The Class of 2017 Commencement ceremony took place at Fishers Island School on June 23, 2017. The School gym was packed with family, friends, teachers, staff, students and community members.

The commencement speaker was Mr. George Ireland. He is the president of Geological Resource Partners, LLC where he utilizes his skills and knowledge in the resource sector including geology, banking, and venture capital. Mr. Ireland has been a summer resident on Fishers Island for over 37 years where he has established deep island roots and created fond memories with his family.

Mrs. Karen Goodwin, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Gilbert Amaral, Director of Guidance, and Mrs. Jamie Doucette, Board of Education President conferred diplomas to:

**Thaddeus Allen, Colorado College** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, with Honors, and Mastery in Math and Science, and the NY Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish/English

**Emma Cypherd, Keene State College** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, with Honors

**Molly Cypherd, Eastern Connecticut State University** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma

**Kyler Hanson, Saint Michael's College** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

**Mitchell Kucsera, Gap Year Experience** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

**Charles Snyder, Washington College** Graduating with a NY Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, with Honors, and Mastery in Math and Science, and the NY Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish/English

The full story with scholarship awards and presenters’ remarks may be found at www.fishersisland.net/fishers-island-schools-class-2017-commencement/

**Congratulations to the Class of 2017 Graduates.**
For Foghorn July 2017

I love the Fourth of July on Fishers Island – but this year, as our national holiday approaches, I find myself reflecting on the state of our country. Like many of you I am discouraged by the polarization in Washington, and I am wondering how we will get both parties talking again. Healthy debate and practical solutions to issues like health care, immigration, and infrastructure are in short supply.

I know we do not mix church and state in our country. Yet at the same time, I wish we would not automatically discard the good things that religion, and the sensible beliefs of many Americans, would bring to the situation. I am speaking of beliefs that call for actions toward peace and reconciliation in times of conflict. In the Christian scriptures, the people of God are called to stay engaged with government. Since the beginning of our country Christians have added their voice to issues ranging from civil rights to abortion to welcoming immigrants. What I believe is necessary now is for church-goers and like-minded people to become proactively engaged in the work of bridging the divide.

Throughout his career, former Senator John Danforth of Missouri – who is also ordained Episcopal clergy – has recognized that religion can be a divisive force. But Danforth also raises the important point that “as we relate our religious faith to our politics, we can choose whether we are reconcilers or dividers.” * If today’s citizens would make the effort to educate ourselves beyond our favorite news channels, we could bring understanding and respect to viewpoints different than our own in our homes, communities, and other places that need a spirit of hope.

I am often reminded as I participate in such conversations of Jesus’s stern teaching about blame: “Take the log out of our own eye before trying to remove the splinter from someone else’s.”

The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 to stand up to the tyranny of George III. Yet I wonder if this July 4 we need to stand up again, this time to a new form of tyranny not from across the ocean but across the aisle? Whether Democrat or Republican, representatives who hold their beliefs so strongly so as to rule out negotiation may seem to be strong. But actually they are attempting to control outcomes, and control is a mild form of tyranny. Tyrants don’t ask how their actions are affecting others.

Maybe we need a new Declaration of Dependence, a resolution from responsible citizens that we live in America together, and that our representatives must find ways to cooperate and collaborate so that our country can move forward free, unified and strong.


Please become a member of the ICB today!

Hopefully, you have had a chance to read the “Spring 2017 Update from the Island Community Board” on fishersisland.net and already know about the many issues and opportunities that the ICB stewards. The ICB has 450 registered year-round and seasonal members. We know there are many more of you that care deeply about the island and are involved in our community but may not have yet joined the ICB. We urge you to register and become members today!

Why join the ICB? Because the ICB is the Central Forum for: Discussion of island-wide issues and opportunities; Communication among and between the various public and private community related entities, including the Town of Southold; Creating and implementing action plans that benefit the community as a whole, both year-round and seasonal. Our goal for 2017 is to increase our registered members to 750 and to secure enough voluntary contributions ($10 for an individual and $25 for a family) to cover our small administrative expenses, which include a part-time administrator and limited travel to Southold. Registration and voluntary dues can be made online, or at the Community Center, up until voting day in August.

