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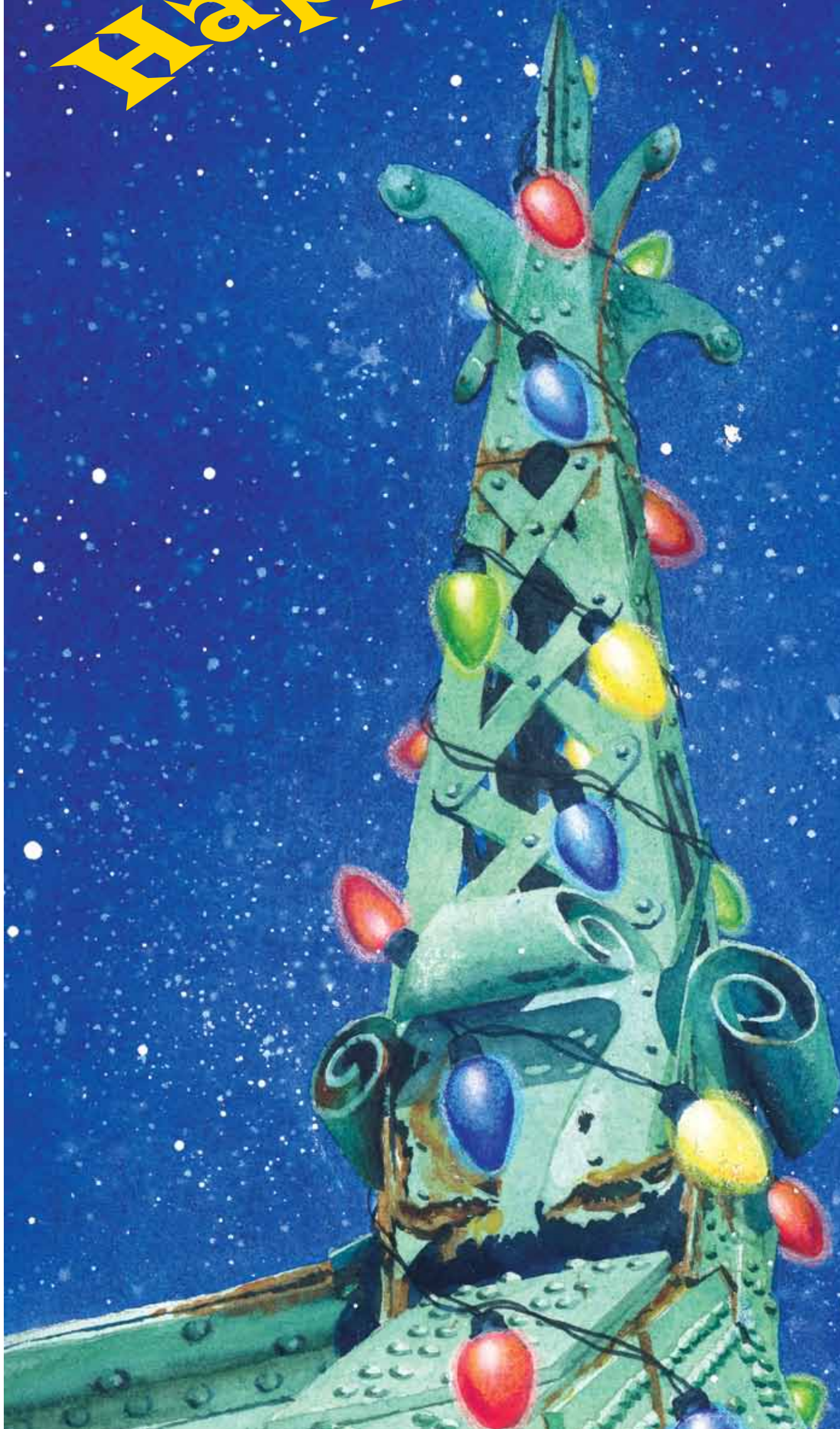


Volume 43 Number 10

December 2014

One Dollar

Happy Holidays!



From
*The Island
Current*
Staff

J. CANNON-JONES

BRIEFLY...

HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET SALE sponsored by the City Island Community Center will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. Lots of holiday finds, including crafts, vintage and antique items.

ATTENTION CITY ISLAND ARTISTS: The City Island Chamber of Commerce is asking local City Island artists to present their concepts for artwork to be painted on the Chamber's new tourism bus (see photo page 7). Images should speak to the quality of life and unique aspects of the City Island community. The Chamber asks that all proposals be submitted to the Chamber by Jan. 15, 2015. They may be dropped off at the Chamber office located within Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. A committee will choose up to six artists whose work will be displayed on the bus. Spaces will vary, so the artwork should be flexible to fit various parts of the vehicle. This bus will be used to promote City Island by bringing groups to the Island and helping to reduce traffic.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR will take place on Friday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come enjoy the home-baked goods, gifts and holiday spirit.

GRACE CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS FAIR AND CAFÉ will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., offering hand-made ornaments, pillows, bath and body products, Christmas cards, crocheted hats and scarves, one-of-a-kind jams and much more! The bake sale will start at 10 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Don't miss it!

MENORAH LIGHTING: Tuesday, Dec. 16, in Hawkins Park, at 6 p.m., with refreshments and gathering at Kaleidoscope Gallery afterwards.



Photo by ERIC RAUHAUSER

On Nov. 25, police recovered the body of a man in the water off the Morris Yacht Club.

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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2014. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 3 – ASSAULT*
- 3 – GRAFFITI COMPLAINTS
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – DEAD ON ARRIVAL (DOA)

Police provided details on the following arrests* and incidents for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 25, 2014.

10/19–10/20 – Police from the 45th Precinct received reports of three incidents of graffiti vandalism to commercial establishments on City Island Avenue. Officers from the Vandalism and Crime Prevention Unit documented the graffiti and scheduled the locations to be cleaned, power washed and/or re-painted with the precinct's equipment. As the *Current* went to press, one establishment had already been cleaned, and the other two were in the process of graffiti removal.

10/28 – On Winters Street, the ex-husband of an Islander left annoying or threatening photos in an act of harassment. No arrest was made.

11/1 – Police are investigating a possible telephone scam and incident of petit larceny. A Minneford Avenue resident, 67, claimed that an unknown person contacted him claiming to be an IRS agent and demanded payment of \$500. Police urge Islanders to be wary of phone callers demanding money as they may be con artists.

11/12 – On Schofield Street, an off-Island female, 23, was arrested at 1 p.m. and charged with assault. The woman allegedly stabbed her boyfriend in the back with an unknown object.

11/12 – At 3:30 p.m. on City Island Avenue, a complainant reported that the seats

of his boat, docked in a marina, had been damaged in an act of criminal mischief.

11/14 – A City Island Avenue commercial establishment received a letter in the mail pertaining to an incident that occurred. Detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating the act of aggravated harassment and the source of the letter, which contained racial slurs and obscenities.

11/18 – At 2 p.m. on Pilot Street, a verbal dispute escalated into an assault. An off-Island male was reportedly injured when a friend's female aide closed a door on his arm causing a laceration.

11/22 – Police responded to a 911 call at a yacht club on City Island at 11 p.m. An off-Island member of the club was reportedly intoxicated and verbally harassing guests at a private party. No arrest was made.

11/25 – At 8:25 a.m., police recovered the body of a man off the pier at the Morris Yacht Club on Rochelle Street. According to witnesses, the man was a kayaker from Edgewater in the Bronx who had been reported missing the previous evening. A search party, including three police boats and an NYPD helicopter, recovered the body and pronounced him DOA at the scene.



**Happy Holidays from
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and
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**The People of
Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Christmas Fair
December 5, 2-8 PM and
December 6, 11 AM-3 PM**

**Parsonage Open House
December 7, Noon to 2 PM**

**Sunday School
Christmas Pageant
December 14, 10 AM**

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24 at 10 PM**

SPECIAL NOTE:
Thank you to Sammy's Fish Box Restaurant which generously donated the hot and delicious Thanksgiving traditional meal for 120 guests; and to all volunteers who served them like royal family dignitaries in the full spirit of thanksgiving to God on Thanksgiving Day.



Photos by KAREN NANI

The annual holiday tree lighting in Hawkins Park took place under clear, cold skies on Nov. 29. The switch was thrown by Paul Klein of the City Island Chamber of Commerce with help from Elaine and Zachary Belasco (photo, top right) followed by caroling led by Ken and Elizabeth Farnum (photo, left). The tree was adorned with new ornaments courtesy of Islander Laury Hopkins and a group of local artists (photo, bottom right). The festive tradition is a welcome beginning to the season of joy on City Island.

ST. MARY'S IS MERGING

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



In November 2014, Cardinal Timothy Dolan announced that St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church will be merging with Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (photo above) in Pelham Bay.

2014 Election Results

By JOHN DOYLE

Much like the rest of New York State, City Island's voter turnout was down this November when compared to previous years. According to unofficial returns from the NYC Board of Elections, 987 City Islanders showed up this year to cast ballots in the governor's race, with incumbent Governor Andrew Cuomo receiving approximately 59 percent of those ballots.

Governor Cuomo carried all four of the Island's election districts over Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino; the closest contest was in the 62nd district (located between Hawkins and Tier Streets), where Mr. Cuomo narrowly beat Mr. Astorino 134 to 100. Mr. Cuomo ran on the Democratic, Working Families, Independence and Women's Equality party lines; Mr. Astorino ran on the Republican, Conservative and Stop-CommonCore party lines. Minor party candidates received votes from 62 City Islanders.

City Islanders also voted to re-elect incumbent Democrats Eric Schneiderman, Thomas DiNapoli, Joseph Crowley, Jeffrey Klein and Michael Benedetto to their respective offices. None of these elections were particularly close. Only Congressman Crowley ran without major party opposition.

Four years ago, Governor Cuomo also swept City Island's election districts, defeating Republican Candidate Carl Paladino by a 65 to 35 percent margin. In that election, 1,194 residents showed up to cast their votes. This year's turnout was down between 13 to 18 percent, compared to four years ago. In last year's mayoral election, 1,007 Islanders showed up to cast votes. Mayor Bill de Blasio won that election in a landslide, but Republican Joe Lhota narrowly carried City Island over Mr. de Blasio and the Independence Party nominee and City Island resident Adolfo Carrion drew more than 10 percent of the vote.

At the Masses on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, Fr. Michael Challinor announced that St. Mary, Star of the Sea would not be closing, as was feared, but will merge with Our Lady of the Assumption in Pelham Bay. The news came in a letter from Cardinal Timothy Dolan following the long-awaited review of all the parishes in the archdiocese.

The Cardinal wrote: "You will be part of a new community of faith, now joining with the faithful of the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in becoming a new spiritual family where all of you will gather as one to worship the Lord and engage in the works of the Church. This will be a trying and testing time of transition, but I am confident that, two parishes joined together as one new parish, will create the strength that we planned for the future of our archdiocese."

This latest announcement is a further step in Cardinal Dolan's pastoral planning process called "Making All Things New," which was begun in 2010 and is the largest reorganization in the history of the archdiocese. The Cardinal feels that there are too many churches and too few Catholics to fill the pews, and the number of priests and religious personnel to staff them has seriously dwindled. According to the Cardinal, parishes need to be merged in order to make better use of financial and human resources. A newly created Parish Planning Office will be in charge of evaluating the newly merged parishes every two years.

In June, St. Mary's was put on a list of 48 parishes that were candidates for merger. The final ruling resulted in a list of 24 parishes and 24 "other" churches. Our Lady of the Assumption is now the designated parish church, and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, the "other," is no longer considered a parish. To the relief of Islanders, the Mass and sacraments will continue to be celebrated on City Island at the church.

Our Lady of the Assumption is located

in Pelham Bay, about four miles from City Island. It can be reached by the No. 29 bus to Pelham Bay Station and then a brisk 10-minute walk. The parish has six weekend Masses and three during the week.

St. Mary's parishioners were cautiously optimistic but also a bit sad, confused and even angry. "I'm just glad that he didn't shut the door!" exclaimed one parishioner. Another longtime parishioner said "I have had christenings here, communions, confirmations and was married here, and I want to be buried from St. Mary, Star of the Sea, not OLA!"

Fr. Michael told *The Current*: "There will still be Sunday and daily Masses here, but there may be a change in the Mass schedule. All the sacraments will still be administered at St. Mary's, and the CCD and sports programs will continue." He also feels that the merger is "very beneficial financially and spiritually."

Deacon Bill Mueller, a member of St. Mary's Core Team, which worked with the archdiocese to prevent the closing of St. Mary's, was "pleased that we still have our church with the Masses and sacraments for the community of City Island. That's important!" Also, he senses that parishioners will not be terribly impacted except that there will be one pastor for two parishes. "Particulars have to be worked out, so many things are not decided yet," he said.

These details include what services each parish will retain and other administrative issues that must be worked out by the two pastors. According to the archdiocese, savings from the consolidation will come from shared administrative costs.

It's the "not knowing" that concerns many St. Mary's parishioners, however, and their many questions have yet to be answered. "Who will be our pastor?" "Will we still have an on-site priest after August?" "Is Fr. Michael staying?" "Will our church have a new name?" "What exactly are the services we will be sharing with OLA?" "These are some of the questions we will just have to wait out," said Deacon Mueller.

Some people still don't understand why all this is happening and why St. Mary's, which is on an island, was on a list to close in the first place. With 697 registered families, it is hard for many to believe that St. Mary's needed to merge. The recent decision, so soon after the closing of St. Mary's School in 2012, only adds to the frustration of the City Island community with the archdiocese.

All the changes will be finalized by the archdiocese after a period of transition, which will be done on a parish-by-parish basis to be completed by Aug. 1, 2015.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

Christmas Schedule
2014

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
Sunday, December 21
7:30 PM

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

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

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God-Holy Day of Obligation)
Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon



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Happy Holidays!



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.



Photo by MARK NANI
Ray's Café at 205 City Island Avenue.

Thanks from Ray's Café

To the Editor:
We would like to thank all of the residents of City Island who have supported us throughout our first year at Ray's Café. Special thanks to Josie and Chris Rice, Armando and Cindy Candeleria, Omar and Ivyonne Ortiz, Sergio and Judy Lopez, Issa Reyes, Jillian Reyes, Rey "Babito" Reyes, Yvette Reyes and Provie Rodriguez, Marco Ramos, Angel Ramos, Rita and Bernardo Ramirez, and Virginia Gallagher.
Thank you.
Ray and Katy Reyes

Vote of Confidence

To the Editor:
The P.S. 175 P.T.A. executive board extends heartfelt gratitude to the City Island community for supporting our annual Election Day Sale. According to published reports, voter turnout (in the city and the state overall) was abysmal—but we would have never guessed that! At P.S. 175, Island residents were in and out throughout the day, cheerfully buying baked goods, gently used books and raffle tickets. We had more than 100 prizes up for grabs, most courtesy of generous local business owners and students' families. (The winner of our cash 50/50 got over \$700!)

All proceeds support Lincoln Center arts programming and subsidize buses for school trips, among other necessities that a barebones NYC DOE budget just doesn't cover. Fundraising is critical to make our school special, and we wholeheartedly thank parents, friends and neighbors for their generosity.

