

Long Island Traditions

NEWSLETTER

www.longislandtraditions.org
info@longislandtraditions.org

Vol. 27 No.1
Winter 2020

New York Sportsfishing Federation Show

February 15-16, 2020

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 Saturday, February 15, from 10 am–6 pm; and Sunday, February 16, 2015, from 10 am–2 pm. ■

Waterfront Heroes Exhibit at East Islip Library

This March, our *Waterfront Heroes* exhibit will be traveling to the East Islip Public Library, located at 381 E Main St, East Islip. The program pays tribute to the individuals and organizations who help preserve the region's maritime heritage. Ten heroes are profiled, including the South Shore Bay House Owners Association, the North Oyster Bay Baymen's Association, the South Shore Waterfowlers, the Sandy Hook Pilots Association, painter Naima Rauam, Adam Green, founder of Rocking the Boat, Waterfront Barge founder David Sharps, and steam whistle collector Conrad Milster. *Waterfront Heroes* features contemporary and historic

See **Waterfront Heroes** on page 2

Maritime Film Festival

Beginning on Sunday, March 15, join Long Island Traditions, the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington and the Plaza Cinema and Arts Center in Patchogue for a two-month long film festival featuring documentaries and feature films that explore Long Island's maritime culture, from bay houses to bungalows, and boat builders and sailors. The festival will feature 5 films that explore the region's marine coastal heritage, with discussions featuring filmmakers, local baymen, boat builders and bay house owners. The festival is made possible with the support of the Robert L. Gardiner Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The highlight of the festival is the screening of *A World Within a World: Long Island Bay Houses* produced by filmmakers Barbara Weber and Greg Blank. The film will premiere at the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington on March 15 at 11am. There will be additional showings on March 31 at 7:30 pm and April 4 at 11 am at the Plaza Cinema and Arts Center in Patchogue.



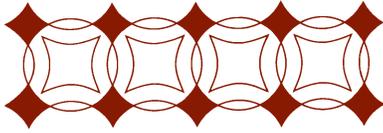
Photo by Nancy Solomon

The McNeece bay house is one of the homes featured in the new documentary.

Other films being shown include:

- April 18, 10:30 am:** *Diggers*. Plaza Cinema and Arts Center, Patchogue
- April 26, 11 am:** *Maiden*. Cinema Arts Centre, Huntington.
- April 28, 7:30 pm:** *Charlotte*. Plaza Cinema and Arts Center, Patchogue
- May 3, 11 am:** *The Bungalows of Far Rockaway*. Cinema Arts Centre, Huntington.

The Cinema Arts Centre is located at 423 Park Ave, Huntington. The Plaza Cinema and Arts Center is located at 20 Terry St, Patchogue.



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, Pat Healy, Ken Maltz, Dan Pollera, Ken Robinson, Jude Schanzer & Michael Scully

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

Program Manager: Ann Latner

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
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



Copyright 2020 by LI Traditions.
Permission to reproduce any article
or portions thereof must be
requested in writing.



**Council on
the Arts**

Become a Member Subscribe to the Newsletter!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____

ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

- \$35 Basic Membership
- \$40 Supporter
- \$50 Sustainer
- \$100 Champions
- \$200 Heroes

Please make your check payable to:
Long Island Traditions

Mail to:
Long Island Traditions
382 Main Street • Port Washington, NY 11050

Remembering Tony Sougstad

By Nancy Solomon

In 1987 I began working at the Arts Council at Freeport as a folklorist documenting maritime culture. At the time Tony Sougstad was a Freeport dragger fisherman who grew up in Flushing, Queens but lived in Freeport since the 1960s. He was 50 years old when I first met him. Like most fishermen it took some time before I could interview him, especially since I began working in the spring of that year. When I offered to help him pack up his fish for the market, he began to trust me, a trust that lasted for decades. Tony became a dragger boat captain in 1970 after he worked as an engineer because he didn't like working on land. Using his understanding of geometry, Tony captained a dragger boat, the E.T. named after his wife (Eleanor) and himself (Tony). During the past 10 years the dragger boat remained at dock with rare exceptions. Tony explained that the government restrictions on what could legally be caught and sold made it extremely difficult to make any profit. As a result he went clamming in the bay and at times operated a gil net.

Tony was a master storyteller and fishing net maker. He was very knowledgeable about the ocean's ecology and how regulations have affected fishermen. He had a number of excellent narratives about danger on the ocean. He worked with Long Island Traditions' adult and children's



Photo by Nancy Solomon

Tony Sougstad with students from the Freeport School District.

programs for 30 years. For many years Tony attended regulatory meetings and in 1989 successfully fought the Village of Freeport's plan to remove the dragger boats from Woodcleft Canal. He was beloved by many fishermen and baymen, where he worked the last few years. We lost Tony on October 7, 2019. As a folklorist he taught me the value of preserving stories and traditions, so that we may all learn from them. ■

