



restaurant ▪ bar ▪ catering  
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Steps Away...  
Miles Apart

## Newsletter - 2024

### Breakfast On The Bay

It's been quite a few years since we offered breakfast and brunch to our guests. Now, the Mermaid kitchen has teamed up with The Groovy Smoothie and Açai Company to create a breakfast menu geared to a supercharged and relaxing morning on the water. Fast, no wait breakfast will be served weekday mornings and weekends. The first 20 guests this season will get a free Bloody Mary with sit down breakfast entree to celebrate. That's right, breakfast on the bay is back! Look for early morning, sweet live Jazz, some Ariel Sinclair and killer frittatas as well.

### UnderWater

By now, most of our regular guests, including those who live on fire island either year round or seasonally, understand the huge threat that rising water levels are to our unique island. It's no longer a "500 year storm", like Sandy, that causes serious concern. Even a "no name" weather front at the wrong time can cause irreparable harm. We need a multi point plan and a fix that makes sense. Hopefully, the new 12 Million dollar flood mitigation project will address much of the issue. However, what I am now also proposing is new legislation in our Village that would allow any building owner who chooses to raise their structure just 2-4 feet, to supersede the FEMA regs. Without such changes, current regs, will eventually cause town to look like a hollowed out cavern with every building 10 feet in the air. Yes, it might take legislative action. Yes, it's not simple. However, FEMA isn't the only flood insurance game in town anymore. Raising downtown buildings 10 feet in the air is not the best answer. Many would raise 2-4 feet, if allowed. Let's get discussion of this idea moving.

### On The Bench!

We teamed up with @pillowtalk4fi to have them design and produce custom outdoor wrap around cushions for our guests to enjoy. They really brighten up the outdoor dining scene for us and provide a much more comfortable seating for our guests. We hope you like them.

### Another Game Changer

Our new OB Loyalty Card gets you big discounts and fun freebies at Island Mermaid, The Pantry Grocery, Mermaid Market and Dockside Pizza. Sign up at Island Mermaid for this free, unique card, present it at any of the above check outs or to your server and grab your season long savings every time, as our way of celebrating a combined 50 years of caring for our guests and giving back to the Village. Card must be presented for these outstanding discounts to apply. No exceptions. OB Card holders with Pantry House Accounts will get extra substantial savings \$\$ and perks at The Pantry Grocery.

### Paradise Earned Supports OBFD

It took my first winter break in 35 years from litigation cases to inspire me and give me the time needed to finish my book, "Paradise Earned, A Fifty Year Voyage". A look back at my fire island journey of second chances from my front row seat. Then, we turned the book into a continuous, permanent fundraiser for our great OBFD, initially raising over \$6,000 for them in the process. My family was delighted to present that first check to Chief George and (now former Chief Ian) as well as 1st Asst. Chief Peter Brennan. This summer, we will actually have time to do another round of fundraising with the book, available on Amazon, with all proceeds forever going to OBFD. The first printing sold out and 200 more will now be available at Island Mermaid, The Pantry and select stores in OB. Hope you will support a great cause!

### TVS

What the heck is TVS you might ask? It's part of our secret weapon-extreme hospitality. Travis, Vicky and Spencer ("TVS"), our front of house trio of exceptional managers, have fully embraced our team culture of creating lasting memories for every guest they encounter every single shift of every day or night. These memories go well beyond food and service. They go to the root of how we make you and your guests feel at home. Come sample the very finest in warm, intuitive, exceptional and extreme hospitality that fire island has ever offered. Come say hello to TVS.

### The Warriors in BOH

Some guests may not realize how many back of house ("BOH") team members we have working on any given day or night. In a kitchen which measures only 12 feet by 15 feet, we can have as many as 6 chefs, an expeditor, and two runners, plus 3 dishwashers at the same time. 12 faces, 24 arms and one synchronized soul in a dance that can put out 700 complex meals in the course of a day. It's quite remarkable to watch, not to mention hot as hell. Anthony Bourdain sure had it right when he said, "in America, the professional kitchen is the last refuge of the misfit. It's a place for people with bad pasts to find a new family. I love the sheer weirdness of the kitchen life: the dreamers, the crackpots, the refugees, and the sociopaths with whom I continue to work. The ever-present smells of roasting bones, searing fish, and simmering liquids; the noise and clatter, the hiss and spray, the flames, the smoke, and the steam."

