final effort of 2024, with a production of “The Curious Savage.” The show tells a charming story that hints at the sensibilities of the post-World War II era, while grappling with characterizations of sanity, a question that society wrestles with today. Throughout the show, the kindness and loyalty of psychiatric patients contrasted with the avarice and vanity of those who would be considered “respectable” public figures. Through all the stories’ angst, however, “The Curious Savage” somehow remains an enjoyable comedy.

Originally produced on Broadway in 1950 as a vehicle for Lillian Gish (more on that later), the show opens with a room of five people whom we later realize are residents of a mental health facility. The five are awaiting the arrival of another, a Mrs. Ethel P. Savage, who is being involuntarily committed to the facility known as The Cloisters by her stepchildren. They had been shocked to learn that Mrs. Savage was planning to set up a memorial fund with her share of the family fortune to help average people pursue their dreams. On the basis of certain “eccentric” behavior the stepchildren have had Mrs. Savage committed to The Cloisters so that they could somehow wrest the fortune away from her.

Mrs. Savage, meanwhile, has secretly converted her fortune into easily concealable bearer bonds. She soon forms attachments with the residents of The Cloisters, who become her allies, and the plot turns into a cat-and-mouse game between Mrs. Savage and her stepchildren over possession of these bonds. By the end of the play, the viewer is left wondering who the irrational ones really are.

Playwright John Patrick wrote in the foreword to this play: “It is important in ‘The Curious Savage’ that the gentle inmates of The Cloisters be played with warmth and dignity. Their home is not an asylum nor are these good people lunatics. Any exaggeration of the roles will rob them of charm and humor. The whole point of the play is to contrast them with Mrs. Savage’s children and the insane outside world. To depart from

this point of view for the sake of easy laughs will rob the play of its meaning.”

The City Island Theater Group production followed John Patrick’s direction to the letter. Every member of the cast gave an absolutely spot-on performance, portraying difficult mental health conditions that we would recognize today as autism or PTSD related to child loss or the horrors of war.

“The Curious Savage” has a large cast, and this production managed to fit everyone onto Grace Church’s small stage with apparent ease, which couldn’t have been easy. The playbill presents the cast in three subgroups:

The Guests:

Brian Argiento (Jeffrey) was properly sympathetic, portraying a former pilot shot down in a wartime crash that killed all his men. Jeffrey now believes that he has a scar on his face, which he constantly hides from others. The character is obviously struggling with PTSD, and Brian displays a good mixture of hesitance and strength in his depiction.

Olivia Chadwick (Fairy May), in what I understand is her first stage role with CITG, was endearing as Fairy May, a character obsessed with having others love and approve of her. She remains unkempt throughout the play and behaves in a child-like manner but believes herself to be stunningly beautiful. Olivia displays a talent for the stage, and we expect to see her again.

Elizabeth Dimeo (Mrs. Paddy) was effective in speaking in lists instead of dialogue, as her character had not spoken since a traumatic argument that took place a long time ago. Elizabeth has a crucial moment in the final act when she recovers enough to tell a departing Mrs. Savage that she loves her. Her habit of turning off the lights moves the plot along handsomely.

Paula Rocheleau Hernandez (Florence) conveys a certain elegance as she tenderly cares for the tiny doll that her character believes to be her five-year-old son. Paula’s Florence is a tragic individual that meshes well with the show.

Derek Tarson (Hannibal) wonderfully portrays Hannibal as a kindly man, bemused by the turns his life has taken, taking refuge in the violin he really cannot play. His occasional bouts of sarcasm provide a depth to the character.

The Family:

Michele Keener (Lily Belle), in a part she seemed born to play, was wonderfully arrogant, chic and self-assured as she threatened, cajoled, bargained and pleaded with her family members and the hospital staff, to the delight of the audience.

Elizabeth Mialaret (Ethel Savage) drove the story as her character challenged her institutional surroundings, toyed with her stepchildren’s greed and bonded with residents of The Cloisters. Elizabeth was a natural in this part, remaining calm in the center of the chaos she was creating and accepting



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group staged its production of John Patrick’s “The Curious Savage” two weekends in November. Cast members are (seated l. to r.): Michele Keener, Tsuyako Sandy Dunn, Elizabeth Mialaret; (standing, l. to r.): Derek Tarson, Brian Argiento, Olivia Chadwick, Paula Rocheleau Hernandez, Elizabeth Paldino, Elizabeth DiMeo, Joseph Scaduto and James Mohn. The production was directed by Joseph Montano.

the realities and delusions of The Cloisters residents with an open-mindedness that others on the outside did not possess.

James Mohn (Titus) was delightfully bombastic as the eldest stepson of Mrs. Savage. James was obviously having fun with the role as he alternately threatened, denounced and made demands of those surrounding him.

Joseph Scaduto (Samuel) played a character frustrated by overbearing siblings and offered occasional sassy comments, which were usually shot down. Joseph portrayed this frustration believably and effectively.

The Staff:

Elizabeth Paldino (Miss Willie), a veteran CITG performer, turns in her usual highly competent performance as a nurse secretly married to a patient named Jeff, who doesn’t remember her, owing to wartime injuries. Elizabeth’s character wants to stick around, in case Jeff remembers her. She is believable in anything she does, including this role.

Sandy Tsuyako Dunn (Dr. Emmett), in her second role with the CITG, portrays a character who subtly evolves over the course of the story. In the first act, the doctor comes across as ingratiating and more interested in the institution than the residents. By the end, Sandy successfully transforms into someone who cares for her patients and stands up to bullying from the Savage family members.

“The Curious Savage” had a relatively brief Broadway run of 31 performances, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 18, 1950, at the Martin Beck Theater (now known as the Al Hirschfeld Theater), starring Lillian Gish as Ethel P. Savage. The play wasn’t one of John Patrick’s more commercially successful plays. I am unaware of any film production of the story, although an ITV Play of the Week production of “The Curious Savage”

featuring Maggie Smith was done for British television in 1958. Fortunately, the play lives on in community theater.

The author of the play had an interesting career. Born John Patrick Goggin in 1905 and abandoned by his parents, he was something of a delinquent, but he got a job as a radio announcer at age 16 and wrote thousands of scripts and adaptations for radio before getting a play produced on Broadway in 1935 that opened the door for him as a Hollywood scriptwriter.

He reached the height of his fame with his 1953 stage adaptation of the novel “The Teahouse of the August Moon,” winning both the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for drama. He later adapted the play for the screen in 1956. In 1954, he wrote the screenplay for “Three Coins in the Fountain” and a year later adapted the book “A Many-Splendored Thing” for the movie “Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing.”

The set for the CITG’s presentation of “The Curious Savage” was designed by Joe Burck. Joe has directed a number of shows for CITG and designed sets and lights for numerous productions. The set was built by Dan Srdoc of Blue Deer LLC General Contracting, and the set was lighted by Zach Dulny, who operated the lighting with Vic Hernandez. Sound design was by Hannah Glick, and sound operation was by Margie Guzman and Vic Hernandez.

Pam Johnston brought her considerable experience to the role of production stage manager for the play and was once again responsible for the goings-on backstage. She was assisted by Joan Higgins, who served as both production assistant and wardrobe mistress. Returning to CITG for a second time, Joseph Montano did a marvelous job as director of “The Curious Savage”; the show was impeccable. And as always, thanks to



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9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 7th
Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Christmas Pageant & Party
9:45 a.m. Sunday, December 15th

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7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18th

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8 p.m. Tuesday, December 24th

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Photo by JUDY JUDSON

Garden Club volunteers Nancy Lotrionte, Jean Mirabito, Estrellita Dzenis and Maria Mangione decorating the planters along City Island Avenue for the holidays on Nov. 20, 2024.



Merry Christmas

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Finding All You Need for the Holidays on City Island

By MONICA GLICK

City Island’s shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses are ready to help you find all you need this holiday season.



239 Play

Find Fun.

A Santa on a miniature motorcycle. That type of fun stuff and more may be found at **239 Play** (239 City Island Avenue). Finish browsing there and make your way to the front of the Island for fishing fun aboard the **Riptide III** (701 Minnieford Avenue) or the **Island Current** (551 City Island Avenue). Maybe even take Santa on the cycle with you on the high seas! But before you cast off, stop by **Jack’s Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Daniel Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) for all you’ll need in fishing equipment and supplies, including bait.

And if “fun” is spelled “diving” for you, talk to Mike Carew at **Captain Mike’s** (530 City Island Avenue). Learn about lessons and explore the gear you’ll need, including special sales. Ask Captain Mike about underwater adventures and about his work with the **City Island Oyster Reef** (www.cioysterreef.org).

Find the fun in exploring City Island’s past at the **City Island Historical Society/Museum** (190 Fordham Street; www.cityislandmuseum.org) when it reopens in Spring 2025. Before then, call Barbara Dolensek at 718-885-0507 to arrange special tours or visits during the winter season, and watch for holiday and new year events. And don’t forget to find out what’s happening for the holidays at the **City Island Community Center** (190 Fordham Street), including photos with Santa and more on Sunday, Dec. 15, starting at noon.

Find Festive.

Looking for the perfect ornament for your tree or for holiday decor? Stop by **Kaleidoscope Gallery** (271 City Island Avenue), where you’ll find a plethora of the sparkling and shining for the season, plus a selection of menorahs, as well as gifts for all on your list, including toys, jewelry, handmade cards (from local artist Margo Makes Cards) and City Island Gold Honey.



