The restoration of Absecon Lighthouse started with a Historic Structure Report. This massive document listed six men who served as lighthouse keepers. However, it also said that there were always three keepers at the light station. It was this information, or rather a lack of complete information, that stirred our curiosity. It set us out on a quest to rebuild the history of the lighthouse keepers to go along with the history of the lighthouse.

Our pursuit took us to quite a number of research facilities. We started with the National Archives in Washington, D.C. On microfilm we found the assignments of the keepers and the dates they served at Absecon, where they came from if they were previously in the Lighthouse Service and where they went when they were transferred. Some died while employed as keepers. Others were removed from their posts. All of this is documented. At the National Archives in College Park, Maryland we found what may be the oldest photograph of Absecon Lighthouse. It was taken before the lighthouse was painted.

At the New Jersey State Archives we used both the Federal Census records and the New Jersey Census records. These records provided information not only on the keepers, but on their family members as well. Judging by the ages of the children in the census records, we were able to determine if they were born at the lighthouse. The State Archives also has the birth certificates, marriage records and death registrations for people living in New Jersey. These records, though often incomplete, are very helpful. We learned that at least 11 children were born at the lighthouse. Seven keepers or their wives and one premature baby died there. One keeper was married during his time of service and at least three children of keepers were married while living at the lighthouse.

The earliest keepers were local men. In the Atlantic Heritage Center (our local historical society) we located family genealogies and learned that the first three keepers were related. Daniel Scull, the first principal keeper, was married to Leah Ann Somers. Her brother James Somers was an assistant keeper and the other assistant keeper, John Nixon, was married to Caroline Somers, sister to James and Leah Ann. James left the Lighthouse Service shortly after Absecon Lighthouse was established as an aide to navigation. John Nixon stayed on and became the third principal keeper at Absecon. Later Daniel Albertson and Frank Adams, who were brothers-in-law, served at the same time as assistant keepers. Our research found that 26 men and one woman served as keepers of the lighthouse. The lone woman lighthouse keeper was the wife of Abraham Wolf, principal keeper at that time.

At the Heritage Center we also found a treasure trove of photographs of Absecon lighthouse, but pictures of only four keepers and none of their family members. There seems to be an endless supply of photographs of the lighthouse, but very few of the keepers and their families.

Our next stop was the Atlantic City Library. There we used the Atlantic City Directories to back up what we had researched earlier. We also found old newspapers on microfilm and located the obituaries of the some of the keepers and their family members. Also, at the library there is a file of newspaper clippings about the lighthouse, its keepers and happenings at the lighthouse over the years. The library also has some photographs of the lighthouse, but none of the keepers or their families.

Rewarding as this research is, our greatest pleasure comes when descendants of the keepers contact us. A number of them have visited the lighthouse. A few have sent e-mails. Sometimes they are seeking information. Sometimes they give us information that we do not have. Several years ago the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Frank Adams stopped at the lighthouse seeking information. We were happy to share what documents we had with them. They in return gave us information and a photograph of Frank Adam's daughter, Lois, standing in front of the keeper's house.
Wow…another year has flown right by!!!

Soon we will be changing the calendar from 2008 to 2009, and with that comes many changes in NJLHS. And I believe that change is good, change is refreshing...change is exciting!

One change (near and dear to my heart) is that I will be handing the reigns of Editor of The Beam over to Mike Boucher. Mike’s done an outstanding job the past few years as Beam Designer—his dedication, ideas, and creativity were evident in every issue. I know the newsletter will be in good hands.

I’ve had a wonderful experience as Editor and look forward to serving NJLHS in other capacities.

Have a wonderful, healthy holiday season…and see you in 2009!

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Well the month of October was another busy month for Lighthouse events.

On Saturday October 11, the Barnegat Lighthouse celebrated 150 years and NJLHS was invited to assist and participate in the celebration. Several of NJLHS members volunteered to assist in the celebration. Besides Bill Volpe and Brett Franks giving two of the key lectures, we had Bob Gleason and Cindy Mitzen in the tower, Mary Catherine Kennedy, Linda Gleason, Sheila Hines, Debbie Meganigal and Marty Hudspeth covering our Outreach exhibit and handing out membership and Challenge brochures. NJLHS was very visible at this event. It was an honor to be associated with them all.

The following weekend of course was the Challenge, and the numbers are featured later in the newsletter. Another reason to be proud of this organization and its volunteers. What a way to finish my tenure as a member of the Board, Programs Chair and President! I am very proud to be a part of it.

To all the members of the NJLHS, I want to thank you for 15 years of wonderful people and beautiful lighthouses. Good luck to the new Board of Directors and may I wish all of you, members and Board a very Happy Holiday Season and New Year.

Yvonne M. Thies, President

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**LIGHTSHIP STORY**

Mike Boucher’s story on lightships in the last Beam has attracted attention outside of the NJLHS. First the U. S. Lighthouse Society asked permission to put the story and photos on their web page in the lightship section. Their website is [http://www.uslhs.org/](http://www.uslhs.org/). Secondly, the Chesapeake Chapter of the U. S. Lighthouse Society, at the suggestion of Ron Mulligan, has donated the book: United States Lighthouse Service Tenders 1840-1939, written by Douglas Peterson, USCG (Ret) to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. The book came from the collection of the late Carole Reily. The 169 page book is packed with the history and photos of just about every lighthouse in America and maintaining all the aids to navigation.
In his two-year effort to achieve this goal, he joined forces with a highly respected and popular magazine called The Youth’s Companion. The magazine first published the pledge, which was authored by Francis Bellamy, in July of 1892. Using The Companion’s considerable influence with the nation’s public schools—and capitalizing on the rising tide of patriotism in the run-up to the Chicago World’s Fair—the publisher’s nephew, James Bailey Upham, was able to introduce the American flag along with the pledge itself into countless classrooms.

