



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Winter 2019



In this issue:
[Lighthouse Prints Donation p.2](#)
[2019 Lighthouse Boat Tours p. 3](#)
[Lighthouse Joe Esposito p.4-5](#)
[News & Events p. 7-11](#)

Staten Island Range Lighthouse

In reviewing this past year, the National Lighthouse Museum is truly grateful for all our supporters both locally and worldwide- you are an *amazing* Team! We certainly did not get where we are today without your relentless support of our mission to preserve and educate on the maritime heritage of lighthouses, lightships and the stories of their keepers for generations to come...

We continue to bring this *strong and growing* family together through our lectures, lighthouse boat tours and special events. In retrospect, we are steadily building a warm and welcoming group of followers who have become our closest friends. This Museum is about lighthouses and the maritime world and we have become a family of Keepers with a strong bond to the water. Our great team of volunteers and staff thoroughly enjoy teaching people about lighthouse history, many of whom never had a clue about lighthouses and their vibrant history before visiting.

This past year we were excited to honor several wonderful people at our Gala, double our attendance at our Lighthouse Point Fest and host some really cool lectures and special events. We also had over 15,000 visitors - with annual attendance doubling each year. In addition, we were honored to acquire Drs. Loren and Patricia Graham's antique print collection.

In 2019, we have another great year planned! We are most excited to be partnering with the US Coast Guard in maintaining the Staten Island Rear Range Light- a stately pillar of Staten Island history - sitting quietly atop Lighthouse Hill- just doing its job.

As we look at the entire picture of where we were just three years ago and where we are going, I must say with enthusiasm and a sense of urgency, *"the best is yet to come!"* BUT we can't do it alone- our future success will continue to depend upon a strong team of supporters who believe in the direction we are taking this Museum and will join together to help us to grow. Please remember, this is a "national" Museum with an international focus as you can't talk about lighthouses without talking about the world!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2019, I remain...

Sincerely,

Linda Dianto, Executive Director

Extensive Collection of Historic Lighthouse Prints Donated to National Lighthouse Museum



Dr. Loren Graham is a noted American historian of science, particularly science in Russia. He has taught and published at Indiana University, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University, where he is professor emeritus. He was a participant in one of the first academic exchange programs between the United States and the Soviet Union, studying at Moscow University in 1960-61. Among his many books, is a popular book on Native American history (*A Face in the Rock*) and a memoir (*Moscow Stories*) which describes his youth in the United States and his adventures in Russia. He has also been a strong supporter of human rights and scholarship. Dr. Graham holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Dr. Patricia Albjerg Graham is a leading historian of American education, has been a high school teacher, lecturer and assistant professor at Indiana University, a visiting professor at Northern Michigan University, and a professor of history and education at Barnard College and Teachers College, Columbia University. She served as dean of the Radcliffe Institute and as vice president of Radcliffe College, and served as dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the first woman to serve as a dean at Harvard. She was also appointed by the President of the United States as the director of the National Institute of Education from 1977 to 1979, and served as president of the Spencer Foundation in Chicago from 1991 to 2000. Dr. Graham holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, has written four books and has received several honorary degrees.

The Board of Trustees of the National Lighthouse Museum is proud to announce that it has been informed by Drs. Loren and Patricia Graham that they will be gifting their extensive collection of historic lighthouse prints to the Museum over the next three years. Once fully transferred, it is believed that the collection of more than 300 works will be the largest assemblage of lighthouse art in the world.

The collection, to be known as the Loren R. and Patricia Albjerg Graham Collection, will be housed in the soon to be expanded museum facility located on The Promenade at Lighthouse Point in Staten Island. The Grahams, who reside in Cambridge, MA and own a lighthouse in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, have been collecting the lighthouse artworks for more than three decades as they've traveled the world.

“The Grahams have been supporters of the Museum since its inception,” quotes Linda Dianto, Executive Director, “we are honored to have such a diverse collection of lighthouse prints to enhance our exhibition space and offer our worldwide visitors an international spirit and shared history with US lighthouses!”



