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### Long Island Traditions Sponsors Annual Freeport Bay House Tours: July 17 and August 14, 2010

On Saturdays July 17th and August 14, 2010 Long Island Traditions will sponsor its annual bay house tours in Freeport. The tour will include conversations with local bay house owners and will be hosted by folklorist Nancy Solomon, director of LI Traditions. The trip will visit area bay houses on the 1½ hour tour.

The bay houses have a long history, dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when baymen harvested salt hay for the farmers during the winter. The bay houses provided shelter, along with storage for fishermen's traps and duck decoys. They have been used by duck hunters and commercial fishermen, and have been passed down from generation to generation within many families. In the Town of Hempstead stand approximately 30 bay houses on island marshlands, originally built by fishermen and baymen that have been passed down from generation to generation. Take a tour on a comfortable passenger boat for the 1½ hour trip to these historic houses. Each tour will visit two bay houses including the Sheehan - Van Wicklen and Seaman bay houses.

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The boat will also visit other bay houses. Come join us for this unique event. Tickets for the bay house tours are \$40 for adults and children over 10 years old. No children under 10 are allowed. Space is limited. For tickets call LI Traditions at (516) 767-8803. The program is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

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