



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Spring 2015



this issue

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...and much more!

Here we go...

Since the ceremonial opening on August 7th 2014, the National Lighthouse Museum has hosted dozens of meetings, lectures, parties, a juried photography show, and special events. The National Lighthouse Museum is currently open, and the final displays and exhibits in Building #11, the National Lighthouse Museum's Educational Resource Center are being installed. The summer season will bring expanded programming and public access, along with new exhibits, and a ribbon cutting celebration on August 7th to mark the official opening of the museum. The staff, Board, and FRIENDS of the National Lighthouse Museum have worked tirelessly to bring us to this moment, and now is the time to see how far the museum has come. Please invite your family, friends, and colleagues to visit YOUR National Lighthouse Museum.

We are very grateful to MARAD/Maritime Administration for their generous \$41,250 Maritime Heritage Grant, administered by the National Park Service. It will be used to acquire the technology within the Wall of Lights including hardware and software .

The Man Behind the Patches: The Story of Bob Eisele, NLM FRIEND



Bob Eisele and a portion of his beloved patch collection, which he donated to the National Lighthouse Museum

Bob “Patches” Eisele, a knowledgeable, passionate, and dedicated FRIEND of the National Lighthouse Museum, volunteers at the museum nearly every day. Visitors and museum staff appreciate his kind personality and enthusiasm as he shares the stories behind his favorite subject—lighthouses. Bob’s interest in lighthouses started in the year 2000, when he found out he was going to become a grandfather. In order for his new grandchild to have a place to play, Bob decided to construct a new summer play house in his mother’s backyard on Long Island. His ex helped him complete the interior of the new home, and found a lighthouse valance to adorn the windows. Intrigued by this piece of décor, Bob began researching lighthouses to visit on Long Island, and as time went on, his passion for lighthouses continued to grow. He began collecting Spoon-tique lighthouse models. Wanting to see more lighthouses up-close, he joined the United States Lighthouse Society and went on several group tours.

Bob’s first patch was a souvenir from a trip to Florida. Traveling down to the Sunshine State to see his aunt, he also visited several lighthouses. While visiting the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, he asked the lady at the lighthouse where the fire house was, and she told him that he should see the fire department’s patch, as it has a

lighthouse in it. Hence, Bob Eisele’s first lighthouse patch was from the Ponce Inlet Fire Department, and the collection- along with Bob’s passion and generosity- has been growing ever since!

1) How long has he been collecting the patches?

Bob has been collecting lighthouse patches since May 2000.

2) How does he obtain/acquire them?

If the fire department or police department is close to a lighthouse, Bob researches them online. Being a former chief of the Roosevelt Fire Department (Long Island), Bob sends a letter on department letterhead requesting a department patch, a Roosevelt Fire Department patch, and a self-addressed stamped envelope for mailing the requested patch back to him. This is Bob’s preferred patch acquisition method, though occasionally he will bid for particular lighthouse patches on eBay, and those could cost anywhere from \$5-\$90.

3) How many patches are in the collection?

There are currently over 1250 patches in the Bob Eisele Lighthouse Patch Collection, which is being donated to the National Lighthouse Museum including a collection of Statue of Liberty patches.

4) Anything NLM readers should know about the patch collector?

Bob says that patch collecting is “a good, relaxing hobby.”

CUNY Service Corps Members Make a Difference at the NLM



From Left to Right: Kate, Dennis, and Jenna share the workspace near the gift shop, where they cheerfully greet museum visitors.

Since September 2014, the National Lighthouse Museum has worked with five young people from the City University of New York's Service Corps program. These Service Corps members have provided vital support for museum's daily operations. If you've come to the museum in the last several months, or attended one of our events, chances are that you had the opportunity to interact with them. Their support is critical, whether it's front and center or behind the scenes, we would not be where we are today without their hard work. Each Service Corps member has a different perspective and set of skills, and we take this opportunity to share their experiences with you.

