



# The Bay Run



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

Volume 10 Issue 3

Fall 2010

*"Our mission is to preserve the history of the  
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers*

## Whooo! What Ghosts?

Some Interesting Insite Into Lighthouse Ghosts



*As researched and written by our own Maxine Mulligan on Jersey area Lighthouses*

### REPORTED HAUNTINGS IN AND AROUND THE LIGHTHOUSES OF OUR AREA

Are there such things as *ghosts*? What is it that is so fascinating about the *supernatural*? We love to hear stories about *ghosts* that have “*returned to reclaim*” their property, making their presence known in various ways. Many of these tales involve the victims of tragic shipwrecks along the Jersey shore, pirate spirits returning to claim their bounty, and other tales that continue to haunt the 127 mile stretch of the beaches of New Jersey. Some of these haunting tales deal with lighthouses where strange lights appear, ghostly images float around lantern rooms and inhuman sounds emanate from the tower.

The Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City is reported to be haunted, they even have “*Haunted Lighthouse Tours*”. It seems that footsteps have been heard ascending and descending the stairs to and from the tower, whiffs of cigar and pipe smoke can be detected by visitors, there are voices and laughter heard in the lantern room, and a spectral hand coming out of a coat sleeve with a white cuff would appear then disappear on the railing.

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



### President's Message

Well the summer season is over, summer traffic is gone, the kids are back to school and my drive to and from work is back down to 15 minutes each way It's been a busy summer with our lighthouse events, boat cruises, outreaches and picnic. We had a cruise cancelled due to inclement weather but all of the others were great. Now we look forward to the rest of this year with the "Lighthouse Challenge and our Annual Reunion Banquet already planned. Things are not looking good for Ludlam Beach Lighthouse, according to the Atlantic City Press on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. The City of Sea Isle will not contribute any funding to the moving of the lighthouse and if something isn't done by Sept 20<sup>th</sup> it could be over. Let's all of us hope that it will not end here. The Friends of Ludlam Beach Lighthouse have worked so hard to save it.

On a good note, we have good news at the home front. Our daughter Roxanne and her husband Matthew are expecting their second baby in December and it's a boy. Big sister Bella is just as excited as we are. Our son Angelo has been transferred back to Salem Oregon where he will take over the management of another Borders Bookstore. Our grandchildren in PA, Kylie, Madison and Brady have been to the shore to visit us 3 times this summer season. All in all things are good.

Until Next time

**KEEP THE LIGHTS SHINING!!**

Angelo

**SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL REUNION  
BANQUET ON OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2010**

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Back issues are usually available for members joining mid-year. Materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission of the DBLHKFA, Inc.

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

**From  
The  
Log  
of the  
Vice President  
Gaylord F.(Dusty)**



Where did the summer go? Thanks to all of the great publicity, all four cruises were sold out but we did lose one Sunset Cruise due to inclement weather.

What a beautiful sight viewing the lighthouses "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" When we arrived at 14ft Bank Light, the moon was centered directly over the lighthouse reflecting on the Bay. We couldn't have planned it any better. Thanks to Elma, Jean, Darlene, Rod, Angelo and, Maxine and myself as one of the narrators, all went smoothly. We certainly met some interesting people. Plus A great group of 20 "Red Hat Ladies."

If you haven't taken advantage of our cruises and know some one who is not a member, get your names placed on our mailing list NOW for next summers cruises, Our Bonanza II Captain is considering a different route which will include lighthouses we haven't viewed before. Our Annual Picnic was spectacular... great food, friends and weather. Steve Murray gave a talk on his new book "Guardians of the Hereford Inlet" A history of the Hereford Lighthouse, Life Saving Stations, and USCG Life Boat Station #133 Book available at Hereford Lighthouse Gift Shop.

We also participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maritime Days Festival at Hereford on July 17/18 Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Reunion October 24<sup>th</sup>



# The Bay Run



## Fore & Aft

### Report from Rod Mulligan Chairman of the Board

What a wonderful year so far!

