Good night summer

Good night sea salt hair

Good night lighthouse

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All No-Fault (Accident) Carriers
IN THIS ISSUE

9  FI HEROES HONORED AT TOWN HALL
   Shoshanna McCollum
10 INTERVIEW:
   SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
13 FI LIGHTHOUSE VIPS TAKE A SEA CRUISE
   Lorna Luniewski
14 KIDS SANDPIPER RACE 2018
   Steven Einig
18 SUP RACE FOR THE GREATER GOOD AT BAY SHORE YACHT CLUB
   Laura Schmidt
22 GERALD O’ROURKE AND RUBY BRIDGES
   Danielle Lipiec
23 CATHERINE O’BRIEN’S ESSENTIAL VENTURE
   Emma Boskovski
24 SIX-PACKS:
   IF YOU LIKE IT, DON’T PUT A RING ON IT!
   Kirsten Corssen
25 OSPREY FAMILY MAKES SMITH POINT HOME
   Emma Boskovski
31 NEW FINS SUPERINTENDENT NAMED
   Laura Schmidt
46 OBITUARIES
   John Burke and Danielle Lipiec
49 LEAVING FIRE ISLAND
   Brenda de Jong

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

12 KISMET
   Braddie White
15 SALTAIRE
   Hugh O’Brien
16 ATLANTIQUE
   Kirsten Corssen
17 OCEAN BAY PARK
   Barbara Pacilia
19 OCEAN BEACH AREA
   Joey Macellaro
20 CHERRY GROVE
   Robert Levine
21 FIRE ISLAND PINES
   Robert Levine

Cartoons by Eric Pedersen

IN EVERY ISSUE

42 ADULT COLORING PAGE
   Lauren Stevens
37 ADVICE COLUMN
   Camille Mercogliano
8 AROUND & ABOUT
39 BOOK REVIEW
   Rita Plum
50 BUSINESS DIRECTORY
35 CALENDAR
54 DAY IN THE LIFE OF FIRE ISLAND
   Reader Contributed Photos
33 DINING REVIEW:
   THE LAKEHOUSE
   Lorna Luniewski
44 ENVIRONMENT
   Karl Grossman
45 EYE ON FI
   Timothy Boiger
43 HEALTH & WELLNESS
   Donnie DeSanti
47 HISTORY
   Thomas McGann
7 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
38 NYC THEATRE
   Leonard Feigenblatt
40 SHOPPING AROUND
41 SYBIL SEZ
   Sybil Bruncheon

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Editor’s Window

by Shoshanna McCollum
editor@fireisland-news.com

Fire Island Family

ONE SATURDAY MORNING back in June my husband’s adult tricycle was stolen. It’s a mundane crime that happens on Fire Island any given day. John had switched to three wheels a few months prior due to health issues he has been dealing with. “Shame on him for not locking the trike he should have. He needs it for mobility and his feeding rounds,” I posted on our Ocean Beach Facebook page, not expecting much luck. The trike would be returned early that evening thanks to neighbors keeping a watchful eye, and Ocean Beach Police combing the neighborhood – one woman even offered to lend him her adult trike – we were amazed and humbled. I’ve been here 24 summers, and Fire Island has become my family.

It is only appropriate that this final issue of the season pays tribute to this extended family, and our Fire Island News family as well. Hugh O’Brien’s wife, Catherine, has been diligently taking photos to support his Saltaire column for years. Upon launching her audiobook publishing company, we want you to know about it, and cheer her on. George Brescia is the spouse of our own John Burke (a.k.a. Sybil Bruncheon), so when book review columnist Rita Plum learned about George’s book, she suggested it be our closing title this season. Three cheers for the loved ones behind all the writers, photographers, and staff of this paper. They are the unsung heroes helping us in so many ways, and often have to fly solo on errands or to that summer dinner party so we can make our deadlines.

Our wonderful girl-power reporter team also deserves a round of applause. Emma Boskovski, Anika Lanser, Danielle Lipiec, and Laura Schmidt may be young – but it is no exaggeration to say they are the best reporting crew this paper has ever had. They proved themselves to be serious, focused, and unflappable in a range of assignment situations all summer long, and we are proud of them. Also huge thanks to all our columnists and photographers, some who have been with us for years, as well as the newer ones who soon will be. Did you know that nearly 25 people contribute to Fire Island News in any given issue of the paper? That’s impressive!

We cannot forget our sales staff, Bessi Dion and Beth Errico. These ladies sold ads all summer long, and because of them we can continue to make this paper available to the public free of charge. The advertisers themselves are too numerous to mention individually, but please seek them out and give back with your patronage! They are the family businesses that support Fire Island and keep South Shore Long Island unique and special.

Suggestions and comments are important to us! Please share how you feel...
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Last day to postmark absentee ballot: Nov 5, 2018
Mailed absentee ballot must be received by BOE: Nov 13, 2018
Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to BOE: Nov 6, 2018

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WE WANT TO EXPRESS our gratitude for all the expressions of sympathy at our father’s passing last month. Our dad loved giving back to the community of Ocean Beach through his music. He started playing as a young teenager and continued until he was 106. Many years of jamming at our house on Wilmot led to concerts on the dock and for the past 16 years, the infamous summer Chill-outs.

Our father was an incredible man who enjoyed life to the fullest with his writing, his travels, his love of languages, his golf and especially his music. To honor our father’s legacy of helping young, up-and-coming jazz musicians, we have set up the Les Lieber Fund at the Jazz Foundation of America. The monies donated will help young jazz musicians develop their talent. If you are interested in contributing, please go to the Jazz Foundation of America’s website at www.jazzfoundation.org/donate and select the “Les Lieber Fund” from the drop-down menu. Alternatively, you can send a check payable to “Jazz Foundation of America” (with memo «Les Lieber Funds») to the Jazz Foundation of America, 322 West 48th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Thank you again. We hope to continue our father’s legacy with more music at the beach.

Sincerely,
David and Jon Lieber

THE VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH unanimously passed a resolution opposing offshore drilling and seismic air gun blasting in the Atlantic. As a frequent visitor to Fire Island, I am thrilled that Ocean Beach is being proactive in opposing offshore drilling. New York is still very much up for grabs in the Department of the Interior’s current draft proposed program (DPP) for offshore drilling in the Atlantic. Congratulations Ocean Beach for taking this important step to protect New York’s coastal economy and ecosystem!

—Brian Langloss

I AM A LONG TIME Fire Island summer resident, conceived on A Street in Seaview, and in the same house and in the sweet ocean 60 some years. I love your issue 7 cover photo. Robert Sherman indeed again captures celebratory physical joy of being alive together in summer on fire island. My only sadness about the shot is the whiteness of it. Our island has been segregated in many ways for too long. Interestingly, this has been changing recently, with the democratizing force of the share economy, with VRBO and Airbnb, it has become much easier for a much more diverse population to come and enjoy our wonderful island. I know, not everyone likes these sites or the share economy, but this aspect is really great. Thank you for all the great work you are doing there,

—Loring Vogel

On the afternoon in August, I was sitting on the beach in Fair Harbor when a man began to reel in a shark on his fishing rod about 200 feet from the nearest lifeguard station. As he brought it in, a crowd gathered. Fifteen minutes later he beached the shark, revealing it to be about 4 feet long. He took a picture with it, cut the line, leaving the hook in it’s mouth, then struggled to push it through the sand till it finally caught a wave and swam back to safety. It was upsetting to watch this creature fighting to swim back out as the fisher tired it out for 15 minutes for the sake of getting a picture with it. And also disappointing when they left the large hook in its mouth, leaving it bleeding, and susceptible to infection.

As is known throughout the island, a 13-year old boy and a 12-year old girl were bitten by sharks in Fire Island waters on July 18th. So I have to wonder why people think it a good idea to bait waters where people are swimming, attracting sharks to come closer to shore.

The result is negative for both parties. Humans are more likely to be attacked, and sharks are more likely to be seen as a threat to humans and hunted. We are stepping into their home when we step into the water, and the vast majority of the time, they are very gracious hosts. But, as a recent Fire Island news article points out, “…nothing sets off a media frenzy like a shark attack.”

A few days later, I was back at the same spot on the beach. One of the men from the fishing crew that caught the shark was back in the same spot, with two lines in the ocean, daring another shark to bite the line. Sharks are an integral part of the ocean’s fragile and threatened eco system, and we need to do our part to protect them. Asking people to be more responsible about where they fish doesn’t seem like such a hardship to us humans.

—Ali Nardi

CORRECTION: In our August 17, 2018, edition of Fire Island News, we could not locate a photographer attribution for the image of Wolcott Gibbs in Thomas McGann’s history column on page 46. Long Island-based Author Thomas Vinciguerra has since informed us that renowned German-born photographer, Hilde Hurbuch, who lived from 1905-1971, took this portrait. Thomas Vinciguerra is the author of two books that chronicle the life of Wolcott Gibbs, “Backward Ran Sentences” (Bloomsbury, 2011) and “Cast of Characters” (W.W. Norton & Co., 2015). Both of these works were among the sources Mr. McGann referenced in compiling his article.

Wolcott Gibbs
in his prime.
(Photoby Hilde Hurbuch)

Cartoon by Eric Pederson

"Morty, you have to go back to the office sometime."
AROUND & ABOUT >>

Summer to Remember

IN EVERY GIVEN SUMMER, and every given issue, our talented photographers, staff and contributors alike send us more fine photos than we can make room for. Some we planned to publish, only to cut them at the last minute for breaking news. Our last issue of the season gives us a chance to bring you these images, and to recollect our favorite moments over the summer while doing so. Enjoy!

▲ True grit was captured by Robert Sherman’s lens at the Fire Island Lifeguard Tournament of 2018.

▲ Eli at the Ocean Beach Kid’s Art Show donating the proceeds of his skillful drawings back to charity. Check out the amazing draftsmanship of that oceanfront home! (Photo by Lauren Chenault)

▲ Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) set up their table at Fire Island Lighthouse Day of the Shark event to educate the public during a time of media frenzy, and to articulate the difference between fact and fiction. Congratulations to AMCS on their recent $100K grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration so they may continue their good work. (Courtesy Amanda Vaskas/FILPS)

▲ School teacher and Kismet resident Jeanene Crawson (standing far right) with her young students. Fresh faces at Woodhull School graduation remind us all that the cycle is eternal. We will begin again. (Photo by Lauren Chenault)

▲ Seaview takes its ballgames seriously, with the Gurian-Gardner Memorial Over-Under Game teaching good sportsmanship to the next generation of Fire Islanders. (Photo by Robert Sherman)
Fire Island Heroes Honored at Islip Town Hall
By Shoshanna McCollum

TRAGEDY WAS AVOIDED on Fourth of July, thanks to some fast acting lifeguards, and a ferry captain and his crew, all who were honored at Islip Town Hall on Aug. 21, 2018. According to compiled eyewitness accounts, as well as a statement by David Anderson of Fire Island Ferries, Inc. (FIFI) of Bay Shore, a 4-year-old boy, holding his mother’s hand, slipped between a ferry and the dock while boarding a 5:20 p.m. ferry bound for Seaview.

Off duty Town of Islip (TOI) Head Lifeguard Frank Lepore and his children, Hanna and Sam Lepore, also TOI lifeguards, were returning from Fire Island after a day’s shift, when they, along with the ferry crew, sprang into action. Ferry Captain Mike Miller and Frank Lepore both dove into the water, while the Lepore children and FIFI crew members, Michael Hand and Noah Chalvet, used their bodies to push the multi-ton vessel a safe distance from the bulkhead, so the child would not be crushed should the ferry get caught in a wake. Much to everyone’s relief, the young boy was retrieved unharmed.

Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter bestowed honorable citations to all parties involved in the rescue. A second ceremony is planned at the Seaview Association meeting scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 2, at Fire Island Synagogue.

"You coax the blues right out of the horn..." Homecoming Queen Rose Levine and her entourage on the day of the Invasion. (Photo by Susan Kravitz)

Donna Piranha made a splash on the beach as she donned a dramatic pink cape to raise money for Concerned Women of the Grove (CWOG) in July. (Photo courtesy of J. Quinn)
INTERVIEW:
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand first stepped into the role of U.S. Senator as an appointee by former New York Governor David Patterson in 2009, to complete the term of Hillary Rodham Clinton after she was appointed Secretary of State by President Barack Obama. She retained her seat outright in a special election in 2010, and was re-elected to a full six-year term in 2012. In less than a decade, the former congresswoman from Upstate New York has become a major voice for the Democratic Party within the upper legislative chamber. We did not wish to squander this rare opportunity to speak with the senator; therefore the questions for this interview have been compiled by three separate FIN staff writers to better reflect the range of concerns of our whole readership: Robert Levine, for the eastern end of Fire Island; Lorna Luniewski, South Shore Long Island; and Shoshanna McCollum, western Fire Island.

Fire Island News (FIN): What do you feel has been your greatest achievements so far during your tenure as a United States Senator?
Kirsten Gillibrand (KG): One of my greatest achievements was working to pass the 9/11 Health Bill, including a second time to make it permanent. Our brave first responders sacrificed their whole lives to serve others, and on that horrific day these heroes ran up the burning towers when everyone else was running down. They are now sick and literally dying from working on the pile at Ground Zero, and to have Congress turn its collective backs on them was infuriating. Today, these heroes will always have access to the health care they so desperately need and deserve.

I was proud to lead the fight on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” a policy that was one of the most corrosive and terrible policies in terms of denying someone’s basic civil rights and civil liberties. To say to someone you cannot serve this country even though you want to sacrifice everything for this nation was wrong, and it harmed our national security. Today, our military is stronger because all of our service members are free to serve openly with respect and dignity.

I am proud that I wrote and helped pass the STOCK Act, which finally made insider trading by members of Congress illegal so that nobody is above the law.

And I am proud to have helped create a national conversation about sexual assault and harassment in the workplace with three bipartisan bills to take on this scourge in the military, on college campuses and in the halls of Congress. This conversation about workplace safety, along with another national conversation we have led about paid leave and the economy goes to whether we value women in our society. Both conversations are really important and I will not stop fighting for progress.

Q: What basic human rights do you feel are most imperiled today?
KG: The president has undermined our sense of security, our sense of what’s right, and our balance of powers, which keeps our democracy stable. He’s tried to undermine freedom of religion with the Muslim ban, and he’s promoted freedom of religion as an excuse to discriminate against others. He’s tried to undermine our sacred freedom of the press, and he’s tried to undermine the independence of the judiciary. And now he’s been implicated in a federal crime, and his nominee for the Supreme Court, who could eventually have to rule on a subpoena of the president, thinks that the president is above the law. All of this is dangerous for our democracy, and we all must fight back against it.

FIN: With recent and pending judicial appointments, do you think that women’s reproductive rights will be eradicated by the U.S. Supreme Court?
KG: President Trump promised he would nominate someone to the Supreme Court who would “automatically” vote to overturn Roe v. Wade. We should believe him when he says that. If Judge Kavanaugh is confirmed by the Senate, then women’s rights are going to come under attack. The Supreme Court could take away women’s reproductive rights, they could tell employers that they don’t have to provide birth control to their workers, and they could tell women that they aren’t allowed to make their own decisions with their own doctors about their own health.

FIN: Your campaign during the 2018 midterm elections seems very broad-based as you have been advocating for people running for office in all levels of government across the country. Can you explain this strategy?
KG: If we want a different outcome, we need to change the dynamics in government and change who has a seat at the table, because women’s priorities and solutions are different. And that’s exactly what’s been happening over the last year and a half. Since President Trump was sworn in, more women than ever before have been raising their voices, speaking out, and demanding to be heard – and it is changing our country for the better. We saw it starting with the Women’s March. We saw it with the defeat of Roy Moore in Alabama, with a huge turnout of black women voters. And now a record number of women are running for office, and they’re winning. All of this is a testament to the power of women’s voices.

