

ADULTSONLY

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR ISLAND SENIORS

Rockin' the boat

It seems like over the years I have had one kind of boat or another and they always provided my family and me with an opportunity for pleasant recreation. I mean that if you live on an island, you should have a boat. Right?

That old saying about the happy day in a boat owner's life when he gets rid of his boat. Pretty true. That happened to me this past week. I decided it was time to

get rid of my 23-foot Steiger Craft. I bought the boat three years ago because I liked the way it looked. It had a cool pilot house, two bunks and a wide open back deck. It also had a powerful outboard. Great for fishing. Although I never caught a fish from the boat.

I have had the boat at the Island Boatyard where they take good care of things. They take it out of the water in the fall and put it back in the spring. It's always been fun going to the boatyard and cleaning and polishing after the spring launch. A good feeling.

However, and there are some dreadful howevers, I never became comfortable driving this boat. Maybe because it was 20 years old. The motor was a two-cycle — they burn gas and oil together and they smoke. Very unpleasant for passengers if the wind was blowing the wrong way.

Another issue I had with this boat was maneuvering it in and out of its slip. I could never get comfortable with steering it accurately. As a result I'd only go out when it was dead calm because it was subject to being blown in directions I did not want to go.

It was difficult for me to get my grandchildren to go with me.

"You don't seem to be a very good boat driver Pop-Pop," they would say.

Also because of the boat's age, I was afraid to go too far from the boatyard.

I just was not using it. It was pleasant enough to sit on the deck and listen to music while the sun set. But there were other less expensive ways

RICHARD'S ALMANAC



RICHARD LOMUSCIO

to experience sunset.

As my son said to me many times, "Face it Dad, you're just not a boat guy."

Time to un-boat. On the spur of the moment while in the car last Friday morning, I called in to WLNG's Swap and Shop.

My phone started ringing as soon as I finished saying my ad. A guy called from Riverhead and said he was on his way with cash. The boat was sold by noon. And

now I am boatless.

My slip is paid up until mid October but I don't think I'll be getting another boat. At least I'll still be able to use the pool.

On another more serious subject, I feel it necessary to comment on bicycle safety in view of the serious accident that occurred here last Thursday between a car and a bike.

I urge all drivers to be extra vigilant during this busy summer season. And I urge all bicyclists to obey all traffic rules just like the cars. We're all sharing the roads.

Dinner Bell

The Dinner Bell is served Monday and Friday at 12:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Call (631) 749-0291 for reservations.

Friday, July 5

Tuna salad over Romaine
Tomato & cucumber salad
Escarole & white beach soup w/
oyster crackers
Rice pudding

Monday, July 8

Roast pork & gravy
Mashed potatoes, broccoli
Romaine salad
Applesauce

Funding provided by the Administration for Community Living through New York State Office for the Aging and Suffolk County Office for the Aging.

Shelter Island Historical Sunday at Union Chapel on July 7

Union Chapel in the Grove welcomes David Lichtenstein, Ph.D., and members of the Shelter Island Historical Society on Sunday, July 7 at 10:30 am. Dr. Lichtenstein will speak about "A Treasure Hidden in Plain Sight," the history of the Japanese-style bridge in South Ferry Hills. Members of the Historical Society will participate in the service as readers and ushers.

Dr. Lichtenstein is the president of South Ferry Hills Association and calls the bridge, built over a man-made lagoon near Smith Cove, "A graceful, beautiful structure, a rare monument to a singular time in the Island's history." At the turn of the 20th century, Francis Smith, known as the "Borax King," was a miner and construction magnate. He commissioned Ernest Ransome, an architect and engineer, to design and build the lagoon, its bridge and mechanical sea gates on the estate known as Presdeleau, which covered the area now known as South Ferry Hills and much of Mashomack Preserve.

How this structure came into being, its rare and important engineering features and the efforts to list the bridge on the National Register of Historic Places will be the subject of his presentation.

The historical research of Edward and Patricia Shillingburg leading to their monograph, "Frank Smith, the Borax King, on Shelter Island" (2003), was an essential step in understanding this historic site.

In 2016, Robert Bayley and Katy Braiewa, the grandson and great-granddaughter of Francis Smith and Evelyn Kate Ellis, heard from Shelter Island Historical Society's Executive Director Nanette Lawrenson of the incipient efforts to restore the bridge. They offered their support and that of their family foundation toward having the bridge listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was accomplished in 2018. The Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge Conservancy was formed, and work was begun to study the



UNION CHAPEL PHOTO

David Lichtenstein, Ph.D.

bridge in terms of the engineering and aesthetic needs appropriate for its historic preservation.

A psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice in New York City, Dr. Lichtenstein is on the faculty of New York University and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Ten years ago, after having spent many years summering on the Island on their sailboat, Blue, Dr. Lichtenstein and his wife, Jill Moser, an artist, built a house in South Ferry Hills adjacent to Mashomack Preserve. As a member and then an officer of the Homeowners Association, he became aware of the Japanese Bridge and began to study its origins and significance.

Baritone Thomas Milton will return to the Union Chapel to sing two arias from Mendelssohn's "Elijah," accompanied by Chapel Organist Linda Betjeman. Mr. Milton is a resident of Shelter Island and cantor at Our Lady of the Isle. He was featured soloist at Union Chapel and the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church and has performed throughout the East End, singing with the Perlman Music Program, Shelter Island Community Chorus, the Choral Society of the Hamptons and the Peconic Bay Masterworks Choir.

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