Meanwhile, please save the date for our annual Card Party, on Friday, March 27, 2015, at Scavello's on the Island (formerly The Lido). Theme: Under the Sea! Information about buying tickets for this fun night out will be published as the date gets closer. Hope to see you there.

Lisa Knapp and Jonna Wepler
P.T.A. Co-Presidents

Appreciating Support

To the Editor:
At a time when we should be lost for words, so many come to mind: community, humanity, sincerity, familiarity, loyalty, camaraderie, respectability, caring, sharing, love, support, dedication, but most important: humbling.

As resident clam diggers, my husband and I always knew we wanted to raise our family in a neighborhood where most of us watch out for one another. Your outpouring of concern and genuine love of our son, Keith W. Manfredonia, reinforces the decision that we made. So many acts of kindness, wonderful stories shared and your presence have made what is a truly difficult time something to be treasured.

It is no wonder that our son wanted nothing more than to come home any chance he could. We are truly grateful for all you have done and the tributes that you have paid to Keith. A special thank you to the Leonard Hawkins American Legion and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Our sincerest thanks,
The Manfredonia Family
(Keith, Lisa, Alyssa and Anna)

Support After the Fire

To the City Island Community:
We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the entire City Island community for all their help and support following the devastating fire at our home on Rochelle Street. In the days and weeks following this tragic event, friends, neighbors, and even strangers reached out with clothes, books and toys for our daughter, beds for us to sleep on, along with tables and chairs for us to sit at and plan how we would rebuild our lives here.

When we moved onto City Island, we knew this was the place for us, the place where we wanted to put down roots. However, your generosity and support has genuinely touched every member of our family and taught us the true depth and breadth of the ties that bind us all into what we now realize is a truly unique and special group of people.

Thank you so much!
Paul, Marisa and Neva Simon

Respect for the Dead

To the Editor:
Regarding Potter's Field on Hart Island, the issue of changing jurisdiction from the Department of Corrections is not about having another park to visit (see article on page 7). Virginia Gallagher recently said that we have a beautiful Pelham Bay Park and don't need another park. She is right, but what we do need is a cemetery that is freely accessible, the way that any free burial place paid for by our taxes must be. The main issue is not about a park, but rather about human decency—respect for the dead and respect for the living who have the right to visit a cemetery without any hindrance.

How would you feel if you couldn't visit the grave of your mother, father, baby or any other relative or friend when you chose to? Would any one of us want to be told we had to register, show documents, wait for

the approval, wait for the "right time" once a month, or any other hindrance?

How would you feel when you finally receive permission and you arrive on the day allotted, but first you're greeted by officers who check you in and remove your cell phones and cameras? How would you feel, when you finally are ferried over to Hart Island but are not allowed to go anywhere near the grave of your loved one?

Instead, you are taken by an officer to a gazebo, which is nowhere near the cemetery, where the officer stands guard. You may spend a short time there to meditate, pray or sit quietly, but you cannot stay as

long as you choose, as you can in any other cemetery, whether it be public or private..

I experienced all this firsthand several times when I worked with Mother Patty Alexander, former vicar of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island, when she and other volunteers, including members of the City Island Community Center, helped a limit of only 10 people to get to the gazebo once a month.

The issue of changing jurisdiction from the Department of Corrections to the Parks Department is really about human decency and respect—respect for the dead as well as the living.

Toby Z. Liederman

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New York Road Runners Honor Dr. Norbert Sander



On Oct. 25, the New York Road Runners (NYRR) presented an award to Dr Norbert Sander: (l. to r.) NYRR Chief Production Officer Peter Ciaccia, Dr. Sander, NYRR board member Mike Frankfurt and Joseph King.

During New York City's race week, the New York Road Runners (NYRR) presented the Abebe Bikila Award to Dr. Norbert Sander, who has had a medical practice on City Island for many years and was the winner of the New York City marathon in 1974.

The award was presented at NYRR's largest youth running event of the school year, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the New Balance Track and Field Center

at the Armory on Fort Washington Avenue. Nearly 2,000 students participated in NYRR Youth Jamboree, sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services, in a variety of track and field events, which included relays, runs, long jump, and shot put for kids of all abilities in pre-K through high school.

Dr. Sander, who is president and executive director of the Armory Foundation, was honored for his outstanding commitment and contributions to the sport of distance running.

Temporary Bridge Delayed until January

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The installation of supports for the temporary bridge is ongoing, but the schedule for putting that bridge in place by the end of the year has been delayed slightly and will probably not take place until mid to late January.

One of the two 103-year-old water mains that had to be moved was not where it was reported to be, so the NYC Department of Environmental Protection had to send divers underwater to find it and then the Department of Transportation (DOT) had to make some design adjustments. However, according to DOT Chief Bridge Engineer Robert Collyer, the overall schedule has not been seriously impacted, and the construction of the new permanent bridge should be "well along by this time next year." He also reported that the first phase of the construction of the new culvert near Turtle Cove had been completed on schedule.

Mr. Collyer's reports were made at a DOT meeting held on City Island on Monday, Nov. 24, where representatives of the City Island Civic, Chamber and Garden Club were asked to review preliminary designs for the Legion Triangle proposed by the landscape design firm Barbara Thayer Associates. The present triangle will be removed during construction,

but it will be rebuilt in a larger format that will be raised somewhat above the street level with plantings, a new flagpole, reset monuments, a walkway, and the "Welcome to City Island" sign on a wall constructed of stones reclaimed from the existing bridge.

The design will now be presented to the city's Public Design Commission for approval before finished designs are completed. Because the Garden Club of City Island is expected to continue its maintenance of the triangle, questions as to plant selection and accessible water were raised and will be addressed at a future meeting. As no representative of the American Legion was present, DOT will reach out to the commander for input regarding the re-installation of the monuments.

The fencing that was approved for the bridge will be eight feet high, but not curved as in earlier renderings, and will be constructed of nearly transparent chain link, which will be necessary to prevent fishing from the bridge.

Those with questions about the bridge construction project are encouraged to email Roland Rigos at cityislandbridgebx1164@gmail.com or to call his office at 718-885-1251 or 917-626-8391.

ARRIVEDERCI, LIDO. WELCOME, SCAVELLO'S!

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and courtesy of PAUL SCAVELLO

The Lido on City Island Avenue and Pilot Street will become Scavello's On the Island in 2015. Paul Scavello (left photo) and his family have purchased the property and are renovating both the banquet hall and restaurant. The outside facelift will include removal of the imitation Italian statues on the roof and the carpeting on the sidewalk in front.

For almost 50 years, the Lido catering facility was located on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Over the years, many Islanders have attended weddings, Sweet 16 parties, Chamber of Commerce dinners and other events in one of the Lido's two ballrooms. In the fall of this year, the Scavello family, owners of the IGA market on City Island, purchased the facility and in January 2015, the Lido marquee will be renamed Scavello's On the Island.

The Lido had been closed since 2013, when it was seized by federal marshals reportedly over unpaid taxes. Two years before that, the owners had also lost the Lido parking lot across the street on City Island Avenue. TD Bank purchased the catering facility at a foreclosure auction in 2013.

Last year, a broker approached Paul Scavello and asked whether he was interested in purchasing the Lido. He declined, but six months later, "they called me back, the price had been reduced, and a contract with another potential buyer had fallen through," he told *The Current*. So he submitted a proposal and TD Bank accepted the offer in September 2014.

The acquisition of a full service catering facility and restaurant on City Island is a logical next step for the Scavello family. Gabe Scavello opened the IGA in the old Raymond movie theater building in the early 1980s: "After my father bought the building, I would work there after school and summers. I remember finding the old movie reels lying around," Paul reminisced.

Several members of the Scavello family worked at the IGA, including Paul's uncles Frank and Mario. Frank passed away about five years ago, and Mario is now a state senator in Pennsylvania. "We lived in Country Club in the Bronx, but my uncles used to commute from Mt. Pocono in Pennsylvania every day."

In the 1990s, Gabe rented the IGA to Barbara and Bill Rim but took back the business in 2004. He also opened another IGA in Hartsdale, NY. Paul, meanwhile, opened Scavello's Market on Tremont Avenue in the Bronx in 2000.

In 2008 Paul and Gabe decided to focus their efforts on City Island and expand the IGA into a catering service as well. They built a large kitchen on the second floor of the market, located at 385 City Island Avenue, increased the staff to 20 and transitioned everyone from the other two markets to City Island.

The strategy was a huge success, according to Paul. "We are now a corporate catering facility, and our clients include the New York City Board of Education, Chase Bank, Presbyterian Senior Services and other businesses." They cater everything from breakfast meetings to staff holiday parties to lunches for the seniors at Grace Episcopal Church every weekday.

In addition, Scavello's took over the catering at the Harlem Yacht Club last year and increased the party and event business at the club. Paul explained: "It was a great experience, but now that we have purchased the Lido, we can't do both."

Renovating the Lido is even a bigger task than they originally planned. The entire roof was leaking and has to be rebuilt and replaced before any of the cosmetic changes can begin. Gabe is overseeing the renovation,

but Paul will ultimately run the business.

Paul, who is now 33, attended P.S. 175 and Cardinal Spellman High School. He still lives in Country Club, now with his wife. Since he was a teenager, he has worked at one of the family markets and was always interested in food and catering. "I come from a family of phenomenal cooks, especially my mother who was born in Calabria, Italy."

His vision for Scavello's includes full service event catering in the two original ballrooms, a restaurant featuring an Italian and seafood menu on the second floor on the Pilot Street side, and a new wine bar on the first floor with brick oven pizza. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner, and Paul plans to add local food delivery for Islanders.

The kitchen will be brand new, featuring state-of-the-art equipment to handle large events for up to 200 people in the smaller banquet room and up to 400 in the larger ballroom. "We will keep some of the décor elements that were trademarks of the Lido ballrooms, including the granite and mirrored walls, the bronze sconces and the crystal chandeliers, which would cost a fortune to replace," he told *The Current*. But all the carpeting and flooring will be replaced, and the walls will be repainted. Paul has ordered 800 new gold Chiavari chairs and 100 new tables for events.

The outside will also get a significant facelift with painting, landscaping and new awnings featuring the Scavello's name (see photos). When asked about some of the more unusual outside elements, Paul said, "Yes, we will be removing the carpeting on the sidewalk and the imitation Italian statues on the roof. But we will keep the murals and the overall configuration of the building."

He also addressed one of the biggest concerns of Islanders: parking. "Since the lot next door was not available, we purchased the lot at 233 City Island Avenue and Schofield Street [next to Trader John's]." According to Paul, this lot is 2,000 square feet larger than the lot closest to the Lido property and will hold 25 to 30 more cars than the 60 cars that can fit into the space off Pilot Street.

Although the new lot is six blocks away, he said it is a better situation. Cars can enter on City Island Avenue and exit on Schofield Street thereby reducing congestion on the avenue. Restaurant and event patrons need not worry about walking six blocks as the Scavellos have hired an experienced outside valet company to manage all the parking.

"We also plan to make the parking lot available to the community if we are not having an event. For example, the parishioners of Grace Church and City Island Theater Group patrons are welcome to use it if available," Paul promised.

In summary, Paul pledged to continue to be a good neighbor and to provide "quality food at a reasonable price with good service. The new Scavello's is a beautiful venue that will provide beautiful parties and great memories." Islanders should keep an eye out in January 2015 for Scavello's pre-opening event exclusively for residents.



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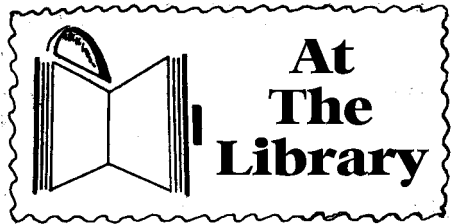
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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

We would like to welcome Theresa Panza, City Island's new Children's Librarian, to the library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

How to be a Puppeteer: In this workshop, participants will construct a story, then work together to bring that story to life with puppets they built themselves. It's an arts-and-crafts meets drama meets extreme silliness! Presented by Nicola McEldowney. Ages 8 and older. Friday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m.

NEW! Read and 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. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first-come / first-served basis the day of the program. Friday Dec. 5, 12 and 19, at 11 a.m.

NEW! Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first-come / first-served basis the day of the program. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16 from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Holiday Craft-A-Way! Drop in at any time throughout the day and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. All ages. Friday, Dec. 19, between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Manga Drawing Workshop: Do you have the next manga series ready to pour through your fingertips? Join Ivan Velez and learn how to draw your own characters, plot your stories and more! All materials will be provided. For ages 12-18 years old. Tuesday Dec. 9, at 3:30 p.m.

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying, relaxing, doing homework, video gaming or just hanging out with your friends. Every week-day after school Monday through Friday, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS SPECIAL PROGRAMS

It's a Long Month: Living on a Fixed Income: Are you living on a fixed income? Learn to "stretch" your income by set-

ting priorities, establishing a budget, planning and saving. Presented by Jay Stevens. Wednesday Dec. 3, at 11 a.m.

Are You Prepared For A Disaster?: The Red Cross is offering a free one-hour presentation on disaster preparedness for the community. Attendees will receive a comprehensive overview on how to prepare for natural and man-made disasters and to recover from them. Saturday, Dec. 6, at 1 p.m.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Introduction to the Internet: This workshop is designed to introduce anyone who has never been on the internet before. Gain proficiency in using email, utilizing social media and finding resources on the NYPL web site. Every Monday afternoon from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon at the library.

New! One-on-one training by appointment. Pick a day and hour, and a staff member will assist you in your computer and internet questions.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your resumé into top form for the competitive job market. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are fine. It is recommended that you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

Tablet Group: Learn how to borrow and download library e-books, discuss your favorite apps and ask questions about how to use tablets in your day-to-day life. Every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3.

The Island Writers: The writing group's subject will be: "Adventures in storytelling and story writing." Facilitated by Gail Hitt. Every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 2 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Will be announced.

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at www.nypl.org.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below, supplied by Janie Blanks, represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
190 Fordham Street	10/7/14	\$235,000	condo
9 Deepwater Way	10/22/14	\$500,000	condo
145 Reville Street	9/30/14	\$375,000	one-family



Photo by SUSAN MCGOWAN

The Snug bar and restaurant celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2014.

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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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Photo by MARK HOHENSTEIN

The City Island Land Ferry, introduced by the Chamber of Commerce at its awards dinner on Nov. 15, 2014, will act as a tourism vehicle in more than the literal sense. Beginning in the spring, it will carry passengers from local hotels and other venues to City Island, while advertising the Island through its signage and graphics. City Island artists have been invited to submit proposals for visual images that convey the unique aspects of the community (see Briefly, page 2). The Chamber hopes that the vehicle will bring new business to City Island without increasing traffic; it will also be available for rent for private functions in and around City Island. The old school bus was reconditioned and restored by Edwin Gonzalez of City Island Auto Body who received a certificate of appreciation from the Chamber at the awards dinner.

HART ISLAND: PRISON OR PARK?

