

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

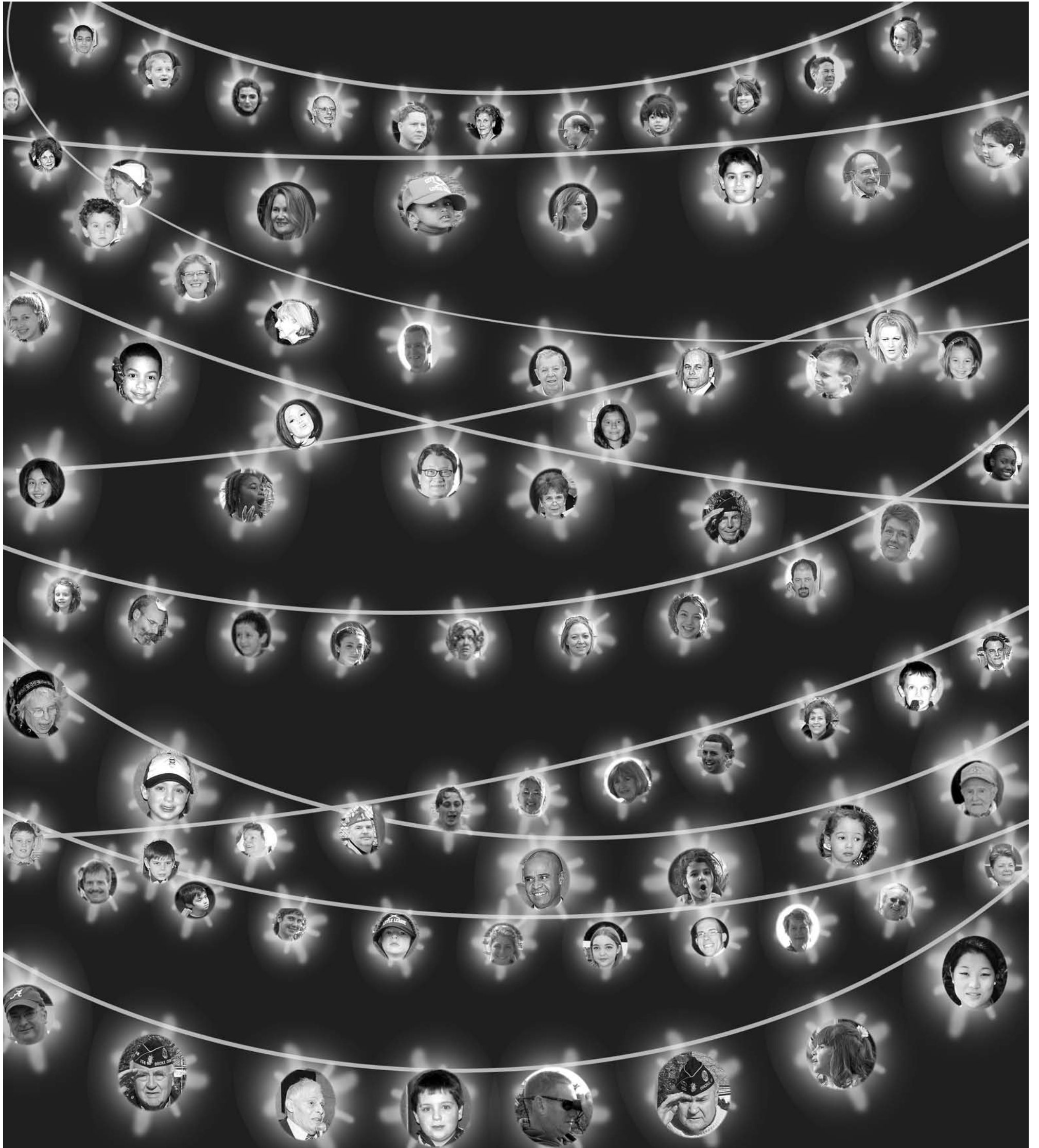
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Volume 40 Number 10

December 2011

One Dollar



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, CITY ISLAND!
FROM THE STAFF OF THE ISLAND CURRENT

BRIEFLY...

EPIPHANY CONCERT OF CAROLS: The a capella group Sing We Enchanted will perform at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at 4 p.m. The program will begin with some of the earliest known carols and then turn the page to today's traditional holiday favorites and popular standards. Listeners will have the chance to more quietly enjoy a variety of European old-time carols, festive holiday ballads and contemporary Christmas arrangements—away from the usual hectic pace of the holiday season. A wine and cheese reception will be held after the concert. Tickets are \$25 per person if bought in advance; \$30 at the door. Use the Paypal link on the Grace Church website (www.gracecityisland.org) or send a check to Epiphany Concert, Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue, Bronx NY 10464. You may reserve a ticket by calling 718-885-1080. In case of bad weather, the concert will be held on Jan. 15, at 4 p.m. Check the website for weather information.

ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1966 will celebrate its Birthday Bash (for alumni turning 60), on April 28, 2012, at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. For further information, call Anna at 201-476-1514 or e-mail AREilly52@aol.com.

THE 2012 CITY ISLAND REUNION: On Aug. 18, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., there will be another huge City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field. Come reunite and celebrate with friends and family, some you haven't seen in decades and some you saw here on Aug. 21, 2010, at the last fantastic reunion! Listen to live music by local bands, past and present! Admission is \$15 per person to cover expenses (tents, bandstand, Porta-potties, permits, clean-up and miscellaneous). Kids 12 and under get in free. All proceeds will be donated to the City Island Boys and Girls Scouts, so even if you're not sure you can attend, please donate anyway. For more information, please call 760-805-5547, e-mail us at cityislandreunion@yahoo.com or visit the Facebook group: *The 2012 City Island Reunion*. Hope to see you there!

BLOOD DRIVE: Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, is hosting a blood drive sponsored by the New York Blood Center on Monday, Dec. 19, from 3 to 8 p.m. All adults in good health are eligible to donate; bring I.D.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 2 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Oct. 23 to Nov. 6, 2011.

10/23 – Police from the 45th Precinct responded to a complaint of criminal mischief at 182 Fordham Street at 5:35 p.m., when a male perpetrator punched a hole in the fence during an argument.

10/26 – At 11 p.m., two Island males, ages 19 and 20, were arrested on King Avenue and Fordham Street and charged with possession of marijuana. The arrest was part of ongoing monitoring by police of problems near the Pelham Cemetery.

10/29 – Officers on patrol responded to 260 City Island Avenue at 2 a.m. after a garbage can was thrown through the window of a parked car in an act of criminal mischief.

11/6 – At 5 Rochelle Street, a complaint of petit larceny was reported at 2:39 p.m. when a check originally made out for \$10 was forged and changed to \$1,000.

11/8 - Unattended property was stolen from a restaurant patron at 64 City Island Avenue. The patron reported leaving a ring in the restroom which was then stolen in an act of grand larceny.

11/12 – Police responded to a report of suspicious behavior at 153 City Island Avenue at 11 p.m. A resident observed two males removing the headlights of a parked vehicle.

SANITATION REGULATIONS

The Sanitation Department started a new schedule on Nov. 14, adding trucks to their midnight to 8 a.m. shift and to the 4 p.m. to midnight shift. This is in addition to the regular 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift. Please make a note of the following changes:

1. All garbage, both regular and recycled, should be placed on the curb at 4 p.m. on the day before your normal pickup date.
2. If your normal garbage day falls on a holiday, place the garbage on the curb on the day of your normal pickup (the holiday), not on the day before.
3. If your recycle garbage day falls on a holiday, do not put the recyclables out at all, as they will not be picked up. It must be put out at your next recycle pickup day.
4. If your normal and recycled garbage has not been picked up on your scheduled day, you must wait for the day after your scheduled pickup date to call 311 or to put in a complaint to Community Board #10 for a pickup.

St. Mary's 'POTS' Filled with Islanders' Generosity

By JANE LA SCALA

Needless to say, 2011 has tested our budgets and provided many of us with economic challenges. In an attempt to continue the good work we have achieved these past years, thanks to City Island's commitment to helping our less fortunate neighbors through POTS, we are putting forth our annual Holiday Gifting appeal.

POTS (Part of the Solution) offers food, social services and essentials to needy men, women and families in the Webster Avenue area of the Bronx. Part of the program includes providing anyone who comes to them with new, clean clothing. Please help replenish their supply. Needed are: warm socks, woolen hats, gloves, and scarves; sweats: pants and tops for men and women size medium or large; underwear: t-shirts, briefs for men and women; disposable razors, baby diapers size 4, 5 or 6 and baby formulas with iron. "Gifts" do not need to be wrapped.

Drop off in St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church lobby. Collection dates run Dec. 3 through 11. For this collection we cannot accept used items. Some of the items collected will go to help local families. Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, working with the Bronx Masons, also collects goods for the POTS program.

For 14 years, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church has sponsored an ongoing yearlong program preparing food or providing staples for the POTS food pantry. Food and staples are collected once a month on a designated Saturday. If you plan to prepare food, all food must be cooked, but not hot, and be enough

for 10 servings. Please use an 8x11-inch tin with a cover or wrapped in foil, and then place the entire tin in a plastic bag. The drop off is St. Mary's schoolyard between 4:30 and 5 p.m. If you want to join you can follow the POTS menu (shown in the *Current Calendar* under *Organization News* each month). Or call one of the volunteers listed below to be added to the calling chain.

Staples include juice, coffee, sugar, canned vegetables, desserts (cookies, cakes), paper plates, napkins, hot/cold cups and cleaning supplies. In constant demand are baby diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6 and baby formula with iron.

POTS is very appreciative of the caring and generosity we extend to them through these collections. You can make a difference! Please visit their website at www.potsbronx.org.

For more information, call Jane La Scala at 718-885-2137 or Rosetta Woods at 718-885-0926. Thank you.

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The People of Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2 & 3

Christmas Fair
3 p.m - 8 p.m. • Dinner served from 5 p.m.

December 11

Parsonage Open House 1-4 p.m.

December 18

Children's Christmas Pageant 10 a.m.

December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10 p.m.

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



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Pelham Bay Landfill to Become Parkland Again

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JACK ROTHMAN

Northern Harrier Hawk

Representatives of the Parks Department and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gave a special tour of the Pelham Bay Landfill on Saturday, Nov. 19, to members of the Bronx community, including such organizations as the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ), the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, Community Board 10 and the City Island Civic Association.

The landfill is the result of a municipal dump that operated from 1963 until it was closed on Dec. 31, 1978, after years of complaints from nearby residents. In 1985 the Department of Sanitation signed a consent decree admitting that illegal dumping had occurred, and in 1989 the city was awarded \$62 million in a settlement with those who had illegally disposed of industrial and chemical waste at the landfill. The landfill was declared a Superfund site, and the city was required to undertake a major remediation project.

Since 1991 DEP has been testing soil and air quality, participating in health studies in conjunction with the city's Department of Health and undertaking the final grading and capping of the landfill, which was completed in 1998. Originally it was estimated that the site would not be available for public use for at least 30 years, but because of the program's success, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has reclassified the site to allow it to be used for passive recreational use, such as hiking, bird watching and bicycling.

The tour on Nov. 19 was led by Marianne Anderson, administrator of Pelham Bay Park, and Andrea Vannelli, project planner for the Parks Department, who provided a description of the area, which is about 95 acres with a current height of 131 feet (having diminished considerably in size since the 1980s). The path that winds up the landfill to the top is about 3.5 miles in length, and it affords spectacular views at every turn.

Ms. Vannelli explained that the waste that was dumped here has been covered with

a minimum of four feet of material: 9 inches of fill cover, a geocomposite membrane, 24 inches of base soil and 6 to 12 inches of clean topsoil on top, which supports various grasses and several small trees. Because some of the plants are unwelcome weeds, such as ragweed, DEP plans to work with Parks to replant the area so that it becomes a healthy meadow attracting wildlife, especially birds. The landfill is already inhabited by voles and other small rodents, which have attracted coyotes and birds of prey. One of the high points of the tour, in fact, was the sight of harrier hawks hunting for rodents, an unusual sight in the park, as noted by bird watchers Jack Rothman and David Burg, president of WildMetro and former president of NYC Audubon.

City Island resident and biologist Dr. Paul Mankiewicz of the Gaia Institute questioned the quality of the soil used during the remediation process, but he offered useful suggestions for the improvement of the vegetation and the establishment of a meadow habitat, which would be most welcome in the park.

Participants in the tour were largely enthusiastic about the current status of the landfill and happy to have the opportunity to enjoy the view in all directions, but many questions were asked about the toxic matter at the site by representatives of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project and BCEQ. Ms. Vannelli explained that the methane gas produced by the toxic materials is pumped out and transferred to a fire station at the bottom of the hill, where it is burned. Although much less gas is produced now than there was earlier in the remediation program, there has never been enough methane to make re-use a worthwhile proposition.

Leachate, the substance produced by the breakdown of the dumped materials, is also removed from the site and transferred to a series of holding tanks, from which it is moved to the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and released into the East River. Dr. Mankiewicz assured the group that by the time the water is released, it is free of harmful substances.

Rainwater on the surface of the landfill, along with melted snow, runs off through the clean topsoil via ditches to the base of the hill, where it is collected in three separate sedimentation ponds, which were being enjoyed on Nov. 19 by several species of waterfowl.

Parks and DEP are now in the process of determining the future use of the landfill site and are looking forward to receiving suggestions and comments from the community. Those who are interested in participating may e-mail marianne.anderson@parks.nyc.gov or andrea.vannelli@parks.nyc.gov.

CHAMBER 10464

By KAREN NANI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The 101st anniversary of the City Island Chamber of Commerce was held on Nov. 12, 2011, at the Split Rock Golf Course. Six individuals, two organizations and three new businesses on City Island were recognized. Shown at the gala event are (seated, l. to r.) Sara Persteins, Rhoda Levine, Evelyn Morgan, Stephanie Fisher and Brenda Prohaska. Standing: Skip Giacco, Carol Fitzpatrick, Paul Klein, Dick Sadler, Captain Russell Green, Barbara Dolensek, Elliott Glick, Margerite Biggart, Agatha Biggart, Maria Kane, Jay Howard, Michael Shanley and Karl Hoedl.

For the first time in years, the annual awards dinner of the City Island Chamber of Commerce was celebrated off-island but still within the 10464 zip code. The 101st dinner dance was held at the Pelham and Split Rock Golf Course on Nov. 12, 2011, in the banquet tent, and 150 guests danced the night away under a full moon to the music of the Lickety Split Band, led by Chamber president Skip Giacco.

The sparkling affair, hosted by Councilman James Vacca, was in honor of six individuals, two organizations and three new businesses on City Island. He opened the festivities by calling City Island "an extended family" and praising those who work tirelessly to improve life in the community.

