



Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 ■ Summer Telephone 508.984.4611
P.O. Box 181 ■ Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

A newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands Fall 2024

Summer Season Opening Party & Auction 2024!

The summer isn't officially summer until CHS has its Opening Party and Auction. It's a wonderful way to kick off the new season on our beautiful islands, check in with friends and family and celebrate! It was all smiles, good food and toasts while the "Island Experiences" auction raised close to \$17k for the Museum. The auction this year focused on fun things to do on islands, with the highlighted item being a week on the BVI, won by Steve Symonds. Next year we hope to duplicate the experience theme, so please let us know if you have a creative package you'd like to offer. We thank everyone for participating and for our successful fundraising! Cheers







CHS President's Letter



Dear Elizabeth Islands Community,

After a successful two-year run, the *Island As Muse* exhibit has been documented and stored; planning for next summer's exhibit on shipwrecks is underway. Thanks to efforts by Robyn Weisel, Samantha Poirier, Anna Nappi, and Tammis Groft, we will offer a catalog of the art work displayed in the popular *Muse* exhibit. (Be on the watch for ordering information.)

At the Annual Meeting in August we honored **Tracey Dorr** as Volunteer of the Year and welcomed new leaders to the Board of Directors. **Gretchen Kidder** is the new Treasurer, taking over from Jane Chalton who continues a medical leave of absence. **Annie Hinson, Mark Jackson,** and **Lolly Schenck** have accepted three-year terms as has **Bracken Hendricks**, a summer resident on Naushon. He will continue the dedicated work of Paul Elias in preserving Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse. The Coast Guard notified us in July that the lighthouse was available for transfer of ownership. The Beech Tree Trust of Naushon is pursuing this transfer with our support, and Bracken will keep us informed of their progress.

In September, on a glorious sunny day, the new board met with Laura Roberts of Boston, MA who facilitated productive discussion around sustaining the progress made over the past three years, with our Strategic Plan. Joining us were Robyn and Samantha plus former board members Bee Elmore, Laura Mali-Astrue, Bob Smith and donors Zoe and Doug Billman. Energy was high as we explored our vision for the future and ways to support it financially. Many thanks to Kate and Michael Parker for hosting this important event at their island home.

Though our season is short, our mission is year-long. Check out the new, comprehensive website cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org, and enjoy connecting with the amazing content available!

My very best,
Carolyn

Pictured l-r: Nate Hornbach, Bev Snow, Laura Mali-Astrue, Samantha Poirier, Rachel Garfield, Kate Parker, Bee Elmore, Robyn Weisel, Horace Garfield, Bracken Hendricks, Carolyn Powers, Doug & Zoe Billman, Kass Ardinger, and Gretchen Kidder at the home of Kate and Michael Parker.



Thank You, Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge and thank our out-going board members. Their strong commitment and hard work moved our organization forward in its mission.

George Shaw
Allie Thurston



Volunteer of the Year

Tracey Dorr!

This year's Volunteer of the Year is someone who has reconnected to the Island community, CHS, and new friends -The Cape Cod Deaf Sailors group! Every Thursday in July the Museum offered over 130 Deaf visitors an interpreted tour of the exhibit and wonderful social time! Tracey has been there learning new signs and connecting to a great group of people. She also mans the front desk and gives out great, engaging information. We appreciate and recognize her dedication and enthusiasm!



*Pictured above: Judith Archer and Tracey Dorr at the Opening Party.
Below, Deaf Sailing Group on the CHS front steps*

CHS Documentary Screening of *Generation on the Wind*



This summer we had the good fortune of having the screening of *Generation on the Wind* at the Cuttyhunk Meeting House. The hour-long film features the largest windmill, at the time, in the world. It tells how it came to be, who worked on it, and how it affected the Cuttyhunk community. It was a progressive idea brought to fruition by mechanics, artists, and engineers during the oil crisis of the late 70s.



The documentary won all kinds of awards from Best Documentary at the San Francisco and American Film Festivals to a nomination at the Academy Awards. It aired on PBS in 1980.

For those of you that might have missed it, we can link you to the site that hosts it. Contact CHS.

A big thanks to the Spaulding family, especially Anne Rose Diebold and Peter Graves for helping us put this event together.

Pictured above: The Cuttyhunk Meeting house after-talk. Left, Dale Lynch and John Rockwell. Also attending: Roger Race, Warren Rosenthal and Christopher Blair.