By KAREN NANI

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, officers of the City Island Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce, along with representatives of Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz Jr. and Councilmember James Vacca, were given a rare privilege in being allowed to take a tour of Hart Island, guided by officers of the NYC Department of Corrections (DOC). At the present time there is no passenger ferry or public access to the island, which is one of several issues that the organizations need to evaluate, along with the restoration of historic structures and the damaged landscape.

In January 2014, the Civic Association voted to support the change of jurisdiction from DOC to the Department of Parks & Recreation, the subject of a bill being introduced to the City Council by Councilmember Elizabeth Crowley, co-sponsored by James Vacca, and supported by six of the nine Bronx councilmembers. The intention of the Council bill is that the DOC would continue the burials and that the north section of the island would be used for visitors.

However, Community Board 10, which has an advisory role in the issue, has chosen not to bring this issue to a vote, because it has never moved out of the Parks Committee, chaired by City Islander Virginia Gallagher. Ms. Gallagher has said that she opposes the change of jurisdiction because the Parks Department has insufficient funds and because there is already a large park nearby, namely Pelham Bay Park.

Melinda Hunt, executive director of the Hart Island Project, which has helped over 500 families gain access to the island to visit loved ones buried in Potter's Field, has assured both the Civic Association and the

Community Board that a private nonprofit conservancy could be established to provide the necessary funds.

The boards of both the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce decided that a visit to the island to view the conditions there would be essential in their assessment of the proposed change of jurisdiction. The north part of the island proved inaccessible because of vegetation overgrowth and in other areas, the old buildings, some dating back to the 1880s, were in such poor condition that they could not be entered. The visitors were able to view the Civil War memorial and other burial areas, including new sections where burials are now taking place, but it is clear that a great deal of work would have to be done before public access, which was restricted in the 1980s, could be made possible again.

Some members of the group were especially disappointed that the deterioration of the historic buildings, including a chapel, has been allowed to continue to the point where restoration would be impossible, even if there were millions of dollars available to restore them.

Other visitors were concerned that if the DOC keeps jurisdiction of the island, the city could at any time introduce projects that might prove problematical for residents of City Island. During the 1970s and 1980s, the city proposed using Hart Island for a prison, a homeless shelter and a power plant that would have resulted in 500-foot smoke stacks. City Islanders raised funds, hired a lawyer and successfully fought off these developments, but during the 1980s prisoners were confined there. If the Parks Department were to have jurisdiction, however, the New York State legislature would have to pass a special bill allowing the alienation of parkland before it could be used for other municipal purposes.

Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance a Huge Success

By MARIA SWIECIKI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On Nov. 1, 2014, the Chamber of Commerce presented awards to several Island residents, as well as the Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation: (l. to r.) Paul Klein, Chamber vice president, Edwin Gonzalez, Barbara Dolensek, Ron Turner (with his daughter, Ruby), Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, Maria Caruso, Virginia Gallagher and Skip Giacco, Chamber president.

The Pelham-Split Rock Golf Course was the place to be on Saturday, Nov. 15, as the City Island Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 104th anniversary with a dinner dance honoring both Islanders and off-Islanders who have made City Island the gem of the Bronx. Welcomed by Chamber president, Gerard "Skip" Giacco, the honorees and guests enjoyed a delicious cocktail hour before the presentation of awards and a delicious dinner.

Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz Jr., congratulated the honorees and the Chamber "on the work [they] have done and [their] continued efforts to make the Bronx and City Island a wonderful place to live." She also thanked Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg "for making a promise and following through on it" in reference to her success in providing the community with an acceptable bridge design. Also in attendance was Councilmember James Vacca, who presented Ms. Trottenberg with a Special Certificate of Appreciation.

Honoree Virginia Gallagher received the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award for her many contributions. In presenting the award, Islander John Doyle said "Virginia Gallagher has done so much for City Island that it's hard to remember everything. She is best known for Pilot Cove and having more retirement parties than anyone I know!" Mrs. Gallagher thanked everyone for her award and praised "our one mile long and half-mile wide community that has survived some of the rottenest storms."

Skip presented Islander Barbara Dolensek with the Community Service Award and noted that "she came to City Island years ago and has amazed us with her work ethic." Barbara has been on the staff of *The Island Current* since 1985, an officer of the Civic Association since 1992, a trustee and administrator of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum since 1995, a member of the board of the City Island Theater Group since 2009 and a board member of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum since

2011. In her "spare time," Barbara has authored 14 books. She expressed "thanks to the many elected officials who gave [her] lots of support."

Skip then introduced Focal Point Gallery owner Ron Turner as an "inspiration to artists and a great neighbor and family man." Ron, who founded his business in 1976, has put together more than 300 exhibitions, taught black and white photography at the City Island Community Center and now teaches digital photography. In accepting the Catherine Scott Achievement Award, Ron noted his parents' escape from Nazi Germany, which led them to the Bronx. He discovered City Island almost 40 years ago and promised "to remain for another 40 years," saying that "City Island will always be my home."

Next to be recognized was travel professional Maria Caruso, who moved to City Island only a few years ago but has accomplished much in that short time. According to Skip, "Maria joined the Chamber board and has never stopped." In 2011, Maria, together with her husband, Stephane Kane, realized their dream of both owning a business and residing here on City Island. They opened Bistro SK, the only French restaurant in the Bronx. Skip praised Maria "for bringing the Clam Chowder Contest back to City Island and so much more, including graffiti removal and accepting the position of Director of Tourism."

Other honorees included Edwin Gonzalez, who received a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in converting an old school bus into the City Island Land Ferry, which will transport visitors from various areas around the city and Westchester (hotels, senior centers, hospital complexes, and so on) to restaurants and other businesses on City Island. It will be supported financially from advertising on the bus and is scheduled to begin operation on Memorial Day weekend next year.

Certificates of Recognition for New Business were awarded to Amanda Bear Party Rentals, Don Coqui Restaurant, Ray's Café and Remy's Upholstery.

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Singing through the Holiday Season on City Island

By MONICA GLICK

Start humming a holiday tune at the bridge and don't stop until you see Stepping Stones Lighthouse! From start to finish, song for song, City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses will have you singing through this holiday season, offering the best in gifts and good times!

Let It Snow

Although we don't like to think about it, Mother Nature can send us a Winter Wonderland to walk through in a moment's notice. Never fear, Karl Hoedl at **Buddy's Hardware** (260 City Island Avenue) and Joseph Burck Sr. at **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) have all you'll need to battle any bothersome storm. And **Buddy's** is sure to have some decorations for your home, as well as the tools you might need for a quick repair too!

If it's storming outside, stop in to the **Snug** (302 City Island Avenue) to warm up with a delicious Irish coffee. And order some sure-to-please home-style cooking from there or next door from the **City Island Diner**. Don't forget to ask about Donna's most recent baked—and delicious—creation!



JGL Wines and Liquors

A perfect companion for a stormy night can surely be found at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue), which offers gift sets to help you share the experience!

Run, Rudolph, Run

Chuck Berry's classic tune may be the perfect song to accompany your holiday season workout at **Club Fit** (440 City Island Avenue) so you can enjoy tasty treats with a clear conscience!

You will need to lose the headphones and pay attention to Master Edwin Castro if you give yourself a class in martial arts, boxing or Tae Kwon Do at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue). Or give the classes to someone on your shopping list!

Perhaps relief from the holiday shopping and trekking can be found for you at **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue). If it all gets too stressful, run to fun at the **City Island Ale House** (288 City Island Avenue) for Tuesday trivia night, or enjoy a game of pool, a cold beer or a hot toddy any night at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue).

Joy to the World

Find joy in the Sunday brunch buffet at **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) or dinner during the week with an order of beef stew or a sweet potato stuffed with pulled BBQ pork, black beans and sour cream.

Any party can be made more joyous with help from the folks at **AmandaBear Party Rentals** (474 City Island Avenue). You're sure to feel joyous looking at the stained-glass creations by John Corona at **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue)

or wandering through the baubles and such at **Calico Juno Designs** (310 City Island Avenue).

Maybe your joy is to be found in the tastes of the world. Be welcomed by Stephanie Kane and his wife, Maria, for authentic French cuisine at **Bistro SK** (273 City Island Avenue). Or go Italian with a feast at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue); be sure to preview the possibilities first on the giant menus outside. Or catch a show with your meal at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue).

The world's finest cigars are found at **Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue), where you can check out their possibilities for special events, parties and weddings.

12 Days of Christmas

Maybe not a dozen, but let's talk about half that number: six Island spots plating and serving the treasures of the sea: **JPs Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue), the Original **Sammy's Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), the **Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue), the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), and **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue).



Crab Shanty

There are dozens upon dozens of possible toys, gifts and ornaments at **Kaleidoscope** (280 City Island Avenue). And if you need a refueling after shopping, stop in at **Ray's Café** (205 City Island Avenue) when the day is done. Or start off with breakfast at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue), and then maybe a sandwich from the **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue). And it's always the right time to grab a dozen donuts from **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) to share with your companions on the shopping journey.



Kaleidoscope

Deck the Halls

Decorate yourself or gift someone on your list with jewelry from the showcases at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue). Ron Turner and wife Susan Lamantia-Turner will help you choose as they show you

the art for sale and tell you about family photo possibilities.

At **Mary Colby Studio Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), find works of art to hang on your walls or commission a pastel portrait of your child or pet.

Decorations, wrapping and gift ideas may be found half a block away at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue). (A shout-out to sweet Olivia!) And you can help deck the halls of others with a holiday gift card from **Chase** (207 City Island Avenue).

Don't forget the mid-Island spots for keeping you "decked out" in clean style: **On Board Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue) and the new **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue).



City Island Laundromat

The Christmas Song

Chestnuts may not be roasting, and the fire is enclosed, but feasting and fun await you in the lounge by the fireplace or in the main dining room at the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue). Sip and share fun with friends, and give a holiday hello to bartender Louis!

Yes "happy holidays" has been said many times, many years through the years, and you can get a glimpse of City Island of yesteryear and buy some beautiful gifts at the **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street), open Saturday and Sunday afternoons until it closes for the winter on Dec. 22. Or explore antiquities from land and sea at **Trader John** (239 City Island Avenue).

You might have to be dressed up like Eskimos to eat outside at **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue), but no need to brave the elements when tables and fast seafood await you inside, along with fun and games for the kids. Or enjoy a basket of shrimp or some fried clams at **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue) while you look at the lighthouse and the waters surrounding our Island home. Right across the street there's **Johnny's Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue), which might be shuttered for the winter season but will be back with shrimp and scallops—and corn on the cob—before you know it!



Early Ruth Antiques

Dreidel Song

Maybe Ruth Markowe or artist Anosh Donahue at **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue) can find you an antique dreidel for your holiday celebration. While there, say "hi" to the "fortune teller" and to the "polar bear"! Stroll down the street a bit and spend some time with Captain Smitty at **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue).

Jingle Bell Rock

For the holidays, and throughout the seasons, the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) presents a bit of rock music, throwing in some jazz and blues, pop and folk for good measure. The New Year's Eve celebration begins on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10 p.m., featuring jazz legend Lou Volpe. Stop in and ask owner and music-artist Elliott Glick for more details, and sign up for his guitar lessons so you can rock that stage yourself at some time in the future!

Take a break and "rock around" the tree in Hawkins Park that sparkles with holiday



Starving Artist Café and Gallery

lights. Make a note to visit **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue) when the warm weather returns; in the meantime, check out the window of **Cheryl Brinker's Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) across the street. Wander a block north and admire the art and designs of Tommy Houlihan at **City Island Tattoos** (314 City Island Avenue).

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

Before the magical bussing moment, you can be sure that momma gets pampered by the professionals at **Art of Beauty** (240 City Island Avenue). And your nails—hands and feet—can get all the attention they need with a visit to Amy and the crew at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) with their rainbow of fabulous polish colors! Or perhaps get ready for a holiday party with a visit to **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue).

Home for the Holidays

Scavello Catering at the **IGA Supermarket** (385 City Island Avenue) can cater your "home for the holidays" party, or you can pick up a few items for a quick dinner or tomorrow's lunch or a snack while wrapping gifts. **The Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) is open late, and Sara will be sure to suggest the perfect holiday treat when you stop by **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue).

The City Island Theater Group (CITG) celebrated 15 years on our Island home this year. Help them as they begin their "sweet 16" year by becoming a subscriber or giving someone on your list that awesome treat. Visit CITG's website (www.CityIslandTheaterGroup.com) for more details and for other ways to lend your support, and be sure to check out the photographs of past productions!

Eat at home after a long day of shopping with takeout from **Chef Rafael's To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue); the chicken parmigiana will delight! There's always a dish or a slice to satisfy your appetite from **Filomena's Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue), or maybe fried rice or lo mein from the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue).

Blue Christmas

There's nothing sad or blue about a visit to Spiro Chagares and staff at **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue), other than the blue lights on the trees outside! Once you're inside, the holiday decorations, warm greetings and great food will wash away any stress from holiday frenzy.

Maybe you're yearning for the blue of the waters surrounding our Island home. You'll find all you need to set out on the waters in search of your own fish dinner at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue). **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) has got the season sewn up nicely, and with **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue), you can get in deep!

Do You Hear What I Hear?

There are sure to be sounds of a party at **Don Coqui** (565 City Island Avenue) during this holiday season. Eat, drink and dance, as the restaurant's website proclaims.

And there are also treats aplenty just a block away, at **Sugar and Spice** (536 City Island Avenue). Open Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the shop offers the sweet (Belgian waffle with fresh fruit and house-made ice cream) and the savory (Egg-wich with applewood bacon and cheddar on a sesame brioche roll).

As the holiday season comes to a close, and you're getting set to sing an "Auld Lang Syne" to welcome in the New Year, you will realize that the businesses, shops and eateries on our Island home helped to make this "the most wonderful time of the year"!

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CITG GIVES BACK

By MARY MCINTYRE



Jack Marth, Director of Programs for POTS (Part of the Solution), accepts over 650 coloring books and 350 boxes of crayons from Mary McIntyre, Director of Marketing for the City Island Theater Group.

The year 2014 marked 15 years that the City Island Theater Group has brought live theater to the community. The group has been encouraged all along the way by the support of its audiences, who come mostly from City Islanders but also from “the other side of the bridge.” The CITG board of directors has always felt this sense of community and three years ago made a decision to start an annual program to give back to the community.

Three years ago, during the Hurricane Sandy disaster, they rehearsed without power and heat to produce “The Man Who Came to Dinner” and donated the proceeds from one night’s performance to the New York City Superstorm Sandy Fund. In 2013 during the production of “Barefoot in the Park,” the group teamed up with the students of P.S. 175 and were pleased to be able to donate more than 1,000 pairs of new socks to POTS (Part of the Solution), a Bronx organization that helps families in need, because “no one should go barefoot in the winter.”

When one of the board members delivered the socks to POTS, she was struck by the number of young children who were there in the building with their mothers. This year, therefore, the decision was made to “help put a happy rainbow of color” into the lives of these youngsters, and once again CITG’s audience did not disappoint. More than 500 coloring books and 300 boxes of crayons were brought to the theater for donation to POTS.

