The festivities began early Sunday morning with the Foyle family laying a wreath at sea in honor of the departed veterans honored and remembered on Memorial Day. As everyone gathered at the Legion, the Fort Wright canon was fired by Veteran John Ski with his wife Mary manning the plunger this year. The parade departed the Legion at noon for the Village Green, lead by State Trooper Kevin Drew and included the members of the Fire Department, EMT’s, island clergy and Fire District Commissioners.

Veteran and Fishers Island Legion member Bob Brooks lead the ceremony at the Village Green ceremony. This included taps played by EMT Chris Dollar, prayers by Rev. Candace Whitman and Rev. Carl Eiriksson and special remarks by Veteran George Esser.

The laying of the wreath in honor of Veteran Harris Parson was done by his son Harris and grandson Nate Parsons. Mr. Parsons interrupted his high school studies to join the U.S. Coast Guard at age seventeen. From 1942 to 1945, his military service included listening for U-boats as a sonar operator aboard a minesweeper on convoy escort duty in the North Atlantic and patrolling on shore at Coney Island as a military policeman. The ceremony concluded with a 9-gun salute lead by Veteran Joe Rogan with Veteran Tim Patterson, Veteran Elizabeth Burnham, and Luis Horn. A cookout rounded out the afternoon at the American Legion Post 1045 with the leadership of Deb Doucette and help from volunteers of all ages. Volunteers included David Shillo, Constance Toldo, Molly Cypherd, AJ Eastman, Nicholas Hall, Elizabeth Clark, Jane Ahrens, Stefanie Hall, Christine Rogan, Seth Allan, JR Edwards, Pyrite, Lou Horn, Tim Patterson, Gail Cypherd, and John Doucette. (See photos on page 2.)

“We are here today to celebrate the commitment that many of us made to support our great country.

In 1967, I volunteered to join the military service even though I had a solid deferment as an engineer with IBM. I spent two tours of duty in Vietnam as an officer in the US Navy Seabees. (For those of you who don’t know, Seabees stands for Construction Battalions.)

I was lucky that as a Seabee, our primary mission was to build, not to fight, although we were trained to defend ourselves and had many scary nights avoiding incoming mortar attacks.

As we all know, many young men have had their lives put off course, so to speak, after seeing the horrors of war. But in my case, it was quite the opposite. For me, serving was a growth experience.

Certainly the Vietnam War era was one of conflict, both abroad and at home. But, I think I experienced the best of what the military has to offer – an opportunity to lead a group of young, gung-ho, dedicated men (boys really – right out of high school) from all over this country – from Houston to Harlem – who had vital construction skills – moving dirt with heavy equipment, building runways, laying pipe, stringing electrical wire – anything needed to support our fighting comrades. They had jobs to do and did them with determination.

I’m proud to have served and lately have come to appreciate even more the bounty and hope this country has to offer. My advice to you is this – avoid the airport lines! Get in your cars and see America the Beautiful and get to know your fellow Americans!

We, as a people, have always been able to come together, no matter our political differences, and be one nation, under God, indivisible. And we will surely do that again despite today’s noise.

Happy Memorial Day.” ~ George Esser, Retired, US Navy
MEMORIAL DAY CONT.

Ft. Wright cannon fired at the Legion; Veteran Joe Rogan, Veteran George Esser delivers message; Veteran John Ski and Mary Ski; members of the Fishers Island Fire Department.
This year’s Peter Sanger Memorial Sea Stretcher Marathon, organized by the Fishers Island Fire Department was held Sunday, May 29th. Volunteers from the Fire Department included firefighters, EMTs and Sea Stretcher captains and navigators who registered the participants, drove runners to starting points, offered water on the course and more. Others made baked goods for the runners and walkers and cheered on the athletes. Special thanks go to Dave Denison, Mary Ski and Tiggy Ski as well as the extended Sanger family. Many people came and volunteered to transport runners to the starting lines, and the Fire Department thanks all of them – without these drivers, we never could have had as successful an event!

