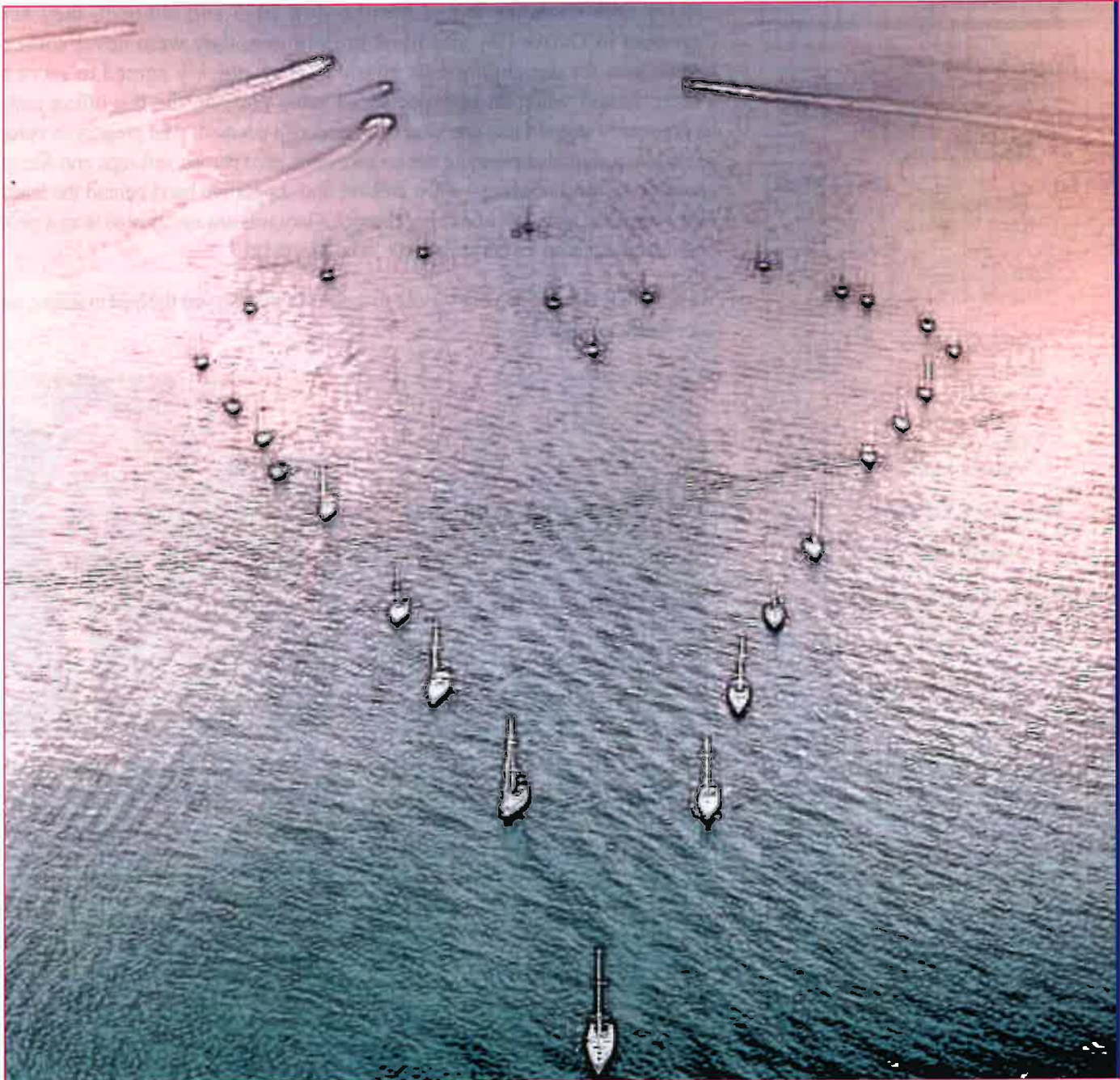




Volume XLII No.3 • A Publication of Masthead Cove Yacht Club • July 2020





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Shirley Nel

**Vice Commodore**  
Linda Simon and Shirley Nel

**Rear Commodore**  
Linda Simon

**Treasurer**  
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Francesca LeClaire

**Fleet Cruising Captain**  
JP Nel

**Fleet Racing Captain**  
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**Membership**  
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We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Commodore Gary Matthesen for his loyalty and dedication to our club. Gary and his wife Christine joined Masthead in 2015 and although they kept their boat in Oyster Bay and lived in Bellmore, they were never short of enthusiasm for our club and its mission. Gary quickly agreed to serve as a director and when an unexpected vacancy arose in the flag officer ranks, he graciously stepped into the Vice Commodore's position. His gregarious nature made him a natural at planning our social events, race parties, raft -ups and Annual Meetings. Chris has always lent a creative and supportive hand behind the lens at every event she attended, and in her absence, Gary was always there to snap a photo of our smiling faces for our website or "The Masthead."

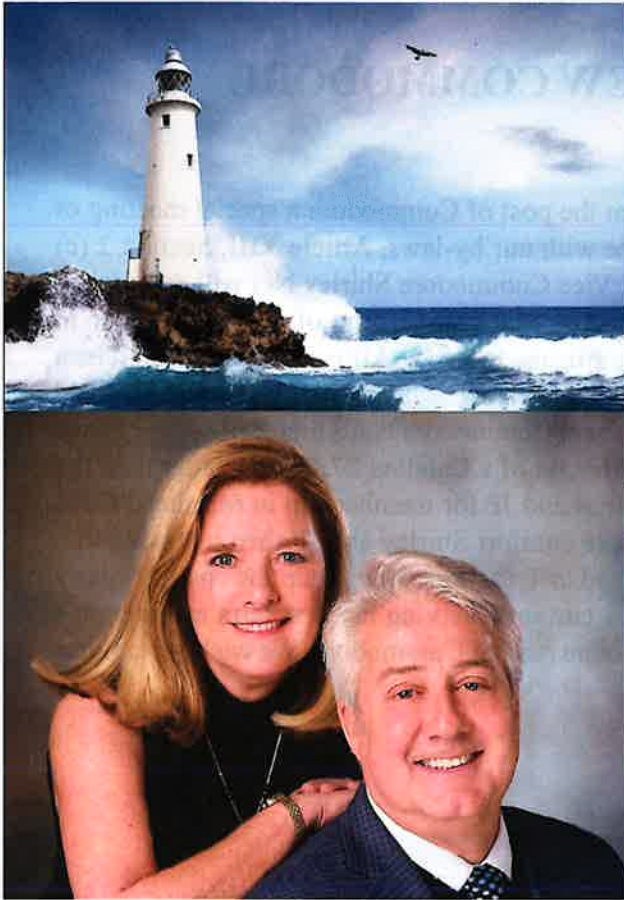
We gratefully appreciate your service to the club and wish you the best in sailing and your future life adventures!



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMODORE

Upon Commodore Gary Matthesen stepping down from the post of Commodore a special meeting of the Masthead Cove Yacht Club was held. In accordance with our by-laws, Article XIII, Section 2 (c) a vote was taken to fill the Commodore office vacancy, Vice Commodore Shirley Nel will assume the position of Commodore to fill the remainder of Commodore Matthesen's term of office. For those in the club that do not know Shirley, she grew up in Port Elizabeth, South Africa and attended Nelson Mandela University where she obtained a degree in computer science and physics. In 1997 Shirley and her husband JP emigrated to the US with two young children. Commodore Nel's first sailing experience started with a home made wooden boat and then the purchase of a Catalina 27. Shortly after that, the Kinney's and the O'Mara's sponsored Shirley and her husband JP for membership in Masthead Cove Yacht Club. Looking to cruise a little further and in more comfort Shirley and JP then upgraded to a Catalina 310 in 2017, at the same time Shirley was elected to Treasurer. Moving up the chairs, Shirley served as Rear Commodore in 2018 and 2019. She was currently serving her first term as the club's Vice Commodore when she was called upon to step up to the rank of Commodore. We wish her support and success as she willingly assumes her new position.





