

Fall 2025



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM NEWS



200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-390-0040

MUSEUM ADMISSION

Adults: \$7

Seniors/Military/Veterans/Students: \$5

Museums for All Rate: \$3

Members: FREE

Children under 12: FREE

HOURS

Thursday- Sunday

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed Major Holidays

Call to Arrange Group/Class Tours.

www.lighthousemuseum.org

[www.FB.com/NationalLighthouseMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NationalLighthouseMuseum)

[@nationallighthousemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/nationallighthousemuseum)

Call for Entries! Lighthouse Photo Contest

The National Lighthouse Museum invites photographers of all levels to enter our annual Lighthouse Photo Contest. Capture the beauty, history, and spirit of lighthouses—from dramatic seascapes and sunsets to unique perspectives and hidden details. Winning photos will be featured in the Museum's 2026 Lighthouse Calendar, shared with lighthouse enthusiasts nationwide.

Submit your best shots and help us showcase the timeless magic of lighthouses while supporting the Museum's mission to preserve and celebrate lighthouse history.

Shine a light on your talent—enter today!



**ENTRIES CLOSE
OCTOBER 31, 2025**

**\$10 ENTRY FEE
(3 SUBMISSIONS FOR \$25)**

UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSES ONLY!

Enter at www.lighthousemuseum.org/photocontest/

New York's Lighthouses Art Show

Award Winning Artists

by *Semine Hazar and Barbara Todd*

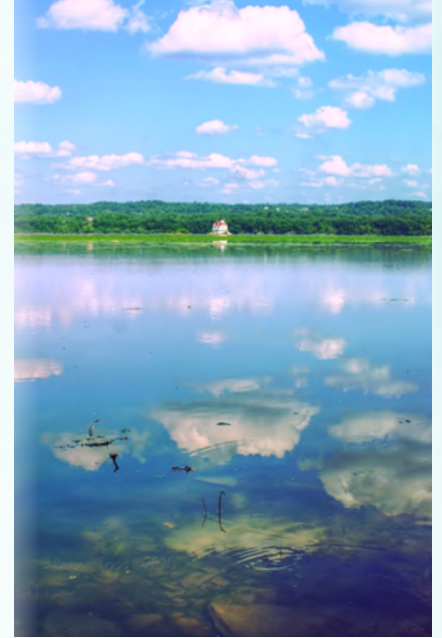
in collaboration with the National Lighthouse Museum

Exhibit from September 6 - December 13, 2025

New York's Lighthouses celebrates the state's historic lighthouses—recognized for their architectural charm, symbolic power, and breathtaking settings. Once essential to maritime navigation, trade, and transportation, many of these landmarks are now lovingly preserved and open to the public, evoking themes of hope, guidance, and resilience.

Through Semine Hazar's expressive paintings and Barbara Todd's evocative photography, the exhibition captures the lighthouses' enduring presence in New York's coastal landscapes and their deep connection to the region's maritime heritage. The exhibition showcases their distinct yet complementary artistic styles, offering unique interpretations of the iconic lighthouses of New York.

The show also draws inspiration from the Hudson River School, America's first art movement, which celebrated the natural beauty of the Northeast and aligns with the National Lighthouse Museum's mission to preserve and honor these coastal treasures.



Photos from the Artist Reception on Friday, October 3rd.

Romer Shoals to Return Home

A Beacon of History and Resilience

Contrary to popular belief, Romer Shoal was not named after the pilot boat William J. Romer, but after Colonel Wolfgang William Romer, who charted New York Bay in 1700. The Lighthouse Service marked “Romer’s Shoal” as early as 1838, long before the pilot boat’s 1863 sinking.

Early beacons faced challenges—Winslow Lewis’s 1838 daymark was misplaced, and later structures required repairs after erosion. By 1886, a skeletal tower with an automated light was established, and in 1898, the current sparkplug-style lighthouse was built on the existing pier. Originally used at the Staten Island Lighthouse Depot for testing wicks and fuels, it was relocated to Raritan Bay, equipped with a fourth-order Fresnel lens, and first lit on October 1, 1898.

