



A newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands

P.O. Box 181, Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

Spring 2024

CHS's Fabulous *Island Experiences* Auction and Opening Party!

Get ready CHS supporters and friends! There's a new twist to our annual auction this year. The wonderful potluck, cocktails and music will be on hand as per tradition, but our auction, will offer participants one-of-a-kind experiences. One of the reasons we treasure Cuttyhunk is that it provides us with time to connect with friends and family. This year's CHS auction focuses on experiences that inspire even more quality time together, enjoying new adventures!

Save the date: July 6th, 5:30-7:30pm

Some of the phenomenal items that will be included in the *Island Experiences* offerings are: a week's stay in the British Virgin Islands, a curated tour of Nashawena with lunch included, a walking tour of Penikese followed by a swim and snorkeling for Cuttyhunk Oysters, an afternoon swim and cocktails at Quicks' Hole, a beach party with everything from bonfire to s'mores to cleanup included, a beekeeping experience sure to inspire and intrigue, a sunset sail and two island dine-arounds for parties of six, just to name a few!

A special thanks to all of our unbelievably generous "experience" donors. Your support helps CHS fulfill its mission and your ambassadorship of the museum is unparalleled.

In addition, we will be having an on-going raffle/silent auction of several pieces of artwork in the Akin Room. Our successful art auction last year motivated us to keep a small part of that going. Artwork will be on display July and August. Winners will be announced at the end of August.

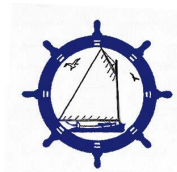


Limin House in BVI- CHS Auction Highlight



Pictured above: Limin House in the BVI; Below, Chip Braddish Sunset Sail; Beekeeping Experience; Day on Penikese. Opposite: Axopar

cruise to Quick's, Bonfire at the Beach; Shellfish Farms and Quahogging experiences to highlight a few of our offerings!



More CHS Programming Summer 2024

- Opening Party/Potluck/Auction July 6, 2024 5:30-7:30pm

- Ladies' Nights at the Museum (TBD, One Tuesday July/Aug)
- Special Documentary Fundraiser *Generations on the Wind* with panel and community discussion (July 25/26- TBA)
- Make and Fly a Museum-Inspired Kite
- Deaf Sailors Nights (Every Thursday in July) 7pm
- Special Event for Island workers and Businesses (TBD)
- August Movie Nights (first two Fridays in August)
- Annual Meeting August 10, 10:30 -11:30 am

CHS President's Letter



Dear Elizabeth Islands Community,

As we all anticipate the adventures of another summer on Cuttyhunk and the islands, CHS celebrates the return of our dedicated museum staff: Robyn Weisel, Executive Director, Samantha Poirier, Curator, Anna Nagtegaal, Museum Assistant and Sarah Smith, Bookkeeper. They are an accomplished team who find intriguing ways to share

the culture, history and natural environment of the Elizabeth Islands from human habitation to present day.

Be sure to stop in and enjoy the *Island As Muse* exhibit, bid on a wealth of experiences at the Opening Party and Auction, challenge us with a question, and learn about special volunteer projects that will help document our collection and expand your horizons.

Our redesigned website will allow you to research favorite topics on site or remotely. We are here for YOU and are grateful for your interest and support.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on August 10 @ 10:30am at the Cuttyhunk Church and Meetinghouse, in person or on Zoom.

With warmest regards,
Carolyn Powers
President

Thank You!!

We would like to acknowledge and thank our out-going board members this August 2024:

Horace Garfield
George Shaw
Allie Thurston

Their strong commitment and hard work moved our organization forward in its mission. If you are interested in joining the CHS Board, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us!

New CHS Website Launching Soon!

Yes!, finally, a new, updated, accessible website with lots of information, virtual experiences, engaging content and relevant dates to connect more meaningfully with CHS and the Museum. Look for a spring launch soon!



Pictured above: landing page of the new CHS website, set to launch this spring

New HVAC Installed!