Mr. Vacca first presented the Catherine Scott Achievement Award to the City Island Community Center. He acknowledged the special meaning of the award for him, as he worked for many years with Ms. Scott at Community Board 10 before she passed away in 2001. He then introduced board members Michael Shanley, Jay Howard, Brenda Prohaska and Amy Gottlieb, who accepted the award on behalf of the Community Center, which was founded 20 years ago after the closing of P.S. 17. It currently occupies the basement of the beloved old school building and is run entirely by volunteers without any support from the city, state or federal governments. The Community Center is a vibrant organization with many different programs, clubs and members using and supporting the space. "This organization could have easily gone by the wayside without the dedication of many volunteers over the last 20 years," Mr. Vacca reminded the crowd.

In his introduction of the next honoree, Mr. Vacca proclaimed 10464 as the best zip code in New York City and part of the largest geographical NYPD precinct, the 45th Precinct. "I have never met a more hands-on commander than Captain Russell Green," who was presented with the Exemplary Community Service Award. Captain Green became commanding officer of the 45th Precinct in 2010 and immediately made his presence known on City Island. He is credited with working closely with the Civic Association to put traffic patrols in place during the summer months, decrease reckless motorcycle riding and noise, increase the number of arrests for drug use and sales, address disorderly teenagers—all while his manpower has been reduced because of citywide budget cuts. Mr. Giacco also attested to Captain Green's extra efforts, adding, "I even saw him directing traffic himself on City Island during the Halloween parade!" In a humorous follow-up, Jackie Kall presented the captain with a pair of commemorative handcuffs in honor of his tough stance on crime, an approach welcomed by many Islanders.

The most poignant moment of the evening came when the Service to Community

Award was presented to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum. Dick Sadler accepted the award on behalf of his father, Captain Ed Sadler, who had passed away that very morning at the age of 95. "I know he's here and listening. You all know how much he loved City Island, and it was fitting that he passed away in the same room of the same house he was born in 95 years ago," he told the hushed crowd. Mr. Vacca expressed the sentiments of all in acknowledging the efforts of Captain Sadler, Tom Nye and Barbara Dolensek in creating and maintaining the amazing museum on Fordham Street that celebrates the special role of City Island in nautical history. "I will make a motion to the New York City Council to add Captain Sadler's name to the corner of Schofield Street, where he lived," Mr. Vacca announced to the appreciative crowd.

The "Starving Artist" himself, Elliott Glick, received the next honor, the Sam Bierman Award for his contributions to music and art on City Island. Mr. Glick, a resident since 1997, has been a musician/songwriter/performer for more than 40 years. He opened the Starving Artist Café on City Island Avenue, where he showcases handmade jewelry and the work of local artists. He now offers regular performances by musicians, singers, poets and comedians, as well as his many guitar students. Always community minded, Mr. Glick raised \$1,000 for the Habitat for Humanity to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina, and he is a longtime supporter and former board member of the Chamber of Commerce. In his acceptance speech, he expressed fondness for the island home he shares with his wife, Monica. "I have 4,000 friends on City Island and I never met a person on the Island I didn't like."

The work of an unassuming and quiet volunteer was acknowledged with the Tom Cereta Award given this year to Fordham Street resident, Carol Fitzpatrick. Skip Giacco reminisced about a lady who had caught his interest 10 years ago. "I saw her cleaning City Island Avenue and Fordham Street, and removing graffiti off of buildings. She wasn't looking for credit, just working to make the community cleaner and better." The presenters joked that the award could also be called "The Golden Broom" award, and Ms. Fitzpatrick graciously accepted.

Mr. Giacco then introduced three business owners on City Island "with the courage to open new businesses in the worst economy ever!" Special recognition awards were given to Agatha Biggart and her sister Margerite of Aggie's Roll, Stephane Kane of Bistro SK, and Karl Hoedl, the new proprietor of Buddy's Hardware. Aggie accepted the award and joked, "it's not easy being stuck in a trailer with my sister 18 hours a day," referring to their charming lobster shack located next to P.S. 175 on City Island Avenue. Mr. Hoedl acknowledged the legacy of longtime owner of Buddy's Hardware,

Continued on page 23

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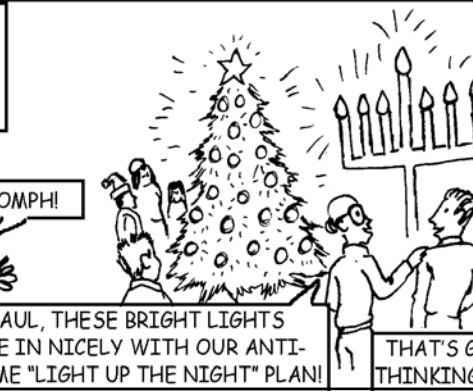

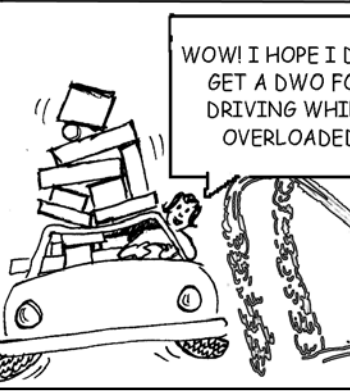
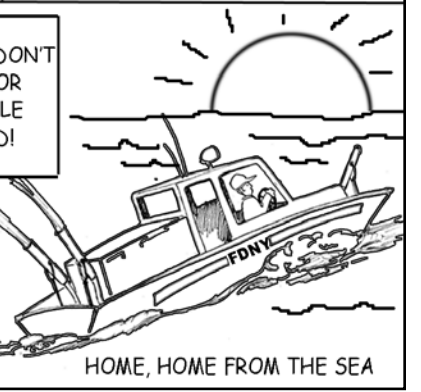
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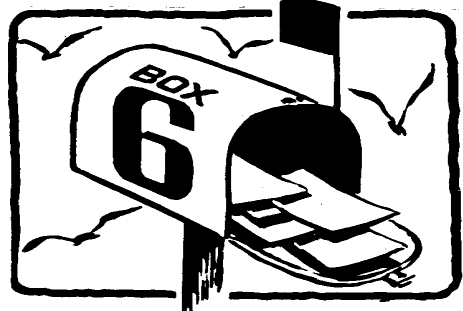
I Wish Each of You A Very
Happy & Healthy Holiday
Season

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

STATE SENATOR JEFF KLEIN

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<p>CARTOONIST AND REALTOR FALL FOR EACH OTHER</p>	<p>HAWKINS PARK CHRISTMAS TREE LIT ON NOV. 26. MENORAH LIGHTING ON DEC. 20</p>	<p>BLACK WHALE TURNS 50</p>	<p>POTS PROGRAM FLOURISHING FROM GENEROUS ISLANDERS</p>	<p>ISLANDERS SAY GOODBYE TO CAPTAIN ED SADLER</p>
<p>WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT VISITING OUR AILING FRIENDS, JACKIE, BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THEY'LL BE VISITING US!</p>  <p>OOMPH!</p>	 <p>PAUL, THESE BRIGHT LIGHTS TIE IN NICELY WITH OUR ANTI-CRIME "LIGHT UP THE NIGHT" PLAN!</p> <p>THAT'S GREAT THINKING, SKIP!</p>	 <p>50 YEARS! THAT REALLY PUTS THE WIST(FUL) IN WISTERIA!</p>	 <p>WOW! I HOPE I DON'T GET A DWO FOR DRIVING WHILE OVERLOADED!</p>	 <p>HOME, HOME FROM THE SEA</p>



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.

Humble Honoree

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Nov. 12, I had the pleasure of attending the City Island Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, hosted by the Honorable James Vacca along with co-hosts Louise and Gerard Giacco.

First off, a big pat on the back to Louise and Gerard (aka Skip) for all their hard work in creating an evening that was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Second, the Chamber bestowed on me the Tom Cereta Award, which I will always cherish. But the highlight for me that evening was to share the podium with a special group of people all receiving awards for their tireless efforts to preserve a quality of life that keeps City Island such a special place to live.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all the honorees, and add a big thank you for your special service to our community.

Carol Fitzpatrick

Belated Thanks

To The Editor:

When I wrote my article on the rocks in Pelham Bay Park for *The Current* in April 2011, I inadvertently omitted giving credit to Jorge Santiago, who has spent a great deal of time tracing the origins of the park and had come across an old New York Times article about the Indian Prayer Rock, which he had submitted to the City Island Historical Society. I used portions of this article for my piece, and I am grateful to him for having unearthed the information.

Jane Rothman

City Island's Haunted House

To The Editor:

It was a scary night indeed. Everyone was given fair warning. "If you touch the actors, they will be allowed to touch you." That was an ominous start to a short walk through the Haunted House at the City Island Community Center on Halloween weekend. How long could it be? The room isn't that big.

Add one very creative Joe Burck to the mix, and the walk seemed endless to some of the visitors brave enough to enter the Dispensary of Death, especially as they heard these plaintiff pleas for help: "Please, I'm so cold. Help me." "I've lost my brain."

"Where has my patient gone?" "Mary had a little lamb..." "All I need is a little of your blood."

The walk began in the waiting room of the Dispensary of Death, and visitors wended their way through the chapel, the wheelchair room and the bloody gauze room, past the patients' rooms and through the children's ward, which were populated with scary-looking patients and hospital staff.

Although everything was done in great fun, you couldn't tell that from the faces of the people as they left the Haunted House. They were laughing, crying, excited, scared. "This is the best ever!" was the most frequent comment.

Although the actors, many of them from the City Island Theater Group, a co-sponsor of the event, were fabulous, much of the credit goes to Joe Burck for having planned and created the setting. City Island is very lucky to be able to claim this talented young man as one of their own. He also created the window at 282 City Island Avenue advertising the Theater Group's production of "The Crucible," for which he also serves as the lighting and set designer. Many Islanders are familiar with his wonderfully inventive Lego window that appears in a storefront on City Island Avenue at Christmastime.

Halloween is a great tradition on City Island, and we tip our hat to Joe for helping in such a big way to keep that tradition alive. Thanks also go out to the City Island Community Center, the City Island Theater Group, the students from P.S. 175 and all the others who

helped make the walk through St. Joseph's Dispensary of Death a memorable one.

Mary McIntyre

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- Gratinée a l'oignon \$8 French onion soup

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 steamed mussels with garlic, parsley, french fries

Boeuf Bourguignon \$21
 beef stew, bacon, mushrooms

Coq au vin \$19
 chicken stew in red wine sauce, caramelized onions

Bavette a l'echalotte \$20
 grilled hanger steak with shallot sauce, french fries

Linguine aux fruits de mer \$18
 seafood linguine

ENTREES

Steak frites \$22
 grilled sirloin, french fries
 (choice of green peppercorn, bernaïse or parsley butter)

Confit de canard, pommes saladaïses \$19
 duck confit, roasted potatoes

Jarret d'agneau braïse, flageolet \$22
 braised lamb shank with flageolet beans

Gratin de fruits de mer \$18
 seafood gratin, spinach, bechamel

Pavé de saumon, pomme purée aux olives \$27
 pan seared salmon with black olive mashed potato

Poitrine de Poulet farcie \$20
 chicken breast stuffed w/ mushroom and spinach served w/ basil mashed potato & apple brandy sauce

273 City Island Avenue, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464

MAKING TRAVEL DREAMS COME TRUE

By BILL STUTTIG

When Dianne and John O'Sullivan first conceived the idea of starting a travel business, it began as a whim, an idea to make some extra money while indulging Dianne's zest for socializing and bringing people together.

More than a quarter century later, it grew into a travel business that has brought thousands of people—most of them City Islanders—to places in the world that they probably never would have dreamed of traveling to on their own. But much more importantly, the countless trips brought hundreds of Islanders together, forging friendships, alliances and in some cases marriages (including that of this reporter), which have lasted throughout all these many years.

By the end of 2011, Dianne will officially retire and close up O'Sullivan Travel. She has started to refer her hundreds of clients to AAA Travel in Scarsdale, which will continue to book the group travel formerly arranged by Dianne and John. They plan on traveling with these group trips arranged by AAA Travel and would love people to join them.

Dianne says that she is leaving at the top of her game, making more business last year than she has ever made at any point in her quarter-century career, which has taken many City Island travelers from Atlantic City to Australia and nearly all points in between.

"I always had this dream of having my own business," Dianne told *The Current* in a recent interview in which she and John recounted the progression of O'Sullivan Travel through the years, "so I started a catering business in 1980 and that lasted for a while, although it didn't produce the profits that I had hoped for. In 1983 my business partner, who also happened to be one of my best friends, got pregnant, and the time and cost demands of this type of business became impossible to manage on my own."

She recalled that "a very good friend of ours, the late Richard Lutz, said to me one day 'Did you ever consider being a travel agent? I think you'd be good at it.'"

Through Mr. Lutz's contacts, she was granted a job interview with the Yonkers-based Sprain Brook Travel Agency, and with no experience, she was hired on the spot as an agent. Her clientele grew slowly but steadily over those first years, and soon she began arranging group trips for the first time, involving some City Islanders who liked the comfort and social convenience of traveling in a group.

"The traits that make a special person and friend also make a successful business," said her lifelong friends Jack and Maureen Grogan, who have traveled with Dianne since those early days. "The most impressive trait that Dianne and John possess is their humanity. Their attitude toward life enables them to embrace everyone with compassion and



Photos courtesy of O'SULLIVAN TRAVEL
After 25 years in the travel business, Dianne O'Sullivan is retiring and closing O'Sullivan Travel based on City Island. Shown above are John and Dianne O'Sullivan at their annual pre-Christmas party in Aruba, which in recent years has raised thousands of dollars for local charitable organizations on the island. Many City Islanders traveling with the O'Sullivans gathered together for a group photo during a 1988 cruise from New York to Bermuda on the *Homeric* (top right photo).

friendship."

With friendship and socialization as her motivating force and her client list growing because of it, Dianne decided to branch out on her own in 1986, and she formed O'Sullivan Travel. That decision changed lives, not just those of Dianne and John but the lives of hundreds of others.

Dave and Betty Carman were among the first of those clients and friends and have remained so ever since: "Traveling with the O'Sullivans meant great trips, amazing care, lots of laughs and great social gatherings. They were always very generous and appreciative of everybody's patronage. Their Christian values and friendship are really what made their business so successful and what created so many memories that will be cherished by so many people."

It all started slowly, Dianne and John recalled, with Dianne running the business from her front porch office, many times working until midnight making arrangements, helped out by John, who worked as a sergeant with the New York Police Department until his retirement in 2009. There were day trips to Atlantic City, overnight stays to watch a show at the Elmsford Dinner Theater, weekend trips to the Eastover resort in the Berkshires—all short getaways that were, above everything else, a reason for Islanders to get together and to share some laughs and conversation.

In the summer of 1986, the O'Sullivans arranged the first of many annual summer cruises to Bermuda, which a few dozen



enjoyed. The next year, more than 50 people went, and by 1988 more than 200 City Islanders cruised together on a ship that held less than a thousand passengers. The Bermuda cruises continued for many years after that and grew to a few cruises each year.