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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Kathy and Curtis Lee, our newest MCYC members, are off to a good start this season. They bought their Jeanneau 349 last year and have been enjoying it with their family. every chance they get. During a recent interview, they shared that Curtis has been sailing his whole life while Kathy has a fishing background. Kathy has been keeping a journal to log their boating memories. When asked about their most “memorable boating experience to date” they described, in great detail, an exciting night braving a sudden storm just the week before. What started as a peaceful, calm fishing trip with their son, was suddenly interrupted by strong wind gusts, lightening, thunder and a downpour. They fought their way back to the mooring and as Kathy grabbed the mooring, a stong gust took it our of her hand while the boat careened sideways. They looped around the mooring field and finally connected with the mooring. After the storm passed, a dinghy from a nearby home rowed out to check on Risky Sunsets to make sure all was okay as they thought someone had gone overboard. This experience will most certainly be entered into Kathy’s journal of memories!



**Where did they get the name Risky Sunsets for their boat?** Curtis’ passion is Risk Management and Kathy loves sunsets.

**Boating goals?** Kathy wants to be able to save Curtis if he goes overboard while Curtis wants to go on some cruises and learn about places to anchor.

**What would Kathy and Curtis like the club membership to know about them?** They are looking forward to the end of social distancing as they enjoy socializing and enjoy live activities. They are social butterflies!

**What compelled them to join MCYC?** They kept looking at copies of the Masthead at Coneys and were very impressed.



**Meet Kayla Molly and Hadley Brynn, twin granddaughters of proud granparents Scott and Marilyn Gerber. Nana and Papa are doing well as are the babies and their delighted parents. The twins mother is Robyn, Scott’s daughter. Congratulations to all!**



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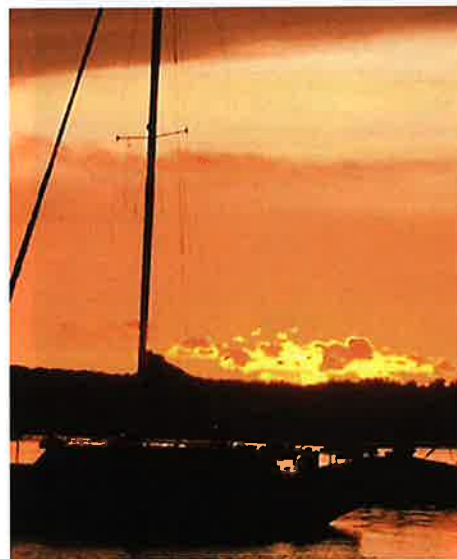
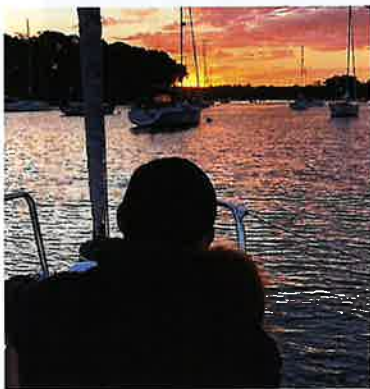


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# MCYC Memorial Day Weekend “Pursuit” Race

By Stephen O’Reilly, Cruise Captain

*Water Music*

Masthead Cove Yacht Club sailors came out in force on Sunday May 24 for our Memorial Day Weekend “- Make Lemonade Out of Lemons” Pursuit Race. Seventeen MCYC sailboats (that’s right, 17!) participated in a pursuit race around the triangle of buoys in Huntington Bay formed by R“2” at the Lighthouse , Bell “8” at Target Rock, and G“1” at Sand City. What a gorgeous day it was; perfect for this low-stress sailing event.

