



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Spring 2017



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...and much more!

Have you visited the Museum Lately?

If you haven't been to the National Lighthouse Museum, we encourage you to visit us. While you're here you'll notice that there are many changes coming to our neighborhood.

NLM is excited to be a partner of @DestinationStGeorge, #NYC's urban getaway. Just a boat ride across the #NewYorkHarbor on the iconic (and free!) #StatenIslandFerry, St. George offers something for everyone: culture, entertainment, shopping, sports, dining and more! Check out their new website <http://www.destinationstgeorge.com/> or click here [Destination St. George](#) for more info and to plan your visit to #DestinationStGeorge today!



Linda Dianto, NLM Executive Director Named 2017 Woman of Achievement

Linda was recently honored by the Staten Island Advance as one of the
2017 Women of Achievement



"They walked away from it," Linda recalls.

That's when she stepped in.

"We have to make this happen," the longtime Grasmere resident vowed back then. "It's important to save that history."

She went to Baltimore to convince the American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee to keep Staten Island in the running as other sites were considered. She petitioned Albany to revive the museum charter. She rebuilt the board.

"It's all about persistence and fighting for the cause," she told doubters. "You have to have faith in me. I can deliver."

And deliver she has. Since its opening in 2014, the National Lighthouse Museum has been raising awareness about the iconic structures that saved lives through the centuries with their foghorns and beacons.

Now mostly obsolete because of GPS technology, lighthouses are endangered mementos of America's seafaring past. But in St. George, in a restored 1912 foundry, their legacy is preserved and respected, thanks to the vision of one determined Staten Islander who always believed it was possible.

Read the full story here: [2017 Woman of Achievement](#)

By [Claire M. Regan](#) | For the Staten Island Advance

on March 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM, updated March 20, 2017 at 6:39 AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Don't even try telling Linda Dianto something is impossible. The word isn't part of her vocabulary.

Just pay a visit to the National Lighthouse Museum in St. George. Staten Island's newest historic gem wouldn't exist today if it wasn't for Dianto's perseverance and passion.

"That's my personality," she says. "I always get into things that are a little challenging."

To describe opening a museum - especially this museum - as a little challenging is a big understatement.

The idea for a lighthouse museum on Staten Island dates back to 1998 when the St. George site adjacent to the ferry terminal was selected in a national search because of its historic significance as the U.S. Lighthouse Service Depot from 1864 to 1939.

A fundraising board was formed, but as the project lagged, the board dissolved.

Lecture Schedule

June 25, 2017—12:00-3:00 pm

Andrew Wilson will speak on *Staten Island Defends the America's Cup*.

July 23, 2017—3:00 pm—5:00 pm

James Risk of Lexington, SC will speak on *Delaying Fresnel—A Study of 19th Century Maritime Technology Transfer*.

August 5, 2017—3:00 pm—5:00 pm

Wayne Wheeler, President of the United States Lighthouse Society will speak on *Saving America's Light Stations, a 30 Year Prospective..*

Check our website for additional information and to register for lecture:

Speakers Available

Does your club or group regularly feature speakers at your meetings?

Representatives of the National Lighthouse Museum are available to speak at your organization's meetings. Contact the Museum at 718-390-0040 or email :

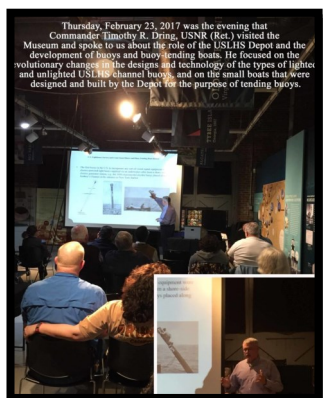
info@lighthousemuseum.org

to arrange a NLM speaker at your next meeting.

The NLM recently spoke at:

- ♦ Sisterhood of Temple Israel
- ♦ Staten Island Herb Society, Inc.

Recent Lectures



Click on the pictures to view or link here: [NLM Lecture Pictures](#)

7th Annual National Lighthouse Recognition Weekend

Plans are underway for the 7th Annual National Lighthouse Recognition Weekend, August 4-6, 2017.

