

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Season's Greetings

from

The Island Current Staff



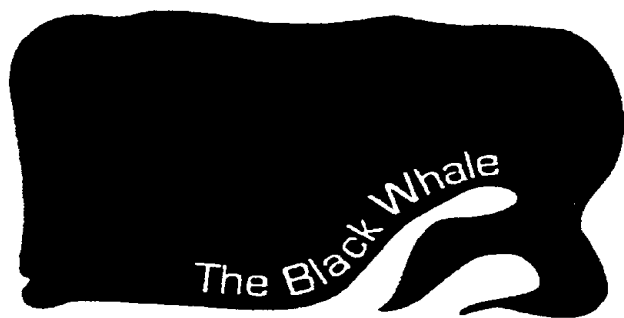
"Silent Passage," detail of an oil painting by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, from the Month of Sundays series featuring 30 paintings of Sundays throughout the year at Turtle Cove.

BRIEFLY...

CURIOUS ABOUT COMPOSTING? Come to the Garden Club meeting on Monday, Dec. 4, to learn more about the new composting program introduced by the New York Department of Sanitation. A representative of the department will explain the program, whose purpose is to encourage residents to dispose of kitchen scraps and garden trimmings to that they may be composted to become "black gold." The presentation is open to anyone interested in learning more about the program, why and how it works and how to participate. The presentation will begin at 10:10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Parking is limited so please arrive early and plan to park on City Island Avenue if necessary.

NARCAN TRAINING: Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Doreen Gallagher Wall, RN, and Chris Hennessy will present this excellent program and provide Narcan to participants who will be able to rescue friends, relatives or neighbors who have overdosed. For more information, check out City Island Resolute Against Opioid Addiction on Facebook.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE will be the subject of a non-partisan presentation to be given at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, in Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, co-sponsored by City Island Indivisible and the PSS Senior Center. Two experts in the field, Neil Lane and Michelle Kimball, will offer insights and information into costs and other issues that may affect the future of the federal program. Admission is free; to reserve a seat, send an e-mail to futureofmedicare@gmail.com.



Garden Dining - Sunday Brunch
 279 City Island Ave, City Island, NY 10464
 Tel: 718-885-3657

Grace Episcopal Church
 wishes you, and your loved ones
 a happy and healthy holiday season!

Sunday,
 December 24th,
 10:00 AM
 Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday,
 December 24th,
 7:30 PM
 The Christ-Mass
 and Pageant

Christmas Day
 December 25th,
 10:00 AM
 Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Grace Episcopal Church
 116 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464
 718-885-1080 ~ graccityisland.net



"O Come, O Come,
 Emmanuel"

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



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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2017. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 - GRAND LARCENY
- 2 - LOST PROPERTY
- 1 - DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from Oct. 19 to Nov. 19:

10/22 - At 3:18 a.m., an Island male reported that his parked vehicle on Bridge Street and City Island Avenue had been struck and damaged by an unknown vehicle that fled the scene.

10/22 - An off-Island male reported lost property at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 8:30 p.m. Subsequently, there

were unauthorized charges on his credit card.

10/22 - On Earley Street and City Island Avenue at 10:30 p.m., a male Islander reported that the front license plate on his vehicle was missing.

10/26 - A male Islander told police that his computer tablets were removed without his permission from a bench near City Island Avenue and Cross Street in an act of grand larceny.

11/2 - At 6 p.m., a male Islander reported that his parked vehicle on William Avenue and Bay Street had been struck and damaged by an unknown vehicle that fled the scene of the accident.

11/8 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 45, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle at 2 a.m. Police stopped the defendant for heavily tinted windows on City Island Avenue and Ditmars Street and discovered that he was driving without a license.

11/10 - At Bridge Street and City Island Avenue at 3:30 p.m., workers told police that miscellaneous scrap metal was removed from a construction site without permission.

11/18 - A male Islander, 31, was arrested at 4:37 a.m. on City Island Avenue and charged with DWI.

**ASSEMBLYMAN MARK GJONAJ
 WISHES YOU ALL HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's District Office
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2017 Results: An Election Close to Home

By FRED W. RAMFTL and KAREN NANI



Photo by MATT PANZA

Former Islander Mark Gjonaj, who won the New York City Council election on Nov. 7, is shown above with his wife, Roberta (left) and Brenda Prohaska during a campaign event on City Island.

Although this was not a presidential election year, the 2017 ballot featured several races and issues of special interest to City Islanders. A former resident and a current Islander were on the ballot, as well as a proposition that many residents felt very strongly about, judging by the number of lawn signs displayed around City Island.

About 1,200 residents cast ballots from the Island's four Election Districts (60, 61, 62 and 63). The hotly contested New York City Council District 13 race was won by former resident Mark Gjonaj. His connection to City Island is also through his wife, Roberta, who is the school nurse at P. S. 175.

Mr. Gjonaj had previously won the Democratic Primary for District 13 over City Islander, John Doyle, in September. Although Mr. Doyle suspended his campaign after the primary loss, his name remained on the ballot under the Liberal party line. On Nov. 7, Islanders favored the Republican candidate, John Cerini, over Mr. Gjonaj by a margin of 120 votes.

Islanders also favored Republican Nicole Malliotakis over Bill De Blasio, but Mayor De Blasio was elected for a second term when the citywide votes were counted.

Residents sided with the overall winners in other races, including Borough President, won for another term by Rubén Díaz Jr.; Public Advocate, won by Letitia James; and Comptroller, won by Scott Stringer.

Proposition #1, which was debated as much as the different candidates, proposed calling for a state constitutional convention to revise and amend the New York State constitution. Every 20 years, voters are given the opportunity to decide whether a convention should be held, and if a majority had voted "Yes," then delegates would have been elected to a constitutional convention in November 2018.

Many New York City and State employees and retirees mounted strong opposition to the proposal (see Letter to the Editor in the October issue of *The Current*). They felt that the constitution's protection of pensions for public workers could be threatened, along with protections for all workers, including benefits for injured workers and the right to collective bargaining.

Other New Yorkers were also concerned that the convention would be expensive and dominated by political insiders. They feared a convention would benefit special interests, not the public, because the delegate selection process would be flawed. The proposal was resoundingly defeated, both on City Island and across the state.

All judicial candidates won since they were unopposed.

The following table indicates the tallies, based on the City Island vote total

from the Democrat (D), Republican (R), Conservative (C), Green (G), Libertarian (LBT), Reform (REF), Working Families (WF), Dump the Mayor (DM), Smart Cities (SC) and other party lines.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
Mayor		
Nicole Malliotakis (R, C)	662	56%
Bill De Blasio (D, WF)	422	36
Bo Dietl (DM)	33	3
Sal Albanese (REF)	31	3
Akeem Browder (G)	18	2
Michael Tolkin (SC)	14	1
Aaron Comey (LBT)	3	<1
Citywide winner: Bill De Blasio		

Borough President:		
Ruben Diaz, Jr. (D, WF)	764	66%
Steven DeMartis (R)	258	22
Antonio Vitiello (C)	94	8
Camella D. Price (RF)	37	3
Borough winner: Ruben Diaz, Jr.		

New York City Council District 13		
John Cerini (R, C, RF)	491	41%
Mark Gjonaj (D)	371	31
Marjorie Velazquez (WF)	206	17
John Doyle (L)	114	10
Alex Gomez (New Bronx)	3	<1
District winner: Mark Gjonaj		

Public Advocate		
Letitia James (D, WF)	547	48%
Juan Carlos Polanco (R, RF, SB)	319	28
Michael A. O'Reilly (C)	226	20
James C. Lane (G)	26	2
Devin Balkin (LBT)	11	1
Citywide winner: Letitia James		

Comptroller		
Scott M. Stringer (D, WF)	526	51%
Michel J. Faulkner (R, C, RF, SB)	434	42
Julia A. Willebrand (G)	53	5
Alex Merced (LBT)	10	1
Citywide winner: Scott M. Stringer		

Supreme Court 12th District (Choose 4)		
Joseph E. Copella (D)	624	
Douglas McKeon (D)	580	
Alison Y. Tuitt (D)	569	
Armando Montano (D)	532	

Proposition #1: Constitutional Convention		
No	997	86%
Yes	161	14
Statewide Decision: No		

Proposition #2: Forfeiture of Pensions for Public Officials		
Yes	784	70%
No	337	30
Statewide Decision: Yes		

Proposition #3: Forest Preserve Land Bank		
No	568	53%
Yes	509	47
Statewide Decision: Yes		

MERRY & BRIGHT!



Photos by MATT PANZA

New "Seasons Greetings" signs went up along City Island Avenue thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Association using a fund dedicated to the beautification of City Island. The fund consists of donations from film companies that shot movies here over the past couple of years. On Nov. 25, the annual Christmas tree lighting in Hawkins Park added to the Island's festive look, and the mild weather brought out many residents, who joined in the caroling led by Ken and Elizabeth Farnum. Let the merriment begin!

Bridge Street Access To Remain Open

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Reconstruction of the American Legion Triangle adjacent to the new bridge is now under way. The new island will be larger to better present the monuments and flagpole to the community and to accommodate additional visitors, especially during veteran-related events. All existing traffic movements around the island, including turns into and out of Bridge Street, will continue after completion of construction.

Following the opening of the new City Island Bridge on Sunday, Oct. 29, many Islanders expressed their delight with the new design, the wide lanes and the handsome lights, but when word spread that the enlarged Legion Triangle design would eliminate left-hand turns onto Bridge Street for cars coming off the bridge, there was an immediate uproar.

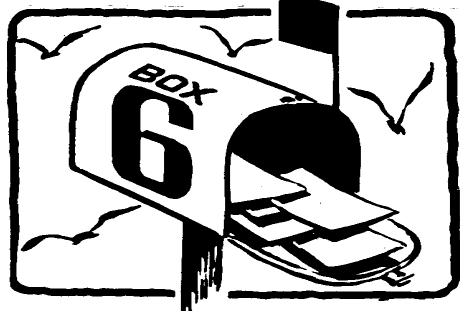
After a few days of confusion, however, representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT) announced officially on Nov. 14 that the traffic pattern would remain as it has been in the past, although the triangle design is somewhat larger than the original.

Restaurants and residents in the northeast part of the Island were very upset with the possibility that drivers coming over the bridge from the mainland would be required to go to Cross Street, turn left

and then drive up Minneford Avenue to their destination. Residents of Minneford were equally unhappy with the prospect of heavier traffic on what is a narrow residential street.

However, DOT confirms that except for short periods during construction when traffic might be detoured to Cross Street, there would be no permanent shutting off of access to Bridge Street from the bridge.

On Nov. 16, DOT issued the following bulletin: "Reconstruction of Legion Triangle adjacent to the new bridge is now underway. The new island will be larger to better present the monuments and flagpole to the community and to accommodate additional visitors, especially during veteran related events. All existing traffic movements around the island, including turns into and out of Bridge Street, will continue after completion of construction."



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.

Happy Halloween

To the Editor:

Thanks to a kindly Mother Nature, the Halloween costume contest and parade on Tuesday, Oct. 31, was a great success with spectacular costumes from many Islanders. The late Christine Jorgensen-Hansen, who originated the Halloween Parade on City Island decades ago, would have been proud to see the wonderful turnout, now sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The 45th Precinct did a terrific job making sure everything went smoothly, and photographers were everywhere capturing the incredible costumes (see page 19). The Chamber is also grateful to the Island businesses for their support and for supplying prizes for our winners; to Island residents who gave out candy; and to the judges who

awarded prizes for the most outstanding costumes (a very difficult task, indeed).

The judges were Cheryl Brinker, Laura Quagliarello, Elaine Belasco, Jo Heck and Maria Caruso, and they awarded prizes in several different categories. The most original costume was the Ghost Family, featuring Jasmin Camarena, and the best group were the Evil Jesters, featuring Norman Stewart. The cutest infant was definitely Fiona, the Little Lamb, and the scariest costume was worn by the Headless Butler (Luca Mazzeo). Two dogs were awarded prizes: Turkey dog, Jelly Ciarletta, and Prisoner Banks "the dog" McGuire. The most difficult to maneuver costume was definitely the Ghillie suit worn by Travis Prohaska. Honorable mentions were awarded to the Mad Hatter and Family, featuring Samantha, and Captain Hook, Peter Pan and the Baby Pirate, otherwise known as the Moore family.

Paul Klein
for the Chamber of Commerce

Thanks from the Sanders

To the Editor:

The Sander family would like to thank everyone on City Island for their wonderful and heartfelt thoughts and prayers. Norbert loved practicing medicine on City Island. He is deeply missed, but his spirit lives on to inspire us.

Bridget Sander

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery
wishes one and all "Happy Holidays"!



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NEW YORK HONORS DR. NORBERT SANDER

By JUDY RAUH



Photos by NICK NICHOLAS AND JUDY RAUH

Bridget Sander, her daughter Phoebe and City Island marathoner Mike Rauh with the New York Road Runners Hall of Fame Award for Dr. Norbert Sander. Above is the new street sign in Washington Heights honoring Dr. Sander.

November was a special month in the running community of New York City, as it honored one of its champions, Dr. Norbert Sander, who passed away March 17, 2017. He was inducted into the New York Road Runners (NYRR) 2017 Hall of Fame, given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the USATF, and his name was added to the corner of West 168th Street, site of the Armory, which he had turned into a running mecca.

In a special Hall of Fame ceremony in Central Park on Nov. 2, Dr. Sander was celebrated as one of five notable runners who were honored for their contributions to the sport of running, according to Peter Ciaccia, president of Events for NYRR. The NYRR ceremony took note that “Doc” was the only New York City runner to win the New York City Marathon, which he did in 1974, when he was living on City Island. Dr. Sander was also beloved by the City Island community, where he ran a family medical practice from the late 1970s until his death.

Mike Frankfurt, chairman of the Armory Foundation, presented the Hall of Fame award to Dr. Sander’s widow, Bridget, and his daughter Phoebe, saying that thanks to Doc’s efforts, “over two million children have come through the place.” Phoebe thanked New York Road Runners for inducting her father into its Hall of Fame. “All he wanted to do was spread his

love and passion for running,” she said. “I am confident that his spirit will live on in their mission.”

Later that evening, USA Track and Field (USATF) gave Dr. Sander a Lifetime Achievement Award at its Hall of Fame ceremony at the Armory. At both events, he was praised for his role in bringing running back to the Armory in Washington Heights in the early 1990s. Through his efforts, the Armory was transformed into the New Balance Track and Field Center, which hosts events that attract thousands of runners. Lauded for its youth programs, the Armory also presents meets that feature Olympic medalists, high school and college stars, and the prestigious Millrose Games. Dr. Sander was also part of the team that brought to the Armory the USATF Track and Field Hall of Fame, a world-class museum.

On Nov. 17, the southeast corner of West 168th Street and Fort Washington Avenue was co-named Dr. Norbert Sander Way. Elected officials, Armory personnel, family and friends celebrated Dr. Sander’s part in turning the Armory into a major running facility. But more than that, he helped to change it into “a venue to rescue our youth,” said City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez. “He left his mark on this community,” added Assemblywoman Carmen de La Rosa.

Rita Finkel, co-president of the Armory Foundation, worked with Dr. Sander for many years and talked of his tireless efforts. “We miss him daily and dearly,” she said. Jonathan Schindel, also co-president of the Armory Foundation, praised Dr. Sander for his role in starting The Armory Prep program, which helps 150 students a year get ready for college admission. “More than 1,000 kids have gone on to college since the program started,” he said.

Dr. Sander’s daughter Jessica Sander said, “Running was the foundation of his success. The running community was blessed to have Norbert Sander on its side.”

Renovating a City Island Avenue Eyesore

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MARY COLBY

This block of stores between Hawkins and Carroll Streets was recently purchased by Richie DiPierro, who plans to renovate the building, which has been an eyesore on City Island Avenue for several years.

Much to the relief of Island residents who have despaired for years over the ugly façade of the building on the east side of City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Carroll Streets, the new owner, Richie DiPierro, plans to make it into one of the Island’s nicest.

On Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, Mr. DiPierro, an Island resident and owner of the Black Whale, closed on the property at 270 City Island Avenue, which he purchased from Eliseo Mena Adorno, who has been in jail since the summer of 2016 after being indicted for committing numerous acts of sexual misconduct at his apartment in Manhattan.

