



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse
Keepers and Friends Association, Inc.

"Our mission is to preserve the history of

*the Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their
Keepers*

Volume 12 Issue 1

Spring 2012

Discover the Discovery Project

Home of New Jersey's Tall Ship "Schooner A.J. Meerwald"

BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
also home of the Delaware Bay Museum

The Bayshore Discovery Project's mission is to motivate People to take care of the environment of New Jersey's Bayshore region through education, preservation and example. Established in 1988, the organization spent eight years painstakingly restoring the 1928 Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner A.J. Meerwald. Now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Bayshore Discovery Project recently completed the restoration of the 1904 Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves, which served as the centerpiece of the oyster industry back when Port Norris was known as the "Oyster Capital of the World"

The sheds serve as home port to the Schooner A.J. Meerwald and house the Delaware Bay Museum and Folklife Center, a gallery and gift shop and the Oyster Cracker Café. Bayshore Discovery Project hosts events and educational programs throughout the year, including the "Second Fridays by the Bay" and the outstanding **Delaware Bay Day** annually on the first Saturday in June. A seafood and folklife festival devoted to anyone who enjoys fresh local seafood, made to satisfy any seafarer or landlubber, plus Bay history. This is also the first A.J. Meerwald Cruise of the season from Home Port (More History of the Oyster Industry on page 7)



Photo courtesy of Steve Greer Photography



Oyster Shipping Sheds CRRNJ Boxcar and Boardwalk



A.J. Meerwald under cover from harsh elements



Volunteer youth from Moorestown Friends School

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**A BEAM From
The Presidents
Desk By
Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.**



President’s Message

Well, it appears, spring will be here early this year. We are having nice warm weather already, let’s hope Mother Nature doesn’t throw us any surprises.

As you all know, memberships are renewable each year in March, so don’t forget to send your renewal form and check back if you haven’t done so to date. Our Mission depends on you annual support. I don’t want you to miss a single issue of our “Bay Run” newsletter, that keeps us all updated on the happenings in our organization and over all interesting articles. Thanks to the team that spend endless time developing and researching for each interesting articles .Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan and other contributors also our photographers Bill Geilfuss and Dr. Bruce Middleton. They all do such a fine job.

Cruise dates have been set and approved, with our first one on July 15th, an outstanding cruise to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse (this was my Keepers location) Hope to see you there. Be sure to check to web site and newsletter for all of the important dates.

I am hoping to have as many former lighthouse keepers as possible attend National Lighthouse Day on August 7th at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood. It would be nice to have a reunion that day as we celebrate this national event. Lots of activities will be planned for every member of your family. You can’t miss this great first time event! Please contact me if you would like to be part of this celebration. Till then...

“Keep the light shining”

Angelo



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For Newsletter ideas, Contact

**DBLHKFA c/o Maxine Mulligan
1049 Simca Terr., Vineland, NJ 08360
E-Mail – Memax1@juno.com**

Jim Moffatt

**1728 Woodcrest Dr Vineland, NJ 08361
E-Mail - JamesMoffatt@comcast.net**

The DBLHKFA, Inc. Officers and Directors

- President..... Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.
- Vice President..... Gaylord F (Dusty) Pierce
- Chairman of the Board.....Rod Mulligan
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- Secretary.....Darlene Rigazio
- Membership.....Eva Moffatt
- Activities/Programs.....Peggy Stapleford
- Sunshine/Hospitality.....Katie Moser
- Publicity.....Jean Jones
- Historian.....Peggy Stapleford
- Ways and Means Anthony Giletto
- Newsletter.....Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan
- Webmaster.....Kelly Mulligan
- Scholarship Committee.....Anthony Giletto