Over the decades, Romer Shoal Lighthouse saw many heroic and tragic moments. Keepers rescued stranded mariners, endured isolation, and even suffered fatalities in storms and accidents. The station transitioned from oil lamps to electric power, and in 1939, it came under U.S. Coast Guard control. The lighthouse was automated in 1966, continuing to mark the entrance to New York Harbor with its white flashing light.

Though damaged by storms—including Superstorm Sandy in 2012—the lighthouse has endured. Preservation efforts began in 2010 when the Coast Guard declared it surplus property. Purchased by John Scalia in 2011, it became part of a nonprofit effort to restore and reopen the site for education and tourism in partnership with the National Lighthouse Museum. Despite receiving grants totaling over \$4 million, full restoration remains incomplete.

The National Lighthouse Museum, in collaboration with the owners of the Romer Shoal Foundation, are in discussion of the feasibility of returning it to the Museum site, a key artifact.

Today, Romer Shoal Lighthouse stands as a symbol of maritime history, endurance, and community pride, continuing to guide vessels and inspire preservationists dedicated to keeping its light shining for generations to come.



Lighthouse Point Fest: A Heartfelt Celebration of Community Spirit



The National Lighthouse Museum's Lighthouse Point Fest shone brightly this year as a joyful celebration of community, culture, and connection—made possible through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Initiatives with assistance from the the NYC Tourism Foundation and the Borough Culture Grant.

The day was filled with lively surprises and heartfelt teamwork. A special shoutout goes to Donald, whose last-minute coordination brought Lickety Split with ice cream and the Harvest Café with their signature soup—along with Killsboro Brewery, whose Italian Antipasto beer was a crowd favorite. The surprise Lemonade Stand delighted guests and perfectly complemented the day's festive feel.



Entertainment was top-notch—children enjoyed three packed magic shows inside the Museum, along with face painting and balloon twisting that brought smiles all around. The addition of a graceful Indian dance performance added a beautiful international touch, reflecting the Museum's commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion. Thank you to Dot and Toni for bringing together an outstanding group of vendors, and to Rosanne for her incredible volunteer coordination with St. Joseph Hill Academy and Staten Island Academy, whose students brought enthusiasm and energy throughout the day. Rosanne also saved the Soup Contest with her last-minute addition of pea soup, while Donald and Rosanne B. crafted the event's cherished Wooden Ladle Award.



Behind the scenes, Peter ensured everything ran smoothly—from permits and staging to generators, tables, and even the last-minute delivery of the portable restroom and garbage cans. Attendance topped 500 guests, with many new families from Bay Street Landing joining in the fun.

A big thank-you to Kim for all event graphics, T-shirt design, and promotion, and to Jean P. for community outreach. Our front and back gate teams—Toni & Janet and Jan & Nick—kept traffic moving seamlessly. Thanks also to Donald and Stevie for leading setup, Eleanor and Liz for managing the Soup Contest Table, Bob Sollitto for his plant table and bagel donation, and Bob and Michael for representing the Museum's educational programs.

We're deeply grateful to our newest Board Member, Michael Bloomfield, for securing Tekie Geek as our T-shirt sponsor, and to Frank, our charismatic MC, who kept the day flowing with humor and heart.

From start to finish, Lighthouse Point Fest was a true labor of love, uniting neighbors, families, and friends for a one-of-a-kind Staten Island celebration. Against all odds, we pulled together another memorable, meaningful event—one that continues to shine as brightly as the lighthouse itself.

Twin Lights Bus Trip

Guests enjoyed a scenic trip to the Twin Lights Historical Lighthouse in Highlands, New Jersey, complete with a guided tour and breathtaking views overlooking Sandy Hook Bay and New York Harbor. After exploring the museum and learning about the lighthouse's rich maritime history, everyone gathered for a delicious lunch at Bahr's Landing Restaurant.