Please visit our ICB web page at http://fishersisland.net/about-fishers-island/island-community-board/ where you may Register and use PayPal or select Pay with Debit or Credit Card. If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to ICB and send to: ICB, PO Box 464, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Please don’t delay!
Embracing its History, the Library Steps into the Future

By Allison Ijams Sargent
June 30, 2017

It has been a blast for librarian, Ann Banks, to watch the reactions of patrons who see the transformed front room of the Fishers Island Library for the first time. “The whole project has been wonderful,” she says, “but the positive reactions have been totally gratifying.” After nine months of work, the renovations are nearly complete. In addition to the refurbished front room, the library now has upgraded technology, rugs, lighting, heating and furniture.

Originally built as a one-room school house in 1888, the building had always had generous proportions and an appealing façade. Its main room boasted large windows and high ceilings. It became the community library in 1914 and its space shifted to accommodate books and circulation materials. As the island grew, pressures on the space have mounted. Technology evolved, insinuating itself into all matter of communication and learning. Storage became an issue. And those light filled windows? They were hidden behind towering bookcases, metal gray and looming. “It got to the point where the library just wasn’t as welcoming a space as we wanted,” says Jon Britt, co-chair of the renovations committee, “we needed to take a step back and look at how the space was used.”

In a search for more square footage and functionality, a number of ideas were put forth and quickly discarded. “We couldn’t add another floor, that would have been way too expensive,” says board president, Sheila Rauch Kennedy, “and we seriously considered expanding down to the basement area but there were water issues and low ceilings. But we needed a long-term solution.” When Bruce Kinlin and Lily Rutherfurd of Kinlin/Rutherfurd Architects were invited to take a look around, they realized that the answer was right in front of them. “The shelving was dominating the room and blocking the light,” says Rutherfurd, “so the idea was to put the books along the edge and use the room in a new way.” The result is a return to the graciously proportioned room that was envisioned by the builders of the one room school house. “The room always had good bones,” says Kennedy, “we wanted to improve and enhance the space and show off its charm.”

Conceiving a workable plan was a gratifying exercise for the leadership at the library as well as for the architects. “It was thoroughly enjoyable working with Bruce and Lily,” says Jon Britt, “and BD construction were responsive and on time.” But it was not easy to work on an historically sensitive building through the winter while keeping the library a functioning island resource. The backroom became the default space and the library never closed. “People took it in stride,” says Ann Banks, “there were no real issues.” The construction compelled the culling of hundreds of books that were literally past their shelf life. “Some titles hadn’t been circulated in ten years,” says Jon Britt, “it was important to get rid of those books that were no longer useful.” Many of the non-fiction titles were given to the Fishers Island School which has been an enthusiastic partner in the renovation project. In fact, it was school superintendent Karen Goodwin who organized an army of school student volunteers to pack and hand move the 240 boxes of books from the library to St. John’s Church for winter storage.

“That was just one example of how much the project was a community effort,” remarks Kennedy, “we were more than halfway through when huge thunderstorms hit, halting everything. But overnight, the word got out to the Fire Department that the job was not done. Members showed up early the next morning with their pick-up trucks and finished the job.” She goes on to say that this level of enthusiasm permeated the whole project. “Everyone was so generous with their time, the island was very responsive and enthusiastic.” For example, Lily Rutherfurd and Bruce Kinlin gave their time pro bono. “That was an easy decision for us,” says Kinlin, “we love Fishers Island and we were happy to do it.” Fundraising also went smoothly. Sarah Rose, the development chair, was thrilled at the support of island residents who enabled the capital campaign to surpass its 250K goal. “In addition to many generous individual donors, the Sanger Fund and an anonymous benefactor gave us generous matching grants,” she says, “this was a great way to encourage donations knowing every gift would be doubled.” There was also the exciting news that the New York State Education Department approved the library’s application to their Construction Aid Program with a grant in the amount of $101,648.

The result of all of the fundraising and the planning and the construction is being felt immediately. The enhanced technology (the tangle of wires is cleverly hidden in the work table’s legs) entices new patrons and the new arrangement of books invites more browsing according to Ann Banks. The only problem? “Everything is perfect and has been very easy to get used to,” she says, “but I keep reaching for the string above my head that used to turn off the light!”
IN MEMORIAM: WAYNE ALAN DOUCETTE

Wayne Alan Doucette died suddenly at his family home on Fishers Island, NY on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

Born in 1964 to Alice Cote Doucette and Maurice Norman Doucette Sr., Wayne moved to Fishers Island with his family in 1968 from Old Town, ME. While attending Fishers Island School, he and his friends explored the island and particularly looked forward to playing hide and seek and riding their bikes in the old Fort Wright gun bunkers and underground mazes. Wayne was a member of the Viking’s varsity basketball team, played softball, was the drummer in the School band, and served on the yearbook staff and student council in high school.

