

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

MARCH 2016



News and Information about
Fishers Island, NY

A LEARNING FOUNDATION FOR FISHERS ISLAND

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” ~ Abigail Adams

Submitted By: Karen Loiselle Goodwin,
Superintendent/Principal of the Fishers Island School
February 25, 2016

One of the many reasons Rob and I love being a part of the island community are its many opportunities to learn and grow. Since moving to Fishers, I have learned new yoga poses from Kapri, the art of making yummy tapas recipes from Robin, and how to properly utilize the Community Center’s fitness equipment from Zack. The library’s author talks, the Museum’s summer lectures, and the Conservancy’s nature offerings have enriched our learning by encouraging us to read books by local authors, tackle invasive species, and discover more about our island’s unique history and its environment.

While we have always recognized the importance of school and post-secondary education, current educational, medical, and neuropsychological research all herald the importance of learning at all life’s ages and stages. We now know we can continuously develop our minds and actually increase our intelligence, a trait previously thought to be fixed and innate. Through decades of research on achievement and success, Carol Dweck (2006) reports in her book, *Mindset*, that people have a much greater capacity for lifelong learning and brain development than previously thought.

In Support of Learning on Fishers Island

In recognition of the importance of learning and at the encouragement of our Board of Education and a small group of seasonal residents, I am supporting the establishment of a learning foundation for Fishers Island. This nonprofit

foundation will operate independently of the Board of Education and its purpose will be to support and expand rich learning opportunities on Fishers Island for folks of all ages. Imagine the possibilities... a Red Cross babysitting course offered by the Community Center, an array of tech tools the library can loan to local residents, an FIS teacher's proposal for an innovative school project, a scuba certification program, island-based summer learning adventures for adolescents, a year-round adult education program with arts, tech, and environmental offerings... accessible to all. All island organizations, from the school, museum, library and Conservancy including nonprofits like IPP, IHP, Lighthouse Works, and the Community Center, could apply for grants to help fund new and innovative learning initiatives for Fishers Island residents.

Once formed, the foundation’s Board of Directors will develop its mission, approve bylaws, solicit donations, and fund program proposals. The school district’s attorney, Douglas Gerhardt of Harris Beach, PLLC, most graciously donated his time to create a Certificate of Incorporation and draft bylaws required to apply for nonprofit status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Volunteers Needed

The learning foundation won’t become a reality without volunteers to make it happen. The next step in the process is finding people who are passionate about learning and Fishers Island to serve on the Board of Directors. If you want the chance to be a part of a team that enhances and supports learning in our island community, or wish to nominate a potential Board member, please email me at k.goodwin@fischool.com no later than March 15th.

THE ANGELS HAVE LANDED AT ELIZABETH FIELD



By Jane T. Ahrens

February 2016

Fishers Island could be viewed at times as any very small remote town in America. We have access, for instance, to most basic services that anyone could need including exceptional medical care through Island Health Project (IHP). However, there are occasions when the resources required are not available on this narrow strip off the coast of Connecticut, and many considerations come into play as part of New York State. One of them is Hospice care.

It might be assumed that Hospice care providers could come to Fishers from near by Connecticut, but they must be registered under New York State. So it gets a bit more complicated, and at times inconvenient, because of the travel time from Suffolk County.

For every problem, a solution can be found.

Angel Flight Northeast is a non-profit, volunteer organization that serves patients and families in 9 states from Pennsylvania to Maine. Most often patients and their family members who cannot get to a medical facility by conventional means – by car or public transportation – use the service. In the case of Fishers Island they also fly Hospice caregivers to the patient on the island.

All flights are offered completely free as Angel Flight NE has never refused anyone in need. They serve patients nationwide through a partnership with other air charities and airlines. Approximately 40% of the patients are children, suffering from life-threatening cancers, severe burns or crippling diseases. And, they will fly people for as long and as often as they need to travel, with no limit whatsoever to the number of flights provided. The volunteer pilots use their own aircraft and donate their time, talent, airplane, fuel, and operating expenses.

