

Long Island Traditions

NEWSLETTER

www.longislandtraditions.org
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Vol. 22 No. 1
Winter 2015

New York Sportsfishing Federation Show

February 13–15, 2015

Freeport Recreation Center

133 E. Merrick Road, Freeport, NY

Join us at this annual event where you can learn all the latest news and trends of the coming fishing season. On hand are many knowledgeable folks who can share with you their tricks and tips on how to catch that big one. Learn what the latest regulations are for recreational fishermen, how to register for the NY fishing registry, and stop by our table in the lobby.

Hours are:

Friday, February 13 • 12–6 p.m.

Saturday, February 14 • 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, February 15, 2015 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. ■

In Harm's Way Exhibit: A Work in Progress

LI Traditions has received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the NY State Council on the Arts and a planning grant from the NY Council for the Humanities to create an exhibit that explores how landscapes change after storms and hurricanes, what stories and lessons residents and families share in times of natural disasters, and what we can learn from traditional practices. If you have a story you would like to share, especially if you live in a waterfront neighborhood, call us so that we can arrange an interview. And spread the word! ■

Clam Chowder Recipe

Over the years I've had the pleasure of sampling many a cup of Manhattan and New England style clam chowders, savoring the taste of briny south shore and east end clams. Fishermen and bay house owners are especially knowledgeable about this traditional food, with their easy access to fresh wild clams.

At the 2013 Tobay Boat Show we sponsored a clam chowder contest in which we promised the entrants that their recipe would be published in our newsletter. I urge you to try this and send us your recipe. The contest was judged by Hugh Merwin, the food editor at New York magazine. We hope you like Gary Blacker's recipe as much as we did! ■

Captain Gary "Wavelength" Blackler Manhattan Clam Chowda

Goods:

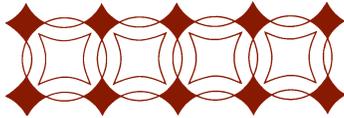
4 oz pancetta, chopped medium
1 tablespoon butter
2 cups chopped onion
2 dozen top neck clams
½ cup chopped red pepper
1 cup chopped carrot
3-4 cloves minced garlic
1 tablespoon oregano
1 tablespoon thyme
2 bay leaves
¼ tablespoon cayenne
1½ lbs red potatoes cut in quarters
1 cup fish stock (chicken will do)
24 oz can fire roasted tomatoes
2 tablespoon chopped parsley
black pepper



Courtesy of recipe.com

Procedure:

Steam clams open in 6 cups water, cool, chop into ½ chunks, strain broth and reserve -saute pancetta add butter, onion, red pepper, carrots, cook until tender. Add garlic, bay leaves, oregano, thyme and 2 cups clam broth. Add potatoes, cover and cook till potatoes are cooked through but still firm. Add tomatoes, clams, parsley and pepper. Allow to sit about one hour.



Long Island Traditions Inc.

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

Executive Director: Nancy Solomon

Board of Directors: Mirna Cortez-Obers, Guy Edwards, Ken Maltz, Dan Pollera, Ken Robinson, Jude Schanzer, Linda Scholl & Michael Scully

Advisory Board: Paul Bentel, John Eilertsen, Dorothy Jacobs & Wayne Wink

Newsletter Designer: Barbara Koelbel Bange

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: info@longislandtraditions.org or visit us on the web at: www.longislandtraditions.org

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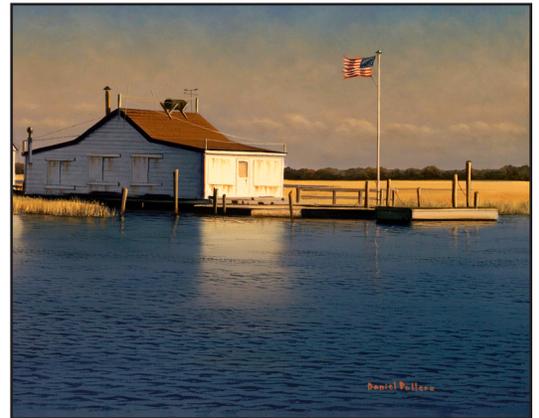
Welcome New Board Members Daniel Pollera and Guy Edwards

Guy Edwards, Bohemia resident and director of the East Islip Public Library, along with Dan Pollera, Freeport resident and recognized artist, have recently joined the board of directors of Long Island Traditions. Edwards and Pollera join attorney Ken Robinson, program director Mirna Cortes Obers from Carecen, Michael Scully of Scully Real Estate, East Meadow library program director Jude Schanzer, social worker Linda Scholl, and music educator Ken Maltz at LI Traditions.

Guy Edwards has been the director of the East Islip Public Library since 1999. He is also an event photographer / videographer. A runner, skier, scuba diver and rock climber, he grew up in the fishing industry, accompanying his father on trips to the Fulton Fish Market when he was growing up. Edwards resides in Bohemia with his family.

Dan Pollera is a professional fine art contemporary realist whose work has been published as well as collected by private people, corporations and museums here and abroad. His subjects include the

historic bay houses of the south shore, scenic landscapes of Long Island's coast, and wildlife of the south shore. Pollera's work is presently published by Fairfield Art Publishing and Coastal Publications in New York. His works have been featured at the



Courtesy Dan Pollera.

Dan Pollera painting of the Byrne Van Wicklen bay house prior to Superstorm Sandy.

Guild Hall Museum in East Hampton, on the cover of Dan's Magazine, and various art galleries in the region. Pollera resides in Freeport. ■

Lecture Programs by Nancy Solomon

February 10 at 7 pm: African American architecture and culture. This illustrated and audio program will examine how free and slave African Americans have lived and worked on Long Island since the 1600s. The program will focus on occupational culture and the role of the church in the development of church choirs and gospel ensembles in our region. The program will take place at the Bellport South Country Library, located at 22 Station Road in Bellport. For more information and reservations (admission is free) call (631) 286-0818.