By Laura Mali-Astrue, B&G Committee Member

In March of 2024, after years of planning, CHS replaced the temperamental and unreliable Air Conditioning unit with a new, efficient heat pump which serves the Museum end of the building. The heat pump will be used primarily for cooling, but is capable of providing heat to the north end of the building. Our special thanks to DG Service Company of Mattapoisett who spent several days on island doing the installation, to the Cuttyhunk Ferry and Ben Sadler who managed to get lots of heavy and bulky equipment delivered, and to Charmaine and the Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm who gave all the technicians (and their gear) a ride OFF the island with the oyster delivery!



This installation is the first of a three-stage plan to upgrade the HVAC of the building, currently heated by an old oil-fired boiler. Stage 2, which we hope to implement in the next few years, includes adding mini-splits to the southern end of the building (the apartment) so that humidity and temperature can be controlled across the entire building envelope. The last stage will provide new hot water service, and will eventually enable us to transition away from oil and retire the old boiler.

CHS has two endowment funds whose income can be used for building maintenance. These funds were applied to the new heat pump costs. In addition, several generous donors have supported the work in this area. We are very grateful for your ongoing support as we protect the items in our collection for the enjoyment of current and future visitors.

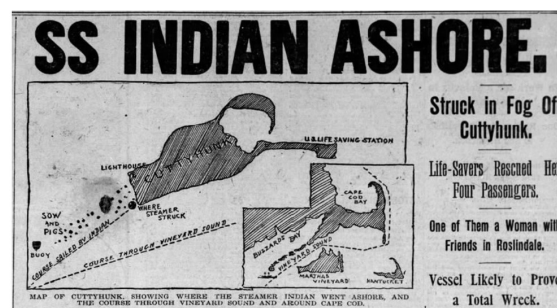


News from the Curator

Samantha Poirier

Since the fall, work on the museum's PastPerfect collection database has continued, focusing solely on the addition of records. Covering a range of donations from 1978 to 2023, we have added and edited 1,153 Accession Records (a log summarizing various materials transferred to CHS by donors) and 1,684 individual Object Records (all information about a singular item from the accession group) to PastPerfect. These records provide the physical descriptions of artifacts and specifics regarding how they help to tell the story of Cuttyhunk and its residents. This work is an ongoing process that we will resume both on-site and remotely over the summer.

While going through records, we also began the task of identifying objects related to the upcoming 2025 shipwreck exhibit. After noting material within the museum's holdings, we delved into researching shipwrecks which occurred around the Elizabeth Islands since the mid-1800s.



Newspapers have provided a wealth of information regarding these events, including what caused wrecks, where the wrecks were located, the ships' holdings, members of the crews, and sometimes what happened to ships if they were salvaged. Combined with historical objects, such resources help to better understand the environmental challenges our ancestors faced, as well as the social and economic history of Cuttyhunk and its relationship with nearby islands and mainland Massachusetts.

If you are interested in helping on the 2025 Shipwrecks exhibit, please contact us!
cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Membership Appeal 2024

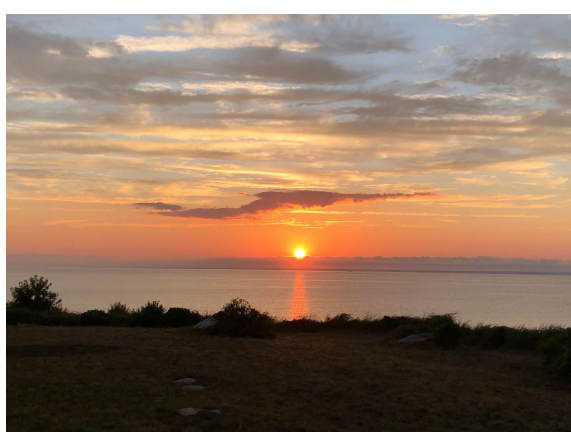
Coming soon is our annual Membership Appeal. This year we've added a couple of new categories including student, non-profit organizations, and yacht clubs! We also have an area of support that businesses and corporations can get more information about underwriting or sponsoring an exhibit. All of these ways of giving help CHS provide engaging exhibits and programming that enrich our community and fulfill its mission. *More information to come in an upcoming email letter and on our new website!*

In Memoriam...