Islanders were surprised at the time to learn that Mr. Adorno owned the building, which had been sold by Red Brennan at a sidewalk auction in 2009. It was even more surprising when the media reported that Mr. Adorno had left his apartment in Manhattan and was living in his “home” on

City Island. The building was filled to the brim with all kinds of furniture, construction equipment, at least two dozen refrigerators and hundreds of boxes. Immediately after purchasing the property, Mr. DiPierro started removing stuff from the building, helped by scrappers interested in recycling metal objects.

Mr. DiPierro told *The Current* that he has ambitious plans for the building, which has five storefronts on the first floor (two of them occupied, by Mary Colby’s Studio and Remy’s Upholstery) and five apartments on the second floor. Once he gets rid of the trash, he plans to open an antique store on the corner of Hawkins Street, and then he hopes to find small businesses, such as a bakery, for the other shops. One of his first missions, however, will be tearing off the ugly metal gates that cover the empty shops and restoring the façade of the building.

Mr. DiPierro is already clearing out the apartments on the second floor, redesigning the kitchens and making repairs so that they will be suitable for renting. Behind the building is a sizeable yard, now filled with a number of vehicles belonging to Mr. Adorno. Mr. DiPierro wants to restore this part of the property as well and is already full of ideas about what he wants to do there.

The job ahead of him is a major one, yet even at the age of 80, Mr. DiPierro has the energy of a youngster with a real mission, which is to restore City Island’s small-town ambience by turning a slum into a series of shops that will appeal to residents and visitors alike.



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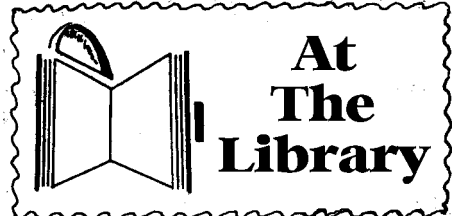
Happy Holidays from BRIDGE MARINE!

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Join the artist **Mary Colby** in her studio at 276 City Island Avenue for oil painting classes. For information about times and fees, call 917-804-4509.

Calling all artists to be in **Focal Point Gallery's** next exhibition "Artist's Choice," which will be on view from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31, with an opening reception on Friday, Dec. 1 from 7 to 10 p.m. The deadline for submitting work is Wednesday, Nov. 29. Call 718-885-1403 for further information. There is a \$20 hanging fee per picture and a commission of 30 percent if the artwork is sold. All work must be ready for hanging.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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Our hours are: **Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Music, Bubble, and Comedy Show: Winter Wonderland: A snowy musical experience for children and families. The show engages children with comedy, songs, bubbles, music technology and children's stories that foster literacy, storytelling and a lifelong love of your local library! Best for ages 2 and older with their parent/caregiver. Presented by Turtle Dance Music. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, Dec. 15, at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Finger Puppet Workshop for Teens and Tweens: Learn to make your own finger puppet and bring it to life with Nicola, the puppeteer. Sometimes tiny puppets are the best ones. Presented by Nicola McEldowney. Monday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays, at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Dec. 1: Holiday Card Studio; Dec. 8: Wii and Board Games; Dec. 15: Make it Rock! Rock Painting; Dec. 22: Wii and Board Games; Dec. 29: Wii and Board Games.

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Start Your New Year with Meditation: These practices or technologies for well-being are based on the science of Upa Yoga, which is oriented toward physical and psychological benefits. Programs are offered free of charge and open to all over 7 years of age and do not require any fitness level or previous experience of yoga. Friday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursday, Dec. 14 and 28, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, Dec. 4 and 18, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Regardless of experience level, we're here to help each other become great writers. All are welcome, so come check us out! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

Résumé Workshop: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated résumé. Topics include cover letters and resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required. Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thursday Writing Club: Food for Thought is our December theme. Enveloped by the holiday season, we take our story writing and poetry into the kitchen. How does food influence December activities? Gail Hitt will be your server. All traditions welcome. Every Thursday, at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: at 1 p.m. Dec. 2: "Going In Style"; Dec. 9: "Lady Macbeth"; Dec. 16: "Wonder Woman"; Dec. 23: "King Arthur"; Dec. 30: "Beatriz at Dinner"

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person or by phone. All programs are free! For January events, call us at 718-885-1703.

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City Island
Theater Group

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Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Islanders

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Chamber of Commerce held its 107th Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017. The honorees are pictured here with Chamber officers (back row, l. to r.): Chris Cullen of the Island Current Fleet, Joe Burck of J.J. Burck Hardware and Marine; Edward Garcia of the Bronx Masons; Councilmember James Vacca; Joseph Manzi of the Bronx Masons; Susan Hayes of the City Island Diner; and Andrew McGuire of the City Island Laundromat; Skip Giacco, president of the Chamber; Paul Klein, vice president of the Chamber; (front row, l. to r.): Lou Juers of the Bronx Masons; Donna McGowan of the Diner; Monica and Elliott Glick of the Starving Artist Gallery; Teddy Pryor, attorney; and Robert A. King, architect.

This year's Chamber of Commerce annual dinner dance, its 107th, was a rollicking event with over 180 diners and an atmosphere of warmth and support for Island businesses. Held at the Split Rock / Pelham Bay Golf Course, with its beautiful Art Deco great room and glass-enclosed pavilion, the event was elegant and the atmosphere was lively, thanks to the organizational talents of Louise Giacco, the sounds of the Lickety Split Band and the high spirits of those in attendance.

After the hors d'oeuvres and first course, Skip Giacco, president of the Chamber, began the award ceremony by honoring Councilmember James Vacca with the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award. Skip, joined by Civic Association officer Barbara Dolensek, thanked Jimmy for his many years of service to the City Island community, first as district manager of Community Board 10 for 26 years and then as a member of the New York City Council for 12 years. Jimmy himself proclaimed his affection and long-time support for City Island and noted with pleasure the fact that the Chamber and the Civic, at odds for years, were now working together on improving life here.

Assemblyman Mike Benedetto spoke about the unique nature of City Island and his commitment to its future, expressing thanks to Jimmy Vacca for his role in supporting the community.

Skip and Paul Klein, Chamber vice president, then proceeded to focus on City Island businesses. The Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award was presented to Chris Cullen, of the Island Current Fishing

Fleet, who gratefully accepted the award, noting that City Island is unquestionably his favorite fishing village.

The City Island Masonic Temple was given a Community Service Award for its quiet but substantial contributions to City Island and other parts of the Bronx. Lou Juers, Joseph Manzi and Edward Garcia of the Bronx Masons expressed in turn their gratitude to City Island for its generous support of the temple's missions.

New Business Awards were presented to Robert A. King, architect and photographer; Teddy Pryor, attorney, and Andrew McGuire of the City Island Laundromat. Skip noted that he was especially proud to have these new businesses on the Island because it was a sign of our continuing good health.

The Catherine Scott Achievement Award for 20 Years or More in Business was unquestionably the liveliest presentation of the evening. Joe Burck, whose hardware and marine store has been in business here since 1928, expressed his thanks to the Chamber and to his family for the honor. Elliott and Monica Glick amused the crowd with tales of the Starving Artist, and Elliott later played guitar for the gathering. And then the City Island Diner family came to the microphone, with Donna McGowan thanking City Island and her family for having been so supportive over the years, and then Susan Hayes serenaded the audience with a delightful musical tribute on behalf of the Diner.

Then dinner was served, the dancing began, the 50/50 raffle was awarded to Pat Fusco, and the fun went on into the night that reverberated with pride in City Island.

MEDICARE: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

By LOIS WAGH

When I reached the age of 65, I was very relieved because now I was eligible for Medicare. "Hooray," I said. "No more worries." How lucky I felt that Medicare, a U.S. federal government national insurance program, will now cover most of my future healthcare costs as I navigate my way through my elder years.

As those of us who have Medicare know, the program has been around for over 50 years and, along with Social Security, is one of the most popular and successful government programs in this country.

However, there may be danger signs ahead for the program that should concern us all. To help the City Island community become aware of and understand these issues, a non-partisan panel discussion by experts in the field will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church, sponsored by City Island Indivisible and the PSS Senior Center.

The information given at this presentation will enable us to ask and answer some of these questions:

1. For current Medicare beneficiaries: "Do you know the possible road blocks that lie ahead to the future solvency of the Medicare program? Why isn't anyone talking about it?"

2. For future beneficiaries: "Will Medicare be there for you when you reach your 60s?"

The History of Medicare

It feels as if Medicare has been an American institution forever, but we need to look back and remember how people had to advocate and fight for this program to be approved by Congress. It didn't come easy. A national health insurance was first proposed by President Harry S. Truman in 1945, but it was opposed by Congress. It took another 20 years to get it passed!

It was not until 1965 that Medicare (and Medicaid) were created by the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson as an extension of the Social Security Act. President Johnson honored President Truman by presenting him with the first Medicare card as the first beneficiary of the program. Years later, President George W. Bush added prescription drugs to Medicare as part of the Medicare Modernization Act.

The Future of Medicare

We constantly hear rumblings that Medicare has become too costly and is putting a strain on the federal budget. We hear that the program is riddled by fraud and overcharging by doctors, hospitals and pharmaceutical firms, as well as by patients.

We hear that costs of the program are out of control, rising faster than the resources of the federal government and that nothing can be done to slow down the rising costs of health care. We hear the word "insolvency" used to describe Medicare's future, and we are told that it will happen in the not-so-distant future. And it is true that insolvency could end this successful national healthcare insurance for future beneficiaries.

People between the ages of 50 and 65 are now asking: "Will I be receiving Medicare at age 65?" Many of us wonder if it will be there for our children, but are the younger generations aware of the situation? Remember, younger workers are the ones paying for this future benefit program through payroll deductions.

The Facts of Medicare

The time is right for all of us to get an accurate picture of Medicare's future, to have the facts and issues presented in a non-partisan way. The City Island community is invited to come together on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in Grace Church Hall for a serious discussion about the status of

Medicare, about dangers and risks to the program and what we need to know and do to protect and preserve Medicare for now and for the future.

The panel will be led by three distinguished guest speakers: Neal Lane, Michele Kimball and Joe Baker. Mr. Lane is the former director of the New York State Office for the Aging and is widely recognized as an innovator for aging services. His achievements include developing the most successful state long-term care project and initiating a strategic effort with the philanthropic community to create vital communities for all ages. He was selected to lead the New York delegation to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, and he is a recipient of the Dr. Patricia Pine Leadership in Aging Award. As a lifelong advocate for Older Americans, he has worked extensively with Medicaid policy, Medicare policy and Social Security policy, and he stays current on the issues related to these vital programs.

As a wife and the mother of two children, Michelle Kimball is president and CEO of Physicians for Fair Coverage (PFC). She has been an executive and government relations professional for much of her career, and since 2016 has been leading a national, non-profit, non-partisan national physician advocacy organization that is taking on the insurance industry on behalf of patients and physicians alike. With a deep understanding of health, long-term care and consumer protection issues, Michele served as the first director of AARP Minnesota, where she built and led a team in the successful development and implementation of AARP's advocacy, education, grassroots and volunteer engagement initiatives.

Before that, Ms. Kimball served on the Federal Affairs Health Team of AARP's Office of Legislation and Public Policy in Washington, DC, and she co-lead the AARP Medicare Fraud Team that established an award-winning national campaign to fight Medicare fraud, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2013, Ms. Kimball left AARP to establish Aging reDesign, a private consultancy to help create transformative change for aging in place through innovation and technology.

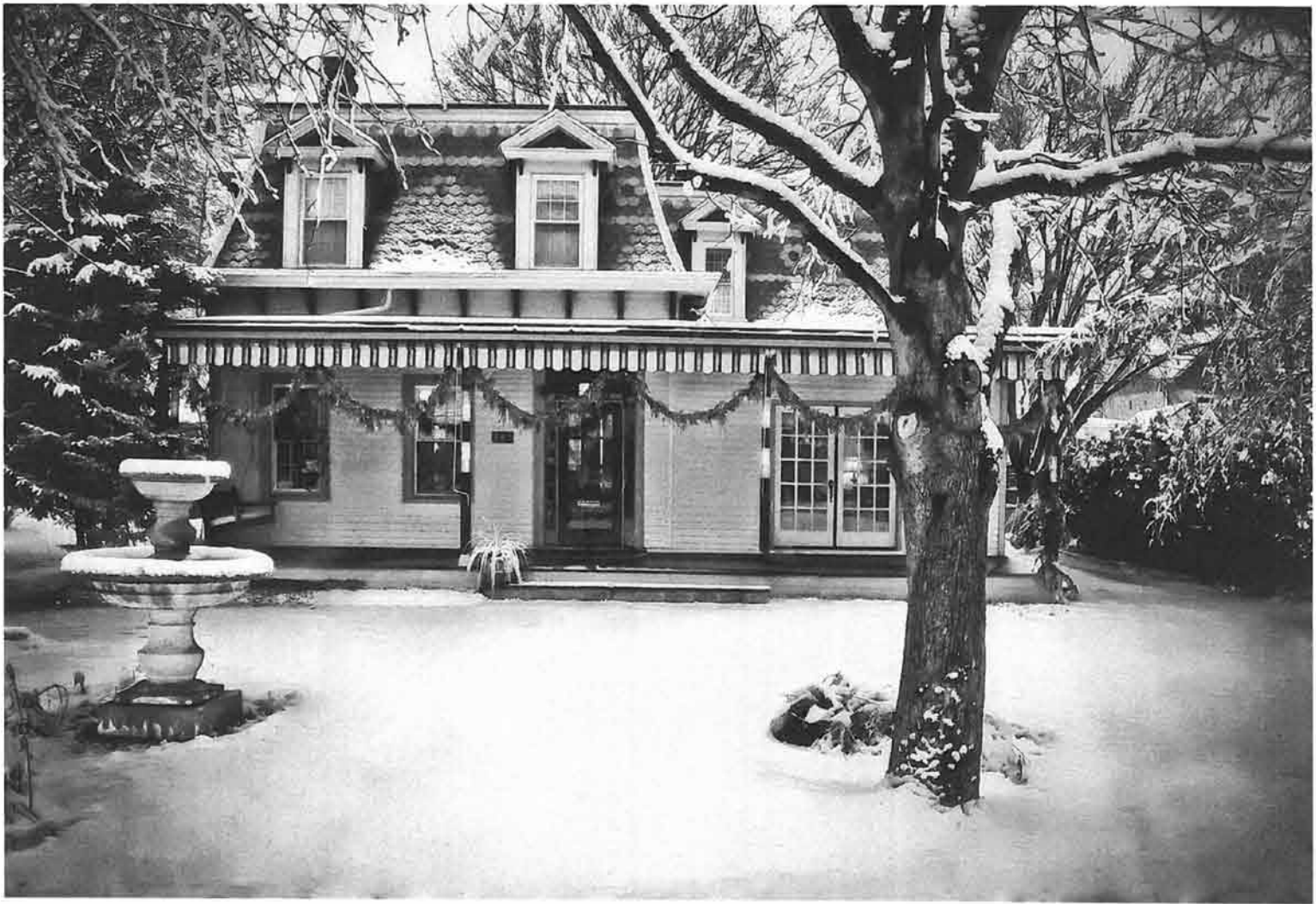
Joe Baker has served as president of the Medicare Rights Center since June 2009. He recently completed two terms as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Board on Health Care Services and the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He is an adjunct professor at the New York University School of Law, where he taught a class on implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Previously, he was the deputy secretary for health and human services in New York State under Governor David A. Paterson and was instrumental in developing Medicaid reforms and a proposal to extend health coverage to younger New Yorkers. Mr. Baker served as assistant deputy secretary for health and human services under Governor Eliot Spitzer, after having directed the Health Care Bureau under Mr. Spitzer when he was attorney general of New York. Mr. Baker was executive vice president of Medicare Rights from 1994 to 2001, and before that was associate director of legal services for Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Islanders of all ages are invited to attend this free event, which will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Parish Hall of Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. For reservations, send an e-mail to futureofmedicare@gmail.com.

Grace Episcopal Church Sunday School

All children 2-12 years of age are welcome to join in lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, at 10 AM.

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Art of Beauty Salon Celebrates 20 Years on City Island

By BILL STUTTIG

Louise Del Giudice, the owner and operator of the Art of Beauty Salon at 413 City Island Avenue, is getting ready to celebrate two decades of serving customers on City Island.