The Pearl

Find Fitness.

This past year on our City Island home, we welcomed **The Pearl** (319 City Island Avenue), the first and only studio in the Bronx offering group pilates reformer classes and perinatal yoga classes. There are also various types of yoga, pilates, dance and even kids’ classes, as well as special workshops. Each Sunday, at 5:15 p.m., there’s a free community yoga class. Ask about the Winter Wellness Packages and discounts on gift cards for the holidays. And there are possibilities for a brand new you for the New Year at **Club Fit** (466 City Island Avenue), and **City Island Mixed Martial Arts** (CIMMA) (229 City Island Avenue). While you’re at CIMMA,

give a cheer for their fine competition performances to date! Also ask what’s happening at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue) for the best you for 2025.

Find Art.

Art to love may be found at **Mary Colby Studio and Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), where artist-in-residence Mary Colby paints beautiful portraits on commission in pastel, including wonderful pet portraits, all affordably priced. Ask Mary about stocking stuffer paintings, as well as her Tuesday night painting classes. The art of imagining is in full force at City Island’s **Imagine That!** (280 City Island Avenue), where creativity classes and events abound. Just down the block, see art on exhibit at the **City Island Gallery** (278 City Island Avenue). While there, learn more about the yoga classes offered here and the weekly Sunday “Arts and Crafts” from 1 to 3 p.m., for young people; art supplies provided.

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

The art of film is featured at our own movie theater, **Cinema on the Sound** (270 City Island Avenue), with films on Wednesdays and Saturdays—and we hear that Wednesdays are “Pajama Nights”!

At **Artie’s Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue), art is found all around you in the festive decorations and the fine food fare on the menu. Try the Zuppa di Pesce for Two (king crab, whole lobster, clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops and calamari served over linguine, with your choice of white wine garlic sauce, homemade marinara or fra diavolo sauce). And don’t forget about dessert—like the Sundae for Two.

Find Pampering.

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



The Artist

Find Entertainment.

At Elliott Glick’s **The Artist** (Starving Artist) (249 City Island Avenue), the holiday season includes a mix of performances—music and comedy among them. Watch for a popup Holiday Shopping Market planned during the month. A full schedule of events may be found at <http://starvingartistonline.com> Elliott also offers guitar lessons, as well as instruments for sale, and he repairs guitars too. With big applause for the past season of plays, we can’t wait for what’s new in 2025 for the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG) (www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com).

Find the Fish.

And here we’re talking about the already cooked and plated kind. For that, look no further than the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue) at the front of the Island, or, at the far end of the Island, **Sammy’s Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) and **Sammy’s Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue). Enjoy family celebrations year-round at any of these three locations! And ask about their gift cards—a great holiday gift!

There’s also fish and more on the menu

mid-Island at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue), not to mention the feast for the eyes gazing at the décor while you’re dining.

At the start of the Island, step into **Seafood Kingz** (634 City Island Avenue), a seafood/soul food restaurant, to sample their famous catfish dish, as well as sides like mac and cheese, collard greens, candied yams, and cornbread. Also at the front of the Island stop in for scrumptious seafood at the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue)—maybe Norwegian salmon or red snapper filet. Or sample the seafood fare at **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue).



Crab Shanty

Mid-Island you will find **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), where you can feast on some snow crab legs with ribs or steak or savor some “Craby Clams” (six clams chopped and stuffed with crabmeat). For “fast fish,” there’s **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), perhaps fried porgies or fried whiting, or **Tony’s Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue) at the south end, maybe lobster tails and fried shrimp. And **Johnny’s Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) will be back serving up seafood in the New Year. And whatever dish you’re delighting in, the perfect pairing wine or spirit may be found at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue).

For fish—swimming in tanks, that is—focus on the **City Island Aquarium** (316 City Island Avenue), where you can see and purchase beautiful fresh- and saltwater fish, and maybe get a tank for a complete holiday gift package!

Find Gifts.

Ron Turner’s **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), which celebrated 50 years on City Island this year, offers a plethora of gift possibilities, including t-shirts and bricks featuring Turner’s amazing photography and an expanded line of work—jewelry and more—from Janete Mendoza (JM Creations). During the holiday season, Focal Point Gallery will be filled with “Artist’s Choice” artwork; be there for an opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1 to 4 p.m.

If there’s a cigar lover on your gift list, visit owners Humberto and Gladis Amadiz at **Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue) and ask them to help you find the right selection.



Ace Bar

Find a Break.

Push pause on the sometimes stress of the season with something to sip at **Fella’s** (522 City Island Avenue) or City Island’s new spot, **Ace Bar** (414 City Island Avenue)—maybe a Jolly Rancher Cocktail. There’s also **Man Overboard** (247 City

Island Avenue), where you can have a drink, play some pool and check out what music might be happening.

Take a break from laundry during the holidays and let Andrew and the crew at the **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue) wash and fold. Ask about tailor services offered here also.

And take a break with takeout from the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84–86 City Island Avenue), **Augie’s City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue), or **Ray’s Café** (205 City Island Avenue), where you can also eat in. **Dunkin’ Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) is waiting for you as you start your day of work or shopping. And your next “ice cream break” will have to wait until the spring from **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue).

There’s a wide variety of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner from **Sea Breeze Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) this holiday season. This family-run City Island business is happy to offer you a break from cooking as you start, get midway through or finish your shopping sprees for the holidays. And don’t forget to sample their fine Mexican fare!

As the season gets into full swing, you’re going to need to press “stop” to recharge and regroup—and what better place to step inside than **Clipper Coffee** (274 City Island Avenue) for a coffee or cappuccino, and some conversation. Bring home their coffee beans, roasted on the premises, a great gift for the coffee lover in your life. Say “hi” to Pete and his team, check out the art on the walls and be part of the daily survey through the counter’s tip jars!

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

Find a World of Food.

Speaking of the tastes of the world, there’s no passport needed to find them, just a drive up and down City Island Avenue! Along the way, you’ll experience the flavors of Mexico at **Little Frida’s Eatery** (415 City Island Avenue), and of Italy at **City Island Pizza Company** (273 City Island Avenue), or at **Scavello’s on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue). One of City Island’s newest eateries, **Little Greece of City Island** (327 City Island Avenue), brings you the tastes of Greece—gyros, moussaka, avgolemono soup and baklava, among them—and offers a full catering menu to help you transform and “travel” for your next holiday gathering. Stop by and talk to Steve about the possibilities.

Also new to our Island home: **2 PaiZans Pizzeria Cucina** (250 City Island Avenue) (formerly A Taste of Italy) brings you a beautiful blend of Albanian and Italian cuisines. Visit and taste what we’re talking about. You’ll find flavors with a Latin flair at **Vistamar Restaurant and Lounge** (565 City Island Avenue), along with signature cocktails. And at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue) you’ll get a “show” as you watch your food prepared table-side.

Find Homemade Holiday Cheer.

At the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), comfort food awaits, including meat loaf or turkey or roast beef dinners, served with creamy mashed potatoes. Check out their daily soup selections, especially their Monday chicken soup or their weekend chowders (New England and Manhattan)!

Lots of cheer awaits you at **The Snug** (302 City Island Avenue). While you’re dining, have a drink, maybe an Irish coffee, hot toddy or holiday martini, to take the chill off the coldest of winter days.

At the start of the Island, have fun with friends at **Archie’s Table and Tap** (536 City Island Avenue). Archie’s also hosts private parties.

And for sweets for the holidays, think about the creations from Culinary Institute

Continued on page 19

Organization News

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

Please note! Church service is now 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and communion is the second Sunday of the month. Sunday School is every Sunday at 9:45.

An Advent Party and Decorating the Sanctuary will take place on Dec. 1 at 10:45 after worship.

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Christmas Pageant will be presented on Dec. 15; the Christmas Eve Service will be on Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.

Every Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. the Food Pantry will be open in the hall; thanks go to everyone, including Grace Episcopal Church, for donating canned goods and other items for those in need.

The Budget Shop is open Saturday mornings and fully stocked with bargains galore. Thanks to everyone for their patronage and donations.

Rick DeWitt

Holiday Services

Trinity United Methodist Church
113 Bay Street

Saturday, Dec. 1: Advent party and sanctuary decorating, 10:45 a.m. after worship.

Saturday, Dec.7: Christmas Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15: Christmas Pageant, 9:45 a.m.

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

Grace Episcopal Church
City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, Dec. 22: Advent 4, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Christmas decorating of the church.

Sunday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service and Christmas Pageant, 6 p.m. (new time).

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

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8: Annual Thrift Shop Christmas Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. held in the Thrift Shop and in the school gym.

Wednesday, Dec. 18, Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program Christmas Show at 4:45 and 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's church.

Sunday, Dec. 22: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Mass, 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 1: New Year's Eve (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 7 and 11 a.m.

Temple Beth-El
480 City Island Avenue

Sunday, Dec. 29: Latke-Palooza at 4 p.m. at TBE for snacks and music and then Chanukah Menorah Lighting in Hawkins Park, first candle lit at sundown.

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," with Rabbi Barbara Symons. We look forward to singing and dancing in prayer and studying Torah and the world with any and all peoples.

Our shul is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for the observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive, and open-minded worship. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take place at shul with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and

let us know which event you would like to attend.

To members and non-members, we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following are events for December 2024 and January 2025.

