



# The Bay Run

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

Volume 13 Issue 3  
Winter 2012

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

## SANDY CLAWS THE DELAWARE BAY

### *An Eyewitness Account*

Sand, sand everywhere. What an appropriate name for a hurricane that left remnants of sand all over as a reminder of her visit. We traveled to the Delaware Bay town of Fortescue, NJ to check on the Bonanza II, the boat that takes our passengers on tours of the lighthouses of the Delaware Bay, to see what damage, if any, had been done to the town itself. Upon crossing the bridge and entering Higbee's Marina, we notice that the Bonanza II



*Drive through garage in Fortescue, NJ*



*Toppled shed in Delaware Bay marshland*

is not docked at its familiar #5 mooring. Seeing all the cars in the parking lot, we figure it had been moved up to Fairton, NJ to protect it during the storm and had now returned and was out on a fishing trip. The marina area, the docks and the coast guard station seem to be in good condition so we travel on to Delaware Avenue, the main street of Fortescue.

There we notice sand on the streets and piles of sand on the sides of the street. There are front end loaders and various pieces of equipment scraping up the sand making the roads passable once again. Residents are shoveling sand off the street and a man is busily sweeping the sand from in front of his house.

Groups of people are gathered around the church awaiting the distribution of food and other items. We continue down Delaware Avenue checking out the houses that have lost their decks, piers, moorings and

some that the force of the water has undermined.

*(Continued on Page 4)*



*Suspended deck of beach house in Fortescue, NJ*



*Ravaged deck of Charlesworth Restaurant, Fortescue, NJ*



*Remnants of a deck along the Delaware Bay*

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**Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.**



When you get to read this message the holiday season will be over. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Here at DBLHKFA we are hoping that 2013 will be much better than 2012 as far as our cruises go. We will be setting the dates soon, so be sure to check your “Bay Run Newsletter” for this important information. Also, check out our outreach dates, the first one is going to be in January. Hope to see you there.

For those who are still recovering from Hurricane Sandy, I hope the New Year will bring a close to all the damage this storm caused.

On a personal note, we are expecting our 6th grandchild on February 27th. He is going to be Angelo IV!! My son and his wife, Summer, are so happy he is on the way and we all can’t wait for him to arrive.

***Happy New Year and don’t forget to keep the lights shining.*** ***Angelo***

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**For Newsletter ideas, Contact**

***DBLHKFA c/o Maxine Mulligan***  
1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, New Jersey 08360  
Email: Memax1@juno.com

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**Phone Numbers and Email Addresses**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Rigazio-(609) 884-1329 • Keeperang54@yahoo.com                    | G.F. Pierce-(302) 684-3512                       |
| R & M Mulligan-(856) 691-8224 • Memax1@juno.com                      | J Jones-(856) 825-3386 • jeanjones@fast.net      |
| Jim & Elma Gardener-(856) 825-0123 • elmagardner@verizon.net         | Bill Geilfuss-(732) 477-7768 • billyrio@aol.com  |
| Katie Moser-(215) 844-8549 • KatieMos@aol.com                        | D. Rigazio-(609) 884-1329 • Darlenej50@yahoo.com |
| P. Stapleford-(484) 947-3191 • mspegstapleford@dejazzd.com           | 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.*

Whoever thought we would get hit by Hurricane Sandy?? It was labeled as the “Perfect Storm” as weather conditions were just right to bring about disastrous results to residents along the Delaware Bay and to the shores of the Middle Atlantic States. In Dewey Beach, Delaware, the Ocean and Bay met in the area of Cape Henlopen. It was the first time this had happened since 1962. Historic Lewis, the “First town in the First State,” is also located in this area. The road coming from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry (by the Dairy Queen) was impassable. Internet pictures show people paddling down Pennsylvania Ave. in Bethany Beach since it was still too flooded to drive on. We were very lucky to be spared the brunt of the storm as Delaware fared well compared to states further north such as New Jersey and New York.



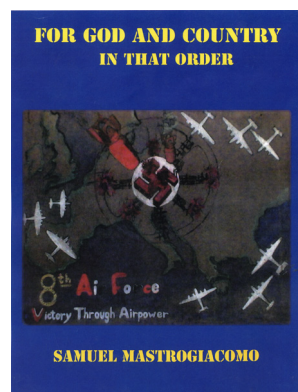
The Delaware Coast Aid raised funds for Sandy victims and the survivors on Staten Island. A benefit concert was held; food, clothing and other supplies were collected. A team traveled to Staten Island to help out the storm victims. Yes, Hurricane Sandy will long be remembered by the people up and down the East Coast. Our Annual Keepers Banquet had to be postponed. It was originally scheduled for November 4, to be held at the Deauville Inn in Strathmere, NJ. A great day had been planned but Sandy had made other arrangements. Due to the sand, wind and rain, the roads leading to the Inn were impassable. The Banquet has been rescheduled for April. Hope to see you all there.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always interested in information relating to the Delaware Bay and River that would be of interest for the “Bay Run” Newsletter. Articles from former coast guardsmen and lighthouse keepers are welcome. If you have any information, comments, etc. please send them to Maxine Mulligan, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360 OR e-mail them to: Memax1@juno.com. We are always happy to hear from our members or any other reader.