"We will never forget those trips to Bermuda," Dianne recalled "Our three kids went on every cruise, and our friends brought their children along as well, and all the families really got to know each other."

But just as important to Dianne and John were the people who didn't have families, who were alone in life. "One of the happiest parts of my life and this career is being able to help so many widows and widowers and other people who were alone in their lives and to give them the chance to travel and make many friends in doing so."

One of those people was long-time City Islander Virginia Deich, who sadly just passed away in October. Virginia, a widow, was a part of the O'Sullivan trips from the very beginning. Her daughter Leslie recalled: "After my father passed, my mother feared she wouldn't be included in social events, but it didn't quite turn out that way. Dianne and John made things possible for Mom that were beyond her wildest imagination. There were fun weekend trips, islands and adventurous trips like Alaska, Germany and Ireland. The point was that she was on the move. She knew Dianne and John would look after her, not just as friends, but as family. Each trip was like a family vacation which Mom was thrilled to be a part of."

As the 1980s became the 1990s, the group trips started to get bigger and more exotic. At first there were pre-holiday trips of four and five days to the Bahamas and in 1992 the first of what became the business's signature trip, a week in Aruba each November. "It started off very small," Dianne said, "but it grew every year. Last year I had 130 people."

But that annual trip is more than just a good time. Aruba is the site of Dianne and John's annual tropical Christmas party, where everyone dresses in festive holiday garb, complete with elf hats and reindeer antlers and much more. "Until a few years ago, we all exchanged grab bag gifts," John recalled "until we rethought the idea of giving gifts that nobody really needed and we all decided to give money to a local charity. Charities we have helped in recent past years include the Clown Doctors, which helps finance shows for sick children performed by doctors. Last year we raised more than \$1,300 for Sonrisa, a home for Aruba's children with Down's syndrome. Our contributions and caring are so much appreciated by Aruba that we get written up in the local newspaper each year."

By the mid 1990s, Aruba and mini-vacations to Las Vegas, another annual staple, became supplemented by what they decided to market as trips of a lifetime. "If you count them all," John said, "there were probably enough trips for a hundred lifetimes."

The first was a Mediterranean cruise, then a Scandinavian cruise, trips to Ireland, Russia, several trips to Germany, including a chance to see the once-a-decade "Passion Play" in Oberammergau. On this continent, there was

a land-and-sea excursion to Alaska, a railroad trip across the Canadian Rockies, Pacific cruises to Hawaii and trips to the natural wonders of the Southwest.

Just this past winter, the O'Sullivans returned from a three-week excursion to New Zealand and Australia, and they plan an African safari for next year.

John recalled that of all the many involved and long journeys, very little major problems ever came up. "For the hundreds of trips and thousands of Islanders and others that came along, nothing ever went so wrong that it became disastrous. People were always very gracious when there was a mishap, like a flight delay. It was fun for them, and they made friends as well. That's the great feeling, knowing that you were bringing people together."

Accompanying Dianne and John on many of these exotic vacations, including the recent visit "down under" were Islanders Bob and Mary Lou Lachman. Mary Lou said recently: "We have traveled many places with Dianne and John over the last several years, and before actually traveling with them, we used O'Sullivan Travel to book many vacations. We are truly blessed to have had the opportunity to travel with these two wonderful people. They could never do enough for their clients, and they took care of everyone as if they were family. Everything about their trips was top notch. We will miss them as our travel agents, but are so blessed to have them as our friends."

Joan and Tom McShane were also long-time friends and clients on the early cruises right through some of the more involved European trips of recent years. They said: "We've shared many laughs and good times traveling with Dianne and John over the years. Their friendship has enriched our lives. We especially remember our first cruise to Bermuda; touring throughout Ireland with Tom and his broken toes, and sitting at the bar in Aruba with the unforgettable Vinny Hecker. We thank Dianne and John for these many memories and so much more."

Over the last several months, Dianne has refused to be part of a retirement party, although many of her friends have pushed for it. "I don't want any retirement party or celebration," she said, "but if someone has a fond memory or a story about one of our trips, maybe they can jot it down and send us a copy. I would like to make an O'Sullivan Travel keepsake for our 10 grandchildren. I want them to know that they should follow their dreams, because dreams do come true, just as it did for John and me."

Asked what she wants her legacy to be, Dianne says: "I want people to look at what we did and realize that you don't have to go to college to be successful. If you are happy in what you are doing, you can be successful. I always liked to socialize and that is why I thought I could do this. Never did I think it would come to be this successful, but it shows you that if you are nice to people, they will come back to you. I have always told my children and now my grandchildren to smile and shake hands, and you will be surprised how well that will work for you. Anyone can be successful. Just enjoy what you do and work hard."

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Aggies Roll, at 150 City Island Avenue, will re-open on Dec. 8 through 10, 15 through 17, and 22 through 24, serving holiday fare, along with holiday cookies and baked goods, wreaths and ornaments.

Attention, Island seniors! If you need your air conditioners removed from your windows, **Kortleven Painting** will remove them for free. Call 718-885-1255 or 914-424-8172.

Come see Santa at **Papa John's Deli** 325 City Island Avenue, on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. Ho Ho Ho!

Bartow-Pell Events

"A Storybook Christmas" is the theme of this holiday season at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Visitors will experience the magic of the Greek Revival mansion fully decorated for the holidays, plus eight Christmas trees inspired by children's Christmas stories from around the world in rooms throughout the house. The museum is open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. for guided tours, unless otherwise noted. For reservations and information, call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org. For directions, visit www.bpmm.org.

On Friday, Dec. 2, between 12:30 and 2 p.m., enjoy a festive holiday lunch in the decorated mansion, plus a holiday shop, homemade goodies and silent auction. Please call in advance to make a reservation; the cost is \$40 per person.

That evening, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. the mansion will participate in the First Friday Bronx Seaside Trolley. Experience the magic of the mansion by candlelight and decorated for the holidays. Do a little holiday shopping, delight in music by the Metropolitanes, an a capella group, and enjoy holiday refreshments. The free Bronx Seaside Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Admission to the mansion is \$10 for adults, \$8 seniors and students, free for members.

Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the annual Holiday Family Day. Children will delight in Christmas storytelling by Joan Huenemann Michie at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and decorating gingerbread people with baker Irina Brandler of Sugar & Spice of City Island, as well as other holiday crafts. Professional photographs will be taken with Santa for an additional fee, and there will be opportunities for caroling and holiday shopping. Space is limited, so call ahead for a reservation. The cost is \$20 for children age 1 and up; members' children pay \$15 (adults and children under 1 year are admitted free).

In the evening on Dec. 3, from 7 to 10 p.m., celebrate the mansion in holiday splendor with cocktails, delicious holiday fare, caroling and more. Reservations required; cost per person: Angels \$250; Cherubs \$200 (Angels and Cherubs include listing in the program); Snowflakes \$125.

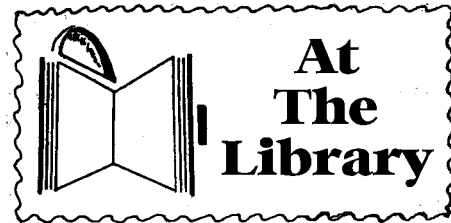
On Saturday, Dec. 10, and on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 1 and 3 p.m., the Bronx Arts Ensemble and Singers will present a wonderful holiday concert with music for St. Nicholas. The concert is free, but space is limited and tickets are required. Call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718-601-7399 for tickets. The museum will not be open for tours on Saturday or Sunday.

A holiday candlelight tour will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Costumed docents highlight 19th-century holiday traditions. Enjoy light holiday fare and wassail. Reservations requested; cost \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students.



Photo by GARY MAKUFKA

This vintage 1960s police car in front of the City Island Library on Saturday, Nov. 19, attracted lots of passersby, including a sector car from the 45th Precinct. The car served to draw attention to a lecture at the library given by retired police captain Tom Walker, author of "Fort Apache: The Bronx" (1976), who gave a standing-room only lecture on his experiences working for the NYPD and read sections from his latest book, "Return to Fort Apache."



Come Celebrate the Library's Our Final Month for Our Centennial (1911-2011)

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

December Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Thursdays, Dec. 1 and 15; Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 11 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Toddler Time: Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27, at 11 a.m. 18 months to 3 years.

Christmas Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 3:30 p.m. All ages.

Special Program: Puppet Show: "The Tortoise and the Hare." An adaptation of the classic Aesop fable about a great race between a loveable tortoise and an arrogant hare. Monday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.

December Young Adult Programs

Board Games: Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Homework: Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

"Yu-Gi-Oh"! Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Game On: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Tweens and Teen Lounge: Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Special Event: "Yu-Gi-Oh" Tournament: Saturday, Dec. 17, from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. Please register.

Check this out! College Readiness 101. Are you ready for college? Find out the ins and outs of the admission process, grants, testing and studying. For ages 12 to 18 Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.

December Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance. A flash drive to save your work is highly recommended.

Introduction to Facebook: Find lost friends, make new ones. Every other Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Call our number below for exact dates in December.

Introduction to the Internet in Spanish. Nuevo! Introduction a Internet Impartido en Espanol Every ongoing Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Movie: "Luther," a 1974 historical drama starring Stacy Keach as the religious leader and "heretic" Martin Luther.

Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.

Please check our flyers for any additional programs, cancellations or last-minute changes for December 2011. We are located at 320 City Island Avenue, at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

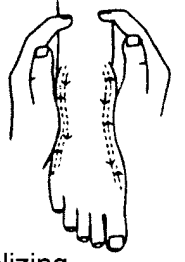
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"Sing to the Lord a new song;
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all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord
and bless His Name;
proclaim the Good News
of His salvation
from day to day."
~ Psalm 96:1-3

**Come sing the Lord's song with us at
Grace Church this Christmas.
We have such Good News to share!**

<p>Friday, December 16th 6:30 PM: Christmas Caroling in the Grace Church neighborhood</p>	<p>Saturday, December 24th, 6:00 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, the "Christ-Mass"</p>
<p>Sunday, December 18th 10:00 AM: The Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Sunday, December 25th 10:00 AM: Christmas Day Service of Holy Eucharist</p>

~ Lambs baby sitting available on Christmas Eve ~

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Photo by IRINA BEREZNIUK

The winners of the Dragons Path Academy in-house sparring tournament on Saturday, Nov. 19, were (l. to r.): Joseph Burton, Michael Fragaro, Christina Rice, Dima Berezniuk and Samantha Hernandez. With them at the left is Sensei Eddie of Dragons Path Academy. The following students received a tournament stripe: Baby Dragons, Samantha Hernandez (champion), Lily Pecoraro (second place) and Isabella Fragola (third place); Junior Dragons, Joseph Burton (champion), John Rigoglioso (second place), Jackson Wepler (third place), Alexa Forliano, Samantha Kucerak, Travis Prohaska, Nick Barata, Thomas Forliano, Luke Rigoglioso and James Shaw; Lady Dragons, Christina Rice (champion), Sabrina Fontana (second place), Serena Balassi (third place), Deisy Navarro, Dusty Prohaska; City Island Warriors, Michael Fragola (champion), Christopher Tomsen (second place), Valentin Salas (third place); Tae Kwon Do Warriors, Dima Berezniuk (champion) and Nicholas Bruno (second place).

Island Inventor: Susan Bellinson

By MARY JOHNSON

For the past three decades, Island resident Susan Bellinson has worked as a midwife at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, delivering babies while raising two children of her own. Now she has added another title to her bio: inventor. Her Sucaro Freedom Strap is a hands-free purse for other busy working mothers like herself.

"It's very convenient," she told *The Current*. She puts everything she needs in the various pockets of her purple Freedom Strap. "I don't take it off," she added. "I deliver babies in it."

According to a representative of the Union Square Paragon store, "Susan's innovation is a really new, chic take on being able to carry your daily things."

The unisex strap with pockets comes in a variety of colors and materials and ranges in price from about \$135 to \$199. Paragon carries the line in leather, canvas and nylon, but Susan has made them in fur and snakeskin and has contemplated a cashmere version.

She came up with the idea for a bag that would look good and keep her hands free, while storing the arsenal of things she needs to get through the day—a wallet, a phone, a checkbook, a few pens, hand lotion, glasses and maybe a packet of gum. "I don't like purses," she says, adding that she tried fanny packs but gave them up because they weren't particularly stylish.

The strap has even attracted a small celebrity following. One of Bellinson's former patients was on a movie set with Salma Hayek when the star asked what the strap was and where she could get one. The woman gave Ms. Hayek the bag right off her back.

Mick Fleetwood, the Fleetwood Mac drummer, bought one in Aspen, Colorado, and according to Fleetwood's business manager, the musician "doesn't live without this." Jill Zarin, from "The Real Housewives of New York City," has one too, as does James Lipton, host of "Inside the Actor's Studio."

"It's a bag for all people. That's really how I think of it," Susan says. "When I get an idea, I just kind of go with it."

The strap wasn't her first invention. Several years ago, she got a patent for a medical device that measured the descent of a fetus during labor. "It did a lot of good things," she said, but she didn't have the money or the time to market it effectively, and subsequent medical innovations have rendered it virtually obsolete.

Then, in 2002, she came up with the idea for the Freedom Strap. She didn't do much with it at the time, since her children, now teenagers, were still very young. But about a year and a half ago, everything came together to bring the strap to life.

Continued on page 17

Islander Honored by Bronx Council on the Arts

Gail Nathan, a resident of City Island for the past five years, was honored on Nov. 10, 2011, by the Bronx Council on the Arts at the first annual presentation of the Applause Awards, which salutes Bronx women in the arts.

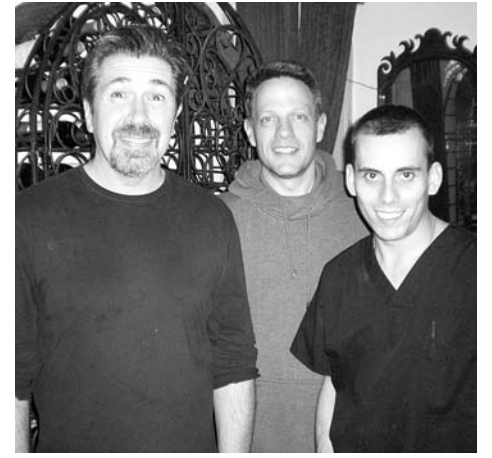
Ms. Nathan has been executive director of the Bronx River Art Center since 1999 and has been recognized for her creative approach to after-school enrichment programming and arts-led community revitalization. She is an artist herself and her work is included in many private and public collections, but she is also dedicated to cultural, environmental and education justice in the belief that the arts can be an equalizing factor for underserved communities.

Ms. Nathan grew up in the Bronx and attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art; she received her BFA degree from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and an MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. She has received several fellowships and has been a visiting professor at prominent art schools, including the Parsons School of Design. She has also produced public art commissions for the cities of Richmond, Virginia; New Orleans, and New York City.