2019 Lighthouse Boat Tours



Fleet Week Parade Review & Brunch
Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 10:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



The Great Staten Island Father's Day Tour
Sunday, June 16, 2019, 11:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



Sunset Tour of Ambrose Channel -
Friday, June 28, 2019, 6:30 pm

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



East River/Long Island Sound Tour
Sunday, July 14, 2019, 11:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



Lighthouse Weekend Ambrose Channel Tour
Sunday, August 4, 2019, 11:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



The Great Staten Island Boat Tour
Sunday, September 15, 2019, 11:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



Hudson River Boat Tour
Saturday, October 5, 2019, 11:00 am

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)



Haunted Halloween East River Sunset Tour
Sunday, October 27, 2019, 3:00 pm

[For more information and to purchase tickets click the link above.](#)

The Legacy of “Lighthouse Joe Esposito” Will Continue

by: Elizabeth A. Campbell (née Esposito)



S.I. Lighthouse caretaker, Joseph Esposito looks out over Raritan Bay. (Courtesy of Staten Island Advance/SILive.com)

Joseph N. Esposito was born on July 18, 1938 in New York, NY. He was the third of seven children born to Pasquale and Rosa (née Varrera) Esposito. Stories that my aunts and uncles have shared with me depicted my father as being a very sensitive, creative, intuitive, and brilliant child. He had an ability to invent things with scrap and supplies that he would find here and there. He had a space in the attic of his childhood home in Stapleton, Staten Island where he would create and build. One of my favorite stories involved my father building a helicopter and taking my aunt for a ride one early Sunday morning. As the lawnmower engine sliced through the silent, sleepy neighborhood, the helicopter ascended about six feet in the air before it crashed down. As my grandfather ran after my father with a belt in hand, my poor aunt was strapped into the helicopter watching the whole scene unfold. Another story that was told to me involved my father connecting radio wires and parts together. In his experimentation, he picked up a distress signal from the Andrea Doria. Shortly thereafter, some official gentlemen came to my father's childhood home to disassemble the radio equipment. There is a plethora of stories like these told to me by those who knew my father as a child/teenager. One uncle recalls my father always “blowing up the basement with his experiments.” He had a mind that needed to be nourished and nurtured. Unfortunately, my father had to quit school when he was in the seventh-grade in order to assist the family financially. He wouldn't receive his G.E.D. until the early 1980s.

On February 7, 1991, my father was dropping me off at high school while on the way to work. This was our everyday routine, but this day was different. Usu-

ally, we spoke about what our day would entail, but the car ride was a silent one. Little did I know that my father was having a heart attack. When he dropped me off, he drove around the corner and headed to Staten Island Hospital. This was the day that I knew that my time with my father was limited.

My father was a heavy smoker and since he could not smoke in the hospital, he would spend the evenings walking through the corridors. While on one of his walks, he came across a framed poster of a lighthouse. My father's exact words were, “it drew me in.” That was the moment when my father began his fourteen-year lighthouse crusade. When he was released from the hospital and urged to take things slowly for a while, my father wanted to read about lighthouses, visit lighthouses, and build lighthouses. That summer, my father, mother, and I took a trip to Cape May, New Jersey. He was in awe. Being the annoying daughter, I begged him not to climb to the top due to his heart condition. He begrudgingly obliged and settled on taking photographs from the base. My father was hooked. We also made “pilgrimages” to Twin Lights, Sandy Hook, Barnegat, and Fire Island.



Staten Island Range Lighthouse

During the 1990s, my father was quintessential in saving the Romer Shoals from demolition, convincing the United States Post Office to issue a cancellation stamp in honor of Kate Walker, built about eighteen scale models of famous lighthouses, founded *Lighthouse Research for Preservation* and *New York Harbor Lights*, became the lighthouse keeper of the Staten Island Lighthouse (West Bank Rear Range), was a member of the original steering committee for the placement of a national lighthouse museum in Staten Island, New York, and was featured several times on television and in print. He earned the nickname “Lighthouse Joe”. His scale models are in the possession of my mother and my siblings with the exception of three larger models. The Staten Island Lighthouse is on display at the National Lighthouse Museum in St. George, the New Dorp Lighthouse is

The Legacy of “Lighthouse Joe Esposito” Will Continue

on display at the Miller Field Visitor’s Center in New Dorp Beach, and the Fort Tompkins Lighthouse is on display in the visitor’s center at Fort Wadsworth.

