



The Bay Run



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

Volume 28 Issue 15
Fall 2016

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

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

The Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey will take place October 15 & 16, rain or shine. It is a two-day “Fall Weekend of Family Fun”-- an opportunity to visit 11 land-based lighthouses, one museum, and two life-saving stations. The majority of these sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Participants will pay a \$2 registration fee at their first stop and receive the first of 15 puzzle pieces. Every site will have its own unique piece that will serve as proof of your visit. If you complete the entire Challenge, you will have enough pieces to complete the puzzle. It will serve as a souvenir of your adventure. In addition, everyone who completes the Challenge will be included in a drawing where one lucky person will win \$1,000 in prizes.

(NOTE: All addresses have been included to help find these lighthouses.)

Starting in the north, one of the first lighthouses to visit is Sandy Hook Light. Built in 1764, this is the oldest working lighthouse in the United States. Originally called the New York Lighthouse, it was built to aid mariners entering the southern end of New York Harbor. Restored in 2000, it is located on the grounds of Fort Hancock, 85 Mercer Rd., Highlands, NJ 07732.

The Navesink Twin Lights is the first American lighthouse to test the Fresnel lens. It has two beacons, one flashing and one fixed. Constructed in 1862, the current lighthouse is located at 2 Lighthouse Road, Highlands, NJ 07732 in Navesink Highlands, 246’ above sea level. This lighthouse overlooks Sandy Hook Bay, the entrance to New York Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean.

Located at 9 Ocean Ave., Sea Girt, NJ 08750 in Monmouth County, Sea Girt Lighthouse was the first lighthouse in the US to host a radio beam in a shore installation and the last shore lighthouse with a keeper’s residence built on the east coast. The light was automated in 1945 and deactivated in 1977. The Jersey Shore between Sandy Hook and Navesink Lighthouses, a distance of 40 miles, was unlit until the 1800’s when this lighthouse was erected.

Barnegat Lighthouse affectionately known as “Old Barney” is a historic lighthouse located at 208 Broadway in Barnegat State Park, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006 at the northern tip of Long Beach Island. In 1855, George Meade was commissioned to build the lighthouse. Because of the strong currents in the inlet, the lighthouse was built 900’ away from the water but in 10 years, only 450’ separated the tower from the ocean. It was given to the State of New Jersey by the coast guard and is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The centerpiece of Tuckerton Seaport is Tucker’s Island Light. It was originally located on an island but was destroyed by a storm in the 1920’s. It is now located at 120 W. Main Street, Route 9, Tuckerton 08087 in a working maritime village comprised of 40 acres.

On the north end of Atlantic City is Absecon Lighthouse (continued on page 7)

Lighthouse Challenge
of New Jersey 2016

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New Jersey

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Lighthouse Challenge of NJ
New Jersey visitnj.org

Supported in part by a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.

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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It certainly was a busy one. Our Delaware Bay Lighthouse Cruises were successful; the weather was good and the trips went well. On August 3, 4, 5, I attended the Reunion of Cape May Station and the birthday of the founding of the US Coast Guard. Some of those stationed under the command of Lt. William Bart from 1964 to 1974 were in attendance. We signed in on Wednesday at Harpoon Henry’s in Townbank, picked up gift packs and spent time reminiscing with former ship mates. At sunset we all went to Sunset Beach at Cape May Point (where the concrete ship, the SS Atlantis, is slowly disappearing into the bay) to witness the flag lowering ceremony. Lt. Bart’s burial flag had been flying all day and at sunset it was lowered to the strains of “God Bless America” and “The Star Spangled Banner”. Thursday there was a boat trip to Brandywine Lighthouse onboard the Cape May Whale Watcher, then on to lunch at the Lobster House and a sunset parade at the Cape May Coast Guard Base. We all attended the graduation ceremonies on Friday, ate lunch at the base and then were treated to a tour. It was an enjoyable reunion.

August 7 was National Lighthouse Day, a day to celebrate the founding of the US Lighthouse Service in 1789. A ceremony was held at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse attended by myself and other members of our organization. A great time was had by all.

Until next time, keep the lights shining!!

Angelo

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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.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

by Rodney W. Mulligan



Shirley and Jim Fonash, owners of the Charlesworth Restaurant, were guest speakers at our Spring meeting which was held at their restaurant in Fortescue, NJ. A background on the restaurant, which was built by Louella Charlesworth in 1924, was given and 70 years later, purchased by the current owners. They were forced to close after “Sandy” hit. All except one bulkhead held up against the 70 mph winds. Everything was lost but after much discussion, the Fonashes decided to rebuild. They are still not finished as the deck has to be completely replaced. The Bay Shore area is often overlooked when money is doled out by the state and federal governments. The Hotel/Restaurant cannot go on the list of historical places since it is not old enough plus “Sandy” has been classified as a “Super Storm” and not a hurricane which certainly did not help them out financially. We certainly wish Shirley and Jim the best of luck in their future endeavors, thank them

for the delicious lunch and for speaking at our meeting. It was very informative and interesting to say the least.