FIN: In a recent interview with CNN’s Chris Cuomo, you said, ‘We believe that we should protect families who need our help and that is not what ICE is doing today, and that’s why I believe you should get rid of it, start over, reimagine it and build something that actually works.’ What does a reimagined ICE look like to you?
KG: I believe we need to separate the criminal justice and immigration missions and reimagine ICE under a new agency with a different mission and different leadership. According to news reports, 19 elite investigative agents agree with separating these two missions because President Trump’s immigration policies are getting in the way of their mission of focusing on transnational crime and terror risks. The president’s immigration policies are immoral and inhumane and his administration has no real plan to reunite children with their parents – this is an ongoing crisis that demands accountability for its incompetence. I believe in border security, which is handled by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). They have been our first line of defense and I thank the hard working officers who work at all our ports of entry. I have supported bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the past to bolster funding for border security.

FIN: When we last saw you on Fire Island, you addressed people at a private gathering in Fire Island Pines on Aug. 12, 2017. We all left the party that day to learn of the tragic Unite the Right riots that took place practically within the same hour in Charleston, Virginia. Reflecting back one year later, what are your thoughts on that day?
KG: On the issue of white supremacy, there is only one side: It is an evil that should not be ignored or tolerated. There is no place in our country for this ideology. We all need to continue to speak out and show leadership where we are lacking it, and that means standing up and speaking out when equality is in jeopardy and hateful ideologies are undermining our common values. One year after that tragic weekend, we must continue to speak out against hatred and bigotry and make it clear that we as a nation are all better for our diversity.
HAPPY LABOR DAY! These last two weeks of August are always a busy and enjoyable time despite a little or a lot of rain here and there. It was great to see Dawn’s mother, Pat, back for her annual visit. We met on a dripping dock under leaden skies, waiting for the freight boat to unload. The East Lighthouse Luau, usually on the beach, was moved to “Brown Sugar” when hostesses Debbie Epstein, Ginny Butler and Gen Higgens bowed to the threat of unpredictable weather. There were lots of people and everyone brought something to eat or drink. New homeowner, Ella, made a big hit with her pierogies, kielbasa and sauerbraten. Wooden Horse Races were held and kids swirled in authentic hula skirts. On the same weekend, the Kismet Fire Department Auxiliary held a final meeting and party, with lots of kudos going to hard working volunteers. I missed the drag queen show, but hear it was a standing room only event.

There also is a bit of stress at this time of year for everyone. Restaurants are overflowing, but at the same time young servers and staff are heading back to school. Houseguests helpfully put everything away in unique and undiscoverable places. Denizens of group houses begin to find the quirks of housemates that seemed so charming in June, become a bit wearing in late August. Conversation can lag when we see the same people at party after party. Even good gossip runs stale. Navigating our walks becomes a game of zigzag with so many renters, guests and children with so much paraphernalia. Still, you can’t begrudge them: The sun is finally out and they are so happy. This is paradise, where children can run free with minimal supervision, where beautiful pet birds of red and green surprisingly appear on an Oak Walk deck, where the beach is steps away from dawn to dusk. On the dark side, someone – it must be a visitor(s) – has let their big dog drop big loads mid-sidewalk. Sometimes, tempers flare. A recent argument that began over the inappropriateness of tossing garbage in the bay marina ended with the tosser in the bay along with his leavings. Others gathered. Harsh words were exchanged. The grass is still growing wildly, but the phragmites are drying out, and spiders are spinning their webs everywhere. Gypsy moths are building cocoons in trees. Unfortunately this can really damage or kill a tree so Caroline and George have adopted new identities as “Gypsy Busters” to help friends and neighbors with relocation. Feel free to call upon them if you notice one in your trees.

It’s Labor Day! It’s the end of summer? Not really. After the parties, barbeques, and terrific music from downtown (Rich Mahogany, Crucial Experiment, guitarist Jose Conde, to name a few) there is so much to look forward to. The BIG heat is gone, replaced by gentle warm breezes and cool nights. September brings shining days with crystal clear blue skies. Best of all, The Taste of Kismet is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., in the firehouse. Krishna Lambe and Joanne Agoglia, have recruited some of Kismet’s best cooks to provide a hundred servings of their favorite recipes so everyone can have a “taste.” Volunteers are tasked to put out flyers, set up tables, sell tickets and clean up. There are still plenty of openings for cooks and volunteers so drop an email to joanneaa339@gmail.com.

Hold the presses! This just in: Dana submitted video of an Aug. 25 shark rescue (probably tangled in monofilament fishing line), people and dolphins watching. Check Facebook Kismet Homeowners.

Upcoming Events
Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: KLAW Fall Book Sale, Seabay and Burma.
Sunday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.: KCA Fall Meeting.

2. Victoria, Tess, Ciara, and Maya show off authentic hula skirts.
4. Sam Wood opens Comedy Night.
ON A BEAUTIFUL THURSDAY, Aug. 23, more than 70 VIPs (Volunteers in the Park), boarded the Sea Jet Ferry in Orient, and enjoyed a two-hour Long Island Lights cruise, showcasing several lighthouses in and around the waters of New York and Connecticut. For volunteers who are already in love with their own Fire Island Lighthouse, this was a chance to learn about the history and challenges of other lights in our local waters.

According to Board Member Tony Femminella, 174 people volunteer at the Lighthouse, which saw about 191,000 visitors last year alone. Femminella, who gives tower tours to guests, also leads tours during field trips. “The kids are great,” he stated, noting that about 6,000 students climbed the 182 steps during the last school year.

Board Member Ginny Marchese, who in addition to other duties, is involved with the Family Seaside Adventure program during the summer, mentioned that one of the most popular “adventures” is the seining day. “It’s a chance for the kids to see what’s in our bay.”

I spoke with many of the volunteers on board, and the one thing they all have in common is their enthusiasm for the jobs they do at the lighthouse. From giving tower tours to leading field trips to reenacting lifesaving drills to working in the gift shop, the VIPs, who travel from near and far for the experience, all said they are happy to take on any job that is needed on any given day.

Fire Island Lighthouse celebrates its 160th anniversary this year. See the calendar on page 35 for a special event listing.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Fire Island Lighthouse, contact Amanda Vaskas at 631-661-4876.

Volunteers at a recent Family Seaside Adventure event, held on Wednesdays throughout the summer. Left to right: Tony Gubitosa (as the Dad, Rocky), Regina DeMarco (the Mom), Tony Femminella (the Tower), Kathy Hodge and her grandson Brendan (the Narrator and Robert) and Penny Post (sound effects). (Photo by Amanda Vaskas/FILPS)
Kids Sandpiper Race 2018
By Steven Einig • Photos by Robert Sherman

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY seems like a long time when you say it out loud. But it’s been 25 fun years that I have been organizing the kids race and I have enjoyed it more each year. This year I woke up to a beautiful chalk art picture of a Sandpiper in front of my house, compliments of volunteer Richie Dziuba.

Kevin Schilling’s maintenance crew, as usual, was great setting us up, which is always difficult because of the incoming tide. Makai Ragusa had the lifeguards assisting us and setting up those beautiful American Flags that lifeguard Nick made sure never touched the ground. Andy Becher was on hand from OB Police Department to help with the crowd. Chief Ian Levine, Andy Miller, Susan Lucks and John Pappas were all on hand from the Fire Department to escort the kids and provide medical assistance.

We had our first ever quad failure and had to push Ian’s vehicle (and Ian) out of the way until the back-up vehicle arrived. Another interesting moment occurred when it seemed like it was taking the 9 to 11 year olds a very long time to finish their race. Apparently, someone took down the quarter-mile marker a little too soon and the kids ran to the half-mile marker for a full mile. Okay – note to self for next year.

I saw Mayor Mallott in the crowd cheering on his grandchildren. Despite a late delivery, Kenny Goodman and his assistant, Leah Tashman, worked at warp speed to string up the Kenny necklaces for the winners, which my wife Janet rushed over to pick up for the awards ceremony.

Speaking of awards, my apologies to the runners who didn’t receive a medal at the race. I overlooked a box of medals but thanks to the quick thinking of volunteer Geri Onorato, we obtained contact information from those who needed a medal. They will be available at the Village Office starting Monday, Aug. 27. I can’t give enough thanks to the staff of the Village Office, and particularly Sara Krug, for handling the paperwork including the sign-in sheets and last minute registrations.

I was very happy to have my daughter Ilana there to assist along with her boyfriend, Kyle, and my son, Morgan. Sophia Mercogliano told me she passed up a birthday party on the mainland to make the race – big thanks to her parents, Chris and Laura, who donated the water bottles for the finishers.

At the end of the race during clean up, two of my “veteran” volunteers, Morty Biederman and Bobby Stern, turned to me and said, “Why are we schlepping tables, there’s 164 years between the two of us, where the hell are all those young volunteers when you need them?” We laughed and finished cleaning up all of the Sandpiper stuff until next year.

Another special thanks to Linna and the Ocean Beach Historical Society for hosting the Sandpiper Exhibition this summer. It included 25 years of pictures and memorabilia. Next year, we’ll do it again. Visit our OBSANDPIPER page on Facebook.

Results
Boys ages 4-5: 1st Michael Umstead, 2nd Emmett Hasemann, 3rd Chuck Lion
Girls ages 4-5: 1st Avery Grady, 3rd Rachel Portnoy
(2nd place information not available)
Boys ages 6-8: 1st Nathan Blake, 2nd Conner Umstead, 3rd Liam Becker
Girls ages 6-8: 1st Scarlett Lion, 2nd Nicole Scheinblum, 3rd Sonia Siegal
Boys ages 9-11: 1st Gavin Grashow, 2nd Nicholas Romano, 3rd Jack Tripoli
Girls ages 9-11: 1st Dylan McElhinney, 2nd Addison Coletti, 3rd Oliva Mercogliano
Boys ages 12-14: 1st Austin Schulman, 2nd Jake Cohen, 3rd Joseph Siegal
Girls ages 12-14: 1st Finley McElhinney, 2nd Cameron Coletti, 3rd Caroline McEnroe
THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY FINALLY BROKE to tolerable levels, and that golden autumnal hue [sic] has appeared, both divine signs telling us summer’s sadly winding down and it’s time for us to do likewise. Of course, we’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to climes from the city to the South. We’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to climes from the city to the South. We’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to climes from the city to the South. We’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to climes from the city to the South. We’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to climes from the city to the South. We’ll linger a while through much of the fall, but by October most folks will be AWOL from this barrier isle, coddled snugly in climes from the city to the South. Right now we have the usual run-down of the countdowns to
IT’S HUMAN NATURE to want to explore this beautiful planet. Whether it’s the open ocean or the silent woods, these landscapes mesmerize us and leave us wanting more. The Appalachian Mountain Club is a group started for those craving the outdoor experience among some of the best places in the nation left to explore.

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) was founded in 1876. This club quickly became a matter of devotion in many members’ lives, giving them refuge from congested urban settings for a spell of time. Room and board in their rustic lodges, huts, and cabins continues to be a benefit of their membership. AMC’s Northeast chapter has more than 2,000 outdoor recreation activities per year, and more than 12,000 members that reside in the New York City metro area, Southeastern New York, and Northeastern New Jersey.

AMC’s Fire Island compound right here in Atlantique has been a fixture since 1928. Keeping a modest profile, one can forget it’s in our own backyard. While AMC may be more famous for their remote mountain retreats, the Atlantique cabin standing on lush grounds provides an uplifting beach-going experience.

After having the pleasure of visiting and talking with volunteers and guests at the Fire Island location, I was able to see what the club was all about. It’s like a hostel on Fire Island. Inside the clubhouse there are two shared rooms with many bunk beds, a communal kitchen, and bathrooms. Outside you’ll find a selection of small sailboats, kayaks, beach chairs and umbrellas. On the weekends you’ll see their activities in action including various game nights, bird watching, and just relaxing on Fire Island’s world-class beaches. This location is also open to non-members of the AMC that can pay per night, with sign-ups online, making this a favorite AMC location.

One of the volunteers is John Maier. He has many rolls at the AMC. He teaches sailing, does maintenance work, and cooks delicious food for the members on the weekends, so it is safe to say he stays busy. “It is truly the perfect place to spend a summer volunteering,” says John. “And the perfect place for members or non-members to visit with many activities.”

Unfortunately, this summer just might be the last for the beloved AMC Fire Island cabin. In early March 2018, the Boston-based AMC executive board proposed shutting down and selling the facility. An increasingly residential nature to Fire Island over time, as well as climate change were among their cited concerns.

Regulars who frequent the cabin cried foul, saying the board made assumptions without visiting the location, or consulting the member constituency. A resistance movement quickly organized. The backlash prompted the executive committee to give the matter a second look. A site visit to Fire Island took place just a few weeks ago. Regulars to AMC Fire Island are hopeful their evaluation went well, but final decisions on the matter have yet to be made.

Fire Island too gentrified? Let’s hear what the neighbors have to say. Sue (who you met in my last column) expressed only positive feelings for the AMC presence here. “I think the best thing about the AMC is that it gives people who might not otherwise be able to experience our beautiful beach a chance to do so,” said Sue. “We are more than happy to share our little slice of heaven with them.”

If the Atlantique facility is sold, some prime virgin real estate will be on the market, and subject to development. The AMC executive board’s vision of gentrification will be that much closer to the truth.

Until next summer … be well Atlantique!
caught the first fish. He also won the pool with an afternoon of fluke fishing. Of course, my brother, Mike Supple, we boarded the “Captree Princess” for on the bay for a practice run. Along with Pat and brother, Stephen Lott, and his wife, Diane, fishing running, we decided to take our houseguests, my catch the winner or not. Since the bass are not yet end in October. It’s always a good time whether you - season with a bass fishing tournament the first week - of my honeymoon in Greece 31 years ago. Memories of my first visit back in Greece, outside of Athens. It was his first visit back in almost 20 years and his pictures of the beach and the delicious food at the seaside tavernas brought back memories of my honeymoon in Greece 31 years ago. Every year the Fire Island Hotel closes out the season with a bass fishing tournament the first weekend in October. It’s always a good time whether you catch the winner or not. Since the bass are not yet running, we decided to take our houseguests, my brother, Stephen Lott, and his wife, Diane, fishing on the bay for a practice run. Along with Pat and Mike Supple, we boarded the “Captree Princess” for an afternoon of fluke fishing. Of course, my brother, who lives on City Island and goes fishing every day, caught the first fish. He also won the pool with the biggest, beating out Captain Andresen. We all got keepers and the next day totally enjoyed the catch of the day (before). I reported the passing of our Ontario Street friend and neighbor, Frank Ollari, in my first column. On Saturday, Aug. 18, his partner, Mildred Nece, hosted a cocktail party in his honor. The private gathering of 60 was held at the Schooner. This was not a memorial with speeches et al., rather it was a toast to Frank and a celebration of his life. The only “memorial” was a fitting display of Budweiser cans, Frank’s beverage of choice. As I was leaving the party, the Beermann boys, Chris and Luke, were coming in with their grandmother, Joanne Beermann. I did not recognize Luke since he was not wearing his yellow Fire Island Ferry T-shirt. He was sporting a beard, black rimmed glasses, and a blue button down shirt and he looked every bit the part of his new job as a professor of athletic training at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. His brother, Chris, also had big news. He is engaged to his longtime girlfriend, Stephanie Dluginski. His mother, Elaine, told me that they are planning a winter wedding for February of 2020. I was happy to see family matriarch Joanne out and about after some recent health issues. Happy birthday to Joanne in advance.