At the Twin Lights event in the Spring of 1893, Upham was one of the featured speakers. An organization he had recently started, the Lyceum League, furnished the Twin Lights with flags of many nations, which were displayed around the grounds during the event. Another speaker, John Winfield Scott, used the dramatic location of the Twin Lights to add gravity to the proceedings.

“Our fathers,” proclaimed Scott, “following in the great procession which Hudson led into yonder gateway, saw this hill—big with promise, smiling with hope—rise from the waters.”

The first flag to climb the Liberty Pole was considered one of the nation’s greatest treasures. It was a replica of the flag shot off of John Paul Jones’s ship, the Bon Homme Richard, during a critical battle with the Royal Navy on the other side of the Atlantic in 1779. Amidst the flying cannonballs a Lieutenant Stafford leaped into the sea and retrieved the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance recitation followed.

At the end of the day, the flotilla of ships swung around Sandy Hook and anchored in the bay. The multinational fleet exchanged shots with the big guns at Ft. Hancock on Sandy Hook.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag...” On April 25th, 1893, these words were uttered as the nation’s official Pledge of Allegiance for the very first time. The site was the Navesink Light Station—better known today as the Twin Lights—and the occasion was the most eagerly anticipated Flag Raising Ceremony in American history.

On an overcast day overlooking the Atlantic, a robust crowd peppered with national and local dignitaries watched the stars and stripes ascend to the top of the “Liberty Pole,” an impossibly massive 135-foot flagpole that seemed to dwarf the flanking light towers by a factor of two. A review of naval vessels from all over the world, invited by President Grover Cleveland, filled the horizon as it joined the U.S. Navy in providing a glorious backdrop to the proceedings.

On October 18, 2008, a somewhat more modest gathering is scheduled for the rededication of another historic flagpole with a long history at the Twin Lights. After several months of refurbishing and restoration, the Twin Lights flagpole will return to the spot where it has stood for more than a century. Work on the Twin Lights flagpole was recently completed by the Hans Pederson & Sons Boatyard in Keyport. It was returned to its home atop the Twin Lights Museum central structure on September 11, 2008.

“The 1893 event was dreamed up two years earlier by a Newark businessman named William Osborne McDowell,” explains Twin Lights Curator Margaret Carlsen. “In anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, McDowell wanted to erect a flagpole of unusual height at the highest point of land on the Atlantic coast in the continental United States. That’s where the Twin Lights entered the equation.”

McDowell, the founder of Sons of the American Revolution, wanted the Liberty Pole to be the first sight to greet immigrants and travelers as they approached New York harbor.

“TOMS RIVER COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On August 30, 2008, Community Outreach and Ways & Means attended an outreach put on by the Ocean County Historical Society’s “Old Time Antiques and Collectables Faire.” It took place in the Hadley Ave. Parking Garage in downtown Toms River, NJ—which was a unique place for a fair. In attendance were Marty Hudspeth, Sheila Hines, and Faith Giamboi (see photo on right). A lady came to our table wearing a lighthouse sweater. Sheila told her she liked her it and we started talking to her—she was 84 years young Marjorie Rider Currie and her grandson Roy Rider. Mrs. Currie went on to tell about her father, Paul Rider, and the family’s association with Tucker’s Island Lighthouse. He photographed the pictures of Tucker’s Island Lighthouse falling into the sea. Mrs. Currie and her grandson had a wealth of information about Tucker’s Island Lighthouse and they were very interesting to talk to, as are many people we meet at the outreaches.

Come, join us in these outreaches for a very rewarding experience and help us spread the works pf the NJLHS. Contact Anthony Albence at cua20064@aol.com

Photo by Twin Lights Curator Margaret Carlsen.
Saturday October 11th was a busy day for the ‘Grand Old Man of the Breakers’. A multitude of people from all over the region headed to Barnegat Lighthouse State Park for a day of celebration commemorating the sesquicentennial of the state’s most recognized lighthouse. On a beautiful Indian summer afternoon, people stood in lines waiting to hear lectures and climb the lighthouse.

The real anniversary is January 1st 2009, but let’s be serious, weather wise you couldn’t top this Columbus Day weekend. The official anniversary celebration will take place on New Year’s Day Eve when the lighthouse will be relit as an active aid to navigation once again.

A new lighthouse beacon will take residence in the tower 165 feet above the water and produce a 10 second duration pencil beam visible 18-20 miles out to sea. The Friends of Barnegat Lighthouse have worked very hard to bring about this event and the community recognized this in greater than expected numbers. Angelo Rinaldi, the president of the Friends group remarked that the event was a real testament to the hard work by the volunteers to maintain and promote the lighthouse. The Friends group raised over $30,000 from the community for relighting Old Barney, with $15,000 of that coming from the Long Beach Island Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5. Most of the funds will be used to buy the new lighting fixture authorized by the Coast Guard and to replace the Plexiglas windows of the lantern room.

NJLHS played a substantial role in the day’s events as well. Anthony Albence and the Community Outreach volunteers had set up their display along the walkway entering the park. Many people fascinated with the lighthouse took great interest in the Society and our goals. There wasn’t a five minute period during the whole event where someone wasn’t talking with one of our members about NJLHS. And for those who thought they might skirt by without being “enlightened”, weren’t getting past Mary Catherine Kennedy. That day she set up her beach chair right in the middle of a human river destined for the lighthouse. They were going to know about NJLHS and the Challenge event taking place next week. I’m not sure how many brochures she handed out that day, but I guarantee the Republican and Democratic Parties in the area were awfully jealous.

