CHALLENGE 2001

If at first you do succeed, go back and do it again! What was supposed to be an ambitious, one-shot deal for the New Jersey Lighthouse Society last October proved to be so successful that the organization plans to repeat the event this October.

The response from the general public was so good that the NJLHS has scheduled its second New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge, on October 13 and 14, 2001. The "challenge" part of the project is to encourage people to visit 11 New Jersey Lighthouses over the two-day weekend. The whole idea was two-fold — to let people become familiar with some of the state's treasured historical structures, and to let them know what the New Jersey Lighthouse Society is about.

The public loved it. To meet the challenge, they had to visit 11 separate lighthouses in the two days allotted. To prove that they had really made the trips, they were given special stamps at each of the participating lighthouses to qualify for the "11 Points of Light Club." According to Rick Weber, NJLHS member who coordinated the Lighthouse Challenge 2000, some 340 people completed the visits to all 11 sites. "In all," Weber added, "some 1,100 people came out and visited at least one lighthouse."

Some of the lighthouses are familiar to New Yorkers and to out-of-state tourists; others are less well-known, yet are worthy of a visit. The trick was, last year, to obtain the cooperation of as many lighthouses as possible, to open and staff the structures for the same two days, making it possible for the greatest amount of exposure to lighthouses and their lore in a single weekend.

Each lighthouse operates independently, and Weber and the NJLHS worked to coordinate the various sites and schedule the maximum number of hours.

Last year's event drew visitors from surrounding states, and some not so near... West Virginia, Massachusetts, and even Texas.

This year, the same 11 lights will be participating in the challenge. Taking some advice from suggestions made by last year's visitors, the NJLHS has made a few changes. The informative flyer contains very detailed directions to each lighthouse, as well as general information. Last year, the Society published two separate flyers, the information, and the maps, which proved to be a little unwieldy.

Also, last year, the NJLHS volunteers wore special T-shirts, and many of the visitors wished they could buy them, but they weren't for sale. But this year, Weber said, special commemorative T-shirts will be available at selected sites.

Many of the 11 lighthouses have their own merchandise, caps, shirts, and other memorabilia, for sale at their own sites, and those will be available once more for this year's visitors.

(Continued on page 2)
A frequent request from the public was to extend the time of the challenge, over more than one weekend. However, since it takes a lot of volunteers to staff a two-day event, the NJLHS decided to keep to the two-day, one-weekend plan, though the core hours have been expanded to run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

As a result of last year's challenge, the NJLHS realized one of its goals. Membership increased by 30-40 or so, from the event alone. "In the past year," Weber remarked, "the membership in the NJLHS went from 600 members to 1,000. Maybe the event sparked some awareness in the public," he said. "This brought us to the foreground," he added, "and the lighthouses themselves were showcased."

The emphasis, Weber stated, is on the challenge. People can meet it, become familiar with the lighthouses, and go back and visit them at their leisure at a later date.

Volunteers are needed. Each site will have its own personnel, but the NJLHS needs a minimum of 44, based on at least two people each day at each of the 11 lighthouses. "We could accommodate 4 to 6 volunteers, too, because there may be other jobs to be done besides greet the public and represent the NJLHS," Weber concluded.

The Beam, the official journal of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc., is published quarterly, March, June, September and December. Members' dues are $15.00 single and $20.00 family, and are for the calendar year. Back issues are available free for members joining mid-year. All materials are copyrighted and cannot be borrowed or reproduced without permission of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. The NJLHS - New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc. - is a non-profit educational corporation (501c3).

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P.O. Box 340028
Tampa, FL 33694-0028
Phone: (813)-968-5640
Fax: (813)-960-2065
Website: http://www.floridalighthouses.org
Email: info@floridalighthouses.org

What's Happening at Barnegat Light?
By Bill Volpe

In February, the Asbury Park Press reported that swift currents at the Barnegat Inlet had created a 50-foot hole near the northwest corner of the lighthouse. To prevent further erosion, the Army Corps of Engineers had entered into a $1.4 million project with a Boston construction firm to place a rock-filled, wiremesh “marine mattresses” in the hole.