From the Executive Director *Robyn Weisel*

It's good to volunteer. You get to see how things work, the people involved, you get perspective. I encourage people all the time to come volunteer at CHS, to see what we do and how we do it. They always end up having a good time and learning something.

I *too*, had some time to volunteer this summer. Helping out with trash collection a couple of times was an eye opener. Asa Lombard, and many people like him, make this island run. They are sometimes under-appreciated, but without them we would not function as a community. Just helping lighten the load a little and appreciating Asa's work was meaningful.

We are so fortunate to have people that help in amazing ways with their time, their skills, and with their resources on the island. They are the unsung, sometimes under-recognized team players. They quietly keep the engines running.

If you have a bit of time, consider giving some of it to the many worthy organizations and businesses on island when you're here, or even to other people. It benefits us all so greatly...and it feels good!



Pictured: top left-right: Asa Lombard and Robyn Weisel, the volunteer fire brigade, painting the front doors and gardeners at CHS.





The McGuire Kids hanging out at the museum this past summer.

Our Season in Numbers

- **2,650** Summer Visitors
- **22+** Private Tours
- **130** Deaf Sailors w/ASL Tours
- **325+** Event Participants
- **1,276** Emailed Quarterboards and virtual publications
- **2** New Yacht Club Memberships
- **1** Non-profit Organization Joined

Did you know? CHS has approximately 6000+ objects in its collection and over 500 original works of art!



Visitors Tell A Story about the Past

Family and friends of Seamond Ponsart Roberts, who passed away in 2023, came to bring gifts



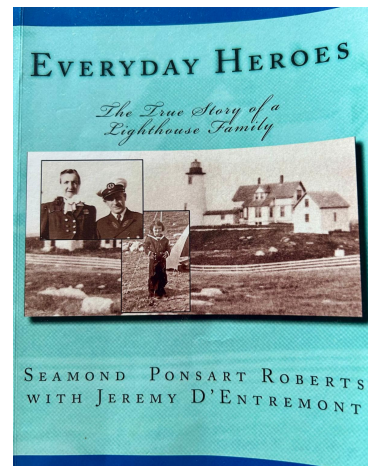
to the museum collection and to tour the attic where a model of the lighthouse, made by their grandfather, was a treat for everyone to see. They explained that it was once a bird house and showed some of its secret little openings.

Seamond grew up in the lighthouse on Cuttyhunk and wrote a beautiful book about the adventure, devotion, duty and love of that life, in ***Everyday Heroes, The True Story of a Lighthouse Family***.
(in the CHS bookstore)

Pictured top, front l-r: Gloria Roberts (daughter of Seamond Ponsart Roberts), Nicole Peckham, Robert (Gloria's husband), Lorna Roberts (daughter), Kitsy Garfield, Ruth Davis, and Kathy Olsen.



Pictured above: Lorna and Gloria Roberts, daughters of Seamond Ponsart Roberts, who ventured up to the CHS archives to look at the lighthouse model that their grandfather made.



Akin Room Oral History Project and Research

Since the founding of StoryCorps in 2003, they've helped nearly 700,000 people across the country have meaningful conversations about their lives. These recordings are collected in the U.S. Library of Congress and in its online archive which is now the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered. CHS, in its project can add to this collection.

CHS hopes to continue the previous oral

CHS has created a working space within the Akin Room where visitors, researchers and educators can access the library, the Family Tree and House Projects and the Oral History Station guided by the *StoryCorps* national storytelling project.

'StoryCorps is committed to the idea that everyone has an important story to tell and that everyone's story matters. Its mission: to help people believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all — one story at a time.'

history project- Memory Lore- with an updated, engaging way to have a conversations saved for lasting legacy by participants, CHS, and now through the Library of Congress.

There will be a dedicated space to capture these talks including recording tools, conversation starter cards, and help from CHS. We look forward to capturing and hearing your amazing stories!



From the Collection...

A beautiful rendition of an embroidery of Cuttyhunk Island from our collection -that was a kit many years ago- was recreated and sold in our bookstore. It sold out in a few days, but we will have more next year!

Curator's Report

Samantha Poirier

After the two-year success of *Island as Muse*, objects on exhibit have been catalogued and returned to storage. We are all excited to begin preparation for next year's exhibition which will delve into the fascinating world of shipwrecks, focusing on the wrecks along the Elizabeth Islands and how they impacted the community economically and socially. With input from our members and local residents, we hope to gather an array of material which speaks to the resilience and resourcefulness of this coastal community.