The circle of life continues. I also reported in that same first issue, that John and Mary “B” McCullough’s son, Emmet, and his wife, Sophia, were expecting. Congratulations to the entire family and welcome to the next generation of McCullough’s in OBP, Liam Flynn McCullough who was born on Aug. 6. Grandpa John told me that the baby’s middle name is a reference to the fact that his parents met at Flynn’s Ocean Bay Park vs Seaview Homeowners game so it will have to remain a cliffhanger until the first column of 2019. Hopefully it will be good news and the trophy will come back home. Congratulations and good luck to all the OBP students beginning or returning to college. Nicholas Borges is entering University of Hartford, Anthony Catanese is starting at St. John’s University and Melodie Rose Catanese has transferred from Iona to the pre-veterinary program at LIU Post – aka C.W. Post. She spent her second summer working at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center caring for animals.

Movies under the stars at the Seaview bay beach have become an end of summer tradition and once again the Seaview Community Fund did not disappoint. Big thanks to them for helping close out the summer with a vintage movie. This year they presented “To Catch a Thief” starring Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. It’s hard to beat that combo on the screen, what’s not to love? The location, the jewels, the dresses and sitting under the stars at the bay watching two screen legends is the closest thing to a drive-in movie you can get on Fire Island. Change is coming to Ocean Bay Park, but we still don’t know when. The change I refer to is the demolition of the remaining beachfront houses to make way for the next phase of the FIMI project. For the third summer we have sat on the beach with these sad, boarded up ghost houses lining the dune from Superior to Seneca. I nicknamed them the Moai, because they remind me of the monoliths that stand guard on Easter Island – watching and waiting for something. We have spent yet another summer in limbo waiting for our turn at the beach restoration that has already taken place to the west of us. Until then, we are like the Moai, sentinels who watch and wait and hope that we make it through yet another season of hurricanes and nor’easters without too much more damage to the beach and our community. Thank you all for reading my musings. I hope you all made your own special memories and I look forward to seeing you all next season.

1. The Happy Hookers. Picture by the deckhand on the “Captree Princess.”
3. Diane Sweeney and Kai.
SUP Race for the Greater Good at Bay Shore Yacht Club

By Laura Schmidt • Photos by Sean Fitzthum

BAY SHORE — The Fourth Annual SUP-at-the-BSYC brought paddleboarders from all over the island, and the country, together to support Save the Great South Bay and South Shore Paddleboards with a morning of racing and camaraderie.

At the Bay Shore Yacht Club, over 90 paddlers, one just 7 years old, took their place on the choppy Great South Bay to compete in their choice of a 1-mile fun race, 3-mile recreational race or 6-mile elite race. Traveling west toward Robert Moses Bridge, competitors faced substantial waves and an unfavorable wind. Despite conditions each participant finished with strength and dignity.

Most of the younger participants were involved in South Shore Paddleboards’ junior paddler program, which brings children on the bay every day to strengthen their paddling skills and learn from experts.

Waiting for participants back on shore were handmade wooden paddleboard trophies, raffles and awards for the top man and woman in the recreational race.

Owner of South Shore Paddleboards Karen Marvin announced the winners and expressed her appreciation for the support she has received after a fire tore her business down almost five months ago. She also addressed working with executive director of Save The Great South Bay, Marshall Brown, to keep the bay clean for future generations.

The two frequently participate in creek and bay cleanups, spreading the word to homeowners about reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers and returning indigenous plants along creeks to filter water before reaching the bay.

 “[The condition of the Great South Bay] may not, in our lifetime, seem like a big, big problem, but 50, 60 years from now, it’s going to be a big problem,” Marvin said. “So, we have to teach our kids to clean it up.”

Craig Stepnowski, a trainer in the junior paddler program, and Erin Hume placed first in the 3-mile race. They used 14-foot boards, and received a paddle courtesy of Evelyn O’Doherty, a National Ambassador team rider for Kialoa Paddles, and a participant in the race. Stepnowski, who started paddling eight years ago after a shoulder injury, graciously donated his awarded paddle to one of his junior paddlers.

“My best advice I can give any paddler, especially the kids, is to have fun,” Stepnowski said. “Sometimes these races get really windy and real tough, but when you’re enjoying it and you can smile, it doesn’t seem so bad.”

Oak Beach resident Charlotte Crowley took third in the women’s 6-mile race with a 12-foot, 6-inch board. Crowley started paddleboarding almost five years ago and felt honored to be among great competitors from all over the country, including Utah and New Jersey.

“I would have loved to have stood up more, but the swells were really huge today,” she said. “I did the best I could. I was up against very strong competitors, and they are amazing, and I’m very humbled.”

The raffles offered attendees great prizes such as nautical artwork donated by Salt & Sea Artist Gene Rogovitz; a Flying Fish SUP made in Florida, donated by South Shore Paddleboards; and rack pads for traveling.

An after-party for paddlers was held in which an American pale ale created by Save The Great South Bay in partnership Blue Point Brewing Company was served. The name of the ale: Drink the Bay Clean.

“We have events like this to raise awareness, and to keep the spirit of paddleboarding and being on the Great South Bay alive,” Marvin said. On this hot, sunny Sunday in August, it’s fair to say they succeeded in this goal.
Season’s End

“TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,” it says in Ecclesiastes. “And a time to every purpose under heaven.” A season may last three months, or a week, or a year, or a decade. Seasons may overlap, stop and start again, be filled with joy or pain: “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”

After seeing and speaking with so many friends and enjoying dinner in our little village on the beach today, it occurred to me that, in spite of the laughing and the mourning and everything else, this has been a good season. Our lives are full here — or at least they can be, even though there is “a time to be born, and a time to die ... a time to keep, and a time to cast away ... a time to keep silent, and a time to speak.”

As a writer, I am thankful for the opportunity to speak to you through the written word every couple of weeks. I am also deeply thankful to all the members of our community who make my job so enjoyable. The input and feedback I have received this summer season has been uplifting and invaluable.

The actions of a few brave souls proved truly invaluable to the life of a 4-year-old boy who slipped between the dock and a Seaview-bound ferry in Bay Shore on July 4. (See article on page 9.)

“We were so pleased to be able to recognize these quick-thinking dedicated employees of Fire Island Ferries who put the needs of others first,” said Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter in a statement. “We were so pleased to be able to recognize these quick-thinking dedicated employees of Fire Island Ferries who put the needs of others first,” said Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter in a statement. “I know that there is nothing better for people than peace, and prosperity in every sea-... a time to keep, and a time to speak.”

As this summer season comes to a close, we look forward to all that awaits us in 2019. By the time we celebrate Memorial Day, our new ferry terminal will begin to see changes and improvements focusing solely on oceans, and Suffolk County Legis-lator Bridget Fleming of East Hampton will be speaking, and light refreshments will be served. The event is being supported by the Ocean Beach Community Fund, which is hosting its last free dock concert of the summer this Saturday, Sept. 1, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

The Fire Island School is accepting evening adult education instructor proposals. Interested parties should send cover letters, résumés, any certifications, and a list of references to Shoshanna McColllum, Adult Education Coordinator, Fire Island UFSD, P.O. Box 428, Ocean Beach, NY 11770.

Kenny Goodman of Ocean Beach opened up the Historical Society for an extra day last week and chatted with visitors about his art pieces on display — including “Early Man,” his first piece, carved out of a chopping block in Kismet in 1969. After nearly 50 years, “Early Man” was sold last weekend and will soon make his home elsewhere. I am glad I caught the artist with his art and snapped a photo.

Joy Rideout, an Ocean Beach year-rounder, tells us she and other members of Islip High School’s class of 1961 recently held a reunion for a sixth year at Houser’s Bar and had a wonderful time. Although fall is setting in, our local establishments remain open to serve patrons. Maguire’s Bayfront Restaurant is currently featuring Sunday football specials in the bar, and CJ’s Restaurant will be hosting an Oktoberfest event in conjunction with the Palms Hotel on Sept. 28 and 29, as well as its annual Halloween party on Oct. 20.

Please don’t forget the Ocean Beach Fire Department Labor Day Pancake Breakfast, always a good time. Be there Sept. 5, at the Ocean Beach Firehouse on Midway and Bayberry Walks from 9 a.m. to noon. The $10 per plate at the door benefits the OBFD.

As this summer season comes to a close, we look forward to all that awaits us in 2019. By the time we celebrate Memorial Day, our new ferry terminal should be operational, complete with police department and community space. With temporary structures out of the way, the recreation area surrounding the terminal will begin to see changes and improvements, as recommended by the village’s Downtown Revitalization Committee.

“I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live,” continues Ecclesiastes. “That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in their toil — that is the gift of God.”

May you enjoy health, happiness, peace, and prosperity in every season and in spite of everything else you may face. Keep the beach in your memory, and I will keep you in mine, until we meet again.

1. Woody Salvan is scouting for new Fishing Club recruits and invites all to the Catch-and-Release tournament on Sept. 1 on the west dock.
2. Kenny Goodman with “Early Man.”
3. Kenny Goodman of Ocean Beach opened up the Historical Society for an extra day last week and chatted with visitors about his art pieces on display — including “Early Man,” his first piece, carved out of a chopping block in Kismet in 1969. After nearly 50 years, “Early Man” was sold last weekend and will soon make his home elsewhere. I am glad I caught the artist with his art and snapped a photo.
4. Joyce Rideout and her gal pals from Islip High Class of 1961 at Houser’s Bar.
CHERRY GROVE
ROSE’S VIEW by Robert Levine

Gay Paradise

THE 2018 HONORS DINNER, sponsored by Cherry Grove Community Association Inc. (CGCAI), was held at the Community House on Saturday, Aug. 18. Two open bars were set up: one on the main floor, the next on the upper level roof patio with the new pergola overlooking the bay. The baby lamb chops, crab cakes, and more were passed around by the handsome young wait staff. Then everyone was invited into the dining room where each table was tastefully set with white tablecloths, napkins, a blue runner, and a lilac colored rose all donated by Ed Haggerty. Only George McGarvey could transform the theatre into an elegant ballroom. Diane Romano, the president of CGCAI, opened the program and Vice President Joyce Yaeger introduced the honorees: Anita Aurricchio, Jack Dowling, Ruth and Susan Freedner (the twins), Valerie Perez, and Evelyn Danko. Unfortunately due to illness, Evelyn was unable to attend. Each honoree had a close friend introduce them including Sharon Weinberg, Todd Erickson, Francine Sardone, Thom “Panz” Hansen, and Sal Piro. The speeches were funny and poignant. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked alongside George to make this grand night happen.

Our one and only Jason Versace left Cherry Grove five years ago to attend Argos University in Tampa, Florida, where he studied to become a psychologist. He married Ray Sinnelli and now they are happily living in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he is working in a hospital and will soon be a full-fledged doctor. Ray has never been to Fire Island, and Jason cannot wait to return. They spent three days here visiting. Larry Lane and Mark Levy sold their Grove house three years ago, but returned to host a dinner for Jason’s Fire Island family. It was good to see Jason and finally meet Ray. Gay Nathan and Julie Paradise had a party to name their house “Gay Paradise.” Welcome back to the Grove Joan and Lorraine who spent three weeks in Maine. Peggy and Cecey spent a week in Saratoga Springs. Peggy Samson and her husband, Marty Byman, who was back from London, had Marty’s mother, Beryl, from Chicago as their guest. Michael Moran and Matthew George (M & M) both celebrated their birthdays in August. It was a two-week celebration with dinner parties, lunches, brunches, cocktails, and pool parties. Fidel Patel hosted a Celebration of Life party for his late partner, Jean Pierre, who was an accomplished pianist. Jean Pierre’s students Jose Mendez, Petr Vancura and Hilien Shyu each played a piece on the piano in his honor. Michael Goldfried played and sang “Le Vie en Rose,” while Bruce-Michael Gelbert sang “Panis Angelicus” by Cesar Franck. It was a lovely tribute.

Farewell and good luck to our bingo heroes Chris and Eileen Alley, who ran bingo at the community house for many years. They announced that they are retiring this season. Hopefully bingo can continue without them. They did a marvelous job organizing, keeping records and working very hard to make this event successful. They live on Long Island and came to the Grove for many events and never missed a Sunday night. I attended Fairy Tale bingo on Aug. 19. Bobby Michel from the Pines was the host. He donated many wonderful books to the raffle winners, and to those who answered the correct answers to his fairy tale questions.

Cherry Grove resident soprano Shirley Ritenour performed “When She Loved Me” at the Community House Arts Project Cabaret Thursday. She sang a range that included Rodgers and Hammerstein to operatic arias in which she excels. Her accompanist was Brian Holman, a wonderful pianist. The audience was thrilled.

Sadly we lost Craig Eberhardt to cancer. With his husband Julian Dorcassen Eberhardt, they kept the legacy of John Eberhardt’s vision of Belvedere alive. Please read his obituary on page 49 of this paper. A memorial service is planned at the Belvedere on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Upcoming Events
- The Arts Project of Cherry Grove presents “Those Were The Days” at the Community House on Sept. 1, from 7-10 p.m. The show has an all-star Cherry Grove cast, directed by Matt Baney and Demitasse. Tickets at the Community House or online at artsprojectcg.org.
- Bakers Wanted: The annual bake sale, sponsored by the Cherry Grove Garden Club, will be held on Sept. 2, at 11 a.m., at the Community House.
- The annual Toga Tea, a benefit for the Arts Project hosted by Roland and Joe, will once again be held at “High Fidelity” on Sunday, Sept. 2, from 4-7 p.m.
- Parker Sargent’s hit film “Grove Girls” will have an encore performance on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 8 p.m. at the Community House.
- “An Evening of Romance and Discovery,” directed by Joe Anania, will play on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 8 p.m. The evening will include two one-act plays “The Bear” by Anton Chekhov, and “Penguin Blues” by Ethan Phillipe, presented at the Community House Theatre.

1. 2018 CGCAI Honorees: Anita Aurricchio, Valerie Perez, Jack Dowling, Susan Freedner, and Ruth Freedner. Evelyn Danko was absent due to illness. (Photo by Susan Kravitz)
2. Jason Versace and Ray Sinnelli honeymoon in the Grove.
3. The name of Gay Nathan’s and Julie Paradise’s house – clever!
4. Shirley Ritenour performed with Brian Holman in her “When She Loved Me” concert at the Community House.
FIRE ISLAND PINES

ROSE’S VIEW by Robert Levine

Politics, Parties and the Pines!

A FUNDRAISER WAS held at Dr. Ed Schulhafer’s and Crayton Robey’s bayfront house for U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand who made her eighth visit to the Pines. She was welcomed into the community as a familiar guest. She spoke about the current atmosphere in the world and how we must continue to go forward. She emphasized that everyone must vote in the next election in November.

She introduced Senator Tammy Baldwin from Wisconsin who made her maiden voyage to Fire Island. Gillibrand also introduced Rufus Gifford, an up and coming politician who is running for congress in Massachusetts. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark under President Obama’s administration. It was his first time to Fire Island as well, and he was the house guest of Todd Sears. Human Rights Campaign (HRC) of Washington D.C., a group that advocates for LGBTQ equality on the federal level, had their annual pool party at the home of Bill Kapfer, Eric Baker, Keith Headley, Eddie Atwell, Phillip McCarthy, Matthew Simonetti, Adam Henry, and David Yardley. Special guest was JoDee Winterhof, senior vice president for policy and political affairs, HRC. It was a beautiful, hot day and the pool was overflowing with boys. Hal Hayes introduced me to Dylan Savini, a principal dancer for Dance Theatre of Harlem, and his partner, Mitch Michnious.