Her leadership in an \$8 million award-winning renovation of the Bronx River Art Center has brought her to the forefront of community development and sustainable design practice in the Bronx.

THE WHALE TURNS 50!

By KAREN NANI



and tell the waiters, 'I had my first date with my husband here in the 1970s' or 'We were engaged here.'"

The legacy of The Whale and its famous ice cream menu spanned two decades uninterrupted. Then Mr. Di Pierro took a break and closed the café for a while in 1982. It reopened again briefly under the same format, but in 1998 the Di Pierros offered it up for sale to Mr. Kenny, who had been working in the restaurant business since 1978.

"My first job was at Spouter's Inn on City Island. After college, I worked at different hotels and restaurants. Then I got the call [to buy The Whale] the week before I was getting married. We talked it over during our honeymoon."

They made the decision quickly and never looked back. In 1998 the Kennys took over The Whale and turned it into a full service establishment. They first added small samplings of appetizers and then expanded the menu to include the delicious, reasonably priced entrees (all under \$20) for which they have become well known.

Islanders and visitors can feast on Bill's famous crab cakes and pastas, including the original "Starving Artist" pasta named for longtime customer Elliott Glick. Diners can also order from the prix fixe menu, which includes appetizer, salad or soup, entree and dessert.

The Black Whale seats 40 in the main room and 65 in the outside garden during the warm weather months. The cozy, café atmosphere features Mr. Di Pierro's touches, including stained glass, antiques, framed photos and artwork from City Islanders. It has been open seven days a week during the summer months and business has been steady. Sunday brunch is very popular.

"First and foremost, I want to thank Richie for starting The Black Whale," Mr. Kenny said appreciatively. Mr. Di Pierro continues to live on City Island and to own the building that houses The Whale. He also runs an antique co-op in Sag Harbor. Mr. Kenny has added the catering responsibilities at the City Island Yacht Club to his busy schedule, so Islanders have the option of a larger, waterfront party venue with the same great food they experience at the restaurant.

Happy 50th anniversary to The Black Whale—a City Island institution that many residents and off-Islanders hope will be around for at least another 50 years.



Photos by ELLEN GRACE, KAREN NANI and RON TERNER

The Black Whale is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Opened in 1961, by Richie Di Pierro and his mother, Isabel (top photo), it became a City Island institution famous for its desserts and ice cream sundaes. The charming garden (shown above in the 1970s) is a favorite spot for dining in the warm weather months. The full service restaurant is now run by Bill Kenny (middle, top right photo) with head waiter Maurice Richard (left) and chef Julio Sanchez (right).

A photograph of Isabel Di Pierro hangs on the back wall at The Black Whale restaurant at 279 City Island Avenue. Her smile seems to convey satisfaction that the antique shop/coffee house she started with her son, Richie, turns 50 this year and is going strong under the ownership of Bill and Vicky Kenny.

It all began in 1961, when Isabel bought the building at the corner of Hawkins Street and opened an antique store that she and Richie named The Black Whale. Then she started baking and serving "Mile High Apple Pie" to those stopping by on a regular basis. The antique store evolved into a coffee and dessert café, which then grew to become a City Island institution.

Mr. Kenny told *The Current*: "Many people still come into The Whale today

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A Current Review

**“The Crucible”:
Relevant in the 17th and 21st Centuries**

By KAREN NANI

I was called into action to review the City Island Theater Group’s production of Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible” because *The Current’s* theater critic, Bruce Weis, made his acting debut in the play. As editor, I had informed him that journalistic standards recuse him from reviewing his own performance, even though he was ready to provide some dazzling comments about his portrayal.

As I watched the intense first act of the play on Friday, Nov. 11, 2011, I was struck by the connection to some recent disturbing events in the news, but I waited to see if anyone else mentioned it. I didn’t have to wait long. During intermission, one enthralled audience member from the sold-out crowd said, “this makes me think of what’s going on at Penn State University,” where members of the football coaching staff and the administration have been indicted on charges of child abuse in a shocking sex scandal.

There is an eerie parallel between Miller’s play about the witch hunt and trial of several young girls that took place during the 17th century in Salem, Massachusetts, and the recent events in Pennsylvania in which an adult allegedly abused children and other adults used their authority to cover up the crimes committed. In both cases, adults used their power over children to cause them great harm, and the situation spiraled out of control because not enough people spoke up on the side of righteousness.

In fact, Miller’s play reflects another exceptionally dark period in American history, the McCarthy era of the 1940s and ‘50s. The playwright’s own beliefs were severely tested in his appearances before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which asked him to “name names” of those whom he knew to be Communists. He refused and was blacklisted as a result.

As Island resident and literary scholar Curtis Hart, who led a discussion about “The Crucible” after the matinee on Sunday, Nov. 13, put it, “The Crucible reveals the sinister, dark side of our contemporary political history and our national psyche. It asks viewers to consider values like loyalty and con-

science and the dangers of self-righteousness and moralism in both religion and politics.”

The role of religion in the Salem witch trials made the presentation of the play at Grace Church particularly appropriate. Although it is not an entertaining, light-hearted play, the City Island Theater Group presented eight performances of “The Crucible” to sold-out crowds. According to reports and this critic’s observations, audiences were riveted by the performances of the stellar cast and appreciative of the efforts of co-directors Maria Provenzano and Nick Sala.

The play opens with the appearance of Nicolas Perugini as the Reverend Samuel Parris, who, in a convincing accent of the time, is praying over his daughter, Betty, a role shared by Hannah Ludeman, a first-time CITG player, and City Islander Hannah Glick, who is becoming a seasoned performer with the group.

Conversations between Rev. Parris and his niece Abigail Williams, a highly demanding role played by Sarah Harrold, who rose admirably to the challenge, hint at the rumors of witchcraft apparently led by Tituba, the slave. Portrayed by Germana Vasquez, the role of Tituba was one of my favorites in the cast, as she had to vacillate between fear, hysteria and lack of hope, revealing yet another layer of society that was abused during this period.

John Proctor, probably the most challenging role, was played by CITG regular Matthieu Regney. When he enters the room in which Betty lies in bed, Abigail tries to seduce him. She isn’t successful, but in the encounter it is revealed that Abigail and Proctor have had an affair and that Abigail still has feelings for him. Matthieu received the most applause at the end of the performance, and it was well deserved.

Another religious figure, Reverend John Hale, portrayed by Benjamin Spierman in an interesting performance that reminded me of the priest in the movie “The Exorcist,” appears on the scene to research the suspected witchcraft. He is a self-proclaimed expert in occult phenomena and is eager to use his acquired learning. Here is when the



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

Arthur Miller’s classic play “The Crucible” was presented in November by the City Island Theater Group, which enjoyed many sold-out performances and rave reviews from the audiences, thanks to a talented and hard-working cast (first row, l. to r.): Carol Dooner, Nicole Colina, Matthieu Regney and Sandra Prosnitz; (middle row): Amanda Mola, Hannah Glick, Elizabeth Vacca, Sarah Harrold, Julia McCarthy, Andrew Ravick and co-director Nick Sala; (back row) co-director Maria Provenzano, Germana Vasquez, John Geil, Frank Siciliano, Nicolas Perugini, Benjamin Spierman, Bruce Weis and Leslie R. Blumgold. Not pictured: Hannah Ludeman and Keith Rodriguez.

play starts to resemble the McCarthy hearings.

Hale questions Abigail, who accuses Tituba of being a witch. Tituba, afraid of being hanged and threatened with a beating, professes faith in God and accuses others of witchcraft. Betty and Abigail sing out a list of people whom they claim to have seen with the Devil. Despite the 17th-century setting, the 21st-century audience seemed to relate to the petulant young girls trapped in their own immaturity and lies by the deceptive coercion of adults.

Nicole Colina, in her CITG debut, enters in the role of Proctor’s downtrodden wife, Elizabeth, and tells her husband that he must reveal the fact that Abigail is a fake. Tormented, he declares that he cannot prove what Abigail told him because they were alone when they talked (“like denying ghosts”). Proctor believes that his wife is accusing him of resuming his affair with Abigail, and a bitter argument ensues between the two as events begin spiraling downward.

The court scene in the second act is the most dramatic and disturbing part of “The Crucible.” The Deputy Governor, played by Leslie Blumgold whose booming and commanding voice railroads the young girls and several adults into convictions punishable by hanging. The governor’s lackey, Judge Hawthorne, well played by Bruce Weis, is reminiscent of the real-life role that lawyer Roy Cohn played in the McCarthy hearings, which resulted in serious miscarriages of justice and the ruin of many professional and personal lives.

Julia McCarthy (ironic last name for this play) portrayed Mary Warren, who is pres-

ured during the court scene. This talented young actress does a good job conveying the hysteria and fear a young girl must have felt being bullied, speaking of 21st-century parallels. Another young actress making her debut with the group was Elizabeth Vacca who did a fine job in her role as Mercy Lewis.

Other performers known to CITG audiences also contributed to the play’s success. The familiar and well-liked Frank Siciliano, in the role of Thomas Putnam, projected his voice across the entire parish hall. Carol Dooner was properly annoying as the witchcraft rumor monger. John Geil returned to City Island in the role of Francis Nurse, as did Sandra Prosnitz in the role of his virtuous wife, Rebecca, and Keith Rodriguez as Ezekiel Cheever, the reluctant law enforcer. New to the CITG were actors Amanda Mola (as Susanna Walcott) and Andrew Ravick (as Giles Corey), whose talents contributed to the general excellence of the production.

Kudos to the production and stage crew, including Joe Burck, John Schwam, Denis Zepeda, Barbara Dolensek and Jay and Jonathon Langkamp. I am always awed by Carol McCabe’s excellent costume design on a shoestring budget, and she also served with Nick Sala as production manager.

The play ends tragically, but a bit of comic relief was provided by the music played before the play and during the intermission. Clever selections like “Season of the Witch,” “Witchy Woman,” and “Black Magic Woman” made me chuckle, although the play itself made me think about the serious ways in which fear and self-righteousness still have the power to affect human behavior.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

Christmas Schedule 2011

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

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

CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM
and 12:00 Noon

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

NEW YEAR’S DAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon

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C-E-L-E-B-R-A-T-E The Holidays, City Island Style

By MONICA GLICK

Another holiday season is upon us, and we begin anew shopping and wrapping, gathering and giving. The shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses on our City Island home want to make the magic happen for us all, spelling out abundant reasons to “celebrate.”



Kaleidoscope Gallery

“C” is for channeling the child within. Walk into **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue) and lose yourself in a world of ornaments, art and toys. Through Dec. 15, owner Paul Klein promises \$5 off any toy purchase over \$20 and \$10 off any jewelry purchase over \$35. Treasures of a different sort await you at **Calico Juno Designs** (310 City Island Avenue): handmade jewelry, scarves, purses and much more. Gift ideas



Calico Juno Designs

may also be found right across the street at **Corona’s Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue). In between shopping, stop by and see what fresh-baked treat Rita Michele has on hand at **Gabrielle’s** (312 City Island Avenue).

Remember the childlike wonder you felt as you gazed at the perfect Christmas tree? Let Louise and Skip Giacco help you find that feeling all over again with their first-class selection of trees and wreaths at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue). And there are gift ideas to put under that tree, plus decorations to put on it, right across City Island Avenue at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue); say “hi” to sweet Olivia Perillo while you’re there!

“C” can also be about confidence, and new business owner Master Edwin Castro is looking to offer that—plus self-esteem, focus and discipline—at his **Dragon’s Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue). Or maybe the “C” is about cheering your favorite sports team. Then **The Club House** (274 City Island Avenue) awaits you. Robert Carmody and daughter Kelly invite you to join in and listen to some live music. Check the calendar in the window for who’s playing!

“E” is for exploring the past. To do so, look no further than **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue) or **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue) or better yet, visit both! And there’s our Island’s own history to wander through at the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), which is open Saturdays and Sundays and offers some really terrific gifts with a nautical theme. **Trader John** (239 City Island Avenue) also has options; you never know what you’ll find there.

Or maybe “E” is for a helpful elf. For seniors this season, that’s Jim Kortleven of **Kortleven Painting** (718-885-1255), who

will remove the air conditioner from your window for free!

“E” can also be for exercise, getting in shape from your feasting. There’s a program to do so waiting for you at **Krunch Time Fitness** (538 City Island Avenue). Maybe even sign up someone as a holiday gift, and you’ll have an exercise buddy for the new year!

“L” is for listening. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, you can hear the best of live music, from singer-songwriters to blues to jazz, and everything in between, at **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue). Find out about New Year’s Eve with Lou Volpe while you’re there! Always “sounding good” are **Chase** (207 City Island Avenue) gift cards—a perfect fit for everyone on your gift list.

Maybe “L” is for lobster or other scrump-



Sammy’s

tious seafood? Try the “Lobster Feast” at **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), a jumbo three-pound lobster, fried shrimp and lobster tail stuffed with crabmeat. (And say “hi” to everyone’s favorite bartender, Louis, before or after dining!) Savor sensational seafood selections also at **JP’s Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue), **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue), **Sammy’s Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), **Original Sammy’s Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue), **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue) or **Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue), where they’ve just added Billy’s Clam Bar! Take note of the decorations at the Crab Shanty, both festive and fun!

And no matter the season, “L” is always for laundry. In the pleasant company of Susie at **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue), the task is not too terrible.



Bistro SK

“E” is also for eating your way through a world of food. First stop, France. Stephane Kane and his wife, Maria, welcome you to the Island’s newest restaurant, **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue), where you can sample the finest in French food paired with great wine. And the cozy eatery is also a feast for the eyes with beautiful flower arrangements and unique salt-and-pepper shakers for every table! Try brunch here too!

Maybe Italy is more your style, and the

Lido Restaurant (101 City Island Avenue) or **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue) will surely bring that European nation to mind.

Try “dinner and a show” at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue) one evening this season. Feel like belly dancing or karaoke, plus dinner or drinks? Stop by **Tapas City Island Restaurant & Lounge** (435 City Island Avenue).

“B” is for buy, buy, buy! You’re sure to find a bauble or two that will delight at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), where Susan Lamantia will help you make the perfect pick, and there’s 20 percent off



Focal Point Gallery

jewelry as an added bonus! Owner Ron Terner can also help you “buy” a memory with a holiday portrait of you and your family. Check out his and other art as well, on the walls and in the bins!

“B” can also be for break, surely needed in the holiday frenzy. That morning “time out” could be at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue) for a healthy breakfast before shopping or, after a long day at work, supper at the **Snug** next door. And at the Snug, “B” is also for burger, delicious and half price every Tuesday. The Diner also offers Blue Plate Specials; drop by for details.

Grab breakfast at the **Island Café** (205 City Island Avenue) one morning, or eat on the run with something from **Papa John’s Deli** (325 City Island Avenue), the **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) or **Dunkin’ Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue). If “B” is for the best in baked goods, look no further than **Sugar and Spice** (536 City Island Avenue). There’s good food to be had here as well, and we hear that Al’s famous fried chicken is back!