Jenna reflects that when she first starting working with the NLM, she was working on a large mailing project. Since then, she has expanded her scope and is working with Executive Director, Linda Dianto on sponsorships. She is excited to be working on sponsorships since they are similar to grants, and grant-writing experience is increasingly looked for on graduate school applications. Jenna's work has also been invaluable in preparing to bring on new volunteers. She helped draft the Volunteer Handbook, a go-to resource for our volunteers.

Kate has found her time helping plan and supervise events to be both enjoyable and educational. Not only has she had the chance to learn more about lighthouses and their history, but she has also had a chance to use her design skills to get the museum's message out to the community and advertise our events. If you've seen flyers for our recent events,

you've seen Kate's eye-catching work. Kate has used the rest of her time as a Service Corps member to continue to spread the word about the museum and share her new-found enthusiasm for lighthouses with our visitors.

Nick is studying accounting, and was initially unsure how those skills would support the museum's mission. He quickly understood the connection when he started overseeing the gift shop inventory. He notes that inventory is a key component of the work he hopes to do as an accountant after graduation. He has taken care to make sure that our gift shop inventory can be easily managed. Nick has also helped in the collections, using his skill with numbers to build boxes to safely house the museum's historical artifacts and documents.



Nick puts the finishing touches on gift shop inventory.

Martin has been an invaluable researcher, and has used his research skills and interest in history to write and present the museum's walking tours, which had its debut this spring. Martin, an Eagle Scout, has developed option to obtaining the Boy Scout American Heritage badge through a visit to the National Lighthouse Museum. He has designed a special badge that features a lighthouse. Martin reflects that his placement with the National Lighthouse Museum has given him opportunities that he wouldn't have had anywhere else. In addition to his research responsibilities, he has also taken a lead role in the planning and oversight of our special events, where you may have encountered him as the MC at our Halloween event.

Dennis has made his mark as a detail-oriented curatorial assistant, working with the curator to catalog the collection. As a part of this work, he has been responsible for photographing objects and preparing those photographs to be uploaded to the database. His focus on detail makes him the ideal person to number objects, which requires a steady hand and eye. When Dennis is in the museum building, he is focused on improving his communications skills by greeting our visitors when they arrive and orienting them to the museum.

The NLM Transformed *Spooktacularly* for its first Halloween Event



Nicholas Dianto, aka Jack Sparrow, enchants the audience with haunted lighthouse tales



NLM FRIENDS Janet Hellmann and Frank Ninnivaggi posing in their costumes.

On November 1st, the cool, rainy weather created the perfect setting for “The Untold Stories of Lighthouse Horrors.” With Halloween decorations and special effects lighting provided by NLM FRIENDS, the National Lighthouse Museum was transformed into a haunted house-like setting. Spooky sentinels dressed as pirates and witches read tales of folks lost at sea, haunting these particular lighthouses to this very day. Hot cocoa and cider, along with homemade cupcakes and a variety of sweet treats, warmed the bellies and souls of those who may have been frightened by the tales. In between stories, participants also had a chance to check out the Wall of Lights and various museum displays, and to peruse a variety of new lighthouse gift shop items for sale. Partici-

pants who did not come in costume had the opportunity to make a haunted lighthouse hat. There was also a contest to see who brought the scariest carved pumpkin. CUNY Service Corps members, who each provide 12 hours per week to the National Lighthouse Museum, coordinated many aspects of the event, from setup to story selection.

Local author Patricia Salmon read the final tale of the night, and had copies of her books, *Staten Island Slayings: Murders & Mysteries of the Forgotten Borough* and *Murder and Mayhem on Staten Island*, available for purchase. The evening concluded with a raffle drawing for a lucky black cat covered in lottery tickets and money. Everyone had a ghoulishly good time.

US Light House Society Members Visit the NLM

On June 6, 2015, the NLM was pleased to host a visit by members of the United States Light House Society.



Atlantic Salt Maritime Festival

June 14th was the date of the Atlantic Salt Maritime Festival.



Billee and Carl Ludders, NLM members and loyal supporters enjoyed the maritime festival.



NLM FRIENDS manning the NLM table at the maritime festival.

