10th annual Designer Show House set to open

The much-anticipated, eagerly awaited opening of Cape May's Designer Show House is a multi-million dollar “Fan-ta-Sea.”

Come see how owners Patrick and Kristen McGonigal have brought their architectural and design dreams to fruition in the historic 1911 John P. Forsythe House at 1601 Beach Ave. This magnificent Cape May Designer Show House is set to open to the public on select dates in 2018.

The Forsythe House has undergone a magnificent transformation. Christened “Our Fan-ta-Sea” by its owners, this three-floor mansion has 8 bedrooms including a large master suite, 6 full and 2 half baths, an exercise room, office and spa, kitchen, living room, parlor and three porch areas, plus a spiral staircase and dry sauna. The Forsythe House was a high point of the East Cape May project in the early 1900s, which aimed to make Beach Avenue the most elegant street in Cape May. Come see how that promise was fulfilled and view the creative work of more than a dozen talented local and regional designers. Each visitor will receive a full-color program book with information about the designers, products and vendors.

The Cape May Designer Show House will be open the following dates in 2018: April 27-May 24; May 29-June 14; Aug. 24-Sept. 6 and Oct. 11-31. Self-guided tours 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Guided tours Sunday through Thursday at 7 p.m.

Admission for adults is $30; children (ages 3-12) $15. For more information visit www.capemaymac.org.

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Center for Community Arts Executive Director David MacKenzie (2nd from right) was congratulated at the January 15 opening of the Franklin Street School exhibit at the Physick Estate's Carroll Gallery - our 20th exhibit exploring Cape May's African American heritage in partnership with CCA! - by (left to right): Mayor Chuck Lear, Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak and MAC Director Michael Zuckerman.

Our 2018 season kicked off with a bang when MAC was the beneficiary of the FiNS Sunday Social on January 14. FiNS owner Jeff Jernitis presented a check for nearly $3,000 (a 50 percent increase over last year's!) to MAC's Director of External Affairs Eliza Lotozo and Marketing Assistant Leslie Weidel.
Fall/Holiday Wrap-Up

You know it’s time for Halloween when the scarecrows start popping on the Physick Estate grounds. Scarecrow Alley becomes more elaborate each year, thanks to Anna Leeper who does such a good job organizing community support. This year, “Captain Kid,” an installation from West Cape May Elementary School, took top honors with the People’s Choice Award. Cub Scout Pack 73 won the non-profit category and Mr. Eppenbach’s 4th grade class took the Cape May Elementary School Class Award.

Scarecrow Alley set the scene for the two weeks of mayhem that ensued. We offered Murder Mystery Dinners, Tea & Confessions in the Carriage House Café with author Kate Butler and our ever popular Phantoms of the Physick Estate. Rosemary Rombado and Carolyn Owens filled the Physick House with ghostly mannequins and our staff complemented that with an assortment of ghoulish characters. The Friends of the Physick Estate added to the spirit of the season with an afternoon tea lecture featuring local author Bill Sprouse talking on the “Domestic Life of the Jersey Devil.”

As always, the Cape May City Halloween Parade ended at the Estate, where hundreds of happy marchers enjoyed treats as they awaited the decision of the judges. We ended the Halloween season with Dr. Physick (Bob Heinly) and several costumed friends passing out Tricks and Treats to friends and neighbors.

We found time to add an exhibit to the Carroll Gallery schedule, opening the “Cape May and Elsewhere” exhibit featuring the paintings of Elan Zingman-Leith. Elan’s paintings are a visual travel log, from as near as Star of the Sea Church to as far as exotic European locales.

At our Annual Meeting on November 9, Beth & Frank Acker (center) were congratulated on receiving the MAC Honor Award by 2nd Vice President Diane Hutchinson and President Chris Shoemaker.

The inimitable Sherlock Holmes (Zak LaTorre) made his second appearance of the year on November 3. He put our sell-out crowd through their paces for three days, dazzling them with his deductive skills. By Sunday morning, he had everyone completely confused but Fallon Bussieri of Arabi, LA emerged as the winner of the $250 grand prize. Cathy Smith, from Paramus, NJ, gave it her best, which was just enough to earn her the title of Clueless Wonder. She won the right to return next year to demonstrate how her skills have improved. Irene Mangin, a long-time participant, introduced her granddaughter Frankie to the tradition this year. Frankie, an 8-year-old, beat out most of the adults and won a special award for her efforts!

The Fall is always a busy time for Janice Corkery, Director of Visitor Services and Special Events. In addition to a full slate of special events, she also found the time to shave in a wedding. Janice and Dave Corkery, the chef of our Carriage House Café & Tearoom, were married in the gazebo at the Physick Estate on November 1.

On November 9, the Cape May Lutheran Church Hall hosted MAC’s Annual Meeting. The highlight of this meeting is always the bestowing of MAC’s annual Honor Award. We were pleased to present the plaque to Frank and Beth Acker, owners of the Cherry House for their unwavering support of MAC. They generously put their private home on tour, decorated to the hilt during Halloween and the holiday season. The meeting ended with our Mayor, Chuck Lear, pulling the winner of MAC’s annual Getaway Raffle. This year, the lucky winner of the $2,500 prize was Doris Saunders. We’re grateful to the many businesses who contribute gifts and gifts certificates to the prize package.

It seems we move very quickly from the Halloween to Holiday season at MAC. As we clear away the corn stalks and pumpkins, we quickly replace them with Christmas lights and garlands. Jean Barraclough began the installation of the “Old-Fashioned Christmas” exhibit on November 2 and we began the roller-coaster ride that is the Holiday Season in Cape May. The 60-foot (CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)
**Presidents Day Weekend**

Feb. 16-19: **Crafts & Collectibles in Winter** comes to Cape May Convention Hall Saturday, Feb. 17-Sunday, Feb. 18 from 10am-4pm. Food and wine aficionados will enjoy a Cape May Wine School class on Feb. 18 at 1pm, a Cape May Wine Trail that includes trolley transport to local vineyards with lunch at the Willow Creek Winery on Feb. 17, 11am-4pm, and a Chocolate Lover’s Feast at The Blue Rose Inn on Feb. 17 at 1pm. Hear about spirits beyond the here and now during Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tours Feb. 17 and 18 at 7pm and 8pm. Enjoy a Historic District Trolley Tour, Emlen Physick Estate Tour or Combination Tour, Go on a Physick Estate Scavenger Hunt or Cape May Family Treasure Hunt or take a Cape May Bike Tour. Take a brisk climb up the Cape May Lighthouse, now open for the season, from 12noon-3pm Feb. 17-19.

**An Evening of Burlesque with the Salty Sirens**

Feb. 14, 16 and May 17, 18: New in 2018! The Salty Sirens bring you their modern take on classic burlesque, rooted in Victorian vaudeville. You’ll have a fun-filled trip back in time to a period when entertainment was theatrical, sassy, and teased the imagination. Feb. 14, 16 (with a “Victorian Vixens of Valentines” theme) and May 17, 18 at 8 p.m. at Elaine’s Dinner Theater, 513 Lafayette St. Food and beverages available for purchase. Cocktails available at 7 p.m. Admission is $30 and advance reservations are required. For mature audiences.

**Sherlock Holmes Weekend**

March 16-18: New mystery for 2018! Join Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s master sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, with his loyal friend Dr. John Watson, and follow the clues in a baffling new mystery for 2018, “Sherlock Holmes and The Case of a Siren’s Call,” during Cape May’s Sherlock Holmes Weekend March 16-18. Discover clues along the gas-lit streets and compete for the $250 grand prize and other valuable gifts. Full weekend packages at $200 per couple or $105 per person include welcome reception, performances, tour and luncheon. Weekend overnight packages are available. The Search for Clues Tour March 17 may be purchased separately for $15.

**LUNCH & LEARNS**

**WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 17-MARCH 28, 12 NOON:** Bring a bag lunch and hear talks on popular topics.

**NEW THIS YEAR! THREE LOCATIONS:** Cape May United Methodist Church, 635 Washington St., Cape May; the Cape May County campus of the Atlantic Cape Community College, 341 Court House-South Dennis Rd., Cape May County Court House; and Lucky Bones Restaurant, 1200 Route 109, Cape May. Cost varies based on venue and MAC membership. Lunch may be purchased separately at Lucky Bones Restaurant.

**CAPE MAY WINE TRAILS**

**SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 17, APRIL 28, MAY 5, 11AM:** Spend an afternoon visiting Cape May County’s wineries and sampling the unique flavors of each. On Feb.17, travel via trolley to Willow Creek Winery where you’ll enjoy tastings, a brief tour and lunch. You’ll also travel to Nastali Vineyards for tastings there and receive a souvenir glass. $75 includes trolley transport, lunch, tastings, snacks and souvenir glass.

**CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES IN WINTER**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 10AM-4PM:** The region’s most sought-after collectibles dealers and crafts persons come together for a show featuring handmade items, unique gifts, country crafts, glassware, silver and more. Cape May Convention Hall, Beach Avenue at Stockton. $2 for adults; free for children 12 and under.

**CHOCOLATE LOVER’S FEAST**

**SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 17, MARCH 31, APRIL 28, MAY 19, 1PM:** It’s a bountiful feast for chocolate lovers! Enjoy seven plated courses of chocolate desserts and hear how each was created from the chef who prepared it, at The Blue Rose Inn, 653 Washington St. $40.

