Long Island Traditions has partnered with Landmark on Main Street, a community center and theater in Port Washington, to present “World Music Sundays” – a series of three free performances this fall! The programs are made possible through a relief grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. All performances take place at 3 pm, and are free to attend, but proof of vaccination status is required. Landmark on Main Street is located at 232 Main Street.

**September 26, 3 pm – Panambi Vera:** Experience Paraguayan dancing with Panambi Vera, which means “Golden Butterfly” in the Guarani language. The dance ensemble, led by Berta Gauto and her daughter Iliani, includes a musical duo playing Andean harp and guitar. The beautiful costumes, importing the delicate tela de araña (spider web) lacework from Paraguay is hand sewn by Panambi Verá’s founder Berta Gauto.

**October 17, 3 pm – Steel Sensation:** Enjoy Trinidadian steel band music with Steel Sensation, founded by Trinidad-born Ian Jaspi. Jaspi learned to play from family members, including his uncle, the legendary Jit Samaroo. The steel band is composed of a variety of steel drums or pans with different tunings. The instrument holds the distinction of being the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century. Steel Sensation members range in age from 22 to 50 years old. They play both traditional and popular tunes and have appeared on both on television and radio. Their repertoire includes calypsos, jazz melodies, classical music, and show tunes.

**November 28, 3 pm – Peru Andino:** Peru Andino New York has been performing in the New York area since 1990. Lead by founders Peter Apaza and his late sister, Rosa Volida, the group performs traditional music and dance while costumed in handmade Peruvian attire. Today the group includes up to 30 people, ages 14 to 45 years of age. Their extensive repertoire of dances includes marinera Puneña, diablada, morenada, tuntuna, tobas, cullada, saya, llamara, nigrillos, turkuy, and carnival de Arequipa.

For reservations call (516) 767-6444 or visit www.landmarkonmainstreet.org

In addition, there will be a free concert by Luis Cordero y Los Amigos del Amargue on Sunday, October 3 at 2:30 pm at the Freeport Memorial Library, located at 144 West Merrick Road in Freeport. Come listen to the sounds of merengue and bachata from this composer and his ensemble. The concert is free.
Artist Profile: Steel Sensation

Trinidad is a small Caribbean island that has had a big effect on music through its contributions of calypso and the steel band. The steel band, composed of a variety of steel drums or ‘pans’ in different tunings such as bass, tenor or guitar, holds the distinction of being composed of the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century. First formed in the Trinidadian capital Port-of-Spain in the 1930s, they quickly spread throughout the Caribbean and even to the United States. They are popular wherever Carnival, a pre-Lenten festival similar to Mardi Gras, is celebrated.

Several kinds of music are played on steel pans: calypsos, tunes from the radio and movies and classical music from Beethoven and Bach. The musicians who played the pans, called pannists learned these melodies by listening and playing the same song over and over again. During the 1940’s and 50’s steelbands became a symbol of community pride and identity. Bands come in different sizes, from 5 – 100 people. Musicians are 5 – 65 years old, with most players being 15 – 40 years old.

Several communities are known for their Trinidadian populations including Uniondale, Freeport and Floral Park, home to Steel Sensation led by Ian Japsi. Steel Sensation members range in age from 20-55 years old. They play both traditional and popular tunes, and have appeared on both on television and radio. Their repertoire includes calypsos, jazz melodies, classical music and show tunes. Ian Japsi states:

“In the past people listened and played the music by ear. In today’s musical arrangements musicians still play from memory but also use additional methods including learning and following songs by using score sheets and arrangements.”
Prior to 1989 members of Steel Sensation played in other groups at the annual West Indian Carnival Day Parade on Labor Day weekend in Brooklyn. This is a major cultural event that dates back to the 1970s. Currently Steel Sensation plays on family occasions and religious holidays. They also perform at restaurants including the famous Tavern on the Green in New York City and at museums and schools. Current members include Ian Japsi, Dwayne Richardson, Marc Brooks and Tristan Brewington-Japsi, their music arranger and Ian Japsi’s son. Ian Japsi is the group’s manager.