Hudson River Fall Foliage and Lighthouse Tour



The Little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge, as seen from the boat tour

Article and photos By Joan Kell, FRIEND of the National Lighthouse Museum

On October 25, a bright autumn day in New York City, members and friends of The National Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island set off from Pier 11 in the East River for a day of pleasure, excitement, and, well, fun. The object of the excursion was to see the beautiful fall colors of the Palisades as well as the remaining lighthouses in the North River and lower Hudson River.

The tour was led by Capt. Joe Ahlstrom, Professor at SUNY Maritime College and a board member of the National Lighthouse Museum.

Because of the warm temperatures this autumn, the leaves did not come up to expectation, but that also meant the journey could be well appreciated on the deck of the boat.

The views of the maritime history of New York along the way did not disappoint. From our vantage point on the river, we were able to see historic boats such as the fire boat John J. Harvey, which aided in the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster, and The Frying Pan lightship.

Of course, the highlight of the trip was the little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge. Many children who

grew up in New York City, and many others who didn't, know the story of the famous little lighthouse that did not bow to the grandeur of the bridge.

We traveled as far as the Tappan Zee Bridge and the Kingsland Point Light before turning downriver.

The metal archway of Cunard White Star Line was visible as we passed Pier 54. This was where the Titanic was supposed to berth, but instead was where the *Carpathia* brought many of the survivors to New York.

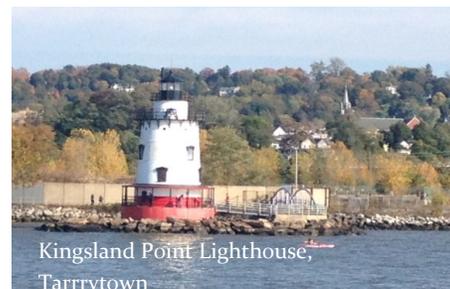
No trip in New York Harbor is complete without close ups of the most famous light of all, the Statue of Liberty. We all had plenty of photo ops on this beautiful day, and, as we made our way back to Pier 11, we remarked that it had been a truly memorable day in New York waters.



Fireboat John J. Harvey



Statue of Liberty



Kingsland Point Lighthouse, Tarrytown

Upcoming 2015 Lighthouse Boat Tours

Here is the schedule of remaining Lighthouse Boat Tours for the 2015 season:

Sunday, July 12, Circumnavigate Staten Island: Depart from Stapleton Home Port, 355 Front St., SINY 11:00am

Sunday, August 9th Signature Boat Tour: Pier 11, South & Wall St., 11:00am

Saturday, September 12, East River Boat Tour: Depart from Brooklyn Army Terminal, 11:00am

Saturday, October 17, Hudson River Boat Tour: Depart from Pier 11, South & Wall St. at 1:00 pm

For boat tour tickets, or for more information, visit www.lighthousemuseum.org/visit/lighthouse-boat-tours

Come See the Illuminants Display

Fresnel Lenses Make Fantastic Additions to the NLM Opening



Jim Dunlap with Fresnel lens from International Chimney Company, Buffalo NY. Jim personally refurbished this lens.

Two Fresnel lenses have arrived at the Museum in preparation for our Illuminants display:

First lens on loan is from the International Chimney Co., which has been refurbished by Jim Dunlap.

Second lens is a donation from Clinton Smoke. It is a beautifully refurbished lens and storm pane assembly.

These are both 375 mm lenses of the Fifth Order. We are working with the U.S. Coast Guard to secure the loan of a fourth order Fresnel lens.



Celestina Cuadrado, Curator /Site Manager of the National Lighthouse Museum, meticulously cleaning and preparing a beacon for the exhibit.



Did You Know...?