**CAPE MAY WINE SCHOOL**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1PM:** Learn about a special selection of wines during during this informative class that will refine your palate, at the renowned Cape May Convention Hall, Beach Avenue at Stockton.

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The year 1968 was pivotal in both Vietnamese and United States history. Learn about these changes in this lecture series marking this anniversary. Cape May Lutheran Church, 509 Pittsburgh Ave. $5 at the door. Free for all World War II veterans, MAC members and students.

**CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES IN WINTER**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1PM:** “Lessons from the Barbary Wars applied to Vietnam”

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1PM:** “Fortification of Huế and the Turning of the War”

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1PM:** “House of Pegasus: Folk Music and the War”

**FRIENDS OF THE PHYSICK ESTATE present FREE TOURS OF THE PHYSICK ESTATE**

**FRIDAYS, MARCH 3, 10 AND 17, 2PM:** Do a good deed for your neighbor and visit the Physick (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)
Cape May’s Spring Celebration

April 27-May 20: Expanded in 2018! Celebrate the season of spring in America’s first seaside resort with three and a half weeks of events including ghost tours, a Sip Into Spring Festival and crafts show, living history programs, Armed Forces Day, and more. Rediscover the 1879 Physick Estate on a guided or self-guided tour. See some Cape May architectural gems on the Designer House Tour; take a Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tour; savor local flavors with food and wine events; consider the history of petticoat layers during the Show Us Your Undies living history presentation and brunch, solve a mystery over dinner during Murder Mystery Dinners, and so much more.

Carriage House Café & Tearoom

Reopens April 27: Enjoy gracious, yet casual, dining at the Carriage House on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate, with an a la carte menu that includes signature salads and tea sandwiches, as well as homemade soups and quiche, plus a Classic Tea Luncheon, Afternoon Tea and a kids’ menu. Enjoy loose tea service from Philadelphia’s House of Tea or order a bottle of wine from the award-winning Cape May Winery. Open 12Noon to 4pm Tuesday through Sunday, through June 14; then, daily throughout the Summer. For reservations call 609-884-5111.

Sip Into Spring Festival

Saturday, May 12: 10am-4pm: New in 2018! Enjoy the lovely grounds of the Physick Estate transformed by vendors and crafters into an outdoor marketplace. Celebrate the season of rebirth and new growth! Be inspired by gardening and nature activities and demonstrations, and enjoy music, festival food, wine, beer, Bloody Marys and mimosas.

Cape May’s Designer House Tour

Saturday, May 19: 11am-4pm: It’s a design lover’s dream! Visitors can step across the thresholds of several professionally designed, grand private homes in Cape May that are open to the public exclusively for this occasion. Be inspired by a variety of beautiful décor ideas. Visitors receive a booklet with descriptions of the houses and a map. $35.

Underground Railroad Trolley Tours

Saturdays, starting April 28: 12:15pm: Hear tales of the Underground Railroad in Cape May and how, fleeing their chains in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, African American slaves braved strong currents and stormy seas, guided by the beacon at the Cape May Lighthouse. Hear how legendary anti-slavery fighter, Harriet Tubman, walked these streets, as did businessman and former slave, Stephen Smith, whose railroad cars carried hundreds to freedom. $20. Presented by the Center for Community Arts in association with the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC).
As he enters his 10th decade, Bob Fite can look back on a remarkable record of service, both to the Cape May community and to MAC.

For Cape May, Bob will always be honored as the savior of one of our most prominent Victorian hotels, The Colonial (since renamed The Inn of Cape May). Located at the beachfront’s “100% corner” of Ocean Street and Beach Avenue, this magnificent 1895 Queen Anne style pile has long been the cornerstone of Cape May’s Historic District.

Following in the footsteps of his father (who acquired The Colonial in 1928), Bob could have taken the route of so many of his contemporaries, tearing it down for a mid-20th century replacement (a fate that struck such Cape May Victorian landmarks as the Lafayette, the Baltimore Inn and Colton Court). Instead, Bob chose to make the old Colonial a going concern, with the famous singing wait staff in the dining room and the addition in 1960 of a modern motor court and bar (now Avondale By the Sea). Under Bob’s stewardship, The Colonial survived into Cape May’s Victorian revival of the 1980s. When Bob retired in 1987, he was able to sell it to the Menz/Eastman family, who have lovingly maintained it ever since.

Bob’s support for MAC goes back three decades or more. In the early ’80s, he hosted our Victorian Weekend dinner/dance at the Colonial. From 1988 through 1996, he served with distinction through a full nine-year term on the MAC Board. There, his signature phrase – “Be of good cheer!” – added greatly to the collegiality of our proceedings.

However, it’s as a generous supporter of many MAC causes that Bob has truly been outstanding. He was a Founding Member of the Michael Zuckerman Endowment for Collections and was the only donor who bought into our last decade’s efforts to launch a Charitable Gift Annuity program. Most notable has been Bob’s faithful contributions to our annual appeal, with his $5,000 gift being split each year between general operations and the Cape May Music Festival – where he avidly cheers on the Atlantic Brass Band’s opening night concert.

Thank you, Bob Fite, for all that you’ve contributed to our community and organization!

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CAPITAL PROJECTS
2017 witnessed the greatest burst of capital improvements at our historic sites since we completed the restoration of the World War II Lookout Tower in 2009. Particular accomplishments included:

• The first repainting of the brick tower of the Cape May Lighthouse since its original restoration in 1994. This $130,000 project was carried out by Eastern Industrial Services, Inc. (the same contractor as in 1994), under the close supervision of our superb restoration architect, Bob Russell of HMR Architects. Funding came from a $50,000 historic preservation grant from the Cape May County Open Space Board, a $50,000 grant from the National Park Service’s National Maritime Heritage Grant program (ably administered by Andrea Tingey of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office); a $5,000 grant from South Jersey Industries; and the balance raised by the Friends of the Cape May Lighthouse and our loyal crew of Lighthouse Keepers (with thanks to PNC Bank for a $100,000 loan that allowed us to bridge the months between contractor payments and the receipt of grant reimbursements).

• The complete restoration of the c.1880 “Elaine’s Barn,” which had been moldering in a rear corner of the Physick Estate parking lot since being moved there in 1999. Its conversion into two staff offices was a key component of our plan to comply with the State Fire Marshall’s edict that we remove all staff offices from the third floor of the main Physick House. Undertaken by D.L. Miner Construction, this project’s $130,000 price tag was completely covered by the 2020 Society Fund.

• The thorough restoration of two of the over-sized, “upside down” chimneys on the main Physick House, signature (albeit unstable) design elements attributed to the renowned Victorian architect, Frank Furness. Carried out by the Masonry Preservation Group under the supervision of architect Bob Russell, this $70,000 project was funded by grants from the Cape May County Open Space Board and the 1772 Foundation, as well as the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Physick Estate.

• The partitioning of the southern end of the Physick House’s Sun Porch to create an office for our Museum Division staff, another fire code mandate, with the work undertaken by Cape May Contracting.

• The restoration of our “demonstration” section of the historic Physick Estate fence along Washington Street, thanks to a $5,000 gift from Richard and Susan Foxx.

FRIENDS GROUPS
Besides our continuing to reap the promise sown by the 2010 launch of three Friends groups, the “communities of passion” that then Board Member Jeff Elliott inspired us to create around each of our three historic sites, 2017 witnessed the first program of the newly-formed Friends of the Cape May Music Festival. Thanks to the energetic efforts of their staff coordinators and advisory teams, our Friends groups hosted a wide array of public programs in 2017 that engaged some 1,900 people.

• The Friends of the World War II Lookout Tower (Bob Heinly, Coordinator) sponsored a lecture on “Cape May in World War I” on January 14, a theme that continued at the annual tribute to veterans at our Armed Forces Day Ceremony on May 20. That event marked a “passing of the baton” as Tower Friends Coordinator, from Bob Heinly (who founded the group in 2010) to his worthy successor, Alex Breve.

• In addition to an informative quarterly newsletter written by Rich Chiemingo, the Friends of the Cape May Lighthouse (Nanci Coughlin, Coordinator) focused their energy on a highly successful 4th Annual Christmas in July event on July 25. Their fundraising efforts helped pay for the architect’s plans and specifications for re-painting the Lighthouse, a project that bore fruit this past Spring.

• The Friends of the Physick Estate (with Mary Stewart coordinating an extremely active and creative Advisory Team) participated in the annual Read Across America program at Cape May Elementary School, and sponsored free Friday tours of the Physick Estate in March to benefit the Cape May Community Food Closet.
May 11 bus trip to the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, a bus trip to the Newark Museum on September 28 (organized by Peggy Gora), two summertime “Ghosts and Guides” tours and Bill Sprouse’s lecture “In Search of the Jersey Devil” on October 20. In addition, the Physick Estate Friends hosted a 162nd Birthday Party for Dr. Physick on June 5, whose croquet match was, unfortunately, a wash-out. Their fundraising efforts underwrote the restoration of a watercolor in the Dining Room and two steel plate engravings in Dr. Physick’s bedroom.

- The Friends of the Cape May Music Festival (Sharon Falkowski, Coordinator) held a highly successful kick-off event on June 2. A standing room crowd filled the Café tent to hear a concert donated by our favorite New York Chamber Ensemble musicians: cellist Elliot Bailen and flutist Susan Rotholz.

