

# Stone Harbor Museum News

## Fall 2014 Newsletter

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### Christmas in September

To the crowd gathered for the Lobster Bake on September 6th, the final event of the Stone Harbor Centennial celebration, it was a warm, sunny afternoon in late Summer. To the members of the Stone Harbor Museum, it was Christmas in September when President Jeff Alderton and Treasurer Amy Welsh of the Stone Harbor Property Owners Association (SHPOA) presented a check for \$30,000 to Terrie Cwik, president of the museum.



The check represented the proceeds from the sold out centennial book published by the POA. Shocked and grateful for the donation, which grew to \$33,000 as the

final amount, the members of the museum board feel the very serious obligation to put the donation to the best possible use.

The needs of the museum are many and the decision on how to use the “windfall” will be considered during the winter months.

Because we see this gift as a show of confidence by the members of the POA and an investment in the future of the museum, their suggestions will be sought in the decision of the board.

### Selling Pretzels- And the Museum

Members of the museum board had a great time introducing new friends to the museum while selling soft pretzels at the Jersey Pops Centennial concerts last July. The sales added some much needed dollars to the museum treasury, but equally important, caught the attention of the concert-goers and increased their awareness of the museum.



John Hencheck, Bob Ashman, Terrie Cwik, and Barb Hencheck sharing some laughs while selling pretzels at the summer centennial concerts.

### What About the Pebbles?

That question has been asked over and over again since our very successful fundraiser and “Save the Pebbles” reception at The Pebbles last June. The many guests at the party were enthusiastic about the century-plus home being preserved as a home for the museum.

Following the reception, Borough Council did their “due diligence” before agreeing to join the museum in applying for Open Space funds to purchase the property. Remington and Vernick, Inc., borough engineers were commissioned to inspect the property, present a detailed report on the condition of the house and garage, and itemize the cost to bring the structure and lot up to OSHA and ADA standards demanded for a public building. Needless to say, the estimate of \$972,000 caused everyone involved to step back and ponder the prudence of proceeding with the application.

Even though council has not published a decision, the owner of the Pebbles has placed the property on the market again. At this writing, the future of The Pebbles and a future home for the museum are unknown.

### Museum Welcomed First Summer Intern

The first intern in the history of the museum spent several Tuesday afternoons this past summer checking duplicate entries in the archival binders, running errands, and learning how a small museum is run and what goes on behind the scenes while the museum is open.

We were fortunate to have Sarah McBride, a 2014 graduate of Wildwood Catholic High School and valedictorian of her class, as a volunteer before entering the freshman class of Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD.

Sarah will major in history and museum curating. A very ambitious young lady, Sarah was employed at two summer jobs in addition to the time she spent at the museum. She has agreed to return to us next Summer.



## President's Corner

Happy Thanksgiving!

Even though our dreams of moving to The Pebbles may not become a reality, the museum has so many reasons to be thankful. First and foremost, we're thankful for having the financial and enthusiastic support of so many members. As you read this newsletter, you will learn of our many successes during the past season and we hope you will share the pride and gratitude we feel.

This year marks the 15th year the museum has been collecting and caring for 100 years of Stone Harbor history. It's a milestone, certainly not the landmark centennial anniversary the borough has been celebrating, but a milestone nonetheless.

The many people involved with the growing museum—board members, docents and committee members wish all our members the very happiest of holidays and a great 2015!

Terrie Cwik, *President*

## Docents Receive Plaques

At the annual docent appreciation party held on September 4th, five docents received handsome wood plaques in appreciation of their years of service. All of these docents have served since the museum opened in 2000.

Pictured in the front are Marilyn Timms, Randy Bauer, Elaine Heil, Azalea Ellis. In the back row are Margaret Leisenring, Sari Bauer, Terrie Cwik, Lou Schweickhardt



## Yearly Visitor Tally

According to our guest book, 676 visitors were welcomed to the museum. These guests came from as far as Ireland and New Zealand. That number only partly tells the story of the number who visited. By including the approximately 200 who attended "in house" evening programs last October and this past July, the number mounts to close to 700.