She has been a licensed beautician and cosmetologist for nearly 40 years since she was 17 years old, and she told *The Current* that when she was considering a location for a salon of her own, "I picked City Island because I had friends that lived here, and they told me what a great neighborhood it was. It turned out to be a great decision."

But Louise admits that she didn't realize how great a decision it was until 12 years later, when catastrophe struck in the form of a destructive fire that severely damaged the business and the building that she owned on City Island Avenue near the intersection of Ditmars Street.

"I was devastated," Louise recalls, by the fire that hit early in the morning of Oct. 5, 2009. "I did not know what to do, but the people of City Island were so supportive of me and my staff. This community gave me support like I have never seen in my life, and that would not have happened anywhere else. People were hugging me, helping me, bringing me coffee and food. I never experienced such love and support, and that is why I will always stay here." Louise, who is also a licensed real estate broker, says: "I love City Island, and I tell that to everyone who comes here. If you buy on City Island you are buying a community, not just a home."

After the fire, Louise temporarily moved the salon to a vacant storefront on the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue, now occupied by the Firehouse Deli, and she says that although the temporary salon did not have the same amenities, her customers stayed loyal and helped the business survive until she could move back. "That helped keep my business alive and kept my workers employed and for that I will always be grateful."

"In general, over the past 20 years, business has had its ups and downs," she says, "but we are happy. We are a full-service salon: we offer hair styling, coloring waxing, make-up and nails, everything you can think of except shaves. We serve men, women and children."

When asked how the business has changed in recent years, Louise answered:



Photos by RICK DeWITT and BILL STUTTIG

The Art of Beauty Salon (top right photo), owned and operated by Louise Del Giudice (above), is celebrating 20 years on City Island. The salon survived and recovered from a destructive fire that severely damaged the business and the building in October 2009 (bottom right photo).

"Now we offer more services to men. It is called "manscaping" and includes hair removal on the body and face, including eyebrows. It is very popular with men, particularly young single men."

"Our clients come from all over," she added. "We have a lot from Connecticut, Westchester, even snow birds from Florida. I originally was a beautician in Westchester County, so a lot of my clients came from there. And when I came here, I also found out a lot of my customers there actually came from here."

Louise currently employs four licensed cosmetologists, most of whom have been with her for several years. One of the cosmetologists, Anna Marie, who has been at the salon for five years, said, "I love this salon. I love the customers, and I especially love my boss, and I'm not just saying that because she is sitting here!"

"You have to keep up with trends, and



we try to do what is best for the customers and give them what they want," Louise explains. "When someone comes in asking for a style that we don't think will be a good look, we tell them that, and if they want to go against our advice, we make them sign something to protect ourselves. If we tell you that something might not be a good idea and you still say 'yeah, do it,' we do it but they have to sign a disclosure saying they we did advise them. We are professionals, and we are going to give our clients that professional opinion."

Louise said that loyalty is a huge part of the business, "I have some of the same clients since I was 18. It is special. It feels like we are family. You raise your children together, your share photos. It is really nice. I look forward to seeing them each time they make an appointment."

Asked about the recent challenges of the job she said, "There are now marketing restrictions on salons in New York City. We are not allowed to market specifically to men or to women. I can't put a sign in the window any more to advertise men's haircuts or women's styling. I think it is really ridiculous, because if it was so important, it

would be a statewide regulation, but it is just a New York City rule. None of my colleagues in Westchester have such issues. I was fined a few years ago, and tried to fight it, but I was advised I was going to lose. So I just paid the fine and changed the menus. Took the words 'men's' and 'women's' out. Can't advertise services based on sex." But she adds that despite the restrictions, business is still good. "Springtime is our biggest season because then you have proms, communions, weddings."

The wife and mother of two adult daughters, Louise says that she has a big occasion coming up in her life, as her daughter is due to give birth to her first grandchild in January. "We were going to have our 20th anniversary celebration in January, but because of the impending birth to we pushed it back to Feb. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. at the salon. All past, present and future clients are welcome," she says.

"I have been in this business for 39 years, and I know in this business that you have to love people. I love people," she says, "and I love City Island. I think I'll be here forever."

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Photo by RON TERNER

The Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 awarded the Quilt of Valor to longtime Islander William McGee on Nov. 5, 2017, at their Veteran's Pancake Breakfast. Mr. McGee is 91 years old and a World War II U.S. Navy veteran. Pictured above are Mr. McGee with his caretaker, Henry, daughter Karen Gilder, son Billy McGee and granddaughter Kerry Gilder.



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

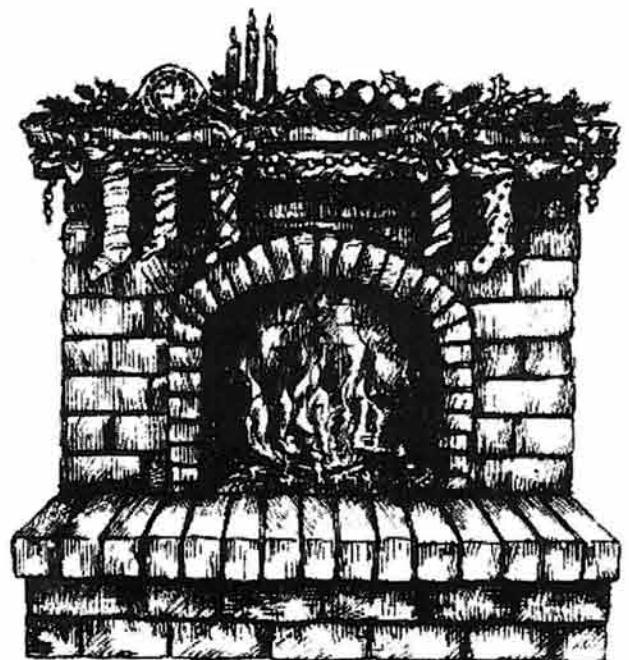


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.



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A Current Review Theater Group Wows with “A View from the Bridge”

By BRUCE A. WEIS

Arthur Miller’s play “A View from the Bridge,” the City Island Theater Group’s outstanding final production of 2017, illustrates the synergy that can create a whole greater than the sum of its parts. This production showcased a talented cast, expertly directed, as they performed one of Miller’s best plays. There was simply nothing not to like.

“A View from the Bridge” is set in the 1950s Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn, near the Brooklyn Bridge, and it tells a story of Eddie Carbone, an Italian-American longshoreman; his wife, Beatrice; and her orphaned niece, Catherine. Eddie and Beatrice have raised Catherine from an early age, and Eddie has developed a close relationship with his niece, but as she nears her 18th birthday, the relationship has become a little too close, and Beatrice has begun to notice. By the end of the first act, Beatrice’s two cousins, brothers Marco and Rodolpho, have illegally immigrated to America and moved in with Eddie and his family. Marco hopes to return to Sicily in a few years after earning money for his starving family, but Rodolpho plans to put down roots in the United States, which puts Catherine on his radar. Suddenly, tension around the apartment becomes thick enough to cut with a knife, and there’s another act to come.

Arthur Miller first wrote “A View from the Bridge” in 1955 as a one-act play, which he deemed unsuccessful. He later added a second act, and this version premiered in the New Watergate Theatre Club in London’s West End on Oct. 11, 1956. The play has been successfully revived numerous times and has accumulated 16 Tony Awards and many other citations, including Drama Desk, Laurence Olivier, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League and Theatre World awards.

Two foreign-language films based on “A View from the Bridge” (Italian “Rocco and His Brothers,” 1960; and French “Vue du pont,” 1962) have been produced, but to date no American film version has made it to the screen. However, the sheer emotion and anguish portrayed in Miller’s play lend themselves to the operatic form; “Uno sguardo dal ponte” premiered at the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma in 1961. Another operatic version (with a libretto by Arthur Miller), premiered at Lyric Opera of Chicago in 1999 and was performed subsequently at the Metropolitan Opera in 2002 and the Washington National Opera in 2007.

This is not a tranquil play. In the second act, after a few months have passed and Eddie has discovered that Catherine and Rodolpho have slept together and are intent on marrying, the path Eddie takes to deal with the crisis he is facing results in an onstage emotional cataclysm. “A View from the Bridge,” as presented by City Island Theater Group, will surely be one of the most memorable shows you’ll ever see.

The play contained no overt political references when it opened in 1955, but critics at the time were quick to draw parallels between the actions of Eddie Carbone and those who betrayed friends and associates during the anti-Communist movement of the McCarthy period. Others have noted that before writing “A View from the Bridge,” Arthur Miller had had an affair with Marilyn Monroe, which ruined his marriage, and suggest that the play reflects Miller’s recognition that sexual passion can become a self-destructive obsession. Although I don’t disagree with these interpretations, change must surely play a part here. There is a school of thought that holds part of life is an extended series of adaptations to the losses we all endure through life. Eddie Carbone faced the loss of much of what he held dear in life and he adapted poorly.

The cast of this City Island production was universally effective, coalescing into the family unit they portrayed so believably. Eddie Carbone (Paul Naclerio) was clearly the emotional center of most of the show, dominating the scenes in which he appeared; his was a powerful stage presence. Eddie Carbone is a strongly conflicted character, sure of his motives even in the midst of anguished self-doubt. Paul



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The City Island Theater Group’s fall production of Arthur Miller’s “A View from the Bridge” featured (back row, l. to r): Scott Harwood, Franca Ritacco, John Garcia, Jay Langkamp, Eileen Sugameli, Nate Siregar and Thomas Losito; seated: Robert McEvily and Paul Naclerio.

Naclerio portrayed this conflict loudly and perfectly.

Eddie’s wife, Beatrice (Franca Ritacco), by contrast, spent the show trying to understand the actions of her husband and how to deal with them. Beatrice was quieter than her husband and reactive to his actions, but she was just as strong, the perfect foil to Eddie and contributing her share to the chaos on stage.

Eileen Sugameli (Catherine) played a challenging role with aplomb. Catherine is a 17-year-old child rapidly becoming a woman; she adores her adopted father, who returns the admiration. To portray that young woman’s dawning realization that this adoration has crossed a line requires a nuanced portrayal that Ms. Sugameli expertly provided. Her final emotional tearing away from Eddie was one of the capstones of the production.

The role of the attorney Alfieri (Robert McEvily) was that of a narrator providing the show’s context. Alfieri sat in the front row of the audience, rising at key points during the show, first to recount being raised in 1900s Italy before coming to America and later joining the play’s action. Robert McEvily’s Alfieri seems detached, speaking coolly at first, in striking contrast to the chaos unfolding on the stage behind him. But he eventually become more forceful as he counsels Eddie in ways to deal with the story’s situations, though he never loses his unruffled manner. The role of Alfieri helps to make “A View from the Bridge” a great play.

As Marco, John Garcia was cast in a role he was surely born to play. His Marco

was straightforward and seemingly focused on a goal of making money for his starving Sicilian family. Yet he exuded a subtle sense of menace even when he smiled, and his later actions seem inevitable. It is a real challenge for an actor to portray power and presence in a few words, and John Garcia met it beautifully.

Eddie Carbone’s nemesis, Rodolpho (Nate Siregar), was the more nuanced of the play’s illegal immigrants. Whereas Marco hopes only to make money and go home, Rodolpho plans to stay in the United States, and he throws himself into learning the culture and enjoying himself, evolving along the way. Did Nate Siregar’s Rodolpho really love Catherine or was he just using her for a green card? I couldn’t tell any better than Eddie Carbone did, though I didn’t call immigration. An excellent job by Nate Siregar.

Thomas Losito handled the role of Eddie Carbone’s bowling buddy Louis. Always ready to lend a sympathetic ear, Louis was Eddie’s go-to guy when something needed to be talked out, and in “A View from the Bridge” there was a lot of ground to cover.

Who do you call when you want to tear hardworking illegal immigrants out of the arms of their loving families and send them back where they came from? Two aggressive guys in trench coats, that’s who. Scott Harwood and Jay Langkamp were the Immigration officers, and they were properly belligerent and uncompromising as they dragged Marco and Rodolpho to detention.

Costume design for this production was directed by Carol McCabe, who shared the task of assembling them with Cheryl Brinker. The costumes seemed simple, but they were especially effective. The lighting and the set were designed by Joe Burck, who did his usual fine job. The set design and direction were particularly effective in addressing Grace Church’s legendarily small stage by moving key scenes onto the floor of the hall, where they were performed in and around the audience. One wall of the set extended nearly to the edge of the stage and utilized an existing staircase from the floor to the stage to create the effect of an entry into the first-floor apartment of a Red Hook brownstone.

Behind the scenes, Pam Johnston served as production stage manager and was responsible for the goings on backstage, with an assist from production assistant Hannah Glick. Denis Zepeda handled sound design, and Shante Skyers was the sound operator.

Nick Sala was back in the directorial saddle for this fine production, and his expertise was obvious in the show’s tight direction and dramatic tension.

We look forward to the new year and the next City Island Theater Group production. Certainly, they ended this year with one of their best yet.

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Grace Episcopal Church and Its History of Hospitality

By EYVONNE BAKER



Photos courtesy of EYVONNE BAKER

In the 1980s, the community looked forward to Grace Church's fairs. Shown above, Agnes Coleman, Carol Stuttig and Marilyn Sinclair volunteer at an Easter Fair. Nowadays, the Grace Christmas Fair continues the tradition, with the Jam Man (left) and Mrs. Claus.

Like all the religious organizations on City Island, Grace Church, founded in 1849 by Adele Bolton of Pelham, has a long and rich history of serving the community, and that tradition continues today, highlighted by its annual Christmas Fair, which this year takes place on Dec. 9.

As far back as 1869, a group of women in the church founded a society that came to be called the Earnest Workers, and at least one of their missions was to sponsor get-togethers. One example of their efforts is recorded in an invitation to a Halloween Party on Oct. 30, 1896. The Earnest Workers continued well into the 1950s, organizing monthly parish dinners, Easter luncheons, Christmas Fairs, a Thrift Shop, and many other activities that helped to support the church's annual budget.

Long-time parishioner Alice Stuttig wrote in the church's 150th Anniversary Journal: "For 59 years, my family and I have been parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church, and for close to 30 of those years . . . served in the Church's Thrift Shop. Once a vital fundraising arm of the parish, it allowed the church to stay solvent during some very difficult economic times." Alice

Stuttig also participated in all church fairs, which continued until 1993 when they were discontinued, owing to the loss of many volunteers and a dwindling congregation.

The turn of the century brought better times, and thanks to the efforts of Joe and Miriam Nixon, returning parishioners, help from the community and the arrival of Mother Patricia Alexander in 2004, Grace's parish numbers increased, and with it a return of the original enthusiasm and vision of our founders.

And so the tradition of Grace Church's fairs continues today with its 13th consecutive Christmas Fair and Café on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Back by popular demand is the Jam Man, famous for his exotic concoctions, and there will also be Christmas crafts for the children and a 50/50 raffle, plus a bake sale, brunch and lunch. And Grace's current pastor, Father John Covington, will be on hand to greet members of the community.

To quote Washington Irving, a close friend of the Bolton family: "Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, and the genial flame of charity in the heart."



Bartow-Pell Events

First Friday, Dec. 1, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Experience the mansion decked out for the holidays and enjoy the mellifluous and merry sounds of the a cappella group the MetropoliTones—back by popular demand—from 6 to 8 p.m. Holiday shopping and refreshments add to the fun. The free Bronx Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

Holiday Family Day, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate the spirit of the holidays! Explore a 19th-century mansion decorated for the season and enjoy hot cocoa and crafts, shop for unique gifts and meet Santa in a historic setting (professional photos with Santa available for an additional fee)! Space is limited. Registration requested. Cost: \$20 children one year and up; BPMM member children \$15 (children under one year and adults free when accompanied by a child).

Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers, Saturday, Dec. 9, 6 to 8 p.m. Experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-century holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere while you enjoy wassail and holiday snacks in the Conservatory. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members Free; Not-Yet BPMM Members \$15 adults; \$10 seniors, students

Holiday Concert, Sunday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. The Bronx Arts Ensemble presents the Manhattan Brass Quintet performing holiday classics. Registration requested. Cost: Free

with museum admission (\$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students, free for children under age 6.)