**GRANT FUNDING**

In addition to the restoration grants mentioned above, 2017 saw continued success in our State grants that cover close to 10 percent of our operating budget. First and foremost, our $250,000 General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission is truly the bedrock which allows us to continue to offer our high level of New Jersey History programs. Equally important to sustaining the Cape May Music Festival was our $45,000 grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Festival that brought new life to artifacts in our museum collection: the reupholstering of the nine-piece French Revival furniture suite in the Formal Parlor/Music Room that belonged to the Physick family (funded by the Cape Island Questers); an oil seascape in the Billiard Room (funded by the Cape Island Questers); and an inventory and polishing of silverware.

Volunteers provided crucial assistance, including a team led by Carol Hartman conducting the annual collections inventory, Kathleen Familetti and Barbara Lamont polishing the silver, and Heather Furlin’s completing the first annual rotation plan for our textile collection.

April 28 saw the introduction of the new, annual theme in our Physick Estate tours. Based on considerable primary research, Curator Gail Capehart explored the buying habits of the Physick family through the theme of “Let’s Go Shopping, Victorian Consumer Culture.” Through a dozen carefully chosen artifacts, tourgoers were exposed to intriguing ways in which the Physick’s shopped, including a “shopping list” peg board from a local grocery store and the original shipping case for Dr. Physick’s silk hat from the Stetson Hat Company in Philadelphia. In 2017, we expanded the offering of “hybrid” tour days, combining an afternoon of the Self-guided Physick Estate tours that were a hit when introduced last year, following a morning of our traditional 45-minute guided tours. All told, over 30,000 visitors toured the Physick Estate in the course of 2017 (an 8 percent increase over last year).

The Physick Estate also continued to host a growing number of community and cultural events, such as the party following the City’s annual Halloween Parade, night Art Markets in the summertime and the hugely popular Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony (sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank) on November 18, as well as numerous crafts and collectible shows, fairs and festivals. For a third year, theater returned to the Physick Estate grounds with REV Theatre’s mid-July production of Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” (with thanks to Rosey Hay and Rudy Caporaso).

**CARROLL GALLERY EXHIBITS**

Four major exhibits delighted visitors to the Carroll Gallery in the Physick Estate Carriage House in 2017. The winter/spring
CARROLL GALLERY EXHIBITS
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

exhibit, “Moore History,” in partnership with the Center for Community Arts, explored the life of the renowned African American educator and tennis pro, William J. Moore. For the peak season, Ben Miller guest-curated the “Cape May's Stormy Past: From the Pages of the First Resort” exhibit covering the 200-year history of storms that have buffeted the Jersey Cape. In the second half of October, we hosted Elan Zingman-Leith’s exhibit of his colorful paintings, “Cape May and Beyond.” rounding out the season was our 12th annual holiday exhibit, “An Old-Fashioned Christmas,” which showcased our large Department 56 Dickens Village collection under the boughs of an immense Christmas Tree designed by Jean Barraclough and assisted by Barbara Hubmaster and installed with the help of our Maintenance crew and several volunteer assistants. All told, more than 19,000 people toured through these free exhibits.

CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE
The Lighthouse continued to be our single most popular attraction in 2017, welcoming some 78,500 climbers, who were ably hosted by our crew of dedicated Keepers. This number represented a 3 percent increase over last year (despite the Lighthouse being closed for repainting in April/May and the three-day State Park shutdown over the July 4th weekend). It also included more than 600 schoolchildren, making the Lighthouse a must-see destination for school field trips. We also continued our two free educational programs in partnership with Cape May Point State Park, a “Lighthouse Storytime” series that delighted hundreds of young children, and “The Keeper's On Duty,” which offered an orientation to the Lighthouse and its history. In addition to the Lighthouse Friends' Christmas in July event mentioned above, two other special events at the Lighthouse were major hits: the celebration of National Lighthouse Day on August 7, accompanied by an array of kids activities, food and song; and the Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey, which continued its strong run on October 21-22, thanks to a statewide coalition led by MAC Director of Tour Operations Nanci Coughlin and her assistant, Rosemary Rombado. These events were joined by eight popular Family Fun Days at the Lighthouse, spearheaded by Janice Corkery, our Director of Visitor Services and Special Events, on eight consecutive Wednesdays from July 5 through August 23, as well as two programs in partnership with the Red Store – Dinner & Fireworks and Dinner & Full Moon Climbs.

WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER
(FIRE CONTROL TOWER No. 23)
In its ninth year of operation in 2017, the World War II Lookout Tower welcomed more than 9,400 visitors who climbed up to the sixth floor spotting gallery, with the assistance of our enthusiastic corps of Observers. This number represented an impressive 35 percent increase over 2016. A high point of our interpretation came from our surviving (albeit sadly shrinking) crew of World War II veterans (ably coordinated by Bob Heinly), who volunteered their time to share their stories with the visiting public. Expanding our interpretive reach, the fourth annual exhibit in the second floor gallery was called “Cape May in World War I.” Curated by Bob Heinly and designed by Jean Barraclough, it told the little-known story of Cape May’s contribution to the war upon its 100th anniversary.

CARRIAGE HOUSE
CAFÉ & TEAROOM
Our staff at the Carriage House Café & Tearoom served 5,145 visitors in 2017. A small increase in attendance through walk-ins and weddings and parties coordinated by Ayeshah Dickerson was unfortunately offset by a plunge in Group Tour bookings. Under Melissa Payne’s supervision, Chef Dave Corkery (ably assisted by Sous-chef Lou McAte) continued to exceed expectations in the kitchen, while our dining room staff did an outstanding job of serving our visitors. A large Board/staff oversight team (including Board leaders Diane Hutchinson and Vicki Watson) continued to meet monthly with our Café/Tearoom managers to tweak and monitor the operation. One team initiative, spearheaded by Diane Hutchinson, included replacing rented linen tablecloths with colorful “French Style” plastic cloths – a move that brightened the appearance while also producing a major “cost-savings triumph.” When the dust settled at the end of the season, the Café & Tearoom failed to break even, but its financial loss was more than balanced by its role in attracting visitors to the Physick Estate and enhancing their experience, while serving as the venue for a wide range of special events. One exciting advance in 2017 was the beginning of a new partnership with Cape May Winery, which allowed us to become one of their retail outlets, selling bottles of their award-winning wine to guests in the Café & Tearoom as well as customers in the Carriage House Museum Shop. After years of being stymied by the old administration, our application was quickly approved by new Cape May Mayor Chuck Lear and City Council. Launched at our new Summer Solstice Social on June 21, this
venture has added several thousand dollars to our Carriage House bottom line. We owe heartfelt thanks to Cape May Winery owner Toby Craig and manager Kelli Schiffbauer, for their perseverance and support.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL
The 28th season of the Cape May Music Festival continued to bring joy to close to 2,000 music lovers throughout our region. Several events added special luster to the year: The major donor reception that Gary and Donna Padussis hosted at their Hughes Street home and the post-concert party that Vicki Watson held at the Merion Inn – both on June 11.

Several programs continued to benefit from the splendid Cape May Convention Hall, including the opening night free Atlantic Brass Band concert on May 28 and our free Celtic Music “gift to the community,” Charlie Zahn & Friends (both co-sponsored by MAC and the City of Cape May); and our 6th annual George Mesterhazy Tribute Concert on June 12, in which his friends (led by Barry Miles) kept alive the memory of Cape May’s favorite jazz musician.

On the Classical music front, our audiences were thrilled by the “Royal Wave” concert performed by the Bay Atlantic Symphony with organ soloist Felix Hell, under the baton of conductor Jed Gaylin, at their June 8 concert at the First Presbyterian Church. Chamber music enthusiasts were also delighted by our four-concert series

at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, including three by our founding ensemble, the New York Chamber Ensemble (under the able leadership of cellist Eliot Bailen) and one by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players. Mary Stewart deserves credit for coordinating the entire program, and for selecting the artists of the popular “Classics” series, which featured the concerts in Cape May Convention Hall, as well as the June 4 concert of singer/songwriter Avi Wisnia at the First Presbyterian Church.

An important adjunct to the Music Festival was the educational outreach program that culminated in the February 8 Young People’s Concert at the Lower Regional High School Auditorium. Coordinated by Mary Stewart, this year’s collaboration between composer Eliot Bailen and a team of Lower Regional teachers (Sandy Beane-Fox, John Drechen, Julie Heck, Kelly Kennedy and Kaleb Magnusson) resulted in a musical theater production featuring three “Cape May Heroes.” With more than 200 students performing on stage and another 800 in the audience, it was truly a morning to remember.

