



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 10 Issue 1

Spring 2010



CRUISE NEWS



Complete Schedule on Page 8

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Historic Absecon Lighthouse

Courtesy of Press of Atlantic City January 28, 2010

A Familiar Theme

The financial struggle of the Absecon Lighthouse is a story that will replay over and over in these difficult times of shrinking state funds.

Article continued on page 4

Step Into The History of ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE

1855 construction was started under the direction of Major Hartman Bache who was replaced by Lt. George Meade, who would later command the Union Army at Gettysburg. 1857 First lit on January 15th with kerosene flame through a 36 plate First-Order Fresnel Lens made in Paris especially for Absecon-.
1925 Electricity was first used
1933 Decommissioned
1963 relit for State of New Jersey
Tercentenary
1988 Inlet Public/Private Assoc. was formed
1994/96 IPPA secured grants
1999 IPPA open historic tower
2001 IPPA Opens Keepers house
History continued on Page 4_

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



President's message

By the time you read this, I hope winter will be over. The winter of 2010 with all its storms and the blizzard was enough to make us want to head to warmer climates. Forget Florida!

We had a great meeting in Sea Isle City in January with a good turnout of members. Speaker Phil Bur gave us interesting facts on the history of Ludlum's Beach Lighthouse and told us how many times a lighthouse can have new owners and be moved. Hopefully, this lighthouse only needs one more move to have a permanent location.

We have listed the full schedule for our upcoming cruises in this Issue (Full Cruise Information on page 8.) Remember that our Moonlight Cruises coincide with the closest date of a full moon. Always great weather!

The dates for Bay Days are June 12th and 13th. Further details will follow. Also there will be an Outreach at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on July 17th and 18th. Our Annual Picnic is scheduled for June 26th, also at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. We will keep you informed of all of our future meetings and the Annual Reunion.

Remember to mark your calendars NOW with all of these dates and please don't forget we always need

VOLUNTEERS for these DBLHKFA Outreaches. "Great fun events, always

They also give you a chance to meet new and very interesting Lighthouse enthusiasts from all over.

I hope it will be a warm spring; we are definitely ready for it!

Remember Keep the Lights Shining!

Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.

SEE YOU AT THE SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING at CAPE MAY STATE PARK and LIGHTHOUSE APRIL 24th

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Vice President..... Gaylord F (Dusty) Pierce
Chairman of the Board.....Rod Mulligan
Treasurer.....Maxine Mulligan
Secretary.....Darlene Rigazio
Membership.....Sharon Hewitt
Activities/Programs.....Peggy Stapleford
Sunshine/Hospitality.....Martha Ruddick
Publicity.....Jean Jones
Historian.....Peggy Stapleford
Ways and Means Anthony Giletto
Newsletter.....Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan
Webmaster.....Kelly Mulligan
Scholarship Committee.....Anthony Giletto

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Steve Hewitt and Fred Ruddick

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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.

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



Ah, spring at last!! Did you ever see so much snow? I keep thinking of those beautiful, balmy summer days when we will be cruising the Bonanza II out on Delaware Bay. Which reminds me, our cruise dates have been set for this summer: the Saturday Night Moonlight Cruises will take place on July 24th and August 28th; the Sunday Sunset Cruises on July 11th and August 13th. I will again be narrating the Sunday Cruises and will be aboard to answer any questions you may have about various lighthouses, their keepers and the USCG. As you all know, I am a former coast guardsman and was keeper on Fourteen Foot Light.

We had a great winter meeting at the Sea Isle Methodist Church on January 23rd.

Phil Bur was our guest speaker. His topic was history of Ludlum Beach Lighthouse and the "Cross Ledge Lens" the topic and slide show were very interesting and enlightening. Every one enjoyed his presentation.

Finally I am happy to report that the Overfalls Lightship is back in Lewes, DE where plans are being finalized to build a deluxe slip/dock for the ship, thanks to a major grant, the ship will be incorporated as part of the Park System. If you have a chance, stop over and "check her out". There are many interesting events planned for this year including participating in Delaware Bay Days. Annual Picnic at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse also our DBLHKFA volunteers will be involved in the Maritime Festival at Hereford Inlet.

Check PEGGY'S CORNER page 6 in this Issue of the "Bay Run" for confirmed dates.