## Trustees Resign; New Trustees Appointed

Two valued trustees, John Hencheck and Jim Wren resigned earlier this year.

Jim, whose interest in sailing and sailboats built in Stone Harbor, was the originator and driving force behind the establishment of the Maritime Annex of the museum. Together with Bill Stump, and help from other volunteers, Jim transformed the garage on the property into a museum honoring Stone Harbor boatbuilders Edme and "Babe" Deschamps, collected examples of early racing sailboats, and built displays pertaining to the history of local sailboat racing. Fortunately for the museum, he will continue to chair the Maritime Annex committee.

John Hencheck served on the board for little more than a year, however, his influence is lasting. It was he who had the vision to bring programs of interest to the community and kindled the latent idea of finding a new home for the museum.

Their resignations were accepted with regret and gratitude for their dedication. Their replacements on the board have giant "shoes to fill". However, the two new appointees, Randy Bauer and Jim Talone have already proven their interest, talent and motivation to move the museum forward.

Jim was a "walk-in" one Sunday afternoon three years ago when he appeared on the doorstep asking if there was anything he could do for the museum. His offer was eagerly accepted and that "anything" began with the production of the two videos now available for watching on the museum website. This past year he has written and produced two feature DVDs, "Salt Marsh Stories" and "the centennial "Stone Harbor Stories". A retired English teacher with a long history of video education and production, Jim spends summers in Stone Harbor in a vintage home and in the off season while at his home in Haverford, Pennsylvania teaches home schooled children several days each week. He is already planning additional feature-length DVDs to entertain and educate the public about Stone Harbor and the museum.

Randy Bauer is a returning board member. He was one of the original incorporators of the museum who labored to prepare the building for the museum opening. His interest in the museum continued as a docent, along with his wife, Sara Ann. As a borough councilman, he was an advocate for the museum in the position of Council Liaison. Also a retired educator, Randy began his career as a sixth grade teacher and soon became one of only nine elementary guidance counselors in Pennsylvania. He joined the Pennsylvania Department of Education as an advisor and ultimately was appointed as Division Chief of Early Childhood Education. He retired from that position after a career spanning 33 years.

Both these gentlemen bring talents and experience to make the board a well-rounded one. We welcome them.

## Blockbuster DVD Sales

The two DVDs produced by the museum and announced in the Spring 2014 newsletter have enjoyed very positive reviews and have sold extremely well.

“Salt March Stories” has been popular at the Wetlands Institute Gift Shop where it was premiered on June 12th of this year and also in the museum Gift Shop. Some copies are still available priced at \$15.

The centennial DVD, titled “Stone Harbor Stories” as were the programs at the museum, was shown first to an enthusiastic audience at the Stone Harbor American Legion, Post 331 on July 8th. More than 250 copies have been sold since then, many of which were purchased for Christmas giving. This DVD will be available through the winter and can be purchased by sending a check for \$23.00 (including \$3.00 mailing) written to the Stone Harbor Museum.

Both of these videos were selected to be shown during the Cape May Film Festival in October---quite an honor for Jim Talone who was responsible for the production of these works. Recently Jim was informed that “Stone Harbor Stories” was selected as one of the sixth best of this festival. It is being added to their “Best of the 2014 Film Festival” promotional DVD which will be given to sponsors and major donors. In addition, the centennial video has been entered into the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey for its 2015 competition.

## Program Manager Named

Bruce Tell has joined the museum staff with the title of Program Manager. Bruce comes with a strong background in museum work, having been the Director/Curator at the Canal Society of New Jersey Museum at Waterloo Village, NJ from 2002-2012, where he had been a member for 25 years. He was also the Director/Curator at the Avalon Historical Museum from 2004-2008. As a member of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Bruce has served in various positions at the Cape May Lighthouse.