BPMM's Teddy Bear Tea, Thursday, Dec. 14, 11:30 to 1 p.m. We're bringing back a beloved Bartow-Pell favorite fundraiser for the holidays. Celebrate the season with a child-approved, bright, colorful and deliciously decadent holiday-themed menu, story time with the Bartow snow queen and a sing-along. Perfect for 3- to 5-year-olds accompanied by a parent or grandparent or favorite adult. Registration required. Cost: \$25 per adult; \$10 per child.

Bartow's Literary Elevenses, Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Museum Guides Laura DeRiggi and Caitlyn Sellar as they lead an historical-fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Contact BPMM for the current book being explored. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration requested. Cost: Free.

Holiday Songs with Jewels, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 to 3 p.m. If you're thinking of an island Christmas, but can't get escape the cold this year, then join us in the conservatory for some fun, contemporary holiday music that will warm up your winter spirit. Cost: Free with museum admission (\$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students, free for children under 6).

Cookies and Crafts, Saturday, Dec. 23, 12 to 2 p.m. Drop in with your young ones to decorate some holiday cookies to take home after exploring the mansion decked out for the season. Recommended for ages 4 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Limit of one house per family. Cost: Free with museum admission.

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Find Them Boxed At:

Focal Point Gallery

321 City Island Avenue • 718-885-1403

Find Them Included In Gift Sets At:

JGL Wines & Liquors Inc.

358 City Island Avenue • 718-885-0200

City Island “Gets” the Holidays

By MONICA GLICK

What are your holiday dreams and plans? Something specific you seek to make the season “merry and bright”? Chances are you’ll find it right here on our Island home, because City Island’s shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses just “get” the holidays!



Scavello's Catering

Get Yorkshire Pudding... While you might not find exactly that, you’re sure to select something that’ll satisfy the season’s cravings from **Scavello Catering** at the **IGA Supermarket** (385 City Island Avenue). Or visit Scavello’s on the Island (101 City Island Avenue) for dinner, maybe stopping in on “wine down Wednesdays”—\$4 sangria and select glasses of wine, accompanied by select appetizers at half price.

You won’t need a ferry to get to France, just a trip up Island to visit with Stephane Kane and wife, Maria, at **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue). Maybe start your meal with gratinée à l’oignon, followed by pavé de saumon à la sauge, that’s French onion soup and pan-seared salmon with mashed potatoes and sage sauce.

And there’s more on the international menu on City Island for your holiday celebrating: from a taste of Italy, like the Chicken alla Mario, at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue), to hibachi steak or seafood, with some sushi and sake, at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue), to some Mofongo at **Don Coqui on the Water** (565 City Island Avenue).

But if it’s pudding you crave after all, get some delicious bread pudding and more at Sunday Brunch at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue). Or visit for dinner—any night but Monday—and soak in the ambience as you relax with a glass of wine and say “hi” to owner Calliope!



Starving Artist Café & Gallery

Get Songs and Spirits... The spirit of fun and song fills the month at Elliott Glick’s **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue), including at **Cartoon Christmas Cabaret** (Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.) and shows by the Island’s own Freddie Lando (Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 p.m.) and Papa Guyo Guyocious and his funky friends (Saturday, Dec. 23, 8 p.m.). While you’re listening, enjoy dessert from Jenny’s Sweets (@JennysweetsSA on Facebook), or place an order with Glick’s daughter and Culinary Institute of America pastry chef graduate, Jennifer Glick, for your home holiday gathering.

A spirit of fun and a bit of fantasy can be found at **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue), where you can select from toys, ornaments, garden flags, jewelry, candles, artwork and more for holiday giving. Ask about the rewards program!

Mid-island, fall in love with the spirit of creativity found in the art in the windows of two galleries, **Mary Colby Studio Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) and **Cheryl Brinker’s Studio / Gallery** (282 City Island Avenue).

Maybe the spirits you seek are the kind featured at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue), from gift sets and baskets to something in miniature.

Or perhaps it’s a spirit of whimsy you’re out to find. Husband and wife Dan Treiber and Reina Mia Brill, at **239 Play** (239 City Island Avenue), have what you need, from sports signs and nautical items to Troll Dolls and the always-in-demand Littlest Pet Shop figures, found on shelves inside or in outside treasure bins.

If the spirit you fancy is from holidays past, go see Ruth or Anoosh Donahue at **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue). Maybe it’s specifically City Island’s past that is of interest. No one gets that better than the folks at **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through Dec. 17. Shop for unique City Island-themed gifts and while you’re at it, become a member!



The Island Exchange

You’re sure to whistle a happy holiday tune on a visit to our new Island shop, **The Island Exchange** (500 City Island Avenue), neighboring Ohana, finding gifts for all, home décor and party goods. The spirit here is in their slogan: “#reuse #repurpose, all #sprinkledwithnew.”

Get Sparkles and Treasures... From the sparkling lights on the trees outside to the winter wonderland that unfolds indoors, **Artie’s Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue) can help you create treasured holiday memories with family and friends. Start with a hot antipasto for two, accompanied by one of their signature martinis or cocktails. The Tiramisu Martini sounds tempting.

Get sparkly yourself with a little help from the team of experts at **Art of Beauty** (240 City Island Avenue): haircut and color, manicure and pedicure, or all four! Or get a powder gel manicure in any one of a host of colors, followed by a relaxing spa pedicure at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue). **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue) is also ready to help you get set for celebrating the holidays.

One of our newest businesses, **Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue), is ready to make you shine during the holidays. A laser skin spa, Complexions specializes in hair removal, microdermabrasion, body contouring, skin rejuvenation, acne treatments and more.

Throughout all the seasons, you can always count on Ron Turner and wife Susan

Lamantia-Terner at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue). Jewelry and artwork gifts abound. Take home a City Island scene, a family photo or a treasured piece from the latest art exhibit adorning the walls.

Get Stuffing and the Trimmings... Want some home-cooked goodness after shopping or following a cold commute home from work? Stop in to the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), where homemade goodness is found in the muffins, the meatloaf and mashed potatoes, and more. Next door at the **Snug**, if it’s Tuesday, it’s half-price burgers, and if it’s Thursday, try some tacos or other Mexican fare. Visit on Wednesday for \$20 bottle of wine night, or any night for an Irish coffee to warm you from the winter cold.

Maybe you’re searching for a plate stuffed with seafood? The options abound, from the front of the Island at **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue) and the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue), to the far end, closer to Stepping Stones Lighthouse, at **Sammy’s Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the **Original Sammy’s Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), or **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue). And you can get satisfyingly stuffed with the \$21.99 special multi-course meal Mondays to Thursdays at the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue). Your choice of prime rib, lobster tail, salmon or snow crab legs is accompanied by soup or salad, side dish, coffee and dessert, and some of the Shanty’s signature garlic bread.

Maybe you want a basket stuffed with some fried clams or shrimp. Then you’ve got a mid-island choice at **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), or a far-end of the Island eatery, **Tony’s Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue). **Johnny’s Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) across from Tony’s can’t help you now, but come March they’ll be back, and so will the seafood possibilities.

If the stuffing and trimmings are for your home celebration, Sara and her family at **Connie’s New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue) can definitely help with that, as can the **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue), especially if the hour is late.

Get Dasher and His Speedy Sleigh... Our Island home is filled with options for quick and good eats that won’t take too much time from your preparing home for celebrating and wrapping gifts for giving. City Island has four possibilities for take-out, and for some, you could also opt to eat in. Check the day’s dishes at **Chef Rafael’s To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), or get your takeout from **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84–86 City Island Avenue). At **Filomena’s Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue), sit and have a slice or a sandwich, or a delicious pasta dish and a chat with Anthony while you’re eating, or visit **Ray’s Café** (205 City Island Avenue) for one of their delicious daily specials.

If you’re dashing off the Island to shop, stop first at **Papa John’s Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) or **Augie’s City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) for a coffee and something to go. Just before you cross our new bridge to the mainland, there’s always **Dunkin’ Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) for a season-themed doughnut or coffee drink.

At **Amandabear Party Rentals** (474 City Island Avenue), you can rent tables and chairs and purchase the balloons and more to get that holiday feel. Delivery will probably be by car or van though, and not by sleigh and reindeer.

Get Eggnog and a Fireplace... Enjoy a traditional holiday drink by the fireplace in the lounge at the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue). You may even run into Santa who’s set to have lunch there this holiday season. Visit and ask Debbie about that special event.

Maybe you like to play while you sip, and the pool table at **Fella’s** (522 City Island Avenue) is one option. Or perhaps you’re yearning to light up a fine cigar or gift someone with a box of them. Stop by **Humberto Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue) to make that happen.



Humberto Amadiz Cigars

If you’re looking for eggs on your plate instead, come by **Archie’s Table and Tap** (536 City Island Avenue) for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Try the corned beef hash and eggs, or the poached eggs with smoked Canadian bacon and vegetables on a bacon cheddar biscuit with hollandaise sauce—or explore more on the menu, including a mimosa with fresh squeezed orange juice.

And although there’s no fireplace, there are plenty of options for sipping and snacking as you take a break from the holiday rush at **Paddy’s on the Island** (288 City Island Avenue).

Get festive garb and gear... You’ve got two spots to get your fancy frocks clean for the celebrating: **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue) or **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue). If your gear needs are more of the high seas nature, check in with **Jack’s Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) and **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). And don’t forget **Remy’s** (272 City Island Avenue) to sew up the situation, and **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue) for some “deep” thoughts!

For the extras needed in the decorating department, and the home and boat essentials, visit Karl Hoedl at **Buddy’s Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) and Joseph Burck Sr. at **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue).

There’s sure to be costume changes in the new season set of theater magic from the **City Island Theater Group** (CITG). Check out CITG’s website (cityislandtheatergroup.com) for details about coming shows and information about being a supporter or a subscriber.

For the perfect you in this and any season, spend some time at **Club Fit** (440 City Island Avenue), or learn about the lessons in martial arts, boxing or Tae Kwon Do at **Dragon’s Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue). And shed the stress of the season at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue).

And the festivities promise to continue on our Island home with the potential opening of new businesses, such as **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue), for example, as well as a new pharmacy and new stores mid-Island, and the return for spring and summer seasons of our friends Skip and Louise Giacco and the ice cream crew at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue).

In this most wonderful of seasons, there’s one thing you can count on: City Island shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses have got your back, as they get you just what you need for this and any season.

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 1 and Sat., Dec. 2, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Friday) and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Saturday).

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 2 and 3, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

Sun, Dec. 3, **Holiday Fair**, Morris Yacht and Beach Club, 1 Belden Point, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 9, **Grace Church Annual Christmas Fair and Café**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. City Island Avenue and Pilot Street.

Tues. Dec. 12, **Chanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 16, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: meat loaf with vegetable and potatoes.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Tues., Jan. 16, **The Future of Medicare**, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, sponsored by City Island Indivisible and the PSS Senior Center, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage with peppers.

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

Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is thrilled to report that our most recent Gift of Life child, Jefvonny Martinez from Belize, came through his life-saving heart surgery at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at the Westchester Medical Center with flying colors!

Club members were present at the hospital on the day of Jefvonny's surgery to lend support to his mother, Elizabeth, and they visited him after the surgery. He was released from the hospital very quickly, and members enjoyed treating him to a visit to the Bronx Zoo.

The members packed up complete Thanksgiving dinners at the evening meeting on Nov. 21. Our member Angela Torres, director of Child Development for the Easter Seals Bronx center, purchased all the goodies at Restaurant Depot, and members had a great time sorting everything into the boxes for distribution to families in need in the Bronx area.

Everyone is invited to our annual party with the Bronx Opera Company, a wonderful way to kick off the holidays! The Rotary Club of the Bronx has supported the Bronx Opera Company for more than 40 years, and this year, as we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary, we will be celebrating with a luncheon at the Marina Del Rey on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 12 noon.

The Bronx Opera Company will be adding something special to their repertoire of seasonal favorites and operatic arias by leading a holiday sing-along, so come ready to carol! Tickets are \$55 per person for buffet, beer, wine, soda and entertainment. Please RSVP by Dec. 7 to Mary Springman at 914-954-4748.

The club will be participating in its sixth annual holiday gifting to the children at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, the New York Institute for Special Education and P.S. 811x. All these schools, located in the Bronx, serve special-needs children, those with hearing loss, blindness and/or autism, and severe disabilities.

We purchase hundreds of toys with funds donated by generous members and funds

from our own foundation. Our volunteers dress up as Santa and his elves and visit all the classrooms to distribute the toys and yummy sugar cookies. The kids absolutely love their gifts and the personal visit from Santa. There is no better feeling than to be on the receiving end of their "thunder hugs!"

We are looking forward to 2018, our centennial year, and wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday and New Year!

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Temple Beth-El

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

Temple Services are held on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with music by Your Band by the Sea:

Dec. 1: Community-led
Dec. 8: Community-led
Dec. 15: Rabbis Shohama and David
Dec. 22: Community-led
Dec. 29: Rabbi David
Jan. 5: Community-led
Jan. 12: Rabbi-led
Jan. 19: Community-led
Jan.26: Rabbi-led

The menorah lighting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Hawkins Park. Join Rabbi David and the TBE family and friends for the lighting of the City Island menorah, which is followed by a reception across the street at Kaleidoscope Gallery at 280 City Island Avenue hosted by our Temple president, Paul Klein.

On Dec. 15 and 16, we will celebrate our Chanukah Shabbaton: Bring in the Light. On Friday, Dec. 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., the celebration will feature Rabbis Shohama Wiener, David Markus, Rachel Barenblat and Ben Newman, two bands (TBE's Band by the Sea and Shtiebel's Havdalah Band), dancing, Torah, Zohar, healing, poetry and lunch. On Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. join Rabbi Shohama, Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a full Shabbat morning, including Torah service and Kiddush luncheon. This Shabbat coincides with the middle of Chanukah and the Festival of Lights amidst the climactically darkest week of the year, so we'll be bringing in the light. This is part of our special Chanukah Shabbaton. Plan to join us for a full day of spirit-lifting learning, music and events.

TBE invites the City Island community for our yoga class, Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. with Daniella Haney (Patreasha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes; participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies are served after sessions. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

Looking ahead: Tu'b'shvat seder will be in advance of the holiday on Jan. from 3 to 5 p.m.

Oneg sponsorships: Special events to honor others or celebrate your own special occasion can be a joyful moving community celebration. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or at violetsmi@aol.com.



Photo by JIM ROME

Members of the Rotary Club of the Bronx had a blast packing turkeys with all the dinner trimmings at their evening meeting at Sammy's Shrimp Box on Nov. 21. The dinners were then distributed by members to families in need in the Bronx.

aol.com.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Garden Club

Trevor Hall, certified arborist at Bartlett Tree Experts, returned to the Garden Club in November to speak on tree health with practical, literally "down to the earth" advice. He described how trees adapt to adverse environmental conditions. Periods of abnormal weather fluctuations, for example, provide opportunities for us to work with plants in their own healing and recovery process. When Trevor returns to the club in 2018, we will be able to ask him specific questions and show him photos of specific issues in our own gardens. The Garden Club is grateful for his thoughtful concern for City Island plantings and his generosity in sharing expertise with us.

The planters along City Island Avenue have been decorated with cool weather-loving pansies, a garden favorite, by beautification committee co-chair Kathy Gibbons. A big thanks goes to the Avenue's local businesses, which share with club members the task of watering the planter boxes when they need it. Later this fall committee members and the Helping Hands auxiliary will refurbish the boxes with winter foliage, pine cones and other found natural materials in time for the holidays.

If you are interested in civic beautification, become a member of the Garden Club of City Island, which is dedicated to creating a more pleasing environment in our community in collaboration with local government and groups. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except August) at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, on west end of Pilot Street. Annual dues are \$35, and all meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee, chaired by Diane Sattler. Join us for an exciting season of projects, presentations by experts and field trips. You will enjoy day trips as well as informative presentations put together by our program co-chair Carol Wilkinson. Upcoming projects include holiday wreath making for organizations in the community, such as the library and the American Legion.

For the first time in its 21 years, Viacom's internationally known Viacomunity Day will be coming to City Island. On Friday, April 20, 2018 dozens of Viacom employees will be on the Island to plant, paint, refurbish, restore and otherwise work to freshen up the Island to emphasize its rich nautical history. Club members look forward to participating.