The July issue of the Lighthouse Digest indicated that the erosion stabilization project had been completed with the placement of 160 of the 6 by 20 by 8 foot thick mattresses at the inlet’s bottom covered by 9,000 tons of boulders.

Also in July, The Home News Tribune (Central New Jersey’s largest newspaper) stated that, according to a recent survey, the Barnegat Lighthouse is tilting 21 inches to the northwest. This degree of tilt is consistent with an earlier survey conducted in January, which indicated a similar lean.

For the latest update on the leaning tower of New Jersey, plan to attend the September 22 meeting at the Barnegat Light Fire Hall.

NJLHS Research Library
By Bill Volpe

Through the carpentry skills and generosity of Bill Gately, the Society now has a bookcase to house our modest library of 25 volumes. And, thanks to Tom Laverty and Twin Lights, we now have an interim location for members to read and conduct lighthouse research at the Twin Lights site.

For information on the available volumes, please contact Bill Volpe at (732) 846-2196 or WVFOTOLITE@AOL.COM.

Donations of additional volumes for members use are most welcome.
The **Amelia Island Lighthouse** (Right) is the first lighthouse one encounters heading south out of Georgia. Built in 1839 the 64-foot white brick tower is at the mouth of the St. Mary’s River. For a clear view go to a vacant lot two properties down from the closed Coast Guard gate. Two posts with a rope reveal an uphill path a few hundred feet to the top of the hill.

The **St. Johns River Light** (Below) is on the grounds of the Mayport Naval Station and is also known as the Mayport Light. The 81-foot red brick light was built in 1859. The light may soon become part of a public park and museum complex. It is currently closed to the public and must be photographed through a chain link fence.

**Saint Augustine** (Right) is the oldest, continually occupied (by Europeans) American city. This is the oldest lighthouse site in Florida and the current light is the second one. It was completed in 1874 and is 165 feet high. Visitors may climb the 219 steps and visit the museum and keeper’s house.

**Ponce de Leon** (Left) is the second highest light at 175 feet. It was originally known as the Mosquito Inlet Light for obvious reasons. This 1887 light is also open for climbing. The grounds contain many period buildings housing many pictures of other lights and a first and third order Fresnel lens. International Chimney Corporation, which moved Cape Hatteras Light, is currently repairing the ironwork.
The 82-foot white tower at St. Mark's (Right) Apalachee Bay was built in 1829. To view the light, one must drive the seven-mile road through the St. Mark’s National Wildlife Refuge.

The St. Joseph Bay Light (Left) is also known as the Beacon Hill Light. Built in 1902, it has been moved to Simmons Bayou and is now being run as a bed and breakfast. Unfortunately, one of the workers dropped the lantern during the move.

In 1825, Pensacola (Below) became the site of the first Florida Gulf Light. The present light was completed in 1858, a much taller tower than the first. Although an active light maintained by the U.S. Navy, the tower is open for climbing on Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Other lights in Florida which are open for climbing on a regular basis are Jupiter Inlet, Cape Florida at Key Biscayne and Key West.
Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts
1048 Washington Street,
Cape May, New Jersey 08204-0340

Contact:
Cindy J. Kluger,
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Director, Marketing and Communications
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PHOTO CAPTION: The 1859 Cape May Lighthouse has been completely restored and repainted in its original colors and with a totally reconstructed lantern. Visitors can climb the 199 tower stairs to the watch gallery for a breathtaking panoramic view of the Jersey Cape and Delaware Bay, and visit the fully accessible Visitors’ Orientation Center and Museum Shop, located in the Oil House on the lighthouse grounds. During “The Keeper’s On Duty” living history tour, actors portray 1920s Cape May Lighthouse Keepers, and during an evening climb on “Stairway to the Stars,” visitors can see the lights of Lewes, Delaware and trace the beam of the Cape May Lighthouse as it goes across the water. The Cape May Lighthouse is operated by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC). For information, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278, or visit MAC’s website at www.capemaymac.org.

PICTURED HERE: The 1859 Cape May Lighthouse in Cape May Point State Park.