After graduation from Fishers Island School in 1983, Wayne worked on Island for A. John Gada General Contracting and Gada Service Station. He worked briefly for the Town of Southold on Fishers, before beginning his 25-year career at the Fishers Island Utility Company. There he was a jack-of-all-trades, a problem solver, who would pitch in wherever needed. He made important contributions to the water, electric and phone companies during his tenure and retired as Telephone Manager.

Wayne had an infectious enthusiasm for his job at the Fishers Island Waste Management District. He joined the District as Plant and Personnel Manager in February 2014. His life-long love of machines served him well and he trained his colleagues that they had to be maintained on a daily basis to perform well. He read constantly and educated himself concerning current and future waste management practises. He was the visionary behind combining the stations to meet state requirements and be more efficient. He increased composting to reduce the amount of garbage sent off island, and produced several products that can be used on the island including mulch and dirt, and now crushed glass.

His dedication to service was exemplary as witnessed through his volunteer commitment to the Fishers Island Fire Department. He joined as a young firefighter in 1985. An active member, obtaining Life Member status in 2005, Wayne served six terms as Fire Chief between 1997 and 2015, (1997 1998, 1999, 2007, 2014, and 2015), and most recently as a member of the Fire Department’s Executive Board.

As an alumnus, and a past and present parent, Wayne’s continual interest and behind the scenes contributions to Fishers Island School were immeasurable. Wayne was a humble public servant who sought to contribute to the community without recognition. He shared his deep knowledge of the island’s infrastructure as a volunteer member of the Fishers Island School Technology Committee, cleared school property of brush and invasive species and championed student involvement in Beach and Island Clean-up initiatives. Wayne Doucette demonstrated his love of his island community through his selfless service.

Fondly known as a ‘back yard mechanic’ and Mr. Fix-it, Wayne will be remembered for his optimism, good heartedness, devotion to family and friends, constant willingness to help others, his love of his Golden Retrievers and his island.

Loving husband to Jamie Rowe Doucette and devoted father to Jeremy Doucette (Melissa), Amber Ferguson, and Lydia Doucette, he also leaves grandson Grant Doucette; siblings Maurice Norman Doucette, Jr. and Cheryl Doucette Scroxton (Edward) of Fishers Island, and Andrew Doucette (Kris) of Wolcott, CT; first wife Debra Silva, countless nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family. He was predeceased by his parents and will be buried beside them on Fishers Island.

A fireman’s graveside service took place on Sunday, June 18, 2017, at 2:00 pm at the Union Chapel cemetery on Fishers Island, NY. A reception followed at the American Legion Post 1045.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Wayne’s memory and in support of his family at https://www.gofundme.com/wayne-doucette-family-fund, and to the Fishers Island Fire Department or to the Fishers Island Fire Department’s Sea Stretcher ambulance boat online or at PO Box 123, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE R. LAUGHLIN

George R. Laughlin, 89, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2017, at Fairview surrounded by his family. He was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a proud veteran having served in the Navy and the Army. George, known as “Bump” to his family and friends, was born and raised on Fishers Island, N.Y. He was the son of the late Thomas and Julia (McIntyre) Laughlin and is predeceased by his brother, Tom, his sister, Mary (Arnold) and his beloved wife of 56 years, Maija (Leskinen). Bump is survived by his sister, Regina (Laughlin) Ward, of Groton; his children, Tim (Sara Brown) of New Milford, Nancy Lee (Bill Radicioni) of Mystic, George Jr. (LeAnna Baker) of Bozrah, and John (Deborah Shultz) of New London; his
grandchildren, Denis Lee Jr., Tim Laughlin, Karina Baker, George Laughlin III, Elizabeth Laughlin; and his great-grandchildren, Dylan, Tristan, Lilliana and Leo; along with numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Bump worked for Pfizer Manufacturing in Groton for 37 years, starting out on swing shifts in production and moving to the accounting department. His retirement hobbies were yard sales, photography, family genealogy, donating memorabilia to the Fishers Island Museum, cheering on the UConn Women’s basketball team, and brick collecting, in particular, bricks manufactured on Fishers Island. Bump loved sports, especially golf. He was a Fishers Island High School baseball and basketball star, a Little League coach, and a City of Groton recreation program basketball referee. He played many years in Pfizer’s tennis, bowling and golf leagues, and took up running at age 50. He was a member at Groton’s Shennecossett Golf Course and played there regularly. He also played golf as much as he could on Fishers Island. Bump will be remembered in so many ways, especially for his ready wit for a good laugh and his lifelong “addiction” to Pepsi and ice cream, usually vanilla. Bump’s family would like to thank the staff at Fairview for their kind and compassionate care. Please consider a donation in Bump’s name to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, PO Box 554, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Published in The Day.