City of Water Day

Attendees brought their picnic lunches and enjoyed beautiful views of New York Harbor while listening to live music by Harbortown. The Orcas and Glaciers Art Show by Selva Ozelli was on display and the illustrator of *Lighthouse Ladies* shared the story of Ida Lewis. Children participated in hands-on lighthouse-themed activities. Educational booths from the Natural Resources Protective Association (NRPA), Billion Oyster Project and Gotham Whale engaged visitors, with Gotham Whale also screening their award-winning film. Tony Rose demonstrated rain barrel and stormwater management techniques, and all guests enjoyed free admission to the National Lighthouse Museum. A special thank you to the Hudson River Foundation for their support in helping make City of Water Day an annual event at the Museum along with the Department of Cultural Affairs.



Electronic billboard at SI Ferry Terminal

Thanks to generous grants from the NYC Tourism Foundation and the Borough Culture Grant, our organization was featured on the electronic billboard at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, located at the top of the escalators.

This exciting visibility helps us reach thousands of daily commuters and visitors, showcasing Staten Island's vibrant cultural and artistic community right at one of the borough's busiest gateways.



Maritime Heritage Conference



Lighthouse Museum staff attended the Maritime Heritage Conference in Buffalo, NY. Mike Vogel, Advisor on the Museum Board, efforts were instrumental in coordinating the Lighthouse Track of the Conference. Below is the photo of the Buffalo Lighthouse taken from the boat tour at the conference.



Upcoming Events

Fall Foliage Tour up the Hudson River to Haunted Sleepy Hollow

October 19 @ 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Explore fascinating and mysterious sites unfamiliar to most New Yorkers on this exciting boat ride along the Hudson River.



Up the Hudson River to Tarrytown Light near the legendary Sleepy Hollow. See the Little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge along this scenic boat tour. Along the way, take in the stunning fall foliage along the shores of the mighty, historic, Hudson River.

Tickets are non-refundable. Lighthouse Boat Tours commence rain or shine. The boat leaves from the National Lighthouse Museum. Admission to Museum is FREE for Boat Tour ticketholders.

Murder and Mayhem on the High Seas of Staten Island

October 26 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Staten Island was not the quiet place that people thought it was in years gone by. On May 12, 1889, Mary Tobin's remains

mysteriously washed up at the dock of the Clifton Boat Club. Two years later a

man's body was discovered bound and gagged floating off of Tottenville. From South Beach to West New Brighton, the waters around Staten Island and its surrounding coastline have yielded some disturbing secrets. In "Murder on the High Seas of Staten Island," historian Patricia M. Salmon presents several of the most meticulously researched murders and mysteries that have occurred in and around the bays, harbors, and inlets of our borough.



Cosmic Bowling

November 2 @ 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Cosmic Bowling at Rab's Country Lanes will light up the afternoon to benefit the National Lighthouse Museum!



Guests will enjoy an evening of bowling under the cosmic lights, complete with shoe rental, pizza, and soda. Each ticket also includes five free raffle tickets, with the option to purchase more for a chance to win exciting prizes—all while supporting the National Lighthouse Museum.

Annual Golf Outing 2026

May 8, 2026 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Sponsorships Available!

Grand Oaks Country Club

South Shore Golf Course

Set amid rolling hills on the south shore of Staten Island, the newly re-constructed tee-to-green cart paths, extensive fairway drainage and countless turf improvements have vaulted this course to the top of the local's "Best Places to Play" list in Staten Island. *Includes: Bagels and Coffee, 18 Holes, Luncheon, Special Prizes, Amazing Raffles and 50/50*

16th Annual Lightkeeper's Gala

August 7, 2026

SAVE THE DATE! Sponsorships Available!

Details coming in early 2026!

Visit www.lighthousemuseum.org/ events for more information and to reserve your tickets!