

Long Island Traditions

NEWSLETTER

longislandtraditions.org
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Vol. 30 No.4
Fall 2023

Tobay Boat Show – “At Home on the Water”

Sunday, October 8, 2023

10 am – 6 pm

Please join us at the Tobay Beach Boat Show on October 8th from 10 am to 6 pm as we present “At Home on the Water,” exploring Long Island’s recreational and commercial fishing and boat building traditions and Native American maritime culture. Our program will provide the opportunity to interact with baymen, fishermen, decoy carvers and boat builders. Presenters will include baymen and fishermen Tom Jefferies, Bill Fetzer, Craig Oddo, Flo Sharkey; boat builder Chris Hale; decoy carver and waterfowl hunter George Rigby; and, master recreational fisherman Reed Riemer of the Atlantic Anglers Club. Joining us this year will be Josephine and Shavonne Smith from the Shinnecock Reservation. They will be demonstrating how to make wampum from clam shells and share their knowledge of the local marine life of Shinnecock bay.

The Tobay Boat Show runs Friday, October 6 from 12 pm – 6 pm; Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8, from 10 am – 6 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$5 for children 6-15. The show is located at Tobay Beach on Ocean Parkway in Massapequa. For more information, call Long Island Traditions at (516) 767-8803 or the NY Marine Trades Association at (631) 691-7050 or visit <https://nyboatshows.com/tobay/>.

Quilting Workshops with Joan Hodges

East Meadow Library

September 28, October 5, 12 & 19

Back by popular demand, we’re offering another workshop with fabric artist Joan Hodges, who describes herself as a fiber artist drawing on techniques and skills with cloth to create dolls, quilts and other items, such as handbags, hats and flowers. Joan has been quilting for a number of years, having been taught by Hempstead native Ora Kirkland. Joan has explored the various quilt patterns used during the time of the Underground Railroad. Joan is the recipient of a NYSCA artist fellowship award. These are hands-on workshops. In this workshop participants will work on one project together, a quilt, that will be displayed at the library when completed. All programs are on Thursdays from 1-3 pm.



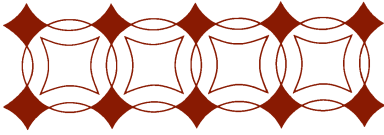
Photo by Nancy Solomon 2023.

Joan Hodges with one of her quilts.

Please bring the following materials:

- Sewing machines – if you wish to do machine quilting
- Neutral or tan colored thread on the sewing machine and for hand quilting
- Straight pins
- Fabric scissors
- Hand Quilters, bring a quilting needle

The programs are from 1- 3pm and are free. To register call the library at 516-794-2570 option 3 or visit <https://eastmeadow.info/>. The library is located at 1886 Front Street, East Meadow.



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**

South Asian Traditions Survey Underway

LI Traditions has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct a survey of traditions related to south Asian communities in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and neighboring regions. Long Island has a long history of immigrants settling in Nassau and Suffolk Counties from these countries. The suburbs of New York have historically been places of cultural diversity, with new waves of immigrants establishing homes and businesses, past and present. It is a common site to see ethnic restaurants ranging from Italian *trattorias* to Salvadoran *pupuserias*, alongside concerts featuring Irish stepdancers and Dominican *bachateros*.

Since the 1990s the Long Island Asian Indian population has grown exponentially, as families have sought better educational and professional opportunities that Long Island is known for. According to the 2020 U.S. census figures, the Asian population on Long Island (comprising Nassau and Suffolk counties) is approximately 234,939 individuals. There is a great professional and income diversity within this ethnic group; however few "outsiders" are aware of this complexity.

In this survey cultural ethnographer Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe will work with artists like Satya Pradeep, Sejal Kukadia and Mala Desai to identify other artists from Long Island and bring them together to share their knowledge of how to preserve their cultural traditions and educate the general public on this rich cultural heritage. The survey will culminate in a variety of public programs including classes, lecture-demonstrations, and artist gatherings.

Stay tuned for more details and visit our website and facebook page for event announcements. ■

the softest mornings

(dawn upon the marsh)
By Mark Nuccio 2023

Editor's Note: Poet Mark Nuccio of Merrick has written stories and articles about Long Island's south shore maritime culture. Here is one of his latest stories.

the softest dawns
i've awakened to
are those upon the marsh
bringing on the thin dawn light
while still a star or two
shines bright.

birds have started chipping
followed by the cry's of gulls
taking to the sky
Then the rattle tattle
of the bay mans engine
as his old clam boat passes by

sweet scents of low tide
permeate the air
reinforcing all the comforts
of this natural tidal world
a secret pleasure for us
who are but interlopers here

and this ancient bay house
time may someday claim
for in this world of salt and tide
nothing eternally remains
and surly as I am - but old
someday these soft dawns
will turn into soft dreams
and stories to be told
of dawn upon the marsh.