In addition to recording exhibit-related material, the scanning of photographic images and documenting objects from the collection has been a major focus this post-season. Over 200 postcards and 300 photographs were scanned and approximately 380 individual objects were photographed for inventory. During the winter, these images will be attached to their digital catalogue records on our museum database, PastPerfect. These steps in documenting accessioned objects help us demonstrate the value of our collection and reveal areas where we can improve our preservation efforts.

Pictured Below: Mid-1800s brass spyglass style telescope with leather sleeve around the middle. Once belonged to Captain Robert Tilton.



In Memoriam...

Christine Mandell 1958-2023
Kim Leonard d.2024
Jeff Spear 1949-2024
Dr. Seymour DiMare 1927-2024



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



Upcoming Shipwrecks Exhibit 2025

Join Our Collaborative Project!

Looking forward to 2025, CHS is planning/researching/designing a Shipwrecks 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 and interested people to help build an exciting show. We are currently brainstorming in our newly formed committee.

Welcome New Board Members to CHS



Gretchen Kidder, Treasurer

Gretchen has been coming to Cuttyhunk for more than 30 years.

She is married to John Kidder and they have two sons Henry and Jack. She lives in Vermont and works as a nurse practitioner.

When on the island she loves to swim, sail, walk her dog to the west end and watch sunsets on Church's beach.



Bracken Hendricks is a trustee of Naushon Island and lease-holder of a home built by his grandparents on Uncatena, where he has spent a lifetime of summers.

He serves on the Cuttyhunk Electric Light Advisory Board and as keeper of Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse. As partner at J. M. Forbes & Co. he has expertise in artist's estates, and in management of trusts and investments.

He is board treasurer of the Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord. His expertise on clean energy investment and climate solutions includes co-authoring a book with Washington State Governor Jay Inslee.

When not in Gosnold he lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife Alice, and together they are parents to two grown children.



Annie Hinson has been coming to Cuttyhunk since the mid 60's when she started spending summers at her great aunt's homes, the Barnacle and the Cuttyhunk Club. After the club was sold in 1997, it wasn't until 2003 that Annie returned to Cuttyhunk with her husband, David, and their two children and they now spend the month of July every summer on island.

Annie spent the last 30 years working in the interior design industry, most recently from their home as a design consultant for her husband's residential architectural practice which allowed her to be present in the raising of Abigail and Sam.

Her true passion is gardening, and you will often see her tending island gardens while on her vacation.



Mark Jackson has been coming to Cuttyhunk since the early 90's and is married to Alexis Spanos Jackson. Their two daughters Waverly and Kyia have been coming to the island their whole lives.

He is Director of Athletics at Dedham Country Day School in Dedham MA where he coaches hockey and tennis. While on the island Mark enjoys playing tennis, pickleball, running, and looking for sea glass on Church's Beach.



Lolly Schenck is a lifelong summer resident of Cuttyhunk, minus a few years when she was living in Japan. She currently lives in New Jersey with her cat, Mimi, and The Limble, her cockatiel.

Her sons Aki and Yuki have spent their summers on Cuttyhunk working for some of the many island employers who support our young people.

Lolly is part of the B&G committee where she helps maintain the property and brings her can-do skills and know-how.



2024-2025 CHS Staff & Board

Robyn Weisel
Executive Director

Samantha Poirier
Curator/Archivist/Collections

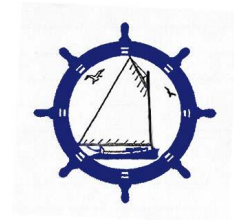
Anna Nagtegaal
Museum Assistant & Social Media

Michelle Carvalho
Bookkeeper

Ben Sadler
Winter Custodian

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**Carolyn Powers**



## 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

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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

*President of the Board*

**Gretchen Kidder\***

*Treasurer*

**Bev Snow**

*Secretary*

**Kass Ardinger\***

**Jane Chalton**

**Horace Garfield**

**Rachel Garfield**

**Annie Hinson\***

**Bracken Hindricks\***

**Nate Hornbach**

**Mark Jackson\***

**Bert Nagtegaal**

**Kate Parker**

**Lolly Schenck\***

*\* new member*



Massachusetts, and to engage the community and public through education, exhibitions, and outreach.

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All CHS photos by or collected by Robyn Weisel

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

Visit our website for membership, donations, and information. Click [HERE!](#)

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