Next on our agenda was Maritime Weekend at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Both days were beautiful weather wise. Our volunteers were busy selling merchandise, meeting people and giving out information regarding our cruises.

I was fortunate to be one of the guest speakers at the ceremonies for National Lighthouse Day held at Hereford Inlet Light. Steve Murray, Chairperson for the festivities and Curator of Hereford Light, was the master of ceremonies. He introduced various dignitaries who contributed to the background and history of the light. Among the speakers was our president, Angelo Rigazio. Other contributors were: the Coast Guard Base Lieutenant Commander and Shauna MacDonald, a pharologist and professor from Villanova University. Members of VFW #5941 acted as color guard.

We also attended the Coast Guard Reunion at Base Cape May in August. It gives us great pleasure to salute all our armed forces for their courage, honor and most of all, their sacrifice. A heartfelt thank you from all of us who appreciate your willingness to serve our country as we remember those on Veterans’ Day who serve and have served.

COAST GUARD REUNION



Lining up for review



Coast Guard Color Guard

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chair



Saturday, October 1, 2016 – 10 – 11 AM Social Hour “Meet & Greet”; 11 AM to Noon Meeting; Noon – 1 PM Lunch. The Fall Meeting will be held at the Cape May Zoo Shelter #5 (has electricity and is close to the rest rooms). After lunch, enjoy walking through the zoo and other attractions of this area. Cape May County Museum is also close by on Route 9. Check out the original lens from the original Cape May Lighthouse. (*Rumor has it that this Museum is haunted.*)

Saturday, January 9, 2017 Winter meeting at Anglesea Fire Department (tentative) Speaker TBA

Sunday, April 9, 2017 Annual Keepers Banquet at Sea Isle City Yacht Club Reserve the date!! Speaker TBA

(NOTE: Is there a guest speaker or a topic you would like to learn more about? Send suggestions to mspegstapleford@)

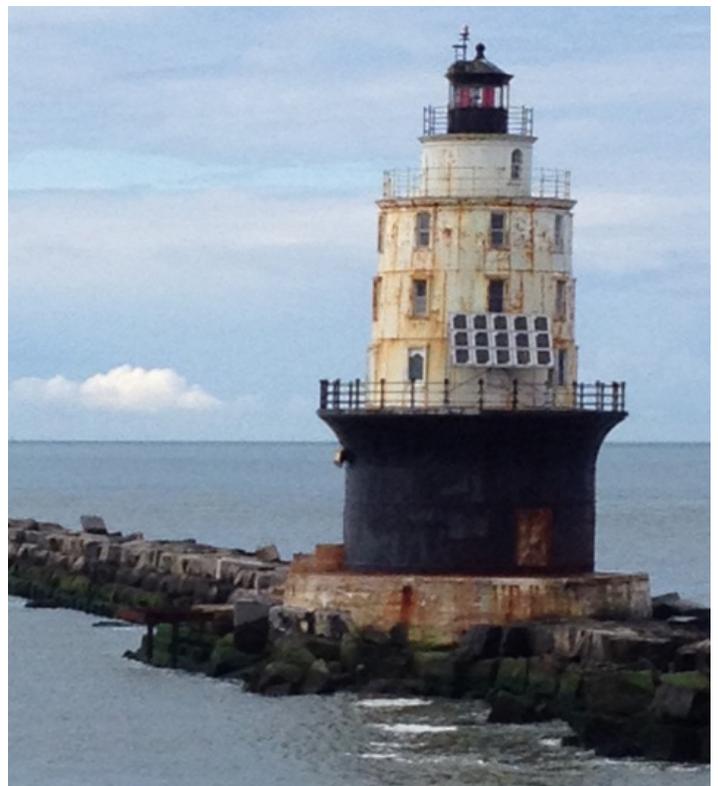
DETERIORATION OF HARBOR OF REFUGE

by Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



As I wrote in “A Beam From the President’s Desk” in our summer issue, “when riding on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry recently, we happened to go by Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse—my old home”. I took some pictures to share with our readers so they could see what has happened to this lighthouse in the past few years. First a little background...In 1926, the first Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse was replaced by the lighthouse that is so familiar to the thousands of travelers who pass by each year on the ferry. The old Fresnel lens has since been replaced by an aero beacon lens using plastic, rather than glass. As with all other active US Coast Guard lights in the area, on the lantern room level there is also a small emergency backup light which is provided with solar power. There once was a large wooden wharf on the inland side of the breakwater (great for fishing in my “spare” time). That is long gone and a smaller, no-frills landing place is now in use. I also noticed there was quite a bit of rust on the ocean side.