As always, these strides in programming were made possible by the generous financial support of a wide array of agencies, businesses and friends. First and foremost (as always) was the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State whose grant formed the cornerstone of the Music Festival budget. More than $100,000 was contributed by area businesses and individuals. Standouts included Sue Priester, daughter of Music Festival endowers Bill and Pat Carpenter, whose donation of $7,000 continued to underwrite the Bach’s Lunch series at the Café & Tearoom, and our insurance brokers, Brown & Brown of New Jersey, whose $6,500 gift marked a 28-year tradition of Solo level support.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
2017 saw huge increases in the audiences served by our educational outreach activities. Overcoming the challenges posed by the PARCC/Common Core testing regime, we set new records in the popular history education programs developed by Museum Education Coordinator Bob Heinly, Ed.D. and his corps of trained Museum Educators (ably assisted by his new assistant, Alex Breve, and Rich Chieming’s Lighthouse Beacon, John Philip Sousa and other musical programs). We are particularly grateful to the many Museum Educators who generously donated their time to keep the program afloat. All told, our outreach programs educated and delighted nearly 22,500 schoolchildren (an 80 percent increase over 2016!) as well as some 4,250 adults in lectures for senior centers and historical/community groups. Thanks to a grant from the David R. and Patricia D. Atkinson Foundation and the proceeds from the Craft Beer & Crab Festival, we were able to offer much of this programming for free to local schools. Along these lines, we also continued to waive the admission charge to our three historic sites (an 80 percent increase over 2016!) as well as some 4,250 adults in lectures for senior centers, libraries and historical/community groups. Thanks to a grant from the David R. and Patricia D. Atkinson Foundation and the proceeds from the Craft Beer & Crab Festival, we were able to offer much of this programming for free to local schools. Along these lines, we also continued to waive the admission charge to our three historic sites (an 80 percent increase over 2016!) as well as some 4,250 adults in lectures for senior centers, libraries and historical/community groups. Thanks to a grant from the David R. and Patricia D. Atkinson Foundation and the proceeds from the Craft Beer & Crab Festival, we were able to offer much of this programming for free to local schools. Along these lines, we also continued to waive the admission charge to our three historic sites (an 80 percent increase over 2016!) as well as some 4,250 adults in lectures for senior centers, libraries and historical/community groups.

We expanded our library partnerships in 2017, adding the Ocean City Library to the Cape May County Library as venues (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

for regular lectures. Most exciting was the explosion of interest in our wintertime Lunch & Learn programs that we held every Wednesday from January 18 through March 29. Bursting from the confines of the Carriage House, we had to move these lectures mid-stream to the much larger space of the Methodist Church Hall. Building on this success, we then added monthly lectures from June through September. All told, the Lunch & Learn attendance of 837 was fully twice last year’s.

GHOSTS AND HALLOWEEN

Our offerings of “spooky” tours and events continued to attract large audiences in 2017, in partnership with psychic medium and author Craig McManus. Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tours, Ghosts of the Lighthouse Trolley Tours and Historic Haunts Tours at the Physick Estate continued their popular run. A new summertime tour, Graveyard, Ghosts & Mansions (featuring the Physick family gravesite at Cold Spring Cemetery) proved to be a major hit. During three weeks of Halloween Happenings, the public thronged to such offerings as Phantoms of the Physick Estate, Séance at the Physick Estate, Walks with the Ghostwriter and Trick or Treat at the Physick Estate. Equally popular were Kate Butler’s three “Tea & Confessions,” programs at the Café & Tearoom. A continued standout was “Scarecrow Alley,” under Anna Leeper’s energetic leadership, with businesses, families, individuals and school groups joining with MAC staffers to line the pathways of the Physick Estate with humorous scarecrow vignettes. And the Halloween décor at the Physick House Museum continued to be enhanced with Ernie and Betsy Heegard’s Department 56 Halloween village, which Jean Barraclough, Barbara Hubmaster and our Maintenance crew installed in the entrance porch.

MAC MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEERS

MAC’s Membership grew an impressive 13 percent in the course of 2017, with special thanks to the efforts of Jeanette Block’s Membership Committee. They coordinated such Membership advances in 2017 as: a hospitality tent at our major outdoor festivals, the switching over to email renewal notices and the introduction of bar-coded membership cards (which provided automatic savings at our points of sale).

Some 300 of our Members served in a volunteer capacity (effectively coordinated by Barbara Hubmaster). They were particularly valuable as the staffing backbone of our Physick Estate Self-guided Tours. At the April 25 Volunteer Recognition Reception at the Grand Hotel, (sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank), Mayor Chuck Lear, Senator Jeff Van Drew and Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak and Bruce Land joined Sturdy representatives Michael Clark and Chris Shoemaker in giving out three Platinum Rewards (for 55 or more shifts of service) one Gold Award (for 35 to 54 shifts of service), 10 Silver Awards (20 to 34 shifts of service), one Youth Service Awards (ages 12-17, for five or more shifts of service), eight Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards (to individuals or groups who donated professional expertise), 14 Historic House Tour and Private Homeowner Awards (for people opening their homes repeatedly for our benefit house tours), MAC Staff Over and Above Awards, for staff members who gave volunteer service (including 16 Silver Awards (10 to 24 shifts of service), nine Gold Awards (25 to 44 shifts of service), and four Platinum awards (more than 45 shifts of service), and 19 Outstanding Staff Volunteer Service Awards. Throughout 2017, we continued the highly successful “Volunteer of the Month” program, with photos and articles about our “winners” being carried by the local media. Our 2017 roll of honor included: Tom Price, Steve Steger, Janet Coupland, Charles Ellner, Denyse Hasler, LCMR music teachers (Sandy Beane-Fox, John Drechen, Julie Heck, Kelly Kennedy, Kaleb Magnusson), Eliot Bailen & Susan Rotholz, Barbara Vaughn, Pat Everett, Emily McLaughlin, George Schu and Carol Lindsay.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Thanks to the efforts of our Chief Financial Officer, Charles Kealy CPA, his chief lieutenant, Director of Accounting & Human Resources Larry Ryan and Staff Accountant Vicki McBride, the Business Office continued its vital role in steering the organization through the ups and downs of our annual cycle. Particularly important was their preparation of monthly Profit & Loss statements for nearly 100 programs, allowing us to track progress and identify challenges that needed to be addressed. They again maintained their incredible winning streak in 2017: our auditors (Friedman LLP) could find not one single item to adjust in our annual audit. Major accomplishments in 2017 included tightening the documentation for multi-year pledges and handling the challenges arising from a 20 percent hike in health insurance premiums.
TOUR DIVISION

Under the leadership of COO Melissa Payne and Director of Tour Operations Nanci Coughlin (ably assisted by tour managers Sandi Adams, Rosemary Rombado and Sue Gibson), the 70 members of the Tour Division educated and entertained more than 212,000 visitors in 2017, nearly 11,000 more than in 2016. We were particularly pleased with the strong public response to two new partner-driven tours: the Underground Railroad Trolley Tour (with the Center for Community Arts and David Clemans) and Cape May's Wild Side Trolley Tour (with New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory).

While the entire holiday season was a stand-out, nothing topped the strong showing of our venerable (44th annual!) Christmas Candlelight House Tours on December 2, 9 and 16. In close conjunction with the homeowners, we were able to sustain last year’s boost in the number of participating properties. That allowed us to absorb more than 4,200 tourgoers, producing record-breaking attendance revenue. Another Christmas hit was our Holiday Lights Trolley Rides, which received an unexpected social media boost that contributed to a stunning 50 percent increase in attendance.

SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION

Thanks to the efforts of Janice Coyle, (who became Janice Corkery on November 1) ably assisted by Janet Yunghans and backed up by staff from our External Affairs, Visitor Services and Maintenance Divisions, MAC’s Special Events attracted more than 43,000 participants in 2017 – a phenomenal one-third increase over 2016. Our large outdoor festivals continued to draw record crowds to the Physic Estate grounds. Starting with the 2012 launch of August’s Craft Beer & Crab Festival, we added a mid-September clone, the Harvest Brew Fest in 2015 and a summer kick-off event, the Cape May Hops Festival in 2016. We owe special thanks to PNC Bank (Jean Canfield and Hugh McStridick) for their lead sponsorship of the Craft Beer & Crab Festival. Continuing the beer theme, we added two Pop-up Beer Gardens to our roster, in partnership with Cape May Brewery, that drew large crowds to the World War II Lookout Tower in July and the Cape May Lighthouse in August. Other high points for 2017 included: sold-out Sherlock Holmes Weekends in March and November, numerous sold out Chocolate Lover's Feasts (at the Blue Rose Inn) and Chefs' Dine-Arounds; a successful new children's program in conjunction with the Café & Tearoom -- Breakfast with the Pirates; revitalized Murder Mystery Dinners written and produced by John Alvarez; and two successful new events for Victorian Weekend – Elan Zingman-Leith's “Victorian Vices” program, at our new partner, Nauti Spirits, and Kelsey Wise’s Spectacular Burlesque Extravaganza, which packed the Chalfonte Hotel dining room.

PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITE DIVISION

2017 proved to be a year of major accomplishments for our Publications/Website Manager, Jean Barraclough. She continued to design all of the brochures, handouts and signage for MAC’s historic sites, tours and special events, 14 issues of “This Week in Cape May (TWICM), four full-color MAC Newsletters and countless (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)
PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITE DIVISION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

other pieces. Jean was (happily) challenged by the spectacular prowess of our Advertising Representative, Denny Arnold. Thanks to his exceptional success in selling ads, our TWICM’s ballooned in size (reaching a record 144 pages for the Early Fall issue). Due to Denny’s prowess, what might have been a flyer for the Designer House Tour turned into a 64-page ad booklet. In a remarkably smooth transition, Denny was succeeded at the end of the year by Joe McLaughlin, whose first triumph was to line up over $5,000 in advertising to underwrite our first-ever Cape May map handout.

