

Maryland begins here!

the finer points

*A newsletter from the Friends of the
St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums*

FALL 2012

*The Friends of the
St. Clement's Island and Piney
Point Museums raise funds
in order to support historical
interpretation, educational
programs and special needs
of the sites managed by the
Museum Division of
St. Mary's County Department
of Recreation and Parks.*

*The Friends organization
is a 501(c)(3) organization
sponsoring events, assisting
with acquisitions, and
supporting efforts to broaden
the understanding of our
culture and heritage.*

*Inside: Island Wedding, Keeper of
the Piney Point Lighthouse,
Friends News and more!*



Find the St. Mary's County
Museum Division on Facebook!

A Lighthouse Keeper's Granddaughter Revisits Blackistone Lighthouse

By Christina Barbour

This past summer, West Virginia native Florence Darr, granddaughter of former Blackistone Lighthouse keeper Leonard Staubly, visited the St. Clement's Island Museum. As a young girl, she spent her summers at the Blackistone Lighthouse.

Florence's daughter, Cindy Garver, had called the museum earlier in the spring to make arrangements for her mother to visit the Blackistone Lighthouse. Cindy also had emailed the museum scanned photos and documents that belonged to Leonard Staubly.

On June 10, Mrs. Darr, her husband, daughter, son-in-law and grandson arrived at the museum and boarded the water taxi. They were excited to visit the place that Florence spoke of so fondly for many years.

Mrs. Darr recalled when it took an entire day for her family to get to the island. The trip started with an early departure from her home in Martinsburg, WVA, in the back of a pickup truck lined with handmade quilts. By nightfall she would arrive at the home

of Eugene and Mary Butterfield in Colton's Point. From there, Mr. Butterfield would take Florence and her parents to Blackistone Island in a four-passenger boat powered by a small engine. Once on the island they walked through tall weeds for about a half mile



until they reached the lighthouse. There she was greeted with open arms by her loving grandfather.

On her 2012 visit, even though Mrs. Darr was visiting a replica of the lighthouse she'd known so well as a child, a smile appeared on her face as she began visiting the rooms.

See Granddaughter, page 2

*A spry Florence Darr climbs to the top of the reconstructed Blackistone Lighthouse.
Photo by Cindy Garver.*

**The Friends of the
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Piney Point Museums**

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Finer Points

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St. Clement's Island and Piney
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Keep the Storytelling Going

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President

It's a joy to watch people visit our museum sites, whether they come in a swarm for our festivals and other special events, or whether they arrive alone, in pairs, or in small groups. We see them wandering the grounds, taking in the exhibits, and looking dreamily into the distance as they imagine what it must have been like 100, 200, 300 years before in that exact spot.

That's when the value of what our museums offer really hits home.

Your support makes possible magic moments for the thousands of visitors we host every year. We're grateful for each and every contribution you make. Soon, Friends members will receive a request to participate in our annual appeal, whose funds are used for something different each year – something that enhances the experiences our visitors have, and that fills needs our museum staffers have as they work to improve their service to the public. When you receive your annual appeal letter, please respond with whatever level of support you can afford.

The stories our museums tell are powerful and important. As members, you are a vital part of that story because your dues and your donations keep the storytelling going. For that, the in-kind help so many of you provide, your wonderful efforts as volunteers, and your enthusiasm, thank you from us all.

Darr Reminisces About Lighthouse Days

Granddaughter, continued from page 1

The familiar sights and sounds from her childhood were returning. Mrs. Darr said her grandfather was a good cook who prepared many delicious meals during her stay. She remembered most of all his crabs and biscuits. She also spoke of a green chaise lounge that she used to sit on. On a table nearby sat a military radio Staubly used to communicate with Navy personnel.

Mrs. Darr was eager to climb the tower as she had done many times as a child. Without hesitation she ascended three flights of stairs and a small ladder leading to the tower's cupola. She peered out of the cupola window and pointed to where a fig tree once stood. Her grandfather had used the fig tree to set up a little hammock for her.