## BOOK OF INTEREST:

A friend of mine has written a very interesting book entitled: FOR GOD AND COUNTRY—In That Order”. This is a true to life World War II Memoir about Sam Mastrogiacomio’s experiences; Sam was a tail gunner on the B-24 Bomber; his plane was shot down over Germany and he was taken prisoner. Sam brings the enormity of the situation into perspective for you following his training for something for which no one could have prepared him. This book is based on real life adventures as you watch the stories unfold during



a time when the whole world was engaged in stopping the horrors of the 2nd World War. Interested people can order this book by sending a check for \$21.95 (includes tax & shipping) to S and J Mastrogiacomio, 331 Mariner’s Gate Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141. (Editor’s note: It’s a great book; I assisted in editing it!!)

## CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE:

Delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org Our Web Master, Kelly Mulligan, keeps the Site updated with our current events, dates, lighthouse information, etc. If you are interested in having your “Bay Run” Newsletter e-mailed, just let us know. Kelly does that also!!

**PLAN ON JOINING US ON OUR DELAWARE BAY LIGHTHOUSE CRUISES.** The cruises take place in July and August aboard the Bonanza II out of Higbee’s Marina in Fortescue, NJ. Further details (including dates) will be posted in the Spring Newsletter.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT --

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:** Our organization offers \$500 scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors—relatives of our members. Applications will be included in the Spring Newsletter.

Continuing on to the Charlesworth Hotel & Restaurant, we see the yellow police tape that warns us not to venture up the steps, onto a deck that is no longer there. We remember the times we have eaten there either before or after a cruise or on a holiday outing. Going south on Delaware Avenue, we notice that the sea wall is still intact not like on the north end where it has been completely obliterated. Our founder and former president, Carol Rielly, once owned a house on Bunday St. The house is still there but we couldn't reach it since the street is covered with about a foot of sand. There are planks of wood and debris everywhere and we look right through a garage--in the front and out the back.

Next checking out the small bay towns of Money Island, Gandy's Beach, Port Norris and Bivalve, the damage is mostly the same. It was impossible to get to Gandy's Beach since the road was still impassable. Going in to Money Island, we notice a shed that is resting on its roof and a boat looking very much out of place in the middle of marsh land. In front of another residence there is a pile of wood, a refrigerator, a couch, and various other household items. Trees are uprooted and slanted as if they were blown that way by a gigantic fan. Bateman's Crab Company in Port Norris has piles of debris out front and in back of the house. On the way there, we saw signs telling Sandy to "go away" and to "leave us alone".

Living father inland, we feel we were very lucky not to have felt the wrath of Hurricane Sandy. We express our sincere feelings for all of our members and fellow Americans who suffered losses from what was called, "The Perfect Storm". To complete the day, we had lunch at the "Oyster Cracker" along with Jim and Eva Moffatt. This restaurant is located along the dock in Port Norris.

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## PEGGY'S CORNER NEWS n' VIEWS

*By Peggy Stapleford*  
*Activities/Program Chair*



## DBLHKFA 2013 ACTIVITIES WINTER MEETING

Saturday, January 12 (snow date Saturday, January 19)  
Deauville Inn, 201 Willard Road, Strathmere, NJ  
Hospitality begins at 10 AM (*Danish, coffee, tea provided*)  
Meeting 11 – Noon; Lunch Noon – 1 (*Order from menu*)  
Speaker 1 PM – "Effects of Sandy along the NJ Coast"  
Richard Chiemingo of Mid-Atlantic Center of the Arts in Cape May, NJ; Mark Kemp of Tinicum Rear Range Light in Paulsboro, NJ, and a representative of East Point – followed by a round table discussion by members of our association as to the effect of the storm in their areas. Bring pictures, press releases, etc. to aid in the discussion. Should be very interesting. Come out and join in the discussion.

## BANQUET & SPRING MEETING

Sunday, April 28 (**SAVE THE DATE!!**)  
Deauville Inn, 201 Willard Road, Strathmere, NJ  
Hospitality begins at 11 AM  
(*Bagels, cream cheese, Danish, coffee, tea, juice provided*)

Noon – 1 Meeting; 1 – 2 Banquet (*Select choice - \$30*);  
2 PM – Speaker  
**SPEAKER:** Commander Tim Dring, Retired US Navy  
**TOPIC:** "History of Delaware Bay & South Jersey Coast Guard; Life Saving Stations and Update on Delaware Bay Lights" Tour of Corson's Inlet to follow.

*(NOTE: The Deauville Inn is handicap accessible; has a beautiful water view; a bar; the gratuities included in price quoted. Reservation form included in Spring Newsletter.)*

## \*\*\*\*DIRECTIONS TO DEAUVILLE INN IN STRATHMERE, NJ\*\*\*\*

There are two main routes to Sea Isle City: the Garden State Parkway and Route 9. If you are coming from the North, to enter Sea Isle City, make a left onto JFK Boulevard. If you are coming from the South, make a right onto JFK Boulevard. When you reach Landis Avenue (which is also Ocean Drive and the main street of Sea Isle) make a left. The Deauville will be approximately 3 miles ahead on your left, right before the draw bridge. If you have a problem call cell phone (856) 383-5780 (Rod Mulligan).