How did Angel Flight NE come to land on Fishers?

With the urging of their oncologist, a Fishers Island family learned about Angel Flight NE with the resource assistance of Social Services in Southold and IHP's relationship with East End Hospice in Westhampton Beach, NY. The hospice nurses from the North Fork currently come to the island once a week.

Angel Flight's volunteer pilots on recent runs are based north of Hartford and in eastern Massachusetts. They meet the caregivers in Suffolk County and make the short flight together. Arriving before noon at our island airport, Elizabeth Field, the team is greeted by the family and taken to the house. There the caregivers tend to the patient as the pilot waits for the flight back.

On a recent visit, I had the opportunity to sit down with pilot Marty Legault and find out more. He shared that he has flown over 75 Angel Flight missions since joining the organization in 2003. He averages about one a month. Based in Hartford, CT, he has flown many flights departing Boston and serving patients from as far south as Maryland, and north to Maine.

Marty has been a pilot since 1965 when he joined the Army after going through ROTC training at UConn. He flew helicopters for a year in Vietnam and stopped flying in 1970. Following a different career, he renewed his pilot's license in 1980.

Continued on page 3



Hospice Nurse Aimee Whalen, Pilot Marty Legault with Nurse Dee Ross

THE ANGELS HAVE LANDED CONT.

The day we visited he was flying a 4-seat, single engine 1979 Cessna Skylane 182, which he said is ideally suited for this type of mission – able to carry four people (including luggage) and land on the short Elizabeth Field runway.

Angel Flight’s certified volunteer pilots are able to apply for fuel reimbursement and a tax credit for their flying expenses including plane maintenance. Charitable donations to Angel Flight NE help to cover these costs, which in turn benefit those patients in remote locations.

East End Hospice nurse Aimee Whalen (another angel) traveled with Marty the day we met, having enjoyed her first small craft flight on a most beautiful clear winter day. The 7-minute flight certainly beat the last time she made the 12-hour round trip from Suffolk County to her patient on Fishers, having taken 4 ferries in one long day. Aimee visits Fishers weekly, spending time with her patient, checking vitals, medications, and diet. She also works closely with family members and on island caregivers to ensure the patient is comfortable and having their needs met in her absence.

Hospice care augments the medical care provided by our Island Health Project doctor and nurses. It is an important gift to those patients and their families.

“As a nurse and one of the health care providers on Island, I know how essential the services are that East End Hospice and Angel Flight NE provide to our community. We are so lucky to have their support and expertise.” ~ Dee Ross, RN

Grateful – to East End Hospice and Angel Flight NE for making Fishers Island community members feel a bit closer to the care they may need.

Angel Flight NE: www.angelflightne.org | East End Hospice: www.eeh.org/about.html | IHP: www.islandhealthproject.com

MARCH GARDENING

FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN: SPRING CLEAN UP

Last weekend was beautiful and warm on Fishers Island. I spent most of it working in my flowerbeds, cutting back what I didn’t get to last fall and cleaning up wind-blown debris. Little green weeds and grass have emerged among the bulbs trying to poke up and I quickly removed the invaders, so the bulbs would not be robbed of nutrients in the earth. I was amazed to find the soil so workable since it was zero degrees on the island only a week ago. Apparently the severe cold didn’t last long enough for the ground to really freeze and everything came out easily. I know that this lovely warm spell will only remain briefly. March, which can be a particularly challenging month on Fishers Island, will soon be upon us, but the brief glimpse of spring was very comforting to my soul and the signal that a new gardening year is about to begin.

My Early Spring – To Do List

Remove broken branches on trees and shrubs to keep them healthy.

Finish clearing underbrush before the leaves come out in April.

Prune Fruit Trees while they are still dormant to avoid disease.

Prune Boxwood and other evergreen shrubs and feed with Hollytone acidic fertilizer.

