

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

FEBRUARY 2018



News and Information about
Fishers Island, NY

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENTERS 91ST YEAR

The Annual Installation Dinner, hosted by the Fire District Commissioners, was held Saturday, January 20, 2018. Members of the Fishers Island Fire Department (FIFD) and their guests gathered in the barn, with the trucks as a backdrop, to witness the swearing in of this year's FIFD officers.

There are 45 active volunteers currently serving (many in several roles) as department officers, fire personnel, pump operators, ambulance squad EMTs, and Sea Stretcher captains and navigators. Additional members serve as advisors, drivers, radio control and in other important capacities including FEMA and Homeland Security.

Members serving on duty 'in the field', in their primary volunteer positions, break down this way:

The 2018 Roster:	Age range for 2018:	Calls answered in 2017:
28 Fire Personnel	9 Under age 40	57 Fire calls
12 EMS Personnel	27 Age 40-60	54 EMS calls
11 on Sea Stretcher	10 Over age 60	46 Sea Stretcher runs

Founded in 1927, Fishers Island Fire Department members work closely with Dr. Chris Ingram, the Island's year-round doctor, and the Island Health Project.

FIFD members reach Life Member (LM) status on their 20th anniversary in the Department. Of the 38 current Life Members, 12 are on active status. For the full list of members in the FIFD in 2017 and photos of the installation, please visit fishersisland.net/fire-department-enters-91st-year-at-annual-installation/. Congratulations to those with anniversaries this year! 60 years, Richard Jenssen, Sr. and Ken Edwards, Sr.; 50 years, Bill Faulkner; 40 years, Tom Doherty, Lillie Ahman, and Kathy Zanghetti; and 30 years for John Doucette.

The Fire Department lost Richard Grebe Jr., John Clavin, Wayne Doucette, Richard Baker, and Robert Wall in 2017. They will always be remembered and everyone in our community is most grateful for their service.

The FIFD welcomes new volunteers at any time of year. In fact, there are 5 people interested in the EMT program offered in 2018. For more information please contact a FIFD member.

All are welcome to attend the monthly Fire District meetings. The dates are posted on the community calendar among other places. The next two are February 6 and March 12, 2018.



A PIANO FOR KLOE



Story contributed by Piano Teacher Kapri Thomas

On February 17, 2017, I saw a Facebook video of Talia playing what looked like a decent piano, outside, at the dump. I texted Annette to inquire and she said, “Yes, someone threw out a piano, it’s tiny though”. That same day Bruce Hubert texted asking if I wanted a bench – which he had saved for me – just in case. I ran down to the dump the next morning. It looked really good, nothing blaringly wrong with it. I told Annette and Danielle that I wanted it and they vowed to keep it safe until I could get it moved. Thank goodness it didn’t rain those three days!

Bruce texted me later and said he and “his guys” (Edil Arnold, Martin,

Portales and Carlo Castro) would be happy to bring it to my house. They moved it immediately to my front porch and came back the next morning to move it in once I had time to rearrange the furniture a bit to accommodate.

Once it was in my house I was able to inspect it more closely. Apart from the front which had been removed, pitched and crushed. I noticed some felt fabric damage which seemed fairly minor. I took pictures of the damage and emailed them to my tuner Amy Tiernan from DogHouse Pianos in Pawcatuck, CT. Amy came out on March 22 and took the piano apart, cleaned it thoroughly, and replaced the felts. I will have her return for finishing touches and another tuning now that it is at home with Kloe. Miggie and Barry Bryan made a generous donation which paid for Amy’s work.

Tim Patterson came to see Amy at work and ask questions regarding the cover, materials, any specific requirements and took measurements. His original plan was to make the cover glass but that proved a bit more difficult. He completed the finishing touches on August 1, 2017. Tim donated his time and materials. And Friday, January 19, 2018, was the big day of course! Bruce and his guys came to my house yesterday morning and moved the piano once again – to Kloe’s house while she was at school.

Editor’s Notes:

Kapri had invited Tim, Chris Ingram and me, Jane Ahrens, to join her and Kloe’s mother Darcy at the house, and then the wait began, for Kloe and her sister to walk home from school for the surprise! Among Kloe’s favorite pieces are, *God Help the Outcasts* From Walt Disney’s “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”, which she played for us on Friday as well as *Fur Elise* by Beethoven and *Swinging Along* which is the piece from this week’s lesson plan. She generally likes all of Beethoven and Mozart’s works. Kloe took her first lesson on December 1, 2016, and she used a simple Casio electric keyboard to practice between lessons. Now she has her new real piano. The keyboard wasn’t much but it was enough and it has already been passed on to another of Kapri’s students!