Another area where NJLHS helped fill the day was with members of the Speaker’s Committee. The consummate master of public speaking, Bill Volpe gave a lecture on the lights of New Jersey which filled the venue to overflowing. Many were turned away at the door by a smiling, but firm, group of Park volunteers who kept the distraction from the presentation at a minimum. Bill spoke for about 45 minutes using a variety of lighthouse items, photos and replicas from his personal collection. Everyone seemed to be drawn to Bill’s photography which, if anyone hasn’t had the privilege of seeing, usually takes a Master’s Prize during our annual photo contest. Being relatively new to the speaking circuit, I was amazed to see how Bill’s calm and gentle speaking style kept everyone’s attention and how he varied the items used, from a Challenge shirt to a Harbour Lights replica and even a Challenge souvenir puzzle.

The audience appreciated the time with Bill and gave him a wonderful response to his effort. For anyone who hasn’t had the opportunity to see and hear Bill speak, or view Anthony’s display, you’re missing excellent presentations. No wonder that under Bill’s and Anthony’s guidance the request for presentations by the Speaker’s Committee and for the Outreach group to participate continue to grow and the ideals of NJLHS reach more and more people every year. Later in the day it was my turn to try entertaining the audience and hopefully not crippling the earlier efforts of these two social experts. I gave a lecture on the history of classical Fresnel lenses. I work from slides and analogies to convey information, so those who attended both lectures got to see two very different styles and methods for presenting.

The Park volunteers told me the room was again filled to capacity and they received some complaints from people who were turned away. I’m amazed by this and figure those people were probably just looking for a place to sit down out of the sun. I mean could there really be that many people who wanted to hear about lighthouse lenses? It had to be another sign that our Outreach and Speaker’s Community Programs were truly stirring the interest of lighthouse admirers across the area. They were responsible for filling the house; I was just the grateful performer. Those in attendance were attive and asked a lot of questions upon conclusion of the lecture. Being my background is technical and I tend to get wrapped up in the details of things, I was really concerned I’d let NJLHS down as a speaker. My wife constantly tells me to get to the point when I relate a story to her. But be it gracious manners or complete mystification, the audience was wonderful to me. I enjoyed speaking to them about something of interest to me and loved being part of the wonderful day’s ceremony for Barnegat Lighthouse.

OLD BARNEY CELEBRATION
Dixie Amento

On October 11, 2008 over 6,000 people showed up at Barnegat State Park to celebrate Old Barney’s 150th birthday. The weather was an ideal autumn day with comfortable ocean breezes. The lighthouse was open for all who wanted to climb and there were approximately 1,600 people who did just that. Throughout the park there were many activities: lectures, contests, raffles, free food supplied by Barnegat Light PBA and a Coast Guard fly-over. The celebration started at 10:00am and a final concert at 5:00pm until sundown. The official birthday of Old Barney will be January 1, 2009 when a new beacon will re-light the lighthouse. The beam will be seen 18-20 miles out to sea. It will be a modern day version of a Fresnel lens. This wonderful celebration was given by the newly formed volunteer group called “Friends of Barnegat Lighthouse State Park.”
Lighthouse bed and breakfasts are a fun way of reliving the lighthouse keeper’s life in a small way. This issue we look at the B & B’s in this country. Worldwide there are more than 170 lighthouses in which one can stay. Some of the places are true B & B’s with gourmet meals and fine linens, while others are on the more rustic side—bring your own food, linens and paper towels. At most you have to pay to stay, while some of the stays are free and you must commit to a week or more of running the lighthouse—such as greeting the public, running the gift shop and giving tours. To find out more on lighthouse accommodations worldwide go to Jeremy D’Entremont’s website: New England Lighthouses, A Virtual Guide at http://lighthouse.cc/links/overnight.html#anchor602306. Only the Bold letters are in the puzzle.

If you ever get an opportunity to stay at Heceta Head lighthouse bed and breakfast—DO IT! It is not cheap and you need to book months in advance, but it is a grand experience—and parking at the keeper’s house saves a long climb up to the light.

We arrived after the specified check-in time (we should’ve read the instructions more carefully) and found an envelope with our names on it. Inside were a welcome and instructions. There was a lock box with a key to the house, and inside the key to our room was in a fruit bowl in the kitchen. We climbed the stairs to Victoria’s Room and realized that I would need to use the step stool provided to get into the waist-HIGH four poster bed. Our room with private bath, was on the back side of the house facing the dense forest.

This B&B originally was two houses for the assistant keepers. It now has six rooms with queen-sized beds (two with trundle beds) that accommodate 14 people and attracts newlyweds, family reunions, lighthouse enthusiasts and anyone looking for a scenic setting.

After settling in, we walked up to the lighthouse, which was already closed for the day.
The Royal Mail (British Post Office) issued a set of five lighthouse stamps on March 24, 1998. The unique feature of these stamps is the flash frequency of that particular lighthouse which is indicated at the very bottom of each stamp. The center of the design of each stamp is a picture of the lighthouse superimposed over a map of the area where the lighthouse is located and shows the name of the lighthouse as indicated on the map. The actual longitude and latitude of each light cannot be made out due to the small size. The 20 pence stamp (Scott 1804) depicts the St. John’s Point Lighthouse; the 26 pence stamp (Scott 1805) shows The Smalls; Needles Rock Lighthouse is on the 37p stamp (Scott 1806); the 43p stamp (Scott 1807) has the Bell Rock Lighthouse on it; and the final one in the set is the 63p stamp (Scott 1808) which has the famous Eddystone Lighthouse on it. Eddystone is located ten miles southwest of Plymouth in the English Channel. The original light at Eddystone was lit for the first time on November 14, 1698.