A very special thank-you goes out to the “coloring book elf” who brought baskets of coloring books and crayons after many of the “Evita” performances and left them anonymously at the front door.

Happy holidays to all, and best wishes for the New Year.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Volunteers at Grace Church made hundreds of sandwiches for POTS (Part of the Solution) on Friday, Oct. 24 (l. to r.): Sarito Aponte, Emilio Aponte, Celeste Broquadio and Joe Zayas.

Happy Holidays

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A Current Review

“EVITA” RULES CITY ISLAND

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast of the City Island Theater Group’s brilliant production of “Evita” (l. to r.): Thomas Losito, Frank Siciliano, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Lindy Tabano, Stephanie Lourenco, Giovanni Lazu (in front) Nic Anthony Calabro, Ashley Wool, Bob Mulroy, Jason Damien, Alaura Imperioli, Sarah Harrold, Samantha Kucerak, Keith Kucerak, Mya Henry, Nadine Muensterer, Megan Bruno, Lyla MacDonald, Hannah Glick and Hannah Ludemann.

Eva Perón rose from poverty to become First Lady of Argentina by the age of 26 and lived a rich but tragically short life, which was celebrated over three weekends in November in the City Island Theater Group’s brilliant production of “Evita,” with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice.

A tribute to this ambitious production—capping the group’s 15th year with sold-out crowds nearly every performance—is that members of the audience who remembered seeing the original award-winning musical, which debuted in London in 1976 and moved to Broadway in 1979, were delighted with this version. Even fans of the 1996 film starring Madonna and Antonio Banderas were impressed by the quality of the singing and acting delivered by a very talented amateur cast.

The CITG production of “Evita” was staged as a flashback, opening at Eva Perón’s funeral. A white casket, draped with an Argentine flag in the center of the stage, held the presumed body of Eva Peron, while a recording of the actual announcement of her death in 1952 was played. A group of mourners circled the casket, as Che Guevara (Giovanni Lazu) sang cynically about the actual role that Eva Perón had played in life. Although the real Che never knew the real Eva, he serves as a very effective narrator in the play, explaining the action and acting as a kind of stage manager, moving props, tearing down flags and rearranging furniture as the stage morphed from nightclub to racetrack to the famous balcony of the Casa Rosada. Giovanni Lazu was a powerful presence in his first major CITG role, and he dominated the stage with an appropriate swagger and a strong voice.

The star of the show, Evita herself (Ashley Wool), is introduced in the first scene as Eva Perón, separating herself from the circling mourners and shedding her mourning garment to reveal nightclub attire as she becomes Eva Duarte in a scene set in her hometown club, listening to the tango singer Magaldi, her first lover and her ticket to Buenos Aires.

The show goes on to tell the story of Eva as she rises above her past to become a well-known actress and ultimately the spiritual leader of Argentina as Juan Perón’s wife, who dies at the young age of 33. Eva’s character moves from cold blooded and ambitious to physically frail over the course of the show, and Ashley Wool beautifully depicted her deterioration, making a powerful connection with the audience in her reprise of “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina.”

The chemistry between Ashley Wool’s Eva and Nic Anthony Calabro’s Juan Perón was a great asset to the production, as was Nic’s strong voice and his ability to convey Perón as a ruthless politician who was manipulated at every step by his ambitious wife. Nic is a triple threat CITG veteran, with credits in acting, directing and choreography in several productions over the years.

Magaldi, the singer who got Eva to Buenos Aires and introduced her to the world of performance art, was effectively portrayed by Jason Damien, who went from matinee idol to discarded lover with appropriate range of emotion (and a fine voice).

The role of Perón’s unlucky mistress (Alaura Imperiola) was a minor one in the plot, as she was ruthlessly kicked out of Perón’s life

by Eva, but she won hearts with her solo “Another Suitcase,” which she sang beautifully.

The ensemble, which consisted of many seasoned CITG performers and a number of talented newcomers, was the backbone of the show. Megan Bruno, Hannah Glick, Sarah Harrold, Keith Kucerak, Samantha Kucerak, Thomas Losito, Stephanie Lourenco, Hannah Ludemann, Lyla MacDonald, Nadine Muensterer, Robert Mulroy, Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Frank Siciliano and Lindy Tabano each handled multiple roles, from adoring fans to angry crowds to stunned mourners and gave the show its soul.

And let’s not forget the children’s chorus—Angela Bermudez, Mya Henry and Cheyenne Phillips—who performed an enchanting rendition of “Santa Evita,” to the delight of both Eva Perón and the audience.

City Island Theater Group’s production of this giant show, was cleverly staged on Grace Church’s small stage by Joseph Burck Jr., who made use of every inch of space. A veteran of CITG productions, Joe also designed and managed the show’s excellent lighting. Denis Zepeda, another CITG regular, handled the show’s sound design, effectively recreating the sounds of 1950s Argentina. Alanna Scott managed to keep the huge show, with many actors, set pieces and flags, from flying apart in her first stint as stage manager of a CITG production.

Multiply 24 (the number of performers) times 12 (number of times many of them changed costume), and you get an idea of the amount of work Carol McCabe and Cheryl Brinker put into the costumes for this production. CITG’s upcoming production of “Outside Mullingar” has a cast of four, which they consider a day off.

CITG’s prop mistress, Barbara Dolensek, not willing to settle with having used everything in her house as a prop in one CITG production or another, managed to locate an actual casket for this production and an endless supply of flags from tiny to huge.

Musical direction for “Evita,” a complex musical drama in which virtually all lines are sung, was provided by the talented musician Heather Edwards, who accompanied the performance on keyboard, with the assistance of Fabian Omobono on drums. Choreography was the work of Emily Bendler, herself a veteran CITG performer.

“Evita” was Nick Sala’s 13th CITG directorial credit, and he handled a complex production with his usual skill, once again making it look easy. Nick is president of CITG, and in his real life is the Company Manager of Inside Broadway.

Finally, Rick DeWitt deserves special thanks for the sheer number of headshots he had to take for this production, and Mary McIntyre managed the very successful collecting of coloring books and crayons for POTS as a tribute to Eva Perón’s charitable work for children.

CITG will open its 16th season with a production of John Patrick Shanley’s 2014 Tony nominated play, “Outside Mullingar,” the first community theater production of this Broadway play by the author of “Doubt.” It is difficult to imagine how the group will be able to top this year’s productions, but somehow I feel sure that they will!

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. 5 and Sat. Dec. 6, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Friday) and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Saturday). Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 6 and 7, **St. Mary's Thrift Shop Christmas Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School Gym and in the Thrift Shop, 595 Minneford Avenue.

Sat., Dec. 13, **Grace Church Christmas Fair and Café**, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 16, **Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m., with refreshments and gathering at Kaleidoscope Gallery afterwards across from the park.

Thurs., Dec. 18, **PSS Seniors Christmas Party and Dinner**, Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, 11:30 a.m. Anyone over 60 is welcome.

Sat., Dec. 20, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: pasta with meatballs or meat sauce.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: tuna noodle casserole.

Tues., Jan. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Rotary Club of the Bronx

For the Rotary Club of the Bronx, charitable acts are a year-round habit, but members thoroughly enjoyed beginning the traditional season of giving by packing 20 turkey dinners for families in need in the Bronx.

Bill Gouldman, fresh from his win as Putnam County Legislator, shared the grocery shopping duties with Lilyanna Pekic. For each of the 20 meals they purchased everything a family of five or six would need for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Members who knew of parishes that had congregation members in need contacted their pastors, who came to the meeting, helped pack and then took the meals for distribution.

Continuing in the vein of helping Bronxites in need, the Rotary Club is proud to announce that it is again partnering with the Sons of Italy Uguaglianza Lodge #83 to purchase gifts for the physically and developmentally disabled children of P.S. 811x. This year, however, organizer Lilyanna Pekic is expanding the project to include the New York Institute for Special Education and St. Joseph's School for the Deaf. Lilyanna is a shopping diva, and she makes \$25 stretch to buy about four gifts!

Members who have participated say that the best part is going to the schools to help distribute the gifts to the children in person. It is one of the most heartwarming things one can do this holiday season. Any and all elves are welcome to come help on any of the three distribution days: Dec. 16, 9 a.m. at the New York Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Parkway North (NYS Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj will be in attendance); Dec. 18, 9 a.m. at P.S. 811x, 1434 Longfellow Avenue; Dec. 19, 11 a.m. St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, 1000 Hutchinson River Parkway.

As in the past two years, leftover gifts will be taken to the children's oncology ward of a local hospital. As one can imagine, this takes a lot of funding and a lot of work. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful effort, please call Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at 718-885-0933 before Dec. 12.

Limited seating is available for our hugely popular annual holiday luncheon, which will feature entertainment by the Bronx Opera Company. It will be at Sammy's Shrimp Box on Tuesday, Dec 16, at noon. Tickets are \$35 per person for the opera arias, seasonal airs and sumptuous meal, which ends with pastries from Palombo's Bakery. Proceeds go toward the club's year-round charitable projects. The club also asks that you bring an unwrapped toy or gift for the Bronx YMCA's toy drive. Please RSVP to Mary Springman at 914-954-4748 by Dec. 13.

Blessings and good cheer to all throughout this season of giving and joy and prayers for peace in the New Year.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

Holiday Services

Temple Beth-El
480 City Island Avenue

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Chanukah Menorah Lighting and Celebration, 6 p.m. in Hawkins Park. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Friday, Dec. 19: Shabbat and Chanukah with Reb Eva, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 26: Shabbat with Captain Bob, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Saturday, Dec. 13: Christmas Fair and Café, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 7 p.m.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church
113 Bay Street

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5 (2 to 8 p.m.) and 6 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Dec. 7: Parsonage Open House, 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 21: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Our monthly Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Our annual Thrift Shop Christmas Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6 and 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's School gym and in the Thrift Shop. Old and new items will be available. Come and look around for great bargains!

Friday, Dec. 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of all the Americas. We will have a special Mass that evening in English and Spanish at 7 p.m. in the church, followed by a reception in the school gym. Come and honor Mary on this special day.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14, after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join in fellowship in the rectory and to enjoy some light refreshments.

Our annual ceremony of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come join us for a joyous, prayerful evening as we



Photo by AMIR ASADI

Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and her fellow Rotarians boxed up 20 full turkey dinners for needy families in the Bronx. Bill Gouldman (far left) and Lilyanna Pekic (not pictured) shopped at Pathmark on Eastchester Road for all the goodies. The Club is tremendously grateful to the manager of Pathmark who decreased the bill by \$400 when he learned about the Club's efforts. The Club is also very grateful to Sammy's Shrimp Box for their assistance and patience during the packing process. Many thanks to Rotarian Michael LaSalle of Hudson Valley Bank (far right) for raising \$720 through his clientele for the dinners.

anticipate the wonderful feast of Christmas.

The joyful celebration of the birth of Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. Liturgy on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, preceded by the singing of Christmas carols at 7:30 p.m.

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very happy Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. We will follow our Sunday Mass schedule: anticipated Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. and Masses on Jan. 1 at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very happy, peaceful New Year to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), Your Shul by the Sea, at 480 City Island Avenue, is a stimulating place for observance of Jewish traditions and an unaffiliated, all-inclusive synagogue. Friday night Sabbath services commence promptly at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:15 so that you can enjoy welcoming music as well as an opportunity to meet and greet before services begin. Reminders for guests joining us: the front ramp is ready for guests needing mobility assistance, thanks to the donors who made it possible, and please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne, for the health and comfort of all.

All TBE members and friends interested in praying for and supporting others who are ill or need home contact are asked to join our Chessed Committee. We look forward to your ideas for expanding our activities as a healing, prayer and support group for our community. Please send questions and comments to chessedhealingcircle@gmail.com facilitated by our chair, Steven Gottlieb.

We want to congratulate our soon-to-be rabbi, David Evan Markus, who will be ordained in January 2015. We are scheduling a viewing party, since his ordination will take place in Colorado: Ordination of Rabbi David (Live Video Feed and Pot Luck): Jan. 11 at 5 p.m.

Services and Celebrations

Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama and Reb David, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Services with a baby naming Anastasia, the daughter of Hillary and Robert Morales, granddaughter of Cindy Mazzella and great-granddaughter of Barbara Tucker, who is also sponsoring our oneg that evening.

Chanukah lighting and celebration, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. at Hawkins Park. Refreshments and gathering afterward at Kaleidoscope Gallery across from the park.

Shabbat and Chanukah with Reb Eva, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat with Captain Bob, Dec 12 and Dec. 26.

Looking Ahead

Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama and Reb

David, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Tu B'shevat Seder with Reb Eva, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

Dinner Dance and Haskamat Smicha of Rabbi David and honoring Michael Eiron's commitment and service to Temple Beth El, March 28 at 6 p.m. Shabbaton being planned for the weekend of March 27-29.

Adult Education and Spiritual Direction

Reb Eva's spiritual theology series continues on Dec. 11 and Jan 15. Free for members, \$20 per session for non-members. RSVP to evasaxbolder@gmail.com.

Rabbi David's monthly class, a course on Jewish history and culture through film, will begin in February entitled "Our Spirit of Story, Film and Jewish History." This monthly series will trace the Jewish story through centuries of historical and spiritual time. Please join us (members free; non-members \$20 per session).

Individual Spiritual Direction. All TBE clergy are trained and certified spiritual directors in the Jewish tradition. Members wishing to explore individual spiritual direction should please contact Rabbi Shohama at rebshohama@gmail.com, for intake and referral among the clergy. For more information, please see the Spiritual Direction Page on our website: www.yourshulbythesea.org

We welcome you to join our mailing list and hope you become a member. Contact our membership chair, Elaine Belasco at lainybel@aol.com. We are growing, and there are many interesting and exciting events planned for 2015.

Ellen Ruth Topol

City Island Republicans

Republican County meetings that are open to the public are held every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our next City Island meeting will be held in April.

Fred Ramftl Jr.





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

If you are a member, be sure to come to our Annual Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 12. This year the party is catered by the City Island Culinary Club, so be prepared for a delicious feast. If you are not a member, it's time to become one.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining and think about volunteering. We need your help and support. To join the Center, to request our new brochure, and for up-to-date information visit www.cityislandcommunity-center.org, call 718-885-1145, or "Like" us on Facebook!

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Flea Market: Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come to shop for great presents at bargain prices.

Family Puppet Theater, Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. Have fun with Jay Howard and City Island puppeteers.

Annual Holiday Party, Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. Catered by our own CI Culinary Club with DJ Mikey V.

City Island Film Club, Sunday, TBA, 1 to 4 p.m. Contact cifilmsociety@gmail.com for more information and to find out about the films coming up.

Family Bingo Night: Friday, Jan. TBA, at 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a night filled with fun and games with outstanding prizes. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 and Center members get one free card.

Teen Dance: Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Dances for sixth, seventh and eighth grades who live on City Island or attend P.S. 175. Come join your friends for a night of fun and music. With DJ Bowie Stivala.

NEW PROGRAMS

City Island CSA: Mondays, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join the Community Supported Agriculture Group now for delivery of the freshest most delicious organic fruits and vegetables in the late spring. For information, contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Art Classes for Children: See above.