“R” is for “remembering when” while you celebrate. Marking 50 years on City Island, midtown favorite **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) offers a spot to do both, seven days a week, from Sunday brunch to Saturday evening dinner. If you’re in the mood for homestyle cooking, try a thick slice of meatloaf with mashed potatoes. Then top off your meal with homemade warm apple crisp or an Orange Frizz (a creamsicle without the stick!).

“R” can be about renovating, getting home or boat in shape for every season. To get all you need to do that job, visit **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) or **Buddy’s Hardware & Yacht** (260 City Island Avenue), saying “hi” there to new owner Karl Hoedl and girlfriend Benita Gross. Maybe “stitching” is what you need. Well, **Remy’s** (272 City Island Avenue) has got you covered.

“R” should always be about relaxing, maybe with a game of pool at **Fella’s** (522 City Island Avenue), or a fine cigar at **Don Amadiz** (470 City Island Avenue). There’s a view of water at two spots to chill in downtown City Island at **Tony’s Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue) and **Johnny’s Reef** (2 City Island Avenue) or midtown at **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), where the games are plentiful too!

And speaking of the sea, **Jack’s Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) is offering 10 to 30 percent off everything in stock. Jack’s also offers winter codfish cruises to Snug Harbor, Rhode Island. Don’t forget to stop by **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) across the street, or up the block a bit, say “hello and happy holidays” to **Captain Mike’s Diving Services** (530 City Island Avenue).

“A” is for artisans, and City Island is home to many. You’ll find Mary Colby at her shop, **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), getting creative. See what art you’ll find at **Cheryl Brinker’s**



Jack’s Bait & Tackle

Studio / Gallery (282 City Island Avenue); past picks have been pottery from Toby Liederman or photos by Marc Hohenstein. Check out the **City Island Theater Group** window while you’re there! And see Tommy Houlihan’s art for the body as canvas at **City Island Tattoos** (314 City Island Avenue).

Artfully prepared is the fine food fare at **Artie’s Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue), and this classy City Island restaurant is beautifully decorated as well. Bring a friend and try the zuppa di pesce for two: king crab, whole lobster, clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops and calamari served over linguine in a red or white sauce. Or maybe more to your liking are pork chops, Italian style, with hot vinegar peppers and roasted potatoes.

“T” is for treating yourself. **The Art of Beauty** (240 City Island Avenue) is here to make you look fabulous this holiday season from head, with the perfect haircut and style, to toe, with a pretty pedicure by Michelle! Try a style from **Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue), a gel manicure at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) or a manicure and pedicure at **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue). To pamper the pet in your life, visit **Doggie Island** (268 City Island Avenue).

“T” can also be for takeout. Order something delicious from **Chef Rafael’s To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), like the “expertly done chowder” as one newspaper reviewer described it. Chef Rafael Ortega also offers Mexican specialties, wraps, sandwiches and salads. Other possibilities are the generous portions of Italian food or just a slice from **Filomena’s Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue). Or if it’s Chinese food you’re craving, give a call to **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue).

“E” is for entertaining family and friends. Although the “farm to trailer to picnic table” venue is closed for the season, you can still have **Aggie’s Roll** (150 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0500) cater your family or business feast. And they are having special holiday hours: Dec. 8 through 10, 15 through 17, and 22 through 24, serving holiday fare, along with holiday cookies and baked goods, wreaths and ornaments.



Firehouse Deli

Try a platter from **Scavello Catering** at the IGA Supermarket (385 City Island Avenue), or pick up something to make at home at the new **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue)—and say “welcome” while you’re there!—or at **Connie’s New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue), where you can send some holiday cheer Sara’s way! Jerry Lavelle at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue) can offer sound choices in wine and spirits for all your holiday festivities, including City Island Cherrystone Red wine.

As we welcome a new year, know that your neighborhood shops are already thinking up even more possibilities for the next 12 months to celebrate life on our Island home!

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 3, to Sun., Dec. 11, **POTS Christmas Giving Program**, St. Mary Star of the Sea Church lobby in the gift box by the tree. Donate new articles of clothing, including sweatshirts and pants, gloves, hats, or socks. Call 718-885-2137 for information.

Fri., Dec. 2, and Sat., Dec. 3, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Sat., Dec. 10, **Christmas Crafts Fair, Bake Sale and Grace Cafe**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Mon., Dec. 19, **Blood Drive**, sponsored by the New York Blood Center, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 3 to 8 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 20, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 5:00 p.m., sponsored by Temple Beth-El and the Chamber of Commerce.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service, and all children are welcome to attend. The class is currently studying the book of Genesis, in particular Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Trinity will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 and 3. Come out and see your friends and family for dinner Friday evening or lunch on Saturday while looking over fresh baked goods and selecting fine items from the Budget Corner.

Our other Christmas events are as follows: Dec. 11, 1 to 4 p.m., Open House at the Parsonage; Dec. 18, 10 a.m., Children's Christmas Pageant; Dec. 24, 10 p.m., Christmas Candlelight Service.

The Budget Corner is packed with lots of newly donated items and has a great selection of Christmas decorations. The corner will be open Dec. 6, 10, 13 and 17. It will close for the Christmas holiday and reopen on or about Jan. 10. Remember that donations to and proceeds from the Budget Shop help Trinity to continue in programs and outreach on City Island.

Rick DeWitt

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Sunday, Dec. 4. The fair will be held both in the Thrift Shop, where gently used items will be sold,

and in the school gym, where brand new items will be available.

Come take a look around between 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. You will find clothing, shoes, bags, bric-a-brac, books, linens and gift items of all descriptions. Do your Christmas shopping with us. You are sure to find wonderful buys.

The holiday sale will continue in the Thrift Shop on Thursdays and Saturdays, Dec. 8, 10, 15, 17 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Do stop by – we're sure you will not leave empty-handed.

Arlene Byrne

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, "Your Shul by the Sea" (located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets) is a very musical, unaffiliated, all-inclusive, egalitarian and spirited congregation, which provides an exciting place for observance for Jewish families and individuals who come from many different communities and cultures. We gather together under the leadership of the innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener; composer, arranger and cantor Elaine Faver; and the singing pianist Reb David Markus.

Sabbath services are open to all on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. We use Rabbi Marcia Prager's easy-to-read English prayer book with singable Hebrew. Some Friday nights are congregation led; others are led by our clergy.

Cantor Elaine will lead the Dec. 9 service. Rabbi Shohama will lead the Dec. 23 service, celebrating the installation of our new associate spiritual leader, Reb David Markus, along with the formal installation of our new board of directors. (A special oneg will be provided by the board.)

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, we will conduct our annual community Chanukah Candle Lighting at Hawkins Street Park, followed by deli treats at the Shul (sponsored by Phil Feinberg).

In January Rabbi Shohama, accompanied by her guitar and possibly our band, will conduct her "Freedom Shabbat" on Friday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Other Friday night services will be congregation led, so please come and participate with Rabbi Shohama, Cantor Elaine, Reb David, former president and accordionist Bob Berent and our drop-in musicians.

Contact us about your life-cycle service in our sanctuary or to sponsor an oneg. See us on the web at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

AARP Chapter 3303

Members held a regular meeting on Nov. 3 and enjoyed a Pizza Bingo Party on Nov. 17.

There is one meeting remaining this year, on Thursday, Dec. 1. It may be the last chance to sign up for the chapter's afternoon Christmas Dinner Dance (\$49 per person) that will be held at the Davenport Beach Club on Thursday, Dec. 15. You may also try calling Karin Gorziska, chapter president, at 718-885-1740. Advance payment is required. Members and friends, old and new, are invited.

There will be no meetings in January, but the chapter will welcome everyone back when the regular schedule resumes in February 2012. The chapter meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month (except January, July and August) in the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street. Collections for the food pantry to stamp out hunger will be made at all regular meetings (non-perishable items, please). Karin Gorziska will provide a more extensive list of things to donate at the next



Photo by BOB BERENT

On Sunday, Oct. 30, Temple Beth-El of City Island played host to the Bardekova Ensemble and their free chamber music concert. Island residents and friends who attended the concert were delighted with the music of Ibert, Danzi, Rossini, Lefebvre and Scott Joplin, as well as the cake and coffee that followed. The wind ensemble (l. to r.) consisted of Richard Paratley (flute), Ellen Bardekoff (oboe), Amy Frasier (bassoon), Donald Mokrynski (clarinet) and Carikyn Clark (horn). The temple board hopes to bring them back for another concert in the spring. The concert was made possible with funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts and private donations.

meeting.

Members old and new are advised that chapter dues are \$15 a year per person and that they must first be members in good standing of the AARP national chapter before they can be accepted as members of 3303.

Wishing one and all a wonderful holiday season and very happy New Year!

Paula Huffell

City Island Republicans

The Republican presidential race is heating up! Every month another candidate is on top. The presidential primary in New York State will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Details will follow.

Coordinator John Ulmer reported that about 180 City Islanders voted on Election Day. That is high compared to surrounding communities. By law, the election had to be held even though there was only one name on the ballot. Each party wants to see the vote total for their line and people are also given the option to write in candidates.

Our next meeting will be some time in March. Stay out of the snow!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Holiday Services

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the Bridge
Sunday, Dec. 18: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

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

Sunday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., 5:15 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Saturday, Dec. 10: Christmas Crafts Sale and Café, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16: Christmas caroling in the Grace Church neighborhood, 6:30 p.m. All welcome. Meet at Grace Parish Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent Communion Service, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 6 p.m.

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

Sunday, Jan. 15: Epiphany Concert with the a cappella group Sing We Enchanted, 4 p.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue
Tuesday, Dec. 20: Chanukah Menorah Lighting. 5 p.m. in Hawkins Park followed by deli treats at the Shul.

Friday, Dec. 23: Installation of new Associate Spiritual Leader, Reb David Markus, and new Board of Directors. 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13, Freedom Shabbat led by Rabbi Shohama, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3: Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Dec. 11: Parsonage Open House, 1 to 4 p.m.

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

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

Chapter 318 AARP

AARP Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall.

At our Dec. 7 meeting, members will enjoy a special hot dog and soda luncheon followed by cake and coffee, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Our Dec. 21 meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon at the Lobster House Restaurant, beginning at 12 noon. The cost is \$35 per person for members and \$40 for non-members. Each person should bring \$5 worth of Lottery/Scratch Off tickets in an envelope for grab bag gifts. All members and friends are invited. Sign up for the luncheon at our Dec. 7 meeting and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas cheer.

To start the new year, we will meet on Jan. 4 and 18. There will be no meetings in February. New members are always welcome.

Call 718-885-0926 for information about any of the above events.

Until the new year, happy holidays to all!

Rosetta Woods

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityisland-communitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sixth Annual Holiday Party: A Members-Only Event! Friday, Dec. 9, 7 to 10 p.m. The CICC board invites all our members for a fabulous evening of food, drinks and fun. This year's entertainment is our own local Mary Ann Albertelli & Friends. See you there!

Second Annual Holiday Dance Party for Middle School Island Youth: Saturday, Dec. 17, 7 to 10 p.m. Rock 'n roll, hip-hop, snacks and beverages. Music by DJ Scubba. Advanced tickets only: \$10. Contact: Michael Shanley, bxshanley@optonline.net or call 917-721-8747.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Jill's Playgroup: for pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Art classes with Laury Hopkins: Call 718-885-3202 (leave a message).

ADULT PROGRAM

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These yoga stretch poses help remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while they also assist with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10.00/class 718-885-0535.

Fit For Life: A balanced cardio and strength training class for all experience levels. Classes offered Monday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. (children are welcome to come along with parents during Tuesday morning class only). For any questions, please call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122. Classes are \$8.00.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for ages 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Walk-ins are very welcome, along with spectators interested in seeing what the class is all about and meeting Salacia. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Tap Dance: Intermediate level adult Jazz-Tap class with Corinne Grondahl. Let your feet become a musical instrument! Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call 718-309-

8041.

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun.

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

Amy Gottlieb

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion

Our next and last meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. This is our "trim-the-tree" meeting, and everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or snack to share with the others at the end of the meeting as we decorate the tree. Please join us in some holiday merriment.

There will not be a January meeting because of winter weather. The next meeting will be on Feb. 7.

We have shared in a very successful year and look forward to the next one. Happy holidays to all and have a safe winter!

Regina Murphy

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. The Post Christmas party will be held on Monday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. Dues (\$30) are now due for 2012. Past dues are always accepted. They can be dropped off at the Post into the SAL mailbox.

We are here for your party needs, and we can accommodate up to 100 people. Members receive a discount on the hall.

The Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 12 noon. This year is the 70th anniversary of that day, which altered history forever.

We have some members on sick call. Post Commander Dave Carman spent a few days at the infirmary but is feeling much better. It is good to see Judge Advocate Jack Hartigan back in the Post after being under the weather for a few weeks.

Season's greetings to all; see you next year in 2012!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

City Island Nautical Museum

It was with deep sadness that the City Island Historical Society board and members learned that our beloved president, Captain Ed Sadler, had passed away on Saturday, Nov. 12, after 95 extraordinary years devoted to his family and the City Island community, especially the Nautical Museum to which he gave so much time over the past several years. He and his cohort Russell Schaller were familiar fixtures in the front hall of the museum, where they would entertain visitors and residents alike every weekend with their stories of the "good old days" growing up on City Island.

The City Island Chamber of Commerce presented its Service to Community Award to the Historical Society that very day, and Dick Sadler was gracious in accepting the award on behalf of his father. We are grateful to the Chamber for this recognition of our role in the community working for the preservation of historic aspects of the island and operating the only year-round non-profit attraction for visitors, as well as residents.

Having said that, the board has decided to close the museum from Christmas weekend until the middle of March, partly because of the high cost of heating the museum and partly because the number of visitors tends to be very low. We will, however, be happy to open up at any time for special tours; please call 718-885-0507 if you wish to make an appointment.

We are busily upgrading our website and we have just started a Facebook page, so be sure to visit and "like" us. Those who "like" us enough to send a donation or become a member are invited to send a check to the City Island Historical Society at P. O. Box 82, City Island, NY 10464.

We were very pleased that Council Member James Vacca was able to find \$5,000 in his budget to donate to us in support of our

public programs, and the Department of Cultural Affairs also gave us a grant, which we will be put to good use in organizing future exhibits and lectures.

In the meantime, don't forget that we have some beautiful marble trivets, coasters, magnets and tree ornaments at our shop, along with other gifts that friends and family will enjoy this holiday season. We wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

Barbara Dolensek

Cub Scout Troop 211

As time flies by, the scouts of Cub Scout Pack 211 are in full swing learning some leadership skills and building on their team work. Over the weekend of Nov. 5 and 6, the pack had a very challenging camping trip with 35 families at Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey. The Webelos were challenged with a compass-guided hike and did a tremendous job. As the pack continues to grow, we would like to welcome Oscar Etzel and Marc Lomonaco as our new Tiger Scouts. I'm sure they will make us proud just as all the other scouts continue to do so.