- That Marblehead Light, Ohio, along is the oldest continuous operation in Great Lakes (operating since 1822 along Lake Erie)
 - There are 43 lighthouses in an around Quebec City and they offer a tour
 - To conclude the Toledo War and resolve a border dispute, Toledo was given to Ohio to provide Great Lakes access, whereas upper peninsula was given to Michigan
 - There will be another issue of United States Postal Service Lighthouse series stamps due in 2015
 - Old Mackinac Lighthouse was the runner up site in contention for the National Lighthouse Museum in the late 1990s
 - That Michigan has more lighthouses than any other state [115] <http://www.michigan.org/lighthouses/>
 - That the Selkirk Salmon River Light has a Bed and Breakfast
- Note: Additional lighthouse models, including Great Lakes lighthouses, are available for sponsorship and will be displayed in the Wall of Lights. To sponsor a lighthouse model, please contact us at:
- info@lighthousemuseum.org
or 718-390-0040.

LIGHTHOUSES OF THE GREAT LAKES LECTURE

On a windy Sunday afternoon in November, Linda Dianto, Executive Director, Jack Vokral, P.E., Board President, and Captain Joseph Ahlstrom, 1st Vice President, presented about the diverse and storied lighthouse of the Great Lakes.

Having participated the 19th Annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena, Michigan, Linda and Jack had a great deal of knowledge and insight from the experience, and Captain Joe, a professor at SUNY Maritime, is well-versed in lighthouses and ships past and present, and the importance of the Great Lakes region to the maritime industry and interstate commerce.

Alpena is near Thunder Bay, Lake Huron. One of the highlights that Jack and Linda recounted was the glass-bottomed boat tour they took. Included among the shipwrecks they saw from the boat was the Edmund Fitzgerald, who met its unfortunate fate in a storm in “the Gales of November” 1975, and whose tale became a hit song for Gordon Lightfoot the following year.

Many of the region’s lighthouses were represented at the festival, including Toledo, Round Island, Eagle Bluff, Detour Reef,

Cecil Bay, Big Sable Point, 40 Mile Point, Sodus Bay, and Chantry Light. The five Great Lakes [Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior] are home to approximately 400 lighthouses (including both the U.S. and Canadian lighthouses). Of the approximately 600 U.S. lighthouses, Michigan has 115 lights (the most of any state). Hence, the Great Lakes lighthouses make up a significant portion of our National Lighthouse heritage and also feature prominently in the lighthouse stamps displayed throughout the museum and in the Wall of Lights.



Grosse Ile North Channel Front Range Lighthouse
Michigan
Dr. Robert Weeman and Jessica Weeman

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
Michigan
Advanced Site Contractors

Behind the Scenes at the Museum

By Claire T. Wilbert, Former Curator and Site Manager



In their early days with the NLM, the Service Corps members received object handling training. (From L to R: Kate, Jenna, Dennis, Martin, Nick.

Often, when a museum visitor strolls through an exhibit, or attends an event at a museum, he or she is interacting with a tiny portion of the museum's collections. There is an entire world behind the scenes, populated by curators, collections managers, registrars, and assistants. These individuals work with the collections in different capacities, ensuring that the museum maintains intellectual and physical control over the collections it holds in public trust for the communities it serves.

Intellectual and physical control sound like dry and unengaging goals, but the reality is far from that. To put it perhaps too simply, a museum with intellectual and physical control of their collections can tell you both what and where each object is. Achieving intellectual and physical control requires the completion of a number of steps. The object must be received, assessed, researched, catalogued, housed, and put away in its permanent location. For the most part, this work isn't visible to the public. The information captured during these processes may be visible to the public in the form of exhibit text, as a key piece of data in an article, or as a feature in the museum's newsletter, but before data can be made accessible to the public, it must be assessed and preserved. Objects must be cataloged and housed, and these activities are two of my favorite aspects of the work I do as a curator.

Cataloging an object allows my detail-oriented mind to come to the fore. I must create a description of an object that will distinguish it from any other in the collection. If I were cataloging my official National Lighthouse Museum mug (get yours for \$10 in the gift shop next time you stop by the museum), it's not enough to describe it as a "Blue mug with silver image and lettering."

