

# Stone Harbor Museum News

## Fall 2013 Newsletter

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# Seasons Greetings



### Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory Restores the GP14

The Museum presented an exhibit of the newly-restored racing sailboat, the GP14 (General Purpose) in June. The boat was restored by Brett Hart, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory in Philadelphia. He was assisted by a graduate plus two trainees of the Factory's wooden boat building apprenticeship program. These young men spent their morning surfing in Stone Harbor and had lunch at Nemo's before attending the exhibition.



The mission of the non-profit Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory is to train at risk young people in the skills of boat building and competitive sailing. The museum plans to continue its association with the Factory. A Spring Regatta is in the works which will involve sailing races between the Factory interns and sailors from the Stone Harbor Yacht Club.

The restoration of the GP14 was funded in part by a grant received from the Cape May County Department of Tourism, which includes the Division of Culture and Heritage.

### Centennial DVD

The Stone Harbor Museum is making a DVD for the Centennial of Stone Harbor. The DVD will feature the first 100 years of the borough and is being produced by volunteer videographer, Jim Talone. Talone created the two You Tube videos on the museum website.

### Centennial Book

The Stone Harbor Centennial book is currently in production and is being published by Exit Zero of Cape May on behalf of the Stone Harbor Property Owners Association. The museum played a large part in the research and writing of the book. The project reinforced the importance of the museum and its compiling of Stone Harbor's memorabilia and oral history.

The book will be previewed at the Centennial reception being held on December 28th at The Reeds at Shelter Haven. Orders for the book will be taken at this event.

Thank you to the Stone Harbor Property Association for taking on this massive endeavor!

### Library Update

Planning for the construction of the Stone Harbor branch of the Cape May County Library continues. Unfortunately, the space offered to the museum is less than the space of the first floor of the museum's present location.

Therefore, the museum is hoping to partner with the Borough to secure a new location for the museum and its artifacts. Borough partnership will allow for an application to be submitted for a County Open Space grant to help fund a new space adequate for the present and future. The Stone Harbor Museum long range plan formulated in 2005 specified a required space of 2,450 square feet. In 2009, the Borough Master Plan included wording to provide efforts to acquire adequate space for the museum.

### June through September:

**637 visitors passed through the museum doors  
518 visitors attended off-site programs**

## New Trustees

Last Spring, Museum Bylaws were changed to allow an increase in the number of trustees from seven to eleven. Four new trustees were selected to fill these openings:

Robert (Bob) Ashman is a veteran of the U.S. Army and an active community member. He is Chair of the Stone Harbor Historic Preservation Committee, a Cape May County Planning Board member and a docent at the American Legion, Stephen Ludlam Post. He served as President of the Stone Harbor Realty Owners Association, on the Stone Harbor Recreation Advisory Committee, and led in the development and creation of the Stone Harbor Master Plan.

John Hencheck, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, has been involved in historic preservation for over 40 years. He founded the Lambertville, NJ Historical Society in 1971 and served three terms as president. He is a current member of the Lambertville Historic Preservation Commission and the Hunterdon County 2014 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee. He is an award-winning Historic Preservation Specialist and was responsible for obtaining grant money to restore the Lambertville City Hall. John is a researcher, writer and lecturer specializing in the American Revolution, Hunterdon County and Environs. He is also a member of the Stephen Ludlam American Legion Post.

Attorney Vincent (Vince) LaManna, Jr. has been involved in local and area community, government and law associations for many years. He was President of the Stone Harbor Chamber of Commerce during the 1970's and served on the Stone Harbor Borough Council from 1996-1998. Vince practices General Law and serves as the Solicitor for the Borough of Avalon and the Lower Township Municipal Authority. He is a Municipal Court Judge for Stone Harbor, Avalon, Woodbine and Sea Isle City. Vince teaches Business Law at Atlantic Cape Community College.

Virginia Maslin is an active member of the Stone Harbor Community, having been President of the Women's Civic Club and a member of the Garden Club. She has worked as an ESL Teacher at the Cape May County Technical School, Job Connection. Her volunteer history also includes seven years as a Girl Scout Leader, a tutor for Mexican immigrants and a member of the Missions Committee for the First Methodist Church in Cape May Court House.



## Museum Evaluation Report

On October 1, the museum was visited by Laura Hartz-Stanton, Director of Preservation Services of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. Ms. Hartz-Stanton was engaged by the museum board members to evaluate the preservation needs of the collections housed within the museum and the Maritime Annex. Her evaluation included the buildings as well as the contents.

As part of her observations, she found the building to be filled to capacity with limited environmental controls and much of the archival material housed in enclosures that are not beneficial to long term preservation. She recognized the fact that a limited volunteer pool presents a problem. Her report will “serve as a guide for making collections management decisions and provide information on housing the collections in storage.”

Her recommendations included:

- Hiring an Executive Director for fundraising and day-to-day management of the museum.
- Developing a 3-5 year strategic plan that addresses both immediate and long-range needs.
- Developing a core set of policy documents for guiding the care and management of the collections.
- Developing a manual and priority list for cataloging collections using Past Perfect museum software.
- Conducting a plan to determine the space necessary for all the functions of the museum now and in the future.
- Implementing an environmental monitoring program which would include strategies to reduce light exposure for items on display.