I would like to highlight some of our accomplishments: We had a great Spring Meeting at Cape May State Park with an interesting presentation by Rich Chiemingo on the many Cape May Lighthouses. Member attendance was very disappointing considering the great weather. Our Annual Picnic in June at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was another grand day great food and lots of camaraderie plus, a terrific program. Again low attendance.

Our Program/Activities Chairperson does an outstanding job of time consuming planning for extremely interesting maritime themed programs and events plus, moving program locations around, times and dates for everyone convenience

We would appreciate greater attendance and participation. Tell us what we can do? Suggestions please!!

On the flip side I was very pleased with the number of volunteers at the two day 1<sup>st</sup> Maritime Festival at Hereford Inlet July 16/17 making this a great day for our DBLHKFA group.

Further information on the NJ Lighthouse Challenge Weekend of October 16/17<sup>th</sup> in this issue and from President Angelo or myself.

The most exciting Annual Keepers Reunion Banquet on October 24<sup>th</sup>

will feature one of the most interesting speakers we have ever had the good fortune to hear.

General George G, Meade portrayed by Prof. Dr. Andie Waskie from Temple University, an internationally acclaimed speaker.

See future meeting/events in:

Peggy's Corner, page 6 this issue

# The Bay Run

## Lighthouse Hauntings

(Continued from cover story)

Since there have been 7 deaths in the lighthouse, plus over one thousand deaths and many shipwrecks in this area, “Ghost Hunters” were called in to check out this supernatural phenomena. Cameras and other very sensitive equipment were placed in various areas of the lighthouse.

Strange voices, shadows and crazy sounds emanated from the 3rd landing; plus, the Nor’easter wind howling outside around the tower sounded like ghostly conversations.

Footsteps were even heard in the keeper’s quarters. According to the “ghost hunting” equipment something supernatural was taking place in the lighthouse.

Ghost hunters were also called in to check out paranormal activity at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. According to the report, there was no activity recorded but if you just happen to sit on a certain bench in the beautiful Hereford gardens, it has been said that you can hear the former keepers talking and other ghostly activities taking place within the lighthouse.

Then there is the tale of a handsome, young ghost couple that strolls along the beach near Barnegat Light looking for their baby daughter. It seems that they were separated from the infant when the schooner they were aboard ran aground near the light. If you visit the Barnegat Lighthouse around 7 PM some evening, you just might catch a glimpse of this ghost couple walking on the beach, humming a lullaby softly while looking for their lost child.

It seems that there are also angry, restless Confederate ghosts who haunt Finn’s Point Light and Fort Mott. The tale is told that every day during the Civil War boatloads of Confederate corpses were hauled into the area near the light and dumped into trenches.

On foggy, moonless nights, visitors to the Light have reported hearing the faint notes of taps being played amidst moans and shouts from the adjoining graveyard.

Ranks of soldiers marching in formation are also seen on occasion. Over 2500 soldiers died at Fort Delaware in this same area.

Speaking of Delaware, it seems that even though the Cape Henlopen Lighthouse toppled into the sea several years ago, it seems that again on foggy nights its ghostly beacon can be seen guiding ships safely through the fog. According to some books it seems that Cape May holds the record for being the “most haunted seashore resort.”

Almost every Victorian house, inn, shoppe and even Congress Hall and Higbee’s Beach has had its ghosts and stories of haunting. Bunkers near Cape May Point built during World War II reportedly are still manned by a ghostly crew. Public visiting the bunker witnessed “spectral sailors performing their duties inside and outside of the edifice.

Eerie conversations were heard; ghost lights appeared and cigarettes were lit. These men, so devoted to duty, remain on guard long after they passed away”

Visitors to the Cape May Lighthouse have reported seeing spirits ambling around the lighthouse. Could it be Captain Kidd looking for the infamous Cape May diamonds that he once buried at Cape May Point? Lake Lily, a private watering hole near Cape May Lighthouse is said to still attract pirate spectors searching for fresh water and treasures buried there.

If you are planning on visiting New Jersey in the summer, sign up for one of the ghost tours offered in most shore towns. Don’t forget we have “The Jersey Devil”. Guess he hasn’t gotten around to visiting lighthouses lately!!

