ICB COMMUNITY MEMBER REGISTRATION

UPDATE FROM THE ICB

July 28, 2015
Just a quick reminder for everyone to register to vote. In order to provide an effective civic forum, we are asking members of the Fishers Island Community to join our Community Voter Participation Drive, so that everyone has an opportunity to vote and we can achieve a fair and balanced voice going forward. It is critical to the effectiveness of our board that elections happen annually. A seamless and free sign-up is available through ICB Community Member Registration that will be used as a vehicle for both registering and counting everyone’s vote.

Several outstanding candidates have come forward to represent the seasonal and year-round population. If you, or someone you know, would also like to join the slate as a Seasonal or Year-round representative candidate, please contact me by August 10, 2015. It is our aim to be as inclusive as possible because the ICB seeks to represent us all, and it is our sincere hope that we can establish an invigorated and enthusiastic forum for discussing so many of the vital issues that effect our beautiful island. This is an exciting chapter for the Board and your participation is greatly appreciated.

All registered voters will be sent an electronic ballot which will provide the name, background, and a brief statement from each of the candidates. The election voting will begin Thursday, August 20 at 10:00am and end at 5:00pm on Monday August 31. Anyone who is unable to vote electronically can pick up a hard copy ballot at the Community Center, and cast their vote there. The ICB will have a representative and booth set up during the IPP craft fair on August 8, from 9am-12noon for anyone with questions or having problems registering.

Our next meeting will be on August 18 at 5:30pm at the Community Center. I encourage everyone to attend. You can also follow our discussions by visiting our ICB page under About FI on the FishersIsland.net website.

Tom O’Neil, ICB President
mail@charlesthomasoneil.com

Please register online at fishersisland.net/icb-registration or complete the form below and return it to: Jamie Doucette, ICB Secretary, P. O. Box 464, Fishers Island, NY 06390

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ICB Member Registration Form

First Name

Last Name

Phone

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Address

Please Select Membership Status

- Seasonal Resident
- Year-Round Resident
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

by Peter Breining and FICC

Looking Back and Looking Forward

The Fishers Island Community Center’s doors officially opened to the public Columbus Day Weekend 2008, though the origin of the developmental process, one rife with complexity, took form over a decade prior.

It was 1998 when Sarah and Hy Moody first conducted a survey asking what island residents might be looking for in a Community Center; the aim was not only to attract new residents but to also bolster the health and well-being of the year-round population. The results of the survey exhibited a strong need for a teen gathering space, a childcare facility, and a year-round fitness room. Unfortunately, with several other island fundraising efforts further along in development the Community Center idea was ultimately put on the back burner and left there to simmer.

In January 2004, a group of like-minded island residents teamed up to tackle the community center project once and for all, together forming the Island Community Center (ICC) Committee. Judi Imbriglio was first to sit as the chair, with Sarah Goulard (Moody), Sara McLean, Gail Cypherd, Jeanne Shultz, Karla Heath, Grace Burr, Janio Spinola, John Spofford, Nate Gray, Charlie Stepanek, and several others rounding out the committee.

To ensure that the prior island-wide enthusiasm for the project hadn’t diminished over the years, a new survey was circulated in February 2004, returning an equally encouraging response. Of the committee’s initial concerns, the location of the prospective community center was perhaps the most paramount. The question was whether to construct a new building, a markedly pricey endeavor, or to upgrade and renovate an already established structure.

Jimmy Righter of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., worked with the ICC pro bono, sharing his expertise. He sketched designs for a possible new freestanding building to be located across from the school. With this in hand and an evaluation of the costs associated with both options, the ICC ultimately determined that repurposing an existing building proved to be the most feasible though hardly one void of its own obstacles.

While the movie theater was originally seen as an operable choice, the sum of its requisite facelift, unfortunately, proved to be too arduous and costly. John Spofford borrowed the keys to Building #98, and after the committee toured the facility there was unanimous and enthusiastic agreement to pursue this alternative. Not only was the brick building’s foundation structurally sound, its location proved advantageous as well. Situated right by the school and its basketball and tennis courts, the inclusion of a Community Center offered the area a real “campus-like” feel, a hopeful vision proposed months earlier by committee members. The building, built by the Army in the 1930's as the Commissary for Fort Wright, is owned by FIDCO.