If I were to acquire another blue mug with silver images and lettering, the two could be confused, and while that's not going to impact my ability to enjoy a nice cup of tea, it would present a major issue if I were to describe our collections with a similar lack of specificity! Think about all the different flags our country has had over the years. Differences like the

number of stars can help distinguish one flag from another, and allow a curator 100 years from now to tell which artifact in the collection is which.

Building storage mounts for objects gives me a chance to be creative. Based on the dimensions, materials, and structural needs of the object, I determine what materials and supports the object needs to ensure that it will remain intact for years to come. Using the example of a flag, if I were to fold it and put it on a shelf, those folds would become creases and eventually rips in the fabric as the stress remained over the years. To alleviate that stress, if I have to fold a flag for storage, I pad each fold with archival tissue paper, so that the shape is more of a "C" than a "V," significantly reducing the stress on the fabric. Textiles are very susceptible to light damage, which also means I would build a box to protect it from all light. Since I need light to work in our storage area, it's important that the collections be protected while I'm working around them.

A well cared for collection is an accessible collection. Stable objects can be exhibited, used for research, and made visible to the public through programs, all activities that support the museum's mission, and encourage public engagement.

The NLM wishes Claire the best of luck and success as she returns to her home in Seattle, WA.

OUR NEW ADDITION!

The National Lighthouse Museum would like to take this

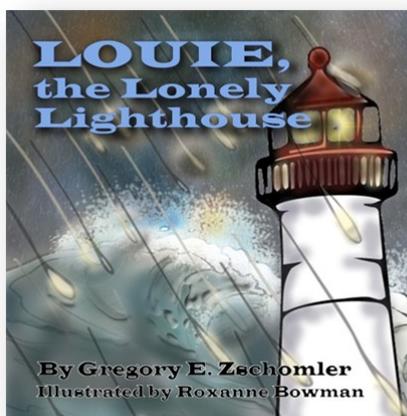


opportunity to welcome our new Curator/ Site Manager, Celestina Cuadrado who joined the NLM in May 2015.

Celestina earned a bachelor's

degree in art history from Ithaca College and a master's degree in museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. Her research interests are varied but usually include any exhibition topic she is currently working on. Celestina's appreciation of maritime history came by the way of studying 19th century mercantile history while working at the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden and as collections manager at the Merchant's House Museum in New York City.

Lighthouse Reading



Gregory Zschomler has written a delightful lighthouse book for children that families can buy and enjoy.

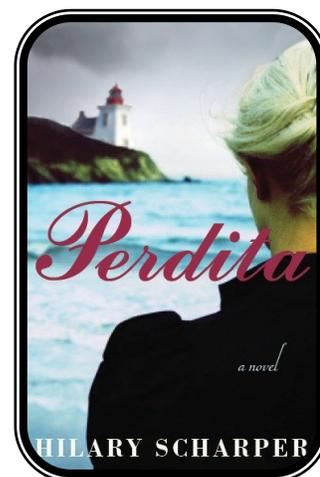
It's the story of **Louie, a Lonely Lighthouse**—a forgotten relic—who feels worthless and despairs until one dark and stormy night his mighty light saves a ship nearly lost at sea. The hopeless to hero tale is inspirational and touching.

There is another theme that will appeal to families. It teaches the intrinsic value of each individual and encourages people young and old to keep believing in themselves.



NEWS FLASH

Gregory Zschomler will be at the National Lighthouse Museum on Saturday, August 8, 2015, 11:00am signing his book and telling tales. Bring the kids and meet the author!



Summary by Dennis Lam, NLM CUNY Service Corps Member

It's amazing to imagine that a person can live to an extreme old age and even better to have an opportunity interview them and hear their countless stories. For Garth Hellyer, it is his mission to do so for the Longevity Project. In this novel, he interviews supercentenarian Marged Brice. She is remarkably and impossibly 134 years old, or so Garth believes. Soon, Garth reads the elderly woman's diaries of her life as the daughter of a lighthouse keeper of the Cape Prius Lighthouse in Canada.