August 4th—The celebration begins with the Light Keeper's Gala. We will be cruising fabulous New York Harbor, while dining, dancing and feasting aboard the beautiful yacht, Cornucopia Destiny. The cruise is preceded by a champagne reception at the Museum and we will board the yacht from Pier 1, adjacent to the Museum.



Cornucopia Destiny

Honorary Gala Chairs are Richard Marin  Kim Grogg-Marin.

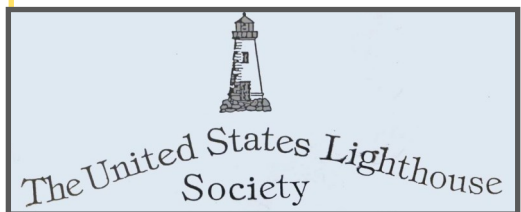
This year's honorees are:

- ♦ *Preservation Keeper's Award* – Michael N. Vogel – Buffalo Light 1833
- ♦ *Modern Day Light Keeper Award*— Bill and Kristen Golden, Lightship Owners WLV-612 and WLV-613
- ♦ *Wind in Our Sails Award*—Triangle Equities
- ♦ *Community Lamp Lighter Award*—Dr. Louis DeLuca, Chief Operating Officer, United Activities Unlimited/UAU

The Gala is being dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Billee Seffern-Ludders, PhD.

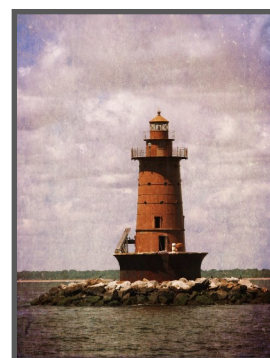
Tickets, sponsorships and journal ads may be purchased through our website,

www.lighthousemuseum.org or by clicking here: [NLM Gala Information](#)



August 5th— Wayne Wheeler, President of the United States Lighthouse Society will speak to us on *Saving America's Light Stations, a 30 year Prospective*. This talk will be at the Museum site and will run from 3:00 pm through 5:00 pm. Admission is free.

August 6th— Join us for our Lighthouse Signature Boat Tour of New York Harbor and points south. This tour leave promptly at 11:00 am from Pier 11, South & Wall Sts., Manhattan. Pier 11 is located on the East River, a short stroll from the SI Ferry. To purchase tickets and register for this boat tour visit our website www.lighthousemuseum.org or click here: [Signature Boat Tour](#).



West Bend Lighthouse

Lighthouse Boat Tour Highlights

East River/Long Island Sound Boat Tour

This tour reveals views of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Long Island Sound that most have not seen.



Blackwell Island Lighthouse
(Roosevelt Island)

The **East River** is actually not a river but rather a salt water tidal estuary. The waterway connects Upper New York Bay on its south end to Long Island Sound on its north end.

We'll pass through *Hell's Gate* where the East River, Harlem River and Long Island Sound meet and enter the Sound. Two fabulous lighthouse await us there.

The Stepping Stones Lighthouse, brick with a mansard roof was built in 1875. The name Stepping Stones comes from a Native American legend and Colonial maps refer to this area as the Devil's Stepping Stones.



Stepping Stones Lighthouse



Execution Rocks Lighthouse

Execution Rocks Lighthouse has a number of gory legends attached to it. At the time of the American Revolution, British soldiers were reported to chain patriots to the rocks and let the tide take them leaving their bodies as a warning to others. After the lighthouse was built in 1950, Light Keepers were not held to a contract of service but were allowed to serve as long as *they could*.

For tickets for this or other lighthouse boat tours visit our website www.lighthousemuseum.org or click here; [NLM Lighthouse Boat Tours](#)



Upcoming 2017 Lighthouse Boat Tours

Sunday, May 21, 2017 - Circumnavigate the Isle of Staten - Leave 1:00pm from **Pier 1 adjacent to the Museum site, St. George, Staten Island, 10301.**

Saturday, June 17, 2017 - SUNSET EVENING Signature Lighthouse boat tour. Leaves at 6:00 pm from **Pier 1 adjacent to the Museum site, St. George, Staten Island, 10301.**

Sunday July 16, 2017 - Circumnavigate the Isle of Staten - This popular tour is being repeated due to popular demand. Leave 1:00pm from **Pier 1 adjacent to the Museum site, St. George, Staten Island, 10301.**

