



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



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NLM, Staten Island Real Estate
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NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

"To preserve and educate on the maritime heritage of Lighthouses & Lightships for generations to come..."

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear National Lighthouse Museum Friends,

Welcome to our Summer 2020 National Lighthouse Museum Newsletter!

It is so hard to believe we are still enmeshed in this pandemic, struggling to survive against all odds. As New York enters Phase 4, Museums, along with other indoor facilities, remain in lock down mode. Ready to get the go ahead, under the "new norm rules", we have also received many requests for our seasonal lighthouse boat tours, but unfortunately each one - most recently our famed Signature- Ambrose Channel Tour, scheduled for Lighthouse Weekend - August 9th., had to be cancelled. Notwithstanding, we are proud to announce that despite our Museum closure back in mid-March, we have accomplished some exciting on- line/ virtual public programs:

- Two Zoom lectures

- "Lights, Camera, Action - tips on photographing a Lighthouse!" with special thanks to Todd Vorenkamp

- "The Union Blockade during the American Civil War" - with a big thanks to our lecturer, Wade R. Gorla, featured in a three-hour series, thanks to the generosity of cinematographer, Jon Roche, Oliver Anderson, 2nd Camera, and editor, Daniel Amigone

Twelve" Lighthouse of the Week" virtual Tuesday presentations, with a special thanks to Kraig Anderson creator of lighthousefriends.com and coordinated by Jean Coombs.

Our first virtual Art Contest organized by Fran Gilstein and Melissa Petraglia with Con Edison as our sponsor. An Immigration article on the connection of our site and the old Quarantine Marine Hospital was written by Matthew McDonnell Connor and published thanks to the support of our Immigration Initiatives grant.

In addition to our virtual activities, we implemented a thoughtful, hands-on Lighthouse Cultural Experience. Starting as a pilot project, we distributed 200 packs to local Food Hubs filled with a large box of Crayola Crayons, a Coloring/ Lighthouse Trivia booklet and most importantly a FREE Family Pass to return to the Museum upon opening - thanks to funding from Council members Steve Matteo's and Debi Rose's Offices. We hope to grow this program in FY 21, helping to address the cultural needs of those less fortunate and impacted during these difficult times and in need for some interesting family cultural experiences.

Finally, to bring us up to our most current special event: Weathering the Storm, you do not want to miss our annual Light Keeper's Gala, scheduled for August 7th., become VIRTUAL! No doubt, we would all prefer to enjoy a night on a dinner cruise in the New York Harbor like we have done for the past several years, but perhaps our virtual guests would not have been the same. We are featuring a visit from HRH, Princess Anne from across the pond as well as Ingrid Michaelson, Singer/ Songwriter/ Producer and 2020 Emmy Award Nominee as well as four- time Grammy Award winner, Vernon Reid. In addition, we will hear from our awardees, Capt. Robertson Dinsmore and Kevin P. Duffus. Please link into that evening and hear about our past, present, and future plans! Thank you to our Co-Chairs - Glen Mancuso and Peter Lisi, who will broadcast live from the Museum with a curtain call at 8 pm. This will be a great opportunity to give support during these difficult times...

Also watch for the launching of our Virtual Gift Shop where you can hunt for some great lighthouse- related gifts! A special thank you to Jim Sarlo, Bob Eisele and Peter Lisi for coordinating this summer project, getting all our gift shop items photographed, cataloged, and posted on- line. Our Fig Fest scheduled for September 15th., thanks to SI Food Guru, Pam Silvestri, will morph into a virtual fig panel discussion and an interactive wine and cheese party!

As for our Lighthouse Point Fest, if the Museum has the green light to open, we are contemplating an interesting fest-modification this year, resurrecting our once popular S I Lighthouse Scavenger Hunt! Stay tuned for future details on this fun-filled family/ bicycle-oriented experience allowing us to practice social distancing while learning about Staten Island's rich lighthouse history.

We hope you will be a partner in supporting our newest adventures to keep our beacon shining and help us weather this storm!