For more than 30 years, the brilliant red hull of the Lightship Overfalls has been a Lewes landmark, sitting in a berth on the Lewes & Rehoboth Canal. The ship, an essential piece of the nation’s nautical history, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

While this landmark is quite attractive, the reality is that the ship has been there so long, it’s stuck in the mud, listing to one side.

Fans of the historic craft can take comfort in the fact that in mid-September the first steps in the rehabilitation and restoration of the historic ship began. An effort to stabilize the ship was the initial step to prepare it to be towed 275 miles to Colona Shipyard in Norfolk, VA, for major repairs. These latest developments have taken place at a time when the 70th anniversary of the lightship has been marked by a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this key piece of nautical history—the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation.

Local Delaware companies have come together to provide support and materials for the project. The Wilmington (DE) Tug Company will provide the tug boat and crew for the trip at no cost. The cost for the fuel needed for the journey will be paid for by the Foundation. Claymont, DE-based Claymont Steel will donate the steel sheets to be used to repair the ship’s hull.

Lightship Overfalls was launched in 1938 and during its active duty life was assigned to two stations in New England, Cornfield Point and Cross Rip. The lightship remained in active use until 1972, finally serving in Boston Harbor. The next year, the ship was transferred to Lewes and named for the lightship station that was located near the Lewes, DE, harbor.

When the ship came to Lewes in 1973, it was named Overfalls for the lightship station that had been closest to Lewes Harbor. The Lewes Historical Society converted the ship to a museum that operated until 1999—when costs to do so became prohibitive. The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation took over the maintenance and operations for the craft in 2001. Over the past eight years, they have undertaken significant maintenance and restoration activities, and have raised more than the $1 million cost of these efforts.

Keep informed of the progress on this project at the Overfalls Foundation website: www.overfalls.org.

The entrance to San Francisco Bay has some wave-swept rocks, known as “Mile Rock”, and is one mile from the shipping channel—thus their name. In 1889, a bell buoy was placed near the rocks but was proved to be inadequate. The “City of Rio de Janeiro” ran aground with a loss of 128 souls. In 1904 a contract was awarded and work began on leveling Mile Rock. A 35-foot high, reinforced cement wall and a three-level steel tower was built on the four-foot thick walls. The lantern room completed the structure in 1905, and it was first lit in the winter of 1906. It was a “stag station,” that included two small bedrooms along with a bathroom on the third level. The second level had the kitchen/dayroom/office, and the first level had the engines for the fog horn. It was automated in the early 1960’s. The Coast Guard dismantled the tower in 1966, down to the first level and built a helicopter pad on the roof, and added a post light—for a cost of $110,000.
Work is progressing on the Ludlam’s Beach Light project. The most significant activities since last spring are as follows. Harbor Lights introduced lighthouse #362 “Ludlam’s Beach, New Jersey” in their June 2008 release and it is gorgeous. Through the diligent efforts of Ellen Byrne, the Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. received 501(c)3 incorporation status in July. In October the original plans of Ludlam’s Beach Lighthouse (from November 1884) were located in the National Archives thanks to the work of Candace Clifford. Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. have started mail campaign fundraising, and the Sea Isle City Revitalization Group is now supporting our saving the lighthouse.

**Harbour Lights** - Ludlam’s Beach Light #362 now completes the nine coastal lights of New Jersey for Harbour Lights collectors. Using photos for the late 1880s and early 1900s as well as current photos of the building Harbour Lights has produced an accurate and a truly beautiful reproduction. Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light are selling these reproductions to help raise funds (contact Bob Uhrmann at 609-390-9238 if you are interested).

**Original plans** - In order to reconstruct the light tower on the present building we need the original plans. A recent request to Candace Clifford of Alexandria VA, a well known researcher of lighthouse information, to try to find the original plans of the Ludlam’s Beach Light yielded a list of 26 drawings pertaining to the lighthouse, four of which appear to be the original plans and section drawings of the structure. Two years ago her brief search through the National Archives turned up empty. We are now in the process of obtaining reproductions of the most important drawings.

**Fundraising & Support** - Friend of the Ludlam’s Beach Light have started a mail campaign targeted at persons who have expressed interest in saving the lighthouse at the various community activities we have attended. We are also mailing to several mail lists of persons in Sea Isle City. Each donation receives a thank you card which also indicates the tax deductable status of the donation. As a result of our participation in the NJLHS Challenge (we were at Hereford Inlet Light) and our letters, the Sea Isle City Revitalization Committee, a group of Sea Isle business men with the goal of increasing foot traffic are now supporting the Restoration project with the goal of increasing foot traffic and revenue.

**BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL !!!**

**The 10th Anniversary New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge®**

To commemorate this remarkable milestone, we invite any interested members to join the Challenge Committee in the planning and staging of the event.

There are many facets of the Challenge that could use your interest, enthusiasm and/or area of expertise...

**GRANT WRITER** to prepare and submit grants for funding of the Challenge.

**PUBLICITY COORDINATOR** to prepare the Press Release and mass-mailing, work on the ad design and place ads.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** to recruit volunteers at the General Membership meetings and on the NJLHS website, maintain volunteer information (using a database) and coordinate Volunteer Reminder Letter mass-mailing. (Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Mail Merge is a plus!)

**BROCHURE/POSTER COORDINATOR** to work on the design and ordering of the brochures and posters.

**SOUVENIR COORDINATOR** to work on the design, ordering and distribution of souvenirs.

**SALE ITEMS COORDINATOR** to work on the design, ordering and distribution of T-Shirts and/or Pins.

**E-MAIL COORDINATOR** to monitor the Challenge e-mail box and answer incoming e-mails regarding various facets of the Challenge. (Good working knowledge of the Challenge a plus!)