Board of Directors

**Rod Mulligan, Bill Geilfuss, Tony Giletto
Jim Gardner and Katie Moser**

Phone Numbers and E-Mail Addresses

A. Rigazio	(609) 884-1329	Keeperang54@yahoo.com
G.F.Pierce	(302) 684-3512	overfalls@juno.com
R & M Mulligan	(856) 691-8224	Memax1@juno.com
J Jones	(856) 825-3386	jeanjones@fast.net
Jim Gardner	(856) 825-0123	elmargar@verizon.net
Bill Geilfuss	(732)-477-7768	billyrio@aol.com
Katie Moser	(215)-844-8548	KatieMos@aol.com
D. Rigazio	(609) 884-1329	Darlenej50@yahoo.com
P Stapleford	(484)-947-3191	mspegstapleford@windstream.net.
Jim & Eve Moffatt	(856)691-0201	JamesMoffatt@comcast.net
Tony Giletto	(856)482-8874	Nino21328@aol.com
K. Mulligan	(856)-691-8224	Kelly@delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org

The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.

Winter Membership Meeting at Tincum Rear Range Light

Our well attended meeting at the Paulsboro Sportsmen's Club had the good fortune to hear guest speaker Jim Milsted. He spoke about Tincum Rear Range Light, his life experiences, during his boyhood climbing the outside of the light, history of Paulsboro and the immediate area. To bring Paulsboro into perspective it is directly across the Delaware River from Philadelphia International Airport. There are two large refineries in Paulsboro. Tincum Rear Range Light is located in the middle of one of them since, the government would not allow the lighthouse to be moved, so the refinery buiklt around it. Jim spoke of "blow out" tides some cause by extreme northwest winds and a full moon. People could walk across the river at low tide in some areas. There is both trash and treasure in the Delaware. "Hour-glass" effect under bridges create whirlpools, many swimmers have drowned The channel changes affected the buildings causing Tincum Front Range Light to be moved 3 times. Two historic places along the Delaware are Fort Billings, was built as the highest point during the Revolutionary War to stop the British from advancing to Philadelphia. Lincoln Park, at the turn of the 18th century, more than 17,000 people would cruise there from Philadelphia on a summer weekend. Thanks to Jim Milstead, his recollections were like an educational tour back in time as we learned more about the Tincum Lights and the Delaware River.(Photos on page 7)

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Excerpts from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem

**And as the evening darkens, lo! how bright.
Through the deep purple of the twilight air, Beams
forth the sudden radiance of it's light with strange,
unearthly splendor in the glare.
And the great ships sail onward and return
bending and bowing o're the billowy swells' and
ever joyful as they see it burn, they wave their
silent welcomes and farewells.
The mariner remembers when a child, on his first
voyage, he saw it fade and sink, and when
returning from adventures wild, he saw it rise
again o'er oceans brink.**

Write Down Your Thoughts!

Articles you would like to see in your "The Bay Run" newsletter. Why you became a member ? Areas of interest that would be convenient for Membership Meetings, the Annual Picnic and the Annual Meeting and Lighthouse Keepers Reunion. Your Board of Directors and Committee Chair persons are always looking for fresh new ideas that will increase our attendance and membership. E-Mail or write down your thought to President Angelo at Keeperang54@yahoo.com 108 Willow Dr, North Cape May, NJ 08204

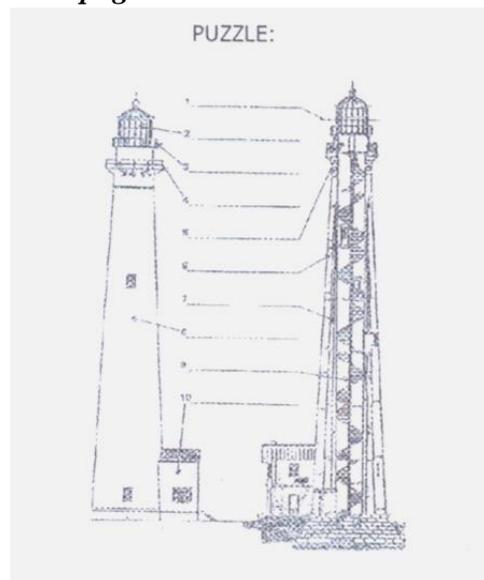
Chairman Rod Mulligan at Memax@Juno.com
1949 Simca Terr.
Vineland, NJ 08360

We all appreciate your continued interest, support and membership in DBLHKFA.