Sincerely,

Linda

FIG FEST & FIGURING OUT THE FRUIT: NLM VIRTUAL FIG FEST SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2020

BY PAMELA SILVESTRI | SILVESTRI@SIADVANCE.COM



(Above) Fig Tree
Staten Island Advance/Pamela Silvestri



(Above) Fig from last year's Fig Fest 2019
Staten Island Advance/Pamela Silvestri

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- For 11 years fig-nacious loyalists have looked forward to September 15th, the date of the annual Fig Fest on Staten Island. In spite of the pandemic, fans of ancient fruit can praise ficus once again in 2020 as the National Lighthouse Museum (NLM), St. George, will host the event virtually on the sacred date. Fig Fest will be held in two, almost consecutive sessions offered at \$10 each. The admission fee is a donation to support the museum.

On September 15, the first fig session will run from 5-6:30 p.m., as a panel of fig experts will discuss various techniques to successfully cultivate the trees. We will discuss the all important question "To wrap or not to wrap: the best way to put your ficus to sleep for the winter," which addresses both potted and ground-planted culture. Also of great interest at the Fig Fest, by tradition, has been the topic of pawpaws, a distinctly American fruit native to Staten Island and the Northeast.

The second virtual section, broadcast live from the museum from 7-8:30 p.m., will feature a fig, wine, and cheese tasting. This seminar will highlight five distinct wines and cheeses from the United States that pair perfectly with common fig varieties. The wines and cheeses can be purchased by participants in advance at wine stores locally or around the country. Tickets will be offered starting on Sept. 1 on the museum's website [LighthouseMuseum.org](https://www.lighthousemuseum.org).

Since March, the National Lighthouse Museum has curtailed museum visitors, public education programs, special community events and its popular lighthouse boat tours with "no future opening dates in sight." "We have gone virtual with many of our education programs including our upcoming 10th Annual Light Keeper's Gala Production scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7 at 8 p.m.," said Linda Dianto, Executive Director. She added, "We are excited to know the Fig Fest will not die on the vine this year, but will morph into two interesting virtual presentations."

To read full article click here: <https://www.silive.com/entertainment/2020/07/fig-fest-and-figuring-out-the-fruit-in-2020.html>

For more information email: info@lighthousemuseum.org

DID YOU KNOW?

BY JAMES P. SARLO



(Above) Image from U.S. LOC archive/

The Old Lamp Shop was located on the 3rd floor of Building 8 in 1868.

.....that amazing scientific experiments were conducted in the old Lamp Shop. Constructed in 1868, the Lamp Shop was the second building erected at the U.S. Lighthouse Board General Depot. Its neo-Federalist architectural design reflects the earlier Inspectors Warehouse and contains elements of traditional Federalist design inspired by the Greco-Roman architecture of the day. It is functional and simple in design. The unadorned clay brickwork reflects Northern European designs of that period.

Building 8 served a dual purpose: as a place for assembling Fresnel lenses, and as a testing facility for illuminating oils. The Fresnel lenses workrooms, in which large palladium windows allowed for maximum sunlight exposure, were located on the first floor of the structure. The oil testing rooms are believed to have been located on the third floor.

An etching and accompanying article which appeared in Frank Leslie's Weekly (ca. 1883) states....

"These tests are made in a room especially set apart for the purpose at the Government station on Staten Island. The floor and ceiling of the room are painted in dark colors, in order that no ray of light maybe lost in the very critical tests. The oil is tested for its specific gravity, its liability to explosion and its illuminating power as compared with oils already in use."

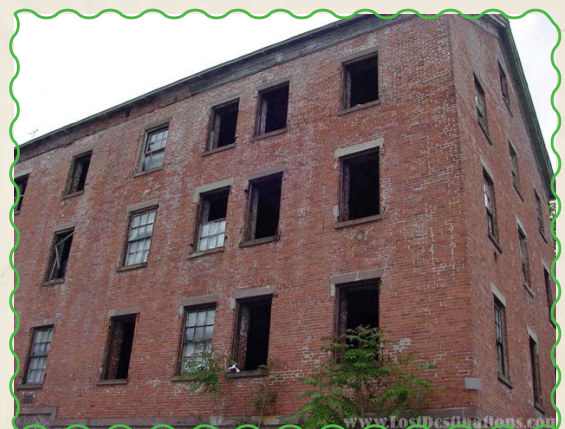
The following image shows officials of the United States Lighthouse Board testing oil for use in Government lighthouses.