Wearing her hat as MAC’s webmaster, Jean continued to maintain the 300-plus pages of the MAC website (www.capemaymac.org), which she re-built from scratch in 2017 on the wix.com platform. It served more than 318,000 visitors in 2017, some 35,400 more than the year before. Major accomplishments involved Jean’s introducing count-down clocks for our largest events, membership pop-ups for our major attraction pages, a photo directory of the MAC Board and ongoing blog postings.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

The beginning of 2017 saw the promotion of our millennial superstar, Eliza Lotozo, to the position of Director of External Affairs. In that capacity she took over from Mary Stewart (who semi-retired – to the new post of Chief Outreach Strategist) the hands-on supervision of membership, volunteers, development and ad sales. Eliza played a key role in coordinating our participation in three fundraising events sponsored by our partners: FINS Sunday Social on January 22 (thanks, Jeff Genitis!), the Thankful Thursday at Cold Spring Brewery on February 23 (thanks, Annie & Joe Salvatore!), and the Charity Pint Night at Cape May Brewery on March 23 (thanks, Ryan Krill!).

Eliza continued her leadership role with marketing and social media, able assisted by her Marketing Assistant, Leslie Weidel. She also became increasingly the “face of MAC” to the area business community through her election to the boards of both the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May (which presented us their Community Partner of the Year Award at their annual dinner in October).

MAC’s ambitious marketing outreach program continued to expand in 2017, reflecting the output of a network of MAC teams. Our email outreach continued to be of great importance, with two to three messages sent out each week to as many as 36,000 recipients. Signal accomplishments in 2017 included our hosting a highly successful Summer Solstice Social on June 21, an October 25 After Dark Business Mixer at the Physick Estate, which featured an illuminating “MAC by the Numbers” presentation prepared by Eliza and Susan Krysiak; administering highly effective audience surveys that captured important feedback for our Physick Estate Tour and Carriage House Café & Tearoom, with results meticulously tabulated and displayed by volunteer Carol Baldan; securing the donation of Paramount Air’s banner planes to help promote our beer events; and the effective promotion of our MAC Community Day on June 11 (sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank), which gave free admission to our historic sites and trolley tours to nearly 400 of our Cape May County neighbors.

2017 also saw major strides in social media, with Leslie Weidel taking the lead in many initiatives. With help from Eliza Lotozo and Mary Stewart, her management of MAC’s 10 Facebook pages – including Visit Cape May, Cape May Lighthouse, Emlen Physick Estate, World War II Lookout Tour and Cape May Music Festival – attracted more than 36,000 “likes” by year’s end, continuing our upward trajectory. Our Social Media Team aggressively created “events” on Facebook and Google pages for most of our major special events and has mounted a series of Facebook ad campaigns to reach targeted audiences. A concerted effort was also been made to promote the capemaymac hashtag. Also pitching in with the Social Media realm was Susan Krysiak, who continued to post scores of Cape May photos, including those taken at every special event, to Flickr (with some 450,000 “views” to MAC’s pages in the course of the year). Susan also made effective use of her Twitter handle, @ CapeMayNewsFeed, that is now followed by some 430 members of the media.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

In her seventh year with MAC, Director of Media Relations Susan Krysiak ably wrote releases and took photographs for our massive media outreach effort that sent out three to six mailings each week, ranging from thick seasonal/festival packets, to detailed monthly calendars and scores of special interest releases (e.g., for our “Volunteers of the Month”) to hundreds of newspapers, magazines, TV/radio stations and Internet sites. She also worked closely with scores of reporters, travel writers and photographers, with such notable results as helping CBS Channel 3 Eyewitness News create four MAC segments for their “Summer Spectacular”
VISITOR SERVICE DIVISION

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Janice Corkery, some 20 Visitor Service Associates or VSAs (at the Hill House office, the Washington Street Mall Information Booth and the Carriage House Visitors Center) admirably fulfilled their mission of meeting the needs of more than a quarter million visitors. The Division also sent out a torrent of mailings, including handling in-house all of our bulk mailings (producing a huge cost savings for the organization). The Visitor Services staff increasingly has focused its energies on the ever growing flood of online orders - now taking place in “real time.”

RETAIL DIVISION

Like most “bricks-and-mortar” retail stores nationwide, 2017 proved yet another challenging year for our Retail Division, with small declines in sales at our two museum shops (in the Carriage House at the Physick Estate and the Cape May Lighthouse). What success we had in bucking this trend was entirely due to the gifted leadership of our Retail Director, Emily McLaughlin, ably assisted by Assistant Retail Manager Sharon Falkowski and their crew of dedicated Retail Associates. Their combination of astute buying (with “Aunt Emily's Jams and Jellies” being a particular hit), attractive displays, attentive customer service and ambitious promotions continued to touch a chord with the buying public. Especially popular were the numerous book-signings at the Carriage House.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

None of the above would have been possible without the outstanding support of MAC’s Maintenance staff, under the leadership of Director Paul Smargiassi (who also moonlights as the “pirate” in our Breakfast with the Pirates program), ably assisted by Dave and John Adams, and closely supervised by COO Melissa Payne. From the grooming of the buildings and grounds at our three historic sites, to the repair of our five trolley-buses and ancillary vehicles, to logistical support at every special event, the Maintenance staff has been central to everything we accomplish at MAC. We also owe thanks to Carolyn Owens, for cleaning the Physick Estate outbuildings, the Lighthouse and World War II Tower; to our Physick Housekeeper, Margo Texier, who devoted considerable energy and talent to bringing the Physick House Museum to an extra level of sparkle; to our Physick Estate gardener, Bill McCray, for his TLC of our many decorative flower beds; and to Bill Kennedy, for bringing his professional expertise to bear on our trolley maintenance challenges.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Our new Information Technology Manager, Cathy Baldacchini, has significantly “kicked up a notch” the handling of our sprawling network of personal computers, point of sales system and telephones. Cathy’s accomplishments included solving perennial telephone problems at the Lighthouse and Tower and laying the groundwork to shifting the whole organization to a Microsoft 365 environment.

A PERSONAL NOTE

In closing out my 35th year as MAC Director, I have much to be grateful for as I look back upon 2017. I continue to be deeply touched by the dozens of MAC family members whose generous donations to the Michael Zuckerman Endowment for Collections are now paying off with annual support for important Physick Estate restoration projects. And, as always, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to one of MAC’s “unsung heroines,” my assistant Anna Marie Leeper, who has helped keep me going for the past 31 of my 35 years.

2017 DISAPPOINTMENTS

• An avalanche of complications prevented the launch of our Cape May Designer Show House in 2017. Stay tuned for its projected opening in April 2018.
• A number of new offerings, including Night Art Markets at the Physick Estate and RunCape running tours, failed to attract the audiences we had hoped for.
• Attendance at the Cape May Lighthouse would have been even higher if it weren’t for closings during its repainting in April and May and for the State Park shutdown over the July 4th weekend (“expletive deleted”).
• After rebounding in 2016, our senior citizen Group Tours again took a nose-dive in 2017, despite the best efforts of Group Tour Manager Sue Gibson and the Group Tour Marketing Team, reminding us that it remains one of the most volatile and unpredictable parts of our tour operations.

We were saddened by the loss of the following treasured members of the MAC family in 2017: Rona Craig, Mary Ann Gaffney, Gerry Kraemer, Harry Kulkowitz, Ray Maher, Pat McMillan, Dan Preminger, Tom Price and Don Schenck.

After rebounding in 2016, our senior citizen Group Tours again took a nose-dive in 2017, despite the best efforts of Group Tour Manager Sue Gibson and the Group Tour Marketing Team, reminding us that it remains one of the most volatile and unpredictable parts of our tour operations.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members

Business: Marriott Fairway, Off the Wall Art.
Platinum Business: Ocean City Free Public Library.
Benefactor: Brian & Jessica Groestch.

Family: Bob Anstotz & Theresa Brady-Anstotz of Media, PA; Bruce & Maria Bolderman of Manasquan, NJ; Raesha Cartagenina & Migdia Garcia of Bronx, NY; Tom & Ronda Claus of Barnegat, NJ; Ivette Collazo of Union City, NJ; Eric & Annie Craig of Pittsburgh, PA; Kathleen & Jeffery Dale of Wyomissing, PA; Fred & Rosemary Fellmeth of Jenkintown, PA; Dustin & Allison Finch of Petaluma, CA; Kristofer & Christine Gacino of Annville, PA; James Gadol & Hui Tin Chua of Pawtucket, RI; Michelle Gerlitz of Highlands Ranch, CA; Justin & Lesley Henery of Mechanicburg, PA; Doranne Koval & Harry Singleton of New Milford, CT; Kyle & Leia Kuchler of Seaville, NJ; Anand Marinsinamy & Sheethal Subash of Jersey City, NJ; Matt & Susan Mazzitelli of Yardley, PA; Michael Nelson & Mary Kelly of Audubon, NJ; Eric & Jennifer Rasch of Neshanic Station, NJ; Jennifer Serena & Shawn McCardy of Villas, NJ; Dustin & Jennifer Switzer of Dallas, PA; Anthony & Lisa Villanova of Cape May, NJ; Eric & Diana Zweidingier of Oak Ridge, NJ.


