

Long Island Traditions

NEWSLETTER

www.longislandtraditions.org

Vol. 14 No. 2 Spring 2007

Mangala: The Arts of India Programs

With each wave of immigrants the pressure to assimilate is present. While this process may at times unify there is a danger of losing cultural roots and national identity. In March Long Island Traditions and the Young Indian Culture Group will present two public programs where participants and audience members can learn about the rich heritage of this complex ethnic group.

On Sunday, March 11 Long Island Traditions and Hofstra University will present an all-day workshop featuring classes in traditional art forms ranging from Bharanatyam dancing to tabla playing that is open to students and adults of all ages and abilities, from novices to experts, led by master traditional artists. See the enclosed flyer for advance reservations and information. Tickets are \$25 for 3 classes or \$15 per class, with a \$5 discount for LI Traditions or Young Indian Culture Group members, seniors and students. For information call (516) 767-8803.



Malini Srinivasan

On Saturday evening, March 17th join us for a special performance and concert at Landmark on Main Street in Port Washington, featuring many well-known and emerging dancers, singers and musicians. They include Tripti Mukherjee, a Hindustani classical vocalist who has performed in area concerts halls

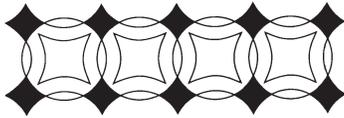
See **Mangala** on page 3

Digitization Grant

Long Island Traditions and The Port Washington Public Library are pleased to announce a collaborative digitization project, recently funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, to preserve unique collections of folk arts, archival and oral historical materials, collected over the years by folklorist Nancy Solomon and oral historian Elly Shodell. This is one of two regional digitization projects funded on Long Island by NYSCA.

Over 400 interview tapes will be converted to digital files, for future uploading to our respective web sites (www.longislandtraditions.org, and www.pwpl.org). Focusing on maritime folk arts and stories, ethnic music and dance, African American history, bay houses, occupational culture, estate workers, sandminers, and much, much more—many of these tapes are over 20 years old and at risk of deterioration. By converting old cassettes to new digital formats, we hope to save invaluable information for future generations. We will be working with archivists and SafeSound Archives, Inc. to convert at-risk audiotape materials to optimized .wav and MP3 files, for use on our web sites, where visitors can hear stories of these rich and varied tradition bearers.

The project's first phase, converting the tapes to computer files, is expected to be completed by summer/fall. At that point interested researchers may come in and listen to the interviews. The 2nd phase, identifying particular stories and memories for our web site, will be a long term project. Volunteers are needed to help us select the best stories! For more information please call us at (516) 767-8803. ■



Long Island Traditions Inc.

Dedicated to the documentation and preservation of Long Island's living cultural heritage.

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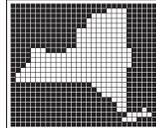
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LI Traditions is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization registered with the NY State Board of Charities.

For more information call: (516) 767-8803, fax: (516) 767-8805, write to us at: 382 Main St., Port Washington, NY 11050, E-mail: litrad@i-2000.com or visit us on the web at: www.longislandtraditions.org

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State of the Arts



NYSCA

Living the American Dream: Levittown and the Suburban Boom

The LI Museum in Stony Brook is proud to announce a new exhibition: *Living the American Dream: Levittown and the Suburban Boom*. This exhibit explores the rise of Levittown and the post-war housing boom on Long Island. In 1947, the Levitt family of Brooklyn fulfilled the dreams of thousands of young families by building hundreds of modest-priced houses in central Nassau County. Housing shortages and new government programs made conditions ripe for the suburban boom, offering a new way of life to young couples and families.

While the Levittown story has been featured extensively in both documentaries and books, the Long Island Museum hosts the first major museum exhibition on the subject. Visitors will make a nostalgic connection with the suburban pioneers that helped make this way of life their own.

The Long Island Museum is located at 1200 Route 25A in Stony Brook. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person, \$6 for seniors and \$3 for students. Members and children under six are admitted for free. For more information and directions please call 631-751-0066 or visit the museum web site at www.longislandmuseum.org. ■

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ASCAP Foundation Supports Long Island Traditions

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) has awarded Long Island Traditions highly competitive grant to support its "Sounds of Suburbia" arts in education programs in the Freeport school district. This grant will allow elementary school students to study with master Trinidadian steelband ensemble Steel Sensation and Peruvian composer Theo Torres, in both in-school and after-school programs. Since 1996 Long Island Traditions has presented these master artists as part of its ethnic and maritime folk arts programs in the district's elementary schools. Students of diverse cultural backgrounds learn to play steel pans, a traditional instrument used in contemporary steelbands, adapting songs of different styles including calypso, reggae, jazz and movie songs, to the acoustic instrument. Working with Ian Japsi students in Freeport's Atkinson and Dodd Middle Schools spend 15 weeks learning to play this traditional instrument. The ASCAP grant will also support our in-class residency program with Theo Torres, a master Peruvian composer and musician who has composed hundreds of songs about his native homeland and life on Long Island. ■

Ethnic Concerts and Workshops

Continuing our series at the East Meadow Library and the LI Children's Museum, are several music and dance programs. On April 7 come join the Sopasinas Hellenic Dance Academy of Farmingdale for a children's workshop on traditional Greek dancing, led by students of the Academy. The ensemble has performed throughout the metropolitan region including the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and the Heckscher Museum in Huntington. The 11am workshop will be followed by a 1 pm performance with the dancers and participants in the morning workshop. On May 6 the Young Indian Culture Group will also lead a workshop and performance at the museum.