If you would like to be a part of this momentous milestone, please contact Doreen Berson (dor0102@comcast.net) or Laura Porté (mlportee@comcast.net) or come and see us at the December meeting.

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**2008 LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE A SUCCESS!**

Doreen Berson & Laura Portée

The 2008 New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge® is in the books and by all accounts it was very successful! Over the course of the weekend, a combined total of 27,901 people were recorded visiting all 13 sites. Of the 2,213 participants who started the Challenge, 1,695 completed, with 163 Dual Challenge finishers and 81 Triple Challenge finishers.

We would like to share with you one of the e-mails we received from a participant thanking us for putting on the Challenge. Dave Munyan wrote:

> Getting up at 5:30 a.m. and leaving the house at 6:02 Sunday the 19th of October…

Fuel needed for the 430 mile journey…

> $0

Donations to each of the lights we visited…

> $86

The look on my son David’s face, after completing the 2008 NJ Lighthouse Challenge, in ONE day…

PRICELESS!!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make this year’s Challenge such a success. Your time, your energy and your efforts are, well…priceless.

Lothar & Hilelgard Benth with their grandchildren Nicholas & Alexander at Finns Point. This is the grandparents’ 4th trip from Germany for the Challenge Challenge.
It is because of these volunteers as well as the people behind the scenes that the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge® is a complete success each year for both the membership and the general public. Please take time at the December meeting to thank them for their dedication and time on this cold and (very) windy weekend.

THANK YOU from the Staff of the Beam!

CHALLENGE CO-CHAIRS

Laura Portée & Doreen Berson
ENGE VOLUNTEERS

**BARNEGAT LIGHT MUSEUM**
Donna Tavaglione, Hugh & Margo Murphy

**CAPE MAY**
Donna Cramer, Jack & Kay Hutchins, Chuck Cramer, Florence & Bob Neild

**FINNS POINT**
Sheila Hines, Carol Naill, Yvonne Thies, Mary Catherine Kennedy & Catherine Klix

**HEREFORD INLET**
Lisa Burke, Marty Hudspeth & Bill Volpe

**TINICUM**
Jayne Swope, Linda & Glenn Herman

**TUCKERTON SEAPORT**
Liz Smith, Debbie Megenigal, Pat & Ron Bandock

**VOLUNTEERS MISSING FROM THE PHOTOS**

**ABSECON**
Patty Ade, Brett Franks, Elinor Veit

**BARNEGAT**
Joe Amento

**BARNEGAT LIGHT MUSEUM**
Donna & John Bishop, Carole DiNapoli, Kathleen & Stanley Licinski, Corinne Martinelli, Mildred Plant, Cheryl, Joan & Ray Stumpf, Frank Tavaglione

**CAPE MAY COUNTY MUSEUM**
Marie Petronzio

**EAST POINT**
James Gale, Dennis & Esther Whelan

**FINNS POINT**
Judy Oshipp

**SANDY HOOK**
Chuck & Donna Cramer, Georgi Flandera, Rick Hodgman, Bob & Michele Newhouse, Donna Russo

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS**
Northeast - Cindy Mitzen; Central - Doreen Berson; Southeast - Bill Volpe; Western - Yvonne Thies
A MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP…

Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair; email address: NJLHSMember1@yahoo.com

Yes, it’s that time of year again—Renewal time! If you’re coming to the December meeting, renewal forms will be at the membership table for pick-up. If you’d like to pay your 2009 dues that day, please do so. If you’re unable to attend, the forms will be mailed-out after the meeting. Thank you to Carol & George Naill for donating the paper used for renewal forms this year.

Meeting Attendees:
There were 99 members and guests who signed in at our September meeting at Sandy Hook, NJ. Please remember to sign the book—we want to make sure there are enough seats for you at future meetings!

Nametags:
We have a new look to our membership nametags! They are $6.00 each to be ordered and paid for at each meeting. The price includes shipping and you have 3 options for the backing: standard pin, double butterfly clutch, or for $1.00 extra you can order a magnet. Stop by the membership table to place your order.

Membership Numbers:
At the deadline for this issue, the membership numbers are: Single Memberships: 221; Family Memberships: 293 x 2 = 586 for a total of 807* members. (*This number includes one Lifetime member, and seven Honorary members.)

New Members:
The following members have joined our Society since the September issue. Please note that if you become a member after the deadline for The Beam, you will be listed in the following issue. If you happen to meet them at a future meeting, please welcome them!

- Bodmer, Florette
- Bucher, Anna M.
- Cassidy, Patty Campbell & George
- Eggers, Judith E.
- Fitzgerald, Kathleen
- Hubbard II, Donald E.
- Huffman, Ellen
- Lypka, Louise
- Shearman, Arthur & Teresa
- Webster, Vicky & Sam

Bodmer, Florette
Hillsborough, NJ

Bucher, Anna M.
Little Egg Harbor, NJ

Cassidy, Patty Campbell & George
Media, PA

Eggers, Judith E.
Manchester, NJ

Fitzgerald, Kathleen
Linwood, NJ

Hubbard II, Donald E.
Budd Lake, NJ

Huffman, Ellen
Staten Island, NY

Lypka, Louise
Bristol, PA

Shearman, Arthur & Teresa
Sewell, NJ

Webster, Vicky & Sam
West Grove, PA

BOCA CHITA

Bill Schneider

Industrialist Mark C. Honeywell owned Boca Chita Key, east of Homestead, FL from 1937-1945. In 1938 he built a 65’ lighthouse out of local oolite limestone so his boat-owning friends could find their way to his key. The Coast Guard never allowed a light and there is no evidence of a lens pedestal in the lantern room. Since 1945, Boca Chita Key is supervised by the National Park Service, which infrequently opens the tower to the public.