Want the real dirt on composting? Join us Monday, Dec. 4, at our membership meeting, when representatives of the NYC Composting Program will be present to explain the program. Learn how your kitchen scraps and garden trimmings become composting creating "black gold." The goal of the project goal is to improve the soil by distributing this compost to community greening groups and through volunteer-powered stewardship events. This presentation is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the program: why and how it works and how to participate. The presentation will begin at 10:10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. Parking is limited so please arrive early and plan to park on City

Island Avenue if necessary.

Carol Hansen

AARP Chapter 318

Dec. 6, regular meeting with bingo.
Dec 13, Christmas Luncheon - \$45.00 per person at the Lobster House (near the bridge) 12 noon, tip \$2.

January 3, 2018, regular meeting.

January 17, regular meeting.

Hope to see everyone at our meetings. Be sure to mark you calendars and bring friends. All are welcome.

Rosetta Woods

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Mark your calendars for the Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 and 3 at both the Thrift Shop and the school gym.

Arlene Byrne

Holiday Services

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Saturday, Dec. 9: Crafts Fair, Bake Sale and Holiday Café, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24: Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service and Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the Bridge

Sunday, Dec. 17: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 31: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Mass at 7 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and 2 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Dec. 3: First Sunday in Advent, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10: Second Sunday in Advent, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17: Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

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

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Tues. Dec. 12, Chanukah Menorah Lighting, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Chanukah Shabbaton (Bring in the Light), Temple Beth-El.



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

Jay Howard was the last original founder of the City Island Community Center to serve on the Board of Directors since its beginning over 40 years ago. He was a good man, a caring person who was dedicated to and loved the Center. He rarely missed a board meeting and enthusiastically initiated programs such as Drug Awareness and projects geared to help or entertain youth. Jay gently touched young children with his puppet shows, teens with the Living Rocks and all ages with his annual Pysanki Egg Craft. He will be sorely missed by all of us. In his memory, we are planning a garden at the entrance to the center.

We are grateful for the 54 people who responded to the membership drive and look forward to hearing from more of you. Remember: joiners can attend our Members' Holiday Party on Dec. 8. Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit: www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

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

COMING EVENTS

Annual Members' Holiday Party: Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. With oldies by Winston McBoogie, dinner and friends, it is a great way to begin the holiday season.

Narcan Training: Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Doreen Gallagher Wall, RN, and Chris Hennessy present this excellent program and provide Narcan to participants who can rescue friends, relatives or neighbors who have overdosed. For more information, check out City Island Resolute Against Opioid Addiction on Facebook.

Craft Crop/Craft Fair and Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 16, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Calling all adult crafters who like to create with card making, paper-scrapping and mixed media. Demail Handcrafts is bringing

“Create Pretty Things Crops” and classes to you! Remember: a crop is a get-together for crafters to bring their projects and share ideas, play games, share snacks and win prizes with vendors and classes throughout the day. It is just \$35 for a space where vendors can sell crafts and offer classes. Individuals can come in to attend classes or to shop. For information, please contact Desiree Demail at 914-562-5857 or demail-handcrafts@aim.com.

Girl Scout Holiday Bake Sale: Sunday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 50/50 and gift baskets too. Support your local Brownies and Girl Scouts and enjoy the goodies.

NEW PROGRAMS

AA: Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to this open meeting.

City Island Knitting Club: Fridays 7 to 9 p.m. Come on by and have fun with friends and learn a new winter social hobby. Make gifts for the holidays. Bring \$20 for your first set of needles and yarn. No reservations needed. For information, call Dana Caton at 678-591-1846 or dcaton@gmail.com.

City Island Indivisible: Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17 and Jan. 8 (tentative) at 5 p.m. in the Community Center. On Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. a special program on health care, site and details will be held at Grace Church (see Briefly on page 2). Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information, visit City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register now for the winter session of this exciting art program for children 7 to 12. Students will explore drawing, painting and sculpture and various artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Picasso. To enroll, contact Lorraine Cantori at 914-552-5268 or ceasardante@optonline.net.

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

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

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesday and Thursday after-school classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. All skill levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolxperience.com.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Bollywood Dance: Teens/Adults, 3:30 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

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P.O. Box 111 Bronx, NY 10464
Email: hello6546@hotmail.com



Photo by RON TERNER

Jen Sortino and Maureen Grogan welcomed everyone to the ALA Veterans Pancake Breakfast at the Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017.

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

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

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: Fresh organic fruits and vegetable. To join for 2018, contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, Dec. 4 and 18 at 7 p.m. Cookie recipe exchange for this month. Share recipes and have fun with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Drawing Society: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of The Healing Force, is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions and leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to CICC. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We still need a two more members to resume official meetings. Until then join our unofficial meeting and receive the support and help of a great group. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

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

Yoga with Ryan: Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. In this class expect a series of yoga poses with emphasis on alignment, coordinated with breath to build strength, increase flexibility and balance, and ending with deep relaxation to integrate the practice. Good for new students or students with limited experience. For information, call Ryan at 914-356-

6673 or e-mail ryangillyyoga@gmail.com.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

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

Patty Grondahl

City Island Republicans

Thanks to all of the hardworking poll workers who kept the election running smoothly. John Cerini and Nicole Malliotakis carried City Island on Election Day.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays and Happy New Year to all.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS City Island Center

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

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

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

Highlights

Dec. 8, Friday: Holiday Party. Because of limited space, you must have a ticket to attend the party. If you'd like a lunch that day and do not have a ticket, please let us know by Tuesday, Dec. 5, and we will

Continued on page 23

REGULAR MEETINGS
Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Al-Anon
Wednesdays at 7 p.m., 331 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464

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

A Parent's Guide to National Holidays, Heroes, and Patriotic Events

By JOHN SCARDINA

There is a lot of news these days from different political and cultural points of view about holidays, statues and the various ways in which national heroes and patriotic events can be seen in a new light by having a new perspective. How do we really feel about Thanksgiving, Robert E. Lee, the Declaration of Independence or Christopher Columbus?

We as parents want children who can think critically; they will be making life-and-death decisions in their teen years as they learn to drive, face the widespread use of drugs and alcohol, get involved in intimate relationships and vote. It is never too early to develop critical thinking skills, and remember, a young person's brain doesn't fully develop until age 24, so you can make a difference in their lives for quite a while.

We as a nation want young people entering the work force who can take on multiple perspectives and make wise and deliberate decisions. Letting young people lock into one ideology, one point of view or one idea about how life should be lived leads to fundamentalism and intolerance. Our schools and our faith communities do best when we present multiple points of view, looking at how we are connected rather than how we contradict one another.

We as a planet need a global perspective on how our actions affect everyone alive today as well as the generations to come. Deciding to support the fossil fuel industry in the USA while other industrialized nations are moving toward independence from fossil fuels represents a different approach to meeting the needs of all people. Is the already epidemic rise of childhood asthma in the USA related to the dangers of unregulated emissions here at home?

So, what can a parent do?

• **Look for ways to discuss holidays with your children that include multiple perspectives:** How did Thanksgiving turn out for the indigenous peoples of New England? How can we look at the historical facts, face the difficult choices our ancestors made and still maintain the spirit of

gratitude and family that we cherish about this holiday?

• **Look at patriotic events with your children in wholistic terms:** When the Declaration of Independence says "all men are created equal" do we make sure our children understand that this phrase only pertained to white men of European descent who held property? How did women and people held in slavery and indigenous people benefit from this document? (Hint: they didn't. . . .) This was an historic event to be sure, but it didn't change the world for many people living here.

• **Find ways to engage your children in your own process of political discernment:** When someone says "don't dump on the Bronx" but is talking about human beings, not garbage, we can point out how political rhetoric can be inflammatory. Encourage your kids to look at candidates with you and practice the skill of making an informed choice when voting. Your children may have a perspective about a candidate that can inform your own voting patterns. They will be voting soon enough.

If, as John Dewey said, the goal of education is to build a new world, then we need to be educators who open our children's minds and hearts to the multiple possibilities our future world can embrace.

PEACE ON EARTH

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

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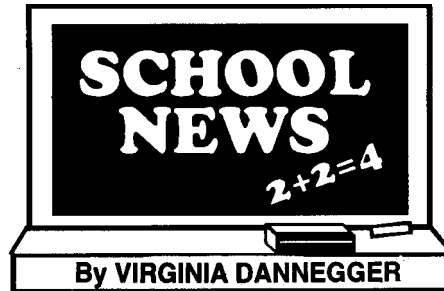
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GIFT CARDS



Photo by RON TERNER

The City Island Community Center held a very successful fundraising dinner dance on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017. A great time was had by all, thanks to the Center team and the generous contributions made by the following: The Culinary Group, A-Quality Glass, Worthy Woods, Art of Beauty Salon, Aerobics with Mary, Pampered Chef with Ginger, Focal Point Gallery, Artie's Seafood, The Lobster House, JGL Wines & Liquors, Morris Yacht Club, AmandaBear, Scavello's, Filomena's Pizzeria, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Golden Glow Cookie Factory, Starving Artist Café and the amazing Freddie Lando, "The Golden Voice of the Bronx," who graciously donated the entertainment accompanied by Theresa Sareo and Caroline DiSalvo Del Giudice. Pictured here are some members of the Center team (l. to r.): Patty Grondahl, Maria Sipas, Francesca Vitale, Cheryl Riordan, Kenny Selesky and Susan Sher Roublick.



Public School 175

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

Several enriching educational trips took place this month: First grade went to Green Meadows Farm; the second grade went to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum; the third grade to the Museum of the Chinese in America; grades four through 6 saw the jazz show at the Aaron Davis Hall; the fifth

grade saw Native American dances with the Thunderbirds at Queens College; the seventh grade took a community-service trip to Tremont United Methodist Church to prepare food for the needy for Thanksgiving; and the eighth grade made a community service trip to Astor Byron School.

Our arts program is going strong this year. We have part-time Department of Education music and theater teachers on staff, and this year's fifth-grade play will be "The Grunch," about a boy who tries to sabotage the school play in his school and how the spirit of theater prevails. In addition, Councilman James Vacca has once again given P.S. 175 an arts grant that goes this year toward funding a visual arts teacher through the Bronx Arts Ensemble.

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

Please keep in mind these important dates: Dec. 22 is the last day of school for the winter recess; students return to school on Jan. 2.

October Citizens-of-the-Month were Cattaleya Byers (kindergarten); Dean Rugova and Matthew Colon (first grade); Anthony Ferrante and Joseph Tucci (second grade); Jordan Srikishun and Jovanni Maiorca (third grade); Joseph Penny (fourth grade); Erin Crowe and Dana Moynihan (fifth grade); Jalynn Richardson (sixth grade); Adam Garforth and Ryan Whelan (seventh grade); Jennifer Gjonaj and Daniel Vo (eighth grade). November Citizens-of-the-Month were Calliope Woodruff (kindergarten); Katherine Miceli and Lilly Carrillo (first grade); Cian Daly and Alexia Alarcon (second grade); Daniella Byrnes and Olivia Tucci (third grade); Khalin Cabrera (fourth grade); Aybriel Schnatz and Danelly Reyes (fifth grade); Paul Goonan (sixth grade); Kyle Facchiano and Laci Howard (seventh grade); Travis Prohaska and Adriana Rexhaj (eighth grade).

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

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Women Warriors

The days of Dudley Do-Right rescuing Nell from an oncoming train are well behind us in Hollywood terms. When Sigourney Weaver as Ripley “Ramboed-up” (i.e., covered herself in explosives and high-tech futuristic weapons) in the *Alien* Quadriology (1979, 1986, 1992, 1997), the female action hero became an increasing staple on the silver screen. Of the series, I would recommend the second, *Aliens* (1986), as the one to watch to get the flavor of a lone heroic woman attempting to be a voice of reason in outer space, when deadly horrifying alien creatures threaten the crew, the ship and ultimately the earth.

It wasn't until five years after the second *Alien* film that Hollywood finally got into the women warrior swing, with the unforgettable transformation of Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor in *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (1991) from terrified waitress in the original film (1984) to bulked-up fiercely protective mother in the second. Stuck in an insane asylum, while her son, John (Edward Furlong), is getting into all sorts of trouble in foster care, the Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger) comes from the future to save her and John from the new terminating model, the T-1000 (Robert Patrick). Sarah also “Ramboes up” and is a model for survival.

1991 also brought forth a French film, *La Femme Nikita*, starring Anne Parillaud as Nikita, a strung-out anti-social violent drug addict. Instead of being executed for murder, she is picked up by government agent Bob (Tcheky Karyo) to be trained as an assassin and to be tutored in womanly arts by Amande (Jeanne Moreau). This killing machine idea was remade into the American film *Point of No Return* (1993) starring Bridget Fonda, Gabriel Byrne and Anne Bancroft. These are two excellent films of the genre. In *Lucy* (2014), also from *La Femme Nikita* writer/director Luc Besson, Scarlett Johansson stars in the title role as a woman accidentally caught in a dark deal who turns the tables on her captors and transforms into a merciless warrior evolved beyond human logic. The special effects are dazzling.

In *Lethal Weapon 3* (1992), the cop-buddy picture starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover as Riggs and Murtaugh and the hilarious Joe Pesci as snitch Leo Getz, Riggs finally meets his match with Internal Affairs sergeant Lorna Cole (Rene Russo). She's a karate expert who requires no assistance when handling three brutes at a time. The best scenes in this very frenetic and sometimes funny film are those in which she performs her physical feats and when she and Riggs compare battle scars.

Demi Moore received a lot of attention when she shaved her head for the role of Lt. Jordan O'Neil in *G. I. Jane* (1997). When Senator Lillian DeHaven (Anne Bancroft) succeeds in having a woman enrolled in Navy SEALs training, O'Neil is chosen. Resentful for not being allowed to fight in the Gulf War, O'Neil is determined to succeed as an equal to the men. Viggo Mortensen is excellent as the enigmatic Master Chief Urgayle, who must prepare everyone for the realities of life in the field when a woman is included in the mix.

With the advent of *The Matrix* (1999), we have the new kind of female action hero, who is a master of martial arts. In this futuristic cyber adventure, there is no question that the leather-clad Carrie-Anne Moss as Trinity is a fully equal member of the team that includes Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Neo (Keanu Reeves). They are delving into the virtual reality concept of the world and a quest to free humankind. Also part of a quadriology, the film is followed in increasingly less interesting order with *The Matrix Revisited* (2001), *The*

Matrix Reloaded (2003) and *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003).

Among the best, most successful martial arts films ever made is *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), which was Oscar-nominated for both Best Picture and Foreign Film, winning the latter. The women warriors in this film elevate women onto an equal footing with men. Chow Yun-Fat is outstanding as Li Mu Bai, a warrior vowed to avenge the death of his master by Jade Fox (Cheng Pei Pei) and to retrieve his stolen sword. Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh), head of a security company and Li Mu Bai's love interest, helps him in his quest to retrieve his sword. Jen (Zhang Ziyi), the governor's daughter is involved with the theft, and her acrobatic ability and Yu Shu Lien's are a wonder to behold.

Angelina Jolie is certainly eye-candy in the title role of the comic book action adventure films *Lara Croft Tomb Raider* (2001) and *The Cradle of Life* (2003). The plots of both films (the recovery of ancient artifacts and a quest to save Pandora's Box) are there merely to support the special effects sequences that take place in exotic locales around the world. Jolie also stars in the title role of the espionage thriller *Salt* (2010), in which she portrays a CIA agent who has been accused of treason by a Russian defector. She spends the film trying to prove her innocence, leaving numerous injured men in her wake.

Enough (2002) tells the all too common story of a woman dealing with the horrors of living in a situation of domestic violence. Jennifer Lopez stars as Slim, the mother of Gracie (Tessa Allen). When her perfect husband, Mitch (Billy Campbell), starts beating her, she embarks on a path that shows her cleverness, determination and incredible resiliency of spirit.

One of the oddest entries in the female martial arts genre is *Uma Thurman* as the Bride in Quentin Tarantino's extremely bloody *Kill Bill: Volume 1* (2003) and *Volume 2* (2004). The theme of these films is clearly vengeance, with the targets being primarily women (Daryl Hannah, Lucy Liu, Vivica Fox). Over a third of the film is devoted to one action sequence in which the Bride single-handedly battles with the Crazy 88 Fighters. This overblown comic book has the maximum amount of blood pumping from maimed bodies. This film clearly is for people with a taste for the macabre.

