



SAVING LIVES THEN. CHANGING LIVES NOW.

HULL LIFESAVING MUSEUM

The *Messenger Line* is the museum's periodic newsletter. A life-saving crew initiated a rescue involving a breeches buoy by firing a line-carrying projectile from shore to ship using a small, cannon-like gun. This first, light line, that was used to haul a series of ever-stouter lines to the wreck, was known as *the messenger line*.

The Messenger Line

June 2011



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Light up the Night!

2011 Harbor Illumination

Sunset, Saturday, July 30, 2011

It happens only one night a year... The magical, mysteriously meaningful Harbor Illumination. The celebration begins at the museum at 4 pm in the afternoon, with tours of Simple Machines and Breeches Buoy Reenactments. At 6 pm in the evening, we gather at Hull Cemetery, accompanied by the Point Allerton Coast Guard Color Guard, to honor Joshua James and place flags at all graves of Mass Humane Society, US Life-Saving Service, and USCG personnel. At 7 pm, flare-lighters begin to array themselves around the lovely crescent of Hull Bay, from the Spinnaker Island Bridge to A Street. And, at sunset, the magic begins - darkness broken by pinpoints of light, silence filled with the reedy, evocative tones of the bagpipe.

The flares help us Honor, Celebrate, and Remember. Some people's flares honor a beloved parent, others a place of great meaning, and some just shout Yes! to the night, a silent salute to this moment of collective beauty we all create together.

Flares cost \$10 apiece. They can be purchased at the museum or online at hulllifesavingmuseum.org. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the event. Please see the list of Volunteer Opportunities on the back cover, or call the museum to inquire.

Harbor Illumination Schedule:

4 pm - Tours and Breeches Buoy Reenactments

6 pm - Hull Cemetery Commemoration

7 pm - Flares distributed to lighting groups

8:30 pm - ILLUMINATION!

Food carts, offering snacks and meals, will be at HLM all afternoon and evening. Come, make an evening of it: Celebrate Hull, Celebrate Summer, Celebrate Being Alive!



2010 Hull Harbor Illumination.

Photo by Brian Tague

Upcoming Lecture

The museum's First Thursday Lecture Series is on hiatus for the summer, to resume in September. We are proud to continue our partnership with the Friends of the Hull Public Library and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to present the Bathhouse Lectures, held monthly at the Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse on Nantasket Beach.



Hotel Nantasket ca. 1905

August Bathhouse Lecture

Summer by the Seaside: The Architecture of New England Coastal Resort Hotels

with author **Bryant F. Tolles**

Thursday August 11, 2011, 7:30 pm

Professor Bryant Tolles of the University of Delaware, will present his stunning book, *Summer by the Seaside: The Architecture of New England Coastal Resort Hotel*, including a look back at some of Hull's own historic castles by the sea such as the Hotel Nantasket and the Atlantic House.

Honoring Tina Bongo

2011 Staton Award Winner

Inspiring Leader, Generous Heart

By Victoria Stevens, HLM Curator

It is a pleasure to announce that Tina Bongo has been selected to receive this year's Staton Award for extraordinary volunteer service. Tina's contributions to the Hull Lifesaving Museum over the past year have been immeasurable. I truly do not know what we would do without Tina and her crews.

I first met Tina in the late summer of 2010. Board Member Maureen Gillis had contacted Tina to see if she would be interested in bringing some of her crews to help out around the museum. Tina's positive energy and commitment were apparent from our first meeting.

The first project Tina took on at the museum was an end of season garden clean-up. Having hoped that Tina and her crew would be able to do some basic weeding and mulching, we were astonished at all they accomplished! Tina and her crew cut back large amounts of overgrown

brush, rebuilt stone borders, cleared away sand and gravel from storm wash over, and thoroughly revived the museum's lawn and garden. Still, Tina was not satisfied. We were surprised to find that she returned over the weekend to further clear away brush and extend the stone border around the back of the building. I cannot overstate the difference in the appearance of the yard that Tina and her crew have made.

Frequent storm wash-over makes the museum's lawn and garden challenging to maintain. It can be discouraging to volunteers who work on the garden to find that a storm only a few weeks later has again covered the yard in sand, gravel and debris. While we have had several storms since Tina and her crew began working with us, Tina's commitment has been steadfast. We are so grateful for her continuing dedication. Sometimes spending several hours working on a major project, sometimes just stopping by to quickly shovel out the walkways, Tina and her crews have become friends that the museum can turn to when we need "many hands" to make "lighter work."

Tina truly went above and beyond in helping the museum after our basement flooded during the December 26 & 27 storm. The museum suffered the most severe flooding damage it has seen in recent memory, with two doors blown off their hinges, and more than four feet of water in the basement. All of the basement contents were destroyed. The force of the water had not only completely saturated everything in the basement, but had also thrown the contents of the basement into massive piles of debris that we had to climb over before we could even make a path through the basement. The prospect of cleaning it out was overwhelming, to say the least. We knew we could not do it alone. Tina, as usual, did not hesitate to help. As soon as we were able to get our dumpster delivered she was there with a crew ready to go.

All day long, Tina and her crews worked side by side with the museum staff doing some of the heaviest, dirtiest, smelliest work you can imagine. It was an utterly exhausting job. We were so grateful for the help of Tina and her crew—not just for the heavy lifting, but also for the positive energy and work ethic Tina brings to every job.

Tina is an inspiring leader to watch. She leads by example, working alongside her crews with never a complaint. It is amazing to see how hard Tina's crews work under her direction, and how much they accomplish. Tina has a rare gift for showing her crews how much they can contribute to the community and how much their help is needed and appreciated. Her energy, work ethic, and dedication are contagious!