Absecon Lighthouse Nears Completion

The Absecon lighthouse keeper’s house is very close to completion. Final painting and necessary touch-ups is now on going. We are waiting for the final Certificate of Occupancy which will allow us to start moving our office into the building and proceed with the development of the displays in the house.

No exact date for the opening has been set, but we should have everything in place by the October 13th and 14th, 2001 NJLHS event. We will keep the “Society” updated with the latest developments.

With the house so close to completion there has been a great increase in visitors and a greater need for more volunteers. Anyone interested in giving a bit of their time please contact us at the lighthouse.

(609) 441-9272.
The Lighthouse Keeper’s Wife and How I Met Her
By Jean Lustig

May 26, 2001, and the subject of lighthouses was far from my mind as I strolled around the City of Portsmouth, NH, basking in the glow of an unbelievable cool, sunny morning while on a volksmarch (10 km preplanned walk).

Points of interest dotted my route, not to mention a few beaconing shop windows. As I paused by one, a stranger came alongside and asked if I were interested in lighthouses. (It pays to advertise: I was wearing my NJ Lighthouse Society jacket.) Yes, says I. Well, did I know Portsmouth has a resident who wrote a book about her life in lighthouses? No, what book? Sorry, she couldn’t remember the title, but the lady’s name was Connie and she was living in a local nursing home. Thanks for the info says I and went on to finish a wonderful walk.

Later that day I made one stop at a bookstore, asked one question about a Connie who wrote about her life living in lighthouses and found myself holding “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Wife,” by Connie Scovill Small.

Next, I let my fingers to the walking through the local telephone book and, on the first try, located the nursing home where Connie was staying. The receptionist assured me Connie loved visitors and would be happy to see me the next day.

And that is how it happened that my husband and I had a most delightful visit with an amazing lady who has had a fascinating life (right up to today) and loves to both write and talk about it. She has given talks in all the contiguous states except for New Jersey...all this in her twilight years!

Connie is charming, gracious, bright, alert and very much with it. We could have stayed longer than we did but several others were waiting to see her too. Obviously, she is a very busy person.

Connie Scovill Small celebrated her 100th birthday on June 4, 2001. She is participating in a longevity study...in her spare time. Perhaps medical science will conclude that living in lighthouses is very, very good for you!

(Note: “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Wife” is a good read: personal, simple and captivating in that subtle way true stories about lives lived affect us.)

NJLHS Calendar of Events-2001
Submitted by Mary Beth Dougherty

9/16  East Point Lighthouse open to public 1-4 pm

9/22  General Membership Meeting--Barnegat Light Fire Hall, Barnegat, NJ
  • Annual Sweatshirt/T-shirt contest
  • Authors' Day (purchase books and have them signed)
  • Tour the Barnegat Lighthouse and Museum

9/29  Tuckerton Seaport & Bayman’s Museum Outreach

10/13 & 14  NJ Lighthouse Challenge 2001
  Statewide Event**
  • All land-based lighthouses accessible to the public

10/24-30  Bus Trip to North Carolina Lighthouses
  Canceled

12/01  General Membership Meeting
  Spring Lake Heights Elementary School
  • Annual elections
  • Holiday Social at Sea Girt Lighthouse
    2:00-5:00 pm

12/01  Membership Renewal for 2002
  (Renewal forms mailed out)
  * Date to be determined
  * Location to be determined
  ** Information/Details to Follow
  (856) 546-0514 NJLHS “Hotline”

HELP NEEDED

Our Ways and Means Chairperson has tendered his resignation effective the end of this year, and we need someone to take his place. The duties are as follows: Orders merchandise to sell at our meetings, stores and brings merchandise to the meeting (must arrive at least 9:30 am), sets merchandise up, sells and packs it back up to store. He/she must also give a report on sales to the treasurer.

A Chairperson is needed with the possible sharing of additional duties. Anyone interested is requested to e-mail the society at nlhs@burlco.org or call or see Tom Lavery at the next meeting.
A Message from Membership
(Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair)

Meeting Attendees: There were 174 people signed-in at the Twin Lights meeting in June. Reminder: Please sign the book—we like to keep track of how many people are coming to the meetings to ensure enough chairs.