On Sunday, May 20th join in our concluding program on "Island Traditions" with Dominican merengue and bachata singer and composer Luis Cordero y los Amigos del Amargue. This ensemble will tell the stories of their native homeland through ballads, songs and dances. The free program takes place at the East Meadow Library at 2pm. Call (516) 794-2570 for more information. ■



Luis Cordero y los Amigos del Amargue

New York State Music Fund Grant

Long Island Traditions is proud to announce that it is the recipient of a grant from The New York State Music Fund for its arts in education and community music programs. This grant will support two arts in education residencies featuring Peruvian composer Theo Torres and Vientos del Sur and Steel Sensation in the Freeport and Deer Park School districts. In addition the grant will support a Long Island Traditions' free community concert on June 16th in Freeport

featuring these two groups along with Elder Statesmen and Luis Cordero y Los Amigos del Amargue.

The New York State Music Fund was created when the New York State Attorney General's Office resolved investigations against major record companies that had violated state and federal laws prohibiting "pay for play" (also called "payola"). The Fund published guidelines and criteria and accepted grant applications in a number of categories, including music education and public performances of music by artists working in hip hop, reggae, fusion, jazz, classical and folk music of all cultures. Special emphasis was placed on reaching underserved populations and broadening awareness of artists, genres or styles with limited access to commercial broadcast or other mass distribution vehicles. Approximately 218 grants were awarded out of 400 applications received. We are most grateful for this support and hope that you will join us in Freeport. ■

Mangala continued from page 1

around India, Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall. Tripti founded the New Jersey based Pandit Jasraj Institute for Music Research, Artistry and Appreciation. Satya Pradeep is a well-known New York area classical Indian dancer and choreographer. Her dance forms include Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancing, traditional classical styles common in South Indian. Lalitha Badrinath, a Carnatic music singer, has performed throughout India for the past 30 years. In addition to her studies in singing, Badrinath is also recognized as a Tamil poet, which she incorporates into her musical compositions.

To purchase tickets contact Landmark on Main Street at (516) 767-6444. ■

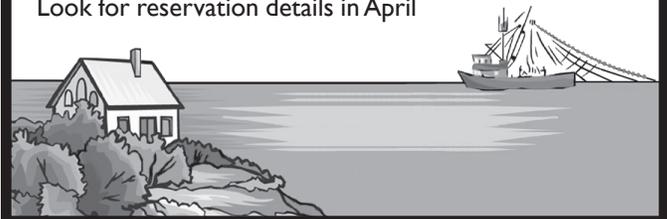
Save the Date

Boating with the Baymen

Sunset cruise 4 - 7 pm
departing from Greenport

**June
30th**

Look for reservation details in April



EVENTS OF INTEREST

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a Long Island concert or program that focuses on some aspect of traditional culture, drop us a line and we'll put it in our "Events of Interest" column. The deadline is the 1st of June, September, December and March.

- March 11** Mangala Workshop program. 10AM-3PM. Hofstra University. Hempstead. Sponsored by Long Island Traditions. Call (516) 767-8803 for information. (See accompanying article)
- March 11** Asian American Festival. Stony Brook University, Student Center. 1:00 – 5:00pm. Free Admission. Evening performance 5-9 pm. \$20 tickets. For more information call (631)543-5768 or visit www.aacfli.com.
- March 13** "Exploring a Lost Tribe: the B'nai Menashe of India," lecture by Rahel Musleah. Bryant Library, 2 Paper Mill Rd, Roslyn. 1 pm. (516) 621-2240.
- March 17** Mangala Concert. 7:30-10PM. Landmark on Main Street. Port Washington. Tickets \$25-35. For information and tickets call (516) 767- 6444 (See accompanying article).
- March 18** Dave Sear's "Half Century of American Folk Music." 3 PM. Great Neck House. 14 Arrandale Avenue. Great Neck. For information call (516) 484-0355.
- March 24-25** Cradle of Aviation model exhibition. Display of all types of flying models. Free with museum admission. Charles Lindbergh Blvd., Museum Row, Garden City. For information call (516) 572-4066 or visit www.cradleofaviation.org.
- March 25** Foodways program. Armenian food and needlework, Ukrainian egg decorating and Ojibwa/ Cree food and beadwork. LI Museum. Stony Brook. Call (631) 751-0066.
- April 7** Sopasinas Greek Dance workshop. 11AM. Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Avenue, Garden City. Admission \$8. Call (516) 224-5800 for details.
- May 6** Indian dance workshop. 11AM. Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Avenue, Garden City. Admission \$8. Call (516) 224-5800 for details.
- May 19** Mulvihill-Lynch School of Irish Dancing, 8th Annual Feis. SUNY Stony Brook, Student Activities Center. \$10. For information call 631-738-1242 or visit www.mulvihill-lynchschooll.com.
- May 20** Luis Cordero y Los Amigos del Amargue. 2PM. East Meadow Public Library. 1886 Front Street, East Meadow. Free admission. Call (516) 794-2570 for information.

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382 Main Street
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