EREV (Friday Evening) Shabbat Services (All services begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.)

Dec. 6: Zoom Shabbat with Stu and Leslie

Dec. 20: Shabbat at TBE and on Zoom, with Rabbi Barbara and Band

Dec. 27: Zoom Shabbat with Shari and Monty

Jan. 3: Shabbat at TBE on Zoom, with Rabbi Barbara and Band

Jan. 10: Zoom Shabbat with Stu and Leslie

Jan. 17: Shabbat at TBE and on Zoom, with Rabbi Barbara and Band

Jan. 24: Zoom Shabbat with Shari and Monty

Jan. 31: Zoom Shabbat with Stu and Shari

Shacharit (Saturday Morning) Shabbat Service: Morning services start at 10 a.m.

Dec. 14: Shabbat at TBE and on Zoom, with Rabbi Barbara and Band

Torah Study, Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at TBE. Coffee, bagels, Torah and a mini-Saturday morning Shacharit

Chanukah

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 4 p.m. at TBE for Latke-Palooza. Snacks and music and then light the first candle on the Menorah at sundown at Hawkins Park.

Want to light candles with others on Zoom? Check our website for details.

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

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

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

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

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

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

City Island Oyster Reef

As we near the end of 2024, CIOR is proud that 16 students were actively engaged in the oyster project this year. Their studies were reflected in master's thesis projects, Regeneron science fair submissions and high school science projects. The students studied how to best monitor biodiversity in oyster cages using underwater cameras and fish traps; they tested hydrophones to record the sounds of various shrimp species and analyzed how water-quality parameters affect biodiversity, and they learned how diving can be used as a tool to monitor oyster growth. Our students were trained to handle the skiff, to dive and to make public presentations to our partner organizations. Congratulations to all the young people who



Congratulations to the American Legion Hawkins Post Poppy Poster Contest winner, Ian Ryan (center) with Michelle del Pozzo (left) and Laura Booth. He won on the unit, county and development levels and then went on to win the national level for his age group. See poster as inset above.

worked so hard on the project this season!

In 2024 CIOR donated \$20,000 in science equipment to P.S. 175 through funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and New York City Council. The living shoreline adjacent to P.S. 175 has become an integral part of their science curriculum. Last spring, the living shoreline was the destination for a field trip for fourth-graders from P.S. 583 in Soundview. CIOR worked with more than 10 New York schools in a variety of ways to connect young people to the marine environment.

Thanks go to Luna Placchi and her team for collecting 4,500 pounds of shells from our local restaurants. CIOR now needs help loading the bagged shells on Dec. 9 at the Pelham Bay Landfill so that they can be transported to a marine hatchery the next day. Shells are collected from City Island restaurants throughout the spring and summer, cured at the landfill and delivered to the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Center at Southold, where they are set with spat (baby oysters) and then returned to Long Island Sound environmental projects and to CIOR's oyster cages in the spring. We are so grateful to all our participating restaurants for all their tremendous support: Sammy's Fish Box, Sammy's Shrimp Box, The Sea Shore Restaurant, Tony's Pier, Johnny's Reef and Seafood City.

We want to thank Ellen Grace Zaltas from the bottom of our hearts for all the time that she donates to the project photographing our work and giving supportive advice. Her photos will be featured on our restored website in 2025!

As part of our webinar series, Dr. Chris Walzer will be presenting on the state of the global environment and its effect on our health on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Chris is the Executive Director of Health at the Wildlife Conservation Society and is a City Island resident. Visit our website for the link to this webinar.

To register for all CIOR activities, check out our website, cioysterreef.org.

Sally Connolly

City Island Nautical Museum

Although the Nautical Museum is no longer open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, we do welcome visiting groups, students and families and recommend that you call in advance to book a special tour. Please call 718-885-0507 to make an appointment. The admission fee will remain \$8 per person.

Stay in touch with us through our beautiful new website (www.cityislandmuseum.org), which is rich in stories about City Island history, especially the boat-building business, and check out our Facebook page for many fabulous albums of City Island images.

While you are on the website, take a look at the Museum's shop, which is stocked with unique City Island-themed gifts and apparel. You can place an order on line or you can visit Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery (271 City Island Avenue), which has some

museum gifts for sale.

Like all other nonprofit organizations, the City Island Historical Society, which runs the museum, welcomes donations, which are fully tax deductible. The best way to support us is to renew your membership or become a member! Individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free and a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop.

Barbara Dolensek

AARP Chapter 318

We meet at the Trinity Methodist Church hall on Bay Street. On Dec. 12, we will have our holiday luncheon at The Lobster House. There will be no regular meeting in December. Our next meeting is on Jan. 9, 2025. The annual meeting will be for the purpose of nominating officers.

Happy holidays. We hope to see you soon.

Cathy Kehoe

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Christmas fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the thrift shop and the school gym. We will be open Thursdays and Saturdays until Dec. 21 and closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 4.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to the new year.

Arlene Byrne

American Legion Auxiliary

What a great year it's been so far! Please join us in congratulating our Poppy Poster Contest winner, Ian Ryan. He won on the unit level, county level, then the department level and went on to win the national level for his age group!! We are so proud of this amazing work!

Are you interested in joining? We would love to have you. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Please e-mail all inquiries for membership and/or supporting the American Legion Family's commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to Ala156correspondence@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Michelle Del Pozzo

VHF-Ch 16

Capt. Dan

718-885-3420

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

Greetings for the holiday season. Our Center is in full swing with our membership drive. You now can pay your dues for the very first time by Zelle; our QR Code will be on our Facebook page and on our Instagram page. Thank you to all our current members for your loyal commitment to the Community Center. You can find all of our up-to-date happenings on our Facebook page and on our bulletin board, which is located near the main entrance of the Center by the ramp.

Kids Improv Island. Join us for hilarious skits, stories and spontaneous fun! The experts at the New York Improv Theatre tap into everyone’s creativity, help build confidence and develop essential communication skills. Every Monday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. starting Jan. 13. \$200 for eight weeks with an improv coach. Suggested ages: 8 to 13, no experience needed. For more information or to sign up, text 917-715-3493 or e-mail LonRamirez@gmail.com. Please have the subject line read “kids improv island.”

Monday: Latin Dance private lessons are available after 6:30 p.m. Have you ever wanted to feel as if you could join “Dancing with the Stars”? Well, here is your opportunity. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Monday: Irish Dance, 6 to 8 p.m. Kids and adults are both welcome, even just to observe the class. Contact Caitlin Kelly at 914-262-4517.

Tuesday: City Island Civic Association meets last Tuesday of the month (except December).

Wednesday: Latin Dance private lessons available before 1 p.m. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Thursday: Family Zumba Class, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. With its high energy and simple dance moves, Zumba is the perfect physical activity for parents and kids. Contact Teasha at 646-770-4254.

Friday: Girl Scouts Troop 1814, every other week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Melissa Rosado at 347-739-2076.

Saturday: AA, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Contact Jason at 917-496-9615 or Jay at 201-988-2515.

Saturday: Yoga from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact Teasha at 646-770-4254.

Sunday: AA, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Contact Jason at 917-496-9615 or Jay at 201-988-2515.

All classes taught at the Center can be paid to our amazing teachers by Zelle.

Thinking of a place to host your next workshop or kid’s birthday? How about a work event or a holiday work party? Rent our affordable venue and directly support our non-for-profit organization.

For availability, call Cheryl Riordan at 347-843-5076.

Happy holidays to everyone!
Melissa Cebollero

PSS City Island Center

The holiday season is fast approaching, so why not stop by PSS City Island Center for some holiday cheer and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer? Chase the winter blues away and enjoy Spirit Week, Dec. 16–20. Be sure to stop by our annual Cookies with Santa on Dec. 18.

We have a social worker, Diana, at the Center on Mondays. She is available to help with benefits and entitlements, such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE and Medicare/ Medicaid. Call the Center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment. Our technology instructors are at the Center on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

Please stop by PSS City Island Center and check out our calendar for more details on these and other activities we have to offer. All you need to do to join is complete

a membership form. Membership is free so if you are 60 or older please join us. Members have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/ events, as well as a variety of support services.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available at noon as well. A plant-based meal is served once a week.

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

December and January Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated. Our holiday parties are still being planned!)

Monday, Dec. 2 and 16, at 12:30 pm, Gleeful Dance Program

Thursday, Dec. 5, Trip to Radio City Music Hall (waiting list only)

Tuesday, Dec. 10, Trip to Lyndhurst Castle with catered hot lunch

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified. Classes are free but donations are much appreciated.

Monday

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in-person)

10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)

11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays

1 p.m. Introductory Spanish with Maria (last class on 12/9; resumes 1/20/25)

Tuesday

9 a.m. Individual tech assistance with Julio

9 a.m. Cardio Fit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

11 In the News

12 to 3 p.m. Tech Assistance with Julio

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

1 p.m. Board Games-Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

Wednesday

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise with Patty G. (remote and in person)

12:45 p.m. Crafter’s Corner/Crochet with Sandra and Carla

12 to 3 p.m. Tech instruction and assistance with Louis

Thursday

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in person)

10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

9 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (in person and remote)); Broadway Dance resumes in January with Becky on 1/3/25

10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips which include Lidl, Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joes and Target. These trips depart at 9 a.m. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note the Center will be closing early on Dec. 12 at 12 p.m. and on Christmas and New Year’s Eve at 1 p.m. We will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1. We will also be closed on Jan. 20.