Membership Numbers: At printing time of this issue, the membership numbers are as follows:
- Single Memberships = 347
- Family Memberships = 359 x 2 = 718
- Total = 1065 members

New Members: Since the June meeting, the following members have joined our Society. If you happen to meet them at a future meeting, please welcome them.

- Mrs. Bette Anderson, Caldwell, NJ
- Genevieve Beresteeker, Blackwood, NJ
- Mildred Biondo, Magnolia, NJ
- Connie Bost, Springfield, OH
- Ray Francis, Willingboro, NJ
- David & Tina Harmon, Spring Lake Heights, NJ
- Elizabeth Kennelly, Hoboken, NJ
- Diane & David Ketchem, Freehold, NJ
- Mr. & Mrs. H. Krapionick, Oaklyn, NJ
- Elizabeth Kruse, Piscesaway, NJ
- Michael & Suzanne Locri, Red Bank, NJ
- Bill & Winnie McKelvey, Metuchen, NJ
- Teresa Margerum, Schwenksville, PA
- Dr. Vincent Mayher, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- Malinda & Iv Medell, Monmouth Jct., NJ
- Cynthia & Thomas Meechan, Browns Mills, NJ
- Charlotte Miller, Glen Mills, PA
- Constance Miller, Medford, NJ
- Daniel & Julie Morley, Sewell, NJ
- Margo & Hugh Murphy, Edison, NJ
- Tony, Alma & Matt Pasck, Woodbridge, VA
- Daniel Pennell, Brick, NJ
- Kevin & Kathy Quinlivan, North Plainfield, NJ
- Gene & Teddy Raup, Mount Holly, NJ
- John Schaller, Atco, NJ
- Linda Shay, East Stroudsburg, PA
- Carol Smith, Whiting, NJ
- Carol Sypniewski, Virginia Beach, VA
- James Tizio, Millburn, NJ

A Few Reminders: Society Nametags: Stop by the Membership Table to order. The tags are $4.00 each, paid for when ordering, and will be mailed to you. (Orders are taken at meetings only)

- Changes: If you’re moving, changing your membership status, phone number, or e-mail address, please let me know so I can have your most current information. I like to keep the database up-to-date!
- Gift memberships: A membership to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society would be the perfect gift for that person who has everything!

Light Bytes
By Greg Jansky

Welcome to the first installment of Light Bytes, where I hope to en"light"en you to some of the web sites on the internet devoted to lighthouses. In each BEAM, I hope to provide a mini-review of some of the more popular sites so that if you do not already know of the site, you may surf over for enjoyment or research. Each site is verified for existence at the time of the review. If you have suggestions, feel free to email them to me at greg.jansky@prudential.com.

This issue’s site is: Lighthouses Online, which can be reached by going to http://members.aol.com/houselite/index.html. This site is created and maintained by Joseph W. Sarmach, though I don’t think it has been updated in a couple of years. This site is great for pictures of east coast lighthouses, as it seems the bulk of the pictures are from eastern USA. If I had to guess, I would say Mr. Sarmach is from or near Connecticut, as the state with the most lighthouse pictures is Connecticut. From the main page, there are sections for: an introduction, Lighthouse Photos, Lighthouse Drawings, Lighthouse Collectibles, Lighthouse Links, and a page about the author.

Clicking on the link for the introduction brings us to a page with lots of up front information. There are links for a free screen saver, animated mouse, links to the other pages in the site, lighthouse news, and some pictures of the Coast Guard performing maintenance. Also included on the page is a brief history of lighthouses.

The heart of the pages can be found by clicking on Lighthouse Photos from the main page. Here, you will find lights, lights, and more lights; categorized by state. Each lighthouse has a link to a separate page that details the history and provides the specs of the individual lighthouse. There are some really great lighthouse pictures and lots of great information. All pictures have been taken by the author and present his unique view of the lighthouse. I wholeheartedly recommend you spending some time on these pages. (For the NJ enthusiasts, there are pictures of: Absecon, Barnegat, Cape May, East Point, Hereford, Navesink, Sandy Hook, and Sea Girt.)