**WEDDINGS**

Courtney Elizabeth Gillan & Luke William Forand
May 20, 2017 in Hartford, CT

Emily Edwards Alberghini & Alexander Floyd Ochse
June 16, 2017 on Fishers Island, NY

Steph Casella & Bobby Harvey
June 17, 2017
in Manchester, VT

**ENGAGEMENT**

Win Rutherfurd & Aryana Gharagozloo
June 9, 2017
in New York, NY

**BIRTHS**

Adelaide Iris Brooks to Bobby Brooks & Rachele Hirsch-Brooks
May 5, 2017

Maggie Fisher Enright to Meris and Charlie Enright
June 16, 2017
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

Now that summer is officially here and flowerbeds are weeded and mulched (my athletic friends complain about shoulder and back pain from tennis and golf, but I am sure you can get the same “Sports Injuries” weeding and hauling mulch) you are finally enjoying the flowers in your garden. I started thinking about picking them and making arrangements for the house. For many years, I have been a member of the Garden Club of America and I remembered that I had two booklets about flower conditioning that are written by two premier GCA flower arrangers, Joanne Lenden and Betty Dawson Burnett. I read both of booklets again and I pass along their conditioning cut flower tips.

“As you go into the garden, take a bucket with warm water and a sharp pair of sterilized clippers.” (Clippers can be sterilized by wiping the blades with Isopropyl alcohol). “Cut flower stems on a slant to expose a greater surface to water. Remove all foliage which would be below the water line.” “Most flowers last longer when cut early in the morning or late afternoon. Do not cut flowers in the heat of the day.” “If possible, let flowers condition overnight before arranging them in a cool, damp and dark area.” “Add a preservative to the water in order to feed the fresh cut material. You can buy a ready mix powder or if these are not available, make a mixture of ¼ cup of liquid Clorox and six quarts of warm water. Use hot water for woody stemmed material and lukewarm for tender-stemmed materials, varying the degree of water with the degree of the stem.” “Lemonade or sprite will revive flowers if they become limp after a day or two. This is due to the sugar, carbon dioxide and other additives which react on the cells and movement of moisture through the plant tissue.” “Metal containers, such as silver and copper, seem to help preserve cut flowers. It is thought that these substances inhibit bacteria. An old penny in a vase will also inhibit bacteria.” Also, remember to thoroughly clean your containers after use, a bit of Clorox in water will kill any left over bacteria.

All these tips are excellent advice to condition all flowers, but I have selected a number of varieties that grow on Fishers Island for conditioning tips as they specifically apply to them.

**Dahlia and Delphinium** – make a new cut and place in very hot water for a minute and then in cool water.

**Geranium** – Place in warm water. When the water is room temperature, place in refrigerator over night.

**Grasses** – Dip stems in vinegar and then into cold water.

**Hollyhock** – Plunge stem into boiling salted water for a few seconds.

**Hydrangea** – Pick well-developed firm heads. Remove most leaves. Scrape stems and place in boiling water one minute. Soak overnight up to their heads in cold water.

**Impatients, Lantana and Lobelia** like warm water.

**Lily** – Cut stem on a slant and use warm water with 2Tbs of vinegar. Remove the pollen – it stains!

**Nasturtium** – Immerse to heads in cool water for one hour.

**Peony** – Place stem in boiling water for thirty seconds. Then put in warm water.

**Petunia** – Place in warm water with 2Tbls of sugar. Leave until the water cools.

**Phlox** – Pick before fully open. Take off the leaves and soak in warm water.

**Queen Anne’s Lace** – Strip foliage and place in warm water.

**Rose** – Cut stem under hot tap water. Put the rose in a bucket of warm water and remove thorns and foliage from the stem that will be underwater.

**Snapdragon** – Cut stems underwater, remove leaves and place in warm water.

**Sunflower** – Cut when immature and place in hot water.

**Sweet Pea** – Place in cool water with 2 Tbs of sugar.

**Wildflowers** (Black-eyed Susan, Daisy, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed and Milkweed) remove the leaves and place in hot water until it cools, then immerse to heads in cool water.