Not everyone has an instrument of their own at this point, but Kapri has a couple of keyboards that she uses as loaners for students that do not have instruments to practice on. If anyone has anything piano related that they want to part with, please contact Kapri. This can be keyboards of any quality, as long as they work, keyboard stands, piano lights, benches or music. Even pianos that may look like their time has come to an end may be able to be restored. This story is a fine example of a piano given a new life with a child that didn’t have one. At this moment there are three children waiting to begin piano lessons – as they can’t begin until they have a practice instrument. Any support for Kapri’s scholarship students is greatly appreciated as well.

Amy travels to Fishers a few of times a year and tunes several pianos each trip. Not only is she enthusiastic and happy to come out she is very thorough and talented at her craft! If anyone wants to get on the list please contact Kapri who will coordinate for them to be seen during Amy’s next visit.

Thank you to Kapri for making this whole story and opportunity become a true reality. kaprikia@me.com; cell: (917) 561-5129 To see all the photos by Kapri & Jane Ahrens visit fishersisland.net/a-piano-for-kloe/

SAY GOOD BYE TO YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLES



Ferry District offers free passage

Now through March 15, 2018 the Fishers Island Ferry District is offering free travel for any junk cars off the Island.

This is a community service effort provided by the Ferry to assist those who may have vehicles that are unregistered and/or are no longer in working condition and are just stuck on the island.

Here are some ground rules:

- Free passage includes the tow truck and driver **coming from the mainland** to pick up your unwanted vehicle. Reservations required.
- Free passage includes an island vehicle with driver towing or carrying an unwanted vehicle **off the island and needing to return**. Reservations required.
- Travel must be coordinated with the Ferry District's Commercial Reservation Desk by calling 860-442-0165. **(Ferry Reservation, vehicle, and driver will be free of charge!)**
- Reservations for paying commercial customers will take priority over unwanted/ junk car reservations.
- All vehicles will be inspected prior to getting on the ferry for leaking fluids. Leakers will be rejected.
- Manually pushing a vehicle onto the ferry, or manually pushing a vehicle off, is not allowed.
- Unwanted vehicles may not be left at either Ferry Terminal unattended.

Please take advantage of this opportunity by March 15, 2018 and let's get rid of our Island's junk vehicles.

COMMUNITY CENTER WINTER NEWS UPDATE

The FICC Board's Executive Committee welcomes Jeanie Kelly Cook to the Community Center as Director of Programs and Administration. With experience in membership coordination with the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and more recently as a specialist at a high-end rehabilitation and wellness Center in Connecticut, Jeanie is a talented, high-energy person who we know will bring life to the Community Center. One of Jeanie's passions is gardening and as the founder of Coastal Greenery in Madison, she plans to add gardening and floral design classes into the mix at the FICC this year. As a member of the Harvey family and the spouse of FI Ferry District Manager Geb Cook, Jeanie is well known to all of us. While Jeanie assumes responsibility for our programs and administration, Sarah Porter will continue to oversee membership and facilities management.



The Island Café: We are also pleased that, thanks to the efforts of Chef Ed Neiman at the Fishers Island Club, Pequot Chef John Haight began dinner service at the Community Center's Island Café in January. The Island Café will be open Thursday and Saturday nights offering a simple and delicious buffet dinner. Come join in and feel free to BYOB. The menu will be posted weekly.

The Fitness Center & Air Conditioning: In February the old equipment in the Fitness Center will be removed and a few days later replaced by entirely new equipment. The carpeting will be cleaned and the room freshened up for the installation of the new equipment. New air-conditioning systems are being installed throughout the Community Center building which will be operational before the next heat wave arrives this summer.

As the days get longer, Sarah can help with your membership renewal, Jasmine is running the Bowling Alley, and Stacey McCarthy will return soon to her massage spa.

IN MEMORIAM: MARY R. MIDDLETON



Mary R. Middleton, 99, of Fishers Island and Groton, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2017, at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, New London.

She was born December 16, 1918, in Willimantic, the daughter of Felix and Victoria Polak. She married Ernest Middleton, Jr., who passed away on June 23, 1993.

Mary was a communicant of Our Lady of Grace Church and served as president of the altar and rosary society. She was an avid fan of UConn basketball and the Boston Red Sox. She loved to read, do word searches and crossword puzzles.

She is survived by her son, Ernest Middleton of Fishers Island and Cape Coral, FL; a daughter, Mary Ellen Middleton of Gales Ferry; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers, Rudy and Raymond Polak; and her sisters, Bridget Moran, Wanda Daly and Hilda Slater.