I was Acting Officer in Charge, along with Seaman William Gresick; we left in December of 1973 when the light was automated. Without keepers to maintain it on a daily basis, the lighthouse received only the most necessary maintenance. It is still an active aid to navigation and can easily be seen from the tip of Cape Henlopen as well as from the ferry boats on a southern route between Lewes, DE and Cape May, NJ. The ferry boats pass closest when the ferry schedule is heavy such as during summer vacation traffic.



CAROLE F. REILY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, PAST & PRESENT

September 2016

Each year our organization presents a \$500 scholarship to a graduating relative of one of our members. Applications for this scholarship are included with the spring newsletter. This year's winner is Caitlyn Muller, granddaughter of Charles and Joanne Bolton. She is a 2016 graduate of Vineland High School, the daughter of JoDenise and Ken Muller. Caitlyn is planning on attending Cumberland County College and is majoring in the Liberal Arts/Social Sciences Program; her career goal is to become a clinical psychologist. Since she participated in the "School Counts" program and achieved honor status, she earned 2 years at the county college free. The scholarship money will come in handy as there are always books and other expenses connected with attending college.



(from left to right) Charles Bolton, Scott English (President of Board of Education), Dr. Mary Gruccio (Superintendent of Schools), Kaitlyn Muller, and Dr. Thomas McCann (Principal of Vineland High School)

Other awards Caitlyn received were: Delaware Valley Science Medal, Gold Award for Girl Scouts, Director's Award and Musicianship Award for VHS Marching Band. She was active in many school activities, an honor student finishing with a 3.6 GPA. The scholarship was presented by her grandfather at the Vineland High School Merit Assembly on June 9. Over \$100,000 in scholarships was presented at this assembly.

Catching up with some of our former scholarship winners:

In June of 2010, our first scholarship winner was Elle Rivera, a senior at Vineland High School.

Rebecca Sheridan, also a Vineland High School senior, was the scholarship award winner for 2011. She received a scholarship and DU Grant from Drexel University and was planning on majoring in biomedical engineering. Rebecca was also captain of the tennis team and a member of the National Honor Society.

Granddaughter of member, Anthony Giletto, Ryann Ervin was presented with the scholarship in June 2012. She is attending Cameron College in Lawton, Oklahoma and is pursuing a medical profession.

In 2013, Erika Coughlin, niece of Darlene & Angelo Rigazio, was our scholarship winner. She completed her studies in Child Psychology 6 months early earning a bachelor's degree and is presently working on a master's degree. Working for Cape Counseling in Woodbine, NJ, she also holds a part time position at the daycare at Cape Regional Hospital.

No scholarship was awarded in 2014.

Due to health reasons, William Coughlin, nephew of Darlene & Angelo Rigazio, our 2015 scholarship winner, dropped out of college but is planning on returning to the community college this fall. He worked for the health department this summer.

DID YOU KNOW?



USCG fought in every American war since the military organization was founded in 1790.



One quarter of a million flags were placed in front of the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day. It is part of the tradition.



The “Star Spangled Banner” was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key and declared the national anthem in 1931. When the anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand and face the flag to show their respect for the United States. A non-uniformed person wearing a hat must remove it with the right hand and hold it against the left shoulder, right hand resting over the heart. Those in uniform and veterans should stand at attention and salute the flag. (Annin Flagmakers, 2016)



Born in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, the flag of the United States of America symbolizes the patriotic ideals of a nation “conceived in liberty”. It is the fourth oldest national flag in the world. Denmark’s flag, adopted in 1219, is the oldest. Our “Old Glory” – Long may it wave!



The Gurnet Lighthouse is the oldest wooden lighthouse in the US. It was built in 1842, is located in Plymouth, Massachusetts and was once known as the Plymouth Light. (Boston Globe)



The replica of the Pilgrims’ vessel, the Mayflower II, arrived back in Plymouth, Massachusetts after undergoing months of upgrades in Mystic, Connecticut. More work remains to be done with a 2020 target date for completion. (Boston Globe)

MAYFLOWER II RETURNS *HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*



the tallest lighthouse in New Jersey. It is no longer a navigational aid even though the original Fresnel lens (weighing 12,800 lbs.) shines each night. It was designed by George Meade and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Absecon is located at 300 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City 08401. (NOTE: There are rumors that this lighthouse is haunted.)

Life-Saving Stations are shown in Ocean City (#30) located at 801 Fourth Street, Ocean City 08226 and Tatham located at 117th Street and 2nd Avenue in Stone Harbor, 08247. These stations were established through the signing of the Newell Act which allowed Congress to appropriate \$10,000 to construct unmanned stations along the coast of New Jersey, south of New York harbor. The Ocean City Life-Saving Station was built in 1886; Tatham in 1895. Now the oldest building in Stone Harbor, Tatham is currently American Legion Post 331.