March 19 at 7 pm: Bay House program. This illustrated program will explore the history, culture and architecture of the bay houses in the Town of Hempstead. The program is sponsored by the Baldwin Historical Society, located at 1980 Grand Avenue in Baldwin. ■

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Elder Statesmen Gospel Program

January 25 East Meadow Library, 2 pm

The Elder Statesmen are a traditional gospel group consisting of several African American gentlemen whose families emigrated from the south during the Great Migration. On average the members are over 60 and their name “characterizes who they are collectively”. The group consists of Teddy Williams, Douglas Covington, Fred Brinson, Keith Oliver, Tony Santodonato, and Arthur Johnson. They sing a variety of musical formats including hymns and spirituals, gospel and jubilee acapella-style and with instruments. Ted Williams is the longest member of the group, and a composer of many of the songs they sing.

The Elder Statesmen have performed in numerous churches, folk festivals, gospel competitions and at local events. The music teaches about the cultural legacy of African Americans, and the historical role of gospel music. Their program includes explorations of the musicians’ family histories and how African American culture is reflected in gospel performance.

Teddy Williams was born in Clarks Hill, SC. Although he believed he might spend his entire life there, he came to NY in 1958. His parents were farmers and many of the workers sang as they toiled. His mother was considered a great singer. Teddy’s older brothers had a musical group and together sang gospel music in churches. As a young man and teenager he sang in various choirs. At the age of 18 he came to NY to “make money” and play baseball. Teddy admits that “things didn’t turn out the way I planned.” He has worked in a variety of occupations including auto mechanic, in the construction industry and other “hands-on” jobs. Along with the rest of the group he credits religion and faith as the guiding light in his life.

Douglas Covington came to the group because of his musical association with Teddy Williams. They sang together in an earlier group and continue to feel comfortable crooning together. Douglas was born in Brooklyn but his family was from Utahville, SC. He started singing in “a small storefront church. There’s always been music in my house.” On Saturday mornings – mom played old 45s and grandmother played old 78s and we would just listen to music all day while doing chores.” His mother Vera Covington sang in choirs as a child. As a youth he sang in the Brooklyn Borough-wide chorus made up from junior high schools. He continued to sing with his high school chorus and school productions. In college he played with York College jazz ensemble, and various rhythm & blues bands. Later he did studio work with various gospel artists and played in a rock band. Doug continues to work with these popular and traditional music forms.

Keith Oliver reflects that: “Church has always been a big part of my life. My mother was president of choir, my grandmother sang in a choir, and my brother was very well known in church because he was the organist. There are three types of music in my life: country from father, my mother gospel, and my brother was classical. I love the southern gospel sound. Grew up to listening to traditional gospel. When I met Ted we got into a conversation and I ended up in the group. This happened while I was waiting in a post office line talking about music. I said I always wanted to sing in a group and Ted said well I have a group!”

Arthur Johnson is a resident of Brooklyn with a long history of gospel music as well. “I’ve been Involved with gospel music since childhood” Like other members of the group, Arthur was influenced by his father. “My father used to be in a quartet and used to teach my mother, sisters, myself how to sing. He knew note for note. Used to be with the Broken All Stars back in the days. When I was 12 years old I was playing bass lead for the quartet. After that I went on organ went to lead guitar.”

Fred Brinson is one of the group’s main singers, one of many in his family. “One of my cousins was a bass singer for The Vikings. I heard gospel quartets since I was 6. I’ve been singing all my life. I am the new kid on the block. I’ve heard a lot of the old stuff which I love. But I also love the new stuff.”

Tony Santodonato is also new to the Elder Statesmen. Born in Port Washington, he gravitates to Baptist music unlike the traditional songs he heard in Catholic churches growing up. “I think music has a large part in bringing the youth to the churches. I was raised Catholic and church was terribly boring. I had no reason to go even though I believed. Coming to Baptist church which is full of music and joy, it’s a different experience and music is a big part of that. Music took me off the streets when my friends were doing things they weren’t supposed to do. It kept me safe.”



The Elder Statesmen photo by Nancy Solomon

The concert will take place at the East Meadow Library, located at 1886 Front Street, East Meadow. To reserve please call (516) 794-2570 ext. 560. ■

Funding News

L I Traditions is proud to announce that it has received one of the coveted NYS Economic Development grants for the Arts, administered by the NY State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). The grant will support a number of programs including the Maritime Folk Arts in Education programs offered at local school districts, Boating with the Baymen tours, Bay House tours and an outdoor interpretive exhibit about the maritime traditions of Freeport along the Nautical Mile. In addition NYSCA is also supporting the exhibit “In Harm’s Way” (see accompanying article). We thank our assemblywoman Michelle Schimel and state senator Jack Martins for their support of the arts and to all of our members (yes – you!). ■

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.

Don't forget to visit our web site and our Facebook page for timely information.

- January 25:** 2 pm. Gospel Concert. East Meadow Public Library. 1886 Front Street, East Meadow. (516) 794-2570 ext. 560 (see accompanying article)
- February 10:** 7pm. African American architecture and culture. Bellport South Country Library, 22 Station Road, Bellport. (631) 286-0818.
- February 13-15:** NY Sportsfishing Federation Show. Freeport Recreation Center, 133 E. Merrick Road, Freeport.
- March 10:** 7 pm. Bay House lecture. Baldwin Historical Society. 1980 Grand Avenue, Baldwin

 Printed on recycled paper

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