This race is one of several fundraising efforts supporting the Sea Stretcher’s maintenance for this all-volunteer ambulance boat – a most essential service for the Island. The estimated annual cost of running the Sea Stretcher is over $45,000. Last year’s race brought in over $12,000 from pledges and an additional $18,000 was raised by online donations. Proof that the marathon provides a significant portion of the maintenance of the boat!

2016 Winners A female and male in each category
1A (12 years old or younger): Eleanor DuPont and Max Warden
1B (over 12): Elizabeth DuPont and Brooks Preston
3 Mile: Anna Jarashow and Max DeBroff
5 Mile: Michelle Kean and Sam Hayes
8 Mile: Fe Ahrens and Leslie Hotchkiss (a tie) and John Roberts

Discover the many ways to support the Sea Stretcher.
This lifesaving service is run by volunteers and donations, with no support from the Town of Southold, we need your support to continue to save lives!

Ways to support the running of the Sea Stretcher
• Become a volunteer crew member or EMT
• Make a donation
• Take part in the annual Memorial Day Marathon
• Shop with Amazon Smile
• Make a donation for the July 3rd Auction
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

One of the happiest days of the year for me is the day I move most of my houseplants outside! It is so nice to be able to give them a big shower with the hose. If insects are present, I also give the plants a good spray of insecticidal soap, but usually the hose is sufficient to wash away any pests and the insects outdoors do the rest of the job. This year was particularly exciting because my lemon tree, that I had grown from a seed collected from a lemon in Ravello, Italy ten years ago, bloomed!!!! I have no idea if it will be pollinated to create lemons, but the sight and smell of the blossoms brought me great joy.

My next spring project was cleaning up the flowerbeds and I discovered that our hydrangeas had many buds on them that looked burned. I think this was because it was very warm at the end of April and the buds started to swell earlier than normal. It then got unusually cold in May and the tender new growth got damaged. The plants now seem to be putting out new growth from the bottom, but their bloom may be delayed this year. I sprinkled Hollytone around the base of each hydrangea to give it a bit of a boost.

Two invasive vines, Bindweed (wild morning glory) and Black Swallowwort have started to emerge again much to my sorrow. I have tried to dig the vines out of the flowerbeds, but both plants have long deep roots that break easily, so it is a very frustrating job. There is a new garden tool in A.M. Leonard’s Gardeners Edge catalog called Jerry’s Weed Stick. It is a new pesticide applicator. The pesticide goes into the stick and at the end of it there is a cup that covers the plant you want to spray, which will protect the surrounding plants. This new product may be a good solution if the vines appear again.

This past winter I stored my dahlia tubers in shredded newspaper in Styrofoam coolers and put them in an upstairs bathtub. We keep that particular bathroom temperature about 50 degrees, so the pipes don’t freeze. This temperature seemed to agree with the tubers and only a few shriveled and dried out during the storage. I usually put new tubers from Swan Island Dahlias in pots after they arrive and transplant them into the garden once shoots start to appear. This year, I just planted the wintered over tubers directly into the vegetable garden and I am eagerly waiting to see if they sprout. When they do, I will put plastic water bottles with the top and bottoms cut off, around the new shoots to protect them from slugs and cutworms. The cylinders will be removed once the shoots are about 5 inches tall.

There are so many plants in my garden that I love to see bloom again each year. I have tree peonies and bearded iris that I brought from my garden in Bedford, NY eighteen years ago which are now blooming along with three small ‘Miss Kim’ lilac trees and a white tree wisteria, we planted later. Each spring it is like welcoming back old friends and makes all the hard garden labor throughout the year very worthwhile.

CONSERVANCY’S 2016 MOSQUITO PLAN

This summer Suffolk County Vector Control will be the organization providing Fishers Island’s mosquito control with regularly scheduled larvicide applications to the Island’s recognized breeding hotspots. These breeding locations are well documented and are many of the same locations the mosquito program has been servicing for years. In addition, improvements to the larvicide itself mean that a single application will last weeks. Please remember, your help in controlling standing water will help in our fight against mosquitos. Please review the brochure below for ways all of us can help deter mosquitos from laying larva on our island properties. For questions contact Suffolk County Vector Control @ 631.852.4270.
IN MEMORIAM: RACHEL DENISE DESROCHERS

Rachel Denise Desrochers, St. Johnsbury native and mostly recently of Granby, Connecticut, passed away Thursday, April 28, 2016 in Hartford, Conn.