Mary Clement Estabrook
1930-2024

Seamond Ponsart Roberts
1940-2023

Leighton Scott 1938-2022



Betty Ruth Copeland Tilton 1942-2024

Constance (Connie) K. Thurston 1930-2024

"Our memories of the ocean will linger on, long after our footprints in the sand are gone."

*Continuing in the Bosworth
and Akin Rooms...*

ISLAND AS MUSE

~

**ART from the CUTTYHUNK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION**

CHS will be featuring again, in its last season, the *Island as Muse* exhibit. We look forward to welcoming visitors to further dive into the beautiful artwork of Cuttyhunk artists. Be inspired!

From the Manuel "Manny" Sarmiento mosaic to the artwork of beloved Flo Fairchild, the needlework of Nancy Hornbach and the beautiful work of Harry Neyland, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Come take a look before they return to storage.



"We are such stuff as dreams are made on"
The Tempest, Act IV



Wanderer Exhibit 2025 Join Our Research and Exhibit Team!

Looking further forward to 2025, the CHS is planning a Wanderer shipwreck exhibit. In order to make this an engaging and fascinating exhibit, we are soliciting the help of our community. We are looking for volunteers, researchers, historians, educators to help build an exciting show. We will be setting up a committee of interested volunteers soon. Please let us know if you're interested or have something to share/donate/tell us about!
[**cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com**](mailto:cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



**2023-2024
CHS Staff & Board**

Robyn Weisel
Executive Director

Samantha Poirier
Curator

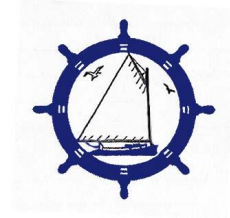
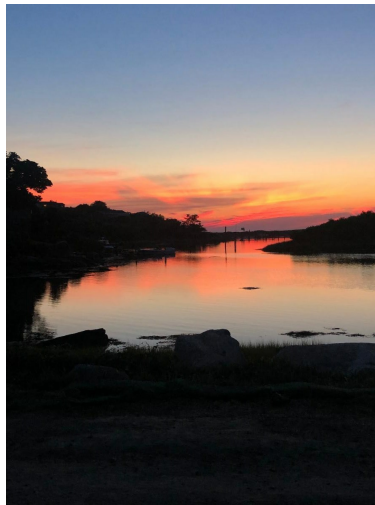
Anna Nagtegaal
Museum Admin Assistant

Sarah Smith
Bookkeeper

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**Carolyn Powers**  
*President of the Board*  
**Jane Chalton\***  
*Treasurer*  
**Bev Snow\***  
*Secretary*

**Kass Ardinger\***  
**Horace Garfield**  
**Rachel Garfield**



**Cuttyhunk Historical Society  
& Museum of the Elizabeth  
Islands**

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**Serving the Elizabeth Islands  
PO Box 181  
23 Tower Hill Road  
Cuttyhunk Island, MA 02713  
508-984-4611 (voice/text)**

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**The purpose of the Cuttyhunk  
Historical Society is to record and  
preserve the history, traditions,  
and artifacts of Cuttyhunk Island  
and the Elizabeth Islands of  
Massachusetts, and to engage the  
community and public through  
education, exhibitions,  
and outreach.**



Nate Hornbach  
Bert Nagtegaal  
Kate Parker  
George Shaw  
Allie Thurston

*\* new member*



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**Quarterboard** is the newsletter  
of the Cuttyhunk Historical  
Society and is published  
twice a year.

**Visit our website for membership and to make a donation. Click  
HERE!**

Cuttyhunk Historical Society | PO Box 181, Cuttyhunk, MA 02713

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