



*South Beach Civic Association announces its
9th Annual Holiday / Christmas Party on
Sunday December 6, 2009 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
This year's event will be held at the
Crystal Room, 67 Olympia Blvd., South Beach
and will feature live music by
Don Vielo Jazz Union.*

*\$35 per person includes full buffet, beer, wine and soda. There will
be raffles and prizes. Reservations should be made before December
1. For reservations and information call 718.950.6603.*

‘TIS THE SEASON... TO GIVE

South Beach Civic gave \$100 donation on behalf of its members to Staten **Island Project Homefront**, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting all of our deployed military personnel and their families.

Chairperson Debbie Parsons reminded members that donations are accepted at several Island sites, including New Dorp Moravian Church, 2205 Richmond Road as well as Councilman James Oddo's office, 94 Lincoln Avenue. Accepted care package items include toiletries, candy and snacks, clothing, entertainment items such as batteries and cd's as well as pet supplies, biscuits and beds.

Notes of encouragement to our troops are also greatly appreciated.

Staten Island Project Homefront will pay the postage of any package sent from Staten Island to a service members APO/FPO address in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait only. All you need to do is bring the package to Staten Island Project Homefront.

You can learn about Project Homefront by visiting their website at <http://www.siprojecthomefront.org> or email to info@siprojecthomefront.org

Since their inception in January 2009, the **Staten Island Giving Circle** has collected over \$11,000 that has been distributed to local, national and international charities. SIGC comes together once a month to discuss community outreach, have refreshments and then collect \$10/chance for the evening's "pot." Many times, individuals buy 2-10 chances. Because we usually collect between \$400-\$600, we pull two winning tickets so that the pot is split. The two winners choose the charities of their choice and the monies are sent to those two charities.

In addition to the money distributed, SIGC collects old eyeglasses and old cell phones that are refurbished and given to women living on the street so they can contact 911 in emergencies.

SIGC is collecting new socks this year for the homeless as well as new and used coats and non-perishable food for the local food banks.

SIGC also supports Project Homefront by collecting items for care packages that are sent to military service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SIGC hosts bi-monthly birthday parties for the children in the homeless shelter on Staten Island (through Project Hospitality), providing cake, juice, and gifts for children celebrating their birthdays in the two-month period being addressed.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the SI Giving Circle should contact Evelyn Kormanik at sigivingcircle@aol.com.

SBCA BUSINESS REPORTS AND CALENDAR



Executive Board Members and Committees Members

President

Joseph McAllister

Vice President

RoseAnn McAllister

Treasurer

Diane Romano

Recording Secretary

Donna Montalvo

Community Director

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Lou Antonelli Sr.

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Mildred Bilotto

Harold Bilotto

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Anthony Gilberto

Nicholas Manzi

Pat Venezia

Dan Venezia

Standing Committees

Joanne Bennetti

Scott Schneider

Linda Lyman

Charity

Mary Shalo

For Further Information

Call

718.930.6603

Nicole O'Loughlin, the Staten Island Organizer for the Healthcare Education Project (HEP) collected signatures in support of HEP. The primary goal of the Project's community organizing program is to develop and sustain a healthcare coalition by allying with progressive community leaders who seek to protect and advance the rights of working families in New York State.

Treasurer's Report given by Dianne Romano shows an ending balance of \$1,090.46

Joseph McAllister's President's Report announced the SBCA plaque is now mounted on the outside wall of Engine 161. Stop by to see the plaque and share your holiday good wishes.

SB Civic is now in the final stages of becoming a 501C charitable organization.

The \$4m in state funds has been returned to the state and the property at 300 Sand Lane (the Arcade) is for sale

The next meeting of South Beach Civic will be Wednesday January 27, 2010.

Check our website at <http://www.southbeachcivic.org> for updates and announcements.

SBCA debated the issue of NYC's controversial **bike lanes projects**. The city's master plan is to install 1,800 additional miles of new bike paths in parks and designated bike routes on city streets. Parks Department recently spent some \$3 million to construct a three-mile bicycle path along the edge of LaTourette Golf Course. A plan to add lanes along Hylan Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue is under way. The estimated total cost of the work is close to \$100,000. Along with this expense, there are serious public safety issues.

Councilman James Oddo has stated, "It's not about bike lanes, per se. It's about misguided priorities," adding, "I'm not quite sure what the obsession is with bike lanes in this administration. I just wish they were obsessed with smooth streets." We agree that it this is a poorly executed plan, one which continues to ignore the ongoing and more vital issues of traffic congestion and road safety on Staten Island.

As Councilman Oddo states, it is not just about the bike lanes. There are many who believe that this is an issue that demands we recognize the indisputable need to safely share the road – with bikers, pedestrians, buses and other forms of public transportation. Not everyone can afford a car. Many choose not to drive. As we age, many of us will become unable, or unwilling, to drive. The alternatives offered today may one day be our alternatives - and those who drive need to make room for them. Accommodating safe and efficient forms of transportation are a worthwhile and necessary step in who we are, and who we are to become, as a community.

I propose that South Beach Civic, lead the way in dialing back the rhetoric and rather than simply taking a stand, we take an active role in proposing alternatives. We are a body of knowledgeable, insightful, skilled individuals – most of whom have lived our entire lives on Staten Island and have witnessed both what works and what doesn't work in Staten Island's development. This lifetime of experience gives us a unique and valuable perspective, and one, which deserves to be heard. There are many ways to solve these problems with compromise, consideration and careful planning, and we can be leaders.

I propose we take time to consider all sides of the problem, be thoughtful in our suggestions and creative in our approach when giving voice to our perspective and that we demand that DOT, City Hall, our local policy makers and everyone with a stake in the decision making process, do the same.