Operational since 1874, the beautiful, historic Hereford Lighthouse is located at First and Central Avenues in North Wildwood 08260-2207. It was first used as a guide for whalers in the 17th century. Automated in 1964, its light is visible for 13 nautical miles. Thousands of visitors come each year to visit Hereford's scenic landscaped gardens.

Take a virtual tour of the Delaware Bay Lights which can only be seen by boat. Members of the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers & Friends will be at Hereford Light to provide you with information about these lights and the cruises that take place every summer.

Now owned by the State of New Jersey, the 157' 6" Cape May Lighthouse was built in 1859 and automated in 1946. Climb the 217 steps and on a clear day you can see Cape Henlopen in Delaware. The lighthouse is located at the tip of Cape May in Cape May Point State Park, 215 Lighthouse Ave., Cape May Point 08212 and is cared for and staffed by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts.

East Point Lighthouse, the second oldest lighthouse in New Jersey, formerly known as Maurice River Light, is located on the Delaware Bay in Heislerville, NJ. It is situated on a picturesque point of land where the Maurice River Cove meets the Delaware Bay, 10 Lighthouse Rd., Heislerville 08324. In 1971 it was nearly destroyed by fire. It has since been renovated and is also listed on the National Registry of Historical Places.

A range light pair, Finn's Point Front & Rear Range Lights were designed and built in 1877 as a classical example of skeletal cast iron prefabricated lighthouses. Original plans of the Lighthouse Service called for this range to be located in Delaware. Both lights were both deactivated in 1950; the Front Range Light was eventually demolished. The Rear Range Light is located on the same road that leads to Fort Mott State Park off of Route 49 – 454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Tinicum Lighthouse is located on 2nd Street in the Billingsport area of Paulsboro, NJ 08066. The tall black tower is the last structure remaining of the Tinicum Island Range. This rear range light on the Delaware River was activated in 1880. Front and rear range lighthouses were used to guide sailors by aligning the 2 lights, keeping one on top of the other and staying in the center which would help to guide them around any obstacles. This range light was automated in 1933.

Visit some or all of these New Jersey historic lighthouses and related museums during the Challenge Weekend (October 15 – 16), a weekend of fun and exploration, while helping to raise funds for the continued preservation, education and restoration of these historic structures.

(Information from NJLC lighthouse brochure, Wikipedia, 2016 and Jim Gowdy & Kim Ruth's Guiding Lights of the Delaware River & Bay, 1999) For more information visit www.lighthousechallengenj.org.

REGISTRY OF OFFICERS & AGENTS, 1863

(Editor's Note: In searching through the archives of Carole F. Riely, I found the following and thought it might be of interest. This was recorded on September 30, 1863 and was compiled and printed under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. The "compensation" was for a year; I don't believe there was a "minimum wage" at that time!!)

REGISTERS OF OFFICERS AND AGENTS OF THE CIVIL, MILITARY & NAVY

<u>Lighthouse</u>	<u>Keeper</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
Absecon	William Bartlett	\$600
Barnegat	A. H. Brown	\$600
Brandywine Shoal	Abraham Deputy	\$500
Cape Henlopen	J. T. Buries	\$500
Cape May	D. E. Foster	\$500
Cohansey	J. P. Woodruff	\$350
Delaware Breakwater	John R. Burton	\$550
Fenwick Island	William Hall	\$400
Fort Mifflin	Benjamin R. Handy	\$400
Maurice River (East Point)	William Tien	\$350

The highest paid in the Delaware-New Jersey area was Thomas Purnell of the Five-fathom "light vessel" who received a compensation of \$700. The assistant keepers received half the amount of the main keeper.

SPRING MEETING AT THE CHARLESWORTH



Checking out Miah Maull Light

Pres. Rigazio presents a check to Jim Fonash



Socializing at the Charlesworth



Our special dessert

MARINERS' WEEKEND AT HEREFORD INLET

Enjoying the weekend

- (from left to right)
- Ed Slaughter
- Cindy Moelius
- Captain Geilfuss
- Katie Moser
- Angelo Rigazio



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY SPEAKERS



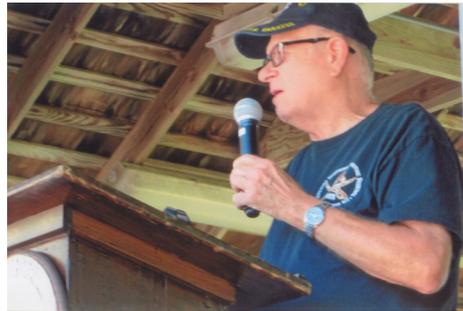
Lieut. Commander of Cape May Coast Guard Base



Shauna MacDonald, Assistant Professor Villanova University



Angelo Rigazio



Rod Mulligan

