October 2014

The Island Community Board is pleased to announce that Tom O’Neil has been elected President following long time leader John Spofford’s resignation at the Columbus Day meeting. As we head into a time of rebuilding for the ICB, it is important to acknowledge all that John has done for the ICB and the Fishers Island Community. The results of the Hamlet Study and the Yale Study, both commissioned under John’s tenure give us some great building blocks to focus on and move forward from. Some of the results will be great starting points for conversations that should include all members of the island community about what the future holds for Fishers Island.

Dear Fishers Island Community,

When the ICB began, it was intended to be an open forum that allowed for centralized and strategic conversation among prominent civic and business organizations on the Island and the Island community at large. As a group, we are committed to getting back to that model with regularly scheduled meetings and an opportunity for all to participate. As president, I am initially charged with getting our elections back on track and rebuilding our membership ranks. We want to make sure that we have a representative and committed board of individuals who want to serve the Island community. We also want to make sure that we have a proper meeting structure and forum set up to create and address the greater community goals.

Currently our ICB Board is comprised of the following members:

Organizational Representatives:
FIDCO – Mark Gaumond
FI Ferry District – Harry Parker
FI Fire District – TBD
FI School District – Sara McLean
FI Utility Company – Chris Finan
FI Waste Management District – Tim Patterson
IHP – Mark Rubenstein
Walsh Park – Ken Edwards

Elected Representatives:
Seasonal: Peter Brinckerhoff, Peter Gaillard, Tom O’Neil
Year Round: Heather Burnham, Patty Faulkner, Stephanie Hall
Ex Officio: Louisa Evans

Over the coming weeks, you will be hearing more from me about elections, our goals and what we are working on as a group. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly tomwendy@roadrunner.com or email our secretary Jamie Doucette at ficommunityboard@gmail.com.

We are also working with Jane Ahrens to update the ICB section of fishersisland.net. We hope this section on our community website can be used to share information about our efforts.

I look forward to working with all of you to improve and strengthen our island community.

Thank you, Tom O’Neil
The Union Chapel Pastoral Search Committee is thrilled to announce that on September 27, 2014 the following motion was made and passed. **The Search Committee of Fishers Island Union Chapel recommends to the congregation that we call Candace Whitman to serve as our settled pastor and teacher.** The formal call will take place on Candidate Sunday, November 2, 2014 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service led by Rev. Candace Whitman. A vote of the members of the congregation will be held at that time, but all are encouraged to attend.

The Search Committee of Union Chapel reviewed almost forty profiles of candidates over the course of a year. The committee members were impressed with all aspects of Rev. Whitman’s experience and education. We were delighted with her eagerness to get involved in the Fishers Island community, and to help make our church and a spiritual life relevant in today’s world. She has a strong background in island living, counseling, visiting, leading women’s retreats, prayer ministry, crisis care, and more.

Random reference comments: “Strong in forming relationships with people and, can work with many different types of people.” “Good with all ages; relates really well with senior citizens; they love her programs.” “She can step into emergencies; incredibly gifted; I have worked with a lot of people and no one is better than Candace.”

Post service comments: “She was terrific.” “Her sermon spoke to me.” “I found her sermon of ‘waiting’ thought provoking and articulate (in fact, the message has stuck with me all week).” “Sermon useful, based on scripture, but woven into daily life today.” “Her prayers were clear and moving.”

Said one committee member: “Union Chapel should not pass up such a rare opportunity for such a gifted person.” Another commented: “She is thoughtful, and allows for space for others to speak; she is a good listener.”

Rev. Whitman was born and raised in Garden City, New York. She attended the United Church of Christ church near her home with her family. From childhood on, Candace (a.k.a. Candy) loved the field of art. She received her B.A. from Yale University where she majored in History of Art. In her first career she taught art to children, and later was appointed adjunct professor of art education at New York University. Candy also found great pleasure in writing and illustrating children’s books, thirteen of which have been published.

While pursuing her art career, Candy was living in Manhattan, and attending a small, vibrant church. There she experienced a reawakening in her faith. While living for four years on Shelter Island, New York, she experienced the equally wondrous call to ministry.

With the support of friends, family, and local pastors, Candy decided to pursue ordination in the Presbyterian (PCUSA) church. Her theological training included work at Grace Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey. Her sermons were recognized in her receipt of Princeton’s John Alan Swink Award in Preaching. In 2011 Candy earned her M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and is an ordained Presbyterian minister. She will be granted “Dual Standing” by the UCC. Most recently Candy has been serving as a chaplain at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

Candy enjoys spending time with her family – her mother and four siblings, four nieces and a nephew. She loves long walks, swimming, backgammon, film study, and reading. For more on her work in art, please visit www.candacewhitman.com.