Waterfront Heroes continued from page 1

photographs, personal narratives and curated video from a wide variety of tradition bearers, painters, and those seeking to preserve maritime culture and traditions. The exhibit includes a public program with curator Nancy Solomon and one of the waterfront heroes included in the exhibit, on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm. ■

Steamers

By *Leslie Zawislak Krusinski*

Editor's Note: *Occasionally we read stories from our Facebook group and this one caught our attention, and we thought many of our readers would like it.*

Having moved from Queens out to the "Island," my family was not fortunate enough to have had a boat... but we did go to the beach. It was there, at the age of ten, that I first learned what underground treasures could be found buried beneath our feet. Low tide beckoned us to walk out onto what had just previously been underwater. Imagine my surprise when in the sand I first spied those little holes that "pissed" tiny fountains of water into the air as we approached... a dead giveaway to where we were to get down on our knees and dig, dig, dig, with nothing but our bare hands, into the wet and darkening sand/mud combination to retrieve the hidden critters that unknowingly revealed their exact locations! Not having come prepared for what previously we had never experienced, when our pockets were stuffed we tugged at the bottom hems of our shirts to create slings to cradle as many clams as we could find. With our shirts filled to overflowing we excitedly brought our treasures back to our blanket. We all arrived home happily exhausted but Mom

still had the energy and desire to steam up our bounty in a huge pot. When she opened the lid, how amazed we were that the hinged shells had opened so wide! Oh, how I loved that first briny smell, the chewy

texture, and the most heavenly buttered flavored steamers that rewarded our palates and filled our bellies to our utmost satisfaction! Without reluctance, in spite of our sunburned shoulders and noses, we welcomed sleep to envelop us that night as we basked in the wondrous memory of our perfect summer day at the salty shore! ■



Photo by Nancy Solomon

Steamer clams are typically dug at low tide.

Brazilian Capoeira Program

March 8 at 2 pm • Samanea New York (the former Source Mall) Food Court • 1504 Old Country Road (temporary home of East Meadow Library)

On Sunday March 8 come join us for a demonstration and performance of the traditional martial arts and music culture of Brazilian Capoeira, led by Pedro Avila of Port Washington. Avila was born in Brazil and learned the

traditional art form when he attended college in California. Avila's family immigrated to the United States when he was seven years old. Although Capoeira is a national tradition in Brazil, Avila did not learn the tradition until he met a Capoeira instructor and has embarked on a life long journey of studying it. Avila will be joined by other members of Capoeira Brasil, based in New York City.

Capoeira involves music, dance, and acrobatics. "Everyone is supposed to do a little of everything," said Avila. There are three main instruments in Capoeira: a large conga drum ("atabaque"), a tambourine ("pandeiro"), and a Berimbau, which is an exotic-looking instrument resembling a bow and arrow. The Berimbau is made of a wood called 'beriba,' and is a bit longer than a meter. A wire (usually torn from the inside of a tire) bends the bow. A dried and hollowed out gourd tied to one end of it resonates the sound when a stick strikes the taught wire, and the notes are separated by a rock held against the wire in specific rhythms. Avila notes that "after 20 years it still astonishes me how much music can be made with just those 2 notes." Avila notes that a well-rounded Capoeirista (one who practices Capoeira) will be able to play the instruments, sing, contribute to the energy of the roda (circle), and understand the game while having a lot of fun, adding that "...of course, as a martial artist, a good Capoeirista must also be able to hold one's own in combat."

Pedro Avila teaches Capoeira for adults and children at the Blue Moon Project in Port Washington. On Sunday March 8th at 2pm, he and members of Capoeira Brasil will perform at Samanea New York (temporary space of the East Meadow Library) located at 1504 Old Country Road (the former Source Mall) food court in Westbury. The program is free and open to the public. ■

Colombian Harp Program

April 19 at 2 pm • Samanea New York (the former Source Mall) • 1504 Old Country Road (temporary home of East Meadow Library)

World famous Colombian harpist Edmar Castaneda grew up on Long Island, living in Babylon with his family, including his father Pavelid, a master traditional harpist. LI Traditions sponsored an apprenticeship program in 2004 so that Edmar could learn the core repertoire of his family's native traditions. Today he is recognized as a true virtuoso who has played with Latin jazz legend Paquito D'Rivera and other masters of percussion and Latin Jazz. The *New York Times* has called him "a harpist of imposing talent." In this program he will perform with his wife and two children, for a family-oriented program. ■

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 15-16:** NY Sport Fishing Federation Show. See accompanying article.
- March 7:** LI Decoy Collectors Show. 9am - 4pm. IBEW 370 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY.
- March 8:** Capoeira Program at Samanea NY, 1504 Old Country Road, Westbury.
- March 15:** Premiere of a "World Within a World: Bay Houses of Long Island."
Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave, Huntington.
- March 31 – May 3:** Maritime film festival continues. See accompanying article.
- April 19:** Columbian Harp Program at Samanea NY, 1504 Old Country Road, Westbury.

 Printed on recycled paper

Long Island Traditions

382 Main Street
Port Washington, NY 11050