MESSAGE FROM THE ICB

May 2015

Over the winter months the ICB has been getting back to holding open meetings and discussing island issues on a regular basis. In the spirit of spring and renewal, the Community Board is revitalizing its ranks by holding elections this summer. 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. Jane Ahrens is providing a seamless and free sign-up through fishersisland.net that will be used as a vehicle for both registering and counting everyone’s vote. If you are interested in being a seasonal or year round representative to the ICB, please feel free to contact me. We will be looking for nominations in June. It is our aim to be as inclusive as possible because the ICB represents all of us, 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.

Please join us for the Annual Spring Meeting of the ICB on Saturday, May 23rd at 4:30 the Community Center. It will be a great opportunity to hear from various island organizations about what they are working on as we head into summer.

Tom O’Neil
ICB President

MONITORING NESTING SITES & SPECIES HABITAT

The week of April 20, 2015, James and Bob Rogers helped Island Naturalist Justine Kibbe put the finishing touches on new Critical Habitat signage to be placed along Big Stony Beach and the south side of Elizabeth Field Airport runway.

Justine has documented returning Oyster Catcher pairs in both locations these past three years. Oyster Catchers monitored up east call Hungry Point, East Harbor, and the stony shores north across from Money Pond their “summer homes” as well.

Please be aware and respectful by treading more lightly in these locations during this nesting season.
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3rd District, announced Thursday that she is introducing a resolution that would proclaim Friday, April 10, as “Venture Smith’s Freedom Day.”

Smith was an African prince who was kidnapped as a boy and enslaved in Colonial New England. He was later able to purchase his and his wife’s freedom and became a prominent member of 18th-century Connecticut.

He lived in Stonington, Fishers Island and East Haddam at various times during his life. Smith eventually recorded his life story in “A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture,” which was published in New London.

The resolution is being introduced to coincide with the 250th anniversary of Smith regaining his freedom, DeLauro said in a news release. An estimated 450,000 slaves were brought to North America from the early 17th century until slavery was abolished in 1865.

“This Venture Smith was captured as a youth and sent to serve a life of slavery in Connecticut,” DeLauro said. “Eventually he purchased his own freedom and his family’s freedom, and became a prominent citizen. Venture’s life story opens a window into one of the darker chapters in our nation’s history and captures the brutality and oppression of American slavery. Venture’s amazing story of triumph over slavery is an inspiration to us all.”

Last month DeLauro and Chandler Saint, president of the Beecher House Center for the Study of Equal Rights, shared Smith’s story with seventh and eighth graders at the Mauro-Sheridan Interdistrict Magnet School in New Haven.


“This resolution is important,” said Saint. “Venture’s story is one for all generations, because slavery remains a scourge to this day.”
**MAY GARDENING TIPS FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN**

Mélie’s Gardening Tips

Spring has at long last arrived on Fishers Island! It is wonderful to see the ospreys back in their nests and the buds swelling on the trees. Gardeners on the Island are thrilled to be outside cultivating their soil. I thought it would be fun to talk to someone who has gardened for many years on the Island and I called Ken Edwards.

Ken started gardening over fifty years ago, when he was a student at the Fishers Island School. He first mowed lawns for John Gada during the summers, but soon he got a job working for master gardener Oddie Strunk. Oddie worked for the Tilford family who owned “Treasure Pond House.” When it was sold to William Kirkland, the Kirklands built a greenhouse and Ken assisted Oddie growing a multitude of plants. As a young adult, he worked for many years for the Jansen Noyes family at “White Gables,” where he oversaw three vegetable gardens and an orchard of eighty fruit trees. Mrs. Noyes was an accomplished watercolorist and Ken remembers picking many wild flowers for Mrs. Noyes to paint. Many of the flowers in her beautiful book, “Flowers Painted Where They Grow,” were either picked or grown by Ken. Later he enjoyed taking care of her daughter, Nancy King’s property and Mrs. Van Horn Ely’s garden. Ken says he learned a great deal from those knowledgeable Garden Club of America ladies. Mrs. Ely was particularly fond of tuberous begonias, which she liked to have in containers around the house. Ken would start the begonias in the spring in cold frames and transplant the plants into the containers once the threat of frost was over. Ken added, “The trick with tuberous begonias is to never over water them because they will rot very easily, but they certainly are worth the effort because they are a spectacular container plant.”

Ken usually starts to plant seeds in his vegetable garden in April, starting with cool weather crops like beets, cabbage, carrots and lettuce. He also plants his favorite string bean varieties, “Tender Green Beans” and “Provider Green Beans” that he orders from Harris Seeds. Ken waits to plant seedlings once the threat of frost is over in late May. He admitted, “The most challenging thing about growing crops on the Island is the changeable weather and wind.”