Remember we need all of the Volunteer help we can get. Everyone is always welcome.

Think about inviting a friend who may not be a member. Let's increase our membership this year.

PASSED OVER THE BAR

CHARLES WINGATE Long time member. Charlie Wingate Passed over the Bar on March 3, 2009. Charlie's father was the Lighthouse Keeper at Tinicum from 1919 until his retirement in June 1939. Charlie was born in 1920 while his father was innkeeper and served as an interim lighthouse keeper until October 1939 when the new innkeeper arrived. We are sorry we were not notified of his passing until very recently.

EDWARD R. HILL of Lewes Delaware "Passed over the Bar" on February 8th 2010.

Ed was 104 years old. He was the younger sibling of the legendary lighthouse keeping brothers John-"Jack" and Fred Hill. Edward's lighthouse memories were not fancied with heroics like his older brothers. Edward had fond memories of his time on these Delaware Bay lighthouses, Delaware Breakwater East End, Baker Range and Reedy Island. Ironically, Harry E Spencer Sr was serving at Liston Range Front Light during the 1930's when Edward would visit his brother Fred who was keeper at nearby Reedy Point Lighthouse. Edward once was substitute keeper for his brother Jack at Delaware Break East End Light about 1922. Jack had appendicitis and had to go to Philadelphia as no one in Lewes performed this type of operation.

(Thanks to Bob Trapani, Jr for sending us this information. For more detailed information on Edward Hill go to

<http://www.stormheroes.com/lhheritage/lighthouse-memories-ed-hill/htm>

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Absecon Lighthouse Familiar Theme

(Con't from cover page)

Rescued from decay by the Inlet Public/Private Assoc. Inc. the lighthouse reopened to the public a decade ago. It is a success story. Its operating deficit had been narrowed with lively educational programs, creative marketing and internal efficiencies.

Visitation increased 100 percent since 2005 and revenues have surged.

But the Association is now struggling to pay bills. Grants from New Jersey Historical Commission have dropped to less than half. The state is broke. The lighthouse along with other worthwhile historic educational and artistic ventures will see more cutbacks or no money in the immediate future. More reliance on the private sector is needed if we are to survive this budgetary crisis by fund raising, finding benefactors, getting creative and making sacrifices.

The Inlet Public Private Assoc. is doing all of this. The lighthouse is a community asset and a tourist draw. If you haven't visited the Absecon Lighthouse, now is a good time to go.

For more information visit

www.abseconlighthouse.org

STEP INTO HISTORY (CON'T)

1876 Did the Lighthouse get moved? No... The lighthouse was built on the high dune line of the island. The water rose to within 75 feet of the tower due to beach erosion. Four wood and stone jetties were constructed near the base of the tower to build up the beach..

July 11th 1933 Absecon Lighthouse was decommissioned and the light extinguished
December 31st 1964 Governor Richard Hughes relit the lens for the first time in 25 years to celebrate the State of New Jersey's Tercentenary year.

1988 The Public/Private Assoc. was formed and adopted Absecon Lighthouse as its logo, signifying the rebirth of the Inlet section of Atlantic City.

**"SPRINGY FLINGY"
Spring Membership Meeting
APRIL 24th 2010
Details in Peggy's Corner**



(Postcard view of Absecon Lighthouse Circa 1915)

DONATIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION of HISTORIC ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE

Can be sent to:

31 So. Rhode Island Ave
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

NOTES: From some of our other
Lighthouse friends.

"The Ludlum Group" has some upcoming events.

**A Cruise up the Coast, a BIG TV raffle and a
Spring Soiree at the Lobster Loft in Sea Isle
City...Contact Mrs. Gen Doris**

Postal Box 375

Ocean View, NJ 08230

ALSO an Open invitation from the
New Jersey Lighthouse Society
to attend their membership meetings and programs
Go to their Website for meeting schedules or
information: <http://www.njlhs.org>

History of Fortescue Is Focus of New Book

Long time residents of Fortescue Betty and Clarence Higby, Jr recently had published "*Around Fortescue*" Many interesting tales about their favorite small island located in Downe Township, Cumberland County, dates back to the early 1700's. Situated on Delaware Bay it was once considered a fine summer resort, especially for those interested in fishing and hunting at little expense. Some of the highlights are the stories of our own Carole F. Reily as a young girl and women living in Fortescue. How major catastrophes changed the layout of the land along the shore line. Showing the ungoverned days of the rumrunners and the dark popular speakeasies
Great reading!