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

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the meeting, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to

you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight, graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association. Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 1925 Williamsbridge Road, Floor 2, Bronx, NY 10461. Phone: 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554, New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@council.nyc.gov.

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez’s Albany office is Legislative Office Building, Room 814, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-3595. The District Office is 3853 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-822-2049 and the e-mail address is fernandez@nysenate.gov.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto’s Albany office is Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-5296, and the e-mail address is benedettom@nyassembly.gov. The District Offices are at 3602 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-892-2235, and 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475; telephone 718-320-2220.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is the commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO is Officer Rugovac; telephone number 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone 718-892-1161; on Facebook at BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are collecting dues for 2024 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the “friends and family” option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship for 175 years, is open for in-person and remote services. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Worship schedule during the month of December: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father Kevin Moroney. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the second Sunday of the month.

Christmas Services: Sunday, Dec. 22, Advent IV, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. The Christ-Mass and Church School Pageant.

Sunday School: Members of Grace’s Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month. They will lead the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 24 at 6 p.m., a joyous retelling of the birth of Jesus with narrators, Bible roles, costumes and carols. If you would like to be part of Grace’s Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

Annual Meeting: Grace’s annual meeting will take place on Sunday, Jan. 26, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Agenda items include the 2025 budget and Vestry elections.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after

the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

The **Grace Tones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you’d like to join, remember that you don’t have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Karen Nani

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays (Monday through Friday) at 7 a.m.; on Saturdays at 8 a.m. and at 5:15 for Vigil Saturday evening; and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 1, is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the preparation for the coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ. The advent candle will be placed in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of His coming. Let us pray for world peace as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Our monthly holy hour will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. Come and spend an hour with Jesus.

Our Annual Thrift Shop Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in the Thrift Shop and in the school gym. Come, browse and shop for bargains.

Monday, Dec. 9, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (NOT a holy day this year). Mass is at 7 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have a special Mass that evening in English and Spanish at 7 p.m. Come and honor Mary on this special day.

Both sessions of Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program are busy preparing for a Christmas Show, which will take place at St. Mary’s on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 4:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come join us for a joyous, prayerful evening.

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

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (A holy day of obligation). We will follow our Sunday schedule with a Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. and Masses on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 9 and 11 a.m.

We wish a Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to all!

Rosette Dietz

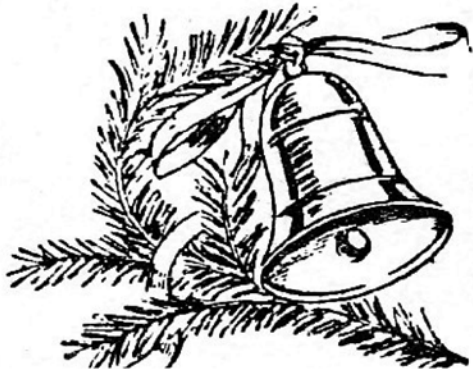
American Legion Post 156

Dues for 2025 are \$55; please mail the dues as soon as possible or drop them off at the Post. Make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next event. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our bartender at 718-885-0639 for availability.

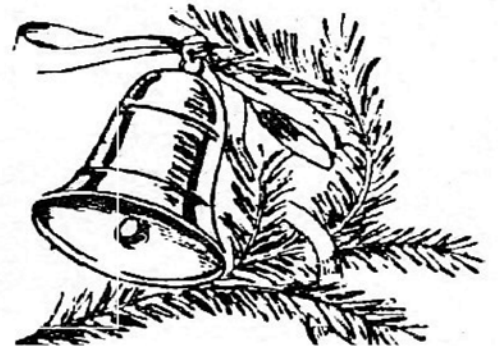
Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion for all that they do to assist in our success, especially all Legion Family Members and our community partners who help to make all our events a great

Continued on page 15



**I heard the bells on
Christmas day**



Their old familiar carols play,



And wild and sweet the words repeat

Of 'Peace on earth, good-will to men.'

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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A City Island business serving City Island

SAVING CATS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A small but determined group on City Island decided five years ago to help reduce the feral cat population on City Island, and their efforts have been very effective in lowering numbers of strays and rehabilitating those in need.

Anoosh Donahue, Maura Mandrano and Andrea Gaines are three Islanders who have been hard at work since they organized Eastchester Bay Stray Cat Project in November 2019. Since their first official trapping in February 2020, they have helped many hundreds of cats and kittens, about a hundred each year, in several different ways.

TNR (trap, neuter, return) is one of their major efforts, but they have also rescued lost cats, socialized kittens for adoption, provided lifesaving medical care for sick cats, intervened in a local hoarding situation and partnered with other rescue groups in the Bronx and Westchester in a variety of projects.

The organization became an official nonprofit in 2021, so all donations are tax deductible. They would also welcome volunteers to help in their humane mission. For more information about volunteering, donating or fostering, contact the group at CityIslandTNR@gmail.com and follow their activities on Facebook.



Photo by ANOOSH DONAHUE
These two kittens, Gomez and Pugsley, were trapped on City Island in October at the age of eight weeks. They are currently being socialized so that they can be adopted.

Organization News

Continued from page 13

- success.
- All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the flagpole.
- Please visit our website, Leonardh-hawkinspost156.com, to find the latest community information and downloadable flyers of veteran events.
- The following are dates and upcoming events:
- Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Service sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron #156; gathering at 11:30 a.m. at Post 156 on City Island. The ceremony will be conducted at the Legion Triangle at 12 noon.
- Dec. 7: "Let us Never Forget" Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 22: Post 156 Children's Christmas Party from 2 to 5 p.m. at Post 156 (Please bring a wrapped gift to be presented by Santa and Mrs. Claus.)
- Dec. 23: Post 156 Executive Meeting and Christmas Party from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Post 156

- Dec. 25: Merry Christmas to all.
- Dec. 31: (New Year's Eve) Party Open House, Pot-luck shared dinner.
- Jan. 1: Happy New Year to all.
- Jan. 5: Post 156 Regular Meeting at noon. This will be both in-person and by Zoom.
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 17-19: Mid-Winter Convention at the (Crown Plaza) Desmond Hotel, Albany NY

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's an honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

Sons of the American Legion

Season's greetings to all. I hope everyone enjoyed good times with friends and family around the Thanksgiving table.

Thanks to all who came out for the service at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Veterans Day. It was especially great to see the members of Scout Troop 211 and Cub Scout Pack 211, as well as their leaders and fami-

lies, who came out to remember and honor those who have served our country in the armed forces. I would also like to thank all those who prepared and provided food for the lunch that was served upon our return to the Legion after the service, as well as those who set up before and cleaned afterwards.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, as always I invite you to come out on our meeting night. It's a good time to meet some of our more active members and learn what we are about. To our current members, if you have not already done so, please submit your 2025 dues of \$30. You can mail or drop them off at American Legion Post 156, Attn: SAL membership, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. Please make sure your name is on the envelope

On Saturday, Dec. 7, we will have our Pearl Harbor observance. At 11:30 a.m., we will meet at Post 156. At 11:45 a.m. we will proceed from Post 156 to the Veterans Memorial Triangle for the noon observance. All attendees are welcome to return afterwards to the Post for contemplation and light refreshments.

Also on Dec. 7, the Auxiliary will be holding its annual Christmas Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's Army-Navy game will be on Saturday, Dec. 14. Kickoff is at 3 p.m. Food will be provided, both home-cooked and catered. There will be a cash bar, and there is a suggested \$10 donation for the food.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a Children's Christmas Party at the Post. All are welcome. We hear that a certain jolly old elf will once again make an appearance (parents: please BYOG).

On Monday, Dec. 23, starting at 6 p.m., the Legion will host its annual Christmas Party. The entire Legion family is invited to attend and join in the holiday festivities.

Our January meeting will be on Thursday, the 9th, at 7:30 p.m.

January is also the time for NFL playoffs. We invite you come out every Sunday for the regular season and cheer your team on or cry in your beer (like this Jet fan) in good company. But things ramp up during the playoffs, and we always have a great time. The Wild Card game days are on Jan. 11, 12 and 13. Divisional Playoffs are on Jan. 18 and 19. And the Conference playoffs are on Jan. 26. As we get deeper into the schedule, please feel free to check in at the Legion for what we have planned for the playoff days and, of course, Super Bowl Sunday is Feb. 9.

And, finally, save the date for our Annual Pig's Knuckle Party on Feb. 22. Further details will follow in the next issue of *The*

Current.

Here's wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Peter Chadwick



Garden Club of City Island

Just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday, Garden Club members decorated 44 holiday wreaths and distributed them to our local public spaces, including the Public Library, the firehouse, Post Office, Pelham Cemetery, Ambrosini Field and Hawkins Park. In addition, five wreaths will be donated to the Veterans Home in Montrose, NY.

Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 211, the Garden Club's plant containers on the avenue were cleaned out on Saturday, Nov. 16. The following week, Garden Club members installed the winter greenery and holiday decorations. We appreciate the businesses and residents who help us keep the containers clean and watered.

At our November membership meeting, Nancy White from the Flower Bar in Larchmont gave a flower-arranging demonstration. Two lucky members won a raffle for her beautiful arrangements. The Flower Bar sells its flowers for half-price on Thursdays, giving our members a convenient way to try out her techniques. In December, there will be no regular meeting of the Garden Club. Instead, members will enjoy a holiday luncheon at Artie's Restaurant.