I remember the wonderful pumpkins Ken grew along the road near his house. I asked him about them because, as you all know, I have struggled with growing pumpkins. He said that he used to put his grass clippings and leaves in that area each year and the soil got to be quite rich, so he decided to put in a pumpkin patch for his grandchildren. The pumpkins did very well there, especially after he ran drip irrigation up to that area. Ken’s grandchildren are beyond the Jack O’ Lantern stage, so he is no longer growing pumpkins. I did not ask him if he was going to grow them again once he had great grandchildren, but I am sure he will!

Ken’s favorite nursery on the mainland is Holdridge in Ledyard, CT. He enjoys growing many dahlias and successfully winters over the tubers in a crawl space that remains about 40 degrees. He also still loves growing fruit trees, but says it is difficult due to the different diseases that seem to be more prevalent today. In early spring, he sprays the trees with a dormant oil spray and then during the warmer months Ken sprays with a multi-purpose fruit tree spray, but he says, “even that is no guarantee that you will have a good harvest and most trees provide fruit every other year.” I asked Ken’s advice about dealing with invasive plants on the Island and he said, “I try to pull them out when they are young, but it is a constant battle.”

“Flowers Planted Where They Grow” by Agnes Blancke Noyes
Privately Printed 1967
Copy in the Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Photo Captions: (direct from notes for each)

PLATE 1: *Tiger Lily*, Fishers Island, NY, 1929 by Agnes Blancke Noyes
“These adorable tiger lilies grow wild in the field 3 to 4 feet high. They seem to be dying out.”

“Have just seen an advertisement in the New York Times calling this flower the ‘blue liky of the Nile’. It grows 3 to 4 feet high.”
IN MEMORIAM: CAROLINE “CASH” TALBOT BROWN

Caroline “Cash” Talbot Brown passed away peacefully on March 29, 2015 at the age of 94. She was residing at Duncaster in Bloomfield, CT. She was born on April 18, 1920 to Ruby Tuttle and Edward Normand Allen. She lived all of her life in West Hartford and Duncaster in Bloomfield, CT.

She summered for 70 years on Fishers Island: with her mother-in-law, “Ma” Talbot, for 30 years and then in a house on “Shingle Hill” for 40 years. Cash loved to play tennis and golf at Hay Harbor and spent every afternoon at Chocomount or Isabella with her family. Cash and her first husband, Pete, loved coming to Fishers Island year-round, even though there was no heat in the house. Pete was able to make the house very cozy with fires going. They took long walks in the woods.

Cash attended Oxford School and graduated from the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY. She had been a member of the Asylum Hill Congregational in Hartford since birth and was one of the oldest living members. In Hartford, Cash was a member of the Town and County Club, the Connecticut Valley Garden Club, the Women’s Exchange and the Hay Harbor Club on Fishers Island. She loved to play tennis, golf and bridge. Cash enjoyed life to the fullest, playing tennis into her 80’s and remarrying at the age of 83 to Don Brown.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Jane Merrick and Judge Frances Allen, her husbands Robert “Pete” Talbot and Donald Lamont Brown and her half sister Mary Allen. She is survived by her children Jane (Rob) Marshall of Hudson, OH, Toby (Jennie) Talbot of Storrs, CT, Bruce Talbot of Anchorage, AK, Tom (Annie) Talbot of Altamont, NY and her half brother, Norm Allen. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren: Silas (Trisha) Marshall, Carrie (Cooper) Marshall Mallozzi, Justin (Cheryl) Talbot, Peter Talbot, Silas Talbot, Cole Talbot, Stephanie Talbot and Nicolas (Katrina) Talbot. She had 6 great grandchildren: Sara and Matthew Marshall, Hattie and Hobbes Mallozzi and Evelyn and Eliot Talbot.

There was a memorial service on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, PO Box 554, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

IN MEMORIAM: MARGUERITE H. “MAGGIE” PURNELL

Marguerite H. “Maggie” Purnell of Locust Valley, Fishers Island and New York, NY passed away peacefully at home on March 26, 2015 after a long illness. She was 94. Maggie was predeceased by her beloved husband of 45 years Richard I. Purnell and her adored sisters Constance H. Oliver O’Neil and Audrey H. Hilliard. She is survived by her daughter Marguerite W. Purnell, her son Peter F. Purnell, her four grandchildren James, Theodore, Robert and Henry. She is also survived by her cherished sister Sally H. Childs and numerous nieces and nephews, on whom she doted.

Maggie’s energy and enthusiasm were boundless, and she put those traits to good use, first as a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, and friend and later as a long serving board member of many charitable organizations. In her 20’s she worked under the tutelage of Dr. Howard A. Rusk in the nascent field of physical rehabilitation, an area of interest that would remain near and dear to her throughout her life. She served on many boards and was a tireless champion for each one, from her early years with the Junior League to her involvement with the Rusk Institute (and later the World Rehabilitation Fund), the International Center for the Disabled, FOCUS, the Venture Fund, the Episcopal Mission Society, Classroom, Inc. and in particular her lengthy involvement with the Boys Club of New York and The Central Park Conservancy, where she was one of the four founders of the Women’s Committee.

