May 1: Celebrating Decision Day at FI School

All across America, millions of high school seniors celebrate Decision Day on May 1. This year the eight Fishers Island School seniors are part of that enormous group of peers. FI School Counselor Julie Arcelus and Principal Christian Arsenault hosted a special celebration, “To acknowledge the important choice that each FIS senior is making regarding their plans after high school”, said Julie.

At lunchtime, the whole student body with their teachers, many dressed in ‘swag’ from their own alma maters, gathered in the gym. The seniors were each presented with a pennant from their college and then shared their plans and the subject of their intended major or areas of concentration.

Mr. Arsenault also reminded everyone that it is each and every teacher, staff member, and adult that has helped guide and support the students along their individual journey to this exciting time. Congratulations to everyone!

Celebrate the Class of 2018 at Commencement
Friday, June 22 at 4:45 PM
COUNSELOR AVAILABLE ON ISLAND
Dr. Jeffrey White

The Islanders for Islanders Fund is pleased to announce that Dr. Jeffrey White is extending his practice to Fishers Island and will be available to see clients on Island beginning Tuesday, April 24. We have arranged for Dr. White to be here weekly for the next few months. We encourage anyone interested in a session with Dr. White to contact him soon. After this time period, he will travel here less frequently and arrange for sessions over the phone or internet as needed.

Thanks to IHP, Dr. White will see people in the apartment over the doctor's office (an alternate location is being sought for when that apartment is occupied). He is available to talk with individuals, couples, and families. We are thrilled that this highly credentialed and personable therapist is able to travel to the island to see clients here.

Dr. White works on a sliding scale. For further information about fees and to set up an appointment, please call Dr. White directly. His cell is 203/998-8121.

DOCTOR’S OFFICE HOURS
Dr. Mochson will be on Island

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 17</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>Friday, May 18</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>Monday, May 21</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 22</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 23</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 24</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>Friday, May 25</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL DAY, Monday, May 28</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 29</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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Island Community Board meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are available at this link:

http://fishersisland.net/about-fishers-island/island-community-board/

ENGAGEMENT

Kelsey Breining & Andrew Garcia
12/8/17 @ Rockefeller Center

Bo Cook & Kayla McGlew
3/22/18 @ 18th hole of Pebble Beach Golf

Harlow Eve Horn
3/26/18 to Stephanie & Mason Horn

BIRTH

ICB
It was a charcoal gray day in mid-April, and despite the cold, a steady southwest breeze had reared its head, carrying on its back the scent of spring across the island. Peepers were chirping away in the wetlands, birds flitted between branch and ground looking for food, and a few lazy flies began to rise up from the forest floor to meander in the sparse sunlight. I had been walking down by the ferry when I first smelled smoke, and it immediately struck my nose as foreign. It didn’t have that same wet quality that comes from wood in a fireplace, but instead smelled hot and dry, like burning brush, and as I rounded the corner by the school, I witnessed the source. Off in the parade grounds, flanked by fire trucks and men in neon firefighting fatigues, a controlled burn was sweeping through the grass, sending large plumes of dark smoke skyward. Despite the commotion, the only sound was the distant pop of wood and leaves as the flames crept across the field. This sight is a common one each spring, as the Fishers Island Conservancy employs the help of the fire station to light controlled burns in the parade grounds.

Controlled burns always fascinated me. The spectacle alone is always magnificent, but unfortunately, many people misinterpret their purpose. While setting fire to dry grass in a field so close to people’s homes may seem downright stupid, this practice has a long history and an important role in keeping any ecosystem healthy. Before the arrival of man, the fire cycle was a natural element in the process of growth and decay in many ecosystems. Grasslands would grow to low shrubs, to young forests, to old forests, to forests cluttered with fallen trees and natural tinder, then lightening would strike and a fire would be lit, the forest would burn, and you’d start back at the beginning with grassland. When man finally did arrive, this process was still in full swing and out of our control, but it wasn’t long until we discovered its benefit.

Some of the first people to utilize controlled burns were indigenous populations in America, who understood their importance long before we arrived in this country. In fact, there are accounts as far back as the 17th century from Dutch traders moving up the Hudson who reported towering columns of smoke lining the riverbanks. For the Native Americans in New England and beyond, burning was used as a means to control hunting grounds. Grasslands and the low shrubs that flanked their borders was ideal space for holding large game such as deer, which would patrol these areas in search of food and shelter. By maintaining the grassland, Native Americans were able to keep a reliable food source within their reach.