Clean Up Flowerbeds, removing debris and anything green that is not a bulb – it is a weed!

Edge Flowerbeds and fertilize with organic fertilizer.

Check Soil by sending samples to UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab and fertilize as directed.

Make a list of plants you want to add to the garden this spring and review your gardening notes taken last fall.

Plan your Vegetable Garden remembering to rotate crops from last year.

Order seeds to start inside in early April or to have ready to plant when the ground warms up in the garden in May and June.

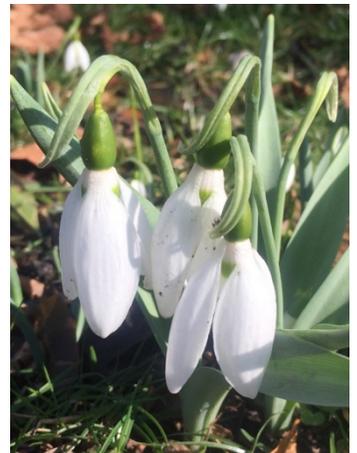
Order Dahlia tubers to plant in May and check on ones you might be wintering over to see if they are viable for this year.

Clean Birdfeeders and Birdhouses with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water

Oil and Organize Gardening Tools and buy new tools and gloves, if needed.

Start Feeding Houseplants, every couple of weeks now that the days are getting longer with organic fertilizer and give them a good bath in the shower. Spray with insecticidal soap if bugs are present.

And finally, if you have received a mailing from the [Arbor Day Foundation](http://www.arborday.org) send a donation and they will mail to you some little trees. They arrive as sticks and need to be planted in pots at first, but I now have about ten little trees in my vegetable garden that are ready to be transplanted out into the real world – happy spring!



REGARDING THE FLINT MICHIGAN WATER ISSUES



Letter to the FishersIsland.net Editor,

February 16, 2016

The Flint Michigan community has been facing a difficult situation with their water for some time and I would like to take this opportunity to answer any concerns as it might relate to our water supply on Fishers Island and how ours differs. I think many, seeing the stories on the news of late, may be wondering if they need to be worried about lead in our Fishers Island Utility Company's Water Works system.

I would like to assure everyone that Fishers Island is quite a different story from Flint. Lead is something that is routinely tested for in our distribution system and I am not aware of ever being out of compliance with lead levels in the history of the company. The problem in Flint came about by a change in their water source. As you can see from the link below, Flint diverted to the Flint River to save money, which turns out is highly corrosive source of water. The highly corrosive river water caused lead service lines to leach into homes and also corroded iron main lines turning the water orange in color in the distribution system. I can find no historical information on the Internet of Flint having any reported problem with lead or colored water before changing sources. Our water source, however, is not considered corrosive as documented by the New York Department of Health (NYDOH) standards. It is also important to understand a service line only affects the home it is connected to, not the distribution system as a whole. Although Fishers Island Water Works (FIWW) doesn't own or maintain service lines to homes, we do control what materials are approved for service lines through our service standards.

FIWW service standards call out that service lines be copper or approved plastic only. We inspect all new services before supplying service to a location. So although I can't say there are no lead service lines, I can say they would be few and far between and would not affect the larger distribution system. That said, you should know that there is always going to be some amount of lead components present in some of the older homes on Island. They most likely have had lead solder used to sweat the pipes and older corporation cocks may also contain lead as well. However, if the water source is not corrosive it is my understanding it would be very uncommon for lead to leach into a home's drinking water. If anyone would like to have their home tested for lead we can provide that service.

Just to be clear, I am aware of no threat from lead in the distribution system what so ever and am looking only to calm fears that may have come about because of the publicity about Flint. Furthermore, I would like everyone to understand our yearly water testing and reporting is strictly monitored and enforced by the NYDOH ensuring that quality standards are adhered too.

