

# Long Island Traditions

## NEWSLETTER

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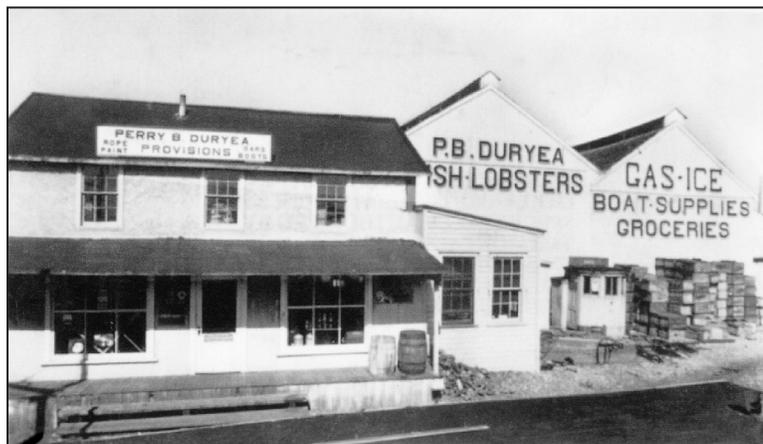
Vol. 24 No.1  
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### In Harm's Way: Looking Backwards

In advance of our new exhibit "In Harm's Way" this fall, we're featuring some powerful memories of earlier storms and hurricanes that have struck Long Island. The most famous of these is the 1938 "New England Express" that barreled through Fire Island and Westhampton Beach, exiting through the North Fork and eventually crossing Long Island Sound to hit Rhode Island and Massachusetts. There are several people who still remember the storm, along with hundreds who heard stories of the now infamous hurricane. One of those people is Chip Duryea, a resident of Montauk whose family has been there for many generations.

"Prior to the Hurricane of 1938, the entire village of Montauk was located on the shores of Fort Pond Bay. There were pound nets, all around the perimeter of the bay. That was where my grandfather bought into the fresh fish business that was owned by Captain E.B. Tuttle. And the Hurricane of 1938 came along, and rearranged the landscape. The commercial fleet gradually relocated to Montauk Harbor, where it is today, and the village of Montauk moved over to the south side, on the ocean side, where it is today."

See **In Harm's Way** on page 3



Duryea lobster pound pre 1938 hurricane. Photo courtesy Montauk Public Library

### New York Sportsfishing Federation Show

**February 18-19**  
**Freeport Recreation Center**  
**130 E. Merrick Road**

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 Saturday February 18 from 10-6 and Sunday February 19 from 10 – 2.

Link to <http://nysf.org/forum-auction/>

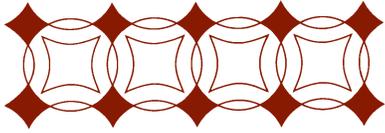
### LI Decoy Collectors Show

**March 4**

The LI Decoy Collectors 46<sup>th</sup> annual Decoy show is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at the IBEW Union Hall, located at 370 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge. The program takes place from 9am – 4 pm. The featured exhibit is "On the Falling Tide"

– Traditional Black Duck Hunting on the South Shore of Long Island. For more information visit [www.lidecoycollectors.org](http://www.lidecoycollectors.org).





## 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

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## Paraguayan Dance Program

March 11 at 2 pm • East Meadow Public Library

Berta Gauto is originally from Asunción, Paraguay though her parents hail from Villarrica, a region known as the “cradle of poets and musicians” because of the unusually high number of artists in the area. Part of an artistic family, Berta was always most interested in dance and learned at a young age to perform traditional dances. She danced for several years with a folkloric dance company known as Raína Potí. When Berta moved to Mineola, she soon formed the dance group Panambi Verá. This group is full of energy and good will. Come join us. The library is located at 1886 Front Street, East Meadow. ■

## Oyster Bay Film Program

March 16 at 7pm • Oyster Bay Historical Society

The North Oyster Bay Baymen’s Association is working on a full scale documentary “The Bay Of Imbalance” with filmmaker Eric Gulbransen. In this informal preliminary viewing we’ll get an update about the issues raised in the film and learn more about the project from baymen involved with the project. Joining in the discussion will be bayman Fred Menges. The program is free. The society is located at 20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay. ■

## Steel Band Program with Adlib Steel Orchestra

April 8 at 2pm • East Meadow Public Library

The Adlib Steel Orchestra is based in Freeport, led by founders Jean and Franklin Mayers. This nonprofit traditional Trinidadian steelband has relied on traditional melodies, traditional steel drums and their extensive knowledge of one of the most popular traditional percussion instruments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Come learn more about this energizing music, and try your hand at the instruments. This is a family oriented program so bring your family. ■



The Adlib Steel Orchestra will be performing at the East Meadow Library on April 8 at 2pm.