Based on Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy, three Swedish films begin with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2009). They all star Noomi Rapace as Lisbeth Salander, a computer hacker with wild hair and a body covered with piercings and tattoos. An abuse survivor, Salander is hired to do background research on journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist), who in turn has been hired by octogenarian Henrik Vanger (Sven-Bertil Taube) to look into the fate of his favorite niece, Harriet, who disappeared decades earlier. In *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (2009), Salander falls under suspicion of having murdered a journalist and his girlfriend as well as her own social services guardian, Nils Bjurman (Peter Andersson). Salander's ingenuity is rather awesome, but she has to survive some graphic assaults that are difficult to watch. In *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* (2009), Salander is recovering in a hospital and awaiting trial for three murders when she is released. Blomkvist must prove her innocence, but she must also be willing to share the details of her sordid experiences with the court.

One of two popular dystopic American film series based on three young-adult books includes the *Hunger Games* (2012) *Catching Fire* (2013) *MockingJay part 1* (2014) and *part 2* (2015). Every year in the ruins of what was once North America, each of twelve districts are required to send two “Tributes,” a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games, a literal fight to the death. Facing highly trained Tributes who have prepared for these games their entire lives, Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) is forced to rely on her sharp instincts and ingenuity, as well as the mentorship of drunken former victor Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson). In order to survive, she must make impossible choices,

some that anger President Snow (Donald Sutherland).

Based on the young adult Divergent Series of books are: *Divergent* (2014) *Insurgent* (2015) and *Allegiant* (2016). In this dystopian future, society is divided into five factions: Abnegation (the selfless), Amity (the peaceful), Candor (the honest), Dauntless (the brave) and Erudite (the intelligent). The remaining population are the Factionless, who are forced to live outside the safety of the city. At age 16, Beatrice “Tris” Prior (Shalene Woodley), along with others her age, are given a truth serum to help decide if she belongs in her faction of origin or another. Those with multiple faction personalities are considered “divergent” and thus a threat to society. When Tris begins her training, she must jump on and off moving trains and other increasingly difficult feats.

Emily Blunt is particularly compelling as Special Forces warrior Rita Vrataski in *Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow* (2014). In the near future, when an alien race has hit the Earth in an unremitting assault, Major William Cage (Tom Cruise) is killed during a virtual suicide mission. Cage, an officer who has never before seen a day of combat, finds himself caught in a time loop wherein he is forced live out the same brutal battle over and over. With each successive attack, Cage's skills increase, and with Vrataski's impressive abilities, each repeated encounter gets them closer to defeating the enemy.

Spy (2015) stars Melissa McCarthy as Susan Cooper, an unassuming desk jockey CIA analyst. When her field agent partner, Bradley Fine (Jude Law), falls off the grid and another top agent Rick Ford (Jason Statham) is compromised, she volunteers to go deep undercover to infiltrate the world of a deadly arms dealer and prevent a global disaster. This action-adventure thriller greatly benefits from McCarthy's comedic talents. Be sure to watch the hilarious background of the credits at the end, as well as the scene after the credits.

Perhaps the best-known woman warrior is Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films, which include *Star Wars* (1977); *The Empire Strikes Back*

(1980), *Return of the Jedi* (1983) and *The Force Awakens* (2015). She completed filming *The Last Jedi* (2017) just before her untimely death. The plot line follows the Imperial Forces—under orders from evil incarnate, Darth Vader (David Prowse with the voice of James Earl Jones)—to quell the rebellion against the Galactic Empire in which Princess Leia plays a key role. Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Han Solo (Harrison Ford), captain of the Millennium Falcon, work together with the droid duo R2-D2 (Kenny Baker) and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels) to help the Rebel Alliance and restore freedom and justice to the galaxy.

Another fabulous female character in this same sci fi genre series is Rey (Daisey Ridley). She debuts in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015), which takes place 30 years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire. Unfortunately, the galaxy faces a new threat from the evil Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and the First Order. When a defector named Finn (John Boyega) crash-lands on a desert planet, he meets Rey, a tough scavenger whose droid contains a top-secret map. Together, the young duo joins forces with Han Solo to make sure the Resistance receives the intelligence concerning the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker, the last of the Jedi Knights.

A major box office hit in 2017, *Wonder Woman* stars Gal Gadot as Diana, an Amazon princess who finds her idyllic life on an island occupied only by female warriors interrupted when a pilot (Chris Pine) crash-lands nearby. After rescuing him, she learns that World War I is engulfing the planet, and she vows to use her superpowers to restore peace.

Charlize Theron is incredible in the action adventure film adaptation of the graphic novel *Atomic Blonde* (2017). In the title role, she plays Lorraine Broughton, the most feared spy in MI6. She must use all of her lethal skills to stay alive during an impossible mission. With the Berlin Wall about to fall, she travels into Berlin to navigate her way through the deadliest game of spies in order to take down a ruthless espionage ring.

Be safe, happy holidays and, until next time, happy viewing. . .



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HALLOWEEN SPIRITS



Photos by CHERYL BRINKER, MARIA CARUSO and RICK DeWITT

The 2017 Halloween parade drew hundreds of macabre marchers to the timeless City Island tradition on Tues., Oct. 31. The judges, Cheryl Brinker, Laura Quagliarello, Elaine Belasco, Jo Heck and Maria Caruso, waved their magic wands over the following winners (clockwise from top left): Most original: Ghost Family featuring Jasmín Camarena; Best Group: Evil Jesters featuring Norman Stewart; Cutest infant: Little Lamb Fiona; Scariest: Headless Butler Luca Mazzeo; Best Pet #1: Turkey dog Jelly Ciarletta; Most Difficult to Maneuver: Ghillie Travis Prohaska; Honorable mentions: Captain Hook, Peter Pan and baby pirate by the Moore family; and the Mad Hatter, White Queen and Blondie. The phantom parade was once again sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.



The People of Trinity United Methodist Church

December 1st & 2nd
Christmas Fair

December 3rd
1st Sunday in Advent - Worship 10:00 a.m.
"I'm Coming Home for Christmas"

December 10th
2nd Sunday in Advent - Worship 10:00 a.m.
"Coming Home, Bringing a Friend"

December 17th
3rd Sunday in Advent - Worship 10:00 a.m.
"Sunday School Christmas Pageant"

December 24th
4th Sunday in Advent - Worship 10:00 a.m.
"When We Got Home - God Was There Too"
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 p.m.
"Make Sure We Bring the Children"



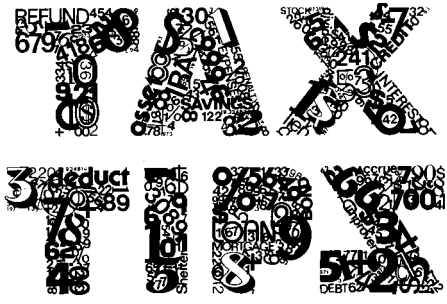
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If you would like to write to any of the above contact the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue.
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Year End Tax Planning

Once again, tax planning for the year ahead presents a number of challenges, first and foremost being what tax reform measures (if any) will actually become legislation—and when they will take effect (e.g., retroactive to Jan 1, 2017, or a future date). Furthermore, a number of tax extenders expired at the end of 2016, which may or may not be reauthorized by Congress and made retroactive to the beginning of the year. And then, of course, there are the normal variations in individual tax circumstances, such as the sale of a home that could bump up income into another tax bracket.

With this in mind, let's take a look at some of the tax strategies you can use given the current uncertainties.

General Tax Planning

General tax planning strategies for individuals this year include postponing income and accelerating deductions, as well as careful consideration of timing-related investments, charitable gifts and retirement planning. For example, taxpayers might consider one or more of the following:

- Selling any investments on which you have a gain or loss this year. If you anticipate an increase in taxable income this year (2017) and are expecting a bonus at year end, try to get it before Dec. 31. Keep in mind, however, that contractual bonuses are different in that they are typically not paid out until the first quarter of the following year. Therefore, any taxes owed on a contractual bonus would not be due until you file your 2018 tax return in 2019.

- Prepaying deductible expenses such as charitable contributions and medical expenses this year using a credit card. This strategy works because deductions may be taken based on when the expense was charged on the credit card, not when the bill was paid.

- If your company grants stock options, you may want to exercise the option or sell stock acquired by exercise of an option this year if you think your tax bracket will be higher in 2018. Exercising this option is often but not always a taxable event; sale of the stock is almost always a taxable event.

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

Caution: Keep an eye on the estimated tax requirements.

Accelerating Income and Deductions

Accelerating income into 2017 is an especially good idea for taxpayers who anticipate being in a higher tax bracket next year or whose earnings are close to threshold amounts (\$200,000 for single filers and \$250,000 for married filing jointly) that make them liable for additional Medicare Tax or Net Investment Income Tax (see below).

In cases where tax benefits are phased out over a certain adjusted gross income (AGI) amount, a strategy of accelerating income and deductions might allow you to claim larger deductions, credits and other tax breaks for 2017, depending on your situation. The latter benefits include Roth IRA contributions, conversions of regular IRAs to Roth IRAs, child tax credits, higher education tax credits and deductions for student loan interest.

Caution: Taxpayers close to threshold amounts for the Net Investment Income Tax (3.8 percent of net investment income) should pay close attention to "one-time" income spikes, such as those associated with Roth conversions, sale of a home or another large asset that may be subject to tax.

Tip: If you know you have a set amount of income coming in this year that is not covered by withholding taxes, increasing

your withholding before year end can avoid or reduce any estimated tax penalty that might otherwise be due.

On the other hand, the penalty could be avoided by covering the extra tax in your final estimated tax payment and computing the penalty using the annualized income method.

Here are several examples of what a taxpayer might do to accelerate deductions:

- Pay a state estimated tax installment in December instead of at the January due date. However, make sure the payment is based on a reasonable estimate of your state tax.

- Pay your entire property tax bill, including installments due in year 2018, by year end. This does not apply to mortgage escrow accounts.

- It may be beneficial to pay 2018 tuition in 2017 to take full advantage of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, an above-the-line deduction worth up to \$2,500 per student to cover the cost of tuition, fees and course materials paid during the taxable year. Forty percent of the credit (up to \$1,000) is refundable, which means you can get it even if you owe no tax.

- Try to bunch "threshold" expenses, such as medical expenses and miscellaneous itemized deductions. For example, you might pay medical bills and dues and subscriptions in whichever year they would do you the most tax good.

Threshold expenses are deductible only to the extent they exceed a certain percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI). Note: The temporary exemption of 7.5 percent for individuals age 65 and older and their spouses expired on Dec. 31, 2016, and is no longer available.

Health Care Law

If you haven't signed up for health insurance this year, do so now and avoid or reduce any penalty to which you might be subject. Depending on your income, you may be able to claim the premium tax credit that reduces your premium payment or reduces your tax obligations as long as you meet certain requirements. You can choose to get the credit immediately or receive it as a refund when you file your taxes next spring.

Taxpayers whose income exceeds certain threshold amounts (\$200,000 single filers and \$250,000 married filing jointly) are liable for an additional Medicare tax of 0.9 percent on their tax returns, but may request that their employers withhold additional income tax from their pay to be applied against their tax liability when filing their 2017 tax return next April.

High net worth individuals should consider contributing to Roth IRAs and 401(k) because distributions are not subject to the Medicare Tax.

If you're a taxpayer close to the threshold for the Medicare Tax, it might make sense to switch Roth retirement contributions to a traditional IRA plan, thereby avoiding the 3.8 percent Net Investment Income Tax (NIIT) as well (more about the

NIIT below).

Alternate Minimum Tax

The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption "patch," which was made permanent by the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) of 2012, is indexed for inflation, and it's important not to overlook the effect of any year-end planning moves on the AMT for 2017 and 2018.

Items that may affect AMT include deductions for state property taxes and state income taxes, miscellaneous itemized deductions and personal exemptions. AMT exemption amounts for 2017 are as follows: \$54,300 for single and head of household filers; \$84,500 for married people filing jointly and for qualifying widows or widowers; \$42,250 for married people filing separately.

Charitable Contributions

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

Keep in mind that a written record of your charitable contributions—including travel expenses such as mileage—is required in order to qualify for a deduction.

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

Investment Gains and Losses

This year, and in the coming years, investment decisions are likely to be more about managing capital gains than about minimizing taxes per se. For example, taxpayers below threshold amounts in 2017 might want to take gains; whereas taxpayers above threshold amounts might want to take losses.

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

If your tax bracket is either 10 or 15 percent (married couples making less than \$75,900 or single filers making less than \$37,950), then you might want to take advantage of the zero percent tax rate on qualified dividends and long-term capital gains. If you fall into the highest tax bracket (39.6 percent), the maximum tax rate on long-term capital gains is capped at 20 percent for tax years starting in 2013.

Where feasible, reduce all capital gains and generate short-term capital losses up to \$3,000. As a general rule, if you have a large capital gain this year, consider selling an investment on which you have an accumulated loss. Capital losses up to the amount of your capital gains plus \$3,000 per year (\$1,500 if married filing separately) can be claimed as a deduction

against income.

Mutual Fund Investments

Before investing in a mutual fund, ask whether a dividend is paid at the end of the year or early in the next year but be deemed paid this year. The year-end dividend could make a substantial difference in the tax you pay.

Example: You invest \$20,000 in a mutual fund in 2017. You opt for automatic reinvestment of dividends, and in late December of 2017, the fund pays a \$1,000 dividend on the shares you bought. The \$1,000 is automatically reinvested. The result is that you must pay tax on the \$1,000 dividend. You will have to take funds from another source to pay that tax because of the automatic reinvestment feature. The mutual fund's long-term capital gains pass through to you as capital gains dividends taxed at long-term rates, however long or short your holding period.

The mutual fund's distributions to you of dividends it receives generally qualify for the same tax relief as long-term capital gains. If the mutual fund passes through its short-term capital gains, these will be reported to you as "ordinary dividends" that don't qualify for relief.

Retirement Plan Contributions

Maximize your retirement plan contributions. If you own an incorporated or unincorporated business, consider setting up a retirement plan if you don't already have one. It doesn't actually need to be funded until you pay your taxes, but allowable contributions will be deductible on this year's return. If you are an employee and your employer has a 401(k), contribute the maximum amount (\$18,000 for 2017), plus an additional catch-up contribution of \$6,000 if age 50 or over, assuming the plan allows this and income restrictions don't apply.

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

Health Savings Accounts

Consider setting up a health savings account (HSA). You can deduct contributions to the account, investment earnings are tax-deferred until withdrawn, and amounts you withdraw are tax-free when used to pay medical bills.

In effect, medical expenses paid from the account are deductible from the first dollar (unlike the usual rule limiting such deductions to the amount of excess over 10 percent of AGI). For amounts withdrawn at age 65 or later that are not used for medical bills, the HSA functions much like an IRA.

To be eligible, you must have a high-deductible health plan (HDHP), and only such insurance, subject to numerous exceptions, and must not be enrolled in Medicare. For 2017, to qualify for the HSA, your minimum deductible in your HDHP must be at least \$1,300 for single coverage or \$2,600 for a family.