Bruce has agreed to share his professional experience and knowledge to improve the museum. The first project he has taken on is the daunting challenge of cataloging the contents of the museum according to the Past Perfect software system. As each item is identified and described, it will be recorded in the computer.



## Lions Charter on Display



The charter of the Stone Harbor Lions Club has been on display at the Stone Harbor Museum since July 29<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Dated 1952, the charter was presented on temporary loan to the museum by Cynthia Harrison, president of the local club and her husband, Henry Harrison, district governor of the Lions Club. Mr. Harrison is the first district governor to be appointed from Southern New Jersey. Because the charter has been moved from place to place over the years, Ms. Harrison stated that the museum “is the more appropriate place for it.” The charter was accepted as a loan by Terrie Cwik, president and Sarah McBride, Summer Interne.

## Descendants Attend Stone Harbor Stories

Invited descendants of Marie Louise Van Thuyne, Michael Lennon and Cleon Krouse gathered at the museum on Wednesday evening, July 30<sup>th</sup> to hear and see Barbara Hencheck’s Power Point presentation about these prominent Stone Harbor historical figures. Current family members of these three provided Barbara with information as she conducted her research. Her program included stories and photos of these individuals.

Ms. Van Thuyne, a nurse from Philadelphia, was one of the earliest shop owners in town, held a borough council appointment and was elected the first president of the Women’s Civic Club of Stone Harbor. Joseph Van Thuyne, nephew of Mary Louise and his family were among those present, as well as the Barry Jackson family.

Those attending included two generations of the Mehan family, descendants of Lennon who was the first Chief of Police of Stone Harbor, and the subject of many tales of law enforcement in the town.

The first lifeguard, Cleon Krouse, is known not only for his presence on the beach but also as an airplane pilot who gave sightseeing rides in his airplane following his service in World War I. He was an enlistee in the Royal Air Force and also became an ambulance driver in France. He received a commendation from the government of France for his service in the Ambulance corps. Richard Heward and several members of his family attended Barbara’s presentation.

The July 30th program was the finale in the series of “Stone Harbor Stories”, first presented the previous October.

## Book Signing- “Place Names of the Jersey Shore”

Almost fifty people came to the American Legion, Post 331 on Tuesday July 8th to be educated and entertained by Lee Ireland, author and educational consultant. Dr. Ireland is the author of the book “Place Names of the Jersey Shore.” Ireland’s tales of the origin of the names of area towns proved to be an evening well-spent. The program concluded with a book-signing by the author.

<i>President:</i>	Terrie Cwik
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Linda Picanza
<i>Secretary:</i>	Margaret Leisenring
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Patty Stump
<i>Trustees:</i>	Bob Ashman, Randy Bauer, Paul Hughes, Vince Lamanna, Virginia Maslin, Lou Schweickhardt, Jim Talone
<i>Acquisition Chair:</i>	Elaine Heil
<i>Council Liaison:</i>	Al Carusi
<i>Docent Coordinator:</i>	Lou Schweickhardt
<i>Facilities Chair:</i>	Bob Levins
<i>Maritime Annex Chair:</i>	Jim Wren
<i>Membership chairman:</i>	Bill Stump
<i>Museum Videographer:</i>	Jim Talone
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Heather Burns
<i>Program Manager:</i>	Bruce Tell

### Vintage Homes Restoration Project



The museum project to recognize old homes of the borough and preserve them is underway. The historic Stephen C. Ludlam Post 331 of The American Legion was the first building, other than the museum, to apply for the distinction.

Criteria established for application can be found on the museum website [www.stoneharbormuseum.org](http://www.stoneharbormuseum.org) or by contacting [info@stoneharbormuseum.org](mailto:info@stoneharbormuseum.org).

The generous donation from Sturdy Savings Bank received in the Spring of this year has aided in getting this project underway and will be used to create a permanent register of the recipients in the museum.



Bob Ashman and Harry Clayton, Commander of American Legion Post 331

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