Simultaneously the Splash party, which was sponsored by Callen-Lorde at the home of Gil Neary and Scott Reidel, was also happening. Donnie Roberts, senior director of development and communications for Callen-Lorde, was a great host. A sultry poolside performance given by Kink Haus was fantastic. (They will appear at La MaMa实验剧场 on Sept. 21st).

Diane Friedman and Lynne Kahn lunched at the Canteen with Linda Gottlieb. They are enjoying their time in the Pines after a 10-day cruise on the Star Legend traveling through Alaska. They were only 4 miles from the North Pole. Ward Auerbach and Andy Baker have returned from a vacation in Paris. While they were away Harry Bader, a former Pines homeowner, was house sitting at their beach abode.

Belated birthday wishes to Bill Moore, who is now in Ft. Lauderdale. Tony Award winner Jerry Mitchell has a new hit on Broadway. He is the director and choreographer of “Pretty Woman” at the Nederland Theatre. Many girls attending the show are now wearing red dresses to channel the character of Vivian.

Mark Ostfield made a rare visit to the Pines to be with his partner, Michael Savino. Mark has been with the State Department for 16 years and lives in Washington D.C. when he is not in New York or Fire Island.

We lost our dear friend Tony La Rocco at the age of 74 on Aug. 13. Tony loved the Pines, and he loved life. He lived here since the 1970s with his longtime partner, the late Nick Gioscia. After the death of Nick he met another wonderful man in 2000, by the name of Bill Moore; they wed in 2013. They sold their house in the Pines at the end of last summer. Tony was thrilled to be honored by Pines Conservation Society before he moved in 2017. We will certainly miss him. He was one of the most generous and genuine good-hearted community members. Please read his obituary is published on page 49 of this paper.

Upcoming Events
- “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” directed and choreographed by Joe Borros, will be presented by FIPPAP at Whyte Hall. Dylan Hartwell, who stepped into the role two weeks ago, will play Rocky. Showings are Friday, Aug. 31, at 8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1 and 2, at 6 p.m. Tickets at the harbor or at the door.
- The Pines Conservation Society will have their 2nd annual brunch on Sept. 2, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Whyte Hall. Henry Mueller and Russell Saray are both being honored. A silent auction will be held. Visit pinesconservationsociety.org.
- “Studio 54: The Documentary,” which opened in Sundance last January, and which will open nationally on Oct. 5, will have a premier showing at Whyte Hall on Sept. 8, with festivities beginning at 5:30 p.m., with cocktails and screening. Several Pines residents are featured in the film including Hal Rubinstein, Marcia Stern, and Scott Bromley, who of course designed 54 in 1977.
- Congregation B’Nai Olam is celebrating its 45th annual High Holiday Services at Whyte Hall. Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m., and Monday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 a.m. Yom Kippur services are Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m., and 1 and 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
- Andrew Kurtzman, the proprietor of The Madison, will celebrate the 12th Annual Fire Island Pines Literary and Theatre Weekend on Monday, Oct. 8, at noon. Cast members and creators of “The Band’s Visit” will be the guests along with some other surprises. Christine Pedi will be the MC. Free Admission. For more information email inquiries@themadisonfi.com.

1. RIP Tony La Rocco.
3. NYS Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright, Matthew McMorrow, Jean Shafiroff, Jim McGiunis, Doris Dear, Judith Kason-Windsor, and Donnie Roberts.
Gerald O’Rourke and Ruby Bridges: A Moment in History Together
By Danielle Lipiec

THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES, the young girl who broke boundaries as the first African-American child to attend an all-white school, is one known to many. The account of her brave march to her first day of integrated school in 1960’s Louisiana can be found in history books, and our collective memories. There for it all was Long Island-born U.S. Marshal Gerald O’Rourke. His part in this pivotal moment in history brings the story almost 1,500 miles up to Ocean Beach, to the historical archives of Fire Island.

O’Rourke began his career with the United States government as a criminal investigator with the Maryland State Police, and a deputy U.S. marshal with the U.S. Department of Justice. “My father was very young when he took the U.S. marshal position,” said O’Rourke’s son, Sean O’Rourke. “A lot of people considered him a boy wonder, or not old enough for the position. He proved them wrong.”

Starting as a bodyguard for Robert F. Kennedy, O’Rourke gradually maneuvered his way to the field work he continuously sought early in his career. After some time, O’Rourke found it in himself to express to Kennedy his displeasure with his line of work at the time. “He told Bobby that he didn’t want to be ‘the president’s younger brother’s babysitter anymore,” Sean said. Kennedy asked him what he wanted to do, and soon after, O’Rourke would be in the southern states, enforcing federal school integration orders in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

“That is how he wound up in New Orleans with Ruby Bridges,” Sean said.

A November morning in 1960, in front of William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana, entailed O’Rourke and three other U.S. marshals escorting Bridges to her first day at the all-white school. Even with a potent essence of racism, separated facilities on every corner, and many controversial opinions on the matter of racial integration, O’Rourke expressed to his son an opinion decades ahead of its time.

“The colored people I arrest are not bad people – they just don’t yet have the same opportunities that Caucasians have,” Sean said, quoting his father.

This moment that O’Rourke took part in would come with a photo to prove it, and a famous painting by Norman Rockwell, titled “The Problem We All Live With,” to be displayed in the Rockwell Museum. A copy also can be found in the U.S. Marshal’s Museum in Arkansas.

“All through my childhood my father had a lithograph of the painting hanging on the wall of his office,” Sean said. “He used to tell us, ‘I’m famous,’ and point to the picture.”

As a hospital corpsman in the Navy during the Korean War, youngest lead criminal investigator in Maryland State Police history, U.S. marshal, independent security management consultant, founding member of the Maryland State Police Alumni Association, adjunct professor at John Jay College and father to seven children, O’Rourke did not live a dull life.

“He was very humble about all of his accomplishments,” Sean said. And with six of his seven children being Long Island-born along with O’Rourke himself, it’s difficult to separate his story from the island. “He loved Fire Island, he came here very frequently with his boat. Now my brother and I always rent out here,” Sean said.

At the age of 63 when this article went to print, Ruby Bridges Hall still lives in New Orleans, and presently chairs the Ruby Bridges Foundation, founded in 1999. Gerald O’Rourke would pass away in 2006. Sean’s vivid description keeps his father’s humorous spirit alive, and paints the clearest picture of who Gerald O’Rourke was, not only as a government employee or father, but as an individual. His lifetime of government work and assistance during southern desegregation efforts lends a page to U.S. and Fire Island history books alike.
Catherine O’Brien’s Essential Venture
By Emma Boskovski

DEVOTED TO THE ART of bringing the words of authors to life using narration, Fire Islander Catherine O’Brien has launched her own audio book company, Essential Audiobooks. Her brand delivers her own voice to linger in the ears of listeners, accompanied by the voices of the most talented narrators in the business.

In our fast paced world, we often forget to fortify ourselves with literature. The audio book industry makes this even simpler, as our own thoughts can float freely while listening to the words of our favorite authors in any environment. Within the first moments of my phone call with O’Brien I was instantly soothed by the sound of her voice.

O’Brien’s career in the audio book industry began like many others — she had time on her hands. Her husband (FIN columnist Hugh O’Brien) remarked one day that her English accent, beloved by Americans, would entice listeners. O’Brien took lessons in New York City in a training studio. It was not long before she auditioned, and was ultimately contracted to narrate multiple audio titles.

After six years of working with several publishing companies, she came to thoroughly understand the value in audio book production. Audio book publishing has become one of the fastest growing sectors in the publishing industry. The Audio Publishers Association (APA) sales and survey reports show a 33.9 percent increase in audio books sold in 2016.

Recent headlines show the popularity, as The New York Times ran a story with the headline, “No other sector of the publishing industry comes close to this kind of growth,” said O’Brien. “I saw there was a gap in the market for very high-end audio books – the best books carefully matched with the most talented professional narrators.”

As she devoted herself to working to assemble a team of voice actors, editors, composers and artists, Essential Audiobooks came to be born. With the widespread availability of technology, audio book recording can be done by anybody, but not just anybody can compete with professional work. “There is an enormous difference between an amateur production recorded on a USB mic and a professionally produced audio book,” O’Brien explained. “Audio book narration is a professional type of acting, with quite different skills from stage, screen, or even radio acting. Those who seek to extend their careers and are attracted to the concept of working from home need to study how to adopt their skills for audio book narration.”

O’Brien described choosing the perfect narrator almost as if it is a science. “I listen to people all day,” she explained. “My ear is tuned to voices.” While the narrators themselves must be exceptionally talented, they must fit the text of the book in order to create a believable and enjoyable listening experience.

“When I’m selecting a narrator, having read the script, I can immediately tell what sort of voice I am looking for,” O’Brien said. “Sometimes finding the perfect voice proves to be a difficult task.”

Original music is commissioned to introduce the audio books. The main composer, Alistair Robertson, “painstakingly researched music of the period and uses instruments that would have been used at the time,” explained O’Brien. The music for “Brushstrokes in Time” came to be through research of different Chinese instruments, and they were used to create the theme that sets the scene for the text through unique melodies.

Artwork is specially designed for each audio book cover, created by Winnie O’Brien. The beautifully drawn and eye-catching artwork sets each audio book apart from one another, and is evidently inspired by the unique work of each narrator. “We wanted to create a strong Essential Audiobooks look and survey titles available for purchase.
If You Like it, DON’T Put a Ring on It!

By Kirsten Corssen

LITERALLY, YOU SHOULDN’T have put a ring on it. Not referring to your commitment issue but an environmental one. If you love the blue ocean and want marine animals to swim within it with one less risk, you shouldn’t have put a ring on that six-pack of cans that you brought over to Fire Island … a proposal would have been better.

According to a 4Ocean study, “Every minute, one garbage truck worth of plastic is dumped into the ocean. Yearly, a colossal 1.4 billion tons of trash ends up in our beautiful oceans. Of this waste, much of it is plastic.” Not only is there an abundance of plastic bags and bottles, but there are harmful plastic rings that affect sea life.

So how can these plastic six-pack rings be harmful to sea life? It’s called entanglement. Entanglement is known as entrapment of an animal by careless-ly discarded litter. These sea creatures go about their business innocently enough, until they accidentally trap themselves in a plastic material that they are unable to release themselves from. Back in 1980, a baby sea turtle named Peanut became the poster boy for the cause. He had trapped himself inside a plastic six-pack ring. Over his growth period, his body became deformed as his shell grew around the plastic. Years later Peanut was found and cut free but he will never be the same. If you have ever tried to rip apart a plastic six-pack ring, then you know it is actually pretty hard to do. When you attempt to pull it apart, it mostly stretches – similar to what had happened to Peanut.

Other stories have been released about sea creatures entangled in debris. Animals like dolphins were found dead with the plastic rings stuck around their noses; plenty of whales were discovered with plastic rings in their stomachs; and even seals were spotted trying to eat the rings along the coastlines.

This ongoing trend must be stopped, and awareness is only the first step. A local organization, Coastal Steward Long Island (CSLI), was founded to educate the youth and local community groups on Long Island about coastal environmental awareness. Throughout the year they host beach cleanups, shellfish population restoration, and citizen science to help clean up beaches and also raise awareness about the trending topic of plastic waste on Long Island.

David Chase, who is on the board of CSLI, has noticed first-hand the issues that plastic has caused to the Long Island shoreline over the years. He claims that 10 or 15 years ago, six-pack rings were far more prevalent on our beaches. “I don’t see them as much during our beach cleanups,” Chase says. “Every September we do an international coastal cleanup where we record the number of each plastic object we find on the shores around the USA.” Chase believes they have been decreasing over time because of legislation laws put in place to change the material of the plastic used in the rings as well as a decrease in companies using the six-pack rings.

One of the new technologies that has been developed to replace the six-pack rings is called hi-cone technology. This is a replacement for the plastic rings and a photodegradable material. This means that it dissolves when exposed to the sun’s ultraviolet rays, causing the rings to weaken and become brittle over a four-week cycle. You can spot a hi-cone six-pack ring right away when making your beer selection – it is marked with a small diamond symbol to indicate photodegradability.

Another recent innovation is the edible six-pack ring. In 2016, Saltwater Brewery in Delray Beach, Florida, unveiled the idea. It is a brand new approach to sustainable beer packaging. These six-pack rings are 100 percent biodegradable and edible – constructed of barley and wheat ribbons from the brewing process – food that marine animals can eat. A side benefit is that it also reduces waste within the brewery, because usually that leftover barley and wheat would be discarded, so the idea does double-duty!

So look for the diamond symbol when shopping for your six-packs, but most of all become aware of the impact that you actually have on this planet. Diamond rings are forever, but so are those plastic six-pack rings to turtles. So if you like it, don’t put a ring on it please.
Osprey Family Makes Smith Point Home

By Emma Boskovski

ON A GLOOMY SUNDAY MORNING, I set out to meet with Dominick Licata. A 71-year-old Smith Point regular, Licata called the Fire Island News to tell the tale of a family of osprey that found their home, constructed by Licata and the community five years ago, heeding the adage “if you build it they will come.”

“The project began when my former neighbor, Gordon Best, and his wife, Eileen, came knocking at my door and asked me to help them build an osprey nest,” said Licata. “I helped Gordon dig the hole for the pole that would support the nest. From there, the Suffolk County Department of Parks came and finished the job.”

According to the Roy Dennis Wildlife Association, osprey nests can be constructed using a nesting pole if there are no suitable trees. The nesting pole should be about 30 feet in length, and once secure, can be used to place a nest made of sticks, dead grass, moss and leaf litter.

Licata, evidently interested in preserving the history and individuality of Smith Point, views the osprey nest as a defining quality of the community. “I knew nothing about the osprey when Gordon knocked on my door,” explains Licata. “I have come to learn lots.”

“After the nest was put up, I wanted to promote the ospreys,” said Licata. “I sought a proclamation from Suffolk County to put up signs to try and bring some history back to Smith’s Point.”

According to the proclamation obtained by Licata, he had county permission to “place signs to welcome citizens to the Smith Point Hamlet and use those signs to help the businesses on William Floyd Parkway and Neighborhood Road corridors,” back in 2007.

“I was absolutely astounded when the current osprey came, and stayed,” said Licata. “Before then, there was five years of ospreys coming and going. Finally, two of the birds came and decided to make the nest home. They now have a baby.”

Osprey find homes in New York State in two main locations – Long Island and the Adirondack Mountains. The birds find their homes near coastlines, lakes, and rivers, according to The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The species almost met extinction in New York State due to excessive amounts of the insecticide DDT poisoning their habitat. From 1940-1969, the osprey breeding population decreased from an estimated 1,000 active nests to an estimated 150 nests.

The osprey population has steadily made a comeback on Long Island since the ban of DDT in 1971. As of 1995, there were an estimated 230 breeding pairs of osprey on Long Island alone, according to the NYSDEC. The rebound of the species has been promoted by the building of nests in communities.

The tales of manmade nests on Long Island have made headlines since 1991, as seen in The New York Times, a story ran with the headline, “The Osprey’s are Back on L.I., Some in Custom-Built Nests.”

“Once again, I knew nothing about osprey before this project,” said Licata. “Gordon and his wife were people I admired. They were the first caretakers of the Flight 800 Memorial, and I knew they had a strong sense of community here in Smith Point. I wanted to embrace that with them.”

A protected species in New York State, the location of the osprey nest in Smith Point proves to be safeguarded, as it is surrounded by a fence, poison ivy, and trees to ensure the safety of the birds.

“It is amazing to watch the osprey interact with one another,” said Licata. “The family roles of each bird become obvious watching one leave the nest to get food, and another to stay with the baby. I remember the excitement of all of the neighbors the day they came, but more specifically the excitement when they had stayed.”