Contact Betty for your copy of the book (856)447-4157.

**Getting
To
Know
Your
Board
Members**

ANTHONY GILETTO



Better known as our Ways and Means and Scholarship Chair.

Tony grew up in South Camden. He was one of nine children.

After graduating high school, he was drafted into the Army to take part in the Korean War and was assigned to the 45th Infantry Division, which was the Oklahoma National Guard. He was eventually put into federal service. After spending 19 months overseas, he was honorably discharged.

Like so many others, he neglected to take advantage of the GI Bill which would have paid for his college. He got a job in an auto parts store and after 15 years decided to go into business for himself. Tony and his partner started “on a shoe string” and slowly built up their business. After 20 years he bought his partner out and ran the business himself for the next 10 years. Demographics changed and he decided to call it quits and put the business behind him.

During this time, he helped raise his five daughters, each earning a college degree; two of them have post-graduate degrees.

Tony lost his wife to cancer 16 years ago and has never remarried.

Tony relates that his brother Joe was 10 years older and on December 8th 1941 enlisted in the Coast Guard. He was 23 years old at the time; he passed his physical and headed off to boot camp on January 6 1942. Joe was sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard earning the rate of Machinist Mate 3rd Class. Since the war in Europe was heating up, he

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was needed on a troop ship making several trips to England and South Africa.

When the war in Europe was coming to an end, his enlistment ended; so he reenlisted because of the war in the Pacific. After VJ Day he was assigned to the Buoy Tender USLHT “Lilac” serving Delaware Bay and River which enabled him to get home a lot.



Tony saw a local newspaper article on lighthouses in 2000. Since he fished on Delaware Bay he was familiar with Ship John and Miah Maull. He then contacted Carole Reily and ventured out on a DBLHKFA lighthouse cruise. He enjoyed the experience so much. He joined our Association and has been a very active member ever since. He has done an outstanding job of developing the Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund. Tony also is our Ways and Means Chairman and does a yeoman’s job of ordering and promoting, storing and lugging our lighthouse merchandise around to our meetings and Outreach locations.

Busy DBLHKFA Web site

Kelly Muligan does a terrific job of keeping our Web site current and recording totals

Jan. 1st through Mar. 31st 2010

Total Hits 75,864

Busiest Day was Sunday

Countries heard from most:

Germany, Russia and United States

Most viewed pages:

Lighthouses, Calendar of Events

Links, and Bay Run Newsletter

Thanks Kelly for all of your time and efforts!

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PEGGY'S CORNER

By Peggy Stapleford

Activities/Program Chair



Mark your calendars now!

This is the Big One!

APRIL 24TH 2010

**The "SPRINGY FLINGY"
Spring Membership Meeting**

At Cape May State Park

Museum Building, Classroom
State Park Museum Tour,
Lighthouse Climb

**Must wear your DBLHKFA BADGE
for the FREE Lighthouse climb**

Lighthouse Museum/Gift Shop

10:15 Coffee & Donuts

11:15 Meeting

12:15 BROWN BAG LUNCH

Bring Your Own Also your beverage

1:00 Guest Speaker Rich Chiemiango

talks about the two previous towers and present
Cape May Point Light.

2:30 Tours begin.

**You just can't afford to miss this
Membership Meeting!!**

**We always need fresh faces to supplement our
existing hard working volunteers. With a
membership of almost 150 we should be able to
increase our membership by at the very least 25
new members in 2010**

ASK A friend today to join!

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Brian Cross, Wilmington DE.

Grant & Helen Hack, Catskill, NY

Loran & Wanda O'Neal, Avon, NC

Ralph & Sheila Owen, Turnersville NJ

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

101 Family Members

40 Single Memberships

4 Honorary TOTAL MEMBERS 145

Now is the 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

Something to look forward to:

Our Special Bay Run Issue

Featuring Kim Ruth's remembering Jim Gowdy

**Rod Mulligan's NJLHS Seaway Trail Lighthouse
Tour**

**and Phil Bur's History of Ludlum's Beach
Lighthouse.**

*(We had planned on having this booklet earlier but
the "Best laid plans etc." Need we say more. It's
Coming Soon!)*

Harry Spencer, Jr. Honored

Harry Spencer, Jr one of the few remaining, perhaps
the only one who was born and raised on a Delaware
Bay Lighthouse, was recently honored with a big
birthday party for his 90th birthday by the Delaware
River and Bay Lighthouse Foundation. Over the
years, we have met Harry a couple of times. He is a
warm wonderful man who always been generous in
sharing stories and photos of lighthouse life.