Having received the ICC’s proposal, the FIDCO Board unanimously approved the committee’s use of Building #98 by late May 2005, with an annual rent of $1.00 (that is still in place today). The ensuing excitement was palpable, as the committee wasted no time transitioning into their fundraising phase.

The Island Community Center received its certificate of incorporation on August 17, 2005 with the original board of directors made up of President John Spofford, Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Goulard, and Sara McLean and Judi Imbriglio serving as vice presidents. Registering the Community Center as a chartered not-for-profit months prior, members of the fundraising and development sub-committee piqued donation incentive by obtaining the ICC’s 501(c) 3 designation on November 29, 2005, making all ICC contributions tax deductible and helping propel the fundraising phase to an auspicious start and attracting countless donors.

Another significant financial boost came from the Crisp Family Foundation, which announced in late September 2005 that they would match each individual donation in order to expedite the process and help see the ICC’s plans come to fruition. Foundation trustee, Peter Crisp, has

Chelsea Skinner, Director Mere Doyen, Happy Gaillard & James Wright at the Community Center’s Ribbon Cutting.
often stated how immensely important the Community Center is to the island’s well-being. It has been a priority to his family to help enhance the lives of year-round residents, as well as those who wish to make Fishers Island their permanent home in the future.

Once the initial fundraising goals were reached in 2006, the building and construction phase took flight. Working closely with Bruce Kinlin of Kinlin Rutherfurd Architects and Z&S Contracting’s Paul Contillo and Tom Shillo for roughly two years, the ICC helped transform a once dilapidated building. Bruce and Lilly Kinlin and their staff came to ICC committee meetings time and time again, even through the winter, pro bono, drawing up elaborate designs over and over as changes came in and the building came to life. The result of their collective efforts is the magnificent structure you see today. Under one roof you will find a state of the art fitness center and yoga studio, as well as amenities such as the Island Café, areas for teens and kids, an arts and crafts room, several office spaces, a meeting room and a large multi-purpose room with projection screen. The bowling alley was moved to the Center by the Brunswick Bowling Company from its original location near the school in March 2007.

In 2008, the determined Island Community Center Board, including newly named Executive Director Mere Doyen, designed a campaign to raise annual operating revenue to continue to fund the new facility - little did they foresee what Wall Street had in mind that same year. Though never faltering in their quest to support the ICC, the development committee, and many generous donors weathered the tough economic time and successfully met their goal under the leadership of Board President John Spofford. As with the many organizations on Fishers Island, the Community Center’s operations are reliant on both endowment income and annual giving contributions. The ICC recently concluded the successful 2013-2014 capital campaign to establish the Community Center’s Endowment Fund. This campaign was supported by a generous matching gift from the Crisp Family Foundation. In addition, gifts to the Annual Appeal are very important and facilitate the Center’s year-round operations while keeping the annual budget strong.

*If you build it they will come*… It is the people that ‘make’ the Community Center. Committees, organizations, island businesses, and individuals regularly rent and use the Center’s spaces for meetings, dinners and special events including thank you dinners, holiday parties, receptions, and birthday celebrations. This summer, we’ve seen year-round residents and seasonal visitors all taking advantage of the varied educational and extracurricular programs offered for every age group. Under the leadership of Community Center Director Elizabeth Reid, the summer programs have reached new heights, not only in attendance but also in the variety. This summer’s lineup boasts an art class, cooking demonstrations, yoga classes for both children and adults, a college application 101 class, dance classes for kids, and Kindersculls, a children’s rowing camp held at Dock Beach.

A busy summer filled with new memberships, diners, and people taking classes is the best possible way to ensure the Center stays open and active all year-round for residents and winter visitors alike.