Angelo Bellocchio

Boy Scout Troop 211

Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 211 are finishing a busy year. In early October several scouts set out on Long Island Sound with worms, clams, and chum in hopes of catching some big porgies. Two weeks later, the scouts walked more than three miles around Yonkers Raceway to raise awareness of juvenile diabetes. In the first week of November, they spent beautiful days and braved chilly nights outdoors in New Jersey, successfully completing the first of multiple camping trips on the calendar.

Some of you may have seen our scouts handing out winter safety brochures on City Island Avenue or returning from a swim night at the Bronx YMCA testing lifesaving skills. This busy schedule, which includes meetings nearly every Friday night, is made possible by a helpful community, supportive scout families, and the help of Assistant Scoutmasters Angelo Bellocchio, Omar Garcia, Edward Ciarletta and Christopher McGuire. We run a great program for active youth who don't mind being challenged. If you know an active boy 11 or older who wants to join, please ask parents, guardians or relatives to e-mail us at troop211ideas@yahoo.com.

Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins

Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is very proud to have cosponsored its 13th child for Gift of Life heart surgery this fall. Richard Hastings of Jamaica was so ill that his heart required a second surgery to save his life. Ralph Scottino, a member of our club, personally donated \$6,000 to cover hospital costs. Surgeons and their teams at both Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx and the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center donate their efforts for the Gift of Life program, and the club finds host families for the children and one parent during their stay.

The club will again have a holiday luncheon with the Bronx Opera Company presenting selected arias and holiday music. All are welcome to attend what has always been a wonderful, heartwarming kickoff to the holidays. It will be held at the Lobster Box on Dec. 13 at 12:15 p.m. If you would like to attend, please call Mary Springman at 718-617-1600 to reserve a place. Tickets are \$45 each.

Very important news for our fund-raising efforts is that our Shaklee store is up and running. This is a fabulous opportunity to support Bronx Rotary. What could be better than shopping for products you need and use every day and knowing that a portion of your purchase goes back to the club to support efforts like saving the life of a child?

First, there are nutritional products, which are backed by a wide array of scientists and are formulated for everyone from tiny babies to those of us a bit more mature. The site offers the CINCH weight management

system, which is phenomenal if you are serious about losing weight and maintaining muscle. Shaklee also has a complete line of beauty, skin and personal care from toothpaste to shampoo for men, women and children. Finally, Shaklee offers a wide range of cleaning products for home, laundry, kitchen and bath that are safe, effective and totally "green."

Please visit our website at <http://bronxrotaryshop.myshaklee.com>. to see some of the many projects and community programs we support.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Prayer is suspended until further notice.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during December:

Sunday, Dec. 4: Lambs Babysitting available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 10: Grace Church Christmas Fair and café, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Continental breakfast served between 10 and 11:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handcrafted items and homemade baked goods will be available for purchase.

Friday, Dec. 16: Christmas caroling in the Grace Church neighborhood. All are welcome to join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service will be at 6 p.m. The Grace Church choir will be singing half an hour before the service. Babysitting will be available at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, Jan. 1: Lambs babysitting available beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, Jan. 8: The a cappella group Sing We Enchanted will perform an Epiphany concert of carols at 4 p.m. at Grace. The cost is \$25 per person (\$30 at the door). The snow date will be on Jan. 15. See the Grace Church website (www.gracecityisland.org) for more details.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Grace Church.

Scott Meyer, Senior Warden

PSS Senior Programs

Healthy Exercise Program: We will continue with the full array of six classes through the holidays and January. You can attend all classes for \$20 per month or all classes for \$6 per week. Or for individual classes you may contribute \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance. Zumba Gold with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 at the Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Sit-tercise with Patty on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays, leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Fit for Life with Sarah on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Anne Hutchinson Legacy Writing Group: The writing group will hold sessions on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Grace Church Hall. For further information or to sign up, please call group leader Gail Hitt at 718-885-0444.

Telephone Reassurance: If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call every day might be of benefit. Please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Caregivers Support: If you are caring for someone or you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and shopping assistance. Please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Transportation Services: Everyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday: Bay Plaza; Thursday: Stop & Shop; every other

Continued on page 14

The Hearts and Hands of Grace

By JOANNE BROGAN

A group of parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church called Hearts and Hands has been busily creating comfort items for patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets most Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the church, and they would welcome any other crafters who might be interested to join them in this project.

Among the items being made are "chemo caps" for patients who have lost their hair because of treatments. These caps are made of very soft acrylic yarn and are a comfort for those who find wigs uncomfortable. The caps are made in a variety of colors and imbued with prayers and good wishes for the patients who will wear them. Easy patterns can be found online, and copies are also available during the group's meetings. Looms are also available for those who do not know how to knit or crochet.

Other items include shawls and lap robes to bring a little warmth to those who need it. Patients who have received these gifts in the past report that they derive com-

fort also from the fact that people have spent both time and effort to create the items.

Knitters and crocheters who find that they have made all the scarves, hats and afghans that their friends and family can use are welcome to join the project. Contributions of yarn or funds to purchase supplies would also be greatly appreciated.

Those who cannot make the Monday evening sessions are welcome to work at home. For more information, please call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713.

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Assemblyman
Michael R. Benedetto



The officers and members of
The American Legion, Post 156
salute all those serving in the military.

We have a special place in our hearts for the following City Islanders and their family members who are on active duty during the holidays:

MARIO AYALA
MAJ. BARTON BUCHANAN
LTC. H. A. CLANCY
MAJ. MICHAEL CLANCY
LCDR EDMUND GANAL
LT. ETHAN HEBEN
FRANK HERNANDEZ
CDR KEITH HOLIHAN
LT. PHAL CHOM IT
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MASTER CHIEF
WILLIAM LINDSAY
KEITH MANFREDONIA
CORY MAYER
SSG. MATHEW McCUE
LT. CHRISTOPHER MULLER
CHRISTOPHER NASH
PFC3 RACHEL SMITH
APRIL SALEM
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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE SERVICEMEN'S FUND

If you would like to write to any of these active duty personnel, contact Commander Dave Carman, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464.

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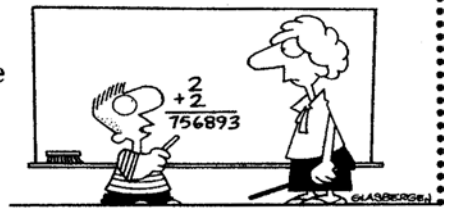
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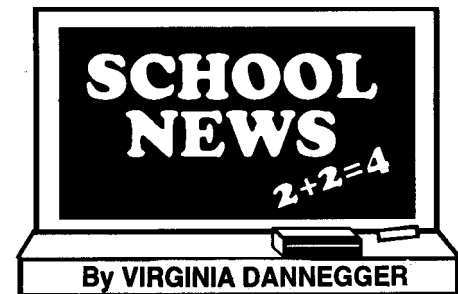
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Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

The boys of Cub Scout Pack 211 gathered around the campfire at Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey, where they spent the weekend of Nov. 5 and 6, 2011.



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

November was a busy month at St. Mary's. The school was closed on the first for All Saints Day. On Friday, Nov. 4, eighth-graders took the test for admission into Catholic High Schools (TACHS), while the rest of the school attended first Friday Mass. On Monday, Nov. 7, Pre-K visited the Pumpkin Farm and kindergarten and the first grade visited the Police Museum. Other field trips taken this year include trips to the Intrepid, the New York City Fire Museum, the New York Botanical Garden and Medieval Times. The second annual Fall Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Home School Association, took place on Thursday, Nov. 10. The school was closed on Friday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans' Day. Friday, Nov. 18, was our annual Turkey Bingo. Report cards were distributed at the Parent/Teacher Conferences, which were held on Tuesday, Nov. 22. The school was closed for Thanksgiving Recess on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25.

December promises to be just as busy for our eighth-graders, beginning with first Friday Mass on Dec. 2, when they will receive their class rings, followed by a celebratory breakfast. The seventh grade will take a class trip, "Manhattan Christmas Experience." The school will be closed on Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and on Dec. 9 for Conference Day/Archdiocesan Data Day. The Holiday Boutique, sponsored by the Home School Association, will take place from Monday, Dec. 12, through Friday, Dec. 16. Pre-K, Kindergarten and first grade will attend the Big Apple Circus on Dec. 15. Progress reports for Pre-K through eighth grade will be distributed on the 16th. This year's Christmas Assembly, on Dec. 20, will be a school-wide presentation of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, in which the school band will perform. Christmas recess begins on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.; school resumes on Jan. 3. A merry and blessed Christmas and happy New Year to all.

Public School 175

The last few weeks have been exciting for the P.S. 175 community. On Tuesday, Oct. 25, we hosted our annual Family-Pajama Night for children in kindergarten through grade 3, and our fourth- and fifth-graders watched a Halloween movie and snacked on delicious treats. On Thursday, Oct. 27, our sixth, seventh- and eighth-graders attended their Halloween Dance. These were fun-filled evenings enjoyed by all! We are especially grateful to all of our teachers who volunteered their time to make these nights so much fun for our students and their families.

Many of our classes have taken enriching and exciting field trips already this year. The third grade visited the Bronx Zoo; the fourth grade took its annual trip to St. Paul's Church; the fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth grades visited the American Museum of Natural History; the sixth grade visited the Liberty Science Center and participated in the many hands-on activities; the seventh and eighth grades visited Queens College for a performance of Native American dances; the seventh grade also visited St. Paul's Church, as well as the Museum of the City of New York, to see the exhibit of colonial New York, which tied into their social studies curriculum.

This year's Penny Harvest program has begun. Mr. Scopp, our student government leader, is organizing the collection of pennies (nickels, dimes, quarters and bills, too!) through Wednesday, Nov. 30, that will be donated to a charity selected by the student body. We are hoping that we will exceed what we donated last year.

The Lincoln Center Institute is once again working with our students and teachers in kindergarten through third grade. The first work of art they are studying this year is "The Man who Planted Trees," which will culminate in a live puppetry performance at Lincoln Center. In the spring, teachers and students will be doing a study of "La Musica Flamenca," which looks at the music behind flamenco's emotional and powerful dance forms, such as Alegrías, Rumba Flamenca and Soleares.

Once again, all classes will be participating in community service projects this year. The lower-grade classes will do class activities; the middle grades will work on small group activities; and our eighth-graders, who are required to provide 10 hours of service in order to graduate, will work on individual activities. We are happy to once again be collaborating with Brenda Prohaska and the Community Center on community ser-

vice projects for our eighth-grade students. Although some students are working to find their own projects, others have been working with Brenda to find meaningful ways to contribute to their community. This is just another wonderful example of how well our community and school work so well together.

Upcoming events include the Hollyrock Game Show and our annual Holiday Sing.

A special thank-you to our wonderful City Island community for all the support they showed for the PTA's Election Day sale. It was a huge success with many Island residents saying that they came to support the school even though it was not a major election. We are most grateful to our PTA for all their hard work, which enhances the education we are able to provide for our students.

November Citizens-of-the-Month are Nicholas Villafana and Rhianna Dyal (kindergarten); Matthew McGaughan and Laci Howard (first grade); Mark Piri and Kaia Alston (second grade); Krista Durante and Ginutis Sipas (third grade); Adrian Kuka and Jack Morrissey (fourth grade); Mia Comerico and Damon Hamblin (fifth grade); Anastasia Geros and Michael Bauso (sixth grade);

Paige Brown and Andriy Mashchenko (seventh grade); Chloe Brelsford and Scott Cruz (eighth grade).

Please keep in mind these important dates: Monday, Dec. 26, through Monday, Jan. 2, school is closed; classes resume Tuesday, Jan. 3.

We wish the entire City Island community a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season.

Organization News

Continued from page 13

Wednesday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. The suggested contribution for round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island.

Call to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts.

Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

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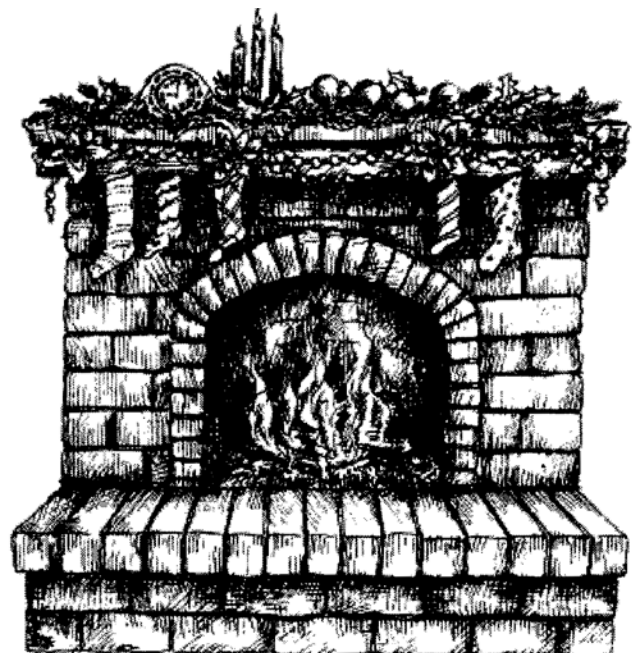


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT

Photos by RICK DeWITT

On Saturday, Nov. 26, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Paul Klein and Councilman James Vacca lit the Christmas tree in Hawkins Park followed by caroling under the direction of Ken Farnum. The mild weather enabled some Islanders to attend in shorts.



Photo by EMILY SEXTON

In October 2011, the New York Blood Center filmed a documentary called "Moving Forward." The three-minute film recreates the car accident that injured Islander Emily Sexton and the life-saving care (including many pints of blood) she received at Jacobi Hospital. Shown above is the re-enactment of when Emily's parents, Harlan and David, first learned of the accident from their son Gregory, who ran to Grace Church to tell them.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
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Susan Bellinson

Continued from page 7

Macy's has expressed an interest in carrying the strap, and she has already partnered with two organizations to begin giving some of the money she has made to those in need.

A portion of the proceeds goes to Seeds of Peace, an organization that brings together kids from warring countries and teaches them about ways to put their countries' conflict behind them. She also donates to a program at Montefiore hospital that helps pregnant women in Africa get into a safe facility to deliver their babies. "I actu-

ally really like giving money away," she says.

Susan Bellinson is about four years away from retirement, but until then she will continue delivering babies and designing bags on the side. And her brand is growing, despite her packed schedule. She is already designing wallets that fit snugly into the Freedom Strap, and she has plans for more colors and patterns.

"It's very exciting to see something develop that was a dream," she says.