BOCA CHITA

Bill Schneider

Recipe Corner

Marty Hudspeth

Cheese Log by Trish Wylupek

16oz. cream cheese
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded sharp or cheddar cheese
1T. chopped pimiento
1T. chopped green pepper
1T. finely chopped onion
2tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. lemon juice
Dash cayenne pepper
Finely chopped pecans

Combine softened cream cheese and cheddar cheese, mixing until well blended. Add pimento, green pepper, onion, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, and seasoning. Mix well, chill and shape into logs or balls. Roll in chopped nuts. Can also roll in herbs, parsley, or shredded dried beef. I make it 24 hours before for all flavors to set.

I was very happy to receive recipes at the September meeting and after by e-mail. I am still in need of 36 recipes to make the 150 need to publish.

I would like to get the book to the publisher as soon as I can after the first of the year, so look through your holiday recipes and bring them to the December meeting or send them to me.

Thanks so much.

What’s New in Ways & Means

Marty Hudspeth

The NJLHS cookbook is available from Ways & Means. The cookbook includes 150 recipes from NJLHS members, family & friends. $8.50 ea.; S/H $3.00, ea. add. book $1.50.

The Beam

Page 10
Winter Meeting: December 6, 2008

The meeting will be held at The Uptown School at 323 Madison Avenue, Atlantic City. The program for the day will be the presentation of the Recognition Awards by Tom Laverty and his committee.

Itinerary of the Day:
10:00 Hospitality
11:00 Membership Called to Order, Introduction of Visitors, Committee Reports, Special Guest Speaker
12:30 Adjournment, Lunch

The Holiday Social will be held at the Absecon Keeper’s House. The capacity of the lighthouse for the social will be approximately 35 to 40 people at a time. Tickets will be given out at the meeting for either the first portion (1:00-2:30 PM) or the second portion (2:30-4:00 PM) of the social.

DIRECTIONS TO THE UPTOWN SCHOOL:

From northern New Jersey: Garden State Parkway south to Exit 40 and take E. White Horse Pike toward Atlantic City. It will turn into Absecon Blvd. in 2.8 miles from the off ramp. Make a left onto Mediterranean Ave. Go 1 block the street name changes to Melrose Ave. at New Jersey Ave. Go 4 blocks to N. Vermont Ave. and turn right to the Uptown School Complex, 323 Madison Ave.

From southern New Jersey: Garden State Parkway north to Exit 38 and turn onto the Atlantic City Expressway. At the end of the expressway the street name will be Christopher Columbus Blvd. (7 miles). Turn left on Atlantic Ave. continue for 1.4 miles to N. Vermont Ave and turn left on Madison Ave. to the Uptown School Complex, 323 Madison Ave.

From western New Jersey and Pennsylvania:

I-76, Schuylkill Expressway, east to New Jersey. Travel 7.6 miles and merge onto Highway 42 which will turn into the Atlantic City Expressway. Travel this for 45 miles and follow the directions for southern New Jersey starting at Christopher Columbus Blvd. and turning left on Atlantic Ave.

Fall Meeting Recap:

Approximately 99 members attended the summer meeting at Sandy Hook, NJ. The day was misty and rainy. It was fairly warm so the meeting was held under the tent. The annual preservation raffle was held. Lou Venuto spoke to the group about the cleaning of the lighthouse and the various programs held at the Hook.

As always, additional/new volunteers are most welcome. This is the ONLY way to ensure that our Society’s presence in the community remains strong. Please keep in mind that you don’t need to be a lighthouse “expert” to be part of the team—just willing to discuss our shared interests with event patrons. There’s always someone to “fill in the blanks”. We have an outstanding base of lighthouse knowledge in our membership ranks.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas/or more information. My mailing address is:
Anthony J. Albence
P.O. Box 8184
Wilmington, DE 19803-8184
You may also contact me via e-mail at: cu20064@aol.com

Happy Holidays, many thanks...and keep the lights shining!

A NOTE FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Anthony J. Albence, Chair - Photos by Marty Hudspeth

The New Jersey Lighthouse Society’s Community Outreach Committee 2008 outreach season was a memorable one!

The Society participated for the first time in the Warren County Farmers’ Fair/Balloon Festival—a major event in northwestern NJ! This was a great success, and really extended our reach into a new (for us) part of the state. This event also afforded the opportunity to involve some new members in Community Outreach—which is also very exciting!!

The season closed with NJLHS’s participation in some established events, such as the Beach Plum Festival (9/7 at Island Beach State Park), the Ocean County Decoy and Gunning Show (9/22-23 in Tuckerton), and Ocean Fun Days (10/12 at the Lobster House in Cape May). Also, the Society was represented at the 150th anniversary celebration at Barnegat Light on 10/11.

The new NJLHS giveaway items for visitors to our exhibits/displays at outreach events have proven to be quite popular! Look for the mini-crays pack (for our children’s coloring activities) which feature the Society logo, and a mini-flashlight that carries the tagline “Keep the lights shining” along with the Society web address to return in 2009!

As always, additional/new volunteers are most welcome. This is the ONLY way to ensure that our Society’s presence in the community remains strong. Please keep in mind that you don’t need to be a lighthouse “expert” to be part of the team—just willing to discuss our shared interests with event patrons. There’s always someone to “fill in the blanks”. We have an outstanding base of lighthouse knowledge in our membership ranks.