She was born June 3, 1952 in St. Johnsbury, the daughter of Armand and Dorothy (Salls) Desrochers. She graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1970 and was noted for her athletic involvements. She attended UVM with an athletic scholarship. Rachel has lived in Connecticut for the past 25 years and built her career in the hospitality industry, a career that brought her to many beautiful places from the Berkshires to the Florida gulf coast. Since 2006 Rachel has managed the snack bar and beach club at the Fishers Island Club off Long Island, the oldest links golf course in the US. Her love for the island and the people there was matched only by their love for her.

Rachel is survived by her closest friends and colleagues, Tim and Cindy Tillotson; her brother Francis; four sisters Theresa Goldrick and husband Matt, Annette May and husband Dick, Robin Heath and husband Steve, Jeanne Nummelin and husband Jeff; many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her parents, Armand and Dorothy Desrochers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Johnsbury at the St. John the Evangelist Church on Tuesday, May 10 with Fr. Bernard Gaudreau, celebrant. Committal services followed at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

In her leisure time Rachel loved to watch the Red Sox, a love she said she inherited from her Mom! Rachel took pride in her work, found happiness with her friends, and took great comfort in her family. Rachel touched all those who knew her and will be deeply missed by all.

Memorial contributions, payable to ‘St. Johnsbury Academy” and marked for “kampiwannahavefun”, (a youth sports camp), 1000 Main St., St. Johnsbury VT 05819; or visit www.doctorswithoutborders.org. Memories and condolences may be shared privately at www.saylesfh.com. Published in the Caledonian Record May 4, 2016

ENGAGEMENT

Casey Cook and Erika Waldin
November 26, 2015
on Fishers Island

WEDDING

Jamie Brim and Lucya Koroleva
in Napa Valley, CA
May 10, 2016

BIRTH

Thomas Dowling Finnesey to
Katie Doherty Finnesey and Russ Finnesey
IN MEMORIAM: NANCY G. HARVEY

Nancy G. Harvey, a dedicated mother, community volunteer, and teacher, known for her generous spirit and the twinkle in her eye, died peacefully on May 1 at her home in Towson. She was 92.

Nancy Criswell Gross was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1923, the daughter of Brigadier General Henry M. Gross and Elizabeth Bailey Gross. She and her four siblings were raised in Harrisburg and in Eaglesmere, PA, where Nancy’s sometimes mischievous nature emerged. Nancy graduated from the Seiler School, and then St. Timothy’s School in 1941.

Nancy always said that St. Timothy’s gave her a great spiritual foundation. She was drawn to teaching because of this and her many years of taking care of her much younger brother, Skip. Nancy went on to Bryn Mawr College, where a child psychology course led her to seek out more specialized training in teaching. At that point, Nancy transferred to the Child Education Foundation, in New York City. She enjoyed all the things that New York had to offer in the early 1940’s, including student teaching in many schools across the City. She said she learned one of the best lessons about teaching from a teacher in Harlem, who created a positive learning environment through her kind and firm teaching style.

She completed the teacher education program at the Child Education Foundation, graduated from New York University in 1946, and subsequently received a teaching certificate from the State of New York. Nancy then moved to Baltimore and joined the faculty at Calvert School, where she further developed her capacities in teaching. Nancy married Robert Dixon Hopkins Harvey in February 1953, in Harrisburg, PA. The couple settled in Baltimore, and Nancy left teaching to focus on her family and community efforts.