Maggie was a quintessential people person, and she demonstrated it every day through her profound love for her family, her friends and those whose causes she championed. She particularly liked to empower young people, whether through education, rehabilitation, job opportunities and/or recreational opportunities. Renowned for her charm and her charisma, she lit up every room she entered. Truly, she was one of a kind.

A memorial service to celebrate Maggie’s life will be held at a later date. A private interment was held at Fishers Island. Services by Dodge-Thomas. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Maggie’s name to the World Rehabilitation Fund (worldrehabfund.org), the Boys Club of New York (bcny.org) or the Central Park Conservancy (centralparknyc.org).

Published in The New York Times on April 2, 2015
IN MEMORIAM: RUTH YOUNG GRAND

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 was raised by her grandmother, Minnie Knowlton Young. Ruth graduated from the Tuxedo Park School and Miss Hewitt’s Classes in 1938. 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.

A classically trained pianist, at age 15 Ruth was awarded the youth medal by Lily Pons for her accomplishments in the New York Philharmonic Symphony Concert Program, under the direction of Ernest Shelling. She went on to teach piano to such notables as Peter Duchin of the Peter Duchin Orchestra. In the 1960’s and early 70’s, she served as the summer organist for the St. John’s Episcopal Church on Fishers Island, where she started the Church’s first children’s choir.

An avid horticulturist and ornithologist, and inspired by Euell Gibbons’ Stalking the Wild Asparagus, she was known to host what she called “Fishers Potluck Dinners” on South Beach, where guests were asked to bring wild food, harvested from the island. The meals usually involved fresh stripers, bluefish, mussels, local island greens and s’mores harvested from Doyens’ grocery store.

Ruth was a familiar fixture on both the Olinda and Mystic Isle, especially off season. She appreciated Fishers most for its abundant wildlife, native plants and quietude. Once summer started, however, she organized a busy family summer of Hay Harbor sports, beach outings and island living. Her most often-heard instruction: “don’t let the screen door slam!”

Off season, Ruth was a devoted horticultural volunteer working at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and The New Canaan Nature Center. In her later years, she supervised the summer intern program in the native plant garden of the Acadia National Park in Northeast Harbor, ME.

Ruth is survived by her children: Gordon Grand III, of North Salem, NY; Lorna Grand Stengel of Brunswick, ME; Diana Grand Masters of South Hadley, MA; and Timothy Weatherford Grand of Coconut Grove, FL. She is predeceased by her brother, Henry Knowlton Young, and her oldest daughter, Minette Dill Grand Krech. She is also survived by ten grandchildren: Kerry Krech Morrison, Teal Krech Paynter, Angela Grand Cavallo, Harry Spencer Grand, Jake Weatherford Grand, Brooke Stengel Murdock, William Pepper Stengel II, Diana Stengel Lyman, Henry-Gordon Masters and Timothy James Masters; as well as 16 great-grandchildren.

A service will be held on August 8th at St. John’s Church on Fishers Island. Donations in her memory can be made to the Fishers Island Conservancy, P.O Box 553, Fishers Island, NY 06390 or at http://www.fishersislandconservancy.org.

WEDDING: LEAH KEIM AND BATES PARSONS

Leah Ann Keim, a daughter of Sarah L. Keim and Dr. Michael L. Keim of Fargo, N.D., was married Saturday evening to Charles Bateman Parsons, the son of Kathryn M. Parsons and J. Geddes Parsons of Hobe Sound, Fla. The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, an Episcopal priest, performed the ceremony at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul, M.N.

The couple met at the University of Denver, from which they graduated, and where the groom received a master’s degree in finance.

Mrs. Parsons, 23, is an associate in the Denver offices of Morgan Stanley, overseeing the management of portfolio accounts. Her father is an orthodontist in Fargo.

Mr. Parsons, 27, is known as Bates. He is a financial analyst at Capital Value Advisors, an investment bank in Denver. His father, who works remotely from Hobe Sound, is a managing partner in Parsons Capital Management, an investment advisory firm based in Providence, R.I.

Published April 19, 2015 in The New York Times
Islands always have unique vibes, so it’s no surprise that the L+M Medical Group staff on Fishers Island offers a special kind of care. Led by Dr. Chris Ingram and supported by Dianna Shillo, practice supervisor; Kapri Thomas, medical assistant, and Jamie Doucette, patient coordinator, the team provides primary and urgent care to about 250 residents in winter and as many as 5,500 over holiday weekends in summer.