Mrs. Darr's summer visits to the island came to an end when the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1932. Nonetheless, the childhood memories etched in her heart live on. The St. Clement's Island Museum would like to thank Mrs. Darr for letting us learn more about Leonard Staubly as lighthouse keeper and as a loving grandfather.

Museum Retailing Professionals Meet in Colton's Point

By Kimberly Cullins

Museum stores manager Carol Cribbs is an active member of the Museum Stores Association (MSA), whose purpose is to “advance the success of cultural commerce and of the professionals engaged in it.” This spring she attended the MSA’s national conference in New Orleans where members gleaned information about buying trends, economic influences, and marketing strategies. There, she offered to host the fall regional conference for the Mid-Atlantic members.

In September, Carol coordinated the regional conference attended by 20 MSA members from New Jersey to Virginia. She arranged for accommodations, meals, and a program of speakers and activities. Attendees hailed from such distinguished sites such as the Rutgers Zimmerli Art Museum, The Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, Baltimore’s Walter’s Art Gallery, Washington D.C.’s National Building Museum and Kennedy Center, and the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Our colleagues from the Calvert Marine Museum who kindly hosted dinner and a behind-the-scenes tour.

The business meetings and speaker programs took place inside the Charlotte Hall One-Room School on the campus of the St. Clement’s Island Museum. It was a quaint setting for educating guests about topics such as the “Benefits of Partnerships” presented by Debra Pence (Museum Division Manager), Roz Racanello (Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area), and Doug Alves (Director, Calvert Marine Museum) and “Understanding Unrelated Business Income Tax” presented by Angelyn Zephyr, Senior Accountant CPA, of the Murray, Wamsley & Schrader accounting firm.



Calvert Marine Museum Director Doug Alves addresses the MSA group about how partnerships within Southern Maryland benefit the region. Photo by Kim Cullins.

A Letter From Debra

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a good summer and fall. The Museum Division was blessed with another year of successful events and a resounding show of community support. The St. Clement’s Island Museum’s summer exhibit featuring the presidential memorabilia of the Roberto L. G. Lizama family was a wonderful highlight and opened a new venue for temporary exhibits at the museum. The Piney Point staff collectively worked to develop a summer series of temporary exhibits ranging in theme from sea glass to the old Piney Point hotels to natural history and military topics. We hope you had an opportunity to take in some of those exhibit highlights.

We are moving on through fall and to the upcoming winter season. First and foremost are the Christmas exhibits developing at each museum. Please take advantage of the fact that we are two of the very few sites that remain open for the month of December with exhibits that highlight the holiday season! See the calendar in this issue for details. The winter months give us opportunities to proceed with grant implementation, exhibit fabrication and event planning for the coming year. It is a busy time, but also a time to use our creativity and energize ourselves for the new season. Before we know it March 25 will be around the corner and we’ll begin all over again with events, exhibits and tours to entertain and educate you and your families.

Be well and have a wonderful winter!

Sincerely,



Make it a Crab Pot Christmas

Take your love of crustaceans to a whole new level! Both the Crab Claw and Lighthouse Lens Museum Stores now carry Crab Pot Christmas Trees that are pre-lit, fold for easy storage, and come in a variety of sizes! Made of green-coated trap mesh, these trees can be used inside or outside, or even hung on a wall! Accent your boat, pier, front yard or holiday home with St. Mary's County heritage! Call Museum Stores Manager Carol Cribbs today at 301-769-2222 for sizes and pricing! Don't forget to mention your 10% member discount! Innovated and patented by a North Carolina waterman and manufactured in the U.S.A.!

Memorabilia Exhibit Draws Crowd, News Crews

By Kimberley Cullins

What began as an idea for a Chamber of Commerce after-hours mixer at the St. Clement's Island Museum this summer quickly morphed into a remarkable temporary exhibit that far surpassed the expectations of Museum Division staff.

Marketing specialist Kim Cullins asked fellow Chamber member Stan Lizama if he would share his family's presidential memorabilia collection during this election year. He not only shared the family memorabilia but the inspirational, personal story of his father, Roberto L. G. Lizama, USN, a Guam native who worked in the White House for three American presidents.