The Art of Cursive Writing: Grades 3-6. Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m. Elementary school

teacher Alaura Imperioli will instruct children in the art of cursive writing. For information, call Alaura at 347-755-3610. Class begins Dec. 5.

Art Classes for Children: Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo da Vinci. For ages 7 to 12 with Lorraine Cantori. Call 914-552-5268 for information and to register for the new series, which will begin in February.

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

To Be Scheduled

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

Irish Dance for Children: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Dance teaches step dancing in a fun competitive environment for all ages. For information or to enroll, call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.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).

Belly Dance / Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves: Sundays at 4 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcuita at 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Note new day. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

City Island Culinary Club: Wednesdays, Dec. 3 and 17, at 7 p.m. Join other people who love to cook and Chef Michael Proietti for the Holiday Cookie Exchange. For information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

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

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

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

Francesca's Shamanic Drumming Ceremony and Ritual will take you to a place of self discovery and healing. Francesca Rev. RPP. CRE, Board Certified Polarity/CS, is a Shamanic healer of the soul. Her goal is to heal and help a person feel whole again through spiritual journeying. Journeying is the ability to travel to different spirits into the outer dimensions. Please bring a yoga mat, drum or rattle if you have one to the sessions on the second and last Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. For information or to register, contact Francesca at 914-837-6830 or www.TheeVitalForcefoundation.org.

Parenting Group: Meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood. No session in December. The next one is in January. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. It's time to get healthy and trim down. A new series begins mid-January. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Mondays from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. For more information, call Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or email joanngny@aol.com.

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat? Well here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour. Saturdays at 10 a.m. \$10 per class. For questions, call 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Letti: Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. Call Lettie at 917-292-4228 for more information.

Patty Grondahl



Steve Geisel of B&B Jams, aka the "Jam Man," will once again be sharing his wares at the Grace Church Christmas Fair and Café on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island Avenue, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish, which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Worship Schedule

Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. We will be having our Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24, 7 to 8 p.m., preceded by Christmas carols at 6:30 p.m. Our Christmas Day service will be held at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. All are welcome!

POTS Holiday Gift Adopt a Child or Family: You can "adopt" a child or family from POTS (Part of the Solution) for the holidays. You will receive sizes and information on gifts to purchase. The wish lists include such basics as coats and boots. If you are interested in adopting, please contact Joanne Delaney today to allow time for you to be matched with someone in need and to get your shopping done. You can speak with Joanne about this at coffee hour, email her at joanne.delaney@verizon.net or call 718-885-0374.

Episcopal Relief and Development: Gifts for Life Campaign: Celebrating 75 years, Episcopal Relief and Development has secured a matching grant of \$750,000 for all donations made through Dec. 31, 2014. Receiving three out of four stars from charitynavigator.org/ (88.5 percent), the Gift of Life campaign is similar to Heifer International but with greater accountability. Donations begin at \$15. Please see Mother García if you are interested in helping with this fundraiser; call 718-885-1080.

The "Jam Man" returns to Grace Church Christmas Fair! Grace Church is happy to announce that Steve Geisel of B&B Jams will be with us again this year, bringing his one-of-a-kind flavors. Apricot jalapeño and pear ginger, according to Steve, are best used for grilling, and peach-pear, strawberry pineapple, and so many more flavors are great with a PBJ or on your morning toast. Steve's taste testing is a treat, though it makes it hard to pick just one to take home! Steve personally handpicks the fruit that goes into his jams, which come from five different local farms. Additionally, everything is all natural: just fruit and some sugar; no artificial ingredients. B&B Jams has 90 different flavors (depending on the season) and sells more than 15,000 jars each year at farmers' markets.

Please come visit Steve and our other vendors, on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be offering hand-made ornaments, pillows, bath and body products, Christmas cards, crocheted hats and scarves, and much more! Our bake sale will start at 10 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope you can join us!

Friday Fellowship at Grace Episcopal Church continues on Dec. 19. Come to a gift wrapping / cookie swapping party from 7 to 9 p.m. in the church hall. For details, email music@gracecityisland.org.

Sing We Enchanted, a noted cappella group, will give the fourth annual winter

concert at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. All tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the door or reserved via email at music@gracecityisland.org.

Eileen Marcus

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. All children are welcome to attend.

Save the following dates for upcoming Trinity special events: Trinity Christmas Fair on Dec. 5, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday School Christmas Pageant on Dec. 14; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.

The Budget Corner is open, and it is full of great bargains. The schedule is Dec. 2, 6, 16 and 20 and Jan. 10, 13, 24, 27 and 31. The dedicated Budget Corner volunteers are hard at work keeping newly donated items on the shelf. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Happy holidays to all!

Rick DeWitt

City Island Nautical Museum

Although the museum will close for the winter season on Dec. 22, be sure to visit before then, to see the exhibition of Rosenfeld photographs of City Island's most beautiful boats and to stop by the gift shop for numerous City Island-themed items, including t-shirts, coasters, and other stocking stuffers. Until we close, we'll be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. If you can't make it to the shop, call Barbara at 718-885-1616, and she will help you find what you want.

Because we were fortunate enough to receive a larger grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs than we anticipated, we will be expanding and extending the Rosenfeld show into the spring and offering a number of special events.

We have joined with three organizations on Long Island to help raise funds to support the restoration of the Stepping Stones Lighthouse. We plan to host an event in March that will have special appeal for Island residents. Check the February issue of the *Current* for details.

The board of the City Island Historical Society and the museum staff wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

Barbara Dolensek

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. In lieu of the executive board meeting, the Post will hold the annual Christmas party on Dec. 15. Dues (\$50) are now due.

Lotto calendars are now on sale for \$20 each. Stop by the Post to pick some up. They make great stocking stuffers.

Football season is here. Come and enjoy the game and see what is happening at the Post.

Thanks to Mike Lyons Sr., Mike Lyons Jr. and Larry Clark for renovating the basement steps and adding a new handrail.

The annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 12 noon at the triangle by the bridge. We will meet at the Post at 11:30 a.m.

The VA accepts only clothing donations for our veterans. No books please. Clothing can be dropped off at the Post or taken to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed. Thanks to Mike McKenna for taking the clothing donations over to the VA Hospital.

We are now on the web. Our new website is Post156.com.

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

Continued on page 14

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.

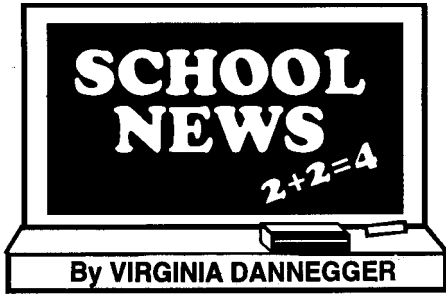
St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



Public School 175

November was a busy month at P.S. 175. The month began with our hard-working PTA's Election Day Sale. Thanks to the support of the many City Island residents who came to vote, the PTA raised much-needed funds that will be used to provide students with enriching programs, including our long-time collaborations with the Lincoln Center Institute and 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!!

Several enriching educational trips took place in November. The kindergarten attended a performance at Queens College of Afro-Brazil Drums and Dance; the second grade went to the Top of the Rock as part of their NYC social studies curriculum; the fourth grade visited the African Burial Grounds in lower Manhattan; the fifth grade went to Queens College for a performance by the Thunderbird-Native-American Indian Dancers; the sixth-graders had their first Reward Trip of the year to the movies at Bay Plaza to see "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day"; and the eighth grade visited Ellis Island.

Penny Harvest continues, and we are on our way to meeting our goal of \$1,000.

After-school hours have been busy as well. Rehearsals continue for our spring production of "Aladdin," and our after-school vocal program has started for students in grades three through eight. These programs are both made possible through the generosity of Councilman James Vacca. In addition, Sports & Arts continues after school.

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

Please keep in mind these important dates: Dec. 23: Last day of school before winter recess; Jan. 5: students return to school.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

October Citizens-of-the-Month are Ava Frey and John Mandarino (kindergarten); Joseph Penny (first grade); Krishn Maystry and Paul Lachman (second grade); Yzabella Padagas (third grade); Patrick Livingston and Hope Rosado (fourth grade); Johanna Doyle and Kayla Fusco (fifth grade); Isabel Whelan and Joseph Goonan (sixth grade); Krisanta Ojo and Gesilda Noka (seventh grade); Bakara Hope-Felix and Joshua Santiago (eighth grade).

November Citizens-of-the-Month are Jake Penny and Joseph Secola (kindergarten); Barbie Ventura (first grade); Campbell Weppeler and Bella Gonzales (second grade); Michael Masella (third grade); Laci Howard and Jayden Rogers (fourth grade); Adriana Rexhaj and Julian McElroy (fifth grade); Cole Wiehler and Jady Watson (sixth grade); Rudy Etzel and Deandre Morgan (seventh grade); Emily Gaudio and Savanna Dentico (eighth grade).

Organization News

Continued from page 13

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

The children's annual Christmas party

will be held on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. Bring a gift for your child.

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post should call John Muhlfeld at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

The Post would like to thank all of its members and the entire City Island community for everything that you do throughout the year.

John Muhlfeld

PSS City Island Senior Center

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) enhances the quality of life for older adults, caregivers and families by providing information, services and support. Our goal is to promote independence by helping them remain healthy, engaged and connected. We are not your everyday senior center!

All programs, classes and services are available to anyone 60 and over. A delicious lunch is served every day from 11:30- 12:30, catered by Scavello's (IGA).

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. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 to receive a detailed monthly calendar featuring trips, events and activities. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

December highlights include: Monday, Dec. 8: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Dinner Theater; Thursday, Dec. 18: **Christmas Party and Dinner**, with hors d'oeuvres, honey-baked ham with cloves, mashed sweet potatoes with brown sugar and cinnamon, sweet peas, pull-apart rolls with butter, peach cobbler. There will be a visit from Santa and his elves, Christmas carols, and a grand prize and gifts,

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: Yoga DVD Series at 9:15, Line Dancing at 12:30; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 12:30 p.m; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15, Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Yoga DVD at 9:15a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. The Yoga Stretch, Yoga DVD, Line Dancing and Arthritis workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

December/January Programs: Mondays: 10:15 Fun with Photography, 1 p.m. Individualized Computer Instruction; Tuesdays: 10:15 Conversational Spanish; Wednesdays: 12:30 Calligraphy, and Dec. 10 and 17 and Jan. 7 and 21 at 1 p.m., \$10 Haircuts by Brenda; Thursdays: 10:15 Acrylic Painting with Lois; Dec. 1 and Jan. 11, 12:30 p.m. Piracy Bingo, and Dec. 30 and Jan. 29, Birthday Party; Fridays: 12:30 p.m. Mahjong.

Information, Referrals and Assistance

Regarding benefits applicable to seniors, we are more than happy to provide information, referrals and assistance in filling out forms and applying for certain programs. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the center.

Caregivers Support

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

Transportation Services

Off-Island shopping trips include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farm-

ers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

AARP Chapter 318

We meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. We will have our first December meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Don't forget to bring items for our clothing collection for the less fortunate people at the POTS organization. Our next meeting date will be on Dec. 17, when we will celebrate at our holiday luncheon at the Lobster House restaurant at 12 noon. Price for the luncheon is \$40 per person. Be sure to sign up for this festive afternoon. Meeting dates for January are Jan. 7 and 21. We will not meet in February. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy New Year.

Rosetta Woods

Sons of the American Legion

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and put in the SAL box.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant to 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.

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

The VA accepts clothing donations for our veterans. No books please. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or taken to the fourth floor of the VA hospital in Kingsbridge. Female clothing is especially needed.

The Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be on Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon at the triangle. We will meet at the Post at 11:30 a.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

Our Christmas fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will take place in two locations: gently used items will be at the Thrift Shop and new items will be displayed in St. Mary's gym. Come, browse, and do your Christmas shopping close to home. There is something for everyone on your gift list. After the fair, our regular December dates at the shop will Dec. 11, 13, 18 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Look for sales and specials when you come. Enjoy coffee and treats with fellow shoppers. Everyone at the Thrift Shop wishes all of our friends a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year. The Thrift Shop will reopen on Saturday, Jan. 3.

Arlene Byrne

Ladies Auxiliary

The next meeting will be held on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. This will be our tree trimming. Please bring a snack to share.

Dates to remember: Saturday, Dec. 6, is the SAL Pearl Harbor Service at 12 noon at the triangle.

Monday, Dec. 15, is the Post's Christmas Party at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, is Dianne O'Sullivan fundraiser for the Ladies; Sunday, Dec. 21, is the Post's Christmas Party for children, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, will be our Ladies Auxiliary meeting at 7:30 p.m. All junior members are invited to this meeting. Saturday, Jan. 24, will be our indoor "yard sale" at 12 noon at the Post.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Laura Booth

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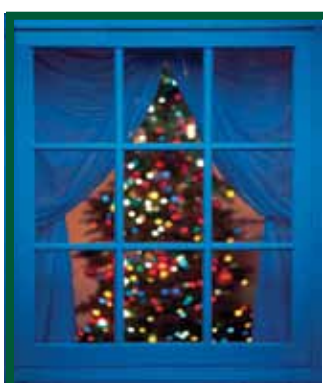
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Halloween's Wicked Winners!



A Recipe for Success

By MICHAEL PROIETTI

With New Year's Eve quickly approaching and the holiday season in full swing, I want to offer some friendly advice on what to eat this New Year's Eve. I want your 2015 to be a prosperous one, so listen to my advice!

I may be superstitious, but just a little. We can all use just a little extra good luck. Every culture has its own ritual surrounding New Year's Eve culinary traditions.

In Japan, soba noodles are eaten at midnight to ensure success and long life. The longer the noodle, the longer your life will be.

In Italy eating lentils is a long-standing tradition. The more lentils you eat, the more riches you will have. It is said that the lentil represents coins and wealth. Eating lentils with pork sausage is a part of that tradition, since it provides you with extra luck. Pork is also sign of wealth, and the pig never walks backward, so this represents moving forward in the coming year.

Eating greens is another global tradition securing wealth. This tradition is very popular in the South, where you will see huge pots of collard greens simmering in preparation for the big night. Collards do look a lot like money, and they taste fantastic! For an extra dose of luck, throw in some bacon or ham hocks!

A few other items will help your success in the New Year! Eat round foods, since they represent coins and wealth. Round cookies, cakes, crackers, sliced sausage, tomatoes,

cherries, grapes, just to name a few!

Red foods represent love and health in the New Year: cherries, pomegranates, tomatoes and peppers.

You also need to watch out for some foods. Lobsters swim backward so they are not a good food to eat, since they will make you move back in the coming year. The same with chickens, which scratch backward and will not let you progress. In fact, all birds are bad luck because they can fly away with your future.

So now that you have all the information, I hope you make some good luck choices this holiday season!

New Year Collard Greens

- ½ pound thick-cut bacon
- 1 large bunch collard greens
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce

Cut the bacon into one-inch pieces. Wash the collard greens and cut them into two-inch pieces. Sauté the bacon in a medium-size pot. When the bacon is crisp and rendered of its fat, add the sliced garlic and sauté for one minute. Add the greens to the pot with all the other ingredients. Cover the pot and cook on medium heat for one hour until the greens are tender. Serve with pot liquid and cornbread.

