

Long Island Traditions

NEWSLETTER

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Tobay Boat Show “Working the Waters” Program

September 30 and October 1

Long Island Traditions will present its 5th annual “Working the Waters: Maritime Culture of Long Island” program in collaboration with the NY Marine Trades Association “Tobay Boat Show” on Saturday – Sunday, September 30 and October 1 at Tobay Beach on the Ocean Parkway, east of Jones Beach in Massapequa, New York. “Working the Waters: Maritime Culture of Long Island” will present to the public first-hand accounts about the contemporary and historic traditions of commercial and recreational fishermen, the factors affecting these traditions and their future on Long Island in the wake of Superstorm Sandy and the decline of the bays.

Highlights of the event include decoy carver Jack Combs of Southold, fishermen Tony Sougstad, Michael Combs, Fred Menges, Bill Fetzer, Chuck Tekula, boat model builder Chris Hale and maritime driftwood painter Herb Jurist, among many others. There will also be family and children fishing lessons taught by master recreational fisherman Reed Riemer.

Boat Show and Festival admission is \$10 (seniors \$8, children 12 and under are free) and will take place at Tobay Beach on Ocean Parkway in Massapequa. The event hours are Friday, September 29 at 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, September 30 and October 1 at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Long Island Traditions at (516) 767-8803 or the NY Marine Trades Association at (631) 691-7050 or visit www.nyboatshows.com/Tobay.

“In Harm’s Way” Exhibit

October 6 – December 28, 2017

LI Museum in Stony Brook

Storms and hurricanes have a long history in upstate New York and Long Island, beginning with the September 1938 “Long Island Express” hurricane. “In Harm’s Way” will explore how local residents and government agencies prepare and recover from natural disasters in the wake of Superstorm Sandy and Hurricanes Lee and Irene through stories, photographs, objects and architectural models.

The exhibit examines how individuals and families prepare for severe weather events, how communities protect their coastlines, and how these actions have changed over time. Examples of these actions will include the use of snow fencing to stabilize beaches, home elevations after recent storms including Superstorm Sandy, the creation of sea walls and storm barriers, and creating emergency kits to suit specific needs within a family.



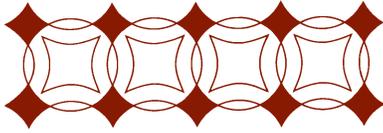
Photo by Nancy Solomon, Courtesy Long Island Traditions

Snow fences are common sights along Long Island’s beaches, which help trap blowing sand and increase the dune. Several places including the Far Rockaway bungalows benefitted from the protection offered by dunes.

Public Programs:

- October 6:** General Exhibit Opening
- October 28:** Symposium 10am – 4 pm
- November 12:** Learning from our Neighbors 2 pm
- December 3:** Curator’s Gallery Tour 2 pm

For information, please visit the LI Museum web site or call (631) 751-0066.



Long Island Traditions Inc.

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

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

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Council on the Arts

In Harm's Way Part 3

As part of our upcoming exhibit LI Traditions' director Nancy Solomon conducted numerous interviews with local residents, architects and planners about their experiences with storms and hurricanes. One of those interviewed was Town of Hempstead Commissioner of Conservation and Waterways Tom Doheny, who has worked on erosion issues for over 40 years. In addition architects Joe Pignataro of Freeport and Joe Gallinaro of Long Beach have important insights into the problems facing waterfront homeowners. You can meet them all at the October 28th symposium at the LI Museum.

Tom Doheny: The severe storms of the sixties and the seventies snapped us to attention. Because there was no dune and therefore everyone had a good look at the ocean. We started building dunes in the early 1970s, installing snow fencing and planting beach grass. I went to a Long Beach Civic Association meeting and when I explained about the dunes, they just about tarred and feathered me. Hurricane Gloria showed up and completely wiped out the west end of Long Beach. Their TV's and furniture were floating down Ohio Avenue. The City Manager's phone line lit up and the people demanded a dune be built for the west end of Long Beach. A month and a half later it was completed. We were able to decrease the damage to a great degree."



Photos by Thomas A. Ferrara, Courtesy Newsday

Hurricane Irene in 2011 caused floods along the south shore.

When Sandy hit, Doheny, like others, was surprised at the damage on the bay front: "Had I known we were going to have a 11-foot tsunami, coming down Reynolds Channel, I would have done a lot more personally to protect my own property. The forecasters kept equating it to Irene, saying 'it would only be a foot or two over, don't worry.' But that was not the case. The tide from the East Rockaway Inlet and the tide from Jones Inlet came together, and sandwiched the people in Island Park. They didn't have a chance."