As a young man in Guam in the early 1940s, Roberto Lizama enlisted in the United States Navy in which he was trained to be a cook. One day he met a young, energetic naval officer who boarded his ship long after mess was over. He prepared the officer fried fish and a bowl of chili that the officer affectionately said reminded him of "home." The two fell into conversation during which the officer said that when he got out of the Navy he was going into politics, and when he became president, he was going to call Roberto to cook in the White House. That officer was John F. Kennedy, who indeed became president. True to his word, he sent Roberto a letter inviting him to join the White House staff. Roberto



served Kennedy till the day of his assassination, then Lyndon Johnson and later Richard Nixon. The ties to the presidents were deep and personal, adding sentiment to items each gave Roberto.

What was initially planned as a one-day exhibit for Chamber of Commerce members was extended to a week, thanks to Stan's generosity to share the exhibit with the public. A press release about the Lizama exhibit was picked up by two Washington, D.C. news stations which sent film crews and producers to the museum. Several hundred people came through the exhibit; a number were able to talk to Stan about his father and listen to the many stories his dad had shared before he passed away in 2000.

Roberto Lizama's legacy isn't just the pewter serving dishes from the U.S.S. Sequoia or the autographed prints from the Kennedys and Johnsons; it is the belief that if you work hard, live with integrity, and

always do your best, all things are possible – like the American Dream.

PHOTO: Stan Lizama examines a photograph of John F. Kennedy who signed it for Stan's father. Photo by Kim Cullins

The Last Keeper of the Piney Point Lighthouse

By April Havens, Piney Point Lighthouse Site Supervisor

I'm fascinated with the lighthouse keepers that were stationed at Piney Point! I've decided to learn and share all I can about them. I hope eventually to expand our exhibit information on each keeper.

According to papers, William Marion Goeshy was born April 22, 1897 in Lwow, Poland. I am still researching why his family came to America and where he grew up. On a paper titled "Notice of Separation from the U.S. Naval Service," I learned that William completed one year of high school.

My files indicate that on October 29, 1915 William, age 19, received his "Certificate of Efficiency to Lifeboat Man." This was issued to him by the U.S. Department of Commerce Steamboat-Inspection Service. The certificate read as follows:

This is to certify that William M. Goeshy having proved to the satisfaction of the undersigned officer, designated by the Secretary of Commerce, that he has been trained in all the operations connected with launching lifeboats and the use of oars; that he is acquainted with the practical handling of the boats themselves; and, further, that he is capable of understanding and answering the orders relative to lifeboat service, is hereby rated an efficient Lifeboat Man.

On January 1, 1921, at age 25, he became employed with the Lighthouse Service on Light Vessel #101 as a Seaman for \$85 a month. His service card reveals that he was a single male with blue eyes and brown hair. He had not become a citizen yet but had applied for his papers. He was living with his parents in Taunton, MA. He remained employed on the Light Vessel until March 31, 1923; he was in good health and was excellent in character, ability and seamanship.

By 1933, at age 37, he had become keeper of the Piney Point Lighthouse. In 1939, after 150 years of progress in the development of aids to navigation, Congress abolished the Lighthouse Service and incorporated its activities into the United States Coast Guard along with William Goeshy's position.

The 1940 census lists William M. Goeshy as 42 years old and married to Beatrice Evelyn who is 29 years of age. It is interesting to note that both were working 56 and 48 hours during the week of March 24-30, 1940. I surmise that it took both of them to keep the Lighthouse in good working order. William's occupation is listed as Lighthouse Keeper for the USCG while Beatrice is listed as a laborer for the USCG. I was quite surprised to find that William was the enumerator for the census!

Several years went by until February 25, 1942 when William M. Goeshy enlisted into active service with the Coast Guard. He remained in active service until 1945 at which time he was issued an honorable discharge. He was authorized an extension to reenlist in regular establishment as a BM1c for three years until February 25, 1948.

On February 25, 1948 William enlisted as Boatswain's Mate First Class at Piney Point, Maryland. He served on active duty at the Piney Point Light Station from February 25, 1948 to February 26, 1951. While at Piney Point he was receiving \$249.90 per month in pay. A description of William reveals the following:

William was 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighed 147 pounds. He had blue eyes, gray-brown hair and a ruddy complexion. He had previously had a double hernia operation. Tattoos include left forearm – Red Cross nurse, shield & eagle; right forearm – hands clasped before a shield, lighthouse and ship on rocks.