The Garden Club would like to draw attention to Scavello's on the Island for its curb appeal. Waterfalls, ponds and river birches create a feeling of tranquility on a city street. It's no wonder that patrons regularly have their pictures taken in front of the garden.

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

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Renee Marsh, lecturer at the New York Botanical Garden, will give a presentation on gardening hints. Please join us!

Judy Judson

Quilters by the Sea QOV

We had our final Sew Day of 2024 when we sewed an original design by our member Nancy Scotford. The students in Leslie Pelecovich's class nearly finished their Irish Chain top. Our next Sew Day will be National Sew Day on Feb. 1, 2025, a great day to welcome renewing and new members. We completed the year with two Quilt of Valor awards. The first was off-Island to a World War II Army veteran, and the second was to the Island's own Gaeton Esposito, U.S. Navy. Thank you to all our donors and supporters for another amazing year of making and awarding patriotic quilts on- and off-Island!

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Image from "Successful Small Gardens" by Roy Strong

Designing a Garden

Winter seems to get a lot of people down, in spirit, if not with the sniffles. What better activity, during the deep chill, than to design or redesign your garden? To make a garden, whether you are making a new one or just shuffling the pack, is a great happiness. To this I can attest.

Looking at established gardens, not just looking at individual plants, is the best way to make a garden. You ask yourself: Do I like this one? Can it work for me? After visiting a few, you may find that the notes you take record the same features. If it pleases you, analyze what you see and take notes and attach photos. This one is romantic with roses and a bit of a mess. This one is a shady bow-er with ferns, and here is a cottage garden with plants spilling over onto the pathways. Maybe you are a collector and would like a garden filled with rare and unusual plants,

or is it a wild garden you love with elliptical beds? Some of us love order, so a formal garden with clipped hedges might be the one for you. Consequently, you must consider that the type of garden you love must fit your site, exposure and soil, be it sandy, loam, or clay in sun or shade.

I usually start with laying out the beds and planting the hedges or mixed hedges to form a backdrop for the flower borders. If you want to stroll among the plants, then island beds are beautiful with hedges at the perimeter of the garden. Once this design is made, paths and patios have to be laid. Paths can be as simple as grass or gravel, or more expensively of stone or brick. A pace is a good measurement for spacing stones, and a three-foot-wide path will give you a solo path with a feeling of being crowded or hemmed in by the flowers. Four feet can accommodate a wheelbarrow, while six feet are good for walking with a companion.

There may be things in a neighbor's yard better off hidden. Look out your windows and decide where a beautiful tree may be framed. Maybe a flower bed you can see from your kitchen window would be nice. Simplicity is key, and for every 20 square feet of land, try to stick to one theme. If everything you put in there underlines one idea, the better the garden will be. Choose two or three plants and repeat them, with possibly one fabulous thing as an accent.

Some gardens are for just looking at, but the best ones are for being in. Do you love a secret garden, a peaceful one? Where will you sit? Will there be benches and or a table? You could actually move a chair around and sit in different areas to see what feels right. Is the house traditional or modern, is the house made of stone or brick, or is it clapboard in a specific color? You must think and think again. A purple tree might be a jarring sight to the eye in a green landscape. Your palette of plants will reflect the exposure, so you must do research, for the right plant for the right place is very impor-

tant for it all to thrive.

I find that photographing the land from different angles is very helpful. Even if you are not adept at drawing, you can sketch out a few ideas right on the printed photos (11x14 in.). Draw with a black marker and indicate the beds and shrubs and trees to start. This helps you see how shapes and paths and plants will look at eye level in your existing garden. Marco Polo Stefano used this technique to great advantage at Wave Hill.

If you have a garden that has many existing plants left by a former owner, try subtracting the ones that do not work. Think of how to open up the space and simplify it before designing with new plants. It is amazing how good it can look just by clever editing.

Lastly, I would recommend that as a new homeowner, you give yourself time to get used to the space and to ponder all the possibilities while visiting many well-made gardens. It takes a good year to get a feel for it and to shape your paradise. Take your time and have fun with it.

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery

at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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Here's to a bright and prosperous New Year!



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My name is Lisa Encarnacion. I have always had a deep love for all animals and have never been without a pet.

I worked at a dog grooming shop on weekends, managed a dog kennel through high school. I went on to being the administrator for two animal hospitals for ten years and created my own pet sitting service for 1.

I have two dogs and a bird and I love traveling with them and baking them healthy treats.

The lack of services and creative social events for me and my own pets prompted me to pursue what I love and to create Dog-Bizz for other animal lovers. I could not think of a better place for it than the neighborhood I love and live in, City Island.

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Nature at the Legion Triangle

By HAILEY CLANCY



Photo by KAREN NANI

The Veterans Memorial Triangle received a makeover in October 2024..

Amid the chaos of street work that started on City Island in late October, you may have noticed that the Veterans Memorial Triangle at the base of the bridge was also getting a needed makeover. The American Legion’s Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 on City Island is funding and organizing the improvements as a gift to City Island, using money from its Queen of Hearts game of chance (which all are welcome to play).

With support from CJS Property Main-

tenance and containers from John Danna & Sons, the invasive weeds were completely removed, and fresh compost and mulch were added to improve the condition of the soil. The two native evergreen trees have been watered regularly to sustain their health during the ongoing dry conditions.

Next spring you will see a wide variety of young native plants being installed. In addition to being beautiful, these native plants will have been specially selected and sourced by Kim Eierman of EcoBeneficial, a horticulture consulting firm, to thrive in dry and difficult conditions that include salt spray, high winds and urban soil. The hardy plants will quickly adapt to their new location, not only providing an attractive landscape but also serving as valuable habitat capable of supporting pollinators. Although the plants will be in place by Memorial Day 2025, please be patient awaiting their progress. As the wise gardener knows: “the first year plants sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap!”

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



Immigration

The immigrant experience in America is spread over an infinitesimal variety of cultures as vast as the numbers of countries in the world. We begin with **El Norte** (1983), the story of what happens when a group of Mayan Indians decides to organize a labor union to improve conditions in their village. In response, the Guatemalan army violently destroys their community, and two teenage siblings, Rosa (Zaide Silvia Gutiérrez) and Enrique (David Villalpando), manage to escape the massacre. They want to start a new life in El Norte—the USA. They trek through Mexico, meeting a wide variety of characters and face trials and tribulations on their journey toward lives as illegal immigrants in Los Angeles.

Moscow on the Hudson (1984) stars Robin Williams as Vladimir Ivanoff, a Russian saxophone player in a circus, who is torn between a sweet home life and being oppressed by his society. When the circus visits New York, Williams goes on a shopping trip to Bloomingdale's, where he impulsively decides to defect. He is given a place to stay by security guard Lionel Witherspoon (Cleavant Derricks) and falls for fellow immigrant Lucia Lombardo (Maria Conchita Alonso). It is interesting to note that virtually every character Ivanoff meets in the film is from a country other than the United States.

The drama **Avalon** (1990) is largely based on the family history of the film's director, Barry Levinson. It follows the immigrant Krichinsky clan as they settle in Baltimore during the early 20th century. While Sam Krichinsky (Armin Mueller-Stahl) establishes roots in the city and finds a wife (Joan Plowright), his ambitious son, Jules (Aidan Quinn), along with his wife, Ann (Elizabeth Perkins), changes their last name to Kaye and tries to live the American Dream by opening an appliance store, revealing cultural and generational gaps. Lou Jacobi appears as Sam's consistently tardy older brother in a memorable Thanksgiving scene. Elijah Wood appears as Jules and Ann's son, Michael, a nice boy who inadvertently brings disaster to the family business.

Green Card (1990) stars the French actor Gerard Depardieu in his American debut as George Faure, an immigrant who will do anything to remain in the United States. He is introduced to Bronte Parrish (Andie MacDowell), a horticulturist who is desperate to move into a building that has a phenomenal green house. Unfortunately for Bronte, the landlord will rent only to married couples, so a marriage of convenience is born. It does not go too smoothly for the couple, however, when the immigration service decides to investigate whether or not this is a bogus marriage.

The Wedding Banquet (1993) is the story of Wai-Tung (Winston Chao), a gay Chinese man happily ensconced in New York with his lover, Simon (Mitchell Lichtenstein). Wai-Tung's parents, still living in China, constantly pressure him to get married because they want grandchildren. To get his parents to stop hassling him, he decides to marry Wei-Wei (May Chin), a struggling artist who has no green card and wants to stay in America. When his father (Sihung Lung) and mother (Ah-Lei Gua) decide to come to New York for the wedding, they turn his life upside down.

The Joy Luck Club (1993) has an extraordinary ensemble cast. It tells the harrowing stories of four older Chinese women (Kieu Chinh, Tsai Chin, France Nuyen and Lisa Lu) in their native country via flashback, as well as the American childhoods of their daughters. These stories are all told from the present day as their daughters (Ming-Na Wen, Tamlyn Tomita, Lauren Tom and Rosalind Chao) are all grown. It is a fascinating journey into a remarkable culture, yet with mother-daughter conflicts completely familiar to all viewers.