( Sources: Macken, “Haunted Cape May” 2002  
Martinelli,& Stansfield, Jr. “Haunted NJ “ 2004)



# The Bay Run

## MORE G'HORY STORIES

*From the files of Director Bill Geilfuss*

**FORT WOOD** on Bedloe's Island

Fort Wood stood on Bedloe's Island, Captain Kidd's treasure lay beneath it. In 1825 a Sergeant Gibbs was stationed there and was told by a psychic how to locate gold. Walking the beach with a divining rod in his hand and a recruit named Carpenter as his lookout he suddenly saw the rod dip down, beneath his feet was the treasure. They dug down about ten feet and hit something solid, it was the treasure chest. As they tried to open it there was a bright flash of light, a giant figure of a long dead pirate, killed and left in the pit so his ghost would protect Captain Kidd's treasure for all time. One last bit of ghost's revenge was because of their screams of fright the guards came from the fort and charged them with AOWL from their posts. If you would like to go there and try your luck digging up gold, they have changed the name of the island. The actual history of the island goes back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It has been known as Bedloo and Love Island and on it had a dwelling house and a Lighthouse as far back as 1753. The island had been used as a smallpox quarantine station. In 1758 New York bought it for 1,000 pounds for use as a Pest House. On February 15, 1800 New York ceded the island to the federal government for the construction of a defensive fort. This 11 point granite fortification was nicknamed Star Fort. The cornerstone was laid August 5, 1884, for a magnificent Lighthouse a gift of the people of France. The Statue of Liberty now stands at what was Fort Wood. For the 17 years that the statue served as an aid to navigation the keepers sometimes heard the ghostly laugh of the guardian of Kidd's chest. Good Luck



## DEATH ON THE ROCKS

### Execution Rocks Lighthouse

Sands Point Long Island, New York

In the years leading up to the Revolutionary War, if you lived in NYC and voiced your opposition to King George's policy toward the colonies, you could be arrested, found guilty and sentenced to "The Rock"

To be hung would only bring on the rebels. Instead they would be taken out to Long Island Sound to execution rock chained to ring bolts set into the rock.-left there to await the Tide to come in to end it all. But did their ghosts ever leave.. "The Rock"?



A popular story from some local fishermen who have been known to say that ghosts of the men who died on the rock reef, whether it be tortured Revelations War prisoners or victims of ship wrecks, have been sighted near the light station. Allegedly, due to the Rock's ghostly history, the US Lighthouse Service relieved any keeper from duty without question. Keepers usually felt service on the "Rock" was like a death sentence.



## A Tale of Murder, Suicide and Music

One of the best known lighthouse ghost tales takes place on Maine's Seguin Island. Seguin light has the only first order Fresnel lens, is one of the highest lights in Maine, one of the foggiest and one of the loneliest. While it is located only three miles off shore, in the winter it is cut off from civilization most of the time by snowstorms and high seas. In mid 1800's a new keeper brought his bride to their new home.

(Continue on page 7)

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## PEGGY'S CORNER



*By Peggy Stapleford*

*Activities/Program Chair*

### Mark your calendars now!

New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge  
Weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be stationed at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, in the covered Gazebo all weekend, showing some videos of our many activities and cruises, selling our new merchandise and passing out our promotional materials, plus, greeting Challenge participants.

*Please help us we need Volunteers*  
"Come try volunteering you'll like it!"

Our Reunion is a big one this year.  
(See our reservation form enclosed)  
Please check deadline for reservations

A great winter meeting is planned for Saturday,  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 2011  
(Snow date January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011)

Our speaker will be John Loeper, from the  
Preservation Group of the Ocean City Life  
Saving Station. Our meeting will be at the  
Bayside Center, formerly the Wheaton Estate,  
at 520 Bay avenue, Ocean City.