Joint: David & Jeanne Atkinson of Jericho, VT; Linda & Chip Breithaupt of Lansdale, PA; Andrew & Jennifer Carfley of Lebanon, NJ; Eileen Carroll & Michael Chase of Gerrardstown, WV; Cheryl Clark & George Marrero of Lambertville, NJ; Brian Clarkson & Christine Cotton of Montclair, NJ; Frank & Sally Clements of Mount Juliet, TN; David Clifford & Karen Richards of Syracuse, NY; Marybeth Connors of Wilmington, DE; Ralph & ginny cooper of Ocean View, NJ; Jim & Sue Cotter of Hopewell, NJ; William & Kathleen Crowley of Staten Island, NY; Margaret Crozer of Bordentown, NJ; Louis & Sandra Davidov of East Brunswick, NJ; Mary Ann Delp & Jenny Lynde of Harrisburg, PA; Salvatore & Laura DiFranco of Little Egg Harbor, NJ; Brian Dillow of Trappe, Mt. Airy, MD; Vincent & Parimalasi Doctor of Philadelphia, PA; Daniel & Jeanne Duval of Brick, NJ; Mark & Gail Evans of Lutherville, MD; David & Laura Fling of Telford, PA; Anne Fogarty-Santomauro & Ermanno Santomauro of Bridgewater, NJ; Edward & Beverly Guz of Howell, NJ; Larry & Crystal Hadfield of Las Vegas, NV; Harold & Denise Harris of Cape May, NJ; John & Cathie Hengen of Jessup, MD; Mary Ann Hower of Harrisburg, PA; William & Kathleen Hubler of Deptford, NJ; John & Nell Kahil of Town Bank, NJ; Michael & Donna Kirkpatrick of Cape May, NJ; Jim & Barbara Klotz of Warminster, PA; Don & Lorraine Lukowski of Keyport, NJ; Thomas & Janice Lyle of Trappe, PA; Kevin & Lorraine Magee of Franklin Square, NY; Amelia Massimino & Gregg Carpenter of Marlton, NJ; Bob & Rolanda Mclean of Middle River, MD; Douglas & Mary Michael of Lawrence, NJ; Justin & Jennifer Mogia of Seaside Park NJ; Mary Lou Newnam & Randy Reinhard of Ocean City, NJ; Kevin & Barbara Olsen of Wayne, NJ; Stan & Diane Papademetriou of Wyomissing PA; Alyce Parker of Pittsgrove, NJ; Christine Petruzzell & Carl Torsillieri of Far Hills, NJ; David & Susan Rash of Newark, DE; Jessie Richard & Jane Wagner of Fleetwood, PA; Bob & Carol Root of Havertown, PA; Raymond & Peggy Rotella of Orlando, FL; Alison & Vitalena-Lee Schmidt of Little Egg Harbor, NJ; Gregg Shensky & Amy Goldberg of Philadelphia, PA; Erik Snyder & Laura Reese of Belcamp, MD; John & Adelaide Torpila of Bordentown, NJ; Christopher Tretina of East Falllowfield Twp, PA; Anthony & Colleen Vander Heyden of Blackwood, NJ; Glenn & Suzanne Vanderwende of Cape May, NJ; Max & Beth Waite of Perryville, MD; Larry Whitesel of Chesapeake, VA; Robert Wolf & Denise Miller of West Cape May, NJ; Spence Wright & Elaine Moore-Wright of Williamstown, NJ; Harvey & Olivia Zilber of Baltimore, MD.

Individual: Theresa Althouse of Temple, PA; Howard Bernd of Mechanicburg, PA; Linda Biles of Oologah, OK; Diane Branstetter of of Oologah, OK; Joan Breslin of

MAC Board Election Results

Ballots for the 2018 Board elections were mailed to MAC Members in November. MAC’s Membership elected the following Officers and Trustees to lead MAC in 2018:

President: Chris Shoemaker
1st Vice President: Brian Groestch
2nd Vice President: Diane Hutchinson
3rd Vice President: Tom Carroll
Secretary: Doug McMain
Treasurer: Lee Lambert
Trustees: Mary McKenney, Steve Steger, Vicki Watson, Shirley “Becki” Wilson

The newly elected Officers and Trustees join Frank Acker, Jeannette Block, Chris Clemans, Joanna Iliopoulos and Suzie Zingman-Leith who are currently serving unexpired terms, and Michael Zuckerman, who serves ex officio as Director. Our thanks go to Myles Martel, who has retired from the Board.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

Congratulations to:

MAC major donor Sylvia Kuhner Baeer, on being named a Yale Fellow; Retail Associate Corbin & Lynda Cogswell, on their 50th wedding anniversary; Visitor Services & Special Events Director Janice Coyle; & Café & Tearoom Chef Dave Corkery, on their wedding; Jay Ford, on his retirement as long-time President & CEO of Crest Savings Bank; Jonathan & Allison Hirsch (of The Montreal Beach Resort), on the birth of a daughter; former MAC Board Member Archie Kirk, on his marriage to Carol; MAC Board leader Mary & Todd McKenney, on the birth of a grandson, Smith Regen Krieg.

Condolences to:
The family and friends of MAC Member and Volunteer Theresa Bell; the family and friends of Vince Casale; the family and friends of former MAC Tour Staffer Barbara Corson; Tour Staffer Carol Macmillan, on the death of her husband, former Visitor Service Associate Pat Macmillan; former guest curator Dottie Rogers, on the death of her husband, Bill; Rev. Jack Wright (husband of Visitor Services Associate Arlette Wright), on the death of his sister.
CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE 2020 SOCIETY
($25,000 pledges over 5 years)

Curtis Bashaw
Lee & Jill Bellarmino
Tom & Sue Carroll
Chris & Dave Clemans
Tom & Peg Curran
Mary & Tedd McKenney
NJM Insurance Group
Jay & Lisa O’Donnell
Bill & Audrey Schwab
Joan & Dane Wells

2020 SOCIETY DONATIONS
(since the last Newsletter)

- Platinum Donors ($10,000 pledge over four years): Doug & Anna Marie McMain.
- Silver Donors ($1,000-$2,499): Daniel & Michelle Barbera, Chalfonte Partners, Inc. (Bob & Dillon Mullock), Russell & Lora Jo Dickhart, Bob Fite, Stan & Peggy Gora, Mary & Tedd McKenney, Bruce & Jane Ryan, Sheller P.C. Law Offices (Stephen & Sandy Sheller).
- Bronze Donors ($500-$999): Barb & Bill Kileen.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL DONORS
(since the last Newsletter):

Senior Partner Sponsor ($3,000): FiNS (Jeff Gerntis).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

(continued from page 14)

Clayton, NJ; Rene Buccinna of Cape May Court House, NJ; Norma Callicoat of Claremore, OK; Joan Conway of West Cape May, NJ; Pat Crume of Oologah, OK; Edward Rick Doering of Cape May Court House, NJ; Mark Ellis of Cape May Court House, NJ; Pam Flood of Oologah, OK; Cozette Gasser of North Cape May, NJ; Audrey Goss of Newmanstown, PA; Ruth Legan of Oologah, OK; Carol Mendenko of Wildwood, NJ; Sharon Moody of Oologah, OK; Georriann O’Mealey of Oologah, OK; Marilyn Schuette of Oologah, OK; Deborah Smith of Oologah, OK; Cindy Sullivan of Oologah, OK; Lori Swanger of Myerstown, PA.

Staff: William McCray of West Cape May, NJ.

Student: Christina Whittaker of West Caldwell, NJ.

FRIENDS OF THE CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Joint: BJ Wagner & Chris Marlowe of Cape May, NJ.

The November 1 wedding of staffers Dave Corkery and Janice Coyle was an emotional high point for the MAC family.

Duo Sponsor ($2,000): Bob Fite.
Musician’s Circle ($100-$249): Mark & Suzanne Robertson.
Friends (Under $100): Denise Miller.

Donations:
- The David R. & Patricia D. Atkinson Foundation, for a $10,000 donation.
- Atlantic City Electric, An Exelon Company (Veronica Town), for a $1,420 donation for the “Light up Cape May” contest.

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FRIENDS OF THE Lighthouse

Individual: Michael Catto of New Hope, PA.
Family: James & Stephanie Howard of Upper Saddle River, NJ.
Grandparent: James & Judith Hull of Cape May Point, NJ.

FRIENDS OF THE PHYSICK ESTATE

Joint: Joanna & Jim Dunne of Stamford, CT; Mary Beth & Alex Hager of Rio Grande, NJ; Robert & Irene Sheridan of Williamstown, NJ; Guy & Susan Mckelvey of Howell, NJ.

FRIENDS OF THE WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER

Joint: Harry & Debra Gibbons of Sacramento, CA.
Family: William & Christine Cloer (Half Day Studio) of North Cape May, NJ; Matthew & Amy Caspari of North Cape May, NJ.

