**Editor’s Note:**

With this issue we will begin publishing the Long Island Traditions’ newsletter three times per year, due to rising printing and posting costs. For up to date information about our events and those of our friends, please visit our website and our facebook group.

**Profile: Bayman Tom Jefferies**

Tom Jefferies was born in Freeport, following a long line of fishermen in both the Jefferies and the Remsen families. Tom learned to fish from older fishermen on the Nautical Mile, including Frank Cona and others. His family owns a bay house, where he learned to harvest clams, crabs, mussels and other species in the nearby bay waters. Tom learned to catch killies with his grandfather, a tradition he continues. He worked on trawler boats and in the bay, so that he can support himself as a full time fisherman. In recalling his first memories, Tom talks about the bay house.

“We only opened from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Grandpa and my uncle John Remsen targeted killies. They sold them to Captree State Park and the Jones Beach Fishing Station. They were their big accounts. Proximity was a big thing because we were relatively close to them. We would deliver by boat. My family – we all worked on the bay – part time or fulltime. In the 60’s up until the mid 70’s killies were king. There was money to be made. Fishing was good.” Tom purchased his first boat when he was 12 from local Freeport boat builder Al Grover. Today he uses garveys built by his uncle John Remsen.

As he got older he worked on trawler boats including Frank Cona’s “The Sturgeon.” Tom remembers “In the

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**Saltwater Weekend at Long Island Children’s Museum**

**January 14–15, 2012**

Join us on the weekend of January 14-15 at the Long Island Children’s Museum where we will be presenting a variety of family and children’s programs examining Long Island’s fishing traditions culture. On both days there will be 10 master artists who will have hands-on activities for children, ranging from net mending, trap building, learning to clam and other activities that examine how fish are harvested, both recreationally and commercially. Guest presenters will include John Buczak, George Rigby, Tony Sougstad, Pete Wenzel, Chuck Tekula, Tom Jefferies, Joey Scavone and other area fishermen and baymen. Also on hand will be Collin Weyant, Cory Weyant’s son, who will show you how young people are carrying on the tradition.

The program will take place on January 14 & 15, from 12 – 4 pm at the Long Island Children’s Museum, located at 11 David Avenue, Garden City, next to the Cradle of Aviation. For information and directions call (516) 224-5800. Adults and children alike are welcome!
Peruvian Dance Classes

January 7–February 18, 2012

Continuing our series of ethnic dance classes, beginning on Saturday, January 7, a series of 4 Peruvian dance classes led by master dance teacher Peter Apaza of Peru Andino will begin at the East Meadow Library. These classes will examine the Huaylash and Tuntuna dances of Peru. Students will learn basic steps, led by patient teachers. Class dates are:

- January 7, 2012  11 am.-12:30 p.m.
- January 21, 2012  11 am.-12:30 p.m.
- February 4, 2012  11 am.-12:30 p.m.
- February 18, 2012  11 am.-12:30 p.m.
  (with a performance at 2 p.m.)

The classes are free and open to all. We especially encourage families to attend (it’s never too late to learn or start!). To register call the East Meadow Library at (516) 794-2570 x 560.

Indian Dance Program

April 28

Each of us is a jewel created in harmony with the five elements of nature: air, water, earth, fire and sky. Join Odissi and Kuchipudi dancers Mala Desai and Satya Pradeep on Saturday, April 28, 2012, 6 to 8 PM at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in Manhattan for a very special evening. The production is a Bharatnatyam-Odissi-Kuchipudi dance techniques in synthesis, with new choreography by Mala and Satya presented in duets and solos from their traditional repertoires.

For tickets and information contact Mala Desai at 516-773-2894 or e-mail malaodissi@gmail.com, satyapradeep12@gmail.com.
Bay House Book Signings

This winter we will be having several book signing events of *On The Bay*, so please come join us and get your new 2nd edition signed by director Nancy Solomon.

The dates are:

**January 25:** Massapequa Public Library, 2 pm.  
40 Harbor Lane, Massapequa Park.

**January 25:** Franklin Square Historical Society, 7:30 pm.  
Washington Street School, 760 Washington Street, Franklin Square.

