

# Tropi-Grille brings a taste of the Caribbean to Jamestown

By Eileen M. Daly

Tricia's Tropi-Grille, at 14 Narragansett Ave., is not your typical New England restaurant.

Owner Tricia Masso, 44, describes the fare as a combination of Caribbean, Cuban and Southern-influenced offerings. From Florida to Hawaii, Chef Jack Corey draws on a wide range of inspirations to create a tantalizing menu. Cuban sandwiches, barbecued pork, and traditional jerk chicken with fried plantains are examples of the Caribbean/Cuban/Southern inspired menu while the Polynesian stir-fry and Thai curry sea scallop entrees showcase a Hawaiian influence. "There are so many wonderful Italian restaurants in New England. We wanted to do something a little different," Masso said. Judging from the crowds flocking to Tricia's Tropi-Grille, different is a great idea.

Masso got her start in the restaurant business as a teenager working as a waitress to put herself through college. She grew up in Virginia and received a degree in international business from Mary Washington College. After graduation she spent some time in Rhode Island, moved to Florida and then returned to Rhode Island. "I kind of fell into the restaurant business," Masso said to explain her path. "I've worked as a waitress, manager, hostess, bartender, bus person, you name it," she said. According to Masso the restaurant business is a lot like running a household, "You can't serve dinner if there are no clean dishes." By working in a variety of capacities within the industry, Masso said, she acquired a thorough understanding of the restaur-



Chef Jack Corey cooks up the flavors of the Caribbean at Tricia's Tropi-Grille. Photo by Jeff McDonough

rant business and developed the skills necessary to run her own restaurant. Masso opened Tricia's Tropi-Grille 7 years ago. Chef Jack Corey has been wowing diners with his creations for the last 5 years.

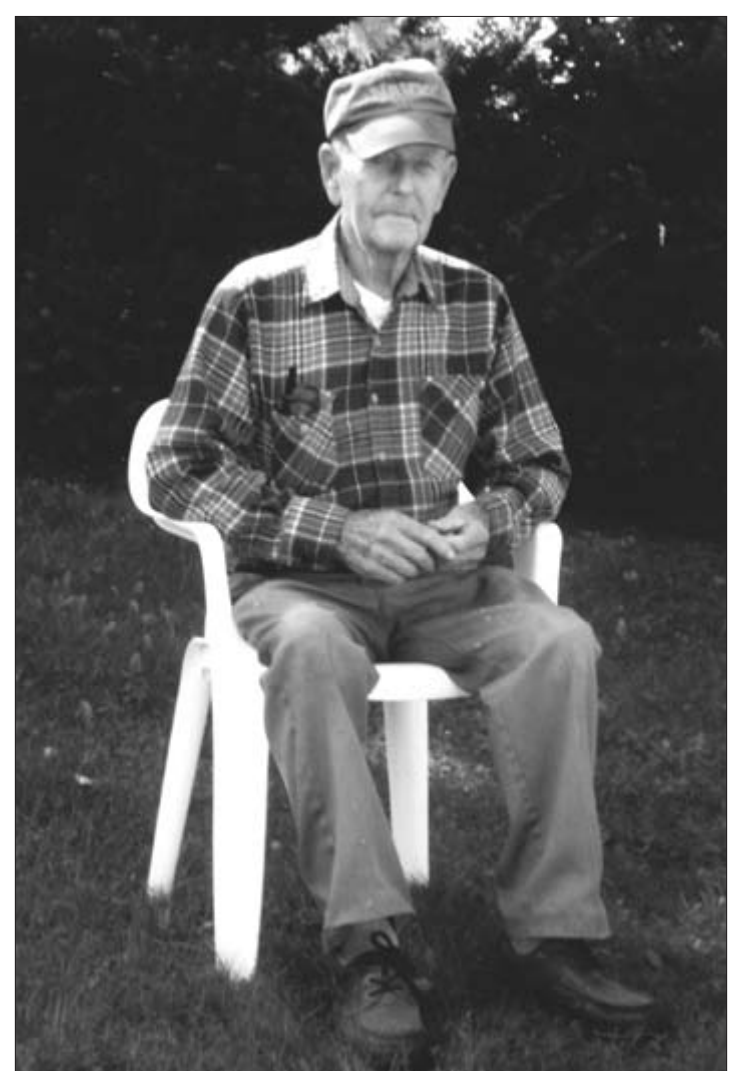
Tricia's Tropi-Grille offers indoor dining (and bars) on both the first and second floors. The atmosphere is inspired by Key West and meant to give diners an island-like ambience. The result is a unique and relaxing tropical atmosphere that is sure to please guests. The upstairs bar and lounge offers beautiful views of the Bay and is open to the public on weekends. It is also available for private parties by appointment, Masso said. The popular outdoor patio and Tiki Bar will remain open as long as the weather holds according to Masso.

But don't be fooled into thinking the restaurant closes when the weather turns. According to Masso, "It's always summer at the Tropi-grille," and she has plenty

of exciting events planned to keep guests coming in during the off-season. Beginning in mid-October, a series of wine tastings will be scheduled. In previous years, wine tastings have been based on a variety of themes including an "Around the World," theme featuring wines from a number of different countries and a "South African," theme with wines from the region combined with exotic finger foods. Prices for the wine tastings are reasonable at approximately \$20 to \$25 per person.

Masso also plans to introduce the "Adult Happy Meal," during the off-season. A fun combination consisting of: salad, entrée, dessert and a glass of either rum punch or sangria. The Adult Happy Meal will be reasonably priced at \$14.95 per person and will be available Tuesdays through Thursdays and all day on Sunday.

Tricia's Tropi-Grille is open year round for lunch and dinner. The restaurant is closed on Mondays.



## Keeping watch

William Gurney takes in the water view from his front yard on Southwest Avenue. He is often seen enjoying the picturesque setting.

Photo by Ellen House

## Fall teen fitness class resumes on Sept. 29

The Jamestown Recreation Department will continue to offer fitness classes for teens beginning Monday, Sept. 29, at the Recreation Center, 41 Conanicus Ave.

All teens entering grades 7 through 12 are invited to participate.

Youth Sports Performance Camp will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. This class provides age and skill appropriate sport-specific conditioning programs designed to develop strong, fast, agile well-balanced, injury-free athletes. Each eight-class session is \$100. Space is limited and registration is required. To register contact Jill at 423-7260, or email [jgoldstein@jamestownri.net](mailto:jgoldstein@jamestownri.net).

## Buy a calendar to help student athletes

On Saturday, Sept. 27, members of several sports teams at North Kingstown High School will be selling their fund-raising calendars door-to-door.

The NKHS Booster Club sponsors the calendar sale, which allows purchasers to enter a drawing to win a prize each day during the month of December.

The total value of the month of prizes is \$2,000, with daily prizes ranging from \$50 to \$100.

The student athletes will be coming around the island between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and the calendars cost \$5.

Parents are needed to help transport students around the island to sell the calendars. Call Leslie Buckley in the NK Student Activities Department at 268-6289 to volunteer.

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