Sunday, August 6, 2017 - Celebrate Lighthouse Weekend with our Signature Tour. Leaves at 11:00 am from **NY Waterway's Pier 11, South St. and Wall St., East River.**

Saturday, September 16, 2017 - East River Lighthouse Boat tour through Hell's Gate to Long Island Sound. Leaving at 11:00 am **NY Waterway's Pier 11, South St. and Wall St., East River.**

Saturday, October 14, 2017 - Hudson River Lighthouse Boat Tour. Enjoy our awesome river, magnificent Palisades, several lighthouses and lightships and all the beautiful sites along the way north to Tarrytown. Leaves at 1:00pm from **NY Waterway's Pier 11, South St. and Wall St., East River.**

Purchase tickets through our website www.lighthousemuseum.org or click here [Lighthouse Boat Tours](#).

HAMILTON

On Friday Evening, April 21st 2017, Wade R. Gorla, Historian, Volunteer Docent at the Museum and Lecturer aboard NLM Boat Tours, delivered a very well-attended lecture entitled: "Alexander Hamilton: Guiding Light of America's Commerce," in which he examined the preeminent role that Alexander Hamilton played toward the advancement of maritime trade and commerce in the United States. Mr. Gorla explored the roots of Hamilton's unique family heritage as well as the strong commercial orientation he developed on the Caribbean island of Nevis, where he was born as well as his formative and fascinating employment experience as a teen working in Saint Croix on behalf of a New York based import/export company: Beekman and Cruger.

At the age of seventeen, in 1772, Hamilton, with plans to move to New York City, left the island of Saint Croix on the sloop Thunderbolt bound for Boston. The stormy waters of Cape Hatteras caused a near catastrophe when a fire broke out on the ship. Memories of that harrowing experience would sharpen Hamilton's awareness of the critical need to build a system of light houses along the Atlantic coast as aids to navigation.

As a student attending King's College, later named Columbia University, New York City, Hamilton wrote essays in support of the Patriot cause and in 1774, attended meetings of the Sons of Liberty where he also delivered his first speech, one that was extremely well received. In 1775, he formed a militia unit, the Hearts of Oak, and later participated in a raid on the Battery in which two dozen cannons were captured. At age 21, on February 23rd 1776, he was commissioned as the first Captain of the Provisional Company of Artillery of the New York Colony.

Hamilton's extraordinary intelligence and unlimited energy captured the attention of George Washington at the successful Battle of Harlem Heights in September 1776. He would become the General's most trusted and valuable aide de camp.

After the Revolution, the failure of the Articles of Confederation to create a prosperous well-functioning economy became glaringly evident. Hamilton now championed the creation of a strong centrally controlled government. His extraordinary talent as a writer, which, General Washington had well utilized during the war, was reflected in his authorship of 51 of 85 articles comprising the Federalist Papers.

Hamilton continued to maintain an exceedingly close

personal bond with General Washington who also represented his main base of power. When the Constitution was ratified in 1789, with Washington securing a powerful position as the nation's Chief Executive, Hamilton emerged as his clear choice to serve the new government as Treasury Secretary.

During the course of the War, Washington and Hamilton had become familiar with many of the coastal points on the Atlantic coast where a light house could or should be built. Both leaders recognized, as with Britain, that maritime trade and commerce would serve as an underpinning of the country's financial future. The construction of a system of light houses would help provide for the safe passage of goods in and out of Atlantic ports. Once ships reached their destination, the new government under the Constitution could then levy customs duties designed to enrich the Treasury Department's coffers, pay off the debt incurred during and after the war, and create the economic foundation for America development and progress.

Within the context of advancing these formative financial policies, a new federal agency was created by an Act of Congress, the US Light House Establishment, on

August 4, 1789, a date commemorated each year by NLM. In August of 2017, NLM will host its 7th Annual Light House Recognition Weekend.

The Light House Establishment brought locally funded light houses situated along the Atlantic coast under the rigorous authority of a centralized and efficient agency, now presided over by Hamilton, who served as its first Superintendent, even before he assumed office as Treasury Secretary on September 11th 1789. Hamilton would continue to serve as Treasury Secretary until January 31st 1795.