A Mass of Christian Burial [was] celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Church, Fishers Island. Interment follow[ed] in St. John's Cemetery on Fishers. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Our Lady of Grace Church, PO Box 425, Fishers Island, NY 06390 or the Fishers Island Fire Department's Sea Stretcher, PO 123, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Published in *The Day* Jan 4, 2018

IN MEMORIAM: JUDY LENZI-MAGOVENY



Judy Lenzi-Magoveny died peacefully on January 9, 2018 at the age of 76 after a long struggle with Parkinson's. Born and raised in New Haven, CT, Judy lived and worked in

the area all of her life.

Judy received her MA from SCSU. Her great passion was the theater and she taught a variety of theater classes at both Hopkins School and at Southern Connecticut State University, both in New Haven. Judy loved going to the theater and ventured into New York City whenever she could to see the latest shows on Broadway. She also performed in many community theater productions; she loved an audience.

Judy was small in stature, but she lived large. She loved to travel, with friends or with her students, and explored distant places like Vietnam, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Europe, Russia and the Antarctic, amongst others. She would regale her friends with stories of her adventures in foreign lands, but a special place in her heart was saved for Fishers Island.

Judy loved Fishers: the beaches, the parties, the people and the way of life. She had many friends on the island, as she had lived here year-round for a few years in the early 70's. She had worked for The Farms (before it became FI Utility Co.) and during that time had lived in a rented apartment on the Fort stretch. She could recall the years when there were 5 bars on Fishers, and told many a story about her escapades after work! Judy was the Director of IPP (Island People's Project) for many

years in the early 80's, and she later directed two of the FI School's productions, "Bye Bye Birdie" in 2007 and "Shakespeare Goes to Gravel Gulch" in 2014. She also tried her hand at retail, talking many customers into an expensive bottle of wine at Hair of the Dog and was occasionally seen manning the cash register at Topper's on busy 4 of July weekends. A daughter of the late George and Phyllis Ruggiero Lenzi, Judy was also predeceased by the love of her life, her husband Lance Magoveny and a loving nephew George J. Lenzi, Jr. She leaves her brother George J. Lenzi, of FL and many devoted family members and friends.

Amongst her friends, she will be remembered for her stories, her enthusiasm for life, her sense of humor and her compassion for all people. She was loved and will be greatly missed. Donations can be made in Judy's name to IPP, PO Box 523, Fishers Island, NY 06390.



Bill Bloethe and Melanie Ann Letizio
January 1, 2018 in New York, NY

IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES BRENNER FERGUSON

Charles Benner Ferguson, 99, of Bloomfield, Connecticut, and Fishers Island, New York, died in his sleep early Sunday morning, January 7, 2018. Charlie, as he was known by all his many friends and family members, was still winning cribbage games and playing his harmonica in the weeks before he died.

Born on Fishers Island, NY, to Henry Lee Ferguson, Sr., and Marion Benner Ferguson, in 1918, Charlie traveled far yet always returned to Fishers every summer, to his beloved shack, "Flounder In."

Charlie attended Greenwich Country Day School, the Pomfret School and Williams College, where he studied Fine Arts, and Trinity College, where he received his Master's degree, while teaching Fine Arts and Art History. He was one of the first art historians to take Art of the Americas seriously, and developed one of the first courses on American Art that included Aztec and Mayan art, while teaching at Trinity. He was also a painter, winning numerous prizes and running the Red Barn Art Gallery on Fishers Island for 67 years, where he exhibited his Fishers Island seascapes, which always featured birds, another of Charlie's passions. He published several books that feature Fishers Island seascapes, golf holes and birds. Additionally, he was president of the HL Ferguson Museum of Fishers Island from 1978 until 2003, when he became director emeritus.

During WWII he served in the Signal Corps, stationed in Washington, DC, Australia and the Philippines, coordinating messages from radio operators behind enemy lines about Japanese troop movements, work which earned him a Bronze Star. Yet, even while defending his country he always found time for a sailing race or a round of golf. While in DC, he met Alice Joys, a Smith graduate code breaker, and after the war ended they married in 1946 and spent 62 years together until her death in 2008.

After attending the Art Students League in New York, Charlie taught at Eaglebrook School and the Hill School, before the growing family settled in the Hartford area, where Charlie taught at Trinity College and the Loomis School, before being named Director of the New Britain Museum of American Art, where he worked until his retirement.