We may take for granted what has quickly become an essential and thriving epicenter for this community. It is easy to overlook how carefully this place has been constructed, and easier still to believe it all effortlessly came to be. In reality, it took a determined group of people with one unified mission: to help bolster the overall well-being of the year-round Fishers Island community, and to attract those who wish to one day settle here permanently. With over 455 members, it is safe to say that if past efforts are an indication, this Community Center is in store for an especially bright future.

To view all the photos please visit: [http://fishersisland.net/a-brief-history-of-the-fi-community-center/](http://fishersisland.net/a-brief-history-of-the-fi-community-center/)
I always think of August as the cutback, deadhead and weeding month. These tasks need to be done to keep plants blooming and looking vibrant into the fall. Fishers Island’s first frost is usually early November, so the fall is a lovely time for the garden. Deadhead flowers and trim back foliage that looks tired. Even plants in containers need a cut and a good feeding of fish emulsion to rejuvenate them in their pots. And it is especially important to keep weeding because weeds will steal water from plants. You should also keep an eye out for invasive plants that you do not want on your property and get rid of them ASAP!

On July 18th I went on a most informative walk in the Parade Ground with Prof. Doug Tallamy and PhD Candidate Adam Mitchell, who pointed out invasive species and native species of flora that grow on Fishers Island. We walked on the trails through the beautiful 30-acre grassland, which has been managed by The Conservancy for the Ferry District. The paths are not only lovely to walk on but as the informative sign at the entrance states, “provide burn barriers and enclose habitat for birds and other critters”. Also on the sign, are five photographs of the most invasive Asian plants that are growing on Fishers Island. They are the least wanted plants to have on your property - Black Swallow-Wort (Cynanchum louiseae), Porcelain berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata), Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica), Japanese Clematis (Clematis terniflora) and Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus).

All of these plants are very difficult to get rid of and Doug Tallamy and Adam Mitchell recommend cutting down the plants and painting the stems very carefully with Garlon 4 (Triploclyr). This method is much safer than spraying foliage, which can spread to other plants. There is a very informative website about invasive plants that the FI Conservancy recommends - National Park Service: Alien Plants.

I have also learned that some “home made organic remedies” are not as safe as described. Two books I recommend, in addition to the website, are “How To Eradicate Invasive Plants” by Teri Dunn Chace and “The Truth About Garden Remedies (What Works and What Doesn’t and Why)” By Jeff Gillman.

Of course the safest way to get rid of a plant is to dig it out, but unfortunately some of the most invasive ones are almost impossible to dig out because their roots break in the process and they happily send up new plants. I am sure that the Black Swallow-Wort on my property is going to strangle me in my bed one night without major intervention.
MEMORIAL SERVICE: RUTH YOUNG GRAND

The service will be Saturday, August 8 at 11:30 at St. John’s Church, followed by a reception/light lunch at Hay Harbor.

Long-time summer resident, Ruth Young Grand, 94, of Topsham, Maine, died peacefully of natural causes on January 28, 2015. She was born on November 11, 1920, the daughter of the late William Henry Young and Ruth Agnes Gervais in New York City. She married the late Gordon Grand Jr. on February 27, 1943 at The Church of the Incarnation in New York City. They lived in Millbrook, NY, Washington, DC, and Greenwich, CT. They started coming to Fishers shortly after World War II, purchasing their first house, on Shingle Hill, in 1958. The house remains in the family to this day.

For the full obituary, please see the Ebb and Flow section on the FishersIsland.net website.
Many thanks to Island Peoples Project for organizing the parade and IPP President Margaret Chaves for leading this year. The Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife and Drum Corps, hosted by IPP and Island Concerts, are a special addition to the day having made the trip from Essex, CT for over 30 years! This year’s singers – Julie Ferguson Hulslander, Peter Burr, Frank Burr, Steve Hulslander, and IPP Secretary Liz Burnham – serenaded us of favorite patriotic tunes. Liz Furse was a big help with the posters and getting them posted to spread the news.