(Above) Photo courtesy of Linda Dianto

In the etching shown above, we can see three individuals conducting an Argo spot oil comparison test. Notice the darkened room which provided for the best possible illumination results.

The Lamp Shop reminds us about the important extent to which multi-tasking characterized scientific experiments at Staten Island's General Depot.



(Above) Old Lamp Shop building today
-lostdestinations.com



ROYAL BEACON/INDOMITABLE SPIRIT: THE NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM EMBRACES HRH PRINCESS ANNE



BY WADE R. GORIA

The National Lighthouse Museum is delighted, and most heartened, to announce formally that HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, has agreed to serve as Patron of its “Campaign for Illuminating Future Generations.” HRH regularly donates enormous time and energy on behalf of more than 300 organizations worldwide. Many represent charitable causes such as Save the Children and Carers Trust. A lifelong Equestrian, Princess Anne represented the British Eventing Team that competed in the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. More pertinent to the National Lighthouse Museum, HRH currently serves as the Master of the Trinity House Corporation in London. Trinity House is a private corporation and charity incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514, during the reign of Henry the VIII. It has served as the UK’s largest endowed Maritime Charity, and, as the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar maintaining a total of 65 lighthouses. The workings of Trinity House would influence the formation of the Lighthouse Establishment by Act of Congress in 1789. The more modern and innovative US Lighthouse Board created in 1851, and the establishment of the General Depot of St. George, Staten Island beginning in 1864, reflected improvements in aids to navigation then advanced by Trinity House. HRH understands the importance of preserving maritime sentinels, which form an essential part of the UK’s heritage, and of its vast, interconnected global infrastructure. HRH supplements her interest in engineering with a love of sailing, the sea and coastal landscape.

Britain’s maritime legacy in the New York City metropolitan region is certainly pronounced and distinctive. This becomes evident for example, as passengers on ships entering New York City, look to the port side of the Ambrose Channel when approaching Lower New York Harbor. Situated in the Middletown Township of Monmouth County, New Jersey, the Sandy Hook barrier spit adjoins this passage. Across to the east, lies the western tip of Rockaway, Queens at Breezy Point. Sandy Hook spit lies adjacent to shoals that have made navigation into New York City historically hazardous. As a consequence, it would become the vital task of the prestigious Sandy Hook Pilots Association, based in Staten Island, to guide ships safely into Lower New York Harbor. The Sandy Hook Pilots Association was established in 1694, just thirty years after the British wrested control of New York City from the Dutch. One half mile from the northern tip of the Sandy Hook spit lies the stalwart, octagonally shaped, 103 foot high, white granite Sandy Hook Lighthouse that stands proudly as New York’s most historic lighthouse.

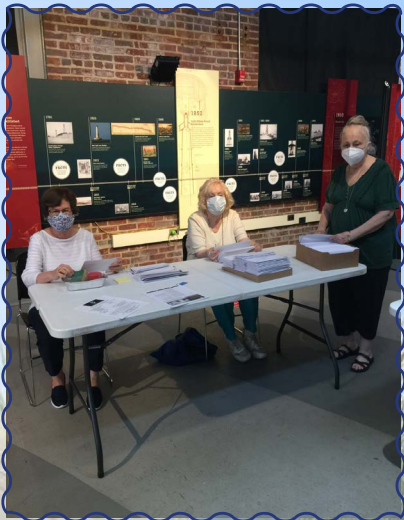
Built in 1764, during the British colonial era, Sandy Hook Light has faithfully served mariners as America’s oldest lighthouse in continuous operation. Despite its actual New Jersey location, Sandy Hook Light was originally known as the New York Light because it was funded primarily by New York’s businessmen, many with strong economic ties to London. Sandy Hook Light was built meticulously by Master Mason, Isaac Conro of British origin.