The Lighthouse Drawing page has a short list of links to lighthouse drawings by the author and other artists. There is even a request for more artwork. So if you have artwork you would like displayed, contact the author. What is interesting is that the drawings present a unique perspective of the lighthouse that a picture can not capture.

The author's page for Lighthouse Collectibles is mostly concerned with Harbour Lights. He includes a note on the page that he is not affiliated with Harbour Lights; he's just another "crazed collector." The page has a good introduction to collecting for those just getting started. Also, he has a bunch of tips listed, where he passes on great advice he has learned since he started collecting. While not a collector myself, I found the page interesting and insightful; though I suspect (Continued on page 8)
New Jersey Travel Media Tour

By: Yvonne Miller

This past Spring, I received a phone call from Michael Walker, NJ Commerce & Economic Growth Commission. He was looking for a retired person with knowledge of the New Jersey Lighthouses who would be available during the week.

He had been told that I fit the criteria. When I told him that I was available June 13 through 15, 2001, Michael invited me to join a group of travel media writers who would be taking a tour of the land-based lighthouses on New Jersey's east coast.

Thinking that these writers would be from the local area or at least representing New Jersey newspapers, I was a little nervous about giving accurate information on our lighthouses. When I received the itinerary for this tour and saw that I was listed as an Interpretive Expert, I was spastic.

However, when I met the bus in Atlantic City, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the travel writers were not only friendly and jovial. I also learned that they were both local and international writers. Some were from as far away and diverse locales as Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa. The writers from the United States were from Tampa, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Allentown and Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

The first lighthouse we visited was Absecon Inlet, where we were greeted by Sara Cureton, Director of the IPPA, Patty Davidson, her assistant, Rich and Elinor Veit, NJLHS publicity chairpersons. Sara gave a brief orientation on the lighthouse as the writers frantically took notes. Afterwards, several of them climbed the tower and posed for pictures. Then onto Cape May Point, where my role in the tour was put in gear.

"Why was I referring to Absecon and Cape May as conical lights?" "What are the different types of lighthouses?" "Why are the lighthouses different colors?" "What is a skeletal light?" "Are we going to see any on this trip?" The questions went on and suddenly we were at the Cape May Light. After more than an hour at the lighthouse, we went on to our lodgings for the night in Cape May. The next day we visited Hereford Inlet Lighthouse and Gardens. Steve Murray conducted a tour of the gardens and then Betty Mugnier and her staff conducted a tour of the Lighthouse. At Barnegat Light we were greeted by Bill Vibbert and at Tuckerton Seaport by Trish Schuster. After spending the second night in Ocean Grove we visited Sea Girt, Twin Lights and Sandy Hook on Friday hosted by Conrad Yauch, Tom Lavrity and Tom Hoffman, NPS respectively. Taking leave of this very interesting group was bitter sweet but I left with all of their email addresses, fond memories and promises of keeping in touch. My new friends were very receptive to New Jersey, our lighthouses, NJ Lighthouse Society and, in particular, our 2001 Challenge Weekend. We can expect some media coverage on that project from Allentown, PA and Tampa FL. Hopefully, it will be in the Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Limited.

I have said many times that retirement is great, this trip was a perfect example of why. Am I ready to do it again? You betcha.

(Continued from page 7)

the long time Harbour Lights collector will have learned most of the lessons already.

He has a list of Limited Edition lights, a list of Open Editions, and the Harbour Lights Special Events Calendar for 1997. I suspect the Limited Edition and Open Edition pages are missing roughly the last four years of editions. For the new collector, there's lots to digest. One note: the page talks about lighthouse miniatures and not other lighthouse collectible memorabilia.

Finally, from the main page, you can learn about the author on the "About" page. Here, there is a great picture of the author standing on Minot's Ledge light. On this page you can learn a little about the author, how he creates his pages, and more of the technical information to creating the web pages.