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Happy Holidays, many thanks...and keep the lights shining!
The Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island in New York City is no more. The Board of Directors has disbanded the organization after many years of trying to get it going. According to the former director, Jerry Roberts, the City’s Economic Development Corporation has been dragging its feet and “stone walled the project until it died.” Part of the problem was that the Board failed to raise $15 million dollars in private funds.

The National Park Service awarded the Penfield Reef Lighthouse to Beacon Preservation to manage. Built in 1874 it is located south of Fairfield, CT in the Long Island Sound. Both the Town of Fairfield and Beacon Preservation were vying to take ownership of the 1874 granite structure. Both groups want to preserve the lighthouse, but the Beacon group is going to use the lighthouse as a research facility and possibly limited public access, while the Town would have no public access due to liability issues. The Coast Guard made extensive repairs to the interior of the lighthouse in 2002 but the Beacon Group said it will need another $500,000 to do some more repairs, add solar power and possibly a dock.

The Coast Guard is looking for vandals who broke into the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse. In August during a routine check-up of the lighthouse, they discovered somebody broke into the building—stole tools, burned papers, pulled electrical wiring and damaged an urn containing the remains of the former station’s mascot. The break-in date is unknown and if the person(s) is found, they could be fined up to $250,000 and spend 10 years in jail. The damage did not affect the operation of the light.

Michigan’s oldest operating lighthouse, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in Port Huron, has been closed for tours this summer. The 179 year lighthouse has deteriorating brickwork. A full structural assessment and needed repairs must be made before the lighthouse can reopen.

The 115 year old Heceta Head Lighthouse in Oregon is in need of some help. The 56-foot brick tower has developed leaks that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in the tower. The outside catwalk is unsafe and the stairs need replacing. The horizontal support beams (that hold up the lantern) are rusted as well as the railing around catwalk outside. Water is coming in and pooling between the roof and a liner that allow water to penetrate the bricks, and algae is now growing in
Talk is cheap. We all know that. And so do those people who manage lighthouses and museums around this country. But when the Preservation Committee’s Helping Hands group got named we wanted to show it isn’t just a catchy name. This is a group of NJLHS members who volunteer their time and sweat equity to keep the items of our lighthouse history maintained and preserved. The group has been active for two years now and each year the requests for their services have grown. It started out cleaning up trash around Sandy Hook Lighthouse and has evolved into a jack of all trades menagerie that responds when called.

The idea was to get members involved on a tactile level. Meaning you’re going to get your hands dirty. While many lighthouse groups and enthusiasts support their passion with money and visitation, there’s a whole different dynamic for those who not only want to see these historic sentinels survive, but want to be part of it. They are willing to give their time to the lights for an opportunity to be part of something that outlasts them and to be directly responsible for helping ensure future generations have the same chance to enjoy these lighthouses as we do. It’s not difficult but it does require sacrifice. On two separate warm October days in the same week, the Helping Hands group provided volunteers to help clean the first order Fresnel lenses housed in the Barnegat and Cape May Historical Museums. Barnegat was about to have its 150th Anniversary Kick off event and both of these museums were new locations for the annual NJLHS Lighthouse Challenge. So getting these artifacts presentable was a major concern.

The volunteers cleaned almost 2000 prisms on those lenses using about 60-65 man-hours to complete. The effort started with the Barnegat lens. Six members showed up and prepared for a day of dusting, wiping and polishing glass. The entire evolution took about 5 hours on the clock but I think if you asked those in attendance they would say the time flew by. The camaraderie and laughter shared during that work party were infectious and the museum alerted one of the local papers to come and record the event.

The reporter showed up a little past eleven o’clock and was soon so interested in the lens, its history and the quirky group of people cleaning it that she stayed for the next three and half hours. Her efforts culminated in three different articles for the various publications she worked for and got NJLHS some free publicity for the Society and the Challenge. But this a fringe benefit. Most times the group activities go unnoticed and appreciated by only those who know the lighthouse or artifact best. For example, the Cape May lens. It was cleaned a few days later and required the same time and efforts as the Barnegat version.

The volunteers worked for about 5 hours again removing a decades worth of dust and dirt from this beautiful example of Fresnel’s genius. However there was no reporter. No one but the museum staff knew we were there. But the payback came when over a thousand visitors marched past that lens during the challenge. They saw a sparkling piece of history staring back at them. They took photos and memories away from the visit and hopefully something else. They’ll take away a respect and curiosity about that most important piece of any lighthouse. And possibly an interest will grow.

If the lights and lenses look like they are falling apart, unkempt, overgrown and ignored how can you expect the public to take their preservation seriously. So be it polishing prisms, building shelves, cleaning out archives, repairing shutters, painting porches or shoveling sand, the Helping Hands group will join in. And as long as the volunteers are as much fun to be around, I’ll be right there with them.

When entering Brigantine, NJ one comes to a traffic circle. In that traffic circle sits the old police station, and what makes it unique is that it is a lighthouse. It was built in 1926, by the Island Development Real Estate Company. It was never used as a lighthouse but as an advertising tool to attract people to come and buy land and built homes in Brigantine. With the Depression of 1929, the Island Development Company went out of business and the lighthouse became city property. In the early 1930’s, the City’s police department moved its headquarters into the vacant lighthouse. After World War II, the police department moved to a different location and the building was turned into a museum and gift shop. With the growth of the City and being at the busiest intersection at the rotary, the lighthouse museum and gift shop were closed for safety concerns. It sat vacant until just recently. Ralph Aversa, a local businessman started working on restoring it. Like all real lighthouses this wooden tower developed leaks coming from rotten windows and causing most of the flooring to have holes. With the help of volunteers and donated materials, the lighthouse was refurbished. There are 46 steps to the lantern room and three levels. In the lantern room a decorative light is mounted and a motor rotates the light. At night the lighthouse is lit on the outside and is used for City storage.