Photos by RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI
The Halloween hijinks started early on City Island on Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, and ended with another "spooktacular" parade along the avenue. The costumed morning crew at Dunkin' Donuts (top left photo) served up many orange and black treats. The 9 a.m. aerobics class at the Community Center included some eerie exercisers led by Mary Immediato (second photo, left, kneeling). The judges for this year's costume awards, Cheryl Brinker, Maria Caruso, Stephanie Fisher and Debbie Tozour, were busier than ever as a crowd of almost 1,000 adults, children and pets gathered at Hawkins Park for the start of the parade at 6 p.m. After the parade finished at Pelham Cemetery, the Chamber of Commerce announced the winners: Best Group, "The Forest Fire" by the Frei family (top right photo); Most Original, "Pulp Fiction" by Arnold and Mary; Scariest, "Ebola Twosome" by Norma and Roberta Stewart; Cutest Baby, "Fish with Fisherman" by Autumn Sinclair (second photo above); Most Difficult to Maneuver, "Pirate Group" by Amanda Sibreto; and Best Pet, "Shark" by Karen Condon's dog Lulubelle. Honorable mentions went to "Headless Marie Antoinette" by Randi Hensen (inset, left photo), "Porcelain Doll of Death" by Melanie Glynn (inset, right photo), and "Elvira" by Helen Vaughn. Police from the 45th Precinct, including Captain James McGeown, did an excellent job of keeping the parade safe and fun for all.

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Wednesday, December 24th, 7:00 PM
The Christ-Mass

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

Grace Episcopal Church
116 City Island Avenue
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The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia

Seven Ways to Practice the Art of Giving

By JOHN SCARDINA

1. **Simplicity:** Some believe we should “live simply so others can simply live.” Simple gifts that bring beauty to others are best. Handmade gifts avoid the whole commercial scene.

2. **Peace:** Avoid gifts that glorify war, nationalism and “we are number one!” attitudes. Remember Ben Franklin’s statement: “There never was a good war or a bad peace.” Make a contribution in someone’s name to an organization that promotes peace and economic justice.

3. **Integrity:** Let a gift reflect your truth. Follow your heart and not the winds of the culture. Let the person know your heart through your gift.

4. **Community:** Give “presence instead of presents” and choose gifts that promote shared experiences rather than the accumulation of objects. We are a community of living beings that thrive when we connect in positive ways.

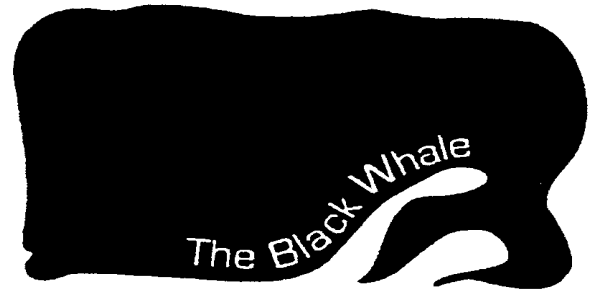
5. **Equality:** A gift that does not reflect status but instead reinforces our common humanity shows a commitment to equality. Cash gifts separate out the “haves” from the “have-nots” in ways that can diminish our sense of community.

6. **Service:** Do a service project in someone’s name. Join someone in his or her favorite service project activity: this is a gift that will give back to you, too!

7. **Stewardship:** Pay attention to the “seven generations” model when selecting gifts or activities. We want to maintain the beauty and sustainability of our beloved planet for the next seven generations.

We have many blessings already in our lives. May the holiday season be filled with generosity of spirit and a commitment to making the world a better place for everyone.

City Islander John Scardina is a school psychologist, child development specialist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com. He also holds monthly parent discussion groups at the City Island Community Center.



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On Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. hosted his annual Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration at Don Coqui on City Island. He is pictured here with honorees Tonio Burgos and Caridad De La Luz, event emcee and FOX-5 NY meteorologist Audrey Puente, and Jimmy Rodriguez, owner of Don Coqui.

LOCAL VIEWS

What do you think about the merging of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church?



Julia DiMaio

The news that St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church was chosen to merge with Our Lady of the Assumption Church instead of being one of the churches to be designated as a worship site is reason to be cautiously optimistic. Masses and sacraments will continue to be celebrated at our church, which is good for all the people in our parish and our community. Keeping an open mind as the "Making All Things New" process unfolds is important, and I am hopeful that this merger of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and Our Lady of the Assumption will allow us to share ideas and resources that will benefit all the people of our City Island community.

The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia, Grace Episcopal Church

The merging of St. Mary's was a real wake-up call to the community. As our largest church, it would seem that St. Mary's shouldn't share the same struggles that the smaller congregations on the Island face. But this is the reality of all churches now. I believe it is the support and strength of City Island Roman Catholics and the community as a whole that has kept St. Mary's from being closed. I know that these same folks will be the ones who keep it strong and alive. Tough choices and new ways of doing things face all religious institutions, both here on City Island and in the larger world. However, they can also serve as an opportunity to revitalize our churches and our communities. The congregation of Grace Church, like many in the community, wrote letters and prayed that the ministry of St. Mary's would continue on City Island. I believe that it can and will continue to be a transformative part of this community. I ask your continued prayers for the churches and temple of City Island. We all depend on you to continue our ministry. Blessings!



Sister Margaret Anne Meyer, Medical Missionaries of Mary

I would like to see a show of appreciation for retaining the privilege of attending eucharistic celebrations in St. Mary's by more Catholics coming to Mass on Sundays and filling the pews as they do at Christmas and Easter. I am very grateful to those of other faiths on the Island who wrote a letter to the Cardinal and Bishop Hughes to keep St. Mary's open. This togetherness strengthens our spiritual presence on the Island.

John Doyle, City Island Civic Association

City Islanders, who have been threatened with other service cuts for decades, are always sensitive to potential loss. As a community, the best thing both Catholics and non-Catholics alike can do is communicate their views to the Archdiocese, making it clear how much they appreciate the services and programming that St. Mary's provides. For the long term, we need to find a role for the old school building that will complement the larger community.



Judy Rauh

I have belonged to the parish of St. Mary, Star of the Sea for more than 60 years. I was greatly relieved that it was not one of the churches that were recently closed by the New York Archdiocese. This would have been a great loss to all of City Island. But I'm still uncertain about our status as a merged church. Being joined to a much larger parish makes me feel that we are not out of the woods. In the meantime, it is a comfort to know that Masses and the sacraments will still be offered here.

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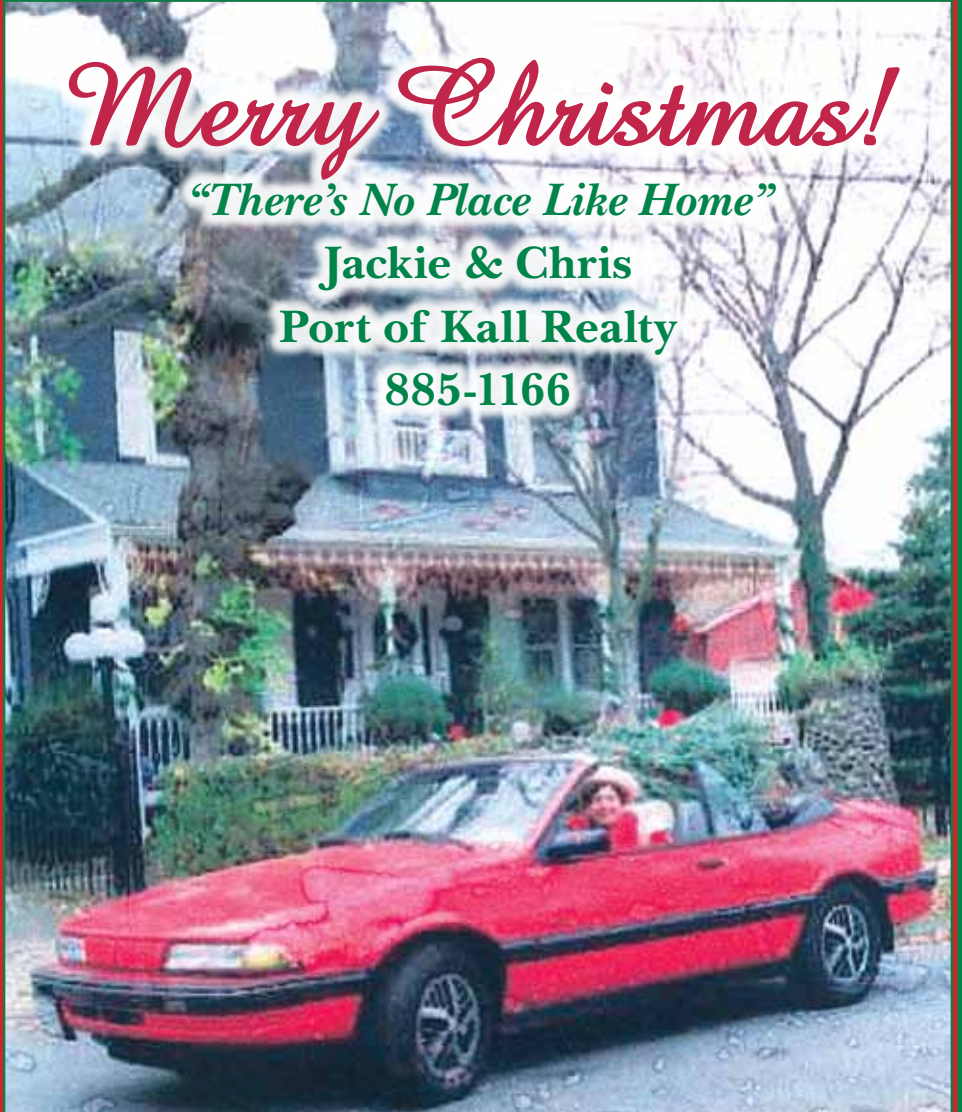





Merry Christmas!

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Star Power

The first time I saw Julia Roberts, as Daisy in **Mystic Pizza** (1988), I knew she was going to be famous. This very sweet film is about three young women: Daisy, her sister Kat (Annabeth Gish) and their friend JoJo (Lili Taylor), who are all waitresses in a pizza place in Mystic, CT, that is run by their "other" mother, Leona (Conchata Ferrell). The film recounts each of their individual struggles: Daisy to rise above her blue-collar background, Kat to make enough money and mature so she can go to Yale, and JoJo to make a commitment to the man she loves.

Brad Pitt's performance as a sweet-talking hitchhiker who gets picked up by the title characters in **Thelma and Louise** (1991) garnered universal attention despite only a few minutes' worth of screen time. Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon play Thelma and Louise, two working-class friends who together have planned a weekend getaway from the men in their lives. After an unfortunate encounter in a bar parking lot, the two decide to go on the run. The pair is pursued by a police officer (Harvey Keitel) who is sympathetic toward their plight. He chases them to the Grand Canyon, where the women make a fateful decision about their lives, in a truly unforgettable ending.

Boyz n the Hood (1991) was a groundbreaking debut by director John Singleton, chronicling the trials and tribulations of three young African-American males growing up in South Central Los Angeles. The Star Power nod goes to Cuba Gooding Jr., who plays Tre, a struggling underachiever. When Tre starts to get into trouble, his stressed professional mother (Angela Bassett) sends him to live with his father (Lawrence Fishburne), a hard-nosed, no-nonsense disciplinarian. There Tre befriends Ricky (Morris Chestnut), an up-and-coming football star, and Doughboy (Ice Cube), a would-be gang member. It isn't until the film is over that we discover who will survive life in the ghetto. Gooding won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in **Jerry Maguire** (1996).

Reese Witherspoon made her acting debut as Dani, a young teenage girl in **The Man in the Moon** (1991). Directed by Robert Mulligan (who also directed "To Kill a Mockingbird"), the film is a coming-of-age story set in a Louisiana backwater town in the 1950s. Both 14-year-old Dani and her 17-year-old sister, Maureen (Emily Warfield), fall for Court Foster (Jason London), who moves in next door. Witherspoon went on to win a Best Actress Oscar for the lead role in **Walk the Line** (2005).

I first became aware of Leonardo DiCaprio in **What's Eating Gilbert Grape** (1993), which at age 19 earned him a Best Supporting Actor nomination. His sisters help with kitchen duties, but Gilbert Grape (Johnny Depp) has tremendous family responsibilities taking care of his mother, Bonnie (Darlene Cates), who cannot leave their house because of her morbid obesity, and his mentally retarded teenage brother, Arnie (DiCaprio). Juliette Lewis is on hand as Gilbert's love interest, Becky, who befriends the brothers when she passes through town with her grandmother. This remains one of DiCaprio's most stunning performances.

The Professional (1994) stars Jean Reno as Leon, the hit man who, to his initial regret, saves the life of a stunning adolescent girl, Mathilda (Natalie Portman). She is the sole survivor when her family is executed by a group of dirty cops, led by Stansfield (Gary Oldman). The friendship that develops between Leon and Mathilda is touching indeed. Portman was stellar in this role, and went on to win a Best Actress Oscar for her role in the **Black Swan** (2010).

I first noticed Charlize Theron in the

"Pulp Fiction"-esque film **Two Days in the Valley** (1996). It is an intricate interweaving of plots concerning LA murderers, cops and those in the media world. James Spader is Lee Woods, a sadistic hit man who is sent to murder the husband (Peter Horton) of Olympic athlete Becky Foxx (Teri Hatcher). Two cops (Jeff Daniels and Eric Stoltz) are on the trail of Lee's girlfriend (Charlize Theron). Lee's accomplice is the soft-hearted Dosmo (Danny Aiello), who takes refuge in the home of Hopper (Greg Cruttwell), a snobby art dealer who is verbally abusive to his assistant, Susan (Glenn Headly). Director Paul Mazursky has an acting role as a suicidal television director who is befriended by a nurse (Marsha Mason) when they meet at a cemetery. Until all the pieces come together in this engrossing film, it is impossible to figure out what has happened when. Theron won a Best Actress Oscar for the leading role as the first female serial killer in America, Aileen Wuornos, in **Monster** (2003).

In **Primal Fear** (1996) Richard Gere stars as Martin Vail, a famous defense lawyer who takes a pro bono case. Aaron Stampler (Edward Norton), a Kentucky teenager, has been charged with the murder of a Chicago archbishop. Assigned to prosecute is Assistant DA Janet Venable (Laura Linney), Vail's ex-girlfriend. The case becomes more complicated than Vail expected when a psychologist, Dr. Molly Arrington (Frances McDormand), concludes that Stampler suffers from multiple personality disorder. Its shocking finale made this film a big box office hit and earned Norton, in his screen debut, an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

I first noticed Scarlett Johansson when she was 14 playing the role of Grace, a girl involved in a horseback-riding accident in **The Horse Whisperer** (1998). The family is advised to have the horse put down but Grace's mother, Annie (Kristen Scott Thomas), decides to consult with a famed "horse whisperer" named Tom Booker (Robert Redford), who heals troubled animals. Booker runs a cattle ranch out West with his brother, Frank (Chris Cooper), and Frank's wife, Diane (Dianne Wiest). Determined to heal both the horse and her daughter, Annie takes them both to Montana.