For those members who have not renewed their 2012-2013 Membership there is a Membership Renewal Form included in this newsletter. Annual renewals were due by March 1st.

For those members who have renewed to date. Your New Membership Card is attached to this newsletter

QUIZ TIME! Things a true pharologist (those who study lighthouses) should know
At Cape May Lighthouse fill in the blanks with their proper terms: Vestibule house, Lantern gallery, Spiral staircase, Focal plane, Watch gallery, Lantern, Tower, Watch room Inner wall, Outer wall
Answerers on page 6



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Of the Board Rod Mulligan

A National Lighthouse Celebration is planned for Tuesday, August 7th. Our organization has been invited to take part in this celebration at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood, NJ. It is now in the major planning stages, Steve Murray, the coordinator at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse various dignitaries have been invited, so far former Congressman Bill Hughes, US Coast Guard Commander and the Coast Guard Band. There will be Ham Radio Operators sending and receiving information and messages worldwide. There will be activities for every member of the family, lighthouse tours and many events regarding the history of lighthouses, lighthouse keepers and the men who served from the earliest days of the maritime life saving services.

So Much to See and Due

Can you imagine Sailing on the A.J. Meerwald this Spring, Summer or Fall. It is an experience of a lifetime especially for children who will learn about the River and Bay ecology. I have had the opportunity for several years to work on the restoration of the Schooner with so many interesting and dedicated people. The Bayshore Discovery Project offers courses in restoration of the Schooner, Sheds and Wharf all of which require constant attention and upgrading.

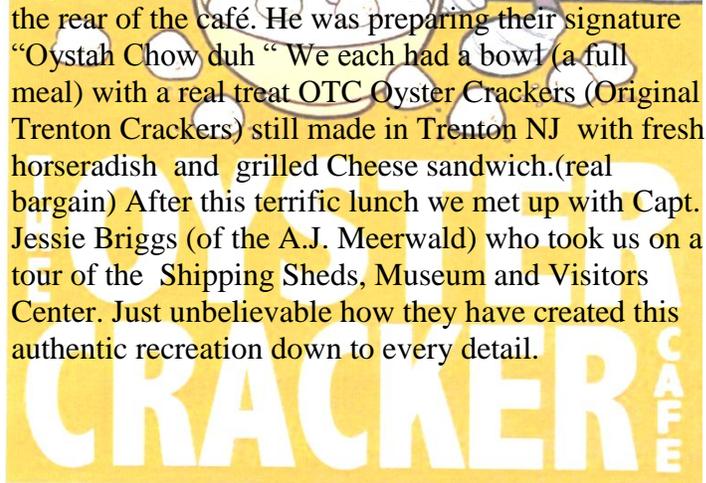
Honoring Clarence A. "Bunky" Higbee, Jr.

I'm sad to report that we lost a good friend on December 3, 2011. Clarence "Bunky" Higbee, Jr. owner of Higbee's Marina, Bait Shop and Luncheonette and the Miss Fortescue Party Boat for the past 45 years. Our Carole Reily used to be there every weekend displaying/selling her lighthouse postcards and Delaware Bay Lighthouse merchandise. As a resident "Bunky" lived at the same location for 74 years. A champion race car driver he was inducted into the Southern NJ

Hall of Fame for Racing. Active in his community: Lifetime member of the Fortescue and Downe Twsp Fire Company's He will be sadly missed by everyone who came in contact with "Bunky" Higbee, Jr.

Visit to Bayshore Discovery Project On March 23rd it was a perfect spring day when Jim Moffatt and I visited BiValve, NJ and the newly renovated Shipping Sheds, the Schooner A.J. Meerwald under winter cover. Plus, the very enlightening visuals of Port Norris's heydays then a major center of the "Oyster Industry" from the turn of the century until the '30's We also visited their History Museum Visitors Center.