William M. Goeshy died while in the service of this country as a member of the United States Coast Guard March 31, 1955. His wife Beatrice received a letter and Honorable Service Certificate listing him as a Boatswain's Mate, First Class. He had been with the Navy for more than 38 years.

For more information about this article or to learn about genealogical research contact April at 301-994-1471.



A Place of New Beginnings

Ted Belleavoine and Georgia Kaspar, both of Leonardtown, MD, chose St. Clement's Island as the site for their wedding vows. The July sunset ceremony, officiated by Museum Division marketing specialist Kim Cullins, was witnessed by nearly 70 friends and family members. The island, where the first Maryland colonists sought a new life and opportunity in the New World, seemed the perfect setting for the Belleavoines to begin their new life together as husband and wife.

Photo by Mark Markovich

Imirie Family Donates Lighthouse Painting

By Christina Barbour

On October 17, 2012, the Imirie family presented an oil painting of the Blackstone Lighthouse to the St. Mary's County Museum Division. This artwork appears on the front cover of local author Pete Imirie's book *To Touch the Wind* (described by Barnes and Noble as "a must for the seagoing library of every cruising family and all those folks who grew up, but didn't mean to").

The painting was originally a birthday gift given to Pete's father by the artist, Pete's niece, Carol Stuart Watson. She painted the lighthouse in 1955, a year before it burned. The frame is made from driftwood Pete's dad collected from St. Clement's Island.

Pete Imirie's family stands next to the Blackstone Lighthouse painting: To the right of the painting, son Glenn and daughter Kelly, grandsons Orville and Brooks in front. Museum Division Trustee Helen Dorsey (far left) is accepting the donation.

Photo by Christina Barbour



UP AND COMING . . .

Set a course for these exciting events

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums or call 301-769-2222 for more information on these events.

December 1 — December 31 **27th Annual Christmas Doll and Train Exhibit**

The St. Clement's Island Museum will celebrate the holiday season with a themed exhibit, "Life in the Good Old Days." Remember and explore life in the days before the internet, cell phones, and video games. Adults and children will enjoy displays of vintage toys and dolls of the 20th century. Children will be able to operate the working miniature trains and make their own Christmas ornament. The Crab Claw Museum Store will be brimming with unique holiday gift items, ornaments, clothing, jewelry, books, home décor and more! Call 301-769-2222 for the exhibit schedule and extended hours during Christmas week.

December 1 — December 31 **Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Holiday Exhibit**

The Piney Point Lighthouse is known as the "Lighthouse of Presidents" and this year's presidential election cycle

inspires a not-to-be-missed politically-themed holiday exhibit at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum. This is the chance to see state, county, and national political memorabilia and collections displayed in the museum and lighthouse keeper's quarters! Help us celebrate the holidays with a political flair! The Lighthouse Lens Museum Store will also provide a wide choice of holiday gift items for everyone on your gift giving list! Call for the exhibit schedule and extended hours during Christmas week: 301-994-1471.

December 8 **St. Clement's Island Museum Christmas Open House**

Free admission! Open noon to 4 p.m. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus from noon to 2 p.m. and live holiday music and colonial re-enactor Dr. Thomas Gerard from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free boy's and girl's bike giveaway donated by the 7th District Optimist Club. Friends members get a one-day 25% discount today if they present their membership

card at time of purchase!

December 9 **Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Christmas Open House**

Free admission! Open noon to 4 p.m. Enjoy the holiday exhibit, shopping in the museum store and free refreshments! Free boy's and girl's bike giveaway thanks to the Tall Timbers Optimist Club. Friends members get a one-day 25% discount today if they present their membership card at time of purchase!

January 26 — Appraiser Fair

The St. Clement's Island Museum will host its annual Appraiser Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with experts in fine arts, jewelry, and U.S. coins. Fine arts include art, paintings, ceramics, pottery, and small antiques (only hand carried). Bring your treasured heirlooms, yard sale finds or curiosities! Fees and limits apply. Call 301-769-2222 for more information.

