

By Audrey J. Bernard

## Little Italy in the Bronx runs from February 3 to 13

**B**RONX, NEW YORK – There are many great things happening in our sister borough, the Bronx, New York. Other than the iconic Bronx Bombers there are Bronx natives Jennifer Lopez and Chazz Palminteri, Fordham University, New York Botanical Gardens, the Bronx Zoo, Belmont and St. Barnabas Hospital.

On Thursday morning, January 30, 2020, I journeyed up to the Bronx to attend the press kick-off of Little Italy in the Bronx Inaugural Winter Restaurant Week as guest of the Belmont Business Improvement District (BID) with Council Member Ritchie Torres; The Bronx Tourism Council Executive Director Olga Luz Tirado; Frank Franz, Treasurer of the Belmont Business Improvement District and more at the 100-year-old Mario's Restaurant, 2342 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY.

The brief program included warm welcoming remarks from BID and gave the borough more bragging rights and an opportunity to launch Little Italy in the Bronx Inaugural Winter Restaurant Week and sample some of the special restaurant week dishes featuring authentic Italian cuisine from family-owned and operated Italian Restaurants on the Historic Arthur Avenue who are participating in Little Italy in the Bronx Restaurant Week including: **Ann & Tony's, Arthur Avenue Fiasco, Gerbasi Ristorante, Mario's Restaurant, MangiPasta, Michaelangelo's and San Gennaro Ristorante.**

Little Italy in the Bronx Restaurant Week will run from Monday, February 3 to Thursday, February 13, 2020, when diners can enjoy a three-course, prix-fixe lunch for \$20 and a three-course, prix-fixe dinner for \$30 excluding gratuity, tax, and alcohol, or various value-added offerings at a variety of restaurants. Participants include NYC's best, authentic Italian restaurants, butchers,



Little Italy in the Bronx



Bronx native Chazz Palminteri, A Bronx Story



First Meal of Little Italy in the Bronx Restaurant Week at Antonio's Trattoria with Consul General of Italy in New York, Francesco Genuardi; Bronx Native and Star of A BRONX TALE The Musical Chazz Palminteri; Gianna Ranaudo; and other guests (Photo courtesy BID)



Great Italian Dishes

bakers, fish markets, delis, pastry shops, artisan shops and specialty stores. Local businesses are often owned and operated by the same families that founded them nearly a century ago. The offering is only valid during the week from Mondays to Thursdays. When making a reservation, please call the restaurant directly and mention Little Italy in the Bronx Restaurant Week.

"We're thrilled to announce our inaugural Little Italy in the Bronx Restaurant Week," said Peter Madonna, Chairman of the Belmont BID. "The two-week program provides visitors and locals a way to

experience the best of Arthur Avenue and the family-owned and operated local businesses, many of which have been handed down over several generations and founded nearly a century ago."

At the end of the press conference **Shin-Jung Hong**, senior vice president, Nicholas & Lence Communications, and **Alyssa Tucker**, assistant director BID, escorted media guests over to Arthur Avenue Fiasco where we engaged in a most delightful dining experience. Not only was the food delicious, the ambiance was vintage Italian including intimate settings with red and

white tablecloths and impeccable service with a hearty smile. You'll definitely want

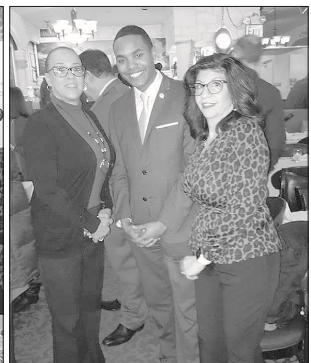
to return for seconds. (Photos by Audrey J. Bernard) (Food photos courtesy BID)



(L-R) Regina Migliucci-Delfino, co-owner of Mario's Restaurant; Ralph Napolitano, co-owner of Ann & Tony's; Dawn Iturriaga, manager of Michaelangelo's; Olga Luz Tirado, Executive Director of The Bronx Tourism Council



(L-R) Gerbasi team member; George Befanis of Gerbasi; Council Member Ritchie J. Torres; Frank Franz, Treasurer of the Belmont Business Improvement District



(L-R) Dawn Iturriaga, manager of Michaelangelo's; Council Member Ritchie J. Torres; Regina Migliucci-Delfino, co-owner of Mario's Restaurant