The weather was perfect and the chef from the (yes!) "Oyster Cracker Cafe" was preparing lunch outside of the rear of the cafe. He was preparing their signature "Oystah Chow duh" We each had a bowl (a full meal) with a real treat OTC Oyster Crackers (Original Trenton Crackers) still made in Trenton NJ with fresh horseradish and grilled Cheese sandwich.(real bargain) After this terrific lunch we met up with Capt. Jessie Briggs (of the A.J. Meerwald) who took us on a tour of the Shipping Sheds, Museum and Visitors Center. Just unbelievable how they have created this authentic recreation down to every detail.



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

On this day there were 15 students from the Moorestown, NJ Friends School some 50 mile north of BiValve who had spent five days scraping, wire brushing, painting, varnishing shining brass under the leadership of Meredith Hanamiriam, for the upcoming season of sailings of the A.J. Meerwald. This is one of their Community Service Projects There are many other schools participating in helping to keep the Schooner in to Shape.

To volunteer contact info@ Bayshorediscovery.org or call 856-785-2060 Website is: www.bayshorediscovery.org

COULD THIS BE YOUR LAST COPY OF "The Bay Run?"

Unfortunately a ship can't sail without sails or fuel and your Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association can't continue our "Mission" without your annual Membership Renewal

**PEGGY'S CORNER
NEWS n' VIEWS**

By Peggy Stapleford

Activities/Program Chair



DBLHKFA 2012 ACTIVITIES

SPRING MEETING

Saturday, April 28th

Tatham Lifesaving Station

117th St & 2nd Ave Stone Harbor, NJ

Bring Brown Bag Lunch & Beverage

Topic: History of Tatham LSS Station

(Directions inserted in this Newsletter)

SUMMER MEETING-PICNIC

Saturday, June 23rd 2012

Cape May County Zoo . 11:00 A.M.

Coffee and Donuts Social

12 Noon Membership Meeting

1:00 P.M. Picnic-There is a grill available

Remember!! bring your own picnic goodies

“Bring the Family-Great for kids”

Our location is at Picnic Area #6*

**When you come to the entrance gate ask for directions to our DBLHKFA Picnic Area #6*

HEREFORD MARITIME DAYS

**Saturday July 7th & Sunday July 8th We need
volunteers to help out!!**

AUGUST “A Great NEW Event”-

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2nd 2012 “National

**Worldwide Lighthouse Celebration” Ham Radio
Operators sending and receiving Worldwide from
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Children’s activities,
music, Civil War Enactors, Food, and variety of
vendors. Plus Lighthouse Keepers to discuss life on
their lighthouses of Delaware Bay PLUS! many
interesting Maritime exhibits**

LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

Of NEW JERSEY

Saturday October 20th & Sunday 21st

Join us at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING and KEEPERS
REUNION BANQUET**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST 2012

Don’t Miss It! Mark the date down NOW

**Location to be announced in the
Summer Issue of your “Bay Run”**

WHO NEEDS HELP!!

*There are many Maritime Groups who can
use your help. Starting with your own
Association.*

*We are dedicated to assist with numerous
“Outreach Programs” but we need more
member volunteers. These programs
showcase our “Mission” Please get involved.*

You will meet great knowledgeable

volunteers and have fun doing it

Contact Pres. Angelo (609)884-1329

Or any Director listed on page 2

Some other Volunteer contacts: Historic

Absecon Lighthouse Stephanie Carr

(609)449-1350

Historic Cape May Lighthouse

(800) 275-4278

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse

(609)522-4250

GHOSTLY FUN in CAPE MAY!

*Take advantage of the rare full moon tours and the
Full Moon Climb and Full Moon Ghost Hunt July
15th, Aug. 13th, Sept 12th 8 to 10 p.m. Included is the
original Cape May haunted house the Emlyn
Physick Estate tour. Afterward return to the
Carriage House Tearoom for dessert and discuss
your findings .Tickets \$30 Call 800-275-4278 for
reservations, information.*

NEW BOOK Local History

***“For Those in Peril” A history of the Ocean City
Life Saving Station***

**Kimball Baker, writer historian is offering the
profits from the sale of his book to the restoration
of the Ocean City Life Saving Station and
Museum.**

**Send check for \$11.45 includes shipping to P.O.
Box 24, Somers Point NJ 08244**

Discover the World of Bivalves

What better place to explore the world of bivalves (Oysters and Clams) than right here at the Bayshore Discovery Project Museum and Folklife Center at the totally restored Oyster Shipping Sheds and Wharves. Twenty three years of major effort and five million dollars later The Bivalve Center profiles the heart of the Oyster Industry, past and present. During the first half of the 20th century, Oyster Schooners were rafted up to seven deep at the wharves after a week of harvesting.