All in all, this is a great site to have bookmarked. I come to the page frequently when I am planning a trip or looking for information on a particular light. I hope you've enjoyed this little review. If you have any suggestions or favorite sites you would like reviewed, feel free to contact me. Until next issue....
OUTREACH

Sandy Hook's Lighthouse Day
June 9th

Elinor and Rich Veit and Joan Smarrito joined me to set up the New Jersey Lighthouse Diorama at Sandy Hook (Shown Below). The Veits set up an exhibit on Absecon Lighthouse and assisted with the NJLHS exhibit. The diorama seems to draw the attention of the children, who in turn bring their parents to see it. NJLHS now has three dioramas available. They are being used for speaking engagements and outreach exhibits. One diorama will eventually be on permanent display at the Tuckerton Seaport Museum.

Joe Kelly, Bill Volpe and myself are keepers of the three dioramas.

If you know of a Festival or Craft Show, etc., where you think we can set up an Outreach Exhibit please contact me at a meeting, through my phone number in The BEAM, or e-mail me at ymm615@hotmail.com.

The following Outreach Exhibits are scheduled:
August 4th at East Point Open House, Heislerville, NJ: Our exhibit will be on display from 10 am to 5 pm. Ron & Pat Bandock, Jimmy Gale; Joe Gruber, Elizabeth Pezzuto and Joan & Ray Stumpf have volunteered for this event.

September 29th and 30th at the Tuckerton Baymens' Duck Decoy Show: We will be set up in the Pineands Middle School, Tuckerton, NJ both days. Peggie & Ernie Boerner, Mary Catherine Kennedy, Jean Kinney, Catherine Klix are signed up for that weekend.

Additional volunteers are always welcome. If you can't make one of these, please feel free to sign up for future outreaches.

Charlotte Janskey (pictured at right) attending the June meeting wearing her "Future Sandy Hook Guide T-shirt"
2001 NJLHS Annual Preservation Raffle

By: Yvonne Miller, Coordinator, Raffle Committee

The Annual Preservation Raffle was very successful, as it has been in the past. This year there was the added excitement and anticipation of the making of the first prize New Jersey Lighthouse Quilt. The Society realized a profit of over $6,600.00 for the preservation fund. The raffle was a team effort of the committee but in particular, Rich Veit, who received and recorded all of the returns, did the state report and has agreed to coordinate next year’s raffle. Members of the Committee were: Brett & Judi Franks; Debbie and Harry Magonigal; Mike Mitzen; Elinor & Rich Veit. A personal “thank you” to all of them.

Photo by Elinor Veit

The needle pushing crew! Four of the ten women who worked on the quilt for over a year. Quilters L to R Virginia Freas, Trish Wylupek, And the winner is!!!!!! (Above) Frank Straub with his wife Kathy displaying their NJ Lighthouse quilt. Kathy said the quilt will hang in their Bellmawr, NJ home until their retirement home in Lewes, DE is completed.

THE WINNERS ARE

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<td>Ed Noyes, Elverson, PA</td>
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<td>Cape May Print by: Steve Harrington</td>
<td>Jack Slavin, Collingswood, NJ</td>
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<td>Harbour Lights replica, “La Caruna”</td>
<td>George E. Williams, Prospect Park, PA</td>
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<td>Winter’s Light Print by: Donna Elias</td>
<td>John F. Berger, Oaks, PA</td>
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<td>10th Prize</td>
<td>Gift Cert. NJLHS Merchandise $30.00 value</td>
<td>Louise Williams, Franklin, NC</td>
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The New Jersey Lighthouse Quilt

Once upon a time there was a quilter named Joan Smarrito. She had a friend, Yvonne Miller, who was a member of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society.

One day Yvonne, after seeing some of Joan’s quilted projects, asked if she might want to coordinate the creation of a lighthouse quilt. The quilt would be the first prize to be raffled off, the proceeds of which would benefit the New Jersey Lighthouse Society Preservation Fund. Fortunately for Yvonne, she caught Joan during one of her “senior citizen moments” and Joan accepted the challenge! The only stipulation Joan made was that Yvonne et al were to pick the seven lighthouses to be illustrated in this quilt.