Betty Adie of Fire Ireland also has memories of the infamous storm.

“My grandparents came here in 1922. They found out about this place through my great grandmother- she had a daughter in law- who sailed on Great South Bay with friends as a teenager. My great grandmother got a hold of someone and rented a house on Evergreen Walk. At that time it was called the Bermudian. My grandfather fell in love with this place. Within a week, he bought a house which is on the corner of Midway and Denhoff Walk – we were in that house for eight years. In the meantime, they were friendly with a builder here, John Anderson and his wife Sophie. He built quite a few homes, built ours, house next door to us, another house and one in back of us. He also built house on Ocean Breeze which he and his wife had lived in. My grandfather bought our house on July 4, 1929. And that was the crash. But my grandfather just loved it here.



**Adie House**

Photo Nancy Solomon 2014

We would take a taxi from Bay Shore. Barrocino's Bakery was on Main Street, in Bay Shore and we would bring baked goods over to the beach. I also remember going to Gil's. Before the boat went out – at that time, captain Robinson owned the ferry company – used to go to Gil's. I would get 13 shrimp for a dollar. That was my lunch. I loved shrimp cocktail. That's what we would get before we went on the boat.

When the 1938 hurricane was approaching, Captain Robinson had the boats running. We stayed in the house here and my mother said before it all came they had about three or four days – around September 13<sup>th</sup> and then she said things got worse. She went up to the beach at the height of the storm and at the time the ocean was coming down every walk except Cottage. Cottage had two sets of stairs and a pagoda at the top. And it had a very high dune at that time. She went up and looked at the ocean and had to hang on to the railings because her legs almost went out from under her when she saw that ocean.

She gradually managed to get herself down the stairs. George Stretch Sr. was emptying out his house and she said to him what

are we going to do? He said 'lady I don't know.' She went back and gave my grandmother the report. In the meantime, it's flooded down in the village. At the low end, when the eye of the storm went over here, they decided to leave and go down to Sis Narsis' now called The Landings. She got everything together but she forgot her pocketbook. She left everything here. She just grabbed me and my grandmother and two dogs.

Water was midway almost to her hips. My grandmother had to carry the dogs. I can't imagine how they would have managed to get down to Sis Narsis without somebody carrying them. But they got down to Sis Narsis. Everybody that was here was there. Then at night Mr. Seaman who owned the grocery business lived on Cottage, took my mother and grandmother and the two dogs and myself down to their house and stayed there for the night even though it was flooded – but it must have receded.

I cannot believe we stayed there. In the meantime – my father came home from work. And turned on the radio and he heard absolutely nothing from Fire Island. He got on the phone to my uncle and my grandfather – he said pack your bags, I'm coming down to pick you up, we are going out there. He drove out to Bay Shore. They couldn't find anybody to take them. Finally he did get this one person to take them. It took them five hours to get across the bay, because of all the debris. They finally got there. We were all at the house. The two dogs were missing. Found the two dogs behind the couch in Seaman's living room – they were frightened. We had no damage here. This house had no damage whatsoever.”

The exhibit will be on view this fall at the LI Museum in Stony Brook from October 5 – December 31<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned for more details. And look for our videos on the Long Island Traditions' YouTube channel in the spring. ■

## Grants News

**L**I Traditions has been recognized for several new projects and other ongoing projects. The NY State Council on the Arts awarded LI Traditions a multi-year general operating support grant from the Folk Arts program, its fifth such award since LI Traditions founding in 1991. In addition NYSCA provided a 1-year economic development grant to support our maritime programs, including several partnerships with other institutions such as the Oyster Bay Historical Society, Rocking the Boat and Arts MidHudson.

Humanities New York has provided funding for our upcoming exhibit “In Harm's Way” at the LI Museum in Stony Brook. The Gardiner Foundation has also supported this exhibit with a generous \$10,000 grant. The National Endowment for the Arts continues to support our maritime education programs in the Freeport and East Williston School Districts. ■

# 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.***



- February 18-19:** New York Sportsfishing Federation Show. Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport. See accompanying article.
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