(Oystermen fresh back with their haul of oysters)



(Oyster Shuckers at the Bivalve Shucking house)

Oystermen carted thousands of baskets of oysters a day from schooners to floats, from floats to scows (flat bottom boats from scows to wharves and finally from wharves to boxcars waiting on tracks just outside the sheds. As many as 127 boxcars a day hauled oysters from Bivalve to New York and from there to the rest of the country.

Boxcars were loaded with ice at each end of the cars to preserve the oyster even out to Kansas City and points west. The original sheds were built by the Central Railroad in 1904 to accommodate the oystermen to get their harvests to market.

The museum and Folklife Center explores the place the oyster industry in America's early industrialization and the role of the African Americans played in shaping the culture and economy of South Jersey's bayshore region.

Tools of the Shucker's Trade



Pictured are the Shucker's Oyster Pails they received ten cents for a full shucked pail. Oyster shell bins, Oyster basket and shucking tools used by hand.

Many Thanks to "Kelly"

We are indebted to our webmaster Kelly Mulligan who lives in Virginia. Kelly does such a fantastic presentation of keeping our website current also, he keeps tabs on the number of hits plus, records the lists of the countries that are responding. Since our report last Fall approximately 1500 visitors, mostly on weekends. Most requests from the US, Russia and the Ukraine. They are especially interested in our Delaware Bay lighthouses. According to Kelly, surprisingly the most requests are for our "The Bay Run" newsletters. Could we be picking up some new members from their E-Mails?

Speaking of Membership!

HAVE YOU?... Passed on a copy of your "The Bay Run" to a friend, relative or neighbor inviting them to become a member. We always have extra copies if you would like them to pass around. Without new membership or membership renewals we can never achieve our Mission. If you haven't made a Membership Meeting or Outreach recently you're missing a great opportunity to meet some very friendly and dedicated Lighthouse people This Spring, Summer and Fall you have some great programs in which to participate. COME JOIN US! IT'S ALWAYS FUN!

Tinicum Winter Meeting Photos



R toL Maxine Mulligan Treasurer,-
Darlene Rigazio Secretary President
Angelo Rigazio, Chairman Rod Mulliugan,
Peggy Stapleford Activitie/Programs

Stained Glass of
Tinicum Rear
Range Light

Kissing the What?

Board Member Katie Moser “Caught in the act”
Kissing her favorite Lighthouse. West Quaddy Head
Lighthouse, Lubec, Maine.
Some are known to kiss the “Blarney Stone but not
Katie she goes for lighthouses.



Joanne and Charles Bolton



Jean Jone and Tony Giletto

Did You Know? Historic Absecon Lighthouse
celebrated 155 year of service to the maritime
trade on Sunday, January 15th 2012. They also
entertain Girl Scout sleepovers and same day
birthday parties. For details for tours and special
events www.abseconlighthouse.org

Answers to Cape May Lighthouse Quiz 1-Focal
plane 2-Lantern 3-Lantern Gallery 4-Watch Galley 5-Watch
room 6-Outer wall 7-Inner wall 8 Tower 9-Spiral staircase 10-
Vestibule house.

Cape May Lighthouse “FULL MOON CLUB”
starting May 5th and the 1st Saturday of every
month. What better way to view the stars and
moon from the top of this historic lighthouse.

www.capemaymac.orgLighthouse.