In Harm's Way: Virtual Exploration Revives Exhibition of Long Island's Resilience and Preparedness in the Face of Natural Disasters

Storms and hurricanes have long shaped the history of New York and Long Island, leaving behind tales of destruction and resilience. From the unforgettable September 1938 "Long Island Express" hurricane to the more recent Super Storm Sandy, Long Island's coastal communities have experienced the wrath of nature time and time again. To explore these experiences an exhibition at the Long Island Museum of American Art, History, and Carriages entitled "In Harm's Way" opened in the Fall 2017, five years after Sandy.

While you may have missed the physical "In Harm's Way" show, a new virtual exhibit allows individuals to experience "In Harm's Way" in perpetuity! Weaving together a tapestry of experiential narratives, videos, compelling photographs, and data visualization technologies, the virtual exhibit chronicles Long Island's struggles with hurricanes and climate change from 1938 to the present day. Additionally, the exhibition showcases materials gathered from local historical organizations, government agencies, and disaster management experts, demonstrating the necessity for diverse actors to work together in the face of massive climate transformation. It was developed by LI Traditions intern Heidi Yarger of Indiana University.

Key highlights of "In Harm's Way" include:

- **Looking Backwards:** visitors can view historic photographs and listen to community experience narratives to explore various strategies employed to protect Long Island community coastlines and homes as far back as 1938.
- **Sandy Irene and Lee:** Take in the remarkable stories of homes that did and did not survive after recent storms, like the monumental Super Storm Sandy, as communities adapt and strengthen their infrastructure.
- **Looking Forward:** Learn about the construction and implementation of sea walls and storm barriers, home elevation benefits and drawbacks, dune construction projects, and community sea grass planting efforts, as Long Island prepares for inevitable impending disasters.



Photo by Nancy Solomon 2013.

Immediately after Superstorm Sandy the Town of Hempstead and other municipalities began planting beach grass to strengthen their dunes, using the help of volunteers like Christine & Melissa Watson and their work force. Areas that had protective dunes suffered less damage, including Point Lookout.

- **Bay Houses in the Storm:** Uncover how historic bay houses and their stewards fare in the face of disasters, and how traditional, ingenious mitigation strategies can protect these fragile and precious resources from being taken by the next storm.

"In Harm's Way" seeks to educate and inspire visitors to take an active role in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. By understanding the past and learning from it, communities can unite to face future challenges head-on, armed with knowledge and determination.

Visit the "In Harm's Way" exhibit through longislandtraditions.org/harmsway

Bay House Museum Update

In 2021 LI Traditions received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create exhibits for a bay house to be erected in Point Lookout by the Town of Hempstead. The architectural drawings have been made, and the structure will resemble the Muller bay house, one of the oldest bay houses in the Town.

As part of the exhibits, we have a long list of objects that we're searching for. They include: Kitchen table, kitchen shelves or cabinets, sink, propane refrigerator without the propane, dish drainer, disconnected propane stove, hurricane lamps or kerosene lamps, simple dishes, pot and cast-iron pans, chairs, cards, checkers or board games, ashtrays and shot glasses, coffee percolator, wood stove. In addition, we need cleaned clam shells, decoys and other maritime decorations.

If you have any of these items, or know people who do, please let us know! We'll be collecting them this fall and winter. We can arrange for pick up if necessary. And your donation will be tax-deductible.



Photo by Nancy Solomon 2023

The Muller Bay house.

We're anticipating an opening in fall of 2024.

Paraguayan Dance Program at East Meadow Library

On Sunday, October 1 join Panambi Vera, led by Berta Gauto for an afternoon of Paraguayan Dance. Panambi Vera, which means "Golden Butterfly" in the Guarani language, is a unique dance ensemble, led by Berta Gauto and her daughter Iliani, that 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. The program is free and registration is suggested. To register call the library at 516-794-2570 option 3 or visit <https://eastmeadow.info/>.

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.

Visit our website and our Facebook page for more events and information!

September 28 – October 19:

Quilting workshops with Joan Hodges. East Meadow Library, 1 – 3pm. To register call the library at 516-794-2570 option 3 or visit <https://eastmeadow.info/>. The library is located at 1886 Front Street, East Meadow.

October 1:

Paraguayan Dance program with Berta Gauto. East Meadow Library.

October 8:

Tobay Boat Show. Ocean Parkway, Tobay Beach, east of Jones Beach. See accompanying article.

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