WANTED
Pictures and stories of your lighthouse adventures. Send to: beam@njlhs.org or talk to Mary Beth Doherty or Mike Boucher at the next meeting. We want to hear from you!
On June 20, 1878 Congress appropriated $34,000 to build this lighthouse. New York State gave the land to the Federal Government to build the lighthouse only to find out they had given away New Jersey land. A border dispute of who owned the land ensued and once it was solved, construction began on the lighthouse.

This sparkplug, cast iron tower gets its name from the oyster beds that it lies on. The area was known for its oysters. The five section lighthouse was first lit on November 15, 1880. It was painted dark brown before numerous complaints of it blending in with the trees, changed it to an all white lighthouse. It stands 60’ high and has a focal plane of 61’.

A red flash is seen every six seconds from the 155mm lens that replaced a 4th order Fresnel lens. The last keeper left in 1945 and the lighthouse was automated.

By placing it on the National Register of Historical Places, funds for upkeep will be provided by the Federal Government. To be placed on the Register, a site has to be at least 50 years old and have some historical significance, type of construction, birth place or grave to qualify. The Great Beds Lighthouse is one of the earlier cast iron sparkplug towers built in the Country. It is narrower than most of the other sparkplug towers built.

Viewing the Lighthouse is easy since it is located just a mile off shore from Staten Island and South Amboy. The City of South Amboy is very proud of its lighthouse and is part of the City’s logo. There are no plans for the lighthouse to be opened for tours in the future because a boat is needed and to gain access one has to climb a ladder up the caisson above the water.

We were up at 7:00a.m. for another walk to the lighthouse before our seven course breakfast at 8:30. As we returned, we saw Chef Patty in the garden cutting spinach – that was later found to be part of the frittata (eggs, spinach and potato) that was the main course of our breakfast. Each course at breakfast was announced by our waiter Craig (who was a good singer with a CD to sell) and included fresh fruit cup, shrimp spread on crumpets, chocolate butter & scones, cranberry frappe to cleanse the palate, the spinach frittata and home made sausage, blackberry pastry with cheese and melon balls, juice and coffee. Breakfast was completed in a little over two hours. We said our good byes and everyone went their way.

We went back up to the lighthouse for more pictures and finally a tour inside the lighthouse. We were the first tour with tickets # 1 and 2. We made a donation and received a magnet. At the top of the lighthouse we saw the first order Fresnel lens. The lens had been taken out, repaired and the turn table was leveled in 2001. The lighthouse was turned-over to the County to maintain and operate tours. Now volunteers walk up the long steep walk from the parking lot below the cliff to give the tours and operate the gift shop. Of course we supported the gift shop with purchases that included lighthouse salt and pepper shakers just like the ones used at breakfast in the keeper’s house.

Then it was off to the next lighthouse – and to stop at the grocery store for the local wine recommended by one couple, and to go to the cheese shop recommended by another. We look forward to returning to Heceta Head B & B and staying in Mariner 1 or 2 with a lovely view of the ocean and the sounds of the crashing waves.

Ludlam’s Beach Light Restoration

Continued from Page 7

Traffic in the downtown area, is very enthusiastically supporting us and now wants to locate the lighthouse in a prominent vacant area by the beach in the center of town.

Status of the present building - The present owner of the building wishes to build two, three-story housing units on the property where the Ludlam’s Beach Light building is located. Current zoning requires him to have commercial establishments on the first floor of each building, something he does not wish to do. The City of Sea Isle City is allegedly planning to change this zoning by the end of 2008. Once this is done, the present owner will submit his plans to the zoning board for his proposed new building and the ‘log jam’ will be broken clearing the way for the Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. to assume ownership and move the building. Meanwhile, the present lighthouse building continues to deteriorate since the present owner has little interest in investing in its maintenance. He will be rid of it one way or another.

Other miscellaneous activities –

July 14, 2008 – Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. participated in the 10 annual Craft Fair at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Donna Elias, a prominent lighthouse artist from Atlantic City, is interested in including Ludlam’s Beach Light in her collections of New Jersey Lighthouses.

August 4, 2008 – Jack Tasso, the great-great-grandson of Ludlam’s Beach Light keeper Joshua Hand Reeves, visits from Pasadena California, tours the lighthouse building and dines with the Friends of Ludlam’s Beach Light.

August 12, 2008 – a presentation on the importance of preserving the Ludlam’s Beach Lighthouse is made to the Sea Isle City Council at their council meeting at their request.

September 13 & 14, 2008 – Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. had a booth at the Sea Isle City Family Weekend.

The September issue of South Jersey Magazine includes an article by Bernadette Finnerty on the Ludlam’s Beach Light “A Legendary Lighthouse”.

October 11, 2008 – Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. had a booth at the Sea Isle City 1st annual Harbor Fest.

October 18 & 19, 2008 - Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. had a booth at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse for the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge.

October 25, 2008 – Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. had a booth at the Sea Isle City Oktoberfest.

November 1, 2008 – Friends of the Ludlam’s Beach Light Inc. attended the meeting of the Sea Isle City Revitalization Committee and made brief statements on the need to preserve this link with Sea Isle’s maritime past.
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Place them under a lamp or other light source to showcase the artwork. Available in Absecon, Barnegat, Jersey Pails (lighthouses painted on pails), Cape May & Sailing the light (Cape May) $12.00 S/H $2.00

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In This Issue
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DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 1

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
The Beam
P O Box 332
Navesink, NJ 07752-0332