Link to CNN article: <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/11/health/toxic-tap-water-flint-michigan/>

Chris Finan, President, FI Utility Co.

FIDCO 2016 STICKERS

FIDCO has 2016 application forms for auto, commercial and bicycle stickers available on their website at www.fidco.us. Just click on 'East End Stickers' and fill yours out today.

2016 stickers are required to be on vehicles as of March 1 and may be obtained at the Utility Co. office, Mon.-Fri. from 8:00 am until 4.30 pm. Stickers and Guest Passes may also be obtained at the Gate House during open hours.



AN ISLAND RESPONDS: GRAY SEAL PUP SIGHTING

By Naturalist Justine Kibbe
Photo credit: Marlin Bloethe

This would be the winter that I am happily reminded that teamwork is the key. I was able to team up with Fishers Island residents and experience seeing a young marine mammal born on our shores, make it safely on its way into the BIG Blue.

For a quick tally, I often check on the Harbor seals from the north side of Fishers Island at Hungry Point. Here, perched on a hill with binoculars and clicker, I have a perfect spot for a fairly accurate count of the animals from land. The view from this place also reminds me that we have some special “neighbors” across the Fishers Island Sound with whom our Island community bridges. One is the Mystic Aquarium, a founding member of the Northeast Region Stranding Network. This network of various independent organizations is “dedicated to caring for sick and injured animals and learning more about the reasons they come ashore”.

Several years ago I partook in the Aquarium’s First Responder Training. As the Island Naturalist, and with previous field experience with marine mammals, I was aware that under the Marine Mammal Protection Act this course was an important step towards educational outreach. As the description states, “First Responders are typically the first set of eyes and ears in the field assessing reports of marine mammals and sea turtles for Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Fishers Island, NY. I have been grateful over the years to know that other Islanders have taken this course as well, contributing to community, by being actively permitted and ready to respond as well! (This class is FREE to anyone interested who is 18 years or older. No prior training required.)

The networking process for Responders unfolds just as we demonstrate the simple act of being good neighbors. Lisa and Karl Eiriksson volunteered to count the seals one February winter. They discovered a dead Curvier’s beaked whale - a bit of a rare gift and historic happening for us, and the Aquarium.

More recently, Robert Grzela, new to the Island and working for the Electric Co. overheard me mentioning the seals. I showed him the rock clumps off Hungry Point where I had counted over 100 seals that week. A couple weeks later Rob happened to discover a healthy Gray seal pup nestled on Isabella Beach. What an opportunity for educational outreach and communities to work together.

Within an hour of Rob’s text, I trekked to Isabella with Fishers Island residents Danielle Murray and Cristina Frasier. The timing was propitious, as I had been mentoring both to help monitor coastal sites and collect data-recording trends on Fishers Island. We discovered the camouflaged pup and estimated it was approximately two weeks of age. I quickly snapped a few photos to send to Mystic Aquarium for assessment. After a call to the Seal Hotline and a few email responses, it was decided that our Responder Team would be put to the test and stand watch for a couple of days; reporting on the health status of the animal and possibly the eventual return of its mother. Gray Seals typically are weaned and ready for swimming off much sooner than Harbor Seals. I was happy, primarily because this was the first time in four years that I was not measuring and photographing a documented seal carcass for the Aquarium.



Fellow Islander and Responder Marlin Bloethe and I assisted each other by participating in morning walks and scans of Isabella - searching for signs of a returning mother Gray seal. We were also alert and vigilant to spot any coyote tracks. We both shared the extraordinary opportunity to put into practice and utilize our Responder training by standing “Island Sentinel” each afternoon and evening on a bluff west end of Isabella. Daily communication with the Aquarium’s Janelle Schuh was essential to seeing that the pup, in its own time, naturally scooted across the sands towards its maiden voyage - healthy, and safe.