Conditioning flowers properly over night should allow the arrangement to last for a number of days. If you need to use oasis, it can clog a stem and inhibit intake of water, so take a skewer or a chopstick to make a hole through it first where you want to place the porous stems. And finally, keep your plants deadheaded throughout the summer and your garden will continue to grow and provide flowers to pick and arrange into the fall.
SUMMER IS HAPPENING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
Visit the Community Center’s Website at www.ficommunitycenter.org or come by and take a look, become a member and enjoy all the benefits the FICC has to offer!
PROGRAM OFFERINGS INCLUDE: ART CLASSES, MAH JONGG, CARTOONING, KINDERSCULLS, CRAFT WORKSHOPS, SAFE BOATING COURSE, SUMMER BALLET, STORYBOOK DANCE CLASS, MASSAGE THERAPY, Conservancy’s NATURE DAYS and MORE!

BE A RESPONSIBLE AND THOUGHTFUL PET OWNER
Get your pets ready for the nice weather, long walks and time outdoors. Have a leash, baggies and those ID tags! Please keep your dog(s) on a leash on town property, sidewalks, trails and other public areas. Be sure to dispose of pet waste properly, and remember dogs and all domestic animals must have a collar with proper ID and current immunization tags. Learn more about Southold’s Code at www.fishersisland.net/responsible-thoughtful-pet-owner/

SUPPORT THE SEA STRETCHER
Peter Sanger Sea Stretcher Memorial Day Marathon was a big success. We have been working hard to raise money not only for the yearly running costs but also for the cost of upgrading the Sea Stretcher boat. Thanks all who have donated so far, it truly is a community effort to keep this service running. Last year there were 57 Fire calls, 48 EMT calls, and over 44 individuals with medical emergencies were transported to New London by the Sea Stretcher, thanks to the volunteer crew. Donate today!

TAG SALE
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1045
Saturday, AUGUST 5, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm (Rain Date: same time Sunday, August 6)

BE A MERCHANT ~ BE A SHOPPER ONE PERSON’S TRASH IS ANOTHER’S TREASURE!
Come help sort this out at the American Legion’s Tag Sale. Anyone is welcome to be a merchant, and everyone is welcome to come shopping Saturday morning. Merchants will be charged a fee of $20 to have a space, be it a table or just an area, to display their goods. The $20/Space is a fundraiser for the Legion – and a thank you for organizing this event. The Tag Sale will be set up in the main room, on the porch and the adjacent driveway (if need be).

SIGN UP FOR A SPOT
Call the Legion at 788-7590 to reserve a spot for a table (while supplies last) or a space outside. Leave your name, email address, and phone number. Drop off the $20 fee to confirm your space ASAP. Cash or checks made to American Legion Post 1045, PO Box 412, Fishers Island, NY 06390, (please note Tag Sale on the check Memo).

MAKE A MORNIG OF IT!
Come shop the American Legion’s Tag Sale where unique items and must haves will be in abundance. Be sure to visit Hit or Miss Rummage at Our Lady of Grace Church and the Union Chapel Thrift Shop on your morning rounds for treasures. They both have amazing merchandise and are open weekly.

Our Lady of Grace Rummage: Friday 4:00-6:00 pm & Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00
Union Chapel Thrift: Thursday 3:00-5:00; Saturday 10:00-12:00
This is not a Craft Fair, Bake Sale or Art Sale – just a Tag Sale. Save creating, baking and selling of the arts, crafts and baked goods for the IPP Fair on Saturday, July 15 and Saturday, August 12 on the Village Green.
SAVE THE DATES:
Visit http://fishersisland.net/events/
for all upcoming FI events

**BLESSING OF THE PETS**
SUNDAY, JULY 23
5:30 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

**MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND VETERANS**
FI Legion Post 1045’s new night for meetings is the 1st Thursday of the month @ 5:30 pm
July 6, August 3

**ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**
5:30 July 10
5:30 August 14
@ the Community Center.
Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend the ICB meetings.

**LIBRARY BOOK GROUP**
July 13: Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

**FISHERS ISLAND CONSERVANCY**
**NATURE DAYS**
AUGUST 9-12

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, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or finyinfo@gmail.com. Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com. FIND ALL THE NEWS, STORIES, PHOTOS & EVENTS AT WWW.FISHERSISLAND.NET

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS ON THE BEACH
Fishers Island community members of all ages make a huge effort to keep the island clean, picked up and beautiful all year long. So, it is really quite disappointing when you find trash including cans, bottles and random items on the beach. Please be a good citizen and take your trash home!
Don’t leave it for someone else to pick up.