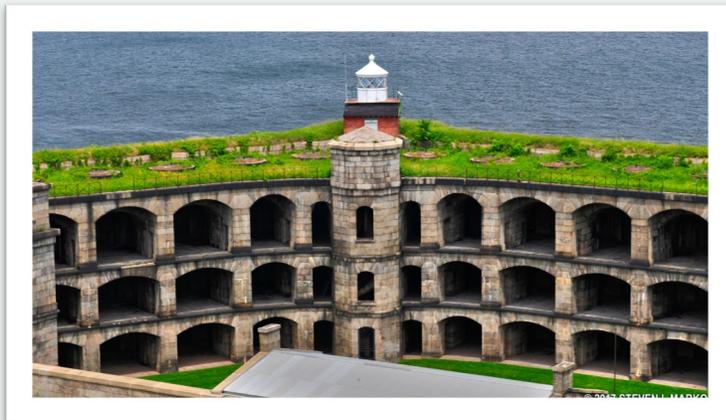
In the early 1990s, my parents and I were driving to the Staten Island Mall via Richmondtown. I remember distinctly asking my father, “Dad, how come we haven’t visited that lighthouse yet?” I was motioning to the Staten Island Lighthouse on Lighthouse Hill. My father did not realize there was a lighthouse there on the hill. After a little researching and investigating, my father decided that he needed to be the caretaker of that lighthouse and wrote letters to those who could assist him with that dream. The key arrived in the mail not long after his initial quest. He was overcome with pride. As Keeper, his responsibilities included general maintenance within and around the Staten Island Lighthouse. He was also responsible for replacing the lamp, a task that is no longer permitted to civilians. My father spent a lot of time there and sometimes, when he was feeling too weak to climb the spiral staircase, he would ask me if I would be willing to clean the lens, windows, and sweep the stairs. I used to love going there with Daddy, especially when we stood on the widow’s walk and gazed out over Arthur Kill Road. After two more heart attacks, my father knew that he could not keep up the maintenance that was required and, with a heavy heart, had to relinquish the key to his pride and joy. He was honored with a plaque and certificate for his service. Four years after he was honored, my father passed away on 5 May 2005. I still remember receiving the phone call from the hospital doctor, “there was nothing more we could do.” My father succumbed to a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. This is the day that everything changed and a part of my heart turned cold.

I felt cheated and angry. I could not look at a lighthouse without sobbing and pulled myself away from many people. It took a long time to understand that this was what had to be. This was life. Several months ago, I was sitting in a diner eating breakfast with my mother and one of my sisters. After breakfast, I asked them if they wanted to visit the National Lighthouse Museum. My mother, now suffering with dementia, did not remember many of the stories during the “lighthouse years” of the Esposito house, but she remembered the scale

model of the Staten Island Lighthouse that we witnessed upon entering the museum. We had a lovely visit and as we were driving back to my mother’s house, I felt a tug at my heart. In some of my father’s old research binders, I found the original letter he sent to request becoming the keeper of the Staten Island Lighthouse. I composed a similar letter requesting to take over the lighthouse in my father’s honor. Unfortunately, times being what they are, civilians are not permitted to take on such a role unless there was backing by an organization with lighthouse preservation and maintenance knowledge—like the National Lighthouse Museum.

I am so honored to say that the legacy of my father, “Lighthouse Joe”, will continue through his children and grandchildren who will now care for the lighthouse as he did almost two decades later. Thanks to the partnership with the National Lighthouse Museum, especially Linda and Tina, my father’s memory will be preserved. The gratitude I have for Linda and Tina cannot be expressed in words, however, they took the idea of caring for the Staten Island Lighthouse and made it come to fruition and I am privileged to call them friends. It brings me great joy in knowing that he will be remembered for all that he accomplished in the lighthouse community and in the Staten Island community. I am confident that my father is looking down on us and smiling, probably saying, “It’s about time, Liz.”

The National Lighthouse Museum was recently granted a license by the USCG for the maintenance of the Staten Island Rear Range Lighthouse. Joseph Esposito was the caretaker from 1992 to 2001. To honor his memory, the Museum is happy to partner with the Esposito family and Donald DeRosa as the new caretakers of the Rear Range Lighthouse.