Thinking of Tina's approach to her work brings to mind a quote about Joshua James. In 1909, Sumner Kimball, General Superintendent of the U.S. Lifesaving Service wrote:

“Here and there may be found...[those] who... pursue life’s pathway, doing their appointed tasks without ostentation, loving their work for the work’s sake, content to live and do in the present rather than look for the uncertain rewards of the future. To them notoriety, distinction, or even fame, acts neither as a spur nor a check to endeavor, yet they are really among the foremost of those who do the world’s work. Joshua James was one of these.”

So too, I would say, is Tina. Content to work hard to do what she can to help, and for the pleasure she takes in seeing the fruit of her efforts—as she often says, “something ugly made beautiful!”

No Small Task: Replacing the Station’s Historic Cedar Shingle Roof

By Victoria Stevens, HLM Curator

In just a few short months, the museum will begin Phase 1 of our Point Allerton Station Preservation Project, with the replacement of the museum’s cedar shingle roof. Much care must be taken to preserve the integrity of our historic structure, and the distinctive appearance of our landmark roofline. At the same time, private and public funding for historic preservation projects is limited and competitive. Our budget must be lean, while the work must be exemplary. Truly - no small task.

So, how to begin? By getting to know our building anew, with research and documentation about the construction of the building, and the history of changes made over its 122 years of use. Fortunately for us, Point Allerton US Lifesaving Station was constructed by the US Lifesaving Station, the predecessor of today’s US Coast Guard. Records of early Lifesaving Station construction do exist in the National Archives Federal Records Collection.

These records have been a key source for architectural historian Wick York, the leading researcher on US Lifesaving Station architecture. In 1982, the Log of Mystic Seaport published Wick York’s award winning article on, then, a very new subject in maritime preservation circles: “The Architecture of U.S. Lifesaving Stations.” York describes the care taken by Lifesaving Service architects in constructing stations of varied designs that were consistently appropriate, functional and visually appealing.

Point Allerton Station is one of fifteen Bibb #2 shingle style stations, designed by US Lifesaving Service architect Albert B. Bibb, and constructed between 1886 and 1891. York describes the Bibb #2 stations:

This type, referred to as Bibb #2, was a full story-and-a-half high, nearly square in plan... Looking more like residences than rescue stations, these simply detailed buildings were dominated by a cross-gabled roof. One gable, steeply pitched, often contained two

small hipped dormers, while the other gable, itself hipped on its free end, was topped with a lookout tower... Although shingles were applied to the roof and gables, the walls were occasionally clapboarded.

Just as described by the Mystic Log article, Point Allerton Station has a cedar single roof, with dormers on the southern side, and a landmark cupola on the northeast. Our research has revealed that while the roof has been “Coast Guard red” for decades, as originally constructed, the station’s cedar shingles would have been “neither painted nor stained”. As we embark on our preservation plans, we will likely return to unpainted, natural shingle in keeping with the station’s original paint scheme. The early paint colors for the station’s clapboard were uncovered in the early 1990s through a historic paint analysis made possible by the Jack Hubbard Memorial Fund.

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, Point Allerton US Lifesaving Station is a site of local pride, and national significance; a spiritual home for the US Coast Guard, and a quiet but eloquent reminder of Hull’s seafaring legacy: toughness and tenacity, caring and community.



The preservation of such a site is, indeed, no small task. It’s an ongoing commitment to research and education, learning when to employ the elbow grease, and when to employ the experts. We hope you will join us in our challenging and rewarding mission of stewardship, ensuring that Point Allerton Station will long stand to tell its remarkable story.

Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the Hull Lifesaving Museum by check, credit card, and with securities. Checks may be mailed to HLM or gifts may be made online at hulllifesavingmuseum.org. Please call HLM for information on making gifts of stock or securities.



Hull Lifesaving Museum
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Illumination Help Needed

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

Help Light the Night: Harbor Illumination:

- Recruit Corporate Sponsors - to underwrite this once-a-year community event
- Assist in Marketing - distribute posters, and virally spread the word through social media, sell t-shirts and ice cream at the Station
- Check-In - hand out flares & gear to Team Captains
- Team Captains - to instruct, distribute, and retrieve spent flares at the end of the night
- Flare Lighters - needed for each neighborhood from Spinnaker Island to A Street (and beyond?)
- Evening Wrap-up - assist in clean-up after the event

Other Ways to Help

Build a Sand Castle: Pro/Am team players needed to design and construct a sand sculpture at the Sand Castle Competition during the Endless Summer Waterfront Festival on 9/17/11, 9-2pm

Be our Voice: Help with Open Houses, special events, and promote the museum at area events

Design Posters: Create graphic images for our upcoming Station and Racing events

Handy Man/Woman: To take on small repair jobs at the Station, replace broken lines and pulleys on aging windows, repair picnic tables, make minor repairs to the play ship in the loft

Gallery and Exhibit Care and Cleaning: clean Plexiglas display cases and glass, sweep, and other cleaning duties

To contribute your time, talent and expertise, contact Corinne Leung, Corinne@hulllifesavingmuseum.org

Thank you!

Erick Amero - Digital camera and paper goods

Arthur Augenster - Stackable & folding chairs

Tina Bongo and her crew - spring clean-up of lawns, gardens, and December storm debris in the marsh

Kathryn Earle - Guidance through our Strategic Planning

Ben Fuller - Brand new Concept II Model D ergometer!

Dale Freeman, Triton Marine Services, 2 welding machines

Harriet Guiney - food service items and children's craft kits

Bob MacIntyre & Ed McCabe - boat tows to the Essex River Race

Please See our **Summer Wishlist** on our website at www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org