Reporter’s Note: Bird watchers use the term “flushing” to describe when someone gives the location of a particular bird away to the extent that bird watchers, photographers, and possible threats disturb the nesting site. Locations of the osprey nests in this article are spoken in generalities for the sake of the bird’s welfare.
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New FINS Superintendent Named

By Laura Schmidt

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Northeast Regional Director Gay Vietzke has named Alexcy “Alex” Romero superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore. He succeeds Chris Soller, who retired earlier this year.

“As a native New Yorker, I am honored to have been selected for this assignment,” Romero said. “I have spent many days enjoying the Great South Bay by boat, strolling the beaches of Fire Island, and have experienced some breathtaking sunsets that only Fire Island National Seashore has to offer.”

With a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from the State University of New York at Old Westbury, Romero’s career has spanned nearly three decades. He has worked as superintendent at Prince William Forest Park in Virginia and in multiple roles at Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City.

He currently serves as superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. There he has led partner-collaborative ventures, multi-million dollar projects and planning efforts including rehabilitation of historic areas, memorials and natural areas.

“Alex Romero has the breadth of leadership needed for an important national seashore like Fire Island,” Vietzke said. “He has years of experience working with stakeholders and partners in a complex, dynamic park. Alex knows how to connect people to parks from historic communities and to inspire new audiences to find their park.”

However, a Northern Virginia publication called Inside NOVA reports that Romero was “embroiled this year in a controversy” that took place in McLean – a Virginia Hamlet where many high-ranking Washington D.C. officials reside – after contract negotiations with Friends of Claude Moore Colonial Farm broke down this past spring, and the Park Service decided that as of Dec. 21, 2018, it will end its long-term relationship with the group.

When Romero isn’t working, he enjoys hiking, camping, traveling and working with pottery and stained glass. He and his partner are planning to move to New York in late September, before he is scheduled to take his new post on Oct. 14, 2018.

“I look forward to working with all the communities, partners and talented staff managing this beautiful resource that many people have come to treasure,” Romero said.
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Captains and Crew are from Ocean Beach
DINING REVIEW >> By Lorna Luniewski

The LakeHouse

135 Maple Ave.
Bay Shore, NY 11706
631-666-0995

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, noon-3 p.m., lunch / 5-10 p.m., dinner
Friday, noon-3 p.m., lunch / 5-11 p.m., dinner
Saturday, 5-11 p.m., dinner
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., brunch / 4-9 p.m., dinner

WHEN MY HUSBAND Tom and I moved to Bay Shore almost 35 years ago, the town as it was cannot compare to the town it has become. Today there are so many restaurants to choose from, and recently, we decided to go to The LakeHouse and enjoy dinner on the expansive deck overlooking the water. Outdoor dining on a hot August night may sound crazy, and truth be told, the indoor dining room was more crowded, but the breeze off the water made dining alfresco more than comfortable.

Eileen Connors (a co-owner along with her husband, Executive Chef Matt Connors, and Jay Gut) greeted us at the hostess desk, and Annie seated us promptly. Out water glasses were filled immediately (and were refilled all evening) and our waiter, Gustavo (Gus), who has been at the restaurant since it opened, was there with a drink menu in seconds. After looking at the selection of wine, beer and mixed drinks available, I decided on a Spicy Margarita and Tom chose The Lakehouse Cosmo – Svedka Clementine Vodka, White Cranberry Juice, Fresh Lime, Triple Sec and Champagne Float. Both were refreshingly tasty.

The eclectic menu features appetizers such as Littleneck Clam Chowder, Rock Shrimp Bucatini, Wild Mushroom Risotto, Yellow Fin Tuna Tartare, and a selection of salads. Tom chose the Grilled Octopus Salad, with Spanish chorizo, chick pea purée, clementines and aged sherry vinegar, which he declared delicious. I opted for the Creamy Tomato Bisque with Gruyère-Prescuito Toasts. The soup was full of flavor and the toasts, like mini grilled cheese sandwiches, were crisp-perfect.

I should mention that before the appetizers we were treated to shrimp atop guacamole with red pepper aioli. It was some of the best guacamole I’ve ever tasted. We also tried the evening’s special appetizer, an incredibly light potato gnocchi in a warm salad with truffles, mushrooms, peas and lima beans.

When it came time to choose an entree, Gus was only too happy to offer suggestions, among them the Roasted Berkshire Pork Chop and the Crisp Long Island Duck Breast and Crisp Leg Confit. Other choices included Mustard-Crusted Scottish Salmon, Caramelized Local Sea Scallops, Pepper-Crusted New Zealand Venison, and Grilled 21 Day Dry Aged NY Strip Steak.

Tom listened to Gus’ suggestion and ordered the duck, with apricot wheatberry pilaf and a pomegranate pistachio glaze, and he was glad he did. “It’s unbelievable,” he said. “I have tastebuds I never knew I had.” I chose the Organic Herb-Roasted Chicken with brioche, mushroom and prosciutto stuffing, honey-glazed cipollini onions and a Madeira pan gravy. The chicken was fork-tender, the stuffing was superb and those onions were as sweet as candy.

We decided to share a dessert and ordered A Snickers Bar, fudge cake, peanut butter mousse, caramel, ganache and hazelnut crunch; and decaf coffee, which was hot and strong. To our surprise, Gus returned with an additional dessert, the S’more Sundae, vanilla ice cream, hot fudge, marshmallow and a chocolate covered graham cracker. I cannot resist ice cream so I dove right into the sundae with its marshmallow swirls; it was so good! By the time we “picked” at both desserts, they were just about gone.

Other dessert selections are the Lakehouse Black Magic, Summer Peach & Blueberry Crisp and a selection of gelato and sorbet, to name but a few. There are also dessert cocktails and a choice of whiskeys, brandy and cognacs.

I cannot say enough about the service or the staff, who were all friendly, helpful and efficient. Several tables were turned over while we enjoyed our meal, and that was just on the outside deck. When we left, the dining room inside was packed and the Tap Room, which offers a separate bar menu (also available to us on the deck), had many customers as well. Eileen was on the floor walking from table to table talking with everyone, an unusual sight in many restaurants.

The LakeHouse, which was located on Main Street in Bay Shore for 10 years, moved to this larger location in 2016, and boasts rooms for private events, eight boat slips and a fire pit with outdoor seating overlooking the water. Catering is also available in your own home and the Sunday Brunch is popular.

Eileen, Matt and Jay have created something special at The LakeHouse, where the food, atmosphere and service all come together to create a wonderful dining experience.

The LakeHouse.

Tom and Vanessa from Massapequa Park were celebrating their ninth anniversary at The LakeHouse.

Tom and Vanessa from Massapequa Park were celebrating their ninth anniversary at The LakeHouse.
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Bear® by Anton Chekhov
Starring
Michael Cleeff, Barbara Grecki, Joe Anania
Co-Directed by Joe Anania and Barbara Grecki

“Penguin Blues” by Ethan Phillips
Starring
Joe Anania, Brooke Davis
Co-Directed by Michael Cleeff and Barbara Grecki

Saturday, Sep. 8th - 8:00 pm
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Tickets are available at 1 pm at the theatre or online at artsprojectcgc.org
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Saturday, Sep. 8th - 8:00 pm
at the Historic Community House Theatre

Tickets are available at 1 pm at the theatre or online at artsprojectcgc.org
$45 member / $50 non-member
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Ocean Beach Fishing Club holds its annual Catch and Release Fishing Contest, for ages 14 and younger only, on the west dock across from Maguire’s, from 9 a.m.-noon. Fee: $25 includes membership in the fishing club, rod, bait, T-shirt and refreshments. To register, email OBFC@aol.com or call 917-699-8416.

Sand Castle Creation Contest
Let the sands of Fire Island spark your creativity during this annual end of summer sand sculpting contest, today at Fire Island National Seashore Wilderness Visitor Center, located at the southernmost end of William Floyd Parkway, adjacent to Smith Point County Park. On Sept. 2, the contest is held at Watch Hill Beach. All ages and skills are welcome. Both events begin at 10 a.m.; judging on each day starts at 1 p.m.; awards/prizes at 2 p.m. For information, email FISL_Information@nps.gov.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
Arts and Crafts Show
The Davis Park Arts and Crafts show, featuring many unique crafts from local artists, will be held from noon-4 p.m., at Most Precious Blood Church, Davis Park, rain or shine. For information, call Max at 631-872-4209.

Films
Cherry Grove Archives Collection presents the world premiere of “Cherry Grove Founding Families;” the encore showing of “Grove Girls,” directed by Parker Sargent; and “Cherry Grove Historic Houses,” at the Community House, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Tickets: $20; all proceeds benefit Arts House, at 8 p.m. Tickets: $25; $30 at the door. For details, visit www.missfireisland.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Environmental Awareness Day
Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Commission (VOBEC) holds its 12th annual event, at Windswept, at 11 a.m. A discussion, entitled “Environmental Impacts of Off-Shell Drilling,” with Brian Langloss of Oceana and Bridge Fleming, Suffolk County legislator for East Hampton, is featured. Free admission and light refreshments. This event is supported by Ocean Beach Community Fund. For details, visit vobec.org.

FLAWS Fundraiser
Fire Island Animal Rescue Society holds its annual fundraiser, from 1-5 p.m., at Houser's Bar, Ocean Beach, with food, prizes and live music. Donation admission: $20. For information, visit www.fireislandanimalwerescue.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Blue Island Oyster Festival
A fundraiser for Blue Island Oyster Foundation and Save the Great South Bay is held from noon-4 p.m., at Blue Island Oyster Company, 136 Atlantic Ave., West Sayville, rain or shine. Tickets: $70 includes freshly shucked oysters from at least 10 different oyster farmers, freshly shucked local clams, a culinary tasting from at least 10 local restaurants, live music, Blue Point Beer, Subtle Tea, Boxed Water, Proud Pour and a guided tour of the Blue Island Oyster Hatchery. For tickets and information on parking and shuttle buses, visit www.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Northwell Health Great South Bay Run
The Annual Northwell Health Great South Bay Run features three USATF certified run courses: The 13.1 mile Half Marathon, a 10K Run and a 5K Family Fun Run. Each race begins and ends at Bay Shore Marina. A portion of the proceeds, and 100 percent of all donations from this event go to Southside Hospital’s Community Outreach Health and Education Council (COHEC). Town of Islip holds its Great South Bay Seafest after the race, from noon-6 p.m., with vendors, food court, kids activities, free paddleboard and kayaking lessons, free snapper fishing, live music and more. Free admission, parking and shuttle bus. For details on the run, call 631-224-5404; or visit www.raceawesome.com.

Annual Patchogue River Clean-Up
National Park Service, The Village of Patchogue, Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce and surrounding Patchogue River businesses invite the public and local businesses to participate in the third annual Patchogue River Clean-Up as part of National Public Lands Day, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Patchogue-Watch Ferry Terminal, 150 West Ave. Get important information about the day’s activities, cleanup locations, and pick up your cleanup supplies. At noon, garlic collection, raffles, music, and education activities at Drift 82, 82 Brightwood St., Patchogue. Drift 82 will be hosting a lobster mac’n cheese contest with the proceeds going to next year’s Patchogue River Clean-Up, and support for Cornell Cooperatives water quality testing on the Patchogue River. For details, call 631-687-4770.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Senior Health Fair
Town of Islip holds a fair, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Caesar Trunzo Senior Center, 16 Second Ave., Brentwood. Enjoy a continental breakfast, get photo ID cards and free flu shots donated by Northwell Health. To sign up, call 631-224-5340.

Golf Classic
Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk holds its 20th Annual Roger Metcalf Memorial Golf Classic, at Stonebridge Golf and Country Club in Smithtown, followed by cocktails and dinner. Sponsorships and registration available starting at $100. For details, call 631-HABITAT, ext. 105 or visit www.habitatgolf.eventbrite.com or www.habitatsuffolk.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Free Seminar
Northwell Health Orthopedic Institute presents “Joint Replacement Surgery: What You Need to Know,” at YMCA Boulton Center for the Performing Arts, 37 West Main St., Bay Shore, from 7-9 p.m. Speakers include Michael Nett, MD, orthopedic joint surgeon; Keith Reinhardt, MD, orthopaedic joint surgeon; and Don O’Brien, PT. Snacks and light refreshments served. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/joint-replacement-surgery-what-you-need-to-know-registration-48811074237.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
Annual Halloween Party
CJs in Ocean Beach holds its annual party, at p.m. Free food buffet, drink specials and a costume contest with three grand prizes and other costume prizes.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Happy Birthday Fl Lighthouse
The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society invites you to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Lighthouse, at 2 p.m., with a “Conversation with Augustin Fresnel,” the creator of the Fresnel lens that revolutionized lighthouses all over the world. Performing Artist of Living History Joseph Smith will present as Augustin Fresnel and speak about his lens and their applications. Suggested donation: $5. For details, visit www.fireislandlighthouse.com.

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Fire Island News Readership Survey
Let us know what you think of FIN. Fill out the survey and email a picture to emma@fireislandnews.com

1 How old are you?     a. Less than 18     b. 18-35     c. 36-55     d. Older than 55
2 Where do you reside?  If Fire Island or Long Island, please specify the community in your response.
3 Which section of the Fire Island News do you enjoy the most?
4 How often do you pick up the paper?
5 If you could change anything about the paper, what would it be?
6 Have you looked at us online? If so, specify where (Our website, Facebook, or Instagram).
7 Agree or disagree…
   a. The Fire Island News is a newspaper that is a part of both Fire Island and the South Shore communities character.  a. agree  b. disagree
   b. I trust the Fire Island News to deliver news that is relative to me.  a. agree  b. disagree
8 On a scale of 1-10…
   a. What do you rate the quality of our writing? ________
   b. How important is the paper to you? ________
9 Additional comments ____________________________________________________________

“Thanks for putting forth a quality periodical.”
—Jason, Seaview, NY

“Picking up the Fire Island News has become a part of my summer routine that I wait all winter for. It’s like waiting for the next novel from your favorite author. I love browsing through the calendar then reading up on some local flavors and history. The Fire Island News is a quintessential summer pastime.”
—Carolynn, Lindenhurst, NY

Fire Island News

THE FIRE ISLAND SYNAGOGUE

Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 9  7:00 P.M.
Monday, September 10  9:00 A.M.
                 Tashlikh  1:00 P.M. (approx.)
                 Evening Service  7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 11  9:00 A.M.

Yom Kippur
Tuesday, September 18  Kol Nidre Service
                                           6:45 P.M.
                                           Doors will open 6:15
Wednesday, September 19  Morning Service
                         Yizkor Service
                         Sounding of the Shofar
                                           9:00 A.M.
                                           11:30 A.M. (approx.)
                                           7:30 P.M.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT

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Shaoul Magid. Rabbi
Basya Schechter. Cantor

—Jason, Seaview, NY

—Carolynn, Lindenhurst, NY
Dear Camirose,

My husband is a successful businessman who works long hours in Manhattan. On the weekends we travel to our home in Ocean Bay Park, which we saved many years to purchase. It is our pride and joy. The problem is that once my husband starts to drink, his personality changes from a quiet and reserved man to a loud mouth who thinks he is everybody’s best friend. He loves to go to the local bars after a day at the beach, hoping to run into people he knows. However, if one of his buddies is not there he will start up a conversation with whoever is next to him on the next bar stool. He loves to buy drinks and appetizers for all of his new found friends.