I would only add, no one has better "misfits" than we do!

### !!New Kids In Town!!

Welcome Groovy Smoothie and Acai, Crossroads Q BBQ, Koi Kokuro Sushi and Hot Chicken Mama - The Wait Is Over!

We are absolutely delighted to be hosting and adding these four new culinary players to our team! Both The Pantry and Island Mermaid will be adding remarkable BBQ and Sushi and Smoothie options to our impressive "arsenal". Crossroads "Q" BBQ as it's called, was created by former Mermaid Chef Jesse Corsini and his team. It's been a huge south shore hit. Whether it's Grab n Go "Q" at The Pantry or Specialty Nights at The Mermaid, BBQ is back baby. The same is true for our sushi game! Live, daily Chef prepared treats at The Pantry Sushi Bar and specialty Sushi evenings at Mermaid are back. Catering your next cocktail party or event with Koi Kokuro Sushi and Crossroads BBQ is a slam dunk. The Groovy Smoothie and Açai Company will have those blenders humming every morning at Island Mermaid with fresh fruit smoothies and juices like Detox Delight, Pressed Ginger Shots and Sunrise Bowls. Keep an eye out for The Hot Chicken Mama pop up crew to take over The Pantry Kitchen evenings and nights next!! Dinner, late night delivery or in store pickup is on the way. The next Chick-fil-A is here!

### Top Toque OB - Helping OBCF

I have asked our Ocean Beach Chamber of Commerce Board to allow me to create two new annual fundraiser events for our Village. These will be "homeowner centric events, with a charitable purpose". On behalf of OBCOC, we wish to further unite the community, bring businesses and homeowners together and raise money for worthy projects to enhance and beautify our Village. I hope my efforts, along with the OBCOC Board, will become a long term part of our legacy. The first branded event will be called Top Toque OB, a cooking contest much like Top Chef. The event will take place on Saturday, June 22nd and be open to all OB restaurants and OB homeowners that wish to compete. Celebrity judges will taste and judge all entries at the food and wine party and award serious cooking / kitchen tool prizes. OBCOC thanks Trudy Hennessy, Aunt Diane Montes, Alex Mattson, Travis D'Arienzo, Katarina Hendrickson and Erika McCarthy for agreeing to help create, organize and launch this event. All proceeds for this inaugural year will go to the playground refurbishment project spearheaded by the OB Community Fund! Lets all have some fun. Tickets, through Event Brite, go on sale May 24th. Who will be Ocean Beach's Top Toque? Perhaps fire islands best chef is you!

### Islandmermaid.shop

When, through the efforts of our GM @wisdommfacee, the fashion collab with Locals Only @localonlyli went into sellout mode in under 20 minutes and thousands of requests went unfulfilled, I knew we had something special to pursue. Taking the new, gorgeous and highly coveted logo captured by the locals only artist to a new level, we now have a set of products worthy of your interest. Check out our golf shirts, tank tops, backpacks, tote bags, sandals, beanies, beach towels, hoodies, hats, and more at islandmermaid.shop

## Summer Events

The wonderful amount of effort, energy, thought and love exerted by our team doesn't stop with our food, beverage and hospitality. It extends its reach into our fabulous, curated lineup of post dinner entertainment for over 33 years. Please join us each evening for fire islands most intimate and exciting nighttime venue and these great performances and events each week. Updates all season are @islandmermaidob

Tuesdays - Ariel Sinclair /Bitchy Bingo @sinclair\_ariel

Wednesdays - Wisdom Wednesdays with Vicky Wisdom @wisdommfacee and Andy Mac @andymacmusic and Special Guest Tristan @tristan8523

Thursdays - Burlesque-Hosted by LilMissLixx @lillmisslixx and The Great Wilfredo @thegreatwilfredo

Friday / Saturday - The Dance Floor is Poppin with DJ Just Joe @whoisjustjoe

Sundays - Sunsets with The Zigons @thezigons

We look forward to serving you in our 34th season when we re-open Friday, April 26th See you at the beach! Scott & the staff.