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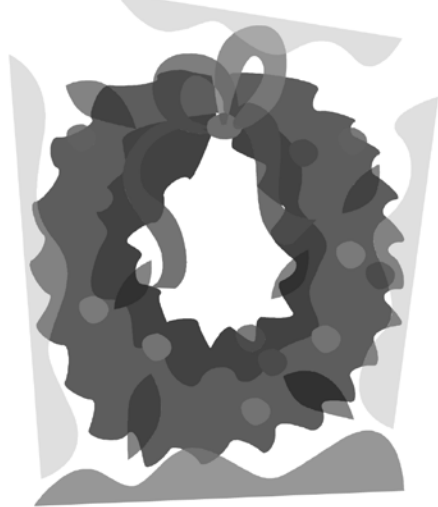
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Babies

In honor of the birth of my two extraordinary grandchildren, I decided this month to consider movies about babies. It's amazing just how much more interesting they've become to me! A classic film on the topic is **Bundle of Joy** (1956), a comedy starring Debbie Reynolds as Polly Parrish, a department store salesgirl whose life is turned upside down when she finds an abandoned baby. Despite her protestations, everyone assumes that she's the mother of the child, including Dan Merlin (Eddie Fisher), the son of store owner, J.B. (Adolphe Menjou). J.B. is convinced that his son is the baby's father and is determined that his boy will "do right" by Polly.

In 1987 there were three extremely different films released about babies. Directed by Leonard Nimoy, **Three Men and a Baby** is the story of three New York

bachelors Peter Mitchell (Tom Selleck), Michael Kellam (Steve Guttenberg) and Jack Holden (Ted Danson) who share an apartment. When a baby is left on their doorstep, their lives are thrown into chaos with wonderfully comic results.

In **Baby Boom** (1987), management consultant J.C. Wiatt (Diane Keaton) has no time for anything except her high-profile job until she inherits a 14-month-old infant from a pair of recently deceased—and very distant—relatives. Intending to put the baby up for adoption, she discovers that she has grown fond of the child, much to the consternation of her live-in boyfriend, Steven Buchner (Harold Ramis). When her boss, Fritz Curtis (Sam Wanamaker), and the rival for her job, Ken Arrenberg (James Spader), put too much pressure on her, she moves to a small town, where she is inadvertently led to a whole new moneymaking scheme. There she also finds romance with the local veterinarian, Dr. Jeff Cooper (Sam Shepard).

One of the oddest films in the mix is the Coen Brothers' **Raising Arizona** (which I honestly did not enjoy but could not omit because of the critical acclaim). This frantic screwball comedy stars Nicolas Cage as H.I. "Hi" McDonnough, a philosophical but slightly dim career criminal who has been arrested so often that he gets to know "Ed," short for Edwina (Holly Hunter), the officer who takes his mug shots. They marry and have a happy life until they

decide they want a child and discover that Ed is barren, which devastates her. Life changes when she discovers that Nathan Arizona (Trey Wilson), owner of a chain of furniture stores, has fathered quintuplets. She and Hi decide to help themselves to one of the babies with zany results.

The opening of **Look Who's Talking** (1989) is a fabulous sequence of sperm on their way to fertilize an egg. The film is narrated by infant Mikey (the voice of Bruce Willis), the product of an extramarital affair. Mikey's mother, Molly (Kirstie Alley), was dumped by her married lover, Albert (George Segal), and is rescued by cab driver James Ubriacco (John Travolta), who takes a shine to the baby. Olympia Dukakis is on hand as Grandma Rosie. There were two sequels, neither of which is as charming or disarming as the original.

Mrs. Winterbourne (1996) is another comedy in which a pregnant woman is abandoned by the father of her child. Leaving New York City, pregnant Connie (Ricki Lake) despondently takes a train home to Boston and meets Hugh and Patricia Winterbourne (Brendan Fraser and Susan Haskell), a wealthy couple also expecting a baby. When the train crashes, Connie wakes up in a hospital to discover that the staff thinks she's Patricia Winterbourne, who died in the wreck along with Hugh. The Boston Winterbournes, led by sharp-tongued Grace (Shirley MacLaine), had never met Patricia, so they have no way of knowing that Connie isn't Patricia. Although Connie isn't trying to cheat anyone, it doesn't take her long to realize that this isn't a bad environment for raising her baby, especially after she meets Bill Winterbourne, Hugh's twin brother (also played by Fraser).

Interestingly, 10 years later, Ricki Lake took on the medical establishment as executive producer and star of the somewhat disturbing and controversial documentary **The Business of Being Born** (2007), a passionate examination of home childbirth. She gives birth to her second child in a bathtub, a graphic scene that along with several other sequences of home birth attended by a midwife are intended to erase any stigma from the situation. Practiced widely in Europe and Japan, home birth has largely disappeared in the United States. As the film enumerates disadvantages of hospital births, the medical establishment would argue that a hospital is the safest place to give birth because if something goes wrong, speed is essential. This film certainly provides food for thought.

In 2006 French documentarian Thomas Balmès and his crew went around the world—to the plains of Mongolia, the dusty grasslands of Namibia, the high rises of Tokyo and the streets of San Francisco—to chronicle the first year in the lives of four far-flung infants. The result was **Babies** (2009), a totally delightful and captivating documentary.

Sean Baker's **Prince of Broadway** (2008) is the story of Lucky (Prince Adu), an illegal immigrant from Ghana and street hustler who entices customers into a New York den of designer knockoffs owned by his Armenian boss, Levon (Karren Karagolian). When Lucky's ex-girlfriend dumps an 18-month-old boy into his arms and leaves, the toddler's appearance transforms not only Lucky's rickety existence but also the priorities of everyone around him. After the first few minutes of the film, the viewer is drawn into its charm.

Life as We Know It (2010) is a sweet romantic comedy about Holly Berenson (Katherine Heigl) who runs an upscale food shop in Atlanta called Fraîche. She is at odds with Eric Messer (Josh Duhamel), a cocky, roguish, womanizing jock who directs live sports events on television. When their mutual best friends (Hayes MacArthur and Christina Hendricks), who have a new baby girl, die in a car accident, Holly and Eric are horrified to find themselves named co-guardians of the child, because if they accept the responsibility, they will have to live together in their friends' house. After much debating and arguing, they reluctantly agree to take on the challenge.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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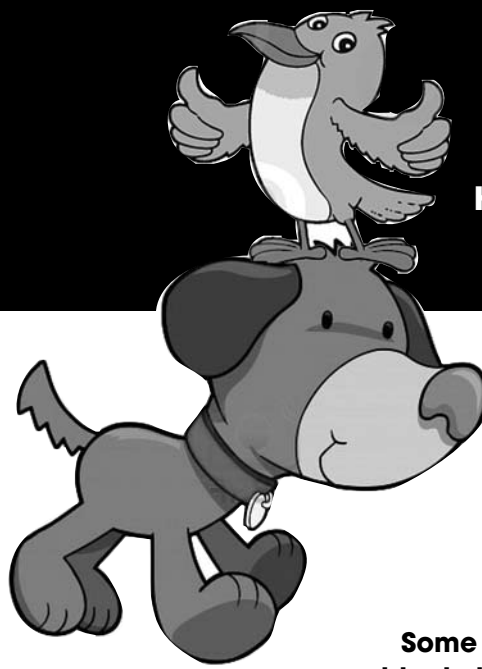
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Obituaries

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 BRENDAN DELANEY

Captain Ed Sadler in the summer of 2010 at the helm of *The Firefighter*, the same boat he piloted for 20 years in New York Harbor.

Edward C. Sadler

Captain Edward C. Sadler, FDNY retired, went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 12, 2011.

He passed peacefully from this life in the same house, indeed the same room, in which he was born 95 years earlier.

Between those dates, he did manage to get out and do a few things.

Captain Sadler was predeceased by his wife, Laura, and oldest daughter, Bonnie. He is survived by his two sons, Ed Jr. and Richard (Dick), and his daughter, Jeanne. In addition, he had nine grandchildren and, in his words, seven and a half great-grandchildren.

The outpouring of love and affection from his City Island community and FDNY was heartfelt, which was very special and moving for the family. He will be missed.

Vassos Spyros Marangos

Former resident of Pickwick Terrace Vassos Spyros Marangos, 52, of Red Bank, New Jersey, died on Nov. 8, 2011, in Paphos, Cyprus, where he grew up. He was born on Jan. 1, 1959, and came to New York to study at City College and Columbia University. He later moved to Monmouth County to work as a technical engineer. He was a distinguished member of the technical staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories and then furthered his career at IBM, Mobicom Corporation and Spirent Networks. He raised his four children in Freehold, Fair Haven, Little Silver and Red Bank.

Mr. Marangos lived at the Pickwick on City Island from 1985 to 1987, when he was married to Cathy McNulty, the adopted

daughter of Islander Margie McNulty.

Mr. Marangos was predeceased by his parents, Antigone Demitriou and Spyros Charalambos Marangos, and his foster parents, Thesalea and Bibis, all of Paphos Cyprus. Surviving him are his eight loving siblings, Dimitiri, Andreas, Savas, Kostas, Evie, Koula, Eleftheria and Constandia, and his four children, Steven, Cecily, Alaina and Peter.



Virginia Deich

Virginia Ann Deich

Longtime City Island resident Virginia Deich passed away on Oct. 19, 2011, at the age of 78.

Born in the Bronx on Sept. 25, 1923, to Mildred and Nicholas Evans, Virginia moved to City Island over 60 years ago and was an active member of the community. Married to Otto Deich, who passed away in 1986, she raised five children here on the island and, not surprisingly, served as a leader for both the Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts.

As a young woman, she was a member of the American Blue Jackets, and later she became a member and president of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. She also served as president of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps. She was a member of the parish at Trinity United Methodist Church and later joined United Trinity Methodist Church in New Rochelle.

During World War II, Virginia was a "Rosie the Riveter" at American Crucible Steel in Kearney, New Jersey, where she worked as a machinist to help the war effort. After the war, she worked at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center (Jacobi) until her retirement.

She is survived by her five children, Joyce Evans of City Island, Joseph Deich of North Carolina, Claudia Deich of City Island, Deborah Bernardini of Yorktown Heights and Leslie Deich of City Island, along with 9 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and her schnauzer "daughter," Penny.

Virginia Deich had an exceptional number of friends on City Island and enjoyed an active social life, as well as frequent walks with her beloved Penny. As her daughter Claudia put it, "She was a happy camper, even to the end, and her legacy will live on through all the people she touched and taught to be happy."



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

A Thanksgiving Potpourri

Veterans' Jobs Bill, (Nov. 22, 2011)

On Nov. 21 President Obama signed into law legislation providing tax credits for employers who hire military veterans. This is the first portion of President Obama's failed jobs package to receive full bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. The bill offers a tax credit of up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans who have been looking for a job for more than six months, as well as a \$2,400 credit for veterans who are unemployed for more than four weeks but less than six months. The measure also calls for a tax credit of up to \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been looking for a job for more than six months.

Social Security Wage Base Increases to \$110,100 for 2012

The Social Security Old Age Survivor's and Disability Insurance taxable wage base for 2012 increases from \$106,800 to \$110,100 for 2012. The maximum 2012 OASDI tax payable by each employee is \$6,826.20, or 6.2 percent of the wage base. Unless the federal government acts to extend or change the rate, the 4.2 percent rate now in effect for employees is scheduled to expire Dec. 31 and will revert to the

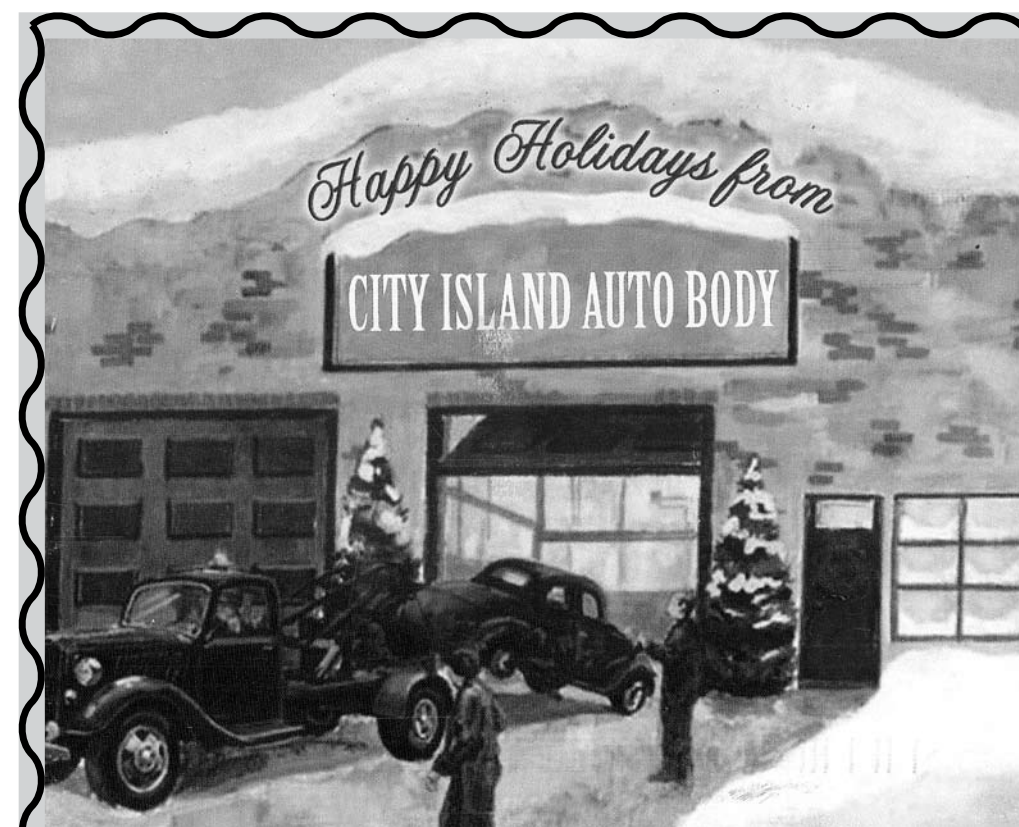
6.2 percent rate for 2012. Employers match the amount with an equal contribution. The SSA also announced a 3.6 percent cost of living increase amount that affects several thresholds for benefits and coverage. For the 1.45 percent tax for the Medicare (HI) portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes, there is no wage base and all wages earned are subject to HI tax.

New York City Commercial Rent Tax

New York City is conducting audits of taxpayers for Commercial Rent Tax. Commercial renters south of 96th Street may be subject to this tax. If you rent commercial space south of 96th Street, make sure you are filing returns and paying Commercial Rent Tax, when applicable. The law requires filing a tax return when gross rent is at least \$250,000. The tax is phased in between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Be aware that you may have previously not subject to the tax because your commercial rent was below the threshold, but now may be subject to the tax due to higher rents.

Identity Theft Scams

The IRS has issued several consumer warnings about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scamsters trying to gain access to consumers' financial information in order to steal their identity and assets. Scamsters will use the regular mail, telephone, fax or e-mail to set up their victims. When identity theft takes place over the Internet (e-mail), it is called phishing. The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through e-mail. Unsolicited e-mail claiming to be from the IRS, or from an IRS-related component such as EFTPS, should be reported to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov. Additionally, clicking on attachments or links within an unsolicited email claiming to come from the IRS may download a malicious computer virus to your computer.