Joseph Esposito also maintained the lighthouse at Battery Weed, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY.

News Flash!

News from the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce

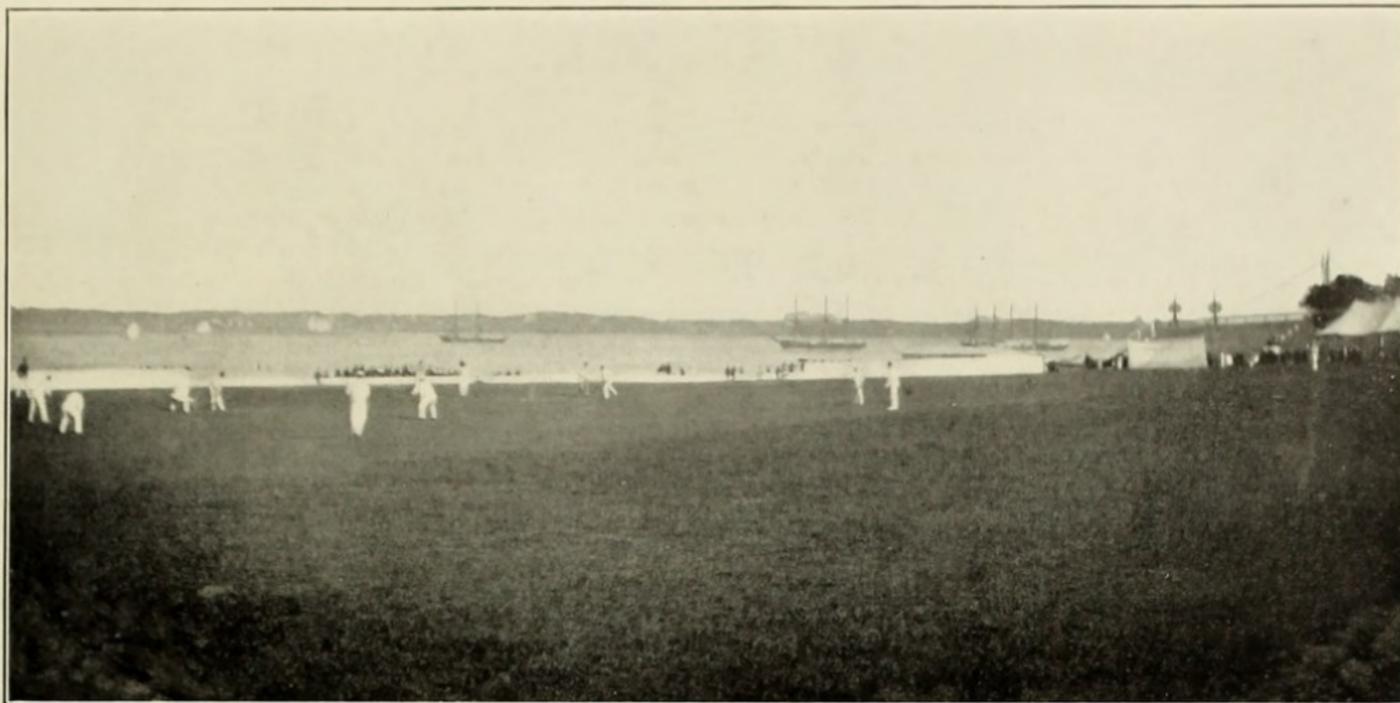
Staten Island is leaving its label of “The Forgotten Borough” in the past and will now be known as the “Unexpected Borough.”

Borough President James Oddo’s office partnered with the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce and Destination St. George to create a strategic plan for Staten Island as a destination, allowing it to receive a New York state grant to allocate funds for the marketing of the borough. Check out the new Staten Island website: [Visit Staten Island](#)

Can You See It?

Andrew Wilson of the New York Public Library, Todt Hill-Westerleigh Library Branch sent us this picture and with the following note: *“I came across this view of the old Cricket and Baseball Club at St. George. I noticed the masts of a lightship in the distance above the tent on the right side. Thought you might like to have a copy.”*

Thanks, Andrew!



The Old Grounds at Camp Washington, S. I.

(By courtesy of Mr. F. B. Eyre.)

