

## Celebrating Fall With *Celebrate St. James*

by Doris Meyer

I moved to the lovely hamlet of St. James last year in October, and as I mark the one year milestone of living in my new home known as The Bulla House, first owned by vaudevillians Fred and Lillian Bulla, I'm grateful to be a member of such a wonderful group as Celebrate St. James – Past, Present, Future, a not-for-profit organization that has been actively seeking to honor our area's significant cultural legacy with various initiatives which will reinvigorate the spirit of living in St. James now and for years to come.

If perhaps you are not aware of the extraordinary work of Celebrate St. James, there is great evidence of it to be found on Lake Avenue where Celebrate Park is under construction. It is a testament to the efforts of the organization to partner with town government and foster public participation through many private donations as well as the sale of keepsake "Hometown Heroes" calendars and personally inscribed bricks for the walkway



in the park. Celebrate Park will be a beautifully designed space for everyone to enjoy casually or for special community events. What wonderful community spirit the park will create. And one very important way you can generate such spirit is to participate in The NY Blood Center blood drive which will be held at the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center on Monday, October 25, from 12 noon – 6 p.m.

While autumn days entice us to spend time outside in air as crisp as apples and admire the trees dressed in their best fall foliage, there comes a time when we feel the approaching chill of winter that makes us think there's no place like home. And because that old adage is in fact so true, CSJ has a wonderful event

scheduled to help you learn about how to make your home the most charming and inviting it possibly can be for the upcoming holidays. On Friday, November 19, at the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center, there will be a delightful opportunity to attend a "Lunch & Learn Designer Showcase: Decorating for the Holidays" led by Natalie Weinstein, Allied ASID, of Natalie Weinstein Design Associates on Lake Avenue. As you may know, Natalie, a member of Allied American Society of Interior Designers, is a highly acclaimed designer, motivational speaker, author and media personality. Her reputation as an interior designer has earned her numerous awards, a PBS special, a radio program, a popular column with *House* magazine, and more. Can you imagine a better way to find inspiration for decorating for the holidays?

As I said at the start, my house was originally owned by performers on the vaudeville stage. But Fred and Lillian Bulla were  
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Can you help keep me safe, while I work to keep you safe?

Do you know there is a waitlist for K9's to receive lifesaving bullet proof vests?

The holidays are coming quickly - while you prepare for the season of giving, consider something that gives back to them

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A R O U N D T O W N

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 only two of a great number of vaudevillians who lived in St. James, either for the summer when theaters were closed or year-round. There is a whole chapter devoted to these stars, some far more luminary than the Bullas, such as Willie Collier and George M. Cohan to name just two, in Geoffrey Fleming's great book *ST. JAMES*, available at the St. James General Store (or on Amazon).

And why was vaudeville such an important part of our theatrical history? If you'd like to know more, or even if you'd like simply to have a fascinating night out, join CSJ on Friday, December 3, to hear Mick Moloney give a richly illustrated talk on "Vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley: If It Wasn't for the Irish and the Jews." Dr. Moloney, a native of Limerick in Ireland, is a professional musician whose many prestigious awards include the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment of the Arts, the highest official honor a traditional artist can receive in



the United States. He has recorded and produced over 60 albums of Irish traditional music and his latest two highly acclaimed CDs, *McNally's Row of Flats* and *If It Wasn't for the Irish and the Jews*, explore the songs of the 19th and early 20th century popular stage in America. He holds a Ph.D. in Folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently Global Distinguished Professor in the Music Department and Irish Studies Program at New York University. Don't miss this rare chance to hear Mick, an internationally renowned speaker, give an entertaining and informative talk right here in St. James.

Stay tuned for news about more exciting events that will be sponsored by Celebrate St. James including a holiday art gallery exhibit featuring the work of

local artists. If you are not already a member of CSJ, join and support the organization's goals and vision for the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center. You can follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/celebratestjames/> or visit our website [www.celebratestjames.org](http://www.celebratestjames.org), call or text 631-984-0201, or email [celebratestjames@gmail.com](mailto:celebratestjames@gmail.com).

For now, please join us to celebrate fall with Celebrate St. James at the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center, located at 176 Second Street.

**October 25 | 12 - 6 p.m.**  
*NY Blood Center*  
*Community Blood Drive*

**November 19 | 12 noon**  
*Lunch & Learn with*  
*Natalie Weinstein, Allied ASID*  
*Designer Showcase and*  
*Decorating for the Holidays*

**December 3 | 7 p.m.**  
*Vaudeville & Tin Pan Alley:*  
*If It Wasn't for the Irish*  
*and the Jews*  
*An Illustrated Talk by*  
*Dr. Mick Moloney, Ph.D.*

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