Harry was featured in *Lighthouse Digest* "Growing
Up at a Lighthouse"

May 2003; "Lighthouse Keeper's Grandson"

October 2003 and *A Lighthouse Christmas*" in

December 2005. Enjoy many more birthdays' Harry
Spencer, Jr.

**See you in Cape May
April 24th 2010**

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WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING January 23rd At Sea Isle City.

As president Angelo stated we had good attendance considering the weather.

The Sea Isle Methodist Church and "Friends of the Ludlum's Beach Lighthouse, Inc. hosted the meeting and location. We enjoyed a nice fellowship prior to the meeting, coffee and donuts.



Enjoying the Meetings Fellowship



Katie Moser filling in as secretary



Phil Bur making his wonderful presentation on the interesting history of the Ludlum's Beach Lighthouse and what is in the future for the lighthouse.

Photos Curtsey of Bill Guilfuss

Shame! Shame! Shame!

Our Scholarship Committee sent out over 100 Scholarship Applications to our membership and not one request to date. With the current economy you would think that our \$500 Carole F. Reily Scholarship would be valued. It's too late for this 2010 year. Sorry!! It's too late for this year. Some one out there must have a child grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor or their family member graduating in 2011

The Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund is now at \$2,470 and growing.

MEMEBERSHIP DUES

Statements for the 2010/11 year are in the mail along with your Ballot for Officers and Directors. Please return both of them to Sharon Hewitt a soon as possible.

CRUISE RESERVATIONS

Reservation for all four 2010 Cruises are now being taken by:

Maxine Mulligan (856) 692-8224

Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329 or

E-Mail Memax1@juno.com

Darlenej50@yahoo.net

Prices have not changed; they are still \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 5 to 12

We supply soda and water each trip.

Don't miss Our Annual Reunion October 24th, 2010

At the Yacht Club in Sea Isle City

FROM A QUIZ IN LIGHTHOUSE DIGEST;

What Delaware Bay Lighthouse was featured at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia? *(It's pictured somewhere in this issue of the Bay Run)*

The movie "The Lightkeepers" with Richard Dreyfuss was released in theaters March 12th. It was filmed on location at Race Point Lighthouse on Cape Cod MA. Hopefully, the movie will draw national attention to all of our lighthouses.

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LIGHTHOUSE CRUISES ON DELAWARE BAY Make your reservations Now for the 2010 Experience

Ahoy there!!



PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD GRANTED

*Our dates for this year:
Sundays July 11th and August 15th
for the Sunset Cruises leaving the dock
at 4:30 P.M.*

*Saturdays July 24th and August 28th
for the Moonlight Cruises leaving the
dock at 6:30 P.M.*

Boarding time 45 minute before cruises

All cruises take place aboard the Bonanza II out of the New Jersey State

*.Marina, Fortescue NJ (See our website for easy
directions :(Kelly@delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org)*

*We visit five lighthouses on each trip alternating
Ship John cruising south in the Bay or Brandywine
Cruising north. Five lighthouses visited are
Miah Maull, Cross Ledge, Elbow of Cross Ledge,
Fourteen Foot Bank plus Ship John or Brandywine
Cruises narrated by Past Keepers & Coast Guardsman
The cruises are a photographer's paradise*

*Besides lighthouses, look for the schools of porpoises, other fish, and the Cargo and Cruise ships headed
to and from the Port of Philadelphia*

*See the lighthouses up close, close enough to touch them
Bring a Box Lunch or Snacks we provide the soda and water.*

For Reservations and cruise costs No price increase in years see Page 7

Once again we have scheduled
*Saturday Night Moonlight
Cruises and Sunday Sunset
Lighthouse Cruises.*
*We invite you all to "Come
Aboard" to join us on a 4
Hour enlightening, relaxing,
educational journey on the
Delaware Bay.*



*We have scheduled a full moon
for all you romantics on board*