My Family (1995) is a chronicle of the Sanchez Family, whose patriarch, Jose (Jacob Vargas), walked from Mexico to Los Angeles in the 1920s, and the story spans through to the 1950s. It is narrated by Paco (Edward James

Olmos), a writer who is recounting memories of his family history. Jose is a gardener who marries a nanny, Maria (Jennifer Lopez), and together they have six children. In 1932, the then pregnant Maria is one of several thousand American citizens of Mexican descent who is rounded up by government troops and shipped in cattle cars to Central America. This is a moving drama of all six Sanchez children, including Jimmy Smits as Jimmy in a particularly moving subplot where he agrees to marry a woman from El Salvador in order to keep her from being deported, and their subsequent poignant sharing of their own stories.

In **America** (2002) is the story of the struggle of an Irish immigrant family to start a new life in New York City. When Johnny (Paddy Considine) and Sarah (Samantha Morton) Sullivan move into Hell's Kitchen in the mid 1980s with their two daughters, Christy (Sarah Bolger) and Ariel (Emma Bolger), they are grieving the death of their son. While their parents do what they can to make ends meet, the girls befriend a reclusive neighbor named Mateo (Djimon Hounsou), who becomes their unlikely ally through further family crises. This semi-autobiographical film is dedicated to writer/director Jim Sheridan's brother, Frankie, who died at age ten.

Spanglish (2004) is a quirky story of Flor (Paz Vega) and her daughter, Cristina (Shelbie Bruce), who move from Mexico to Los Angeles, where Flor goes to work for the Clasky family. Bernice Clasky (Sarah Steele) is the same age as Cristina. The mother, Deborah (Tea Leoni), is a drama queen of the highest order, married to John (Adam Sandler), a chef whose restaurant receives four stars, the New York Times food critic. Flor is the voice of reason in a home of bedlam, although she barely speaks English. This is a story about assimilation and the misguided good intentions of Americans towards immigrants.

The Namesake (2006) depicts the struggles of Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli (Irrfan Khan and Tabu), first-generation immigrants from Calcutta, and their American-born children, Gogol (Kal Penn) and Sonia (Sahira Nair), to integrate into the new world without forgetting the old. The story focuses on their assimilated son, who works as an architect and dates Maxine (Jacinda Barrett), a Caucasian woman from a wealthy background, who is clueless about their cultural differences. Gogol is torn between finding his own unique identity without losing his heritage.

The Visitor (2007), one of the most unique movies about immigrants, offers a glimpse into the U.S. immigration detention system and the people it affects. It stars Richard Jenkins as Walter Vale, a widowed college economics professor whose life has become passionless and mundane. When attending a conference in Manhattan, he is surprised to discover that a young couple has moved into his seldom-used apartment in the city. Tarek (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend, Zainab (Danai Gurira), have fallen victims to an elaborate real-estate scam. Walter reluctantly allows the couple to remain in his apartment. To repay this kindness, talented musician Tarek insists on teaching him to play the African drum, which starts to rekindle Walter's spirit. When Tarek's beautiful mother, Mouna (Hiam Abbass), arrives in search of her son, Walter is stunned to find himself smitten. When Tarek is arrested as an undocumented immigrant and held for deportation, they must grapple with the issues of the treatment of immigrants and the legal process post 9/11.

Take Out (2008) is the story of Ming Ding (Charles Jang), an illegal Chinese immigrant who works as a deliveryman for a Chinese take-out place. He has come to the United States without his wife and son and intends to earn enough to eventually send for them. When he falls behind in his payments to the smugglers who brought him to this country, he is given one day to put together the money. The camera follows Ming Ding as he bicycles in the pouring rain through Manhattan's upper West Side. His co-worker Young (Jeng-Hua Yu) helps him by "magnanimously" allowing Ming to take all of the deliveries that day. Harsh words occur between Ming and the cook, Wei (Justin Wan), but Wei has internal workings that are surprising. The restaurant is run by Big Sister (Wang-Thye Lee), who has to deal with all sorts of races in America's melting pot. The customers to whom Ming makes the deliveries are all portrayed by ordinary people and not professional actors.

Gran Torino (2008) is the story of retired auto worker and Korean War vet Walt Kowalski (Clint Eastwood), who fills emptiness in his

life with beer and home repair, despising the many Asian, Latino and black families in his neighborhood. Walt becomes a reluctant hero when he stands up to the gangbangers who tried to force an Asian teen to steal Walt's treasured car. An unlikely friendship develops between Walt and the teen, as he learns he has more in common with his "foreign" neighbors than he thought.

Mao's Last Dancer (2010) is based on the true story of dancer Li Cunxin (Chi Chao), who comes to spend a summer with the Houston ballet, where he is seduced by the luxurious American lifestyle. It is also the story of the Cultural Revolution in China. The juxtaposition of the two cultures and scenery is accomplished with flashbacks, with the right amount of suspense. The dancing is spectacular, as is the cinematography. Bruce Greenwood appears as Ben Stevenson, artistic director of the Houston Ballet.

In **The Immigrant** (2014) Ewa Cybulski (Marion Cotillard) and her sister, Magda (Angela Sarafyan), sail to New York from their native Poland in search of the American dream. When they reach Ellis Island, doctors discover that Magda is ill and put her into quarantine, while releasing Ewa onto the mean streets of Manhattan. With nowhere to go, Ewa quickly falls prey to Bruno (Joaquin Phoenix), a charming but wicked man who takes her in and forces her into prostitution. The arrival of dashing stage magician Orlando (Jeremy Renner) helps restore her self-confidence and hopes for a brighter future.

In **The Good Lie** (2014) after their village is destroyed and their parents killed by Northern militia, Sudanese orphans Theo, his siblings and other survivors make a difficult journey to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the group gets the chance to settle in the U.S.

They are met in Kansas by Carrie Davis (Reese Witherspoon), who has been charged with finding them jobs. However, seeing how adrift they are in 20th-century America, Carrie endeavors to help them in rebuilding their shattered lives. This film demonstrates the overwhelming challenges faced in America by people who have grown up in the wilderness.

Set in the early 1950's, **Brooklyn** (2015) tells the moving story of Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan), a young Irish immigrant lured by the promise of America. Initially she is terribly homesick, but when she meets Italian-American plumber Tony Fiorello (Emory Cohen), she falls hopelessly in love. When a death in the family takes her home, Eilis finds opportunities exist that weren't there when she left, including the interest of well-to-do bachelor Jim Farrell (Domnall Gleeson). Eilis is faced with the heart-rending choice of where, and with whom, she will spend the rest of her life.

Saint Judy (2019) tells the story of Los Angeles immigration attorney Judy Wood (Michelle Monaghan), who single-handedly changed U.S. asylum law to include women as part of the protected class. When she moves to Los Angeles, she begins her work in an immigration law office run by Ray Hernandez (Alfred Molina). She eventually opens her own law office and is particularly dedicated to the case of an Asefa Ashwari (Leem Lubany), a teacher from Afghanistan facing deportation. In presenting Ashwar's case before the 9th Circuit Court, she is faced with a judge (Alfre Woodard) and a prosecutor (Benjamon Adebayo) who though sympathetic to the plight of Ashwari must follow the rule of law. This provides Wood with an incentive to change it, eventually saving the lives of thousands of women.

And until next time, and happy viewing...

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Chewbacca by Raymond Garcia.

Photo by JERRY LANDI



Half Cut Zombie by Chihiro.

Photo by CHERYL BRINKER

Unseasonably warm October weather made for a well-attended annual Halloween parade on City Island Avenue on Oct. 31, 2024. Despite all the paving construction on City Island streets and avenues, the parade was able to follow its usual route up Fordham Street to Pelham Cemetery. Paul Klein of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the tradition, and the judges trolled the crowd and gave awards for best costumes created by Islanders and visitors, some of which are shown here. Special thanks also to the Island businesses that supplied prizes.