This novel describes the hardships of lighthouse keepers and women related to lighthouse keepers. Supposedly men were to be in charge of being responsible of a lighthouse. Lighthouse keeping is a challenge and one of the first government jobs ever given to women. Numerous waves and storms threaten anyone living at an isolated lighthouse; and rescuing a shipwrecked sailor can put the keeper's life in peril. But lighthouse keepers tend to keep their stature and become brave and strong against the elements. According to Scharper's interview, the author wants to connect the past of the hardship of women and lighthouse keepers to the present. In the novel, Garth follows the lighthouse keeper's daughter's diaries to a connection in his own life.

The main view of the author is what also drives the National Lighthouse Museum's mission: to preserve and interpret objects related to the history of lighthouses and educate the public of the importance of American lighthouse history.

Perdita by Hilary Scharper, Paperback: 448 pages
 Publisher: Sourcebooks Landmark (January 20, 2015)
 ISBN-10: 1492602442 ISBN-13: 978-1492602446
<http://perditanovel.com/>

Celebrating Lighthouse Stories and Tales of the Sea



Attendees viewing photographs from the "Lighthouse Stories and Tales of the Sea" preview cocktail party on March 6th.

Lighthouses, in all settings and seasons, are subjects of intrigue. The 70 pieces selected for the juried photography show "Lighthouse Stories and Tales of the Sea," capture the diversity of lighthouses and the essence of experiencing them. Whether at sunset, in the middle of a storm, or during a starry night, lighthouses stand tall and proud.

On Friday March 6th, the National Lighthouse Museum hosted a cocktail party to preview the photography exhibit. Despite cold weather and snowy conditions, Building #11 was packed with people eager to preview the photographs and view a slide show of future museum exhibits and collections, along with available sponsorship opportunities..

Attendees also had the chance to view the Wall of Lights, a Fresnel Lens, and other installed exhibits. At the urging of new Board member Al Curtis, four attendees sponsored lighthouse models on the spot!



The opening reception was held the following afternoon, Saturday March 7th. Cash awards were announced.

"Lighthouse Stories and Tales of the Sea" is a partnership between the National Lighthouse Museum and the Creative Photographers Guild.

The photographs featured in the show were for sale. Proceeds from the sales supported the artist and the National Lighthouse Museum



Upcoming Events

July 12, 2015—Lighthouse Boat Tour—Circumnavigate the Isle of Staten. For more information and to register go to [Circumnavigate the Isle of Staten](#)

Check our website for additional tours [2015 Lighthouse Boat Tours](#)

July 16, 2015—Rock the Yacht is coming to the St. George Theatre on Thursday, July 16th featuring Little River Band, Ambrosia, Player



(band), Stephen Bishop, and Robbie Dupree! The National Lighthouse Museum has partnered with the St. George Theatre to create the following special offering. Join us at the museum site at 5:00pm for a pre-concert cocktail party and an opportunity to view the museum. Then we'll mosey up the hill to the theatre for the show at 7:30. Price for cocktail party and ticket \$65. Tickets available through the link below. So let's Rock the Yacht together on July 16th! [Cocktail Party & Rock the Yacht Concert](#)



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Linda C. Dianto, MS - Executive Director

John (Jack) Vokral, P.E.- President

John Arntzen - Membership Chairman

Celestina Cuadrado, Curator/ Site Manager

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Photos by Linda C. Dianto, Joan Kell. Jessica R. Kratz



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Corporate Sponsorships & Journal Ads Available

Mark your calendars for the
NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
Grand Opening Weekend
AUGUST 7 - 9 • 2015

Friday, August 7, 2015	11:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 6:30 p.m. 5th Light Keeper's Gala on board the Cornucopia Princess
Saturday, August 8, 2015	Presentations, Panel Discussions, Free Tours and Public Events
Sunday, August 9, 2015	11:00 a.m. Signature Lighthouse Boat Tour leaves from Pier 11, South Street Seaport

Hotel rooms will be reserved at a reduced rate for out-of-town guests. Call for more information.

Phone: 718-390-0040 • info@lighthousemuseum.org • www.lighthousemuseum.org

To purchase tickets or sponsorships online click here: [Ticket/Sponsorship Info](#)

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