In addition to his work as an artist, Charlie was a devoted sportsman and naturalist, whether playing a round of golf at the Big Club, fly fishing in the Bahamas, winning Bullseye sailing races, identifying shorebirds or migrating hawks, or simply looking at the sky and wind direction and accurately predicting the weather.

Charlie is survived by his daughters, Marion "Marnie" Briggs and her husband Christopher "Kit" of Washington, DC, Alice Hartley Ferguson and her partner Esther Torregro of Bilbao, Spain, and Julia Hulslander and her husband Stephen of Williamsport, PA; his grandchildren, Alexander Briggs, Jessica Hulslander and Emily Hulslander; and his great-grandson Logan Ferguson Briggs. Besides his wife and parents he was predeceased by his brother H. Lee Ferguson.

A gathering to remember Charlie will be held in the Fishers Island movie theater on Sunday, July 1, in the early afternoon (time to be determined). All are welcome. Memorial contributions in his honor can be made to the [Henry L. Ferguson Museum](#), PO Box 554, Fishers Island, NY 06390, or online to the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#).



IN MEMORIAM: MARY STURGES KING



Mary Sturges King passed away peacefully at her home on January 6, 2018, after a long battle with Alzheimer Disease. Mary was 80 years old and a lifelong New Yorker. She also lived in Millbrook, NY and Fishers Island, NY.

Beloved mother and grandmother, she is survived by four of her six children, 15 grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her eldest two daughters, and her own sister whose children she then raised. She was a devoted mother, fun and creative and enjoyed nothing more than having a house brimming with family.

Mary was a passionate horseback rider and lover of animals. She fostered animals for the ASPCA, tended ailing strays, and had a menagerie of permanent pets in her home. Mary retired in 1999 from a 20-year career teaching kindergarten and first grade in New York, and then in Salisbury, CT. She will be remembered as a loving friend, mother and grandmother.

A Mass of Christian burial [was] held January 12, 2018 at The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in NYC. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the ASPCA of New York at aspcanyc.org or the Alzheimer's Association at Alz.org. Published in *The New York Times* on January 9, 2018

FEBRUARY GARDENING

FROM MÉLIE'S GARDEN

After living twenty years in the country, my husband and I moved to an apartment in New York. Once there, a friend asked me to join the house committee at The Garden Club of America's Headquarters. I was put on the Hospitality Committee and was assigned to work on flower arranging for events that were held there. One winter, we were faced with a number of lunches and dinners, all quite close together, and the thought of all those centerpieces was quite daunting. I had found, among the enormous collection of containers at GCA, about a dozen round glass fish bowls and I came up with the idea to plant begonias in them. These small "terrariums" would hopefully last for a month or two and cut down on the time and expense of cut flower arrangements.

I drove up to my favorite plant supplier, Logee's Greenhouses, in Danielson, CT and bought tons of small begonias to put into the glass bowls. Begonias don't mind living in containers and the spectacular variety of colors in their leaves can be very pretty. If they bloom, which they do towards the end of winter, it only just adds to their delight. Back at GCA we assembled the terrariums, putting three begonias in each bowl. We used houseplant soil with a little perlite and charcoal added to keep the soil light and well drained. It is usually recommended to put pebbles at the bottom of a terrarium for better drainage, but the bowls were too small to do that, so the perlite and charcoal helped in not having the begonias rot. The containers were then watered sparingly, which begonias like even when planted in pots. The centerpieces turned out to be quite appealing and those of us who had assembled them were pleased with the results of our efforts.

A few days after the first event, I went down to check on the terrariums. I was met by the GCA receptionist, who seemed quite upset and said, "Oh Mrs. Spofford, I just don't know how to tell you this!" And my heart sank imagining bowls of dead begonias, but after taking a deep breath, she said, "When we were taking the terrariums back to the flower room after the lunch, we noticed



that two or three plants had been removed from a couple of the containers!" I have often wondered how those GCA ladies, all properly attired, had smuggled out the stolen plants in their Hermés handbags! They would certainly have been able to easily scoop out the begonias with a dessert spoon but did they come prepared with plastic Baggies to put the plants into or did just a Kleenex do to wrap them up and pop them into their bags? Luckily, Logee's was quickly able to FedEx replacement plants because we had a number of lunches coming up and I am happy to report no more begonias were stolen and the flower budget for GCA stayed intact that winter.



INTERESTED IN SEEING A COUNSELOR ON FISHERS?

The ICB and the Islanders for Islanders Fund are excited to announce that we have received several applications of qualified counselors interested in expanding their practice to Fishers Island.