Please Remember:

Keep your distance as not every animal on the beach needs help. 2. It is not abnormal for seals to be on land. 3. Seals DO NOT need to be wet constantly. 4. Seals DO NOT need to eat every day. 5. DO NOT touch, feed or stand over a resting seal. Call the Mystic Aquarium Hotline at 860-572-5955, ext. 107

What is a Stranded Animal?

The Marine Mammal Protection Act defines a “stranding” as: Any dead marine mammal on the shore or in the water; A live marine mammal on the shore, unable to return to the water; A live marine mammal that is on shore, and in need of medical attention; A live marine mammal in water, unable to return to its natural habitat without assistance.

FISHERS ISLAND NEWS

PARKER HONORED BY VIEQUES CONSERVATION & HISTORICAL TRUST



Ellen Parker and Mark Martin Bras,
the Director of the Vieques Trust

Ellen Parker was recently honored for her years of volunteer efforts on behalf of the Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust in Puerto Rico. Bob Gevinski, vice president of the Trust's board wrote, "I had the huge honor of presenting to Ellen Parker our award for 2016 Volunteer of the Year. She and Harry have been a huge part of the Trust for many years, and we could not have found a better candidate than Ellen for this award."

A snapshot of Ellen's work for the Trust can be gathered from Bob Gevinski's remarks at the dinner for her this winter:

"It's fair to say, the work one does can never truly be appreciated until the shoes of that very same person need to be filled. After many years of coordinating the Trust's ever-popular House Tours, Ellen Parker decided to pass the reigns, and yours truly ended up with the short straw. Yes, I was the one given the daunting task of filling Ellen Parker's humongous shoes.

Fortunately for me, she did not simply walk away from this popular tour. She very easily could have said, "Thank you, Harry and I are headed to the beach". Instead, she and gave me tips on how to organize and run this popular tour. When we met, she

came with a huge binder, filled with names, phone numbers, maps, schedules, driving directions, and more. It was filled with intricate detail, and thought - I'm in the presence of General Ellen, and she's drafting me for a planned invasion of St. Croix!

One of the interesting tidbits I found in that binder, is that the first house tour was given in the year 2000. Now, one of the hardest parts of the tour is actually getting folks to open their homes. And, since that first tour, we have been welcomed in to over 100 houses and gardens. In the process of coordinating the houses this year, I've learned that Ellen is a walking Rolodex of the houses of Vieques, of their history, and of the people who have ever lived or owned them. Considering that for every 1 house on the tour that we actually see, probably four to five people have been approached. So in doing the math, Ellen has approached 400-500 people about letting a bunch of strangers come walk through their homes.

Ellen's perseverance over the years is a true sign of her commitment to the Trust. And thanks to Ellen, every House Tour has been a success, and to the benefit of the Trust's coffers, they have all sold out! She is a shining example of what it means to dedicate one's life to the Trust, not only as a donor and volunteer, but now as a great mentor. I can now vouch that Ellen Parker not only wears the biggest shoes I've ever seen, but she has an equally large heart. And with that, I'm proud to introduce and award the 2016 Volunteer of the Year to Ellen Parker.

OBITUARY: CHARLIE THE OSPREY



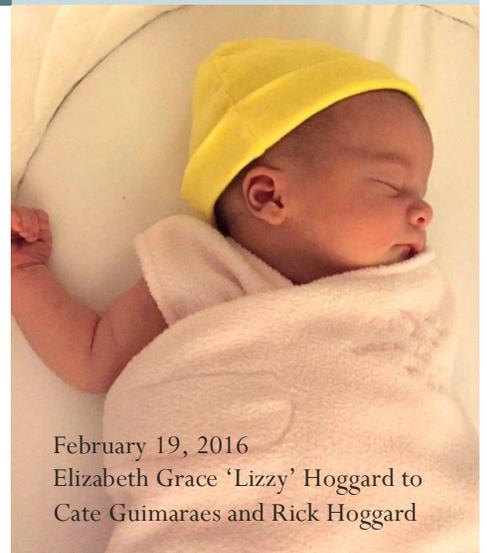
We recently received some sad news about Osprey Charlie. As part of the ongoing collaboration between the H.L. Ferguson Museum and a wider effort to track annual Osprey migrations, Charlie was the 2nd osprey tagged on Fishers Island by ornithologist Rob Bierregaard. Rob had previously tagged our Osprey Edwin and tracks many osprey, sharing their journeys through his website blog www.ospreytrax.com.