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FISHERS ISLAND SCHOOL HOSTS 1ST FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON

The 2014-2015 opening Senior Luncheon was held Thursday, October 16 at Union Chapel. Hosted by the Fishers Island School, the faculty and students did a great job and it was a fun start to the season.

Many thanks go to the Fishers Island School hosts.

Dessert Chefs/ Servers: Wyeth Bonser, Bria Fielding, Nickolas Oickle, Charles Scala, Gabriel Sparen

Musicians: Ellie McCarthy, Alexi Switz

Faculty/ Staff: Chris Dollar, Carrie Sawyer, Karen Goodwin, MaryBeth Guimaraes, Gil Amaral

PASTORAL CANDIDATE CONT.

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She plans to always continue to create art as an avocation, and welcomes ideas about how to go about integrating the arts into the spiritual life on Fishers Island.

Candy is thrilled about the prospect of serving as the pastor of Union Chapel. She has known God’s presence, and sees exciting possibilities ahead for our faith community to grow as a congregation. When Candy visited Union Chapel in September, her sermon topic was on “Waiting.” We feel that Fishers Island has been waiting for Candy, and that she has been waiting to spread God’s transforming love in the Fishers Island community.

We thank our members and friends for their patience and support during this “waiting” period, and we look forward with confidence and excitement about the future of Union Chapel.

~ Sarah Porter Search Committee Chair

Union Chapel’s amazing and dedicated Search Committee Members: Anita Fritze, Nora Howard, Susie Renna, Harry Parker, Harry Hurlburt, David Burnham, and Diane Dexter.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

AQUA KIDS TV SHOW VISITS FI OYSTER FARM

This summer the Aqua Kids TV show came to Fishers Island with UConn Avery Point graduate student Amanda Vieillard to learn about nitrogen in the water. Steve Malinowski explained how oysters (or bivalves) can help improve the situation in various coastal locations and showed the kids how oysters are grown at Fishers Island Oyster Farm.

Watch it on YouTube. The Aqua Kids travel to Fisher’s Island, New York where they got a chance to explore a thriving oyster farm! Plus, learn how oysters are capable of providing an ecosystem service by cleaning up excess nitrogen in the water.

You can find the link at: http://fishersisland.net/aquakids-tv-show-visits-fi-oyster-farm/
KEEPING WATCH:
AN INTERVIEW WITH ISLAND NATURALIST JUSTINE KIBBE

By Allison Sargen

What is your formal title? Island Naturalist for the Fishers Island Conservancy

Now what does that really mean? I monitor 12 key sites on Island, where I observe and record data. It’s like “reading” the environment and its ecosystems, becoming very familiar with its rhythm and verse. From the weather, the tides, local wildlife species, and migratory birds, to noting marine debris, health of seaweeds and sea grass. The list of just what to monitor could go on and on. I am also learning a bit more about invasive plant species and native flora. Of course, human impact on and around a small Island does not go unnoticed either. I also take and document many photographs and like to share being out in the field and do so on our website. I also work with the Fishers Island school through the Island Sentinel programs (see below for expanded discussion of this program.)

While I don’t consider myself an “expert” in the sciences, and have two degrees in communications, I believe it’s more about gifting to a unique community-Fishers Island, the unique asset of happening to be “Field Smart”. I have learned to let my natural surroundings “teach me”.

How were you hired? Originally in 2011, my enthusiasm had me apply for a grant through the Conservancy. My initial idea was to tag several seals off of Hungry Point to be tracked via computer technology though the school. I realize it was a very “outside the box” idea and perhaps the timing was not perfect.

Instead the Conservancy suggested I become an Island Naturalist. So I recreated myself by nurturing other progressive ideas, and submitted another grant. I think it is a wonderful idea to have someone year round on island acting as a reporter, observer and ambassador for this fragile and special ecosystem.

What is the best part of this job? The simplicity of sharing enthusiasm and respect for Fishers Island’s unique environment, especially with younger generations. I find this is also the most important part.

Least favorite part? Inserting data into the computer program has me sitting indoors at a desk. I would rather be walking a trail or beach. It’s a good lesson in patience for me though, a different sense of solitude, plus come winter, I might be saying bring me a blizzard so I can be cozy and work on the database….