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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

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

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

DECEMBER 2011

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0418	7.11	1040	0.77	1642	6.89	2310	0.59	Thu 01
02 Fri	0517	7.08	1142	0.88	1745	6.70			Fri 02
03 Sat	0005	0.83	0615	7.12	1241	0.86	1844	6.61	Sat 03
04 Sun	0059	0.95	0708	7.20	1335	0.75	1938	6.62	Sun 04
05 Mon	0149	0.99	0759	7.31	1426	0.59	2028	6.67	Mon 05
06 Tue	0235	0.98	0845	7.41	1513	0.42	2115	6.73	Tue 06
07 Wed	0317	0.95	0928	7.48	1556	0.26	2158	6.79	Wed 07
08 Thu	0354	0.91	1005	7.52	1635	0.15	2238	6.83	Thu 08
09 Fri	0423	0.85	1033	7.55	1709	0.06	2310	6.86	Fri 09
10 Sat	0443	0.76	1046	7.62	1737	0.00	2330	6.92	Sat 10
11 Sun	0510	0.64	1108	7.74	1758	-0.07	2348	7.05	Sun 11
12 Mon	0545	0.51	1142	7.86	1824	-0.15			Mon 12
13 Tue	0018	7.23	0626	0.40	1223	7.91	1900	-0.20	Tue 13
14 Wed	0057	7.39	0710	0.33	1307	7.85	1940	-0.21	Wed 14
15 Thu	0141	7.52	0758	0.30	1355	7.68	2025	-0.15	Thu 15
16 Fri	0229	7.58	0851	0.32	1447	7.42	2115	-0.05	Fri 16
17 Sat	0322	7.61	0949	0.34	1544	7.10	2209	0.08	Sat 17
18 Sun	0420	7.61	1057	0.33	1648	6.80	2309	0.19	Sun 18
19 Mon	0523	7.64	1226	0.20	1800	6.62			Mon 19
20 Tue	0018	0.23	0632	7.73	1350	-0.14	1924	6.63	Tue 20
21 Wed	0141	0.15	0746	7.90	1456	-0.55	2039	6.80	Wed 21
22 Thu	0255	-0.05	0853	8.11	1554	-0.92	2141	7.04	Thu 22
23 Fri	0356	-0.27	0953	8.28	1648	-1.18	2236	7.27	Fri 23
24 Sat	0452	-0.43	1047	8.35	1738	-1.28	2328	7.43	Sat 24
25 Sun	0545	-0.50	1139	8.29	1827	-1.21			Sun 25
26 Mon	0017	7.50	0635	-0.44	1228	8.10	1914	-0.99	Mon 26
27 Tue	0105	7.48	0724	-0.28	1317	7.80	1959	-0.65	Tue 27
28 Wed	0153	7.38	0813	-0.02	1406	7.43	2044	-0.24	Wed 28
29 Thu	0242	7.23	0903	0.29	1458	7.02	2128	0.19	Thu 29
30 Fri	0333	7.05	0956	0.60	1554	6.63	2213	0.59	Fri 30
31 Sat	0427	6.88	1053	0.85	1654	6.32	2307	0.82	Sat 31

JANUARY 2012

01 Sun	0529	6.90	1155	0.91	1758	6.25	2359	1.06	Sun 01
02 Mon	0624	6.89	1252	0.93	1856	6.20			Mon 02
03 Tue	0052	1.18	0717	6.94	1346	0.84	1949	6.26	Tue 03
04 Wed	0143	1.19	0807	7.05	1435	0.67	2039	6.38	Wed 04
05 Thu	0230	1.11	0852	7.18	1521	0.45	2125	6.54	Thu 05
06 Fri	0310	0.96	0930	7.33	1602	0.22	2205	6.71	Fri 06
07 Sat	0344	0.75	0957	7.48	1638	-0.01	2237	6.88	Sat 07
08 Sun	0415	0.49	1016	7.67	1708	-0.23	2257	7.08	Sun 08
09 Mon	0450	0.22	1046	7.87	1734	-0.43	2321	7.34	Mon 09
10 Tue	0528	-0.04	1123	8.02	1803	-0.61	2355	7.59	Tue 10
11 Wed	0610	-0.25	1204	8.07	1839	-0.72			Wed 11
12 Thu	0035	7.79	0654	-0.36	1249	7.99	1919	-0.73	Thu 12
13 Fri	0118	7.90	0741	-0.37	1336	7.76	2003	-0.61	Fri 13
14 Sat	0206	7.89	0833	-0.25	1428	7.41	2051	-0.39	Sat 14
15 Sun	0257	7.77	0931	-0.05	1524	6.98	2144	-0.08	Sun 15
16 Mon	0355	7.58	1044	0.17	1628	6.56	2246	0.24	Mon 16
17 Tue	0501	7.39	1227	0.19	1751	6.28			Tue 17
18 Wed	0014	0.45	0624	7.31	1345	-0.05	1932	6.33	Wed 18
19 Thu	0151	0.37	0756	7.45	1449	-0.41	2042	6.62	Thu 19
20 Fri	0259	0.10	0902	7.70	1546	-0.76	2141	6.96	Fri 20
21 Sat	0358	-0.22	0959	7.93	1638	-1.02	2233	7.28	Sat 21
22 Sun	0450	-0.48	1050	8.06	1727	-1.15	2320	7.51	Sun 22
23 Mon	0539	-0.63	1138	8.06	1812	-1.11			Mon 23
24 Tue	0005	7.63	0625	-0.64	1222	7.93	1854	-0.93	Tue 24
25 Wed	0048	7.64	0709	-0.51	1304	7.68	1933	-0.63	Wed 25
26 Thu	0129	7.54	0750	-0.26	1344	7.37	2008	-0.26	Thu 26
27 Fri	0207	7.38	0829	0.05	1422	7.01	2035	0.12	Fri 27
28 Sat	0243	7.17	0904	0.40	1459	6.66	2050	0.46	Sat 28
29 Sun	0319	6.96	0937	0.73	1540	6.34	2120	0.76	Sun 29
30 Mon	0357	6.77	1018	1.01	1633	6.08	2202	1.03	Mon 30



BLIZZARDS AND BUFFLEHEADS

Notwithstanding that freak snowstorm in October or the predictions coming out of the UN that we are in for more extreme weather, we believe we here at "Sights and Sounds" can all but guarantee that accumulated snow will NOT be a problem for City Islanders this winter. How can we be so sure? We went ahead and bought a snowblower—in August! And we weren't the only ones, apparently. We got the last one that Sears had in stock at that time. That's how the weather gods operate: our being manipulated is done for their amusement.

Speaking of freaking, the "blizzard" that paralyzed huge swaths of the tri-state area amounted to mere rain on City Island. Did you notice? This is partly because bodies of water retain heat for longer periods of time than dry land, which keeps the air above those bodies a bit warmer and, in this case, less likely to support snow.

An experienced fisherman is not easily impressed by hauls of snapper blues. Reports of 20 to 30 in a row don't even make a dent in the minds of most anglers, because of the ease with which these baby blues give themselves up when they are hungry. Striped bass, on the other hand, now that's

a horse (or perhaps a fish) of a different color. Not all that long ago, striped bass were considered endangered, or nearly so. Imagine our surprise, then, as we watched Frank and his son, Frank, catching stripers like snappers off the Fordham Street pier one recent chilly afternoon. At last count they had reeled in 20, and they threw all of them back. (State regulations restrict fishermen from keeping stripers less than 28 inches and the limit is two a day.)

As abundant as striped bass has been, that's how scarce the buffleheads seem. We noted this first in our column last year. It may still be early, but so far the count remains low. We have seen only six. There is good news, though, and it is twofold. First, it is not uncommon for buffleheads to travel in small groups of 5 to 10 (although, as we say, we have counted many more than that in the recent past). And second, the six birds we saw were an equal number of males and females, which means there is hope yet for the bufflehead population. And we were encouraged to learn that a flock was recently sighted over near the Pelham Bridge.

And on that cheery note we would like to wish our readers a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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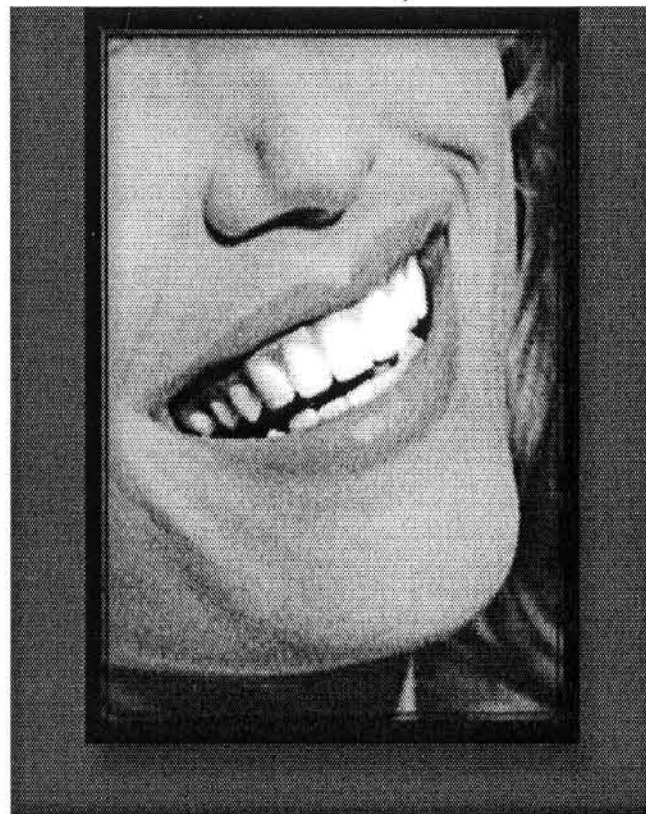
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Chamber Dinner

Continued from page 3

Buddy Pontecorvo, who also attended the event. Mr. Kane's wife, Maria, accepted the award on behalf of her husband and Bistro SK, the first French restaurant on City Island since Le Refuge.

The awards ceremony concluded with recognition of three hardworking volunteers who help with every Chamber of Commerce event, including the annual summer and fall Arts and Crafts fairs, as well as the anniversary dinner dance. As with many City Island volunteers, these three women wear several hats and juggle careers, family and community activities. Stephanie Fisher is an actress, director, filmmaker and proud City Island resident. She is now at work producing a documentary film on the struggle of the people of El Salvador and their fight for justice. Rhoda Levine was born in the

Bronx, but since moving to City Island four years ago, she has volunteered for the Handicapped Adults Association, the Pilot Cove nutrition program, Temple Beth-El and the Chamber. Evelyn Morgan followed in her activist parents' footsteps and has had a 60-year career of volunteer work, much of it raising money for the families of political Irish prisoners. All three volunteers told the crowd how much they enjoy working for the Chamber, adding that "it's hard to say no to Skip Giacco and his wife, Louise."

What a stellar group of honorees! With volunteers like these, City Island will remain a special part of New York City. But there is always room for more, so don't put off volunteering another month. In this issue of *The Current*, look for opportunities to donate blood, help out POTS with clothing and food, and patronize the church fairs and small businesses that make this a great community.

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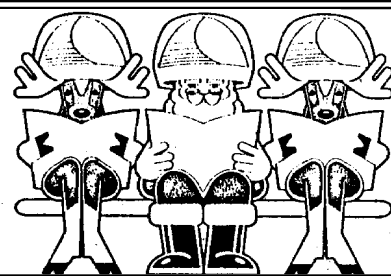
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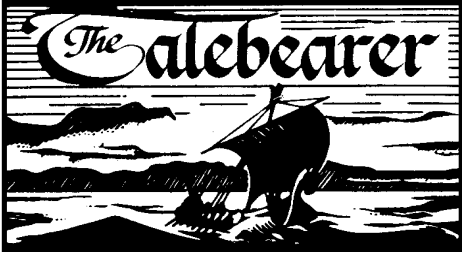
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Olga Lopez with her great, great grandchild Kayla Mooney.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bowne Street's Linda and Jerry McCue, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30. The McCues grew up in Port Washington, where they were high-school sweethearts in the class of 1957. They raised their five sons on Long Island before moving to City Island in 2007. All their children and 12 grandchildren will be coming from as far away as California to join them for this special occasion.

A great big musical "thank you" to Anastasia Lacina for volunteering to be the Queens Symphonic Band's student intern for another year. Anastasia continues to catalogue the band's musical library and concert programs and will be in charge of the concession stand on Dec. 10 when the band performs at Queensborough Community College at 8 p.m.

Happy birthday on Dec. 22 across the miles to former Islander Anjulee Sebastian, with love from your family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Hawkins Street's Bobby Cavinee, who turns 25 on New



Grace Kretzmer as Clara in "The Nutcracker".

Year's Eve.

Happy birthday to Janessa! JJ, you are the best cousin. Much love and our best wishes to you, from Marissa, Stephen, Grace and Paxton.

Belated birthday wishes to Pilot Street's Olga Lopez. You are an inspiration to us all. We want to be like you when we grow up! All our love, the Mooney/Kretzmer girls.

Congratulations to Carroll Street's Grace Kretzmer, who is appearing as Clara in MCD's production of "The Nutcracker" at the Riverside Theater in New York City. You have worked so hard for this and we hope you enjoy every moment.

Happy birthday greetings to Amanda Campbell, with love from BFFF, Grace.

Wedding bells rang for Jamie Lynch and Anthony DelValle in October 2011. Jamie is the daughter of Islander Jimmy Lynch and



Jamie Lynch and Anthony DelValle were married on Oct. 22, 2011. The proud father of the bride, Islander Jimmy Lynch, is shown above with the newlyweds.

the granddaughter of Earley Street resident Rita Lynch. Congratulations to the happy couple.

And wishes for very happy holidays to all our readers, neighbors and friends. See you next year!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by JUDY RAUH

City Island was well represented at the 2011 ING New York City Marathon by

runners (top row, l. to r.) John Peters and Mike Rauh and volunteers (bottom) Marje and Dave Kos.

John Peters finished the New York City Marathon in 5 hours 28 minutes, only four weeks after he ran the Chicago Marathon in 5:48. Mike Rauh finished his 34th consecutive New York City Marathon in 5:20. It was a busy week for Mike. He emceed the "Run With Champions" race in Central Park on Nov. 3rd, and also introduced celebrity runners at the Marathon Expo.

Marje and Dave Kos were part of the ham radio team at mile 25 at the New York race. They did their running out-of-state. Marje ran her 43rd marathon in Hartford, CT on Oct. 15, 2011, finishing third in her age group in 5:31. They both ran the Philadelphia Half Marathon on Nov. 19, Marje with a time of 2:12 (third age group) and Dave in 2:25.

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