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Like many coastal planners, Commissioner Doheny has seen a wide variety of proposals to prevent future storm damage on Long Island. While there are some who would like to see floodgates erected, there are factors that could affect the success of such proposals.

“I’m still asking myself what a flood wall would do. When there’s no place for the water to go, it will take the path of least resistance. It’s just going to shunt the water further west. The water will just pile up on it [the wall.] It’s a massive 15-foot wall of steel and concrete that is made to protect infrastructure. They don’t really care if the water goes someplace else. I hope the state is going to do some studies on the hydraulics. The mayor of Freeport wants to put tidal gates in the inlet. The volume of water that comes in the inlet is enormous. I can’t tell you how many millions of gallons of water come in there a day. 600,000 cubic yards of sand come in there on the littoral drift every year. A study needs to be done to determine what will happen when the tidal gates holds the water back, from coming into the embayment as to where the water will go in response to the tide gate.”

Alongside people like Commissioner Doheny are architects like **Joe Pignataro** of Freeport who experienced Sandy and also have to cope with the new reality of climate change.

“A house has to be designed well but just as important has to be built well. We’re being more sensitive to how these houses are going to be fastened, and how they’re going to be constructed and secured. There’s a big rush to elevate the houses and I think we’re getting ahead of ourselves. We’re creating skyscrapers of houses just to get them off the ground. There are other proven ways to mitigate a house to make it flood resistant, such as buoyant foundations or flood break walls that rise against the house as the flood waters rise. These designs allow the house elevations to remain as-is. You have other issues too when you elevate. You may be out of the flood zone but now you’re higher in the wind zone. You also have to think of the marketability of these houses – who is going to want to climb 13+ steps to get to their front door? We have to be sensitive to the community.”

Pignataro helped redesign a bay house and has some astute observations about its design.

“The bay houses have these trap doors in the floor and they let the water come in. When the water rises the trap door opens, the water comes in, and six hours later the water goes down. The interior will get wet, but if you live in a coastal area you have to make a few concessions to how you design your interiors. A lot of houses around here were condemned, because they shifted on their foundations, where there was so much water pressure on the sides of the houses, it actually caved in their foundations. Had they had flood vents that let the water in and out, most likely their foundations would have

remained intact. Older houses that have used spray foam fiberglass insulation within their floor joist cavities after Sandy could possibly float off their foundations the next time such a storm occurs. Those are the things people need to be concerned about.”

Architect **Joseph Gallinaro** of Long Beach has worked on countless projects since Sandy struck.



Photograph by Andrea Booher courtesy FEMA

In Long Beach the damage from Sandy included streets filled with sand, homes under water, and the destroyed boardwalk.

“We stayed during the storm. Unfortunately our block had multiple house fires. The flames were reflecting off the 36” deep floodwater; making the street look like it was on fire. A very surreal experience.”

“After the storm, the potential for how I could help surfaced right away. In a single day I could be at a friend’s or neighbor’s house giving them a list of individuals that could help them, gutting houses or drawing with a black marker on some wall showing owners how to deal with this forced renovation project. It’s felt good to help my community. My children are the fourth generation Gallinaro’s to live in Long Beach.”

“We’ve been developing multiple foundation systems and ways of laying out houses. The home owner’s connection to the yard is completely different once elevated a full story. We sometimes bring the yard up to the height of the second story or main living area with a large deck, or extend the exterior yard space under a house on stilts for kids to play on.

We ask people ‘How do you Live’ so that the house design reflects their lifestyle. It’s not enough to make the houses safe, we need to do more. Designing a house that can withstand strong winds and flood waters is not enough. We have to positively affect the way people live in their homes. We try to give people something they don’t even know they want.”

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.

- September 30 & October 1:** Tobay Boat Show. Ocean Parkway, Massapequa. See article for more information.
- October 28:** In Harm's Way Symposium. LI Museum of Art, History and Carriages. 10 am – 4 pm. 1200 Rt 25A, Stony Brook. For information call (631) 751-0066.
- November 12:** In Harm's Way program "Learning from our Neighbors." LI Museum of Art, History and Carriages. 2 – 4 pm. 1200 Rt 25A, Stony Brook. For information call (631) 751-0066.
- December 3:** In Harm's Way Curator Gallery Tour. LI Museum of Art, History and Carriages. 2 – 4 pm. 1200 Rt 25A, Stony Brook. For information call (631) 751-0066.
- December 10:** Tabla Drumming Program with Sejal Kukadia. 2pm. East Meadow Public Library. 1886 Front Street, East Meadow. For information call (516) 794-2570.

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