**January 26:** Sayville Public Library, 7 pm.  
88 Greene Avenue, Sayville.

**February 9:** Hewlett Woodmere Library, 1 pm.  
1125 Broadway, Hewlett.

**March 13:** Copiague Public Library, 7 pm.  
50 Deauville Boulevard, Copiague.

And if you cannot make it to one of these events, you can order the book online at [www.longislandtraditions.org](http://www.longislandtraditions.org).

Violin Making and Playing

**March 25 at East Meadow Library**

On Sunday March 25 join us as we explore how the masters of violin making and playing learned their craft. Joining us for this unique program will be violin maker and bluegrass musician Ed Maday, David Herman bow maker, and Pete Kelly, a master Irish fiddler. This free program will feature discussions and demonstrations of how the violin and bow are constructed, along with musical accompaniment by Pete Kelly and Ed Maday. The program begins at 2 pm.

Archives Moves to Hofstra University

The Long Island Traditions Traditional Arts and Culture Collection, composed of over 500 interviews, is now housed at the Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra University’s Axnin Library. The collection includes interviews with artists and local residents conducted by director Nancy Solomon, and other folklorists and ethnomusicologists that have worked for Long Island Traditions since its founding in 1992. Also included in the collection are interviews conducted by Solomon when she worked at the Long Island Arts Council in Freeport from 1987-1991.

There are nine themes in the collection: Maritime, Bay Houses, South Shore Estuary, West Meadow Beach, Jewish, Ethnic, Latino, Great Neck, African American and Jones Beach. The recordings also have finding aids that describe each interview.

The Special Collections are open Monday-Friday from 9-5. For more information call (516) 463-6411.

Bayman Tom Jefferies

continued from page 1

winter we would fish for whiting, squid, week fish, striped bass in the spring and in summer for fluke. Fluke always brought a good price.”

Like other baymen, Tom harvests a variety of species in order to work year round. When he first started working on the bay he harvested eels, using pots built by his cousin Fred Verity. Today he harvests clams, spearing which are used for bait, muscles, striped bass and bait crabs. Tom makes his own nets. Tom also harvests horseshoe crabs both for bait and to sell to other fishermen and medical companies. NY is one of the few states that allows commercial harvesting of horseshoe crabs.

Tom and other baymen are very conservation oriented, both for environmental reasons and also so that they can continue to work on the water. When asked how he has survived as a commercial fisherman, Tom reflects that

“That’s the way fishing is anywhere in the world I would think. It’s never the same thing season to season which makes it interesting. It will test your endurance and ingenuity. When you go into something a little new – you have to experiment a little with different baits, traps, nets. As time goes on, we’re very regulated in the United States and in New York State – which is good to certain extent but what we’ve learned to do is try and target certain species and stay on them as opposed to a lot of by-catch and destroying things that we really don’t need.”

Tom Jefferies pulling a net.
Far Rockaway Bungalows

Nestled in the corner of Far Rockaway, you will find over 100 historic summer bungalows built in the 1920s for Jewish families living in New York City. The bungalows, modest in size, are being considered for the National Register of Historic Places by the NY State Historic Preservation Office. Long Island Traditions is preparing the nomination of these historic structures. They are one of the last remaining summer bungalow communities left in the metropolitan area. In recent years there have been intense development pressures in the area, bordering Beach 24-26 streets and Seagirt Boulevard. While many of the original owners and their descendants are no longer part of the community, others have been passed down through the original families. If you know someone who had a bungalow on Beach 24, 25 or 26th Street, please let us now. And stay tuned for details!

EVENTS OF INTEREST

PLEASE NOTE: If you have a Long Island concert or program that focuses on some aspect of traditional culture, drop us a line and we’ll put it in our “Events of Interest” column.

Don’t forget to visit our web site and our Facebook page for timely information.

January 7 and 21, February 4 and 18:
Peruvian Dance Classes (see accompanying article). East Meadow Public Library, 1886 Front Street, East Meadow, NY 11554, FREE, 11 am - 12:30 p.m.

January 14 - 15:
Salt Water Series at the LI Children’s Museum. (see accompanying article)

January 25:
Bay House book signings. (see accompanying article)

February 11:
Chinese New Year Celebration at Herricks High School, 100 Shelter Rock Road, New Hyde Park. 7pm. For more information, e-mail Michele Sun at michelesun88@yahoo.com

March 25:
Violin program at the East Meadow Library (see accompanying article). 2 pm.