More information and directions in the Winter  
"BayRun"

Spring, April 2011 is in the planning stages. Rod  
Mulligan is making all of the arrangement for  
this meeting

### MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Robyn Hee 2544 Main St. Millville, NJ  
Sallie Davidson Macy, Mayville Tenn.  
Pamela Marie Ferreira, Kula, Hawaii  
Paul Bosco 45 Quarry Rd. Grandby, Ct.  
Susan M. Schauber and Edward Gray  
112 Clark Circle, P.O. Box 4016  
Delaware City, DE

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

147 Including all Members

4 Honorary Members

**TOTAL MEMBERS 151**

Thank you All! We have now reached over the goal  
for this year set at m150 members.

**Any time is a good time to recruit new members!**  
**Don't keep DBLHKFA a secret! If you enjoy  
your membership**

The quarterly "BAY RUN" newsletter

4 Membership Meetings & Programs

Tell your Friends, CoWorkers, Family

Finally heard back from a retired Coast Guard  
listed in "The Bay Run" last year.

Strange twist, A letter from Gene Misticus an ET  
in Cape May back in the 70's He and a friend  
were talking about their experiences in the Coast  
Guard . His task was to automate the Lighthouses  
in Delaware Bay and Lightships in the area.

He was looking for information on lighthouses  
and came across our website. The information we  
had brought back very fond memories of his 3  
years at Cape May Training Center  
Gene promised to write about some of his  
experience for our "Bay Run."

We welcome all Retired Coast Guard  
or affiliated members to drop us a line

*(No pun intended)*

### From Our Webmaster Kelly

The count goes up!

So do the compliments on our Website!

Since our last Bay Run-January 1, 2010 67,294

Visits Busiest day Friday followed by every other  
day of the week. Netherlands, United States and  
Germany are the top countries that we receive visits.

Larger numbers of people are staying at the site  
longer. It looks like they are reading more  
information about the different lighthouses. Most  
people are finding us on Google when searching for  
Delaware Bay Lighthouses or  
[www.lighthousechallengenj.org](http://www.lighthousechallengenj.org)

### SUNSHINE/HOSPITALITY

cards sent by Martha Ruddick

Jean Jones, Bill Geilfuss,

Darlene Rigazio, Tony Giletto

# The Bay Run

## Point Lookout Lighthouse

By LG Duplatt [www.Angelsghosts.com](http://www.Angelsghosts.com)

The haunted Point Lookout Lighthouse is located at the mouth of the Potomac River at Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and is believed to be the most haunted lighthouse in North America.

Built as a 1 ½ story building in 1830, it was eventually rebuilt as a 2 story structure in 1883.

What makes it so Haunted? First a U.S. General

Hospital was first built, then a prison camp was also built during the Civil War. Many died in this prison due to over crowding, disease thus hauntings were reported as early as 1860. The first lighthouse keeper has also been known to haunt this lighthouse. Ann Davis has reportedly been seen at the top of the haunted Point Lookout Lighthouse stairs. Both male and female apparitions have been seen here especially in the basement. Doors mysteriously open and close, while people have also heard snoring, ghostly voices, footsteps and other strange sounds within the lighthouse and on the grounds.

Port Lookout opens one day each year



## The Wailin' Wife of Lake Huron

Happening at the NEW Presque Isle Lighthouse. The poor keeper was unhappy with his home life and found a "Friend" His wife didn't like his stress relief and just would not get off his back. In self defense he did the only logical thing he could, when he went to visit his "Friend" he locked her in the tower. All she had to do was to tend the light. After many months of this she went out of her mind and he did the only thing he could, he bricked her up in the oil room and just told everyone she went home to her family in the south.

If you go there on a dark and stormy night you may hear her weeping, wailing and see the keepers ghost with a big smile on his face.