The bake sale and silent auction fundraisers for the Sea Stretcher were both a big success and organized by Mary and Tiggy Ski. The Fire Department grill masters and volunteers did a wonderful job serving lunch to so many. Another big thank you also goes to Fire Chief Wayne Doucette and Andy Doucette in the fire truck, and Tawnya Eastman and Chris Dollar in the Ambulance who led the parade with State Trooper Tammy.
INSPIRATIONAL LEMONADE

Granddaughters Frances and Mere were visiting from Chapel Hill, N. C., and decided to sell lemonade on Bell Hill Road to benefit The Sea Stretcher. In 1 hour they made $53.00! Thank you girls.

UNION CHAPEL’S ASSIST TO ISLANDERS

Rev. Whitman and a group of concerned islanders met to address food insecurity in our community, and the need to assist a few islanders in meeting their utility bill by providing short-term support in both areas, including a small temporary food pantry that will expand based on need. Individuals seeking assistance may contact Candy confidentially at her home (788-7029). Those interested in donating non-perishable goods or funds, or volunteering may contact Candy or their own clergy. Tax-deductible donations for food and utilities may be made by check to Union Chapel, PO Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390, with “Islanders for Islanders” in the memo line.

FERRY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ELECTION

Election: Tuesday, August 11, 2:00-6:00 PM
at the Fishers Island Community Center’s Multi-purpose Room

Declared Candidates
Andrew Ahrens – 1yr term
Dianna Shillo – 2yr term
William R. Bloethe II – 5yr term

ANNUAL FISHERS ISLAND MEETING

Wednesday, August 5th
11:30 a.m. Planning Department discussion on “The Future of Fishers Island Land Use”; 11:30 a.m. Fishers Island Cultural Arts Tour highlighting Lighthouse Works; Island Theatre and Ferguson Museum; 12:30 p.m. BBQ Lunch at FIS School for Southold visitors and Island community; 1:30 p.m. Fishers Island Annual Town Board Meeting

LIBRARY HANDMADE QUILT RAFFLE

Curl up with a book and this beautiful quilt.

Handmade by Laura Edwards and Diane Dexter, it is a one of a kind. $2/ticket or 3 tickets for $5. Tickets may be purchased at the Library or at the August Craft Fair.
The drawing will be held Labor Day weekend.

ISLAND CONCERT FOR THE MUSEUM

Sunday, August 23, 5:15-6:30 PM: An Island Concert In Honor of Penni Sharp: The Westerlies Brass Quartet at the HLF Museum. Tickets are $20 at the door and the funds will go to support the Penni Sharp Nature Walk Fund.

Find out about any of these posts and more at www.fishersisland.net
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 Editor 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.

For his lifetime achievements, George de Menil was elected in March 2015 to the Institut de France, Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, commonly called l’Academie. Founded by Richelieu in the 17th century, l’Academie has an elected membership limited by the death of a previous member and is regarded as the pinnacle of the French intellectual establishment. The Section Economique, which he will join, meets throughout the year to discuss presentations by members, to make public recommendations, and occasionally to commission studies, recently commissioning a study of the teaching of economics in French secondary schools.

Upon completing his PhD in economics at MIT, George joined the faculty of Princeton, and left on a sabbatical in 1975 to work at French Ministry of Finance. There he headed a team of economists in constructing METRIC, the macro econometric forecasting model of the French economy that is still in use. He was appointed Professor at the prestigious Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, an advanced research and graduate institution in 1977.

He then settled in Paris where, together with a Princeton colleague on the faculty of the University of London, he founded Economic Policy, now the major European journal of applied economics. George continued to publish research, teach and consult until he was called to take on the position of Advisor to the Prime Minister of Romania under the first liberal-democratic government of Romania, as the communist regimes of Eastern Europe toppled. It was his job to advise on all areas of economics, negotiate with the IMF, to advise on privatizing national industries, to develop reliable statistics for the three successive prime ministers. George and his wife Lois lived in Romania for 4 years. Before leaving, he also founded a private think tank in economics.