The office, says Shillo, “goes from being extremely busy for two to three months in the summer to a day like we had after a recent snowstorm when we didn’t see one patient. The next day we had seven patients.”

Busy or otherwise, Dr. Ingram, trained emergency medicine, is always on call, ready to handle any patient concerns. In addition, for patients with life-threatening conditions, Dr. Ingram can call on the island’s emergency vessel – the “Sea Stretcher” – to quickly transport a patient across Fishers Island Sound to L+M Hospital. He can also refer to other specialists within the L+M Medical Group.

On typical winter days, the doctor’s office on Fishers Island reflects the laid-back mood of many of the island’s inhabitants, and Dr. Ingram prides himself on being able to take extra time with his regular patients, many of whom are also his neighbors and friends.

“It’s a higher level of attention that I can afford, because I’m not as busy as the next guy,” he says. “But, it’s also sort of the pact that I’ve made, not explicitly, but implicitly, with the community. I think that’s why it works so well.”

Dr. Ingram says it’s not always easy to be the only doctor on an island, but he enjoys it. “I pretty much know, at this point, everyone on the island,” he says. “Sometimes I’ll follow up with people in the street or in the grocery store.”

Shillo said the entire team on Fishers Island is proud of their work and honored to serve the island’s residents, whether year-round and seasonal. “Our office is a vital part of the community,” she says. “It’s like having a school on the island. If you lose that, you don’t have a community, so we know we’re an important service.”

PETER SANGER SEA STRETCHER MARATHON

Please join us for the marathon on Sunday, May 24 and help to raise money for this life saving service. Registration starts at 8:00 am at the Fire House and the race starts at 9:00. In addition to race participants, drivers who can transport runners to starting points are needed. If you would like to contribute some baked goods please contact Mary Ski. To donate funds please visit the website www.fiseastretcher.com/home.
FISHERS ISLAND SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 19, 3:00-9:00 in the Gym

The theme of this year’s budget, “Meeting Our Educational and Fiscal Responsibilities”, accurately defines the budget challenges we faced to meet our dual responsibilities to provide students with a high-quality education while ensuring that we are operating in a fiscally responsible manner. The BUDGET NEWSLETTER is available at Fishers Island School and on FishersIsland.net.

HELP WHIP CANCER
Saturday, May 9, 12:00 at the Community Center

Please join us at the Community Center for this event from 12:00-4:00 Saturday, May 9! There is no fee, and you will be able to order wonderful items from The Pampered Chef and “Help Whip Cancer”.

Help Whip Cancer Fundraiser

COMMUNITY CENTER CAFÉ INTRODUCES NEW MENU
Friday, April 3

Chef Brian Busse introduced his new menu including favorite starters, lobster rolls, fresh soups and salads, sandwiches, daily pasta specials, Calzones and Pizzas. The Café hours are Tuesday-Saturday 12:00 pm-8:00 pm. The new Menu is available all hours. Come in anytime for lunch and dinner, dine-in or take out. Call the Café at 788-7601 to place an order or reserve a table.

IPP SUMMER MORNING PROGRAM 2015

Island People’s Project is Celebrating 50 Years: 1965-2015

This summer, due to planned renovations at FI School, the morning program will take place at the Community Center. Online registration will begin in May. Please visit www.islandpeoplesproject.com for updates and more information.

FICC NEW MEMBER/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual Supporting Membership at the Island Community Center gives you a discount at the Ten Pin Bowling Alley, Community Center Café, and ICC offered classes. Fitness Center Membership includes the above, use of the Fitness Center, and a key card for building access during non-business hours. Renew your membership by: mail: PO Box 464, Fishers Island, NY 06390, email: fishersislandevents@gmail.com, or phone: (631) 788-7683

CHURCHES GOLF CLASSIC 2015

On Sunday, May 31, 2015, the day begins with lunch at the Firehouse at 11:00 am. Shotgun start is 12:45. Become a tee or Green Sponsor, Donate an item to the auction, bid online at http://fichurchesclassic.com/. Raffle tickets on sale now!

Find out more about any of these posts at www.fishersisland.net
DOCTOR’S OFFICE HOURS

May 11-18
5/11: 4pm-7pm
5/12: 9am-12pm
5/13: 9am-12pm
5/14: 9am-12pm
5/15: Closed

FI CONSERVANCY SPRING BIRD COUNT

May 10 beginning at 8 am
Meet at the Community Center. All are welcome. Just bring walking shoes and binoculars.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 21
Noon
Last luncheon of the 2014-2015 season.
Union Chapel

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Thursday, May 14
7:00-9:00 pm
Brooklyn
Fishers Island Library

TOPPERS OPENS

FRIDAY, MAY 8 @4:00 PM

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.

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April Showers bring May Flowers

May Fog Horn
masthead by Art Walsh

by JTAhrens