In a “pursuit” race, slower boats start first, and faster boats try to catch them. Theoretically, every boat should finish at the same time, but that never happens! To make things even more interesting, the course could be sailed clockwise or counter-clockwise, at the Skippers’ discretion. With a light and steady 8-10kt ENE breeze and a slack current, the first decision was which direction to sail, and for some of us, that decision made all the difference.

One by one, every boat started at their assigned time, with Gary Schacker & Wendy Grand aboard their fast and beautiful Exhale starting last. Gary & Wendy made the right choice of direction, and over the next 52 minutes they skillfully weaved their way through the crowded field ahead to snatch victory, just seconds ahead of Joe & Lois Rossbotham’s Gusto! Brad & Linda Simon earned a close Third Place on Avanzare.

The rest of us, well, let’s just say we all had a WINNING DAY

Thanks to all who participated. Let’s maintain this energy and enthusiasm at future racing events!





# MCYC Women Skipper Race – June 7, 2020

We had another successful MCYC Racing event on Sunday June 7, 2020. Recalling the fun we had in the Memorial Day weekend “Lemonade” race, MCYC women skippers registered in large numbers for our second racing event of the season.

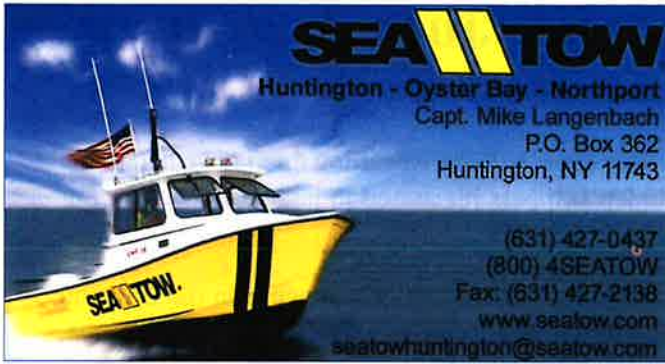
By the morning of the race, many were having second thoughts. Intimidating whitecaps in the Bay and gusty NW wind at 15-17 kts. had us all concerned. A few worried Skippers withdrew before the race, leaving us with 9 intrepid Skippers willing to compete. Luckily, just before the starting horn, the winds subsided nicely, and we had ideal sailing conditions the rest of the day! The Race Committee (*Vivian and Stephen O’Reilly - Water Music*) set a 4.8 mile windward/leeward course from the start near the Huntington Bay Club, out to R“6” and back.

Wendy Grand on *Exhale*, and Ginger Bourguignon on *Loki IV* led the pack from the beginning with well-timed starts. These two raced neck-and-neck until *Exhale* struggled with a broken block on their boom. The rest of the MCYC fleet took their time getting to the Starting Line, but everyone (*eventually*) started, and everyone (*eventually*) finished. Most important, everyone had a great day!

Congratulations to Skipper Ginger Bourguignon (*Loki IV*), winner of the **2020 MCYC Women Skippers Race!** Results:

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>1 Ginger Bourguignon</b> | <b>Loki IV</b>         |
| <b>2 Wendy Grand</b>        | <b>Exhale</b>          |
| <b>3 Heidi Gerakaris</b>    | <b>Pirate Bey</b>      |
| <b>4 Heidi Kern</b>         | <b>Lulu</b>            |
| <b>5 Barbara Cordts</b>     | <b>Better Together</b> |
| <b>6 Linda Simon</b>        | <b>Avanzare</b>        |
| <b>7 Shirley Nel</b>        | <b>Nels Belle II</b>   |
| <b>8 Francesca LeClair</b>  | <b>Messin’About</b>    |
| <b>9 Lorena Lee Stern</b>   | <b>Daddio</b>          |






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Hi MCRYC Reading Enthusiasts,

Our recent book club members participated in a survey organized by Valerie Link and came up with the following recommendations for summer reading:

The Jetsetters by Amanda Ward Eyre

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa Sees

Big Summer by Jennifer Weiner

The additional books with 3 votes each are:

Beneath a Scarlett Sky by Mark Sullivan

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Reid Jenkins

Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano

A Woman is no Man by Etaf Rum

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

We look forward to book discussions in the fall and welcome all to join!