## A Tale of Murder, Suicide and Music

(Continue from page 5)

### SEGUIN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

After a short time she complained about nothing to do. He had a piano ferried to the light. She played with sheet music but only one song came with the piano. She kept playing the same song continuously, so often she drove the keeper insane. In a fit of madness he took an axe and chopped the piano and her to pieces, then killed himself. It's sad, she still plays on, people passing by can still hear her playing a quiet airs. Later keepers told of slamming doors, coats knocked off hooks, tools moved and a bearded man in rain slicker climbing the steps to the light room. Others have seen a woman walking the gantry late at night. In 1985 the Coast Guard was automating the



light, had all of the furniture packed ready to move the next day. That night the warrant officer in charge was shaken from his sleep by the ghost of the keeper who warned him "don't take my furniture, leave my house alone". In the morning the dory was loaded with all the belongings, finished loading it on the skid that was to go down to sea level, when suddenly the motor stopped the chain holding the dory parted and took a 200 foot ride to the sea full speed. So, the furniture never left the island. When you go out to Seguin listen for the music, look for the music; look for the keeper who is still trimming the wick.

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## PORT BOCA GRANDE LIGHTHOUSE

Submitted by Susan Lynne Moffatt-Anson

The haunted Port Boca Grande Lighthouse located on Gasparilla Island, Florida on the Gulf of Mexico built in 1890.



One of the keepers daughters died as a child. Legend has it that she can still, be heard up stairs playing at midnight. This is not the only lore about the lighthouse being haunted. Some have claimed to have seen the headless apparition of a lady believed to be a Spanish Princess named Josefa who Gaspar kidnapped and brought to the island, where he had buried treasure The island was named after the pirate Jose Gaspar who was madly in love with her. He expressed his love for her and she was said to have rejected him. in a fit of rage he took off her head with his blade and buried her on the beach close to where the lighthouse was built. Her head however left the island with the pirate. Does she still search the beach for her head? Some claim she does to this day.

**Humorous Hemingway Story**  
As the tour guide tells it "The famous author was known to have quite a few daily at Sloppy Joe's Bar and follow the bean of the Key West Lighthouse to get home across the street from his house"



One of the great groups this past Summer was a group of "Red Hat Ladies" from the Red Hat Society South Jersey Gals. Can you pick out the "TOP HAT"??



**LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE of New Jersey 2010**  
OCTOBER 16 - 17, 2010

Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey is a rain or shine, two-day opportunity to visit 12 land-based lighthouses, two museums, and one life-saving station. Participants may purchase a souvenir pamphlet for only \$1 and have it stamped at each stop along the way!

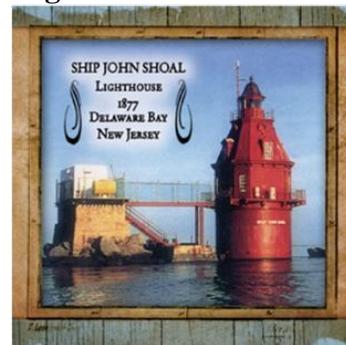
**DELaware BAY LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURE**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15: 10 am - 5 pm - \$85 per person  
Take a cruise up the Delaware Bay aboard the new Spirit of Cape May to see historic lighthouses which were built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most stand on privately owned land and are still operational. Includes narration on Delaware Bay lore and legend, information on fishing, spawning grounds, and more.  
CALL 609-884-5404 TO ORDER TICKETS

**DELaware WATER LIGHTS**  
Saturday & Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm - Hareford Inlet Lighthouse  
Enjoy the PowerPlant presentation by the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Assoc. on lighthouses of the Delaware Bay

**TATHAM LIFE SAVING STATION & MUSEUM**  
117th St. and Second Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ  
Open 8 am to 6 pm  
Visit a New Jersey life saving station, built in 1895 and today listed on the state and national Registry of Historic Places.  
Hours of operation and directions for each lighthouse are listed at [www.lighthousechallengenj.org](http://www.lighthousechallengenj.org)

[www.lighthousechallengenj.org](http://www.lighthousechallengenj.org)

## GREAT NEWS!!! Our very own Ship John Shoal Lighthouse COASTERS



Original Photo by Carol F Reily  
Founder /President DBLHKFA from  
1995 Passing over the Bar July 6, 2007

They are made of the finest quality Absorba Stone drink coasters with cork backs to protect your furniture

**SPECIAL PRICE TO MEMBERS**  
\$12 Set of 4 \$15 Set with wood holder  
Plus shipping Available Oct. 18th