Brilliant Minds Work On Weekends



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

BRILLIANT MINDS WORK ON WEEKENDS

A fun weekend program that uses art to teach about lighthouses, lightships, and the maritime environment.

Projects could include:

- Build your own light station,
- Paint a picture of a lighthouse in fog,
- Create your own lighthouse patch,
- ... and more!

For children ages 2 - 12 years
Adult mentors (1 per child) are encouraged but not mandatory. Reservations are required.

SATURDAYS 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
February 23, March 2,
March 9 and March 16.

\$20 per class or \$75 for all four classes
Price includes all program materials.

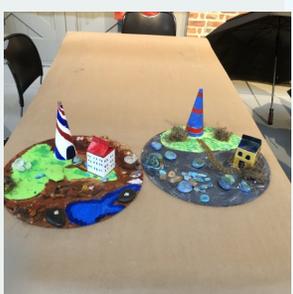
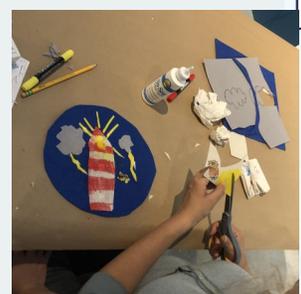
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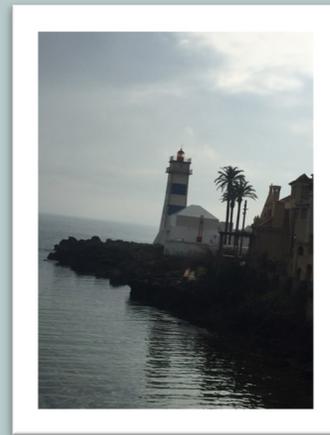
NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point
Staten Island, New York 10301
1718-390-0040



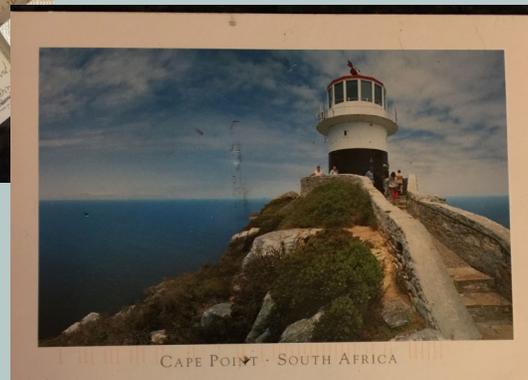
Tuition Assistance Available
Contact Museum at 718-390-0040

Lighthouses Around The World

These Lighthouses photos were taken recently from the Portuguese coast in the Sintra-Cascais area by our Director and her husband, Nick.



Roseanne Raso-DeRosa and Donald DeRosa sent this postcard from their travels to South Africa.



NEWS AND EVENTS



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of John Eagle, friend of the National Lighthouse Museum. You may well remember John as the featured speaker at several of our Lighthouses of Ireland talks. John would Skype with us from Ireland and entertain us with his stories of Irish lighthouses and life in Ireland. He was a prominent lighthouse photographer, artist and proprietor of a tourist business featuring the lighthouses of Ireland. John was a delightful person and will be missed but not forgotten.

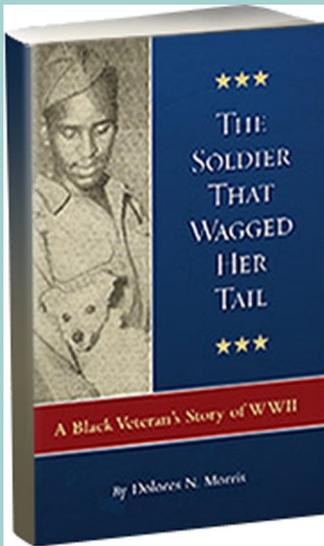
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Staten Island Not For Profit Association Hosts its Holiday Mixer at the National Lighthouse Museum in Partnership with United Activities Unlimited



December 13, 2018 was the date that the Museum hosted the Staten Island Not For Profit Association/ SINFPA holiday party in collaboration with United Activities Unlimited/ UAU. Special thanks to the UAU Culinary Training Program Team who presented a lavish and tasty buffet for all. Staten Island Yankees mascot, Scooter, made a special appearance!