However, in order to proceed with hiring a counselor, we need to assess interest here on the island. If you are seriously looking for counseling and are open to engaging with someone who comes to the island, please contact Candy Whitman at Union Chapel **by Thursday, February 15**. All contact will be held in strict confidence.

candy@fiunionchapel.org Cell Phone: (203) 293-5470

If we do not have enough people interested in exploring therapy with a counselor, we will not proceed with hiring a candidate.

Payment for the therapist would be agreed upon between the therapist and the client according to your insurance policy and his or her rates. The Islanders for Islanders Fund will be providing the therapist with a base hourly fee for travel and time on the island, but it will not cover the full cost of a session. If you need help with paying this counselor, let Candy know.

BULLETIN BOARD

11 February	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 am - Union Chapel Worship Service	11:00 am - Lunch @ Island Café 5:30 pm - ICB Meeting	5:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Lent Begins 5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace: Ash Wednesday Mass 6:00 pm - Bowling League	9:00 am - Library's Tiny Tot Time 12:00 pm - Senior Luncheon 5:30 pm - Island Café Open		5:30 pm - Island Café Open 5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace Mass
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 am - Union Chapel Worship Service 2:00 pm - Ladies "Craft-n-Coffee" at the Library 4:00 pm - Museum Lecture: Pierce Rafferty's "Fishers Island Ferries Over Time"		8:00 am - FI School Classes Resume 4:30 pm - Ferry Commissioners' Meeting	5:00 pm - Board of Ed. Meeting 6:00 pm - Bowling League	9:00 am - Library's Tiny Tot Time 4:30 pm - Judo Practice 5:30 pm - Island Café Open		5:30 pm - Island Café Open 5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace Mass
25	26	27	28	1 March	2	3
10:00 am - Union Chapel Worship Service 2:00 pm - Ladies "Craft-n-Coffee" at the Library			5:00 pm - FIWMD Commissioners' Meeting 6:00 pm - Bowling League 6:00 pm - Lenten Supper & Art Meditation	9:00 am - Library's Tiny Tot Time 4:30 pm - Judo Practice 5:30 pm - Island Café Open	6:00 pm - Community Dinner @ Union Chapel	5:30 pm - Island Café Open 5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace Mass

UPCOMING DINNERS @ THE COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Field green salad & dinner rolls, Chicken Marsala, Herbed long grain rice, Roasted broccoli and Chocolate chip cookies

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Field green salad & dinner rolls, Balsamic glazed pork chops, Garlic String Beans, Roasted fingerling potatoes and Cookies

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Chinese Dinner Night - Full menu to follow



SENIOR LUNCHEONS ~ 2017-2018



Everyone over 60 is invited to join us!

Luncheons are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month – most are held at the Union Chapel. Enjoy a delicious home cooked meal, monthly door prize/raffle, seasonal table settings, and interesting conversation.

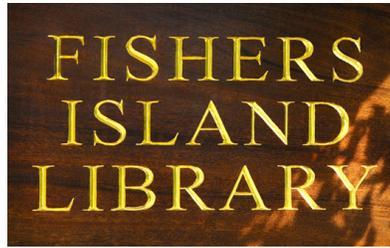
Please call Heather Burnham if you would like to be added to the list at 788-7662.

Save these Upcoming Dates: Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19, and the final lunch on May 17.

SAVE THE DATES:

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

FOR ALL UPCOMING FI EVENTS



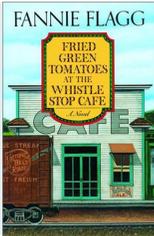
PLEASE VISIT WWW.FISHERSISLAND.NET FOR MORE STORIES, PHOTOS, NEWS, AND CALENDAR EVENTS. This publication's size limits the amount of content we can fit in this printed format.

LADIES CRAFTS & COFFEE Sundays 2-4 pm
February 18 & 25

TINY TOTS
PLAY & STORY TIME
Every Thursday at 9:00 am

ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
February 12
March 12
5:30 @ the Community Center
Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend the ICB meetings.

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
March 8: Fried Green Tomatoes
by Fannie Flagg



WASTE MANAGEMENT STATIONS
NOW OPEN THURSDAYS

TRANSFER: 7:30 AM- 12:30 PM
COMPOST: 12:30 PM – 4:30 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, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or finyinfo@gmail.com.
FIND ALL THE NEWS, STORIES, PHOTOS & EVENTS AT WWW.FISHERSISLAND.NET



SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY DINNER AT UNION CHAPEL
6:00 – 7:30 PM ON FRIDAY MARCH 2 ~ MENU TO BE ANNOUNCED