Following her visit and in conclusion of the 10 page report, she offered:

“It is clear that the Board and volunteers at the Stone Harbor Museum are dedicated to the care and preservation of the irreplaceable collections that are under their stewardship and that they have the desire to see preservation projects completed. Work still remains to ensure the intellectual control, storage and preservation of the collections. Funding and staffing (paid professional) will need to be sought to carry out some projects while volunteers will be able to complete other projects with thoughtful prioritizing. Developing a comprehensive preservation plan will help in prioritizing projects and creating a framework for moving forward in systematic manner.”

The board members recognize the importance of the recommendations in Ms. Hartz-Stanton’s very thorough report for the management of the Museum and the need for help to accomplish this challenge. Unless these guidelines are followed and implemented, the future of the museum is bleak.

## Cynthia Janzen Portrays Dolley Madison

In September, historical interpreter, Cynthia Janzen, portrayed First Lady Dolley Madison, at a museum sponsored event held at the American Legion Post. The audience enjoyed her stories about Madison's life in the White House and the ice cream recipe she acquired from Thomas Jefferson.



Janzen is a member of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia and has

been characterizing Madison for more than five years. She enjoys bringing to life historical figures through her acting and helping her audience to understand history from the perspective of others.

"I fell in love with Dolley," said Janzen. "She possessed amazing grace, poise and insight and was very accomplished at bringing people together."

Madison had a strong sense of family and a loyalty to people. She was a political genius who shared her views with the women of her social circle and worked through them to influence their law-making husbands, said Janzen.

"Madison never forgot a name. She was very social and she would often use recipes she borrowed from friends and acquaintances during her entertaining." These personality traits made everyone around her feel special, added Janzen.

The talk she brought to the American Legion focused on the events surrounding the War of 1812 and included an informal question and answer session. Janzen considers it an honor to act out the lives of people who have helped shape the United States of America.

"The personal connections, the human factor, are the interesting aspects that transcend time," said Janzen. For example, Madison enjoyed serving ice cream at her dinners, a dessert that was just gaining popularity during her years in the White House. Her favorite flavor was oyster.

While in Stone Harbor, the museum also sponsored Dolley Madison's visit to the Stone Harbor and Avalon Schools. The students were captivated with Janzen's portrayal. Their interest was also fueled by the ice cream treat they received during her presentation.

Other historical figures featured in Janzen's repertoire include Betsy Ross and New Jersey poet, Annis Boudinot Stockton, wife of Richard, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

## October Meetings

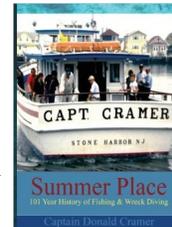
A series of "Stone Harbor Stories" was presented at the museum on Thursday evenings during the month of October. It was a packed house for each of the four meetings. The presentations were given by members of the museum and community.

The topics and presenters included: "Before the Borough" by Barb Hencheck, "Trains, Planes and Boats" by General John K. Stoner, Jim Talone, Jim Wren and Barry Camp, "School Days and Sundays" by Elaine Heil, Reverend Glenn Schoenberger, Nancy Lloyd and Joe Breslin and "Businesses and Pleasure" by Linda Picanza and Dr. David Schaffer.

The hour-long programs included a question and answer session followed by refreshments. "Stone Harbor Stories" will again be presented in May 2014.

## Captain Cramer

Captain Don Cramer, one of Stone Harbor's legends, has written a book in his salty style called *Summer Place*. It is filled with the Charter boat Captain's tales of local history and the adventure of Wreck Diving. This fun book is available in our Gift Shop by calling the Museum number at 609-368-7500 and leaving a message for Linda. At \$20.00, tax included, the book is a wonderful addition to the library of any Stone Harbor aficionado.



## Email Updates

Please update your email address with the museum by sending a message to [info@stoneharbormuseum.org](mailto:info@stoneharbormuseum.org). The museum is hoping to save on postage by eventually emailing future newsletters.

### Museum Officers

<i>President:</i>	Terrie Cwik
<i>Vice President:</i>	Linda Picanza
<i>Secretary:</i>	Margaret Leisenring
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bill Stump
<i>Trustees:</i>	Bob Ashman, Bill Dougherty, Elaine Heil, John Hencheck, Vince LaManna, Virginia Maslin, Jim Wren
<i>Docent Coordinator:</i>	Louis Schweickhardt
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Heather Burns

## **Blue Star Museum**

The Stone Harbor Museum is proud to be associated with more than 2,000 museums in the nation as a member of the Blue Star Museums. Membership enables the museum to be listed on the national Blue Star website, which allows for increased exposure.

Blue Star Museums offer free admission from Memorial Day to Labor Day to all active duty military personnel and their families. The program is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense.

## **How Your Donations Help**

Because of your membership, we were able to make some much needed improvements and fund various programs. The museum replaced a computer, bought a multifunction copier and purchased Past Perfect software, which is specifically designed for storing museum records. The GP14 was restored, "Dolley Madison" made a visit and an evaluation report was commissioned to assist with the future direction of the museum. Thank you so much for your support!

## **Museum Intern**

Do you know anyone who would like to gain some knowledge of how the Stone Harbor Museum operates while boosting their skill set to add to his/her resume? The museum is looking for a talented, hard-working intern. Duties include assisting board members with data entry, organization and care of archival items and promoting electronic correspondence and social media. The hours are flexible and the experience the fortunate intern will receive while working with the museum personnel will be an invaluable addition to any career resume. Interested applicants should contact Terrie Cwik, President, at 609-368-7500.

## **Special Thanks**

Thank you to Stone Harbor Public Works and the Borough. They worked hard to replace windows in the museum dining room and the air-conditioning unit. Their help continues to keep the museum a welcoming place to visit!

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