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HH = hours; MM = minutes									
Tide chart by Tom Smith									
DECEMBER 2024									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0450	0.9	1045	7.9	1753	-0.1	2325	6.8	Sun 01
02 Mon	0521	0.8	1124	7.9	1817	-0.1			Mon 02
03 Tue	0001	6.8	0600	0.8	1205	7.9	1846	0.0	Tue 03
04 Wed	0041	6.9	0643	0.8	1250	7.8	1922	0.0	Wed 04
05 Thu	0125	6.9	0729	0.8	1337	7.6	2005	0.1	Thu 05
06 Fri	0123	7.0	0821	0.8	1428	7.4	2055	0.3	Fri 06
07 Sat	0307	7.2	0924	0.8	1526	7.1	2152	0.4	Sat 07
08 Sun	0405	7.4	1042	0.6	1629	6.9	2254	0.4	Sun 08
09 Mon	0507	7.6	1208	0.3	1738	6.8	2359	0.4	Mon 09
10 Tue	0611	7.0	1320	-0.1	1856	6.8			Tue 10
11 Wed	0111	0.3	0720	8.2	1420	-0.5	2009	7.0	Wed 11
12 Thu	0218	0.1	0823	8.5	1515	-0.9	2108	7.3	Thu 12
13 Fri	0316	-0.1	0917	8.8	1607	-1.2	2201	7.4	Fri 13
14 Sat	0410	-0.3	1009	8.9	1659	-1.3	2253	7.5	Sat 14
15 Sun	0504	-0.3	1101	8.8	1750	-1.3	2345	7.5	Sun 15
16 Mon	0558	-0.2	1152	8.6	1839	-1.1			Mon 16
17 Tue	1236	7.5	0649	-0.1	1241	8.2	1927	-0.8	Tue 17
18 Wed	0124	7.3	0740	0.2	1329	7.8	2015	-0.4	Wed 18
19 Thu	0212	7.1	0833	0.4	1416	7.3	2105	0.0	Thu 19
20 Fri	0302	6.9	0932	0.7	1507	6.8	2158	0.4	Fri 20
21 Sat	0353	6.8	1031	0.9	1603	6.4	2250	0.7	Sat 21
22 Sun	0442	6.6	1127	0.9	1700	6.1	2340	1.0	Sun 22
23 Mon	0530	6.6	1221	0.9	1758	5.8			Mon 23
24 Tue	0031	1.2	0618	6.6	1315	0.8	1900	5.7	Tue 24
25 Wed	0121	1.3	0709	6.7	1406	0.7	1957	5.8	Wed 25
26 Thu	0210	1.3	0709	6.7	1454	0.5	2044	5.9	Thu 26
27 Fri	0253	1.2	0837	7.1	1538	0.2	2124	6.1	Fri 27
28 Sat	0330	1.0	0912	7.3	1620	0.0	2200	6.3	Sat 28
29 Sun	0400	0.9	0947	7.6	1700	-0.1	2233	6.5	Sun 29
30 Mon	0430	0.7	1025	7.8	1736	-0.3	2309	6.7	Mon 30
31 Tue	0508	0.5	1108	7.9	1807	-0.4	2347	7.0	Tue 31
JANUARY 2025									
01 Wed	0551	0.3	1151	8.0	1834	-0.5			Wed 01
02 Thu	0028	7.3	0635	0.1	1237	8.0	1908	-0.6	Thu 02
03 Fri	0111	7.5	0722	0.0	1323	7.8	1947	-0.5	Fri 03
04 Sat	0156	7.7	0812	0.0	1413	7.5	2032	-0.3	Sat 04
05 Sun	0245	7.8	0911	0.0	1507	7.2	2123	-0.1	Sun 05
06 Mon	0340	7.8	1025	0.1	1606	6.8	2221	0.1	Mon 06
07 Tue	0438	7.8	1144	0.0	1712	6.5	2326	0.3	Tue 07
08 Wed	0542	7.8	1258	-0.1	1832	6.4			Wed 08
09 Thu	0048	0.4	0657	7.8	1403	-0.3	1955	6.5	Thu 09
10 Fri	0207	0.3	0811	7.9	1501	-0.6	2058	6.7	Fri 10
11 Sat	0309	0.2	0911	8.1	1555	-0.8	2153	6.9	Sat 11
12 Sun	0405	0.0	1005	8.2	1647	-0.9	2245	7.1	Sun 12
13 Mon	0459	-0.1	1056	8.2	1736	-1.0	2335	7.3	Mon 13
14 Tue	0550	-0.2	1145	8.0	1823	-0.9			Tue 14
15 Wed	0021	7.3	0637	-0.2	1230	7.8	1906	-0.8	Wed 15
16 Thu	0104	7.3	0723	-0.1	1311	7.5	1947	-0.5	Thu 16
17 Fri	0142	7.2	0807	0.1	1348	7.2	2025	-0.1	Fri 17
18 Sat	0217	7.1	0852	0.4	1422	6.8	2102	0.4	Sat 18
19 Sun	9248	6.8	0943	0.6	1456	6.4	2129	0.7	Sun 19
20 Mon	0320	6.8	1036	0.8	1536	6.0	2153	1.1	Mon 20
21 Tue	0358	6.7	1130	1.0	1621	5.7	2234	1.3	Tue 21
22 Wed	0443	6.6	1227	1.0	1712	5.5	2321	1.4	Wed 22
23 Thu	0533	6.6	1325	1.0	1816	5.4			Thu 23
24 Fri	0018	1.5	0631	6.6	1419	0.7	1955	5.5	Fri 24
25 Sat	0201	1.4	0741	6.8	1507	0.4	2049	5.8	Sat 25
26 Sun	0253	1.1	0839	7.2	1551	0.1	2130	6.2	Sun 26
27 Mon	0335	0.8	0925	7.5	1631	-0.2	2208	6.6	Mon 27
28 Tue	0416	0.4	1009	7.8	1708	-0.5	2247	7.1	Tue 28
29 Wed	0500	0.0	1053	8.0	1742	-0.7	2328	7.5	Wed 29
30 Thu	0545	-0.4	1139	8.2	1815	-0.9			Thu 30
31 Fri	0010	-0.4	0629	-0.6	1225	8.1	1850	-0.9	Fri 31
FEBRUARY 2025									
01 Sat	0053	8.2	0714	-0.7	1311	8.0	1928	-0.8	Sat 01
02 Sun	0137	8.4	0803	-0.7	1359	7.7	2011	-0.6	Sun 02
03 Mon	0225	8.3	0859	-0.5	1451	7.2	2101	-0.3	Mon 03
04 Tue	0318	8.1	1012	-0.2	1550	6.8	2201	0.1	Tue 04
05 Wed	0418	7.9	1130	0.0	1659	6.4	2317	0.5	Wed 05
06 Thu	0527	7.6	1243	0.0	1826	6.2			Thu 06
07 Fri	0049	0.6	0652	7.4	1349	-0.1	1948	6.2	Fri 07



Brush Fires in the Bronx and More

Among City Islanders, one of the lesser-known families to have owned land here back in the day is the Cooper family of Cooper Union fame. There is evidence that suggests Peter Cooper, the founder of Cooper Union, attempted to open a factory on City Island in 1835, although whether it was for leathermaking or gluemaking remains unclear. What is clear, though, is that Peter’s brother, Edward C. Cooper, had already opened a salt works operation near the end of the east side of Carroll Street. Edward’s innovation for extracting salt from salt water involved heat from the sun, as opposed to the more prevalent fire inducing extractors of the day. Alas, the money Cooper hoped to save by using solar power could not make up for the extra costs incurred getting his product to market. In the end, the Cooper family sold their land to the Leviness family, whose much more traditional oyster businesses were already thriving and would continue to do so for decades.

We were reminded of Cooper’s venture after having witnessed brush fires in Pelham Bay Park first and then Inwood Hill Park. Getting water, even salt water, to where the fires are is an extra challenge for firefighters when the fires occur in the woods. Or on top of an old landfill. Some-

times water is not an option for fighting fires, and other methods must be employed, such as a fire break. A fire break is created by clearing vegetation and other combustible material to stop a fire from spreading. Although we couldn’t be sure if a firebreak was how the fire on top of the landfill in Pelham Bay Park was fought—it was too dark to see clearly—there certainly were enough emergency personnel on hand to create one.

For the fire in Inwood Hill Park, fire-fighters seemed to be using firebreaks where they could not get water and water where they could. Some overhead shots from reporters in helicopters showed lines of firefighters in the woods, presumably establishing firebreaks. In other parts of the park where fire was raging, at least some of the water that was being used was salt water from the Harlem River. In those instances, fireboats were able to shoot enough water from their hoses to reach the flames.

These very unusual brush fires in the Bronx and Manhattan have been caused by the same drought-like conditions we have been experiencing in our area for most of the fall. This past October, for example, was the driest on record in more than 150 years. If this keeps up, it’ll be a wet Christmas that we’ll be wanting more than a white one.

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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.



Photo by RON TERNER

Robert Swieciki

Longtime Islander Robert "Bob" Swieciki passed away at the age of 70 on Oct. 25, 2024, after a courageous, nine-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Bob was a proud Bronx boy who was born and lived his entire life in the borough. His parents, Steve and Helen Swieciki, passed away when Bob was a teenager, but he decided to remain in the family's apartment in the Fordham section. He attended Cardinal Hayes High School for two years and then transferred to DeWitt Clinton High School. Always industrious, he worked at after-school jobs to pay the rent. A die-hard Giants and Mets fan, he actually worked at Yankee Stadium selling refreshments!

In 1973, he started college, where he met the love of his life, Maria Iovieno, in an American history class. They didn't "click" right away, but after several attempts at asking her out on a date, she agreed to see a movie, and, as they say, the rest is history! He and Maria were married for 39 years and were the proud parents of Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina. Recently, Bob was thrilled to be able to walk his daughter down the aisle at her July wedding in Ireland.

Bob came from a long line of soldiers. His father, two brothers and uncles all served in the military. With encouragement from a close friend, Bob joined the Army, and after 24 years he retired as a Major. Then he was employed for 16 years by Homeland Security at JFK Airport and retired as a manager.

Before his illness, Bob played the guitar and was an avid golfer and bowler. He loved his Mets and actually proposed to Maria at Shea Stadium.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, his brothers Jimmy and Butch and nephew Danny Boy. He is survived by his wife, Maria, his children Stephen, Bobby (and Krystal) and Maria Christina (and Niall Madine). He also leaves his sister Patsy, niece Andrea and many cousins. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Parkinson's Foundation.



Christopher Robert Kall

Longtime City Island resident Christopher Robert Kall passed away at the age of

64 on Oct. 17, 2024, after a long illness. Chris was born to Jackie and Bob Kall in 1960 and lived most of his life on City Island. He was a fixture on King Avenue and at his parents' real estate office on City Island Avenue. He was an avid fisherman and loved boating, fast cars and loud music. He was generous with his time and often helped neighbors by shoveling snow and pumping out flooded basements. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Debby, and his brother, Jeffrey. He is survived by his nephews, Nicholas and Matthew; his brother-in-law, John Salacan; and his cousins, Leslie, Lauren and Danielle. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. A ceremony was held for Chris at Pelham Cemetery on Nov. 11, 2024.