Member News

Welcome Aboard, New Members!

Individual

Walt Kosciński, Manassas, VA
Bob Eaton, Wells Fargo Bank, Washington, D.C.

Family

Carla Mattingly, Callaway, MD

FRIENDS NEWS AND THANK YOUS

Holiday Gifts and Gift Memberships

We'd like to invite members to shop at your museum stores for those on your holiday gift giving list and use your 10% discount! For the "one who has everything" consider a gift membership! The stores at the Piney Point Lighthouse and St. Clement's Island Museums are brimming with unique gifts, books, jewelry, clothing, and more! Call museum stores manager Carol Cribbs for more information. Buy local and shop where your dollars make a difference!

Children's Day

A hearty thank you to the generous sponsors of the Children's Day event in August who paid \$100 each to fund the free t-shirts, craft supplies and entertainment: Avenue Flags & Flagpoles, The Bella Music School, Chesapeake Custom Embroidery, Community Bank of Tri-County,

Combs Drury Reeves Insurance, Cullins Pool Water, The Jump Yard, Nanny on Call of Southern Maryland, Macaroni Kid, Tidewater Dental, and Friends Member Helen Dorsey.

Presidential Memorabilia Exhibit

Many thanks to Stan Lizama and family for the time, effort, and expense incurred to share the Presidential memorabilia of his father, Roberto L. G. Lizama, and his inspirational story at the St. Clement's Island Museum. We'd also like to thank Captain Steve Hall of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office for donating his time to provide security during the event.

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

We'd like to thank Liz Ellis and the staff of Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) of Wildewood for co-sponsoring the Business After Hours event in July at the St. Clement's Island Museum. A great crowd of 100 people enjoyed delicious eats and drinks, networking, door prizes, and the Lizama Presidential Exhibit. Many thanks to the Chamber staff for their great service and attention to make this a great event.

NuStar Donation

Our good neighbor in Piney Point, NuStar, through its corporate foundation, has again made a \$2,000 contribution to the Friends. Thanks for your support!

Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner a Success!

We're raising a glass of merlot to toast the individuals and merchants who so generously donated goods for the live and silent auctions at "Murder by Merlot" in September: Elaine Chan, Mary Hyatt, Shelby's Creative Custom Framing and Art, JefClarkArt, Frame A Lot, Rosemary Jarvis and The Remington, Melissa Carnes, Rivers DC at the Watergate, Morris Point Restaurant, Colton's Shipping Point Farm, Island Inn and Suites, Hilton Garden Inn, Nancy Hickman, The Hair Company, Veda Sereem, Quality Street Kitchen and Catering, Karl Mattis, Café des Artistes, Paul and Mellie Nelson, Ann Davis, Historic Sotterley, Inc, Traditions of Loveville, The Good Earth Natural Foods Company, Anne Ridenour, Jan Jarboe, Murphy's Town & Country Market, Billy Fitzgerald, Maertens Fine Jewelry and Gifts, Carol Cribbs, and Sheila and Ray Hiebert. We also want to give a shoutout to AJ Bussler, auctioneer extraordinaire! And thank you to Friends Members Helen Grady and Marie Bennett for their energy in selling tickets for the wine raffle that night!

TOP PHOTO: *Daphne DiMarco, played by Kim Cullins, and jet setter Mark Markovich welcomed everyone to "Murder by Merlot." (Photo by Carol Cribbs)* **BOTTOM PHOTO:** *Meet "Murder by Merlot" audience participants Nancy Easterling as the "has been" actress Lana Lambrusco and Mary Ann Stamm as Spanish señorita Maribel Fantastica. (Photo by Linda Colina)*



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

__MC __Visa Card #: _____ Expires _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums. Your membership is tax deductible.

__New Member __Gift Membership

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual (\$40)

Family (\$60)

Heritage (\$125)

Patron (\$250)

Benefactor (\$500)

Corporate Patron (\$250)

Corporate Benefactor (\$500)



*Stephen and Renee Bisciotti
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