You can listen to Steel Sensation at an upcoming concert on Sunday, October 17 at 3pm at Landmark on Main Street in Port Washington. For more information visit www.landmarkonmainstreet.org or call (516) 767-6444.

Breaking Down Barriers Cell Phone Tour

The National Park Service has awarded LI Traditions a grant to produce a cell phone tour that examines the struggle for Civil Rights on Long Island. This will become another tour in our partnership with TravelStorys. The tour will explore the history of the African American experience in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, including the struggles that took place and continue to affect the region from the Colonial period to the present day. Working with TravelStorys, a multimedia platform where visitors can take a self-guided tour of sites of significance, LI Traditions will develop an engaging experience based on its historical research and ethnographic recordings for visitors. Sites to be included are Roslyn Gardens, where Civil Rights activists successfully challenged the real estate company’s discrimination practices in the 1960s; Malverne High School where Martin Luther King led a successful protest to desegregate the school district; the Joseph Lloyd Manor house where famed slave and poet Jupiter Hammon lived; Eastville and the Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest, and Ninevah communities, a historic African American community that was also one of the first summer communities founded by African Americans on Long Island’s east end listed on the National Register; the home of Pyrrus Conner in Southampton, a former slave, whaler and entrepreneur; the home of Samuel Ballton, a former slave from Virginia who escaped to New York, and later achieved fame as “The Pickle King” in Greenlawn; the John Coltrane home in Dix Hills, and the Bethel Christian Avenue Historic District in Setauket listed on the National Register. Working with Nancy Solomon will be historians Georgette Grier-Kay of the Eastville Historical Society and Denise Grace Sheppard of the Oyster Bay Historical Society.

In Memoriam: Jack Combs

We mourn the passing of Jack Combs, bayman, decoy carver, and storyteller who recently passed away at the age of 85. Jack grew up in Freeport, on Gordon Place, in a house “built on scallop shells.” His father was a bayman, bay house owner, and duck hunter and Jack started going to the bay house when he was just 5 years old. He and his father George Combs used to catch conchs, rock crabs in the mud, treaded for clams and scallops, and caught tremendous sized flounders in the bay. They would harvest chowders and cherrystones every day, and would also do a little trapping, eeling, baiting, and shooting ducks.

By his young teens Jack learned to carve decoys from his father. “You have to carve when the weather’s right – if it’s warm and humid the last thing you want to do is carve. When I was down in the bay I always carved because there was no television.” The Combs Family also owned a bait station on Meadow Island from 1940 to 1950.

Jack was a participant in our Boating with the Baymen program, our decoy carving programs, and participated in the Smithsonian’s maritime program in 2004. His voice and stories can be heard in our East End Back Story self-guided cell phone tour on TravelStorys. He will be missed.
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.*

*Stay tuned on our web site and our Facebook feed for more events!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 23, 3:30 pm:</strong></td>
<td>LIT’s Director, Nancy Solomon, will be a guest on Nassau Community College’s radio program, “My Hometown,” airing on 90.3 FM, WHPC.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 26, 2 pm:</strong></td>
<td>Screening and panel discussion of A World Within a World: The Bay Houses of Long Island. Guild Hall, East Hampton. <a href="http://www.guildhall.org">www.guildhall.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 26, 3 pm:</strong></td>
<td>Berta Gauto &amp; Panamabi Vera at Landmark on Main Street. <a href="http://www.landmarkonmainstreet.org">www.landmarkonmainstreet.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 3, 2:30 pm:</strong></td>
<td>Luis Cordero and Los Amigos del Amargue at the Freeport Memorial Library. Free, but registration required. <a href="http://www.freeportlibrary.info">www.freeportlibrary.info</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 17, 3 pm:</strong></td>
<td>Steel Sensation at Landmark on Main Street. <a href="http://www.landmarkonmainstreet.org">www.landmarkonmainstreet.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 28, 3 pm:</strong></td>
<td>Peru Andino at Landmark on Main Street. <a href="http://www.landmarkonmainstreet.org">www.landmarkonmainstreet.org</a></td>
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Long Island Traditions
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