Joan then started to investigate the many facets this type of project would involve, the first being acquiring photographs of the lighthouses. These photographs were then used to make the lighthouse patterns. This was a first for Joan.

When the patterns were completed, Joan then contacted women who might be interested in working on the first phase of the project. The quilters were: Mae Barringer (Hereford Inlet), Virginia Freas (BarNEGAT), Charlotte Hagmailer (Mariner’s Compasses), Robin Harker (Sea Girt), B.J. Raymond (Absecon), Kathleen Stout (Cape May) and Ilia Vliet (Sandy Hook). Joan worked on the Twin Lights of Navesink. A sky print fabric, large enough for each block background, along with the lighthouse patterns, were then sent to the above mentioned volunteers.

While these blocks were being worked on, the next phase was to decide on a border pattern that would be sewn around the lighthouse blocks. The Storms at Sea pattern seemed to be the perfect choice to further enhance the theme of this quilt. With that in mind, Joan purchased the material (one dark blue, one medium blue print and one light sky print). Given the size of this pattern—each square measuring 16” and the fact that each square had 65 pieces—an assembly line construction was the logical approach for this phase. This assembly line construction consisted of cutting, pinning, sewing, trimming, ironing and, as Debbie Pegonigal stated, quality control. The women involved with this phase were: Virginia Freas, Robin Harker, Debbie Pegonigal, Joan Smarrito and Trish Wylupek. Both Robin Harker and Virginia Freas offered their houses where this production line took place.

While the Storms at Sea construction was underway, Joan started to work on the backing of the quilt. Using the wooden picture frame concept from the front of the quilt, Joan decided to include a brief history of each of the lighthouses. In order to accomplish this, Joan asked Yvonne to write a brief history of each lighthouse. Joan then transferred this information onto fabric and laid out the histories in the same format as the lighthouses on the front. And in keeping with the theme of this quilt, a sky print fabric was chosen for the outside borders.

In the meantime, Joan, having received the completed lighthouse blocks, was now ready to construct the center of the quilt. In order to provide contrast, a dark blue fabric was sewn around each one of the lighthouse blocks. Then, to give the illusion that these blocks were encased in a picture frame, Joan first sewed a gold border emulating the mat. Then a brown border was added around the mat giving the appearance of a wooden picture frame. When all the Storms at Sea blocks were completed, they were sewn around the picture frame completing the front of the quilt.

When all this was completed, the next step was to hand quilt the three layers together: the front of the quilt, the batting and the back of the quilt. Once again Virginia Freas offered her house where the hand quilting would take place. A 92” square quilting frame was constructed in Virginia’s living room; this, by the way, took up her entire living room. The quilt backing was the first layer to be stretched onto the frame, after which the batting was laid on top. The front of the quilt was the last to be stretched and pinned. Then they were off and running (or hand quilting in this case)!! And as time went on and one, the 23” was looming closer and closer; some were getting concerned about their meeting the deadline. But Joan kept assuring them that they would have the quilt done in time and not to worry. As it turned out the hand quilting took approximately 500 hours. When the hand-quilting portion of the quilt was finally completed, it was time to remove it from the frame. However, there was still the binding left to do. So the quilt made another trip back to Joan’s where the very last phase of the quilt was completed with a couple of weeks to spare!!!! Joan was right; there was nothing to worry about—right?

The entire project took about a year and a half from its inception (when it was first mentioned to Joan) until the final stitch was sewn.

June 23, 2001: It was now time to relinquish the quilt to the NJLHS. The quilt was displayed in the auditorium where everyone could feast their eyes on it. Everyone who saw it loved it. There were many, many photographs taken.

The couple that won the quilt was thrilled. The winners will be retiring to the State of Delaware and that is where the quilt will be exhibited. Included with the quilt were instructions as to the care, displaying and storing of the quilt along with swatches of the material used.

A personal note: My dear friends, I could have never completed this undertaking without you. I will cherish the many hours, days, weeks and months we spent together. Friendships were established the likes of which can never be duplicated.

Will we ever forget the "Storms at Sea"?