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## CAPE MAY'S CONCRETE SHIP – “THE ATLANTUS”

No, this is NOT the result of Hurricane Sandy; it's what's left of the SS *Atlantus* at Cape May Point. Of the twelve concrete ships built by the Liberty Ship Building Company in Brunswick, GA during and after World War I, the *Atlantus* is the most famous. Due to a critical shortage of steel during the war, the federal government turned to an experiment designing concrete ships. An emergency fleet of 38 concrete ships was originally planned but only 12 of these ships were ever put into service.



The “*Atlantus*” a 3,000 ton, 250 foot long freighter was built with a 5 inch thick hull of special concrete. It was launched in November of 1918 at Wilmington, North Carolina and commissioned June 1, 1919. The “*Atlantus*” served for a year as a government owned privately operated commercial coal steamer in New England. It was also used to transport troops back from Europe. After the war, more efficient steel ships became more available so the “Concrete Fleet” was decommissioned and retired to a salvage yard in Virginia. In 1926, the “*Atlantus*” was towed to Cape May in an attempt to start a ferry service from Cape May, NJ to Lewes, DE (for a route now served by the Cape May-

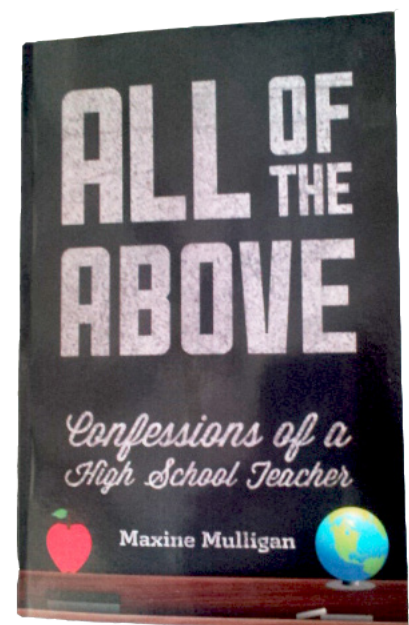
Lewes Ferry). It was planned to have a channel dredged well into the shore. The ship would then be forced into the channel. Two other hulls would be sunk at angles creating a “Y” shape. The ferry would then dock by wedging in and cars and passengers would load and unload by use of the drawbridge. In March 1926, the groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the construction of the ferry dock. While awaiting positioning, the “*Atlantus*” broke loose of her moorings during a storm and ran aground. Futile attempts were made to free the ship but none were successful. The wreckage split into three pieces. Time and tide has reduced this once proud ship into almost nothing. Thousands of visitors come annually to view the cracked weather-beaten hull and collect the beautiful “Cape May Diamonds” that lie in abundance on Sunset Beach.

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### BOOK OF INTEREST:

The editor finally got her book published; (no it's not about lighthouses!!) I was employed by the Vineland School System for 44 years—26 as an educational secretary and 18 years as a teacher at Vineland High School. This book is about my day to day experiences—the reality of teaching in a high school classroom. It is entitled: ALL OF THE ABOVE – “Confessions of a High School Teacher”. I got tired of hearing the comments: “People who can do nothing else – teach,” “You're nothing but a glorified baby sitter,” etc. so I decided to write down my experiences for the benefit of those who had never been in a classroom and for the enjoyment of those who had.

Copies may be obtained by sending a check for \$20 (includes tax & handling) to Maxine Mulligan, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360 OR e-mailing: MeMax1@juno.com





*"Tony, the Pirate" ARRGGHHH*



*Drawings by lighthouse artist, Donna Elias  
(Note: The Hurricane destroyed her drawings.)*

What a beautiful weekend for the Challenge. It was a perfect setting for climbing lighthouses and taking pictures. Setting up and working at Hereford Inlet Light, kept us quite busy. We were surrounded by various vendors selling their wares which included: wood carvings, lighthouse drawings, our Delaware Bay merchandise and other maritime momentos. Meanwhile, a musician entertained by playing a harp and a guitar and singing. This year our organization gave certificates to the children participating in the Challenge. Thanks to Steve Murray and Betty Mounier for their Hereford hospitality. Also, a special thanks to all our volunteers who helped.



*Ladies from NJLHS*



*Kevin & Sandy Maloney promoting the  
Cape May Maritime Museum*

*(Our thanks to Photographer Bill Geilfuss)*



*Tony catches some rays*



*Hereford Lantern Room by Moonlight*



*Bill & Katie Meet a friend at the  
Life Saving Station*



*Our working crew: Jim Gardner, Elma Gardner,  
Peggy Stapleford, Tony Giletto, Katie Moser,  
Bill Geilfuss & Angelo Rigazio*



*Tony Giletto, Bill Geilfuss & Rod Mulligan*



*Peggy Stapleford & Katie Moser*