Frank Joseph Rosa

Frank Joseph Rosa, 95, passed away on Nov. 1, 2024, at Calvary Hospital, where he was surrounded by his family.

He grew up on Blondell Avenue in the Bronx, where he followed in his father's footsteps by working in construction. Not long after that, he and his two brothers, John and Richie, started their own construction business, pouring foundations and constructing many homes in the Bronx. Frank and wife, Eileen, moved to City Island late in the 1960s, and he had recently been living at Pilot Cove Manor.

Frank was predeceased by his wife and their three sons, Frank Jr., John Rosa and Gary Rosa. He is survived by his two daughters, Diane Rosa (Jimmy Norris) and Carole Garcia (Roger Garcia); his two grandsons, Ryan Garcia and Robert Garcia; and his brother, Dennis Rosa.

Frank will always be remembered for his love of family, good food, red wine and a good cigar.

A memorial Mass was held on Saturday, Nov. 23, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Margaret Noschese

Margaret (Peggy) Noschese, a former resident of City Island, died on Nov. 8, 2024, in upstate New York at the age of 97.

Peggy was born in 1927 in Lawrence, MA, to Italian immigrant Carmine Strozza and his wife, Mamie. The family moved to the Bronx when Peggy was small. Her father worked for the New York City IRT subway system, while Mamie stayed home raising the family. Following school, Peggy worked in several jobs, including one at Alexander's Department Store. She lamented not continuing her education but realized that hard work would pay off.

In 1949, she married John Noschese, and they had two children, Pamela and Joseph. They moved to City Island in 1959, settling on east Schofield Street, where Peggy quickly made friends with Jean Paccione, Rose Booth and Laura Sadler. On warm summer evenings the four women could often be seen outside talking while they attempted to get their children inside for the night. Her family is sure they are now continuing their conversations together.

As Peggy's children grew older, she started work as a sailmaker at Ulmer's sail loft, where she was well known for the quality of her work. At the City Island Nautical Museum, she is featured in many of the photos in its recent exhibit on the history of sail making on City Island. She retired from sail making and relocated in 1994 to Dryden, NY, to live with her daughter and four grandchildren.

Peggy was a longtime parishioner of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. She was always fond of City Island, often asking about what was new here even after she moved.

She was predeceased by her siblings Lillian Torchetti, Nicholas Strozza and Mike Strozza. She is survived by her daughter, Pamela and her husband, Robert Rozzoni; her son, Joseph, and his wife, Carmen Noschese; grandchildren Joseph W. and Samantha Noschese, Angela and Thomas Atwood, Rebecca and Lee Campbell, John Rozzoni, Lauren and Cody Potter; and great-grandchildren Christian and Daniel Potter, and several nephews and nieces.

Peggy was surrounded by her family as she peacefully entered the arms of Our Lord on Nov. 8.



Marie Tritchel Petersen

Marie Tritchel Peterson, who lived on City Island for many years, passed away on Nov. 12, 2024, surrounded by friends, family and neighbors. She was 81.

She was the first of three daughters born to Adolf and Katherine Tritchel. Raised in the northern Bronx, New York, she was a part of an extended close-knit family of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She graduated from Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, attended Hunter College (BS, 1964) and earned a Master of Science in Elementary Education from Lehman Col-

lege in 1969. In 1964 she met William (Bill) Patrick Petersen, and they were married in 1966. Shortly after their marriage they moved to City Island, where Bill had been raised. Marie became active in the City Island community and, along with a group of Islanders, founded *The Island Current*, the monthly newspaper, which is still being published. She was the *Current's* first business manager. When she went into labor with her second son, she made Bill drive by the post office first so she could mail the monthly advertiser bills. In 1971 Marie and Bill welcomed their first son, Erik, followed by their second son, Kevin, in 1977. In the tradition of City Island, both are considered clam diggers. In 1979 the family relocated to Vienna, VA, where they had their daughter, Krista, in 1980, and their third son, Billy in 1984. Marie taught elementary school in New York City from 1965 to 1971 and from 1976 to 1979. In Virginia, she taught preschool at Andrew Chapel UMC in Vienna from 1985 to 1990. She returned to academics, received a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Maryland in 1992 and went on to serve as a librarian. Marie is predeceased by her two younger sisters, Emily (Feddeck) and Linda (Buck), and by her first daughter, Kristen. She is survived by Bill, her husband of 58 years; her sons Erik, Kevin and Billy; her daughter Krista Cunningham, and their spouses; and 11 grandchildren, all of whom she deeply loved.



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A colorful graphic consisting of many overlapping triangles in various shades of green, blue, purple, and red, creating a kaleidoscopic effect of trees.

2024

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St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024

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

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
Mass: 5:15 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD/NEW YEAR'S DAY (A Holy Day of Obligation)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
Mass: 9 AM & 11 AM

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



P.S. 17 Class of 1942 graduate Georgia Nakis McNicoll (seated) at the Yankees vs. Dodgers World Series game on Oct. 29, 2024, with Islander Karen Nani.

Congratulations to Mark Piri on his new adventure as a student/athlete at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Mark will now play his third year of college baseball as a Bloodhound. Work # hard, Train # harder, 2024. We're so proud of you! Enjoy the ride!

Kudos to Priscilla Piri on her summer/fall basketball season wins with the Lady Knights. Tournaments include Rucker Park, Watson Avenue, JC Pro Classic and Lincoln Park. Hoopers New York Tournaments included Atlantic City Show Case and Albany's Gym Rat Challenge. Congratulations on your two chip wins with Hoopers NY and Zero Gravity, National Cobalt and War on the Floor. Keep up the hard work. With love from your biggest fans, Mom, Dad and Mark.

Birthday balloons and cakes were abundant at the joint party for Islanders Natalie and Christopher Nani on Nov. 2, 2024. in the Grace Church parish hall. Natalie turned one on Nov. 1, and Christopher turned three on Nov. 3. DJ Ray Weis led the children in hours of games and activities. A great day was had by all, including proud (and tired) parents Lorena and Mark Nani.



Natalie and Christopher Nani shared a joint birthday party on Nov. 2 with parents Lorena and Mark, along with Natalie's godmother, Ann-Marie Goonan (center).



Jenny Glick of Jenny's Sweets

Take her out to the ballgame! Georgia Nakis McNicoll, 96-year-old clamdigger, attended her first Yankees World Series game on Oct. 29, and she brought them luck that night. The Yankees won 11 to 4 but unfortunately lost the series to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Georgia, who is the last surviving member of the P.S. 17 class of 1942, was escorted by Islander Karen Nani, and they had a great time. Georgia even bought a Lou Gehrig t-shirt because she saw him play in 1936 when she attended her first Yankee game with her father.

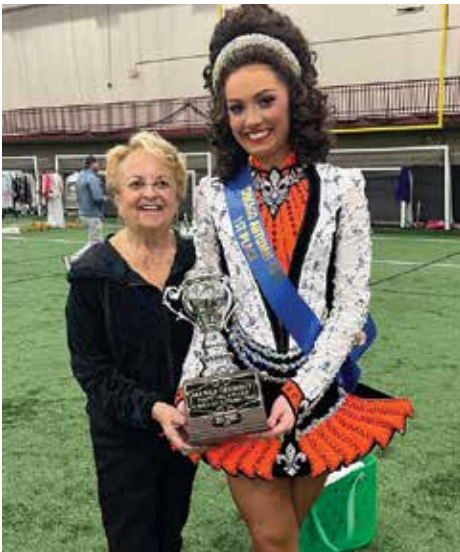
Birthday greetings on Dec. 10 to Ena Ellwanger, with love from her family and friends.

Welcome to the world on Nov. 11 Albee Francis Kunkel Ford! Proud parents are Emily Kunkel and Alden Ford. Jubilant big brothers are Arlo and Pippin.

Congratulations to Islander Jenny Glick, who marked the 25th anniversary of her graduation as a pastry chef from the Culinary Institute of America. She recreated the theme of her graduation presentation that quarter of a century ago—"Falling into Autumn"—for a



Albee Kunkel Ford was born on Nov. 11.



Islander Lina DeGrazia with her granddaughter Sophia



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Paul Klein, Monica Glick, with her New Business Recognition Certificate, and Council Member Marmorato at the Chamber Dinner in November.

special celebration hosted by her father, Elliott Glick, at his performance venue, The Artist (Starving Artist) on City Island. Jenny offered pastry samples of fall-inspired cakes, free of charge, giving back to all who have supported her in the City Island community. Her Jenny's Sweets baking business provides delicious options for all occasions.

Islander Lina DeGrazia is so proud of her granddaughters, Sophia and Bella Rose. Sophia is an accomplished dancer who took first place in an Irish dance competition in November in Chicago. Bella Rose, age 11, lives in California and already has a successful modeling career. She has been featured in a line of clothing based on Disney's Moana character. Congratulations to Lina and her beautiful granddaughters!

Happy 15th birthday greetings to my grandson, Jake Penny, who will be celebrating his big day on Dec. 26. With lots of love, Grandma Penny.

December birthday wishes to Anjulee Sebastian (12/22) and Katie McCormick (12/24).

Wishing our readers, neighbors and friends a very happy and healthy holiday. See you next year!

Maria Swieciki

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