As Light House Establishment Superintendent Hamilton called for the construction of a navigational infrastructure consisting of two hundred and fifty light houses along the Atlantic coast. Cape Henry Light often identified as "Mr. Hamilton's Light" was built at the entry point of Chesapeake Bay at Virginia Beach and it became America's first public works project. Cape Hatteras Light, was constructed on the hazardous Outer Banks of North Carolina where Hamilton had come close to losing his life in 1772.

HAMILTON (CONTINUES)

To insure that customs duties would be effectively and properly collected, Hamilton in August 1790, created the US Revenue Cutter Service that originally consisted of ten cutters. The eventual merging of the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life Saving Service, formed in 1878, long after Hamilton's death in 1804, provided the basis of today's US Coast Guard, formally established in 1915.

Hamilton's preeminent role managing both the US Light House Establishment and the US Revenue Cutter Service has encouraged some historians to describe him as the "Father" of the US Coast Guard. A new bronze statue of Hamilton, to be placed in front of the Coast Guard Academy's Hamilton Hall in New London, Connecticut is now being planned by the same sculptor, Kristen Visbal, who created "Fearless Girl" located near Bowling Green, right across from the Customs House in Lower Broadway, that now functions as The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The original Customs House (1790 to 1799) had been located at South William Street, opposite Mill Lane with the address of 5 Mill Lane. One of the Customs House buildings constructed over the years at various locations stood at a site near to where Fort Amsterdam once existed, on the south side of Bowling Green. Completed in 1907, it was named the Alexander Hamilton Customs House.

Mr. Gorla explored other salient "Guiding Light" policies of Hamilton that determined the course America's future commerce such as Hamilton's Report on Manufactures to Congress, his encouragement of an autonomous US economy freed from the stranglehold of Britain's mercantilistic system, his advocacy of internal improvements such as the development of roads and canals, his stress upon advancing conditions for innovation and invention among US citizens, his belief that America's economy would flourish most under a fair and modest taxation system, and his insistence upon the collection of tariffs. Hamilton also lent encouragement to the systematic practice of industrial espionage as a means of competing with Britain's early domination of the Industrial Revolution. The creation of Patterson, New Jersey as America's first planned industrial city utilized the 77 ft high Great Falls of the Passaic River as a power resource.

Hamilton's enduring legacy in New York formed the subject of the final portion of Mr. Gorla's lecture. The Hamilton name is certainly ubiquitous in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where Mr. Gorla grew up and resides. The name Hamilton is also generously referenced in all of NYC's five boroughs and throughout New York State. Mr. Gorla presented images of schools, colleges, military installations, cemeteries, libraries, museums, neighborhoods, statues, civic centers, streets, apartment houses, towns, ships, ferry boats, stores, and restaurants, all of which help keep the memory of Hamilton's extraordinary life in New York alive.

In recent years, the often painful complexities of Hamilton's life have attracted enormous popular attention as consequence of the great success of the Hip Hop infused Broadway Musical, Hamilton by Lin Manuel Miranda, inspired by Ron Chernow's brilliant best-selling book Hamilton. At the close of his lecture, Mr. Gorla reminded us that Hamilton's powerful legacy of accomplishment in New York is fundamental to our everyday existence. By any measure, it is altogether impossible to exaggerate the boundless extent of his influence upon our lives.



Who's Who

We were please to have the following groups visit us this year

- Archcare Senior Life
- Tottenville High School
- Lifestyles for the Disabled
- Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
- Friends of the Brick Library
- Harbor View School
- City College Academy of the Arts



NATIONAL
LIGHTHOUSE
MUSEUM

Linda C. Dianto, MS - Executive Director

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

Captain Joseph Ahlstrom, 1st. VP/ Board of Trustees Education Committee

John Arntzen—2nd VP/Trustee Membership Committee, Chair

Celestina Cuadrado, Curator/ Site Manager

Cabaret Anyone?



Kim Grogg-Marin & Friends again entertained us at a Valentine themed event billed as *Lighthouses are for Lovers and Friends*.

Professional musicians and lighting enhanced the cabaret atmosphere. Sophisticated food and drinks were enjoyed by all.



Love was in the air!

To view a slideshow of the event click here:

[Lighthouses are for Lovers](#)



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