Staff: Alex Breve of North Cape May, NJ.
Donations
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

- Lester & Roberta Aungst, for a $200 donation for operations.
- John & Nancy Bailey, for a $250 donation for operations.
- Lee & Jill Bellarmino, for underwriting the cost of the Lessons of History post-lecture reception and for a donation of $400 for the purchase of conference call equipment.
- Larry Berman, for a $25 donation to the 2020 Society in memory of Barbara Ann (Hand) Corson.
- Roy & Ruth Brader, for a $100 donation to operations.
- Dale Buralli & Joanne Bernardi, for a $200 donation to operations.
- Joal & Jim Britton, for a $100 donation to operations.
- Tom & Sue Carroll, for underwriting the cost of the Lessons of History post-lecture reception.
- David & Debra Chapman, for a $25 donation to operations.
- Christine Conn, for a $25 donation to the Cape May Lighthouse in honor of Tom Hutton.
- Steven Corson, for a donation of $100 to the 2020 Society in memory of Barbara Ann (Hand) Corson.
- Alex DeLuccia & Linda Dischia, for a $100 donation.
- Michael Dulin, for a $10 donation to the Physick Estate.
- Gail & Craig Fitz, for a $25 donation for operations.
- William & Margaret Flanagan, for a $50 donation for operations.
- William Flonders, for a $20 donation for operations.
- Stephen & Theresa Fox, for a $25 donation for operations.
- Richard & Susan Foxx, for a $5,000 donation to help with the purchase of the new tractor.
- Mary Frantz, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Peggy Gora, for a $60 donation to the Friends of the Physick Estate.
- Stan & Peggy Gora, for a $250 donation.
- Mary Helen Gregory, for a $20 donation for operations.
- J. G. Harrington & Jere Gibber, for a $50 donation for operations.
- Joan Hollander, for a $50 donation for operations.
- Icon Strategic Solutions, LLC (Thomas Calaloo & Iona Iliopulos), for a $1,000 donation.
- Yvonne Keummerle, for a $20 donation.
- Robert & Becky Kriebel, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Cheryl & Les Lottman, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Kathleen & John Louderback (Gaiss’ Market), for a $500 donation to the Cape May Lighthouse.
- Chris Marlowe & BJ Wagner, for a $501 donation for operations.
- Tom & Kathy Marotta, for a $25 donation for operations.
- Glenn & Patricia Matis, for a $25 donation for operations.
- Henry & Carol Mauermeyer, for a $150 donation for operations.
- Bob & Karen McClennen, for a $200 donation for operations.
- Doug & Anna Marie McMain, for a $50 donation for the Staff Christmas Party.
- Joanne Meehan, for a $50 donation to the Physick Estate.
- George & Joan Miller, for a $50 donation for operations.
- Wayne & Joyce Monses, for a $50 donation for operations.
- Barbara Morris (Henry Sawyer Inn), for a $100 donation for operations.
- New Jersey Lighthouse Society, for a $250 donation to the Friends of the Lighthouse.
- Frederick & Carol Obligado, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Olde Cape Lighthouse Questers, for a $500 donation to restore paintings in the Physick House Museum.
- Gary Padussis, for donating two cases of water for audience members at the Lessons of History lecture.
- Theodore & Virginia Passon, for a $200 donation for operations.
- Charles & DeAnn Powers, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Florence Price, for a donation of $250 to the 2020 Society in memory of Tom Price.
‘THANK YOU’ DEPARTMENT

- Queen Victoria Bed & Breakfast (Doug & Anna Marie McMain), for a donation of accommodations for the Lessons of History lecturer.
- Joseph Reilly, for a $50 donation in honor of Dory Coe.
- John & Barbara Sacchetti, for a $40 donation for operations.
- Charles Saunders & Doris Allen Saunders, for a $10 donation.
- Robert & Catherine Stambaugh, for a $100 donation for operations.
- Kevin & Kathe Stepanuk, for a $100 donation that will be double matched by Exelon.
- Barbara St. Clair, for a $50 donation for operations.
- Mary Stewart, for donating a watercolor painting valued at $300.
- Patricia Valas, for a $2,500 donation to the Cape May Lighthouse.
- Joan Walls, for a $50 donation for operations.
- West Cape May Elementary PTA, for donating a boat.
- Valerie Waywell-Peirson, for donating two original acrylic paintings valued at $300 apiece.
- Becki Wilson, for a $20 donation to the Staff Christmas Bonus Fund.

Assistance:
- Beth Acker, for providing a Group Tour of the Cherry House.
- Jill Bellarmino, for curatorial data entry and organizing the reference library.
- Blooms 21 (Karina and Alicia Parker), for staging the Bradford Cottage for the Christmas Candlelight House Tour.
- Alex Breve, for formatting the Lessons of History introductory PowerPoint show and adding a music track.
- Cape May Episcopal Church of the Advent (Pastor John Mitchell), for use of the church for MAC’s Christmas Traditions lecture.
- Cape May Lutheran Church (Pastor Jeff Elliott), for the use of the church hall for MAC’s Annual Meeting.
- Cape May Stage (Roy Steinberg), for hosting the Dickens Christmas Extravaganza lectures.
- Cape May United Methodist Church (Rev. Jeanette Block), for hosting the Candlelight Tour Volunteer Training session.
- Tom & Sue Carroll, for hosting a reception for Lessons of History speaker Adm. Thad Allen.
- Dory Coe, for volunteering for the Underground Railroad Trolley Tour.
- Jack Andre Denys, for delivering a lecture for the Dickens Christmas Extravaganza.
- Good Earth Organic Eatery (Contrano Rosettani & Hilary Keever), for providing a chocolate treat for the Victorian Weekend Chocolate Tasting Tour.
- Kathleen Fami Letti, for polishing silver items in the Physick House Museum.
- Carol Hartman, for volunteering for the Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey.
- Barbara Heim, for assisting with hospitality for the Cape May Halloween Parade.
- Lynn Martenstein, for editing the Lessons of History introductory Powerpoint show.
- Herb Moskovitz, for delivering a lecture for the Dickens Christmas Extravaganza.
- Rosemary Rombado, for serving as host for the December 26 Chefs Dine Around.
- Joe Rondinelli, for delivering a lecture for the Dickens Christmas Extravaganza.
- Mainstay Inn (Pete & Esther Scalone), for hosting the Lessons of History after-lecture reception.
- Bill Sprouse, for delivering an entertaining lecture on the Jersey Devil for the Friends of the Physick Estate.
- Bob Steenrod, for acting as auctioneer for the art component to the Cape May’s Stormy Past exhibit.
- Mike Tees, for fueling up trolleys for the Tour Division.
- Betty Wieslawski, for doing data entry for the Tour Division.
- Cape May Getaway Raffle Donors:
  - Aletheas (Beth Eastman), Cape May Magazine (Bernie Haas), Cape May Stage (Roy Steinberg), Cape May Winery (Toby Craig), Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center (Tracie Cicchitti), East Lynne Theater Company (Gayle Stalthuth), Flying Fish Studio (Sue Lotozo), Gallery D'May (Dawn DeMayo), Import Bazaar (Rich Meyer), Louisa’s Chocolate Bar (Will Riccio), Mad Batter Restaurant (Mark Kulkowitz), Merion Inn (Vicki Watson), Natali Vineyards (Al Natali), Splash (Chuck & Hilary Pritchard), Mary Stewart, Uncle Bill’s (Katia O’Hara), The Ugly Mug (Dwight), Whales Tale (Chuck & Hilary Pritchard).
- Carroll Gallery Old-fashioned Christmas Exhibit Installation Volunteers: Jean Barraclough, Rich Chiemingo, Barbara Hubmaster, Mary Stewart.
- Christmas Candlelight House Tour Properties & Owners: The Abbey (Barbara Tillman), The Albert Stevens Inn (Jim & Lenanne Labrusciano), Angel of the Sea (Ron & Theresa Stanton), Antoinette’s (Deanna Brown), Beauclaire’s Bed & Breakfast Inn (Joe & Joanne Giovanetti), The Bedford Inn (Archie Kirk), The Bradford Cottage (Ted Wiederseim), The Breakers (Barbara

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)
CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR PROPERTIES & OWNERS
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Tillman), Cape Island Baptist Church, Cape May United Methodist Church, The Carlin Family Residence (Marty & Valerie Carlin), Cape May Convention Hall, Cavalier Cottage (Tom Cataldo & Ioanna Iliopulos), The Colonial House Museum (The Greater Cape May Historical Society), The Dormer House (Bob & Linda Mullock), The Episcopal Church of the Advent, First Presbyterian Church of Cape May, Franklin's Key (the Bonner & Novak Families), The Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), Pharos at the Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), The Henry Sawyer Inn (Barbara Morris), Hotel Macomber (Crystal Hardin), Inn at the Park (Carl and Susan Spatocco); Ocean Victorian (Tedd & Mary McKenney), Pharos at the Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), The Bradford Cottage (Ted Wiederseim), The Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), The Henry Sawyer Inn (Barbara Morris), Hotel Macomber (Crystal Hardin), The Jersey Lady (Tedd & Mary McKenney), The Kurtz Family Residence (Yogi and Karen Kurtz); The Mason Cottage (Kim Gilbert), The Mission Inn (Wendy Collins and Laura Shaddock), Ocean Victorian (Tedd & Mary McKenney), The Jersey Lady (Tedd & Mary McKenney), Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, The Queen Victoria B&B (Doug & Anna Marie McMain), The Southern Mansion (Barbara Bray Wilde), The Wilbraham Mansion (Doug & Joanne Carnes).

Christmas Candlelight House Tour Properties, Owners Who Donated Their Cleaning Fee Back to the Organization:
Inn at the Park (Carl and Susan Spatocco); Ocean Victorian (Tedd & Mary McKenney), Pharos at the Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), The Bradford Cottage (Ted Wiederseim), The Harrison (Andrew Bares and Kelly Lavorgna), The Henry Sawyer Inn (Barbara Morris), Hotel Macomber (Crystal Hardin), The Jersey Lady (Tedd & Mary McKenney), The Kurtz Family Residence (Yogi and Karen Kurtz); The Mason Cottage (Kim Gilbert), The Mission Inn (Wendy Collins and Laura Shaddock), The Queen Victoria B&B (Doug & Anna Marie McMain), The Southern Mansion (Barbara Bray Wilde).