Don't Miss These Great Events!



You're invited to join us on Sunday, January 27 2019, 3:00-5:00 pm when Dolores N. Morris will speak to us about her book *The Soldier That Wagged Her Tail - A Black Veteran's Story of WWII*. Her father, William A. Morris, Jr. served in both the European and Pacific theaters. He departed from and returned to Pouch Terminal, Stapleton, SINY at the end of his tour of duty. The book recounts the stories he told of World War II, acquiring Trixie, the terrier dog (or did she acquire him!) and their participation in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Sadly, Mr. Morris passed away in May of this year after a lifetime of community service. He was a wonderful example of a true Patriot, serviceman, father, friend and community leader.

Dolores N. Morris is a sixth generation Staten Island native. She is widely recognized for her work in television at such prestigious companies as Children's Television Workshop, ABC Television, Walt Disney Television and HBO. Her career has spanned 30 years of producing award winning family and children's programming, resulting in 3 Peabody Awards, an Oscar mention and 5 Emmy awards.

[Click on the link or picture above to register for this event.](#)

4th Annual

Lighthouses are for Lovers & Friends Cabaret!

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
4th Annual
Lighthouses are for Lovers & Friends
 February 9, 2019 - 7-10 pm
 This year the popular Staten Island quartet,
The Dreamers
 will grace our Museum stage.
 The Dreamers feature the music of Motown, The Jersey Boys,
 Carol King, Skyliners, Smokey Robinson, Chicago, The O'Jays,
 Harptones, The Temptations, Tavares and many other artists.

Gourmet Buffet Dinner
 Catered by Framboise
 Tickets \$75

200 THE PROMENADE AT LIGHTHOUSE POINT
 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
 WWW.LIGHTHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG
 INFO@LIGHTHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG
 718-390-0040

It's that time again! Time to gather your friends and significant others and enjoy a great evening of song.

This year we're pleased to present the popular Staten Island quartet, *The Dreamers*. They are Donna D'Angelo, Ralph Santiago, Tom Tyburczy, Carl Roldan and they love to sing! Framboise Caterers will prepare a delicious, gourmet dinner buffet. Tickets are \$75 per person.

[Click on this link or the picture to learn more and purchase tickets.](#)

Don't Miss These Great Events!



Sunday, February 24, 2019 2-4pm, Professor Ira Breskin, Senior Lecturer at SUNY Maritime College will discuss *Hot Button Issues Facing the Shipping Industry*. He is a journalist, lecturer, and editor, focusing on maritime-related subjects and is the author of *The Business of Shipping*. To his lectures and writing, Breskin brings more than 25 years of experience as a business journalist. Professor Breskin will cover topical subjects of prime interest to those impacted by ships including consumers, cruise ship and ferry passengers, environmentalists and those who admire, finance, insure or operate ships. Click below to register and reserve your seat for this event: [Hot Topics: Issues Facing the Shipping Industry](#)



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

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MARDI GRAS

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
Invites You To
LIGHT MOMENTS
March 2, 2019 ~ 7:00-10:00 pm
Celebrate Mardi Gras at the
NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
with the cool jazz of
Donna Cumberbatch
Ms. Cumberbatch's smooth, sultry, soulful sound has captivated thousands of people around the world. She has been compared to her mentors Sarah Vaughan, Gloria Lynne, and Carmen McRae, but clearly exhibits her own unique enchanting style.
Tickets are \$40 per person
Light refreshments sponsored by
Bayou Restaurant
200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point
Staten Island, NY 10301
www.lighthousemuseum.org
info@lighthousemuseum.org
718-390-0040
Mardi Gras

Join us for Mardi Gras!

The National Lighthouse Museum will present Light Moments on March 2, 2019, 7-10 pm featuring the cool jazz of Donna Cumberbatch. Tickets are \$40 per person and includes delectable light refreshments sponsored by Bayou Restaurant!

Click below to learn more and purchase tickets.

[NLM Mardi Gras Celebration](#)

200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point
Staten Island NY 10301
718-390-0040 -
info@lighthousemuseum.org
www.lighthousemuseum.org

**The National Lighthouse Museum
appreciates the support of our generous sponsors.**