Do you have a favorite wildlife observation spot? Yes. Hungry Point is my special place. I know I must sound a bit romantic, but I have always felt it resonates some past historical activity or presence of the original Naturalists-Pequot Indians. For me there is just some intuitive sense that I nurture here regarding this particular ecosystem. It’s the Harbor seals probably. This spot attracts the most variety of wildlife species-very active! Healthy Eelgrass meadows - the habitat appears to support food source and nutrients for most seasonal “visitors”.

What have you learned about the ecology of Fishers that might surprise someone? The relationship between the human population and surrounding flora and fauna on Fishers is a fragile one. Really it is a delicate balance to be considered daily. By living here we play a big part in any imbalance or degradation of Island habitat, but we also have everything to do with its conservation and preservation. We all need to be more aware and conscientious of just how we each individually relate and impact our home here.

Do you do any outreach with the school or community? Yes. I established The Fishers Island Stewardship Program. Each year I have applied for a grant that pays students during summer months to help continue monitoring key sites. It was a good way to bridge my Conservancy work with the school and our Community Center. I mentor Island Sentinels who are young Naturalists in the making. Those that apply and are accepted are a truly committed team. This year I was blessed with interested students who live all year round on Fishers and some that arrived just for July and August. Some even commuted from the mainland! Working out in the field, riding bicycles to each site, collecting data and looking for trends is a chance to discover one’s innate Naturalist qualities and talents. I feel it is a perfect step in supporting the School wide Enrichment Model here on Fishers where I can inspire individuals. The great thing about educational outreach is when ideas continue to grow. This past year we have begun to develop an Island specific data base at school, while I continue to grow community based monitoring and share Local Traditional Knowledge with Science in New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

To read the interview in its entirety and see Justine’s photos, please visit: http://fishersisland.net/justine-kibbe-island-naturalist/
IN MEMORIAM: CATHERINE MCINTIRE LESLIE

Catherine McIntire Leslie died on October 5 in the company of her family at Fox Hill Village, Westwood, MA, her home for the past 19 years. She was 96 years old and led a full and wonderful life. Born in New Jersey, Catherine previously lived in Englewood, NJ for 52 years where she raised her family of four. She summered on Fishers Island, NY. Affectionately called "Mackie" she had an enthusiasm for life and people, especially her family. She travelled extensively to over 39 countries and delighted in taking family groups on cruises to Europe, or horseback riding and river rafting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Always up for a good time, she bought a 1935 Fire Truck which was used in parades and summertime events. She believed that memories make the best gift and her family now cherishes the many fond times with her at Fishers Island and on family vacations.

She was an independent thinker and always spoke her mind. Devoted to education, she became the President of the Board of Dwight-Englewood School where she launched the Three School Foundation, a cooperative fundraising program for Englewood's private schools. She attended Ethel Walker School where she became an accomplished equestrian, and later served as a Trustee and President of the Alumni Association. She was a member of the President's Council of the National Association of Independent Schools. She attended Vassar College and remained a loyal alumna.

Mackie had a deep-seated interest in history. She was active in the DAR and Colonial Dames. She enjoyed genealogical libraries and followed the lines of her family tree from the 1600's to the present day. She was an avid antique collector, most memorably, of Stanhopes. Above all, Mackie was about fun. She loved attending the Philharmonic in both New York and Boston. She was a long time member of the Fishers Island Club and the Colony Club in New York City. She entertained regularly. She loved making people laugh.

As matriarch, she relished her 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren with whom she had a unique and magical bond. Even in her last days, Mackie exhibited her positive attitude and great sense of humor with family members and friends. Mackie was predeceased by her second husband of 27 years, banker George Robert Leslie. She is survived by her children H. Ashley Smith, Jr. of Lenox, MA; Catherine S. Leonard of Simsbury, CT; Patricia S. Perron of Parker, CO; and William T.M. Smith of Londonderry, VT. She was dearly loved by her family and her many friends. She will be sorely missed and will be remembered for her insight and incredible zest for life.

Her service will be held Tuesday, November 18th, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 59 Court Street, Dedham, MA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent in memory of Catherine Leslie to the Fishers Island Fire Department, P.O. Box 123, Fishers Island, New York 06390 or to Ethel Walker School/Fund for Walkers, 230 Bushy Hill Rd., Simsbury, CT 06070.

Published in The Boston Globe on October 12, 2014

CHRISTMAS STAMPS AT FI POST OFFICE

We can help with your Christmas Stamps!

USPS ‘Winter Fun’ stamps are in now at the FI Post Office and the 2014 Christmas Stamps go on sale soon!