ConGRATULATIONS Volunteers of the Month

NOVEMBER: George Schu

DECEMBER: Carol Lindsay

JANUARY: Bill Sprouse

Volunteers
Christmas Candlelight House Tour Volunteers: Jackie Atkins, Jean Barraclough, Emily Barrett, Jack Barrett, Joan Bauer, Steve Bauer, Marili Bicknell, Anna Bonk, Bill Brown, Pat Brown, Joe Byrne, Sue Carroll, Tom Carroll, Nancy Childs, Joan Conway, David Corkery, Jim Del Grosso, Anne Doherty, Gail Donaghy, Jan Dwyer, Joe Fahy, Ron Fillius, Pam Fox, Lynne Glasser, Peggy Gora, Tom Gore, Scott Griffith, Theresa Harris, Barb Heim, Roger Henry, Barbara Hubmaster, Nell Kahil, Alicia Kapp, Kevin Kapp, Diane Kroll, Susan Krysiak, Eliza Lotozo, Sue Lotozo, Megan Lynch, Rich Mayer, Anne McCartney, Bob Mohr, Carol Mohr, Carol Qualters, Patti Sands, Pat Shoves, Harley Shuler, Mary Stewart, Roe Studer, Barb Whittlock, Leslie Weidel, Donna Wicker, Grace Williams, Jack Wright.

Christmas Decorating at the Physick House Volunteers: Joyce Barth, Jill Bellarmino, Al Bennett, Dory Coe, Janet Coupland, Kathleen Familetti, Heather Furlin, Rosalie Gallagher, Judy Gatt, Carol Hartman, Sonja Hippie, Andy & Barbara Lamont, Carol Macmillan, Gerri Ridings and Harry Schmidt.

Christmas Undecorating Volunteers: Jill Bellarmino, Heather Furlin, Carol Hartman, Gerri Ridings, Harry Schmidt and Rosalie Gallagher.


Fall Arts & Crafts Festival Volunteers: Nancy Benson, Roger Henry.

Friends of the Physick Estate Volunteers: Sue Carroll, Eileen Cassidy, Judy Gatt, Peggy Gora, Carol Hartman, Dottie Knapp, Margo Lassner, Carole Sick.

Group Tour Survey Volunteers: Gus Mosso, Mary Ann Mosso.

Halloween Decorating Volunteers: Joyce Barth, Peggy Gora, Carol Hartman, Barbara Oberholtzer, Karen Van Varick-McGuire.
Halloween Dept. 56 Exhibit in Physick Estate Volunteers: Jean Barraclough, Barbara Hubmaster.


Halloween Trick or Treating Volunteers: Bob Heinly, Susan Krysiak, Emily McLaughlin, Mary Stewart.

Harvest Crafts & Collectibles Show Volunteers: Melanie Bateman, Alice Haber.


Holiday Crafts Fair Volunteers: Alice Haber, Roger Henry, Patti Sands.

Lamplighter Christmas Tours Volunteers: Melanie Bateman, Emily Barrett, Jack Barrett, Joan Conway, Jim Del Grosso, Anne Doherty, Scott Griffith, Alice Haber, Barbara Hubmaster, Gus Mosso, Mary Ann Mosso, Grace Williams.


Lessons of History Team Volunteers: Lee Bellarmino, Tom Carroll, Myles Martel, Lynn Martenstein, Doug McMain, Gary Padussis, George Schu.

Light Up Cape May Contest Volunteers: Bob Belanson, Tracie Cicchitti, Bernie Haas, Shaine Meier, Katlyn Mogavero, Jim Ridgway, Mary Stewart, Doreen Talley, Ronnie Town.

Maintenance Ground Crew Volunteers: Tom Carroll, Joe Cassidy, Jan Dwyer, Bill George, Roger Henry, Carol Lindsay, Mike Smith, Denny Sweetman, Vince Menna, Jerry York.

Museum Education Volunteers: Dory Coe, Frank Killino, Ginger Killino, Len Smith, Mary Stewart.

Phantoms of the Physick Estate Volunteers: Joyce Barth, Dory Coe, Joan Conway, Janet Coupland, Peggy Gora, Alice Haber, Theresa Harris, Millie Schmidt, Barbara Oberholtzer, Patti Sands, Susan Wiggins.

Scarecrow Alley Contest participants: XI Beta Pi Chapter; Jean Barraclough; Cape May Elementary School’s Pre-K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades; Cub Scout Pack 73; DCF Regional School Cape May Campus; East Lynne Theater Company; Flying Fish Studio; Girl Scout Troop 41026; Holly Shores Camping Resort; Barbara Hubmaster; Rainbow McAtee; Diane McKeefery; Miss Emma Phillips; West Cape May Elementary School PTA; Women’s Community Club of Cape May; Arlette Wright; Janet Yunghans.

Self-Guided Physick Estate Tour Volunteers: Joan Bauer, Steve Bauer, Jim Del Grosso, Anne Doherty, Patti Sands.

Sherlock Holmes Weekend Homeowners: Bedford Inn (Archie Kirk), Blue Rose Inn (Joan Keating), Leith Hall B & B (Suzie & Elian Zingman-Leith), Queen Victoria B & B (Doug & Anna Marie McMain).

Sherlock Holmes Search for Clues Volunteers: Anne Doherty, Scott Griffith, Eva Pennock.

Sherlock Holmes Weekend Volunteers: Frank & Ginger Killino.

Staff Advisory Team: Joyce Barth, Anne Burrows, Janet Coupland, Kathleen Familetti, Carol Hartman, Loretta Hughes, Ginger Killino, Barbara Lamont, Carol Macmillan, Brian McGrath, Harry Schmidt.


Victorian Weekend Chocolate Tasting Tour Properties: Angel of the Sea (Ron and Theresa Stanton), Cavalier Cottage (Tom Cataldo and Ioanna Iliopulos), The Mission Inn (Laura Shaddock and Wendy Collins), Rhythm of the Sea (Robyn Wendi).

Victorian Weekend Chocolate Tasting Tour Volunteers: Anne Doherty, Tom Gore, Tricia Kraemer, Gus Mosso, Mary Ann Mosso, Barb Whitlock.

Victorian Weekend Private Homes Tour Property Owners: Bradford Cottage (Ted Wiederseim), The Cherry House (Frank & Beth Acker), The Sharp House (Barbara Pour), Ocean Alice’s (Paul and Janice Stridick).

Victorian Weekend Private Homes Tour Volunteers: Melanie Bateman, Joan Bauer, Nancy Benson, Joanne Bradley, Anne Doherty, Carol Hartman, Mary Ann Mosso.
Fall/Holiday Wrap-up
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

CEDAR TREE ON THE LAWN WAS READY FOR THE NOVEMBER 18 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING thanks to the Tree Barber’s (Nels Johnson) high reach truck. The weather was perfect for the event and the grounds were filled to overflowing with happy friends and neighbors. We were joined by Mayor Chuck Lear and City Council members Shaine Meier, Tricia Hendricks, Roger Furlin and Bea Pessagno and, of course, the man of the hour, Santa. It was a somewhat bittersweet moment as we dedicated the ceremony to the memory of Rona Craig. Back in the mid-80s, Rona, as a MAC Trustee, was responsible for starting us on this road to community hospitality. We were pleased that we could share the moment with her family, Toby, Michael, David and Betsy.

The Christmas Candlelight House Tours are the highlight of the holiday season. This year’s tours, all scheduled before Christmas, were no exception. We had a wonderful line-up up of inns, homes and churches, with hospitality centers ready with warm beverages. The December 2 tour sold out the day of tour. The December 9 tour sold out in advance. Things were looking up until a coastal snowstorm hit us the day before the tour. We contacted tour-goers, spoke with homeowners and city officials. We offered tour-goers the option of switching to the last date, crossed our fingers and proceeded with the tour. All in all, things ran smoothly, tour-goers were happy and Cape May truly looked like a Christmas village. The final tour on December 16 was almost a sell-out and nearly 4,500 people got to experience Cape May’s beautifully decorated inns, homes and churches.

During the holidays, we also entertained an enthusiastic group of Dickensians, here to enjoy the wit and wisdom of Dr. Elliott Engel as well as lectures from several members of the Philadelphia Dickens Fellowship. The good folks of the East Lynne Theater Company partnered with us for Ghosts of Christmas Past Trolley Rides. The jolly old man in the red suit entertained nearly 1,000 kids of all ages on Santa’s Trolley Ride. It was a busy season!

**Education**

MAC’s school and community education programs were in great demand this Fall. Museum Educator Rich Chiemingo continued his monthly music series with Millville, Bridgeton and Vineland Public Charter Schools. In what is a record for our Museum Education staff, Mary Stewart provided eight programs on the History of Halloween for nearly 400 Cape May Tech students. As you can imagine, this was the most requested program in October. As we moved into November, we presented several Cape May in World War II programs and then moved on to the Victorian Christmas Traditions lecture, preparing kids for follow-up visits to the beautifully decorated Physick Estate. Strong demand continued for the Underground Railroad presentation, created in partnership with Center for Community Arts. We continued our partnerships with the Cape May County and Ocean City Libraries, offered programs in senior living facilities and provided activities for Road Scholar programs in Cape May. By the end of the year, we had provided programming for more than 22,000 students, 1,200 teachers and 4,200 life-long learners.

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