A note from Valerie: In light of this being Pride month along with the wide spread Black Lives Matters protests across the county I'm also making a conscious effort to add more books by black and LGBTQ authors to my personal reading list. I like to think I read widely and diversely, but my Goodreads reading list for this year reveals a pretty narrow scope. I already have some books picked out for this, both fiction and non-fiction, but if anyone has suggestions for me I'm happy to accept them!

Happy reading, Valerie



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## ***Masthead King Neptune and Queen of the Seas***

On May 23, 2020 the annual blessing of the Masthead Cove Yacht Club fleet was celebrated.

This year's Memorial Day weekend tradition was a bit different in a number of ways. First, this highly anticipated ceremony was conducted over Zoom and secondly King Neptune and the Queen of the Seas looked a little different! That's because Gene and Nancy Kinney, the former King Neptune and Queen of the Seas, have retired and have passed on their baton or shall we say their scepter to Bill and Karla Marrero.

The King and Queen virtually blessed over 25 MCYC vessels and wished all of the captains and their first mates who were present fair winds and smooth seas for the 2020 sailing season. They look forward to celebrating next year's Blessing of the Fleet in person and on the dock with all of the MCYC family on the dock.

We thank King Neptune and Queen of the Seas for their good tidings.



---

### **Anchor Lockers Open: Mystery Solved**

**by Scott Gerber, *Late Harvest***

Who knew? The Coneys, that's who. Recently, I was at the Coneys Marine store/sales office and noticed something about all the boats on display in the front parking lot: The anchor locker compartments were all open. My curiosity got the better of me, so later that day, I called Kevin Sr. about this interesting sight. After I speculated about several reasons, to no avail, Kevin's response made a world of sense.

He explained that this is the time of year that birds nest, and a closed anchor locker makes our boats very attractive for many of our young bird population. And why wouldn't it be?

For all the reasons you like living in the Huntington vicinity and spending time on sailboats, so do our feathered friends – well, they're not necessarily all our friends. When the anchor lockers are left open, the nesting possibilities are not as appealing, according to Kevin.

So, there we have it. If adding a few baby birds to your family isn't in your plans this summer, check out your anchor lockers periodically, and enjoy your empty-nester status!





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# Advertiser's Spotlight

West Shore Marina by Peyton Harrison, *Resolute*

This issue's featured advertiser is West Shore Marina. Located at 100 West Shore Road, it has 290 slips, four of which are occupied by MCYC members. Dry and wet winter storage is available and all marine services are on-site. Other amenities include a pool, shaded barbeque area and a ship's store.

The original location featured a wharf and buildings that could accommodate the commercial schooners of the day. Ships were Huntington's main portal to the world until the LIRR arrived in the 1880's. Schooners still delivered lumber, coal and various goods until the early 1900's. After the Second World War, the property was home to the Huffco Oil Company with numerous storage tanks and barge traffic.

Owners Arthur Gould and Armand DeRose obtained the lease in 1979. It took six years to obtain all of the necessary permits. On the morning of March 22, 1985, the Army Corps of Engineers signed off on the final document, and by that afternoon work had begun on the bulkheads. The first slip was occupied Memorial Day 1985.

Of historical interest are the two white bollards that flank the entrance to the main dock. While supervising the construction of a cofferdam in lower Manhattan in the early 70's, Armand noticed them in the silt and muck along the shoreline. They were soon on a truck to Long Island. He speculates that they could have secured ships coming from Ellis Island 150 years ago.

West Shore has supported MCYC for years by donating wet storage slips for the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Charity Race. Every year ten to fifteen of us queue up in early September to sign up for dry storage in the yard, while others secure wet storage at the docks.

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