Today, controlled burns are used much differently, but their effect on wildlife and vegetation is still just as significant. On Fishers, burns are done for a few reasons. The first is in order to deter the growth of forests and the settling of invasive species. If the grasslands were left by themselves for too long invasive species, like Norway maple and European honeysuckle, and other woody plants that are native like sumac and cherry, would settle in eventually outcompeting the grass and dominating the habitat. This would then drive out the insects due to lack of food and habitat, which would in turn eventually drive out the birds and field mice as they would have no insects to feed on. The other reason the parade grounds are burned is to prevent it from suffocating itself. The parade grounds, which is predominately settled by warm seed grasses or “bunch grasses”, is ideal habitat for nesting ground birds, rodents such as field mice, and numerous species of native insects. However, these grasses also tend to clump up and accumulate when they die, producing “duff”, which can ultimately strangle the living grasses if there is too much of it. Controlled burns help clear out the duff and allow more space for wildlife to move and forage.

One question that comes up is whether these fires kill off wildlife. Larger mammals and adult birds can escape, while slower moving animals such as frogs, snakes, certain insects, or fledgling birds can get caught in the burn. With this in mind,
complete burns are discouraged. Instead, trained firefighters will burn portions of a field or backwoods area over an extended period of time to support the survivability of local fauna. Most experts agree that the consequence of not burning at all would be much more significant to wildlife habitat. So if you are ever on Island while a burn is taking place, take the time to go watch. Not only is it a remarkable sight, but it also ensures that the natural beauty of Fishers Island will stay intact for years to come.

Special Thanks to Joe Henderson and Doug Tallamy of the Fishers Island Conservancy for providing information on the grasslands for this article, and to the Fishers Island Fire Department and their members who help make these burns possible. Photos and videos of the 2018 Burn by Jane Ahrens may be found at www.fishersisland.net/controlled-burns-life-from-the-ashes/

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR ALL THE INFORMATION, APPLICATIONS, CONTACTS & MORE ADS, PLEASE VISIT: HTTP://FISHERSISLAND.NET/CATEGORY/CLASSIFIE

The JOY OPENINGS: Lifeguards for IPP's Dock Beach
© April 2, 2018
A great summer job opportunity.
Read More »

FOR SALE: Antique Mirror & Brass Beds
© March 9, 2018
On Fishers and ready for delivery to be arranged to your home.
Read More »

LEGAL NOTICE: FIWMD Request for Proposals for HHW
© April 6, 2018
Proposals due by noon May 17 for the collection and disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) on Saturday, July 28, 2018
Read More »

JOB OPENING: Shutters & Sails Summer Intern
© March 1, 2018
Seeking an energetic paid intern.
Read More »

THE PEOQOT
IN MEMORIAM: SUSAN THAYER WILMERDING

Susan Thayer Wilmerding of Bryn Mawr, PA died on April 11, 2018 at the age of 78 from complications arising from a stroke. She is survived by David R. Wilmerding, Jr., her loving husband of nearly 60 years and their four children, Amy Manny, David, Charlie and Chris, as well as 12 adoring grandchildren.

Susie was born in Philadelphia, PA on Nov. 11, 1939 to Mary Steel and George Chapman Thayer and is survived by four siblings, Eustis Zane, Elizabeth Dilworth, Carol Jaques and James Thayer. She was predeceased by her brother, George Thayer.

Susie graduated from The Agnes Irwin School and went on to earn a BA from Villanova and an MA from Hahnemann University. She spent her entire career as a pediatric physical therapist. At the time of her death, she was on the board of HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy and The Dunbar Center. She had previously served on the board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia and had been a member of the vestry at St. Christopher’s Church in Gladwyne.

A celebration of her life was held at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Wayne, PA on Saturday, April 21. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the HMS (4400 Baltimore Ave., Phila., PA 19104) and The Dunbar Center (12100 SE Lantana Ave., Hobe Sound, FL 33455).

Published on Philly.com on April 13, 2018

IN MEMORIAM: SANDRA TOWLE

WESTBROOK — Sandra (Sandy) Towle passed away suddenly [in March] while at her winter residence in Oriental, North Carolina. She was born on Dec. 9, 1941, to Lewis and Gladys Parker in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and grew up in Cumberland, Rhode Island, where she studied piano at an early age.