One night out can cost us a couple of hundred dollars, and mostly for people we don’t even know. I personally don’t enjoy spending hours at a bar, particularly when my husband has gotten past four drinks. He gets very loud and embarrassing. I generally just leave and walk back to the house. My husband, of course, closes down the place. The problem is that he will invite people back from the bar, some he may have only met that evening, for more drinks, and at times a place to crash because they missed the ferry. I’ve even heard him encouraging people not go to the ferry and just stay at our house.

I wake up and walk into my own living room and never know how many people I will find camped out. Generally everyone is nice, but one time I had the money in my wallet stolen and a pair of gold earrings. I know my husband works hard and is constantly under stress at work, but once he starts with the drinking all good judgment flies out the window. He is a warm and generous man and even more so when he is drunk, making him the perfect target for freeloaders. I do not feel safe in my own home. How do I approach this?

— Party Animal

Dear Party Animal,

I certainly can feel your pain. You have a right to feel safe in your home, and presently you do not. It’s also very hard to fix someone else, especially when they don’t see a problem. Before you suffer more than stolen money and earrings, you need to get this in check. I know you don’t want to stress your husband out, but he is actually endangering you. What if he invites the wrong person over and you are physically hurt? Or he is, before he even gets home? It doesn’t sound as if you want him out, but that you want to save your marriage. Maybe before your next weekend you can sit down together and discuss this calmly. Someone has to be the adult here. I wish you well.

— Camirose

Dear Camirose,

I have a neighbor who is either hard of hearing or completely narcissistic. He loves to talk on the phone outside on his deck, at the top of his lungs. His conversations always consist of what “hottie” he “did” the night before, and even includes detailed descriptions of what exactly he did with her. They are not conversations I wish to hear. He has to be in his late 40s, and should know better. He has never apologized for his behavior.

I’ve even heard him encouraging people not to go to the ferry and just stay at our house.

I wake up and walk into my own living room and never know how many people I will find camped out. Generally everyone is nice, but one time I had the money in my wallet stolen and a pair of gold earrings. I know my husband works hard and is constantly under stress at work, but once he starts with the drinking all good judgment flies out the window. He is a warm and generous man and even more so when he is drunk, making him the perfect target for freeloaders. I do not feel safe in my own home. How do I approach this?

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Dear Party Animal,

I certainly can feel your pain. You have a right to feel safe in your home, and presently you do not. It’s also very hard to fix someone else, especially when they don’t see a problem. Before you suffer more than stolen money and earrings, you need to get this in check. I know you don’t want to stress your husband out, but he is actually endangering you. What if he invites the wrong person over and you are physically hurt? Or he is, before he even gets home? It doesn’t sound as if you want him out, but that you want to save your marriage. Maybe before your next weekend you can sit down together and discuss this calmly. Someone has to be the adult here. I wish you well.

— Camirose

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“GETTIN’ THE BAND BACK TOGETHER” is being promoted as a very rare thing on Broadway, “a totally original musical.” The music and lyrics are by Mark Allen and it is an original score, and not a bad one either.

Mitch Papadopoulos (a very likable Mitchell Jarvis) is a stockbroker who gets fired from his job on his 40th birthday. He moves back to Sayreville, New Jersey, to live with his mother (a very fit Marilu Henner). His mother is behind on her mortgage payments, and real estate mogul Tygen Billem threatens her house with foreclosure. (Brandon Williams as Billem makes a most hissable villain.)

Tygen is an old rival of Mitch’s. Back in the day, they were both frontmen for rival bands. Tygen boasts that his band, Mouthfeel, did an ad for Trident gum. He has never forgotten that Mitch and his band Juggernaut won the local Battle of the Bands contest. They decide to settle it at the current Battle of the Bands contest. Mitch, together with his best friend, Bart Vickers (played to perfection by Jay Klaitz), an oafish high school math teacher who is not very good at math, reassemble the band: Sully Sullivan (an engaging Paul Whitty), a police officer who cannot pass his detective exam; and Rummesh ‘Robbie’ Patel (charmingly portrayed by Manu Narayan) who works for his father’s dermatology practice but instead wants to be a pediatrician. A fifth member of the band has to be recruited to replace the band member who died. They recruit a hip hop teenager named Ricky Bling (a talented Sawyer Nunes).

This musical does not have the melodies of a Jerry Herman score, and is not as classical as a Rodgers and Hammerstein, but it is certainly not as air light and forgettable as most scores written for musicals today.

The book is by producer Ken Davenport, in collaboration with the improv comedy group Grundleshotz, and additional material by Sarah Saltzberg. The score, while not adapted from any other source, and therefore by definition original, is still often generic. But as a whole, together with this very appealing cast, the musical does provide a pleasant evening at the theater.

Belasco Theatre
111 West 44th St.
New York, NY 10036
www.gettingthebandtogether.com
BOOK REVIEW >> by Rita Plush

“Change Your Clothes, Change Your Life: Because You Can’t Go Naked” by George Brescia
Non-fiction
Gallery Books $21.99

GEORGE BRESCHIA wants to get into your closet. Whatever mashup style your wardrobe is in, he wants to put it right. A top-tier New York City-based stylist and image consultant, as well as a Cherry Grove resident who has worked with fashion leaders and A-list store directors, Brescia dresses women for a living. He takes your closet seriously and wants you to do the same. Even if you shop only when you must, procrastinate over every purchase, only to find you made the wrong choice when you get it home, there’s hope for you. You too can become a “shopping ninja,” and change your life along the way.

Brescia is just the fellow you need to up your fashion game and his look-good feel-good philosophy takes in more than the right top or pair of shoes: If you dress your best, you feel your best. Feeling good makes you more confident. That confidence will carry over into your personal relationships, your job prospects, and, more important, the relationships you want and the job you aspire to. It’s win-win all around.

Section headings like A Great Outfit Can Change Your Life, Dress for Life You Want, and Dress to Win show the reader that Brescia means business. There’s even a segment about Your Man on the Weekend, with advice on how to bring his khakis up to code. Brescia thoroughly enjoys his work and wants readers will find helpful for finding the most flattering hues based on hair color and complexion. For a “warm and inviting” look, you want light-colored neutrals. If you’re into “cheerful, fun, and perky,” bright colors are for you. Going for “drama and sex appeal”? Dark colors and jewel tones are your best bet. A hint from the pro: sequins and silks draw the eye by capturing the light.

The book, handy-sized at 5-½ by 7 inches, is wrapped in a multicolored jacket that gives the effect of pinked (saw-toothed edge) fabric strips. Easy to hold and refer to it’s just the thing to take along on your next shop-till-you-drop adventure for a quick review … Do I really need those culottes? As for moi, I just did a closet cleanse that would make George Brescia proud. T.J. Maxx here I come! Let’s see now – do I want warm, perky, or sexy? Could I combine all three looks? I think I better call George. He wants to hear from me. And YOU! It’s right there in the Introduction. He’s on Twitter @georgebstyleny, on Facebook, or email him at georgebstyleny@gmail.com.
SHOPPING AROUND

Stang Carting rides the barge. (Photo by Lauren Chenault)

Islip Cold Beer and Beverage has been open since 1938, and has been family-operated by the current owners since 1988. Free delivery is available to Fire Island Ferries in Bay Shore. (Photo by Lorna Luniewski)

Licensed Veterinary Technician Joanne Moeller, LVT, VTS (ECC) with a patient at Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island in West Islip. Moeller is a tenured LVT who also specializes in emergency and critical care. She has been with VMCLI since 2008. (Photo Courtesy VMCLI)

When sprucing up your Fire Island abode for next season remember that family-owned East Islip Lumber offers doors, windows, decking, lumber and building materials, as well as cabinetry – and yes, they deliver to Fire Island Ferries. (Photo by Lorna Luniewski)

Open Table recently named The LakeHouse one of the top 100 most scenic restaurants. Read Lorna Luniewski’s dining review of The Lakehouse on page 33.
Hysterical Histories

Fire Island Cocktail Parties of Yesteryear:
Cherry Grove – 119 Sand Dollar Walk - Circa 1966

(FROM LEFT) Unknown man climbed through win-
dow to crash party, presumably either an appliance-
fencer or a “day-tripper.” Mr. Dan Close (with glass) comparing Alka-Seltzer “specially flavored” with a young Ina Garten in her newly invented “hat-wig.” Garten later lost her entire trust fund investing in the domestic production of hat-wigs in a Sagaponack factory and was forced to cook for a living at a local orphanage. (In the foreground, from left) Broadway star Joel Grey discussing his height with various friends, including Perts and Petites Fine Gowns heiress Minxy Patersyn. Both Grey and Patersyn are standing on their tiptoes in this photo. (Foreground) Clotilda Jamboise, a former Ziegfeld Girl, and part-
time inventor with her newest creation, the Bug-Be-
gone Bonnet, “a stylish swirl of satins and mosquito netting for the barbecue set!” A can of Raid is cleverly concealed in a pouch near the top ... sadly, Garten made the mistake of investing in this project as well and added three shifts of dishwashing to her weekly schedule at the orphanage. Jamboise is discussing her designs with a “nice young single gentleman with excellent manners who’s graduating from the Apex Academy of Air Conditioning Repair and Hair Coloring.” (Behind him and Jamboise) Meyer Peevitch, former “B” movie actor and semi-precious jewelry seller! That’s NOT an eye patch he’s wearing – it’s a jeweler’s loop that he’s been using to “examine” Audrey Hepburn’s necklace. He claims it’s not costume jewelry but in fact the rare and infamously accursed Chatterblonsky Choker, traded from one European royal family to another, always with disastrous results, usually involving escalators, dachshunds, and Wiener Schnitzel. Hepburn is interested in the movie rights to it as soon as she completes her work on “Godzilla Eats the House of Chanel.” Her director, Maurice Poupé, listens intently. And to the right of Hepburn, a young man bearing a striking resemblance to Barack Obama finishes one of Garten’s cherry-flavored Alka-Seltzer Manhattans; he was reported to be contemplating investing in novelty antacids, hat-wigs, or politics.

SYBIL’S SEASIDE SCRAPBOOK
1) The infamous 1919 heat wave that hit Point O’Woods during its Ocean-Aire Ice Cream Sociable resulted in the dessert table being turned into an improvised cooling device ... possibly the first air-conditioner!
2) MaryAnne Pinchik hated when her fingers would wrinkle after a few hours in the pool ... no one had the heart to tell her about her face.
3) Melanie Fredale, a local psychic from Ronkonkoma, insisted to anyone who would listen that she had been reincarnated dozens of times, and in different extraordinary lives. She often would dress as her “former selves” including Joan of Arc, Martha Washington, Amelia Earhart, and, most recently, an oyster from Bay Shore. No one believed her until one night she ran to her dentist in agony. He thought she had an impacted wisdom tooth, but it turned out to be a 12.7mm pearl. It sold for $1,400.

This does not have to be goodbye. Tune in to Sybil’s weekly live podcast “Come Now Don’t Sulk,” Mondays from 8 – 9 p.m. Archived links can be found on her Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.
The Power of Words: An Argument to Remove the Term “Addict” from Our Vocabulary
By Sandeep Kapoor, MD

WORDS HAVE A GREAT deal of power. They can empower us, motivate us, and lift our spirits; however, they also can cut down, demoralize, and further complicate relations and partnerships. That’s why our choice of words, especially when we’re talking about others, is particularly important.

The way we in healthcare talk about diseases is an ever-evolving process informed by science, research, and even more frequently, compassion and humanism. As we incorporate the lens of person-centric language into our teaching, our care, and our conversations, we enhance our ability to convey kindness with our words. For instance, describing someone as a “diabetic” has been replaced by the phrase “person with diabetes” to mitigate the stigma, and most importantly, acknowledge the individual, and in our words, demonstrate that they are not just an illness. These simple steps serve as facilitators to building rapport, forming partnership, and potentially serving as a conduit to better care and outcomes.

We all, within healthcare and external to the industry, need to take that same approach when discussing substance use, misuse, abuse, and addiction. We can take simple steps to dissociate our descriptive terms of addiction, and those dealing with it, from the harshness and crudeness that these words tend to represent.

The word “addict” has a lot of feelings associated with it. For some, it can be the way someone describes themselves, based on personal life experiences with addiction. For others, it is utilized to describe a population or person that is dealing with addiction. For many, it can be received as a derogatory term that is helping to fuel the stigma, fear, and uneasiness attached to substance use disorder. Perception is reality. The perceived reality is that the term “addict” conveys judgment and can seem confrontational. I’m sure that for many, this isn’t the goal they’re trying to accomplish when using this term, but in the moment, intention doesn’t outweigh action portrayed via our words. Have we been so socially-primed to use this term that we cannot change? NO, there are options.

Instead of using the word “addict” I would suggest we use phrases such as “someone dealing with opioid use disorder” or “someone dealing with an addiction.” It may appear to be a subtle difference in phrasing, but we shouldn’t discount the power of framing. These changes could make a major impact on the person, their motivation, their family, and the issue overall. Changing the language we use related to addiction can help to destigmatize, empathize, normalize, and further humanize this ailment, which could pave the way for more people seeking help and treatment. The key is to match this with language of partnership to ensure that those in need are welcomed with our words, our intent, and our spirit to help a fellow person.

The shift in our language should start now and in every setting we can challenge – at home, in our schools, on social media, in the press, and in our healthcare settings.

Northwell Health is taking several steps to try to mitigate the opioid epidemic across New York and make an impact on substance use more broadly. One of these efforts is to empathetically start the conversation in order to build a trusted partnership. Northwell’s screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) program, where patients are provided opportunities at routine medical visits to discuss how substances may be playing a role in their life, is serving as our organization’s foundational approach to normalize and harmonize our language about substance use and addiction.

We are confident that as we marry our efforts with thoughtful and compassionate language, within our communities, our families, and our industry, we will go a long way toward helping people with addiction. We cannot do this alone – so please consider your choice of words so we can collectively destigmatize and compassionately support those in need.

Sandeep Kapoor, MD, is director of the SBIRT program at Northwell Health, and assistant professor of medicine and emergency medicine at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.
HEALTH & WELLNESS >> by Donnie DeSanti

The Vitamin Myth

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID finishing up my bowl of peanut butter Capt N’ Crunch (because that was the healthier one with less sugar supposedly) my mom would have a pinkish hue pill set out for me next to my glass of orange juice. This was my multivitamin that supposedly covered all my nutritional needs. An all-in-one pill in case my Capt N’ Crunch missed something. Did it do anything? Somehow I made it out of my youth fairly unscathed. Kudos to you Mom!

Presently the vitamin industry is a billion dollar business, and the shocking thing is that most of it is watered down synthetics – the reason being is that some of the ingredients used to make these vitamins will potentially hurt you rather than help you.

If you look at some of the number one doctor recommended brands, you will see ingredients like yellow #5, hydrogenated oils, maltodextrin, and modified corn starch. A deeper look into these ingredients and you will find studies on the potential hazards of these additives such as weakening of the immune system, digestive issues, and links to cancer. That being said, maybe Capt N’ Crunch was healthier than that pink tablet besides my cereal bowl.

Do we even need to be taking vitamins in order to have good health?

The ancient Greek physician Hippocrates once said, “Let food be thy medicine.” If we heed his word it is a good foundation to start with. Food is our biggest source of nutrients. In a primal sense, we are animals and we need to be eating more foods closer to the Earth. One of the biggest changes in our health in the last 100 years is the change in the food system. We have drifted farther away from eating real food and instead are eating “food-like products.” The results are a rise in deficiencies of certain essential nutrients. Deficiency in any vitamin or mineral can lead to poor health down the road.

So to be clear, food should always be our first source of vitamins. That being said sometimes quality food is not always accessible for people. Even some evidence has shown that the quality of vegetables harvested is not the same as decades past, so we may be missing out on essential nutrients because of agricultural methods.