Based on the true story by Homer H. Hickam Jr., **October Sky** (1999) stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Homer, who has grown up in a poor West Virginia mining town. Inspired by the Sputnik launch to start building rockets of his own, he is encouraged by his teacher, Miss Riley (Laura Dern). This angers his father (Chris Cooper), who expects Homer to be a miner like himself. This is a story of how education can be a ticket out of poverty, and a film with family values. There is currently Oscar buzz for Gyllenhaal's powerfully creepy and original lead performance in **Nightcrawler** (2014).

In **Save the Last Dance** (2001), when Sara Johnson (Julia Stiles) loses her mother in a car crash, she is forced to live with her musician father, Roy (Terry Kinney), in a black ghetto in Chicago. She gives up her dream of dancing at Julliard and tries to fit in the new high school, where she is befriended by Chenille Reynolds (Kerry Washington) and eventually Chenille's brother, Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas). Sara and Derek communicate through dancing, and their relationship grows in an intelligent way that does not overlook the problems of inter-racial friendship. Kerry Washington is the one I noticed in this film, and she has been the star of the TV hit show **Scandal** for the past three years.

I first became aware of Jennifer Lawrence when she starred as an Ozark teen named Ree Dolly in **Winter's Bone** (2010). When her family home is in danger of being repossessed after her meth-cooking dad skips bail and disappears, she breaks local conventions by confronting her family about their conspiracy of silence. If she fails to track her father down, Ree Dolly, her younger siblings and their disabled mother will be homeless. Now 24, Lawrence is known for starring in the **Hunger Games** trilogy and winning back-to-back Oscars for her leading role in **Silver Linings Playbook** (2012) and a supporting role in **American Hustle** (2013).

And until next time, happy everything, merry always, and enjoyable viewing. . .

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

This year's Thanksgiving Dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church on Nov. 27 was generously donated by Sammy and Lauren of Sammy's Fishbox Restaurant, along with monetary donations from Buddy's Hardware and Marine and Willie Cortez. Entertainment was provided by David and Tiffany Chung, Irene Park, Richard Jannaccio and nine dancers from the Korean Community Service Center in Flushing. Volunteers who generously gave their time included (l. to r.) Richard Cox, Peggy Jordan, Gerry Wigan, Reverend Yew, Jim Cox, Ciara McNicholas, Adjie Henderson, Lucinda Yew, Jim Cox Jr, Rosaleen McCabe, Thomas Bailey, Jessina Bailey, Jerry Bailey Jr, Alisa Bailey, Jerry Bailey III, and Alex Jemenez (representing almost 200 years of combined Thanksgiving volunteering).



Zen and the Art of Sailboat Maintenance

When the breeze picks up, the autumn leaves turn from red to orange to brown, and as the temperature drops, the hearty sailors out there put on their fleeces and foulies and enjoy what Mother Nature brings. Fall sailing is fast, fun and exhilarating. Warm or blustery, sunny or stormy, you never know what you're going to get, misery or bliss. And the stories are always great over a few Dark and Stormies (ginger beer and Gosling's rum)!

But for those of us fair-weather sailors with small light racing boats who enjoy sailing barefoot and fancy free in shorts and tank tops, we're thinking of winter layup (winter storage). Where to haul, when to haul, how to haul? Where should the boat be stored in winter? Those of us with trailers have the freedom to go where we like, but those who own larger boats must haul where they can sail to. Hauling and storing a boat close to home gives you the comfort of keeping a close eye on your baby during the winter months and the many snowstorms we've gotten so used to in New York City. But boat storage fees decrease the farther you get away from the city, where real estate is at a premium.

So where best to haul and store your boat? At a marina or a yacht club? Economics guide many a boat owner's decisions, but the yard's amenities, including water and electricity and the availability of contractors to perform engine, fiberglass, hull and keel work, are also considerations. More important, will the yard allow you to work on your own boat? And then there's the social aspect. The camaraderie with fellow boat owners laboring away during winter layup and spring prep is an entire subculture on City Island and at every marina and yacht club that has a working yard. It's a scene like no other.

Love it or hate it, boat owners share the same long list of tasks, trials and tribulations, ruminations, frustrations, aggravations and heartache, starting with "How did I accumulate so much stuff on my boat and will it all fit into my car, locker, garage, apartment, office?" "Why do I have all this stuff?" "Do I need all this stuff?" "Do I have to wash all this stuff?" Well, yes, you should. Salt water corrodes metals and deteriorates all sorts of things on boats, so soap with warm water is a great idea, especially for washing your sails, except this is best left to the professionals, like Doyle Sails and UK Sailmakers right here on City Island.

What about winterizing your engine, flushing all the lines with coolant so they don't freeze and crack when the temperature plummets, and removing all running rigging and deck hardware? The list goes on and on. Should you take your mast down or leave it up? Masts must be unstepped (removed) and inspected, but for larger boats this is quite an undertaking. You can remove the masts from smaller boats using a gin pole, with a few strong friends and nerves of steel. Many trailered boats step and unstep their masts every time they're launched and hauled, but larger boats may only unstep their masts every few years. Typically a crane is required, operated by a professional. The trauma from that harrowing experience can leave lasting memories!

Then, of course, there's the endless debate about covering your boat or leaving it exposed to Mother Nature. The winters in NYC have been brutal the past few years, and more boat owners tarp or shrinkwrap their boats now more than ever before. Many sailors build their own frames, from drawings and designs, perfected through numerous years of storms, wind and snow. The frames require a minimum of materials, but provide maximum strength and can be built in minimal time. Some frames look like the skeleton hull of a boat, while others like a geodesic dome, but the goal is the same—to hold up a cover and keep the boat dry until springtime.

Custom shrinkwrapping is offered by most yards at a cost, but many boat owners prefer to tarp their boats themselves. There are various elaborate ways to keep a tarp on a boat all winter, yet the very unfolding of a blue tarp elicits numerous debates and even wagers on how long it will take for that haphazardly tied down tarp to blow off.

And there are dozens of other tasks on the winter layup schedule, both small jobs and large ones: What about those blisters on the hull. Where did they come from? And the chip on the keel from when you bumped into something, what was that anyway? And the gel coat chips on the deck and cockpit from dropped winch handles and rum bottles, the bumps and bangs from racing just a little too close to your competitors, the deck hardware that's not exactly in the right place. Time to mix up some West System epoxy!

There are also jobs that are too big to accomplish in the spring, so you have to get a head start in the fall. All these tasks are done side-by-side with your winter layup neighbors, who are grunting and griping and cursing right alongside you. "Do you have a spare socket wrench, pliers, wire cutters?" "Can I borrow your vice grips, a Phillips head screwdriver, a putty knife?"

"Can you spare just one sheet of 150 grit sandpaper, West System fast hardener, Colloidal Silica 406? Spare me a trip to Buddys, Burcks, Bridge Marine, please?!" "Hey, hello, can I hand a few things down to you?!" "What's your name?" "Wow, nice boat!" "Would you mind helping me unstep my mast?" "Get my jib down off my furler?" "Help! Can you pick my ladder up off the ground so I can get down from here?"

In just one weekend you have five new friends who have helped each other, learned a few things, got some things done and had some fun, and maybe shared a few drinks at the bar afterwards to celebrate all your accomplishments.

And weekend after weekend, day after day, hours on end, bonds form and friendships grow. Advice is offered, asked for and sometimes offered without asking, like it or not. Some of the best ways to learn about boat maintenance involve debates on techniques, methods and products, as we learn from each other's experiences and hard knocks. All the maintenance and repairs I perform on my own boat are thanks to the kindness of friends and strangers who have shown me the right way to do what I was doing wrong, or were generous enough to take the time to explain what to do and help me do it. Many of those strangers are now some of my closest friends, and they will always hold a special place in my heart for sharing their wisdom with me.

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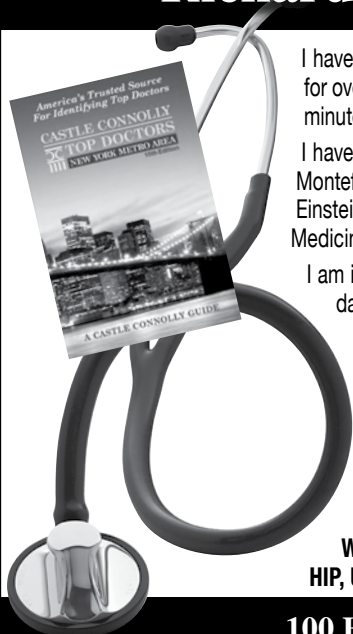
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Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.



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I have many years of experience in Primary Care as well as consulting at Montefiore Hospital. I have taught medical students and residents at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and am a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine there. I have been recognized in Connolly's Book of "Top Doctors".

I am in the office 5 days a week and make rounds at Montefiore Hospital daily including weekends. I am also on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. I provide a "Medical Home" for my patients (I am willing to help make all significant medical decisions). I have excellent consultants available whom I have vetted over the years and work well with them.

Good Primary Care requires the Primary Doctor to know his patient thoroughly and guide them through our chaotic medical system.

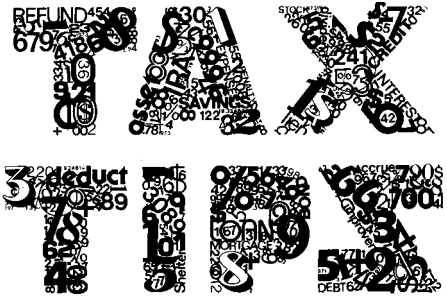
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Last-minute Planning to Cut Your 2014 Taxes

The end of another year is fast approaching, and it's time once again to take steps to reduce taxes on your personal and business returns. Planning advice for 2014 includes strategies for accelerating deductions, deferring income, and managing assets.

Bunch your deductions. Bunching deductions on your personal income tax return can make sense for 2014. Bunching means you concentrate itemized deductions into the year offering the most tax benefit and claim the standard deduction in alternate years. Even if the current limitation on itemized deductions applies to you, bunching can be effective when combined with other tax planning, such as reducing adjusted gross income.

One category of itemized deductions that lends itself to bunching is charitable contributions. In general, as long as you have written acknowledgment from a qualified charity, you can deduct donations in the year you write the check or put the charge on your credit card.

Instead of cash, donating appreciated assets before Dec. 31 may be more tax advantageous. When you contribute property you have owned for more than a year, you can usually deduct the full fair market value.

For instance, say the value of the shares you own in a mutual fund has gone up since you bought into the fund. If you sell those shares and donate the proceeds to charity, you'll have capital gain. But when you donate the shares to the charity, you can claim a deduction for the value on the date of your donation, garnering a benefit without the related income tax bill.

Other itemized deductions that you can control in order to maximize tax savings include real estate taxes and state income taxes.

Check exposure to the AMT. Remember to check your exposure to the alternative minimum tax and the 3.8 percent net investment income tax when deciding in which year to pay these tax bills. Why? Certain itemized deductions, such as taxes, are disallowed under the AMT rules but can help reduce exposure to the net investment income tax.

If you are not planning to itemize, it is still a useful exercise to take a look at your deductions. One reason: The standard deduction is also disallowed under AMT rules, and you may benefit by itemizing even when your total itemized deductions are under the threshold.

The standard deduction for 2014 is \$12,400 when you are married filing jointly and \$6,200 when you're single.

Monitor adjusted gross income. Another tax-planning strategy is to reduce adjusted gross income (AGI). One way to do this on your personal tax return is to maximize above-the-line deductions. These are expenses you can claim even if you don't itemize. Above-the-line tax savers include such items as retirement plan contributions, student loan interest deduction, and the health savings account deduction.

Set up a retirement plan. When you have a business, contributions to a self-employed retirement plan also reduce AGI above the line. Depending on the plan you choose, you can set up the paperwork before year-end and make contributions by the due date of your 2014 tax return.

For instance, if you are the sole owner of your business, establishing a 401(k) gives you the opportunity to set aside as much as \$17,500 in salary deferral (plus an extra \$5,500 if you're over age 50). In addition, you can put up to 20 percent of your business profit into your plan.

Manage asset policies. Another tax-

saving suggestion for your business is to review your asset management policies. Depreciation is probably the first thing you think of when you consider tax benefits for business assets. And you probably already know that bonus depreciation expired at the end of 2013 and that the Section 179 expensing deduction was reduced to \$25,000 for 2014. (Be aware that Congress may reinstate the larger deductions.)

Although accelerated depreciation tax rules affect your current year deduction, remember that changes to these rules have no impact on the total amount you can deduct over the life of an asset. In addition, you still have tax planning opportunities.

One such opportunity is to take advantage of the new repair and capitalization regulations. These rules, which generally take effect this year, provide safe-harbor thresholds for writing off the cost of certain business supplies, repairs, and maintenance. What you need to do before year-end: Create and implement a written policy to comply with the rules.

Another potential tax saver involving business assets: Examine the tax benefits of leasing business equipment instead of buying. Depending on the type of lease, you may be able to deduct payments in full as you make them. Generally you will forfeit depreciation deductions, so run an analysis to determine which option will work best for you.

Consider shifting income. A planning strategy to help reduce taxes on both your business and personal returns is shifting income among family members.

For your business, the strategy could mean hiring family members and paying a reasonable—and deductible—salary for work actually performed. You may be able to provide tax-deductible fringe benefits as well as save on payroll tax expense.

An income-shifting technique is to make gifts of income-producing property to family members in lower tax brackets. (Be aware of the "kiddie tax.") Though you can't take a tax deduction for gifts, future income is taxed to the recipient, and may mitigate your exposure to the 3.8 percent net investment income tax.

Gifts of up to \$14,000 per person (\$28,000 when you're married) made before year-end incur no income, gift, estate, or generation-skipping taxes.

How Will the Affordable Care Act Affect your 2014 Taxes?

Are you still trying to determine how the health care laws will affect your 2014 personal and business federal income tax returns? Here's an overview of some current rules.

Individual penalty. The 2014 Form 1040 has a new line for reporting the "individual responsibility payment." You'll owe the penalty if you or your dependents did not have health insurance during the year and don't qualify for an exemption. The amount you'll report on your 2014 tax return is the greater of \$95 per adult and \$47.50 per child, up to a maximum family penalty of \$285, or 1 percent of your "household income formula."

Individual premium credit. Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a reduction in the cost of your health insurance premium during the year. When you signed up for insurance on the health insurance exchange, you had the option to use the reduction to offset your premiums as you paid them. Alternatively, you can apply for the credit when you file your 2014 federal income tax return. The amount of the credit depends on your income and family size.

Net investment income surtax. You may be familiar with this 3.8 percent surtax from last year's return. It applies to net investment income—income such as dividends, interest, and capital gains, less related expenses—when your adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain levels. Those levels have not increased for 2014. When you are married filing jointly, the surtax applies if your AGI exceeds \$250,000. When you're single or filing as head of household, the AGI threshold is \$200,000.

Medicare surtax on wages. As in 2013, this 0.9 percent surtax applies to wages, compensation and self-employment income when your AGI exceeds \$250,000 and you are married filing jointly. When you're

single or filing as head of household, the AGI threshold is \$200,000.