After moving to Presque Isle, Maine, she completed high school and enrolled at the University of Maine in Presque Isle, and earned a B.S. in education. Sandy was married to Gordon Towle that year and taught in Old Town the following year. The next year the family moved to Lafayette, Indiana, for Gordon to attend graduate school at Purdue. During that time, Sandy taught in the Tippecanoe School Corporation.

After graduate school the family, now with son Kalen, moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where they enjoyed immersion in another culture and language, with many opportunities to travel throughout Europe. A transfer back to the U.S. (Delaware) ensued after three years abroad. Sandy obtained a teaching position in Wilmington, Delaware, and was able to continue her studies and finish a master’s degree in education.

In 1982 the family moved to Niantic and then to Westbrook. Sandy accepted a teaching position with the Fishers Island School, where she taught in the lower grades and assisted with the school’s music program. Sandy was the accompanist for many of the school’s drama and choral productions and is fondly remembered for leading the morning sing each day before class.

The ferry ride to and from Fishers Island each day was sometimes challenging but became a social event with Sandy acting as “boat mother” to some of the younger students. Sandy continued her music and sang for several years with Capella Cantorum.

Sandy is survived by her husband Gordon, her sister Nadiene and husband Rodney Brewer in Presque Isle, Maine, and her son Kalen in Napolian, Michigan. Sandy will be greatly missed by all who knew this wonderful woman with the warmest personality and kindest spirit.

A memorial service is planned for later this spring.

Shore Publishing’s www.zip06.com / Published March 21, 2018
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

Continuing my gardening travels of last month, I was curious to see what was growing in the Southwest US in late March. Santa Fe at 7,000 feet above sea level still had patches of snow, but fruit trees looked like they were thinking about blooming and some daffodils were appearing.

Moving on to Arizona there was not much evidence of the desert coming into bloom due to the lack of rain, except for a small yellow poppy close to the trail Sarah Moody and I were riding on.

I was interested to see snapdragons happily growing in the desert climate in large colorful beds at the ranch. Watering systems and the cool desert nights must appeal to them. Containers were filled with geraniums and the Moody’s had a wonderful large orange tree full of oranges to pick and a glorious climbing rose about to pop out.

Moving on to Palm Springs, CA, colorful snapdragons still seemed to be the plants of choice to brighten flowerbeds, again enjoying the warm days and cool nights. Bill Hall has a delightful garden there filled with a lovely collection of annuals that he puts in each fall. He is very skillful planting different combinations of plants and his flowerbeds were charming. Perennials don’t often survive the intense summer heat, but Bill’s beautiful rose garden survives through the summer with irrigation and comes into glorious bloom in the fall. The roses will bloom again in the spring after a radical pruning in early winter.

Closer to home, my husband and I visited Windy Acres Farm in Calverton, NY, which is on the North Fork of Long Island. Austin and Rita Funfeld have grown fig trees there for many years. John discovered the Farm when he went out to that part of Long Island to have some pre-1970 car shock absorbers repaired by Apple Hydraulics, which was across the street from the nursery. I had planted a “Chicago Hardy” Ficus Carica fig tree in my Fishers Island garden about three years ago, which I bought at Logee’s Nursery in Danielson, CT. Last fall it produced a good crop of figs and we enjoyed the fig preserves I made all last winter. Fig trees can also be raised in large containers, but they must be brought into a non-freezing area in the winter. Since I don’t have such a place to winter my tree, I need to leave it in the ground in the garden. Mario Torres and I cut the tree back to about three feet the beginning of November and then wrap the tree up in insulation with a large tarp over it. Mario is an expert in tying it all up so it doesn’t blow apart in our winter winds.

I was therefore interested to learn that there was an actual Fig Tree nursery in our difficult growing area. So I happily accompanied John when he went back to Calverton to pick up his repaired shock absorbers.

