



Long-Islander NEWS

January 23, 2020

Please mention The Long-Islander Newspapers when doing business with our advertisers.

LongIslanderNews.com

THE LONG-ISLANDER • JANUARY 23, 2020 • 15

SIDE DISH

Compiled by The Foodies



After a remodeling hiatus, the expanded Babalu will reopen with more seating and a full-service bar.

BIGGER BETTER BABALU: Yes, it is almost ready. Babalu (286 New York Avenue, Huntington) will reopen in the next couple of weeks. Owner Alan Gotay is just waiting for the Town of Huntington to say go. The restaurant has been transformed from a small storefront to a now over 50 seats dining facility featuring their fantastic Cuban/Latin/Mediterranean food. But there is more. Babalu will now offer a full bar – not just beer and wine. This is a huge addition to the restaurant. Watch for the grand opening.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LESSING'S: Founded in 1890, Lessing's Hospitality Group is a sixth-generation, family-owned company com-

prised of over 120 locations throughout the Northeast and Florida. Lessing's operates 17 wedding and catering venues, 10 full-service restaurants, over 80 corporate and academic dining centers, nine Blaze Fast-Fire'd Pizza franchises and a historic inn. The group is represented in Huntington by the quintessential village pub **Finnegan's** at 5 Wall Street which has been there since 1912; **Sandbar** at 55 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor; and the breakfast/brunch eatery **Hatch** at 286 Main Street in Huntington Village.

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE: Places to stay warm and relax on cold chilly nights. We had fantastic soup at **Crabtree's** at 330 New York Avenue – try the Crab Bisque or the Butternut Squash if they are on the specials list. Also cozy are the chairs in the front of **Konoba** at 46 Gerard Street. They



Since 1912, Finnegan's has been the "go to" pub in Huntington Village offering a friendly place to warm up with a pint or two. It's one of three restaurants in town operated by the Lessing's group which is celebrating 130 years in business.



For a hidden away and cozy space, walk past the bar at Piccolo and find a warm and inviting dining room replete with banquet seating.

are plush and comfortable and you can sit back and enjoy good food and drink and watch the world go by out the front windows. A perennial favorite is **Piccolo** at 215 Wall Street. On a cold winter night we like to be tucked away on the bar side of the restaurant in the back. It is always cozy. Try the soups. The Butternut Squash Soup is excellent as is the French Onion and both can warm up your core on a 27-degree night.



Entering Joalina it will feel like you are sitting in an Italian piazza on a warm Mediterranean day.

We also like to visit Huntington's Italian Piazza a/k/a/ **Restaurant Joalina** at 35 Gerard Street. Inside it is always a warm Italian night with fine food and drinks. The Escarola e Fagioli, a Tuscan escarole and bean soup, is especially good on a cold night. If pub fare is to your liking, try **The Ritz Café** in Northport at 42 Woodbine Avenue, a welcoming neighborhood gathering spot. The Crab and Lobster Bisque is a meal unto itself and sure to warm you up. Many nights we end up at the restaurant and bar at Oheka Castle also known as **OHK Bar & Restaurant**. Of course it serves world class food, but try the soups too. The Lobster Bisque is excellent but never over look the Italian Chicken Soup. Both choices are great especially on a cold winter's Saturday afternoon for lunch. It is a great place to destress and enjoy the atmosphere. As a popular place for celebrities, you never know who you might see there.