Business health insurance premium credit. Did you pay at least 50 percent of the health insurance premium costs for your employees during 2014? If you employed fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees and paid wages of less than \$50,800, you may be able to claim a credit of up to 50 percent of the premiums you paid. The credit is available even if you claimed it in prior years. Tax-exempt organizations can also benefit.

Business fee. When you self-insure your business health care expenses, you may have to pay a fee to help fund a healthcare research institute. The fee may also apply to your health reimbursement arrangement or health flexible spending arrangement.

Employer penalties. Depending on the number of workers you employ, you may be penalized for not providing health insurance and/or not providing affordable health insur-

ance. Neither penalty applies for tax year 2014. However, you'll want to review your workforce to determine whether the penalty will affect you in the future. Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, the penalty will apply when 100 or more full-time employees work in your business. The penalty applies in 2016 when your business employs 50 or more full-time workers. When you employ fewer than 50 workers, you're not subject to the penalty.

Employer reporting. The health care laws included a requirement for reporting on Forms W-2 the cost of the health insurance coverage you provide to your employees. However, reporting is optional for 2014 when you file fewer than 250 Forms W-2.

Note: Do not apply this general information to your specific situation without additional details. For details and guidance in applying the tax rules to your individual circumstances, please seek professional advice.



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

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

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

DECEMBER 2014

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, DAY. Rows for Dec 01-31.

JANUARY 2015

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, DAY. Rows for Jan 01-31.

FEBRUARY 2015

Table with columns: DAY, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, TIME, HEIGHT, DAY. Rows for Feb 01-07.



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

THE OYSTER WARS

In the latter part of the 19th century, when the oyster industry of Long Island Sound was beginning to feel the pinch of pollution and overfishing, the same fleet that had been called on for decades to simply plant and harvest oysters was forced to assume an aggressive new identity that the New York Daily Tribune described in October 1869 as the "City Island Navy."

Most of the trouble seems to have begun around 1859, off the coast of Huntington, Long Island, where a giant bed of oysters was discovered quite by accident by a group of fishermen from Darien, CT. The story goes that one of the group sold his story of the important new bed to City Island oysterman for \$500. The oystermen, led by Leviness in his sloop Three Graces, proceeded to the new hunting ground and commenced operations.

Back in Huntington, town elders were not happy. The prevailing feeling there was summarized as follows in the Town Trustees Proceedings of 1859: "Non-residents of the Town had for many years dredged and carried away more or less oysters from the natural oyster beds in Northport Bay, much to the annoyance of the inhabitants of the Town, who claimed that the premises belonged to the Town, and that such non-residents were trespassers. . . . The people held Town Meetings and passed stringent enactments against such invasion of their rights, and it was to test the legal right of the invaders to hold such grounds, that the Trustees at this time directed the institution of suits in the courts."

Lawsuits did indeed ensue, but they were locally filed and heard—no doubt by some of the same elders—and so the outcome in favor

of the people of Huntington was no surprise. The argument of the oystermen that the oyster beds in question reposed in free, public waters fell on deaf ears. What followed on the high seas of the Sound depended on who you heard it from. Huntingtonians swore that Commodore Leviness in his vessel "bore down upon [those townspeople who were merely asserting their newly affirmed rights] and ran down some of their boats, took their late occupants for prisoners, and bore them off in triumph to City Island."

The truth may never be known, although we feel compelled to add the following: City Islanders under the command of Leviness were at it again in 1877 with the people of Tarrytown (on the Hudson River of all places!). A letter published in 1878 in the Chronicle of Mount Vernon reads in part: "The great town of Tarrytown . . . promulgated a decree declaring that, to them alone, belonged North River [i.e., Hudson River] oysters, and threatening all free-traders, especially those of the coast of Long Island, with vengeance and destruction. The City Islanders, being men of brave, bold spirits, laughed at the Northernites and their oyster law, and hence the Great Oyster War [was begun]."

And then it happened again in 1884, this time with the people of Glen Cove. Would you agree that the evidence would seem to suggest that City Islanders of old, oystermen, particularly, relished these encounters, looked forward to them, and maybe even sought them out? Their behavior has a ring of familiarity about it. Trade their sloops for horses, and they could very easily have been the proverbial strangers of the Wild West riding into some dusty out-of-the-way town, itching for a fight.

We are once again indebted to Blake Bell and his Historic Pelham blog for putting us on the trail of this fascinating chapter of City Island's past. As always, we welcome your feedback at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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Obituaries

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Cynthia Rodstrom Kinsella

Cynthia Rodstrom Kinsella

Cynthia Rodstrom Kinsella, 92, died on Nov. 6, 2014, in Vero Beach, FL.

She was born June 17, 1922, on City Island to Captain Charles Rodstrom and his wife, Cora Addie Waterhouse. Cynthia was the sixth of nine children, and she grew up surrounded by siblings and extended family on City Island, where generations of her mother's family had lived.

She attended P.S. 17 and was married at St. Mary, Star of the Sea to John Lawrence Kinsella, who predeceased her. She graduated from Hunter College in New York City and the Bellevue Schools of Nursing, which she later directed. She earned her master's and doctorate degrees at Columbia University and held a variety of professional appointments, including a Presidential appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Nurse Training, a Governor's appointment to the New York State Health Resources Commission and a Mayoral appointment to the comprehensive Health Planning Board. Cynthia also made Dean of the Mount Sinai School of Nursing of the City College and held a joint appointment as director of nursing at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Cynthia served as a trustee of the Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, ME, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Eastern Long Island Hospital in Greenport, NY, and as a member of the Governor's Council on Excellence in Long Term Care in Florida.

She is survived by her brother, Wesley L. Rodstrom of Port St. Lucie, FL, and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death are her siblings, Adelaide Rodstrom Rosenfeld; Sister Helen, RSCJ; Josephine; Charles; John; Frank and Robert.



Annelise Kroepke Painter

Annelise Kroepke Painter

Annelise Kroepke Painter passed away in her home in Ellicottville, NY, on Aug. 16, 2014.

She was born to the late Elsa Gilbert Kroepke and Walter Kroepke Sr. on Dec. 9,

1944, and raised on City Island.

Annelise, the descendant of a long line of City Islanders, attended P.S. 17 and was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church. She was also involved in CIVAC, the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Her great-grandfather owned and operated Gilbert Pharmacy, and her late brother, Walter Kroepke Jr., was the owner of Kroepke Controls.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Painter; her two daughters, Kim Woodarek (Christopher) of Ellicottville and Jill Painter of High Point, NC; two grandchildren, Walter Michael and Elsa Christine Woodarek; and her sister-in-law, Maureen Painter of Ellicottville.

A memorial service is being planned.



Keith William Manfredonia

Keith William Manfredonia

Keith William Manfredonia, a City Island resident born on March 16, 1991, passed away on Nov. 13, 2014, while he was assigned to Station Little Creek, Virginia Beach, VA, with the United States Coast Guard.

At the time of his death, Keith was a Machinery Technician Third Class (MK 3) and had recently been selected to go to Bahrain to further serve his country. Before his time at Station Little Creek, Keith served on the Coast Guard cutter *Seneca*, home ported out of Boston, covering the Atlantic from Canada to South America.

Keith was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for exceptional motivation, knowledge and technical skill. He completed more than 75 ports, waterways and coastal security missions, ensuring the security of national assets, protecting infrastructure and safeguarding the Port of Hampton Roads. As a boarding officer, Petty Officer Manfredonia completed more than 150 vessel boardings. He was involved in 30 search and rescue cases, resulting in 60 lives saved. Petty Officer Manfredonia's diligence, perseverance and devotion to duty have been heartily commended and are in the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

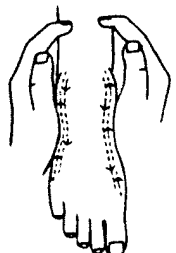
Keith is survived by his parents, Keith and Lisa Manfredonia, and his sisters, Alyssa and Anna. As a son, brother, grandson, cousin and friend, Keith will be remembered as "a simple man" whose love of life inspired everyone. His easy smile, selflessness and quick wit will be greatly missed and forever remembered. "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

A funeral Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, on Friday, Nov. 21.

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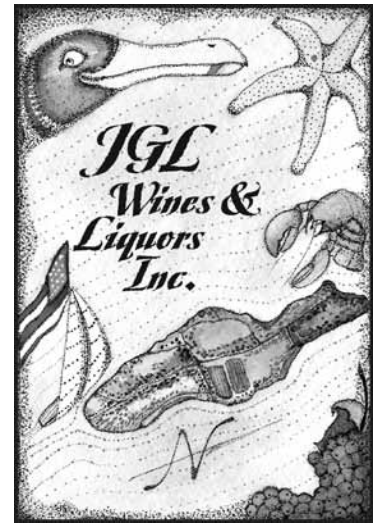
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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

DECEMBER AND ON TO WINTER

After cleaning up the garden this year, I realized how important and cherished the winter garden is for me. I can think of no lovelier planting than a collection of evergreens and flowering shrubs for winter, mixed with some hardy plants and bulbs. If you gauged right and the sizes of your shrubs and plants are in the correct proportion to your space, the eye finally becomes rested viewing larger shapes, colors, and contrasts.

One of the best plantings for winter would be a thicket of birches with their white papery barks and masses of purple brown stems, which form the best contrast to greenery of any kind. Behind them is another thicket of evergreens. There might also be some red twig dogwoods and clumps of hellebores and snowdrops beneath.

Labor is cut way down if the largest spaces or beds in your garden are filled with evergreens and shrubs, and if you weave in groundcover such as bergenia, ivy, tiarella or lily of the valley, you can just about put your shovel and hoe away for good. The planting of spring and summer flowers needs a lot of heavy labor, and, yes, you are rewarded with big blossoms, but for winter the flowers are small and hybridists (thank goodness) have not improved upon winter's flowers; therefore, they are all wild species, as nature made them. Most winter flowers nod toward the earth to shield them from the ice and snow. The nodding flower pleases me; it is shy, demure, in an attitude of prayer. They are all the more precious for they are stalwart and brave to be opening in the frosty depths of January and February.

In smaller gardens that flower in spring and summer, one could plant bulbs and hellebores in front. This way, when the garden goes dormant, the winter flowers will come to the fore and an all-season



Photo by MARY COLBY

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis Mollis*)

garden can be maintained.

My urns and pots are filled with little evergreens, and I add bits of pine and Fraser fir to the edge to create flanges of cheer. Berries add some color, as do cones and the shine of holly branches. It is a welcoming sight by the front door for holiday visitors.

We dread the darkening day and the shorter hours, but how much richer spring and summer appear because of the wait. So man your cocoons, and get out in the garden and plant some winter flowers, such as hamamelis mollis, a great witchhazel that blooms early, from mid-January to early February. Mollis has the sweetest scent, curiously made only for man, since there are no insects about in the cold weather.

Winter is a valuable and enforced retreat. No guilt for idle hands. Or as Vita Sackville-West explained: "Life inward, true. / Where the world vanishes / And you are you."

Christmas comes and holiday cheer, one last brilliant flash of light and then the drear.

The plant catalogues arrive soon, and in your chair with dreams of what is yet to come, you will mark and order all your new visions for spring. Good books, good friends and the purity of heart that wills a concentration to one thing. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all my readers. May the New Year be a very blessed one for all.

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.

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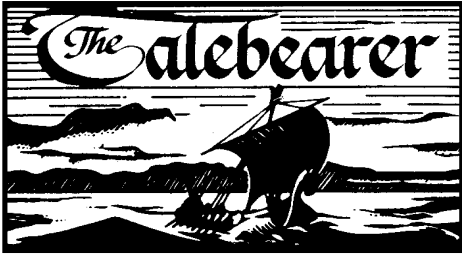
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Mr. and Mrs. Guy Dietz, who were married on Oct. 25, 2014.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Guy Anthony Dietz of Pell Place and Nina Marie Cacciante of Philadelphia, who were married on Oct. 25 at Mountain View Manor in Glen Spey, NY. The groom is the son of Rosette Dietz and the late Guy Dietz Sr., and the bride is the daughter of Domenic and Maria Cacciante.

Happy birthday across the miles to former Carroll Street resident Anjulee Sebastian, who will celebrate her big day on Dec. 22.

Golden wedding anniversary congratulations to Fordham Street's Dom and Carol Alia, who will toast their 50th anniversary on Dec. 26.

Happy birthday wishes to our grandson, Jake Penny, who will be celebrating his fifth birthday on Dec. 26. You are growing up so fast! Love and hugs from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Belated birthday greetings to Pell Place's Rosette Dietz, who celebrated her big day on Nov. 15.

Happy birthday wishes on New Year's Eve to Bobby Cavinee of Hawkins Street.

Buckley Street residents Bette and Ed Heben are proud to announce the retirement of their son, Lieutenant Ethan Heben, United States Navy. Friends and family, near and far, celebrated this milestone in Ethan's career on Nov. 1 at the Navy-Marine Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland. Ethan's commanding officer aboard the USS John McCain, DDG56 was the guest



Carolyn Owens and William Nye were married on Sept. 27, 2014.

speaker. We all wish Ethan and his wife, Catherine, "fair winds and following seas as they continue their journey in life."

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to William Nye and Carolyn Owens, who were married on Sept. 27, 2014, at the Surf Club in New Rochelle. Many City Island friends and family shared this special day and wish them God's blessings and a wonderful life.

Happy birthday to our son, Joe Ribaldo, with love from Mom and Dad.

A big shout out of thanks to City Island's own Tom Nye and Barbara Burn Dolensek, who recently presented two excellent programs about City Island at the Manor Club in Pelham, NY. Vintage photos and entertaining narratives about the Island's early history and its later relationship with the movie industry was chronicled in "Crossing the Bridge, Parts I and II."

Congratulations to former Islander Kelly McCabe, who recently showcased her artwork at an exhibition at the Brooklyn Night Bazaar in September that was attended by over 350 people. Kelly is a self-taught artist who specializes in acrylic paints.

Happy Dec. 5 birthday all the way to Florida to former Islander Geri Seiter, from your friends at the Black Whale.

December birthday greetings go out to Caliope Rigos and former chef Julio San-



Former Islander Kelly McCabe exhibited her artwork in September.



Photos by NATALIE TRUE and RENA HANSEN

Beth Rota (photo below), who grew up in City Island, recently served as music director of "Pippin" at the Lusher Charter School in New Orleans. She herself performed in the play when it was produced by the Young Island Players in 1984 (top photo).



teen division of Island Patchwork.

The staff of *The Island Current* wishes all of our neighbors, friends and readers happy holidays and all the best in the New Year.

Maria Swieciki



Lieutenant Ethan Heben retired from the United States Navy in November.

chez from everyone at the Black Whale.

Congratulations to the students at Lusher Charter School in New Orleans on their recent production of "Pippin." Along with fellow faculty member Natalie True, Dr. Beth Rota served as music director and also conducted the orchestra. Beth, who grew up on City Island, was thrilled to be involved in the production of this play, having performed in "Pippin" in 1984, when it was produced by the Young Island Players, the

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