Austin Funfeld greeted us both warmly and showed us around his large hoop house that was filled with fig trees. His favorite varieties are “Turkish Brown” and “White and Italian Purple”. He said that the key to growing figs outside in our climate is to not unwrap them until May 10th due to the cold wind off the ocean. And that it was fine to cover our tree up as we did as long as it is in a somewhat protected area, which it is being planted against the garden stonewall. It has been amazing to see how quickly our tree grows once it is unwrapped in the spring. I bought a “Turkish Brown” from Mr. Funfeld, who was delightful and informative to talk to, but he was a bit disappointed when John and I turned down his offer of homemade blueberry brandy that he clearly had been enjoying before our arrival.
### Bulletin Board

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>Union Chapel Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>4:30 pm - Ferry Commissioners’ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>2:00 pm - Board of Ed. Budget &amp; Board Vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>5:00 pm - Board of Ed. Annual Meeting</td>
<td>4:45 pm - Spring Concert and Art Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>9:00 am - Library’s Tiny Tot Time</td>
<td>12:00 pm - Senior Luncheon</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>4:30 pm - Judo Practice</td>
<td>5:00 pm - Pequot Openings</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>10:00 am - Union Chapel Worship Service</td>
<td>1:00 pm - Church Tea Golf Tournament</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>2:00 pm - Ladies Crafts &amp; Coffee</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>9:00 am - Library’s Tiny Tot Time</td>
<td>4:30 pm - Harbor Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>4:30 pm - Judo Practice</td>
<td>5:00 pm - RWVD Commissioners’ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>5:00 pm - OLGQ Rummage Open</td>
<td>10:00 am - Union Chapel Spring Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>8:00 am - Sea Shifter Marathon</td>
<td>9:00 am - IHP Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>10:00 am - Union Chapel Worship Service</td>
<td>5:00 pm - PI Ferry Public Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>12:00 pm - Memorial Day Parade</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>1:00 pm - Memorial Day Picnic</td>
<td>3:30 pm - Ferry Commissioners’ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>2:00 pm - Ladies Crafts &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>5:30 pm - Our Lady of Grace Mass</td>
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### Senior Lunch

Everyone over 60 is invited to join us for Senior Lunch!

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.

This season’s final lunch is on May 17 at Union Chapel.

New season starts in October 2018.

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**Annual Supporting Membership** provides access to everything in the building except the Fitness Center. Members may reserve spaces for private use, such as telework, and are entitled to discounts on many programs. **Fitness Center Membership** includes the above, with full use of the Fitness Center and a key card for building access during non-business hours. Your FICC cards will be activated by the start date of your choice!

Visit [www.ficommunitycenter.org/membership](http://www.ficommunitycenter.org/membership) to sign up or renew online today.

Volunteer Fire and EMT personnel, year-round residents, club employees, and anyone with special circumstances, should contact Sarah Porter (631) 788-7683 x1 to receive their membership discounts.
**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**

**LIBRARY BOOK GROUP**
- 6/14: White Rose Black Forest
- 7/12: Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine

**FISHERS ISLAND Library**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT STATIONS NOW OPEN THURSDAYS**
- TRANSFER: 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- COMPOST: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**ISLAND COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**
- Memorial Weekend
- May 26
- 4:00 PM at the Community Center
- Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend the ICB meetings.

**Library Book**
- 6/14: White Rose Black Forest
- 7/12: Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine

**May Masthead by Jane Ahrens**

**Race Rock Lighthouse Cleat**

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**FISHERS ISLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Fishers Island Development Corporation**
- Box 604
- Fishers Island NY 06390
- 631-788-7251
- www.fidco.us
- Chris Finan
- Manager

**2018 GATE PASS INFORMATION**

It is time to renew your gate pass for the east end roads of Fishers Island. We are introducing our new online system for anyone who had a sticker last year and would like to renew with the same vehicle class and license plate.

Please visit [www.fidco.us/cast-end-stickers/](http://www.fidco.us/cast-end-stickers/) for gate pass rates and information.

For online renewal and gate pass forms please visit [www.fidco.us/gate-pass-renewal-request/](http://www.fidco.us/gate-pass-renewal-request/).

Please also note that stickers will no longer be sold at the Utility Office. All stickers must be picked up at the Gate House.

**Please Note:** When entering your license plate information, just type in letters and numbers with no dashes, dots or spaces. Example ABC-123 should be entered as ABC123.

If anyone has any questions or needs assistance, please check in with Jim Wall and John Bergquist at the Gate House.

**Gate House:** (631) 788-7215. Please feel free to leave a message if no answer.

**Gate House Hours:** Open most days from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**Gate House Email:** gatehouse@fishersisland.net