For this reason, vitamins can help fill in the gap of an already solid diet and they can help supplement the diet. However, not all vitamins are created equal. Just like eating quality food we want to look for quality vitamins as well.

What do we look for?

Absorbability: If food is our biggest source of nutrients it is best to look for vitamins sourced from food. Why? Well, much of the reason comes down to absorbability. We are what we eat but in actuality, we are what we absorb. We have a better chance of full absorbability if our vitamins come from food sources since we are meant to absorb real food. So, is your vitamin C coming from oranges or coming from synthetic ascorbic acid?

Read the fine print: Your vitamin bottle may have covered all the bases on the vitamins that are present, but don’t forget to read the ingredients that are added as well. These are often added as preservatives or fillers or even sweeteners. Some are the ones I mentioned before, but there are others, and can actually be hurting you rather than helping you. If you don’t know what a certain ingredient is either research it a little more or look for another product. Better safe than sorry.

Do Your Homework: Research the companies you are buying your vitamins from. Are they a respectable brand? How do they make the vitamins? What are the sources of the vitamins? This can make all the difference. Typically, you want to stick with professional supplement companies that are known for producing supplements. They may not be found in your average grocery store, but online from the companies themselves. They are often a little more expensive than a four pack of multi vitamins from a big box store, but then again you get what you pay for.

If you feel you need vitamins to help improve your health, do so wisely. Otherwise you may just end up just paying for expensive urine, and possibly damaging your health.
ENVIRONMENT >> by Karl Grossman

Living on the Edge

Kevin McAllister and Alec Baldwin. (Photo courtesy of Defend H2O)

TWO LONG ISLANDERS deeply committed to the environment, actor Alec Baldwin and marine scientist Kevin McAllister, founding president of the Sag Harbor-based organization Defend H20, presented a program on Aug. 16, entitled “Living on the Edge in the Face of Climate Change.”

Held at the Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum, it attracted 200 people and provided a basic message of, as McAllister said, “We need to educate ourselves” and “impart” our understanding to “elected officials” and for them to influence their representatives in government.

As said by Baldwin: “We need to keep doing this kind of thing and invite elected officials to come.”

Kevin McAllister and Alec Baldwin (Photo courtesy of Defend H2O)

One elected official in attendance at this event was East Hampton Village Mayor Paul Rickenbach Jr.

The program began on an extremely hot and humid evening – coming amidst weeks of blazing tropics-like weather, a reflection of the reality here now of climate change – with the two men linking their interest in the environment to growing up and living on Long Island.

Baldwin spoke of a boyhood in Massapequa where he gained a comprehension about that hamlet, indeed all of the area, depending for potable water on the sole source aquifer below, and that underground water table being “compromised.” Then, as an adult settling in Amagansett, he was involved in challenging the dangers “posed” to the aquifer in Amagansett by the “triple threat of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.”

McAllister told of “being blessed growing up” in Center Moriches, spending days on the bay, then moving to Florida, where for 15 years he worked doing reviews of projects impacting on its coast, then returning to home and dealing with the environmental challenges here to water and the coastlines.

“A homesite development” has caused a “pinching off of wetlands” and their “inability to migrate,” to shift in natural processes. The response has been a demand for the “hardening” of the coast with sea walls and similar structures, making problems even more severe. “We have to arrest this trend … Let’s keep the walls off the coast.”

With sea level rise resulting from climate change, the situation is getting worse. In the next 40 years, McAllister said, it is projected that there will be a rise of 16 to 30 inches in the waters surrounding Long Island. This would include the waters off Fire Island. As to the dumping of sand on Long Island and Fire Island beaches to purportedly “nourish” them, McAllister said the “average” lifespan for sand-dumping on a mid-Atlantic beach is but three to five years, and the cost is gargantuan.

Meanwhile, there are places such as Mastic Beach that is at sea level now, and “the lawns people mow consist of wetland grasses … We’re talking about houses sitting in groundwater.”

“Where we have the ability to move back, we have to move back,” said McAllister.

“We have to allow the shorelines to breathe.”

He said a “real breakdown” involves the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the federal-ly-supported flood insurance program paying in many instances for structures wiped out by storms to be rebuilt where they had been. There needs to be a “one and done” policy. Paying for structures to be rebuilt in highly vulnerable areas “doesn’t make sense.”

Baldwin commented that if changes in the approach towards the coast aren’t made, “we can’t imagine” the consequences resulting from climate change. He said “everybody out here cares, they care deeply” and need to join with their representatives in action.

Fire Island is on the front-line of climate change and sea level rise. Because of there being a Fire Island National Seashore, how the situation is to be dealt with on Fire Island is largely under the control of the National Park Service. It is well aware of the situation.

An online statement from the Fire Island National Seashore and National Park Service, titled “Climate Change,” states: “A Dynamic Landscape. Fire Island is constantly being shaped and re-shaped by wind and waves. The complex interaction of sediment, waves, and currents results in a dynamic landscape, with formations like beaches, dunes, and spits shifting over time. Both natural factors and human activities alike affect the dynamic nature and geomorphology of barrier islands like Fire Island. Understanding the island’s vulnerabilities and addressing the issues of climate change and sea level rise is critical to protecting Fire Island for future generations.”

Knowledge by Fire Islanders concerning the specter of climate change is especially important – considering the potential impacts to Fire Island of sea level rise. All Long Islanders have to be a part of this dialogue.
FI’s World Heritage Site Moonshot

EYE ON FI >> by Timothy Bolger

FIRE ISLAND ADVOCATES pushing hard for the barrier beach to be designated a World Heritage Site—a designation that could come with grant funding and a higher profile—aren’t taking no for an answer.

Behind the effort is Babylon-based attorney Irving Like, who famously helped lobby for the creation of the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) in the fight to stop the late master builder Robert Moses from paving a highway down the island a half century ago. Former FINS Superintendent Chris Soller dismissed Like’s World Heritage Site idea four years ago, but an undeterred Like is now praying for help from Rome.

“There is the possibility of Vatican outreach in favor of designation,” Like recently told Newsday.

Even with the 93-year-old lawyer’s sticktoitiveness, the pitch could use some divine intervention. Besides (successfully) getting local news outlets to widely report on his mission and generating some grassroots support, he and his upstart nonprofit dedicated to the cause, the Fire Island Conservancy, must convince national leaders to add the beach to the United States’ World Heritage Site nomination list.

Easier said than done. Places in the New York Metro area that have been nominated but have not yet achieved the designation include the Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The only site in the Northeast to land on the list is also Manhattan-adjacent: The Statue of Liberty. All are manmade cultural icons, as opposed to Fire Island, which is being proposed for recognition based on its status as a natural gem.

If and when a place is nominated, it is up to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to decide who makes the cut at their annual meeting. The UN being famous for its painfully slow decision making process, even if FI miraculously got nominated, it could be years before it got the nod. Or it could simply join the scrap heap of World Heritage Site nominee rejects.

Of the 1,092 places that have tapped for the honor over the past four decades that World Heritage Sites have been a thing, only 23 are in the U.S. and most of those are natural treasures. Among them are the Grand Canyon, the Everglades and Yosemite national parks. Sites that have made the list worldwide include the Great Wall of China, the Great Barrier Reef and Machu Picchu.

That is to say, FI would be in extremely good company.

Like has been making the case to anyone who’ll listen that the beach meets at least a half dozen of UNESCO’s 10 criteria for becoming a World Heritage Site, although the organization only requires that a nominee meet just one.

“Superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance,” is listed as some of the winning criteria for such sites. So is being “an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.”

Take, for example, the Sunken Forest, an extremely rare maritime holly forest on FI. Or the Otis Pike High Dune Wilderness area, an eight-mile stretch of untouched barrier beach that is the only federally protected wilderness area in New York State and the smallest one managed by the National Park Service, FINS’ parent agency.

Both are exceptional and undeniably threatened by climate change and sea-level rise. Helping Like keep the faith is John T. Tanacredi, a professor of earth and environmental sciences at Molloy College, who says FI’s vulnerability adds to its worthiness.

“Being along a dynamically changing coastline also lends credibility to this proposal,” he told the Islip Bulletin. “This designation does not change the way these resources are managed, but does add to the identity of a fragile area to be protected in perpetuity for the entire world to appreciate and understand.”

Few besides Soller have publicly gone on record as critical of the idea. The ex-supviously told the News that although “an interesting idea,” he said, “The process for nominating and designating a World Heritage Site is complex and lengthy. It would be a long shot for Fire Island to be successful in obtaining World Heritage status.” It’s unclear where his incoming replacement stands on the issue.

Like tried to make Soller see the light before looking to Pope Francis.

“We are fully aware that the process of nomination and designation is complex, lengthy and a long shot, but so was the creation of the Fire Island National Seashore a long shot,” he has said. “We believe such designation ... will insure its success, in the long-term protection of the natural and cultural resources of Fire Island.”

While one of FI’s last remaining founding fathers may have a good case to make, Like acknowledges that this is one idea that he will have to pass on to the next generation of advocates if it is to have any hope of becoming reality. The question is, who’s joining the mission?
Craig Eberhardt: Belvedere Guest House Proprietor

By John Burke

CRAIG EBERHARDT was the long-time life-partner of John Eberhardt, the original designer and builder of the entire Belvedere complex on the extreme east end of Cherry Grove. In 1949, John, a television and stage set designer and artist, had discovered the still sparsely developed Grove while on vacation, and gradually acquired the land that ended up being Maryland, Ivy, and Sumner Walks. Over the following years he designed and built an estimated 50 homes in his distinctive “Venetian” style; a trompe l’oeil fantasy of Corinthian columns, porticoes, plinths, domes, statuary, balustrades, and frescoes. He named each of the houses, furnished them in thrift store “antiques,” and proceeded to rent or sell them to vacationers who discovered the Grove in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1956, he began the first portions of the now iconic Belvedere, right on the water for all new arrivals to see as they crossed the Great South Bay. Craig (originally Craig Burns from Chicago) met John in 1980 in New York City, and began living with him full-time. As a master carpenter, Craig added his building and woodworking talents to John’s to add size and stability to the original structures. As lovers, they turned the Belvedere into an eccentric and memorable stop for men and gay tourism in the United States.

Over 25 years before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of gay marriage, John legally adopted Craig formally in 1989. Although John and Craig later separated for a time, they eventually decided to join forces again in maintaining, improving, and running the Belvedere as business partners. John moved to Florida permanently in 2003, passing away at the age of 92 in 2014.

In 2005, Craig brought his new life-partner, Julian Dorcelien, up from Florida to complete the transformation of the guesthouse. Restoration of the buildings and improvements in the Belvedere’s amenities were their focus as the competition for gay travelers accelerated. The two men remained true to the tradition and heritage of the Belvedere and its place in the gay community, hosting major fundraisers for significant LGBTQ causes and charities, as well as to the Grove itself.

Always low-key and soft-spoken, they could be depended on. Benefits for GMHC, God’s Love We Deliver, and Cherry Grove Community Association, Inc. (CGCAI) fundraisers were the regularly staged events on Belvedere grounds, and were some of the hottest and most desired parties to be on the guest list of.

In 2015 Craig was diagnosed with cancer. He continued to contribute to the Grove and could be seen strolling with Julian and chatting quietly with friends and neighbors on evening walks into town. After a long grace-fully fought battle, he passed away on Aug. 20, 2018. Craig Eberhardt is survived by husband, and co-owner of the Belvedere, Julian Dorcelien Eberhardt. A memorial service is planned for Sept. 15, at the Belvedere.

Anthony LaRocco: 1944–2018

By Danielle Lipiec

ANTHONY LAROCCO, past vice president of the Pines Conservation Society, active community member and friend to many, died on Aug. 13, 2018, at the age of 74. He is survived by his partner, Bill Moore; sister, Mary Ann Macaluso; two nephews; and a niece.

LaRocco was born Jan. 18, 1944, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. After graduating from Marist College, he began his career teaching in the New York City school system. Over the last 15 years, LaRocco used his talents to teach children with cancer in a one-on-one setting at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

LaRocco met his former long-time companion, Nick Gioscia, in the Fire Island Pines. Gioscia was a well-known psychiatrist and novelist. The two lived together in the Pines, on Ocean Walk, until Gioscia’s death.

LaRocco met his current partner, Bill Moore, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2000. The couple has since shared their lives together, bouncing back and forth between Manhattan, Fort Lauderdale, Moore’s home in Durham, North Carolina, and the Pines.

LaRocco’s activism in the Pines gained him a wealth of recognition amongst community members. Between the Fire Island Pines Arts Project, Pines Conservation Society and Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association, LaRocco stayed involved and gave tirelessly to the Pines community. He served as vice president for the Pines Conservation Society for more than 20 years.

Even when a brunch-fundraiser hosted by the Pines Conservation Society was being held in his honor last September, LaRocco stepped in to give back to his community. He donated an array of paintings from his personal collection to be auctioned off. The funds from the event raised money for Pines Conservation Society activists to continue their work, more specifically, for the winter removal of Southern Pine Beetle-infested pine trees.

LaRocco’s involvement in his community throughout the years certainly has not gone unnoticed. The Fire Island Pines has benefitted from his selfless activism for decades, and will continue to see its effects for decades to come as it copes with this substantial loss.
The Hurricane of ‘38 –
Personal Stories from Fire Island

THE HURRICANE HIT FIRE ISLAND around 2:30 p.m. The eye was about 50 miles wide, the storm itself about 500 miles across. High tide was even higher than usual because of the autumnal equinox when the sun and moon align with the Earth. Pushed by winds gusting over 180 mph, the sea surge, between 30 and 80 feet high (accounts still vary), pounded the coastline with uncountable tons of seawater.

Ocean Beach/The Great South Bay

“Let go the anchor!” Captain Patterson bellowed over the howling gale. “Which one?” yelled the mate. “Both of them! This is more than just another Nor’easter!”

The ferry “Ocean Beach” left the dock en route to Bay Shore in the teeth of gale force winds, winds growing in intensity minute by minute. It snapped around, suddenly, blowing from the northwest, driving the ferry east. “Let out more scope!” Patterson ordered. “The anchors aren’t holding.” The winds blew a steady 120 knots, gusting higher. The tide, already at its autumnal high, rose 12 to 15 feet in the bay twisting the “Ocean Beach” sideways, anchors dragging, waves pummeling its sides.

Meanwhile in Saltaire...

In an account Barbara Overton Chris-tie recalled that day: “Radio says a storm’s coming up,” a local man told Mother and I. ‘Better batten down tight.’ Sure enough, right after lunch the rains came. The lights suddenly went out, the radio dead.

Back on the Bay

Captain Patterson put the helm hard over trying to turn the ferry’s bow into the wind, hoping the anchors might catch, but they kept bouncing along the bottom. The boat broached, driven by 10 to 12 foot waves directly toward the Point O’Woods dock. Mary Frances Broadnax, a maid closing her employer’s house for the season, never got the word transferring to the “Sea Horse” when a door carried aloft by the winds crushed through the windshield. They quickly positioned planks over the broken window as wreckage – furniture, walls, doors, tree trunks, debris of all kinds – sailed through the air, hurled against the boats. The water in the basin was cock-a-block full of rubble so thick the boats could not maneuver. No one could leave.

Fire Island Coast Guard Station

Someone called the Coast Guard. They dispatched an icebreaker, “AB25,” but because of the adverse conditions they could not reach the stranded refugees and were forced to anchor 15 miles to the east.

Back in Saltaire

Mary spotted a larger roof and jumped for it. The roof floated away, Mary clutching desperately to its chimney through the teeming, drenching rains. The roof crashed into a cottage still anchored to its foundation. Mary clambered off the roof, through an attic window into the house. She barricaded the window with furniture and started praying.