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

DECEMBER 2017										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET		
01	Fri	0225	-0.07	0830	8.37	1525	-0.57	2107	7.55	Fri 01
02	Sat	0321	-0.37	0922	8.67	1620	-1.01	2201	7.74	Sat 02
03	Sun	0415	-0.60	1014	8.87	1714	-1.29	2254	7.84	Sun 03
04	Mon	0509	-0.70	1105	8.90	1808	-1.39	2347	7.85	Mon 04
05	Tue	0604	-0.66	1158	8.76	1903	-1.31			Tue 05
06	Wed	0043	7.76	0703	-0.48	1253	8.45	2002	-1.08	Wed 06
07	Thu	0144	7.59	0810	-0.21	1354	8.02	2105	-0.75	Thu 07
08	Fri	0255	7.41	0924	0.05	1509	7.56	2209	-0.43	Fri 08
09	Sat	0411	7.31	1038	0.21	1636	7.23	2314	-0.17	Sat 09
10	Sun	0520	7.33	1147	0.21	1749	7.08			Sun 10
11	Mon	0016	-0.02	0623	7.45	1250	0.08	1853	7.05	Mon 11
12	Tue	0115	0.05	0721	7.61	1349	-0.12	1950	7.10	Tue 12
13	Wed	0209	0.06	0814	7.77	1443	-0.32	2043	7.16	Wed 13
14	Thu	0300	0.06	0903	7.88	1533	-0.47	2132	7.21	Thu 14
15	Fri	0346	0.08	0949	7.93	1619	-0.54	2217	7.23	Fri 15
16	Sat	0429	0.15	1032	7.91	1702	-0.51	2259	7.20	Sat 16
17	Sun	0507	0.27	1110	7.82	1740	-0.40	2339	7.14	Sun 17
18	Mon	0540	0.42	1142	7.68	1815	-0.22			Mon 18
19	Tue	0013	7.06	0559	0.55	1201	7.55	1840	-0.04	Tue 19
20	Wed	0038	6.98	0608	0.60	1212	7.50	1848	0.09	Wed 20
21	Thu	0048	6.97	0636	0.60	1239	7.49	1908	0.12	Thu 21
22	Fri	0112	7.04	0714	0.61	1316	7.47	1942	0.14	Fri 22
23	Sat	0148	7.14	0757	0.63	1357	7.39	2023	0.18	Sat 23
24	Sun	0230	7.22	0844	0.66	1444	7.26	2108	0.24	Sun 24
25	Mon	0316	7.29	0935	0.66	1535	7.10	2158	0.28	Mon 25
26	Tue	0408	7.38	1030	0.62	1631	6.94	2251	0.30	Tue 26
27	Wed	0503	7.49	1131	0.49	1731	6.84	2348	0.25	Wed 27
28	Thu	0602	7.65	1240	0.24	1835	6.84			Thu 28
29	Fri	0049	0.13	0702	7.88	1359	-0.14	1941	6.95	Fri 29
30	Sat	0154	-0.08	0803	8.14	1512	-0.61	2047	7.17	Sat 30
31	Sun	0301	-0.34	0903	8.39	1614	-1.05	2153	7.31	Sun 31
JANUARY 2018										
01	Mon	0409	-0.50	1004	8.51	1713	-1.36	2252	7.53	Mon 01
02	Tue	0511	-0.69	1101	8.58	1807	-1.53	2349	7.68	Tue 02
03	Wed	0610	-0.78	1157	8.51	1900	-1.53			Wed 03
04	Thu	0045	7.73	0709	-0.74	1255	8.28	1953	-1.35	Thu 04
05	Fri	0143	7.69	0809	-0.59	1357	7.94	2048	-1.04	Fri 05
06	Sat	0244	7.59	0911	-0.38	1503	7.55	2145	-0.67	Sat 06
07	Sun	0347	7.46	1015	-0.16	1613	7.18	2244	-0.30	Sun 07
08	Mon	0450	7.37	1119	0.00	1719	6.90	2343	0.01	Mon 08
09	Tue	0551	7.33	1221	0.07	1822	6.75			Tue 09
10	Wed	0041	0.23	0649	7.36	1320	0.05	1920	6.70	Wed 10
11	Thu	0136	0.35	0744	7.43	1415	-0.03	2014	6.74	Thu 11
12	Fri	0228	0.40	0835	7.51	1506	-0.12	2104	6.82	Fri 12
13	Sat	0316	0.42	0923	7.59	1552	-0.20	2151	6.91	Sat 13
14	Sun	0400	0.42	1006	7.63	1635	-0.23	2234	6.98	Sun 14
15	Mon	0439	0.44	1046	7.62	1714	-0.21	2313	7.01	Mon 15
16	Tue	0512	0.46	1119	7.56	1747	-0.15	2347	7.01	Tue 16
17	Wed	0533	0.47	1137	7.51	1812	-0.08			Wed 17
18	Thu	0008	7.01	0547	0.40	1148	7.53	1822	-0.06	Thu 18
19	Fri	0017	7.10	0615	0.30	1215	7.58	1843	-0.12	Fri 19
20	Sat	0043	7.25	0652	0.21	1251	7.60	1916	-0.16	Sat 20
21	Sun	0118	7.41	0733	0.17	1323	7.54	1955	-0.15	Sun 21
22	Mon	0159	7.52	0818	0.17	1417	7.39	2039	-0.08	Mon 22
23	Tue	0245	7.57	0907	0.23	1507	7.16	2127	0.04	Tue 23
24	Wed	0335	7.56	1001	0.30	1602	6.89	2219	0.19	Wed 24
25	Thu	0430	7.53	1102	0.35	1703	6.65	2317	0.31	Thu 25
26	Fri	0531	7.52	1216	0.30	1810	6.53			Fri 26
27	Sat	0022	0.35	0637	7.59	1355	0.02	1926	6.60	Sat 27
28	Sun	0140	0.24	0748	7.76	1511	-0.45	2046	6.87	Sun 28
29	Mon	0306	-0.07	0900	8.01	1611	-0.93	2154	7.24	Mon 29
30	Tue	0415	-0.45	1005	8.25	1705	-1.30	2251	7.59	Tue 30
31	Wed	0513	-0.79	1104	8.40	1756	-1.51	2344	7.84	Wed 31
FEBRUARY 2018										
01	Thu	0608	-1.00	1158	8.40	1845	-1.53			Thu 01
02	Fri	0035	7.96	0701	-1.04	1252	8.24	1933	-1.36	Fri 02
03	Sat	0126	7.94	0754	-0.91	1345	7.94	2022	-1.03	Sat 03



The Puddles at Orchard Beach, Part II

In last month's column, we wrote about the Puddles at Orchard Beach—the puddles in the parking lot, that is—and the shorebirds that have been finding food there. It's not just gulls, either, although at least one rare gull visitor, a black-headed gull, has been photographed. Other visitors of note to the Puddles include sandpipers, plovers, pipits, whimbrels, dowitchers and yellowlegs (see below). There's also a peregrine falcon who bathes there regularly.

This instance of animal adaptation is



one of a kind and, to some, deserving of a closer look. The prevailing wisdom seems to be that the lack of freshwater habitat in Pelham Bay Park has led to the formation of a new kind of ecosystem, one in which leaky water pipes and poor drainage have as important a role to play as the sun in the delicate balance that characterizes all ecosystems. The question is: Is what Nature seems to have forged in a Bronx

parking lot worth protecting? And if not, why not? Conservation efforts have been mounted elsewhere for less, or so it can be argued.

Administrators of Pelham Bay Park have plans to address the lack of freshwater habitat, but sadly these do not include the Puddles, which is not considered a "habitat." Unlike other species, which can access fresh water in the forested areas, shorebirds prefer open spaces. As Jack Rothman (*cityislandbirds.com*) puts it: "In the past, in order for us to see migrating shorebirds, we generally had to go to Jamaica Bay, the beaches on Long Island. . . . and in PBP [Pelham Bay Park] a handful of shorebirds species could be seen at Turtle Cove, a few could be found on the edges at Hunter Island and Twin Island and we occasionally had a few on the beach."

Jack explains that "This year, probably because of the rain, the water table was high and the puddles remained for a long time. Suddenly they were filled with hundreds of shorebirds on a daily basis. It was fantastic, because we could be 15 feet away and observe them. It was a draw for the park and for the Bronx, we had visitors from all over."

This unique phenomenon has just begun making waves in certain scientific circles but, unfortunately is about to come to a grinding halt in the park. The concessionaire at Orchard Beach is undertaking a \$2 million renovation project, which includes repaving the parking lot. Half the lot is to be paved before winter, the other half in the spring. There is an effort afoot to reach some sort of compromise with the concessionaire, but the prospects do not seem promising.

Still, the effort is being made. So far, the New York Times, Post and Daily News have been contacted as well as News 12. In addition, assistance has been requested from the NYC chapter of the Audubon Society, the NYC Department of Parks and of Environmental Conservation, as well as the office of Councilmember Jimmy Vacca. The response to date has been lukewarm, but things are just getting going. Perhaps a reader or two (or three, or four . . .) will be motivated by reading this to spread the word to his or her own network of friends and acquaintances.

We will be back in the new year with an update on the situation with the Puddles. In the meantime, we invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com. And, as always at this time, we want to wish our readers a happy and healthy holiday season.

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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Red cornus siberica with birch papyrifera

Graham Stuart Thomas and The Winter Garden

None of us are born gardeners. My garden skills were honed by reading the great garden writers and by visiting important gardens in the U.S and the U.K. One of the first books to have an influence on me was written by Graham Stuart Thomas, an English botanist and expert rosarian. He oversaw 100 National Trust gardens and wrote books that have now become classics. What leads me today to extol the essential beauty of Winter is his book "Color in the Winter Garden." With that book, and the legendary Russell Page and his "The Education of a Gardener," one cannot fail to create a formidable garden with evergreens and blooms throughout the winter.

Like the squirrels that guarantee their future by burying their nuts, the gardener who plants evergreens and delights in the blossoms of winter is assured of turning five months of drear into cheer. We have nary a chore in the garden at this time, so we can be surveyors of our labor with the added bonus of snow dusting our plantings like tinsel.

If you have only one small space to spare, plant a witch hazel (*Hammamelis mollis* or *H. Jelena*), which you can order from *Monrovia.com*. As a skirt around this little tree you might plant *Hellobore orientalis* or *H. Niger* and underplant this with snowdrops. This is a glorious combination that will have you donning your muffler and running out into the chilly weather to view the progress, for the witch hazel will bloom in January with the snowdrops and hellebores following in quick succession. To be sure, if the backdrop is yew with its black green foliage, the tree will light up in contrast.

Graham Stuart Thomas loved trees with interesting bark, such as the birch papyrifera, the canoe or paper birch, which has the smoothest bark and is stunning

white without the blemish of black excrescences. The graceful river birch with light brown furry branches is of considerable beauty, and the pines that have rustic bark, particularly *Pinus nigra* and the scots pine are majestic. To top these all in height is the London Plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), which you can see at City Island's Hawkins Park. The bark peels off in curious large flakes. Looking up at the tree's giant trunk through the tracery of branches reveals the blue sky above, a meditation free to all.

Other books to read during a snow storm: "Winter Ornamentals" by Daniel Hinkley, "The Laskett" by Roy Strong, and the beloved Beverly Nichols trilogy "Down the Garden Path." These would make excellent gifts for the garden enthusiast.

The holidays are here! Decorating at this time of year can engage us in the delightful task of garnishing our homes with boughs, berries and wreaths, thus keeping us in tune with nature. Frost comes very suddenly, so remember to protect tender plants with twigs and leaves. Use your window boxes, pots and urns as moveable evergreen decoration. Spray Wilt-Pruf on all of the branches you decide to poke into these pots, as they will last much longer. I use white pine, cedar, and spruce as the main ingredients, with holly as filler. Rhododendron, pieris and boxwood are also good fill. You can use seedpods and dried plants like thistle as accents. Let the boughs of pine sweep down in festoons around your door and welcome visitors with candles and a stein of hot toddy. What is a hot toddy? 1 ounce of bourbon, 1 tablespoon of honey, 2 teaspoons of lemon juice and ¼ cup of boiling water. A good recipe for making rather merry.

Cheers!

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



Photos by MATT PANZA

It was a packed house at the annual Turkey Bingo in St. Mary, Star of the Sea gym on Friday, Nov. 17, 2017. There were turkeys aplenty generously donated by Seafood City, a beautiful Pampered Chef gift basket from Ginger Kotoff and bottles of wine courtesy of Teri Kurtz and the Cerrato family. The funds raised will benefit the Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea religious education program. Children from the program made beautiful banners, which decorated the walls of both the gym and St. Mary's Church.

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Organization News

Continued from page 15

package one for you to pick up.

Dec. 12 at 10:15: Scrapbooking with the City Island Library at the Center

Dec. 22: Close early at 1 p.m. Lunch served 11:30 to 12:30.

Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 29: Close early at 1 p.m. Lunch served 11:30 to 12:30.

Jan. 1, Monday: Closed

Jan. 11, Thursday, at 12:30: Nutritional Presentation

Jan. 15, Monday: Closed

Coming in January!

Aging Mastery Program

As part of PSS LIFE! University program, we are pleased to announce that we are the first in the area to offer an innovative new ten class health and wellness program to residents 60 and over. The Aging Master Program (AMP) was developed by the National Council on Aging. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in and reap the benefits of this cutting-edge program. We are currently recruiting adults ages 60+ to participate in the 10-class program. Not all classes are required, but we encourage you to attend at least seven.

AMP is a fun, innovative and person-centered education program that empowers participants to embrace their gift of longevity by spending more time each day doing things that are good for themselves and for others. The program encourages mastery and developing sustainable behaviors across many dimensions that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being and that increase societal participation.

We will host the introductory class "Navigating Longer Lives: The Basics of Aging Mastery" on Friday, Jan. 5, at 1 p.m. at the Center.

Jan. 5: Navigating Longer Lives: The Basics of Aging Mastery (Patty Attis, Director)

Jan. 12: Healthy Relationships (Linda Hill MSW)

Jan. 19: Financial Fitness. Tentative; please call ahead.

Jan. 26: Exercise and You (Maura Dre-wry)

Feb. 2: Community Engagement (Katrina Dinham)

Feb. 9: Healthy Eating and Hydration. Tentative; please call ahead.

Feb. 16: Falls Prevention (Susan Rosen-dahl-Masella)

Feb. 23: Medication Management. Tentative; please call ahead.

March 2: Advance Planning. Tentative; please call ahead.

March 9: Sleep (Patty Attis)

December-January Physical Exercise:

The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Balance Class at 1 p.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

December-January Programs: Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m., Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Blood Pressure Monitoring 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; Jam Session at 11 a.m., Crafters Corner 1:45 p.m.;

Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 at 1 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of each month; please call to sign up; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Birthday Party Dec. 28, tentatively Jan. 25; Fridays: Aging Mastery Classes at 1 p.m. (see above).

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

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

Transportation Services. Off island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call the driver at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

American Legion Auxiliary

Veterans Day is a day not only to remember those who died in service to our country, but also to recognize those who continue to serve today. On behalf of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, we wish to say "thank you" to all those who fulfilled their patriotic duty to maintain the freedoms of our country. Please donate to our poppy program and wear a poppy proudly to honor all our veterans. Crocheted poppy pins are available through Joanne Valletta, co-chair at jcute53@aol.com.

The Veterans Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 5, was a huge success. Many thanks to Arties Seafood Restaurant, the Crab Shanty, the Lobster House and the Black Whale for their gift certificate donations. Special thanks to Ken and Jennifer at Boat Max who donated our outdoor sign and to Jay at Empire Bagels for the donation of two dozen bagels. Special thanks to Sandy Dunn Tsuyako and the Grace Tones for serenading our guests.

Many thanks to Meaghan Clancy and student's pre-K through eighth grade of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Pelham, who volunteered their time and talents to create beautiful cards for our veterans. Each veteran received a card upon admission and marveled at the drawings and messages. It was truly appreciated.

Harlan Sexton performed the Quilts of Valor ceremony to honor Mr. William (Billy) McGee, a Pacific Theater World War II U.S. Navy veteran who was born in 1926. Mr. McGee accepted the award with his son, Billy McGee his daughter, Karen Gilder, his granddaughter Kerry Gilder and his caretaker, Henry, by his side. Ron Turner photographed the momentous event, an emotional and heartwarming ceremony that honored a long-time resident and humble man from the greatest generation. On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, we salute this honoree.

The Bronx County Holiday Gift Shop Program will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bronx VA. We encourage all ALA members to

attend. If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Susan O'Keefe Vaughan at sue183v@aol.com.

The ALA Unit 156 Trim a Tree Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. We will repeat our "Pick a Veteran" event by distributing gifts/gift cards to our veterans. We will have entertainment, food and holiday cheer. All members are encouraged to attend this fun, annual event.

The annual Leonard H. Hawkins Children's Christmas/Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be sponsoring a mid-winter Social for members; \$25 per person, with chef Bobby Salerno. Details to follow.

Joanne Valletta

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

The dues for 2018 (\$30) are now due.

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

The annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, in front of the Post, since the triangle is still under construction. Everyone is welcome to attend and should assemble at the Post at 11:30 a.m. The service begins at 12 noon in front of the Post.

Our next meetings are Thursday, Dec. 7, and Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. We will be having our first Squadron Everlasting ceremony in memory of members who have passed away. We would like everyone to try and attend.

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

Fred Ramftl Jr.

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. The latest lessons have been on the Acts of the Apostles. All children are welcome to attend.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), where you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister, Reverend David Jolly.