January 26, 2016 (Ospreytrax):

It has been a tough winter. Our Fishers Island male Charlie, who surprisingly popped up in December on Hispaniola, settled down at a fish farm in the Dominican Republic and was almost certainly shot there. We had a couple of days of locations at the same spot at the edge of the fish farm and then nothing after 19 Dec, so we're pretty sure we lost him.

For the full story, please visit: <http://fishersisland.net/charlie-osprey-gone-missing/>

BIRTH



February 19, 2016
Elizabeth Grace 'Lizzy' Hoggard to
Cate Guimaraes and Rick Hoggard

FISHERS ISLAND BULLETIN BOARD



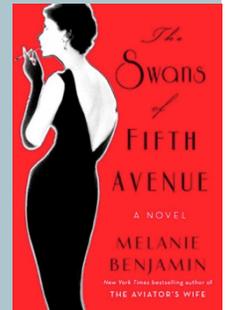
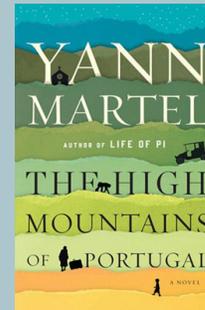
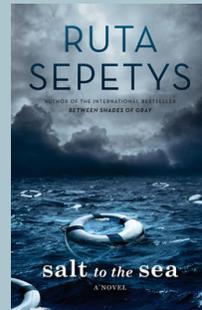
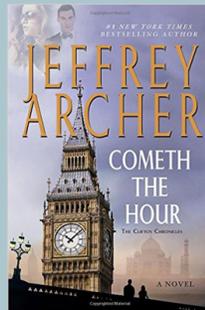
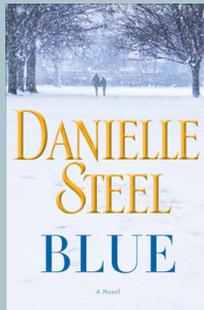
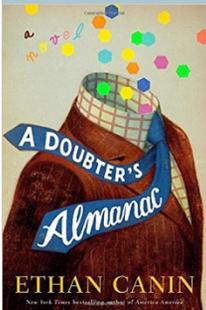
FI STERLING SILVER NECKLACE

Bar is approximately 30mm, length is approximately 18".

Only 10 necklaces available at \$65 each.

Please see a FIS Senior or Tawnya Eastman for more information or to purchase a necklace. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2016.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

SHOP AMAZON ONLINE & HELP
RAISE MONEY FOR THE SEA STRETCHER!

Use AmazonSmile to have 0.5% of all your purchases donated to the Sea Stretcher. Just type **smile.amazon.com** and your amazon account will come up just like normal. Then you will be prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. Type in **Fishers Island Sea Stretcher** and for eligible purchases AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART
YOUNG AT ART SHOW

The region's largest annual youth art exhibition returns to Mystic

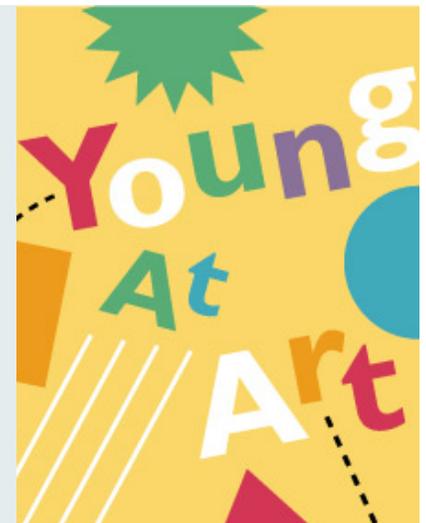
Show runs **March 4 – April 9, 2016.**

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 5, 1– 3pm with Awards at 2pm

Family Night March 3 6pm–8pm

Games and art activities await you at MMoA Family Night. Drop by for face-painting, hands-on art making, and a gallery game. View Young At Art, an exhibition of artwork from local young people ages 0 to 18. This event is **FREE**. A special discount on family memberships will be offered beginning with this event through the run of the YAA exhibition.