Feel free to give Gail or Allison a call at (631) 788-7835 to order. They can send them out in the mail for you free of charge.

Thank you for supporting our Post Office!
Fishers Island is following Team Alvimedica as they compete in the Volvo Ocean Race! Why? The American team’s skipper is Fishers Island’s own Charlie Enright.

“The Volvo Ocean Race is acknowledged as the greatest test of sailing prowess and human endeavor as the world’s seven fastest monohulls race a nine month marathon around the globe deep into the bleak latitudes of the Southern Ocean and through the world’s most hostile seas.” ~ www.volvooceanracenewport.com

4 Oceans, 5 Continents, 11 Ports, 38,739 Nautical Miles
The Volvo Ocean Race started on October 4, 2014 in Alicante, Spain with an in-port race. Leg 1 from Alicante to Cape Town, South Africa started on October 11 and they are expected there in early November.

FishersIsland.net is following Team Alvimedica and the Volvo Ocean Race using a variety of social media including: Team Alvimedica’s Facebook page, also linked to FI’s Facebook Home page; The Team’s tumblr page, where their On Board Reporter will post almost every day; The Volvo Ocean Race website which has information about the route and news for the entire race.

Recent Updates on FishersIsland.net include:
UPDATE: OCTOBER 26, 2014 Life at The Extreme TV Series – NBCSC is Channel 220 on FI Direct TV – Link includes the full schedule of upcoming shows.
UPDATE: OCTOBER 20, 2014 Team Alvimedica on Facebook Follow the Team’s daily updates on Facebook
UPDATE: OCTOBER 9, 2014 SailingScuttlebutt.com Interview with Charlie
UPDATE: OCTOBER 4, 2014 Team Alvimedica WINS Volvo Ocean Race’s 1st in-port Race Today
NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

This month I am happy to report that my six pumpkins are curing well and will be ready to go to my grandchildren in NYC for Halloween. In October, I wrote about my frustration growing pumpkins in my vegetable garden on Fishers Island, but after a bit of research on how to cure them I have been successful. I still am not sure if the very dry cool summer helped or the little bit of bleach and water I bathed the pumpkins in after I picked them did the trick. They continued to cure well on a covered porch and remained firm. I will try it all again next year, before I become comfortable with the process.

In November, we usually have a killing frost on Fishers Island. It often coincides with the full moon, which this year is November 8th. The Indians called this moon the “Beaver Moon or Frosty Moon”. The name “Beaver Moon” came from the fact that beavers complete their dams before the river freezes. So, we should also be busy as beavers finishing all our fall chores this month.

1. **Houseplants** need to be sprayed with Insecticidal soap and brought inside before frost.
2. **Dahlias** in the garden can be dug up after the first frost and stored in a box of peat moss or orchid mix and put in a cool place that doesn’t go below freezing.
3. **Perennials** should be cut back and their foliage removed from the garden for a clean flowerbed.
4. **Vegetable gardens** need to be clean and winter crops protected from the cold in a cold frame or hoop house.
5. **Remove weeds** from all garden beds and do new edging before a hard freeze.
6. **Garden props** like peony supports, tomato cages and ceramic pots should be removed and stored undercover.
7. **Blubs** need to be planted outside or in pots for forcing. Pots can be stored in the same cool area with the Dahlia tubers, so they don’t freeze but stay nice and cool.
8. **Evergreens** can have a dose of Hollytone and be wrapped in burlap or sprayed with Wiltproof, if necessary.
9. **Collect leaves** and place them in a compost bin. **Invasive vines** can be cut down to three inches. Mark the stem with orange surveyor tape. Once the vines are cut, go back and find the marked stem and give it another cut and paint the stem with a small brush dipped in a combination of Windex and Roundup. This is a very safe way to get rid of invasive plants according to experts, like Doug Tallamy. There is no spraying involved and the solution can be applied only to the plant you want to be rid of. Keep on the tape so you can continue to find it in the spring to see if the treatment worked!

Once the chores are done, relax and have a very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!
Senior Luncheon
Thursday, November 20
Noon
Union Chapel

Fishers Island Fog Horn
P.O. Box 464, Fishers Island, NY 06390

If you have something you would like posted on FishersIsland.net or in the Fog Horn - a story idea, an event ‘save the date’, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or info@fishersisland.net. Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com.

Inside This Issue:
- Open Letter from ICB
- Interview with Justine Kibbe
- Ebb and Flow
- Where In the World is Charlie?
- November Gardening Tips
- More at FI.net Fog Horn Online

Masthead Photo by Laura Kucsera