The Budget Shop is open. Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Worship Schedule: Sundays at 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, led by Father John Covington. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We now do birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

Schedule of Christmas Services:

Sunday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. The Christ-Mass and Pageant

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Grace Church Christmas Fair and Bake Sale. Just in time for holiday shopping, our annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will feature something for everyone! Find those perfect gifts at our various vendors and make sure to stop by the table

filled with an assortment of one-of-a kind jams from The Jam Man! Taste the apricot jalapeño or the pear ginger, and how about a spoonful of strawberry pineapple to tantalize your taste buds! After all that tasting, take time out for lunch, which will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. And don't forget to buy a ticket or two for the 50/50 raffle!

Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Pageant continue on Sundays, Dec. 3 and 17. The pageant will be presented at the start of the Christmas Eve service (scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 24.) You can still be part of the pageant by attending the last two rehearsals.

Sunday School meets regularly on the first and third Sundays of each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry. We are happy to announce that the GraceTones are celebrating the completion of two full years of performing at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers! Comprising members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform an average of one show each month. On Dec. 16, we'll sing Christmas Carols for Vietnam Veterans at the VA Bronx Medical Center. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

American Legion Post #156

The next meetings are Sunday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Jan. 7, at 12 noon and after the Legion Family Veterans Breakfast sponsored by Leonard H. Hawkins Legion Auxiliary Unit 156. Dues (\$55) are past due. Please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope.

The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

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

Thanks to Bruno Laponese and his electrician son, Anthony, for installing the new lighting by the side doors.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the post for proper disposal. Please put them in the patriotic mailbox by the Post's flag pole. Thanks to Ed Shipp and Russell Garcea for taking all of the retired flags to Alpine Boy Scout Camp for an official retirement ceremony.

Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion for all that they do to assist in our success. And especially, all Legion family members who helped to make the Serviceman's Dinner the great success it was as well as those who stuffed and delivered the turkey raffles. Additional thanks go to all who helped decorate the bar for Christmas.

The following are dates for upcoming events. Dec. 2: Pearl Harbor Service sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron #156 at 12 noon at the Post; Dec. 9: Bronx County Christmas Party from 2 to 5 p.m. at Post 620 (1530 Hutchinson River Parkway East). If you plan to attend, you must call Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 so a head count can be obtained; Dec. 17: Children's Christmas Party from 2 to 5 p.m. at the City Island Post 156; Dec. 18: Post 156 Christmas Party from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; Dec. 25: Merry Christmas to all.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 98 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

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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.

She is survived by her sister Gail; her son John and his wife, Lorraine, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and her son Glenn and his wife, Linda, of Somers, NY, as well as three granddaughters, six great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Norma and his brothers, Ed, Robert and George of City Island, and their children, Edward, Lucille, Michelle, Robert, Cassidy and Russell. Jay is also survived by his two

sons with his first wife, Maureen Kortleven: John, his wife, Kimberly, and son Kingston; and Peter, his wife, Carrie, and children Bryce and Laurel.



Dorothy Ann Docherty

Dorothy Docherty, a clam digger who lived her entire life on City Island, passed away on Nov. 8, 2017, at the age of 87.

She was born on Dec. 27, 1919, to Albert and Gertrude Constantine of City Island. She graduated from P.S. 17, Columbus High School and the NY Merchandising Institute. Dorothy worked for 50 years in the family business, Albert Constantine & Son, on Eastchester Road in the Bronx, selling specialty lumber and woodworking supplies.

She always lived on Horton Street, surrounded by longtime neighbors and friends. Her favorite pastime was to look out her window at the spectacular view of Eastchester Bay, especially the sunsets.



John (Jay) Howard

John Howard, better known as Jay, was born in Mount Vernon, NY, on Aug. 2, 1941, and died peacefully at his home on City Island, surrounded by his wife, family and friends on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017.

Jay moved to City Island in 1958 and was a major force in community projects, outreach and service for many years. He was also an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. An avid sailor, he and his wife Norma were both members of the prestigious sailing club the Brotherhood of the Coast.

He was a true man of the people and inspired everyone who knew him with his kindness, selflessness, humor and genuine interest in the human spirit; especially the young, the vulnerable, the needy and the ordinary.

Jay Howard achieved public recognition for his service with teens through his "Living Rocks" project and was an inspiration to young and old alike.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

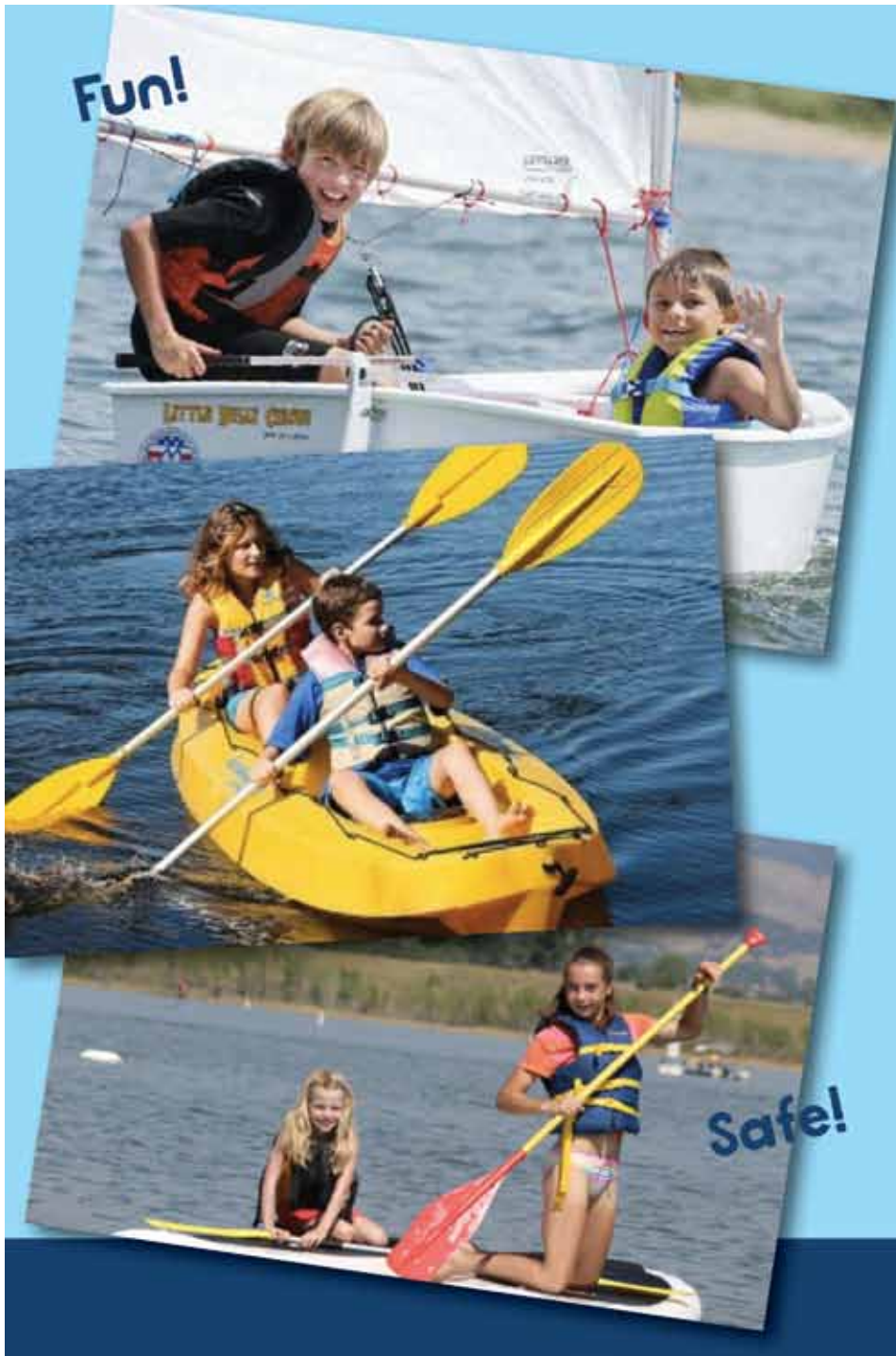
LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
Sunday, December 17
7:30 PM

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

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
Mass: 9:00 AM & 11:AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY/ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD
MONDAY, JANUARY 1
Masses: 7:00 AM
(NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR)



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Session III July 23 - Aug 10

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I received the 2017 Five Star Award, and was featured in the October issue of the Westchester Magazine for a third year in a row!



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Family Day
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 Holiday Craft Sessions
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 Holiday Shop & Home-Baked Goods

Saturday | **DECEMBER 2** | 7 - 10 PM
Evergreen Gala
 Launch the holiday season in style at the mansion
 Cocktails, Buffet Dinner, Dancing, Caroling & More
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A Current Review

**“The City Island Messenger”
by James Gregory Kingston**

by GARY MAKUFKA

A new novel, “The City Island Messenger,” was recently released by the multi-talented author James Gregory Kingston, who is best known for the 1985 movie *Turk 182*. This book tells the story of a group of close neighbors who live on an island in July 1942 during the height of World War II. The main character of the story is saxophone-playing 12-year-old Howie, who works part time as a messenger for Western Union. Telegrams were once welcomed by recipients, but now that war has arrived, Howie’s deliveries are looked upon with dread, since those messages are now being delivered to inform parents that their sons have been killed in the war.

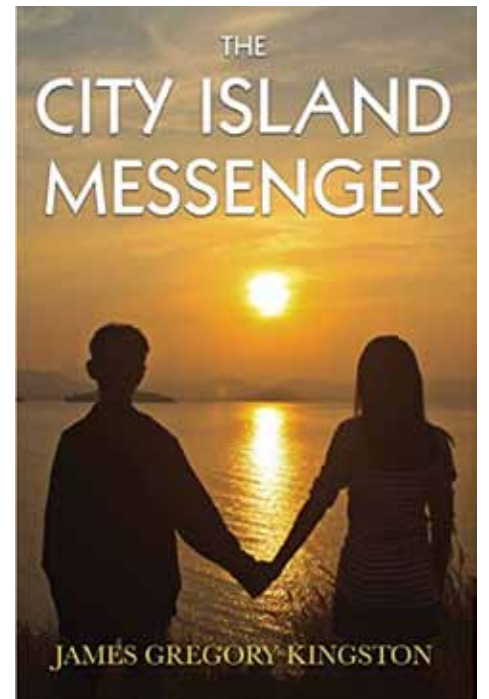
Howie’s girlfriend is a Japanese-American by the name of Kim Nakamora. Her father owns the only store on the island, a convenience store that also houses the Western Union station, and some of the residents are beginning to believe that Mr. Nakamora is untrustworthy.

Throughout the book, we see the characters interact with one another, including a bully and a blind African-American man who plays the piano. Topics such as brothers, sisters, baseball games and social get-togethers are skillfully handled by the author.

The problem with this story is the lack of a central plot. But the author points out on the website *27east.com* that this work of fiction was 60 years in the making and “is really about the words and the characters, but not necessarily about the plot.”

In Mr. Kingston’s story, the place he calls City Island in 1942 consists of about 600 residents, a deserted street as the main thoroughfare, a bus that never shows up (that sounds familiar) with few passengers aboard, a rickety old bridge leading to “The Real Bronx” and two old homes at the very southern tip of the island that “talk” to one another by creaking at night.

This imaginary community is not, of course, based on our City Island but on a small town in Suffolk County called



Hampton Bays as it was in the 1960s, and the characters are based on a true coming-of-age story that the author himself experienced. But the book, available on *Amazon.com*, is no less interesting, and the climax is an unexpected event sure to surprise the readers as much as it did the characters.



Photo by SUSAN RAUH

Congratulations to City Island marathoner Mike Rauh, shown above nearing the 23-mile mark of the TCS New York City Marathon on Nov. 5, 2017. Despite sustaining a calf injury in early October, Mike finished his 36th consecutive NYC Marathon in 6 hours 30 minutes.

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Trinity United Methodist Church hosted its annual Thanksgiving dinner with enthusiastic help from a more than few friends, including David and Gabriel Ellis, DeeDee Simmons, Pat Laporte, George Cavalieri, Mike Bunyan, Walter Richards, Jessica Richman, Michael Florentino, Rabbi David Evan Markus of Temple Beth-El, Mariann Kessler, Charlotte Ganberg, Janet Seifer, George Klein, Norma Howard, Pat Daniella Haney, Ellen Weinstein, Joseph Stern and Shelia A. Stern. Special thanks go to the City Island Fire House for their last-minute turkey donation.

CLASSIFIED

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

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SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017: Holiday Fair at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lots of amazing vendors and an opportunity to take your holiday photo with Ron Terner. Come on out and do your holiday shopping. E-mail kimfmybc@gmail.com with any questions.

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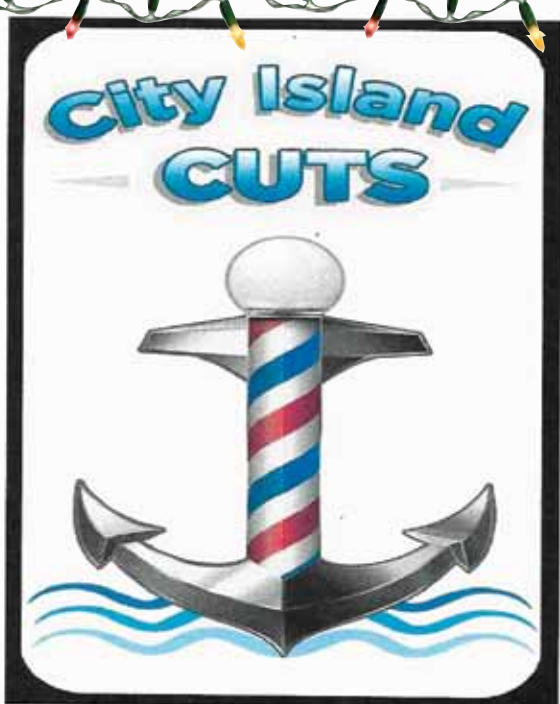
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Happy Dec. 12 birthday to Islander Joe Cozzi.



Bruce Weis celebrated his "Sexy 65th" birthday with his wife, Sandy.



Big sister Neva welcomed Minneford Avenue's newest resident, Kurt Richard Simon, born Oct. 15, 2017.



Zoey Eleanor was born to Joshua Glick and Jennifer Hernandez on Nov. 4, 2017.

Happy 13th birthday, Neva: big sister to Minneford Avenue's newest resident, Kurt Richard Simon, born Oct. 15. We love you both with all our hearts, Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday wishes to our other Little League "Slugger," our grandson Jake, who will be celebrating his 8th birthday on Dec. 26. Love, Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Welcome to Reynolds Street's newest residents, the Cavinee family. We wish you much happiness in your new home. And a very happy New Year's Eve birthday greeting to Bobby Cavinee. Lots to celebrate!

It's a girl! Welcome to Zoey Eleanor, born to Joshua Glick and Jennifer Hernandez on Nov. 4. Grandpa (Popop) Elliott and Grandma (Baboo) Monica Glick are filled with joy!

Happy December birthday wishes to Ena Ellwanger and former Islander Donna Buhl. Both continue to have many friends and family members on City Island and we wish them both all the best.

Belated November happy birthday greetings to *The Current's* film critic, Bruce Weis, who celebrated his "Sexy 65th" with family and friends on Nov. 4. His wife, Sandy, surprised him with a lively party at Paddy's on the Island.

Happy birthday on Dec. 1 to our son Joe Ribaud, with love from Mom and Dad.

Clam digger Joe Cozzi is celebrating his BIG birthday on Dec. 12. Best wishes from your family and friends.

Happy birthday across the miles to former Islander Anjulee Sebastian on Dec. 22. Your City Island "family" misses you!

Frank Robert Cebek of City Island and Mara Hubbard Smith of Westbury, NY, were united in marriage on Sept. 23, 2017, at St. Brigid's Catholic Church, followed by a celebratory reception at the Bellport Country Club on Long Island. The groom is the son of Cathy and Frank Cebek. The bride is the daughter of Debbie and Brian Smith.

Correction: The November issue listed the Rodstrom wedding as having taken place in Arkansas but abbreviated it "AK," which is Alaska. Sorry for the mistake!

Wishing all our readers, neighbors and friends a very happy holiday and all the best in 2018!

Maria Swieciki



Frank Cebek and Mara Hubbard Smith on their wedding day.



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REMINDER
The January/February issue of *The Island Current* will be published and on newsstands at the end of January.

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