Come see artwork by Fishers Island School students: Devin Kucsera, Christina Toldo, Ellie Bloethe, Gabby Krysiwicz, Thad Allen, Margaux Walz, and Isabella Basile.

SUMMER
INTERNSHIP

Get to know the ins and outs of the Community Center and the Theater with a paid, resume building, opportunity on Fishers!

Fishers Island Community Center & the Friends of the Fishers Island Theater are looking for a highly motivated, energetic and organized individual to assist with a variety of tasks during the busy summer season. The individual must have knowledge of computer skills (word, excel, Photoshop, etc.) and be able to multi-task. To learn more and for an application please contact Elizabeth Reid or Sarah Porter at ficommunitycenter@gmail.com or 631.788.7638.

SAVE THE DATES:

VISIT [HTTP://FISHERSISLAND.NET/EVENTS/](http://fishersisland.net/events/)

FOR ALL UPCOMING FI EVENTS



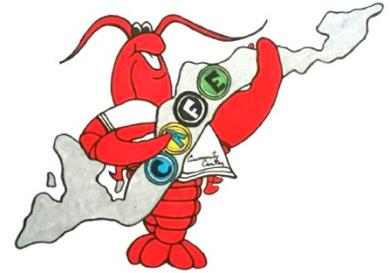
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 1045
SATURDAY, MARCH 12 FROM 6:00-9:30 PM**

The traditional Irish dinner will be catered by Chef Brian Busse. If you would like to bring something sweet to add to the dessert table it would be most welcome. If you would like to contribute a prize to the raffle, please contact Christine Rogan or Deb Doucette at the Legion at 788-7590,.

Advanced Dinner Tickets on Sale: At American Legion when open and through Deb Doucette at the FI Ferry Freight Office through Mar 10.

Dinner Tickets: Adults \$13; Kids (age 5-12) \$8; Under age 5 free.

Raffle Tickets: \$1 each sold at the event.



FI COMMUNITY CENTER'S ISLAND CAFÉ & BOWLING

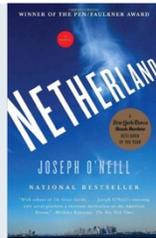
Now Open for

Lunch 12:00-1:00 Tues-Fri
Dinner 5:00-8:00 Tues-Sat

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Thursday, March 10
7:00-9:00 pm

Netherland by Joseph O'Neill



Join us for the
Senior Luncheon
on March 17.
*All community members
age 60+ are welcome!*



Gail Cypherd Photo

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', have 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.

TOPPER'S SCOOP

The sale of Topper's is finally complete! Janio Spinola (liquor store owner) has purchased Topper's, and will be taking over running the store this summer. I am happy to tell you that Janio has said that he would like to keep (new) Topper's as (old) Topper's. I know we've all loved the ice cream experience there for so long, and I'm hopeful that most things will stay the same for all of our enjoyment.

As part of the sale agreement, worked out with the help of Jim Reid (Mystic Isle Realty), I have agreed to "advise" Janio for his first season, helping him to get set up, teaching him the ins and outs of the ice cream business, etc., I will do all that I can to ensure a smooth transition for all of us this summer.

I hope you all will give your support to Janio in his new endeavor as you have to me for so long. Topper's has become an "institution", and it's been a fun "ride" for 22 years. Thank you for all your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Liz