At the close of the American Revolution, the Treaty of Paris of 1783, stipulated that British troops permanently depart from New York City. This event is commemorated each year at Fraunces Tavern on November 25th as “Evacuation Day.” Sandy Hook Light now served as the place from which the British withdrew the last of their military and naval forces prior to sailing out to the Atlantic. Long after Britain’s evacuation, much of the Colonial pattern of British trade, commerce and culture in New York City would remain etched in the lives of New York’s citizenry. The founder of the Lighthouse Establishment in 1789, Alexander Hamilton, would shape so much of the history of New York City. Hamilton was strongly influenced by British political, social and economic systems that he borrowed liberally from philosophers such as David Hume and John Locke. As President Washington’s Treasury Secretary, Hamilton not only organized the Lighthouse Establishment, but the Customs House, and the enforcement agency known as the Revenue Marine, progenitor of the US Cutter Service, (and, in 1915, the US Coast Guard). These maritime and economic agencies were modeled in part after the Exchequer, and, the British Royal Navy.

Although Princess Anne was not able to visit NLM this year, she hopes to visit in the future, and will be participating in our upcoming “Virtual Gala” with a broadcast of her own to be shown to attendees on August 7th. Our membership is deeply honored and thrilled that Princess Anne will become the Patron of NLM’s “Campaign for Illuminating Future Generations”.

*By Wade R. Goria,
Historian and NLM Lecturer*

MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Thank you to Soroptimist International of Manhattan's Toni Aiello, Dee Carroll and Fran Gilstein for helping to complete a mailing for the NLM's fundraiser: *Weathering the Storm...*

Lecture entitled *The Union Blockade During the American Civil War* by Wade R. Goria was presented virtually in 3 parts on June 11



**A LIGHTHOUSE
ART CONTEST 2020**

This contest was open to students from K-5th grade encouraging participants to stop, think and learn about the impact lighthouses have had throughout history while creating art at home with their families. Photos of posters & 3-D models were submitted, posted to Facebook, and voted upon by clicking the "Like" button. We received submissions from all over the 50 states!



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 7th-NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

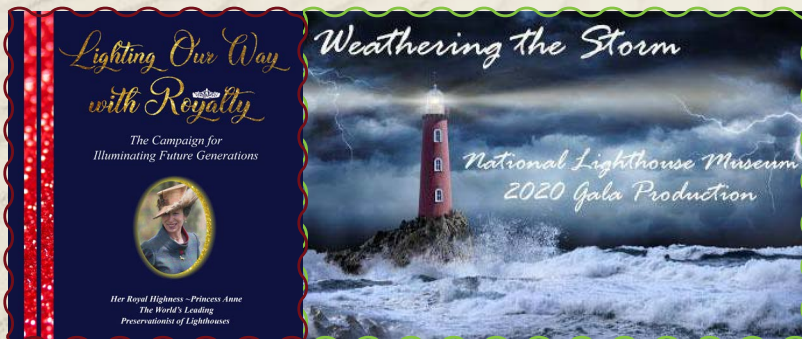
We will be Virtually hosting our **10th Annual Gala:**
'Weathering the Storm' on August, 7th, 2020 @8pm
via Zoom, Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85189788330?pwd=aDhhSm9MS9qMVE2NXlwQ2tVdXdZOT09>

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalLighthouseMuseum/>

Twitter Link: <https://www.twitter.com/NLMSINY>

Instagram Link: <https://www.instagram.com/nationallighthousemuseum/>



Princess Anne, HRH, The World's Leading Preservationist of Lighthouses will make a special appearance during our Virtual Gala, in support of our Campaign: *Illuminating Future Generations.*

Our Virtual Gift Shop Launching!

<https://national-lighthouse-museum.square.site/s/shop>



Our Grand Re-Opening Coming Soon!
(Post COVID)



FIND THE HIDDEN SEA STAR ICONS

Are you up for a challenge?
See if you can find the **6** hidden sea star
icons ★ in this newsletter.
(Answers are on the bottom of the page)

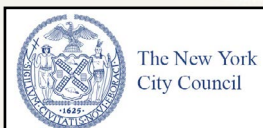
SUMMER FUN COLORING SHEET

Keep cool
while coloring
during the
hot summer days!



courtesy of azspringtrainingexperience

Grateful thanks to our generous sponsors!



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NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Answers: Find the 6 hidden sea star icons:

1. on the Letter from Our Executive Director page 2. In the "I" in Did you know? 3. on bottom of Did You Know page 4. Wade's Article 5. Memorable Moments page 6. Bottom of Fig Fest Page