Those community volunteer efforts were extensive. Nancy’s outgoing nature and strong commitment led her to be a natural leader and an adept fundraiser. She joined the board of the Union Memorial Hospital in 1953, serving continuously for more than thirty years and was elected chair of the Union Memorial board in 1977. Nancy helped lead the hospital through an extraordinary time of growth, including fundraising, design and construction of the North Building in the late 1970’s. Nancy was dedicated to supporting the hospital’s commitment to providing health care to underserved communities. Nancy also served on the Board of Trustees of St. Timothy’s School from 1964-2016 in almost every capacity, including Chair of the Executive Committee from 1973 -1983, member of the Search Committee, the Land Use Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as the Development Committee.

Her community work extended to Episcopal Social Ministries, the National Cathedral Association, and the YWCA. Nancy was also an active member of the St. George’s Garden Club, and the Maryland Daffodil Society. The hillside below her home was a sea of many varieties daffodils in the springtime — their planting and care was a labor of love for Nancy.

The church and spirituality had a central role in Nancy’s life. She was an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St., where funeral services were held on Tuesday, May 17.

Mrs. Harvey is survived by three daughters and their spouses, Ellen D. Harvey (Tad Sperry) of Philadelphia, Anne N.C. Harvey (Jan Pickard) of Coupeville, WA, and Jane W. Harvey (Charles Curtis) of Seattle, WA; a son and his spouse, R. Dixon H. Harvey Jr. (Janet) of Sparks; a sister, Martha Gross Morrison, of Harrisburg; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Timothy’s School, http://www.stt.org/page#Giving, Episcopal Community Services of Maryland, http://www.ecsm.org/donate/, or St. Johns Church of Fishers Island, P.O. Box 505, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial Service for Harris Parsons will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 25 at St. John’s Church, officiated by Rev. Michael Spencer and Rev. Candace Whitman. There will be a special 9:30 am Fishers Island Ferry charter from New London for passengers. If you wish to bring a car, please call the New London Ferry office at (860) 442-0165 to make arrangements. A reception will follow at the Hay Harbor Club. Everyone is welcome.
Fishers Island Bulletin Board

HLF Museum Annual Exhibit Opening

Mansion House Hotel & Cottages is the subject for this year’s exhibit. All are welcome to attend the exhibit Opening Reception from 5:00-7:00 on June 25, 2016. Be sure to visit the Museum’s new 2nd floor space and library.

Fishers Island to Reactivate Women’s Auxiliary

We are exploring whether it’s worthwhile to revive the Sons and the Auxiliary – although there are less than 10 year-round veterans eligible for the Legion (that we know of!), there are several eligible and interested people for the Sons and Auxiliary. Getting their energy and resources could really improve our ability to maintain our facilities and introduce programming! To begin, we would like to see if there is interest in re-establishing the Women’s Auxiliary. Please contact Liz Burnham or Tim Patterson to find out more!

Eleventh Annual Fireworks Cruise

Save the Date and Reserve your tickets aboard Race Point for the New London fireworks show July 9. The ferry departs Fishers Island at 7:00 pm and returns after the New London fireworks at 11:00 pm. BYO everything. DJ on board! Just call 788-7683, or visit the Island Community Center today! Space is limited.

Check Out the Classifieds

Many job openings and items are listed on FishersIsland.net (in Classifieds at the top right). Full-time, seasonal and part-time opportunities are listed from a wide variety of companies and island organizations – for all ages. Please check them out and spread the word!

Senior Lunch 2015-2016

Thanks to everyone who help make our monthly Senior Lunches a success. A special thank you goes to the Sanger Fund for their generous support of our program, Patty Faulkner for organizing the raffles each month, to Ellen Pickett and Ann Banks for their beautiful set-up and decorations, and the Union Chapel for sharing their space. We had a great year with guests including Karen McLaughlin and folks from the Southold Dept. of Human Services, carols from the FI elementary students and Kapri Thomas’ piano students, and Pierce Rafferty with a preview of this summer’s Ferguson Museum exhibit. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to the 2016-2017 season beginning on Thursday, October 20, 2016!
17 Judo students from Fishers Island Judo Club passed their promotional exam and received their rank certificates and belts on May 26, 2016 in the Fishers Island School Gymnasium. Parents and friends came to see them execute their favorite techniques at the special celebration.

See more on this story and others at www.fishersisland.net.