Joe and Pat Jones and
Speaker Jim Milstead



Ron Simmons

**Torch cams to give views from
Lady Liberty...Yes! “Give me
your tired, your poor...your
Internet-connected masses
yearning to see”.**

A gift for her 125 birthday she got a high tech gift
webcams on her torch that will let viewers gaze out
at New York Harbor



V.P. Dusty
Pierce in Tinicum Shirt



Pres. Angelo thanking Speaker Jim
Milstead and presenting check for
Tinicum RR Light

Remember! Members get 1st Cruise Choice!

Contacts for Reservations and/or more complete Cruise information*

Elma Gardner 856-825-0123 elmagardner@verizon.net Jean Jones 856-825-3386 jeanjones@fast.net
Maxine Mulligan 856-691-8224 memax1@juno.com Darlene Rigazio 609-884-1329 darlenej50@yahoo.com

All Cruises leave from Fortescue, NJ on the Bonanza II

Cruise Date – Lighthouse Destination - Departure Time on page 8 in this newsletter

*Cruise prices have not been determined at this time due to rising Fuel Prices although your Association
plans to hold Cruise prices to the bear minimum increase.

“You Just Can’t Make This Stuff Up!”

The rescue of this 99 pound subadult Loggerhead Sea Turtle... The turtle was spotted floating and struggling to breathe by members of the Graue family during a dive trip aboard the *Jolly Roger* on December 17th 2011. *Jolly Roger* crew members took the appropriate steps when confronted with a protected species in need of help. They called for permission to rescue, to the Florida Wildlife Hotline.



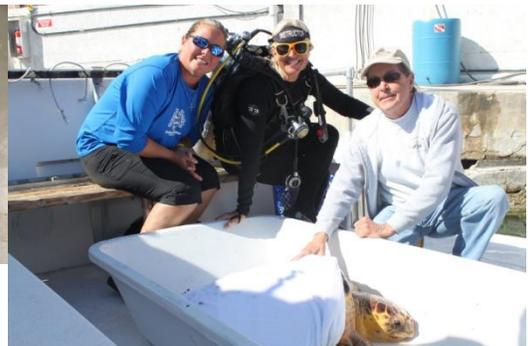
Captain Bonnie Clydesdale* entered the water and used a life jacket to hold the turtle above water as crew members used the swim ladder to bring the turtle aboard. With the turtle unable to breathe, they used a tool as a bite block to safely hold the turtles mouth open so Captain Greg Carey could he deflate and remove the **“Puffer Fish” (or Blowfish) with a screwdriver and pliers** This type of fish is not part of the normal diet for sea turtles Puffer Fish try to avoid their predators. They have the ability to double their size by expanding their elastic stomachs with water as happened in this situation. Some produce a toxin, lethal if eaten by humans. Turtles often eat discarded plastic, etc. by humans who disregard these potential hazards.



Capt Carey deflates Puffer fish



Puffer Fish removed



Releasing “Puffer” back to sea

Captain Hooks crew members, Bonnie, Clydesdale, Danise VandenBosch and Turtle Hospital (YES! Turtle Hospital) founder Richie Moretti prepare to release **“PUFFER” the turtle** off the Reef Hopper dive boat after 20 days of rehabilitation. There are 22 turtles currently at the Turtle Hospital, Eleven permanently due to their injuries, mostly boat hit damages, disease, etc.

***Editors Note:)** Bonnie Clydesdale gave us a great personal accounting of the sinking of the U.S. Battleship General Vandenberg off the Florida Keys in our Summer 2009 “The Bay Run” Bonnie is the relative of Maxine and Rod Mulligan Your familiar with Maxine, our treasurer, her family is notorious for sinking ships, more recently the USS Radford and now rescuing turtles But! they give us great details, not available anywhere else, which makes our “Bay Run” shine! Just kidding Maxine your one in a million for getting us great stories

2012 DELAWARE BAY LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE SCHEDULES

SUNSET CRUISES

Sunday, July 15th 3:30 pm
(Harbor of Refuge)

Saturday August 12th 4:30 pm
(Ship John)

Make-up date in case of cancellation-Sunday, September 9

MOONLIGHT CRUISES

Saturday August 4th 4:30 pm
(Ship John)

Saturday August 25th 4.00 pm
(Brandywine)