I would like to extend a special thank you to Walter Freas. He was a perfect host, and a gentleman I might add, to all the women who were parading in and out of their home those many months. Thank you again, Walter.

Quiltingly yours,
Joan T. Smarrito, Quilt Coordinator
Program Signals

Fall Meeting - September 22, 2001: This Fall Meeting will be held at the Barnegat Light Fire Hall on Central and 10th Avenue in Barnegat Light, NJ. The theme of this meeting will be Authors’ Day. The following writers have agreed to attend the meeting. Members will be able to purchase or bring copies of books by the following authors: John Bailey, Sentinels of the Jersey Coast; Eleanor DeWire, author of several children’s lighthouse books; Bill Gately, Sentinels of the Shore; John Bailey Lloyd, noted authority on Long Beach Island and the Barnegat and Tucker’s Island Light; Kim Ruth co-author of Guiding Lights of the Delaware River & Bay; and David Veasey, author of Guarding New Jersey’s Shore.

Directions: From the North, South (295) and West (539 or Rte. 70) find your way to Route 72 East. Follow 72 East onto Long Beach Island. At Long Beach Blvd. turn left toward Barnegat Light. Stay on Long Beach Blvd., it becomes Central in the town of Barnegat Light. There is a caution light right at the intersection with 10th. The fire hall is on the NW corner.

T-Shirt, Sweatshirt or Shirt Contest: Joan Wood and Katie Mosier have added the following information regarding the contest this year: We will be having a T-Shirt, Sweatshirt or Shirt Contest at the September 22, 2001 meeting and the following new categories will be judged:

1. T-shirt, Sweatshirt or Shirt with the most New Jersey Lighthouses on it.
2. T-shirt, Sweatshirt or Shirt with the Patriotic Lighthouse colors of Red, White and Blue.
3. T-shirt, Sweatshirt or Shirt with any USA Lighthouse that was recently moved or restored.

Winter Meeting - December 1, 2001: The Winter Meeting is our election meeting. The meeting will again be held at the Spring Lake Elementary School followed by the Holiday Social at Sea Girt Lighthouse. Jim Crowley, author of a book on Lighthouses of New York, will give a presentation at 12:30 pm on the New York Harbor Lights.

SUMMER Meeting Recap: What a day! Even though the clouds threatened all morning and a few drops fell, the sun finally broke through as the meeting progressed. One hundred seventy three brave members and guests attended the 11th Anniversary Meeting of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, not knowing if we would be washed down the hill. The day went well, the shuttle bus carried members from the high school to Twin Lights and the Audubon Park Ladies served up a great lunch. I saw many members rolling up their sleeves and helping out and while I don’t have everyone’s name; a big THANK YOU all for making the meeting and picnic a success. In particular, I want to thank Carole DiNapoli for donating the watermelons again this year, the staff at Twin Lights for all of their help and Tom Laverty for allowing us to disrupt a well oiled operation for the day. Ways and Means sales were approximately $800 for the day. Approximately 40 members stopped in to visit the Monmouth Beach Life Saving Station and according to Mr. Keller, were very generous with their donations.

HOSPITALITY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who brought something to our June meeting for refreshments and also to those who helped out at the hospitality table that day. I ask anyone who is going to bring something to please drop me an e-mail at bjksmith@juno.com or call me at 856-546-7810 or drop me a note at 7 Goldfinch Road, Audubon Park, NJ 08106. This way I have a better idea of what I need to buy in the way of refreshments for the meeting and we don’t have this over abundance. Again, I really want to thank all of you who are helping out by donating refreshments and helping the day of our meeting.

Betty Smith

MEETING FOOD

On behalf of the Audubon Park 4th of July Committee, I would like to express their sincere THANK YOU to all your members who purchased your lunch from us at the June meeting. We hope everyone who brought something enjoyed it. On the same note, we have gotten permission from your group to sell lunch at the September meeting at Barnegat. The following is the menu we will be having and we hope that you will support us as generously as you did at the past meetings.

Linda Pennock, Chairperson Audubon Park 4th of July Committee

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