George Baldwin, affectionately known as “Cappy,” crippled from the waist down, was a tough bird, living alone in his houseboat. That afternoon he was tending his “continuation stew,” a pot to which he regularly added the catch-of-the-day. The locals swore the stew would kill him, but it didn’t. The hurricane didn’t kill him either. A roof gable slammed into his houseboat. Cappy grabbed onto the roof and, like Mary, became another roof-rider. Because of the impairment of his legs, Cappy had developed enormous upper body strength. He clung to the slick roof for five tortuous hours.

Mrs. Overton’s pocketbook, full of jewels, some cash, and her favorite scissors, dropped through the window with furniture and high tide was hours away. We were to be drowned like ed refugees and were forced to anchor 15 miles to the east.

The Robinsons, a man, his wife Nora, and their son Billy, reached the cottage the same time as Chris-tie’s cottage still standing. The waves were breaking over our cottage exploded into pieces. ‘We need to get inside,’ stumbled, water up to our knees. The cottage behind us exploded into pieces. ‘We need to get inside,’ Mother shouted over the din. ‘We don’t want to get marooned.’ Mother stuffed jewelry and some cash in her purse along with her favorite scissors, and we started for the front door. A wall of water slammed over the dunes demolishing the boardwalk. We turned and rushed out the back door as a 25-foot high wave over the dunes and swept in under our cottage. A larger wave followed, roaring past. ‘We’d better get to Town Hall,’ Mother shouted over the din. ‘We don’t want to get marooned.’ Mother stuffed jewelry and some cash in her purse along with her favorite scissors, and we started for the front door. A wall of water slammed over the dunes demolishing the boardwalk. We turned and rushed out the back door as a 25-foot high wave slammed into the cottage, sweeping us along with it, stumbling, water up to our knees. The cottage behind ours exploded into pieces. ‘We need to get inside,’ Mother cried. ‘Anywhere!’ We struggled toward a cottage still standing. The waves were breaking over the top of the houses and we were under them.”

The ferry “Eladio” heaved wildly in the boat basin, its lines straining against the whipping winds and churning seas. The eye of the storm was approach-ing. Word was passed for everyone to retreat to the dock where the boat was waiting. A 30-foot tidal wave breached the dunes. Houses were knocked off their foundations and floated away. Cottage ground against cottage. Boardwalk slats flew through the air. Mrs. Marjorie Hopkins and her three children heard the homes breaking apart as they ran through the rising waters, a giant wave rolling after them. It kept coming. They stumbled aboard the “Eladio” and the ocean swept past.

Mary Francis Broadnax, a maid closing her employer’s house for the season, never got the word to retreat to the dock. The house, only a block from the ocean, was suddenly smashed apart by breakers. She climbed up onto the roof through the hole where a chimney had once been just as the roof broke away and floated off. She jumped to a second roof with a stout chimney to cling to.

Alice Trotter, her sister, Angeline Bazinet, and an elderly neighbor were up on the second floor playing cards when, without warning, the ocean was in the room with them, the house gone from around them. Alice, struggling to stay afloat, grabbed Ange-
Continued from page 47

The Hurricane of ‘38

The “Edadio” following the Hurricane of ’38. (Courtesy of Frank Mina)

the bay directly in the path of the unchecked ferry. Its anchors, bouncing off the bottom of the bay, had little effect on the heaving vessel. It rammed broadside into the dock, heeling violently. The momentum of the “Ocean Beach” drove it through the dock, destroying it, pushing the vessel up onto a sand bar off Oakleyville, aground.

Cherry Grove

Other ferries were also in action. Captain William Ryan rescued about 30 people from Cherry Grove and ferried them to Sayville in a harrowing two-hour trip with a compass he could not read because of the violent action of the boat and a windshield through which he could not see because of heavy salt spray.

The “Edward,” the boat Captain Warner used to deliver produce to the beach, picked up castaways at Cherry Grove also. However, it developed engine trouble and was driven eastward into Long Cove where it barely weathered the storm. Housemovers were needed to refloat the “Edward.”

Saltaire Again

Little Billy cried, ‘Mommy … where’s my kit- ten?’ ‘Shush,’ his Mommy whispered. ‘She’ll be alright.’ His mother sang to him, later confiding to ten?’ ‘Shush,’ his Mommy whispered. ‘She’ll be alright.’ His mother sang to him, later confiding to his head under water so that he might drown quickly rather than being killed by the tempest. I looked out for Village Hall finding dry shelter on its second floor. Groups of men set out on rescue missions – if there was anyone to rescue.

The Robinson and Overton families staggered outside. The tide was down and the wind was abat- ing. We broke into a lopsided cottage. Waves swept over its porch, but it was safer than our previous dwelling. Three inches of wet sand covered the first floor, but on the second we found dry clothes. Some wayward oranges provided a welcome feast. We cried and laughed and sang in joyous relief. The stars were out.

The survivors, huddling aboard the “Eladio” and the “Sea Horse,” cheered the arrival of “AB25” with its food and hot coffee. After a brief repast, they set out for Village Hall finding dry shelter on its second floor. Groups of men set out on rescue missions – if there was anyone to rescue.

Mary kept vigil from her furniture-barricaded perch in the attic. Her prayers were answered that evening when she was rescued by one of the search- ers, Mike Coffey.

Alice’s sister was torn from her arms and swept away. Alice hung onto the telephone pole until the wind moderated. She climbed down and crawled into the relative safety of a small roofless building. Mike Coffey found her too, and arm around her waist, forced them through a half mile of detritus filled water, back to the dock, where they both collapsed from exhaustion.

At dawn the five of us left our latest quarters, waded through waist-high water across a new inlet carved by the sea, and stumbled into Town Hall where we were greeted by 70 other survi- vors provisioning there.

Oakleyville

The crew and passen- gers aboard the “Ocean Beach” rode out the storm fast aground on the sand bar. As the storm passed, the ebbing waters rushed out of the bay leaving the boat heeled over so far that the fire extinguishers self-activated. But everyone was safe.

Saltaire

Mrs. Overton’s pocketbook, which had dropped into the water as she scrambled up into the attic that afternoon, was found floating in the Great South Bay. Sodden and misshapen, it was returned to her anonymously in the mail. Still inside were her driv- er’s license, some coins, her favorite scissors – and a piece of jade a friend had given her years before – for good luck.

Kismet

A school had opened in Kismet in 1938. It sported a steeple with a bell that tolled mournfully as the hurricane swept it away. The school was nev- er rebuilt.

The Next Day

The day after the storm, Thursday, Sept. 22, was a perfect day. The sea’s rage had tempered. The sun was warm, the water calm, and the weather remained glorious for the rest of September. After a hurricane there is a holy silence, like God has taken a deep breath and held it. “Even the birds seemed disori- ented,” one man said. “They come out – what birds were left – but they seemed spooky. They were as still as could be. They didn’t sing or anything.” Another man remembered, “Everything was beau- tifully clean after that. The next day and the next few weeks you never saw the air so clean. At night you could see stars you never could see before.”

A special thanks to Jim O’Hare for his help with attributions in compiling this article. – T.M.
Leaving Fire Island 1520 hours, Seaview Marina, NY

By Brenda Grace de Jong • Illustration by Charlotte Bravin Lee

This day is different. It is unlike the thousands of previous ones in which I sat on the dock waiting to board ‘the’ last boat back to the mainland. Today, I am lodged on a bench beneath a weathervane overhang sheltered from the sun’s afternoon rays, where I await a ferry that will transport me from what was to what will be. This is a voyage that no one can, or will, take with me, and although a bay of water and a sea of people surround me, I am alone on this, ‘my’ last boat off Fire Island.

I arrived in Ocean Beach a decade and a half ago as a guest in what was my husband’s dream. I envisioned that we, as a couple, would integrate into this small summer – and even smaller year-round – community and live out our days here. Fate had other plans, however. Our lives together on this narrow strip of land were short-lived, for in 2006 the fantasy was painfully shattered with the dissolution of our three-decade long marriage.

On Halloween of that year, as a mound of legal documents traversed a long conference table in a musty and dimly lit office, I signed papers that re-wrote my previously charted course and laid the foundation for my new life’s journey. Although terrified to move forward in such an intrepid manner, I was more desperate to preserve the only thing familiar to me, and so I jumped in. With a stroke of the pen, I relinquished my share of our joint financial interest in exchange for a deed and a mortgage. On that day, I arrived in Ocean Beach as a single woman whom I quickly found myself financially unsteady and entirely responsible for myself, my decisions, and my future. I was ill prepared for the unfamiliar status I now carried and despite my, at times, near-paralyzing fear, I took comfort in the fact that I had a home to which I could turn the key on the back slider. I quickly found myself financially unsteady and entirely responsible for myself, my decisions, and my future.

And, after the brief walk to my home, I was always reminded, as I crossed The Castle’s threshold, of the reason why I pushed myself as hard as I did. Throughout the years the number of guests I shared this sanctuary with waxed and waned. I was fiercely selective about those whom I invited to The Castle because she unlocked the portal to my soul and reflected who I was. She knew my fears, sorrows, and secrets, as well as my accomplishments and joys. We shared unseen private moments that are immortally buried within her walls.

On that magical slip of land that called to me so many years earlier, I learned perseverance, courage, humility, and conviction. It was where I gained self-confidence, self-worth, and self-esteem. And while I found refuge from work, school, burdensome problems, and broken promises under the moonlight on the bay, the ocean graced me with its ethereal healing energy, of which I was often in need.

In my time as mistress of “Cherry Cottage,” I cultivated a life that, although regarded by some as unorthodox, provided me with a collection of stories that became the basis of what was to come. I had accumulated a fair amount of memories that made both my head and heart smile, but I also amassed remembrances of the far too many times that same heart hurt until it felt ready to splinter. Slowly, and without realization, I began creating a life entirely separate from that which I lived at The Castle and my presence on the island waned into nonexistence.

Several years later I was oddly made aware that everything has a season and that each of those seasons is perfect in their own ways and for their own times. It was on this island that I had acquired the ability to hold on through the storms, even when I thought I could not. It is also where I would learn to let go in much the same way.

On a breezy Sunday morning while walking on the beach, I received a soundless message carried on the wind that told me the season for me to move on had arrived. At that moment I recognized I no longer required the reassuring welcomes or comfort I once did, nor did I have the need to demonstrate my capabilities. This barrier island had forever changed me and left behind only remnants of the person I once was. Although still grand and filled with charm from its base to its rafters, The Castle – once my beloved home – had become yet another house at the beach. It was time that I let her go, along with the ghosts of a time, place, and person that no longer existed either within or outside of me.

So that brings me to this day in which I sit alone waiting for the ferry that will take me, for the last time, across the Great South Bay back to the mainland. I reminisce about the darkness of the nights and the skies emblazoned with countless stars, the moonlit walks, bike rides, and the sound of the ocean lulling me to sleep. I contemplate the bittersweetness of this moment and recall the ill-defined and frightened person who crossed this bay in what seems to have been a lifetime ago. The confident, accomplished, and independent woman I now am will leave this island knowing that it is time to begin a new phase and embark upon yet another journey. On my next adventure I will take with me the countless invaluable lessons this island and The Castle have taught me.

Before leaving her this final time, I walked through the rooms, touched the door frames with both hands, bowed my head, gave her thanks, and bade her peace. For the last time, I ritualistically locked the front door, bolted the porch entry, and turned the key on the back slider.

As I walked down the side boardwalk one more time, I opened the green gate with a heart carved into its center, stood silently before closing it behind me, and then continued on my way. I turned right at the end of my walk and headed toward the water. I did not look back, and I did not cry. It was a solemn moment that needed nothing more than that sacred and unsung farewell. Although the plaque on the house reads “Cherry Cottage – Circa 1927,” to me she will always be The Castle and will forever remain timeless.

Brenda de Jong’s recently published book, “My Name is Elpee: A Trilogy” is available on Amazon.
THE WORLD OF VETERINARY medicine has seen drastic technological advances in the last 20 years. Many of these new tools, diagnostics and procedures have been adopted from human medical practices. The advances have not only led to better treatments, but faster, more accurate diagnosis. From MRIs and ultrasounds to minimally invasive surgical techniques, there are many new technologies that are giving veterinarians greater ability to diagnose and ultimately save sick animals.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging:** MRI technology has been extremely influential in the progression of human neuroscience. Veterinarians are now using the imaging technology to look into the brains and spines of pets. MRIs are also very effective for getting scans of orthopedic and soft tissue structures prior to surgery. By being able to see what is going on inside the animal before going in for surgery, a veterinarian is able to reduce the chance that anything will go wrong during the procedure by having a more accurate assessment of the pet's disorder.

**Laparoscopy:** Laparoscopic procedures use a small camera that can be inserted into the abdominal or thoracic cavity to see inside the body. This is yet another example of a human medicine technology being adapted to the animal kingdom. These procedures are less invasive than most surgical operations.

**3-D printing:** This rapid-prototyping process has been applied to veterinary practice to create animal bone models from the information gathered from computed tomography scans. Doing so enables vets and surgeons to have a solid grasp of a patient's internal bone or muscle structure before going in to operate. In addition, the models help educate pet owners about the anatomy and physiology of their pets.

**Recombinant DNA:** Before its discovery, protein drugs such as insulin, somatotropin and prolactin were somewhat difficult to produce. rDNA not only allows for cheaper and more efficient drug production, it also opens up the possibility of gene therapy. However, they have been met with a range of ethical concerns as experts debate the possible effects of altering animal genomes.

**Stem Cell Therapy:** Animal stem cell therapy is a regenerative technique through which stem cells are harvested from an animal, isolated, then injected directly into the troubled joints. It can be used to treat arthritis, tendonitis, and injuries in our furry friends.

**Epidural Anesthesia:** A method of epidural anesthesia, although proven efficient in humans, had never been tested in animals until now. Drugs can also be delivered through an epidural, an injection into the epidural space of the spine. Epidurals help prevent pain in the abdomen and lower part of the body, so they're especially beneficial for animals undergoing orthopedic procedures.

**Pain Management Advances:** Managing pain in pets has always been a challenge because they can't say where or how much they hurt. Of course, pets have always received anesthesia for surgeries, but beyond that not much was done about recognizing or treating any pain they might be feeling.

**Before Pet Surgery, Ask Your Veterinarian:** With the development of new veterinary technology comes the greater need for those with specialized training. A veterinarian's technician should be trained and licensed by NY State in the latest anesthesia and monitoring techniques, including monitoring blood pressure.

Questions to ask include:

- Will my pet get a pre-anesthetic assessment?
- Will my pet have intravenous fluids while it’s anesthetized?
- Will a qualified person be monitoring my pet’s vital signs?
- Will my pet’s blood pressure be monitored during surgery?
- What emergency procedures and drugs are in place in the event of a complication?
- Will my pet be kept warm during and after surgery?

If you would like your pet to be evaluated by a member of our specialty team, please contact the Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island to make an appointment with any of our board certified veterinary specialists. Alternatively, your pet can be admitted through the VMCLI Emergency Service, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for stabilization and transfer to any of our specialty services. To speak with any member of our team, please call 631.587.0800 for more information.
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A Day in the Life of Fire Island
Reader Contributed Photographs

Storms Brewing Over Fire Island

Facing west by the bay. (Photo by Lauren Chenault)
Looking east toward Cherry Grove on the ocean side. (Photo by Susan Kravitz)

Views in Milder Weather

Seasonal Heat Waves. (Photos by Ronnie Walker)
Julianne Moore doing yoga on a floating mat in Dunewood. (Photo by Craig Low)

Save your best Fire Island photographs for the 2019 season. Have a great winter everyone!
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