

Friends of the Plum Island Light Spring, 2017 Newsletter

Friends Board Members (3/2017)

John Vogl, President
 (Vacant) Vice President
 Linda Collins, Secretary
 Marcia Perkins, Treasurer
 Steve Atherton
 Cynthia Cooper
 Ron Perkins
 Megan St John
 Christina Vogl

Newsletter assembled by the
 Friends of the Plum Island Light
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By phone:
 603-672-5379 (John Vogl)
 978-978-462-4593 (Roslin Esposito)

In memory of Barbara Kezer

On February 23, 2017, the Friends of Plum Island Light lost our friend, our neighbor and our leader Barbara M. Kezer. Barbara was devoted to Plum Island. It was her home and she treasured her memories of the island "as it used to be". As the founder of the Friends of the Plum Island Light, she was committed to the Newburyport Harbor Light's historic importance to the community.

In 1994 the passion and leadership of Barbara Kezer and a small group of island friends established the Friends of Plum Island Light. The Friends have been dedicated to preservation, maintenance and public accessibility of the Light ever since. Barbara enjoyed welcoming visitors from around the globe. She especially enjoyed the children that visited and would engage them in conversation to help them understand the importance of lighthouses everywhere.

Barbara never tired of visiting lighthouses. In August 2016, she visited the Boston Light. She wanted to write an article about her visit for the newsletter. The following is an excerpt from her notes:

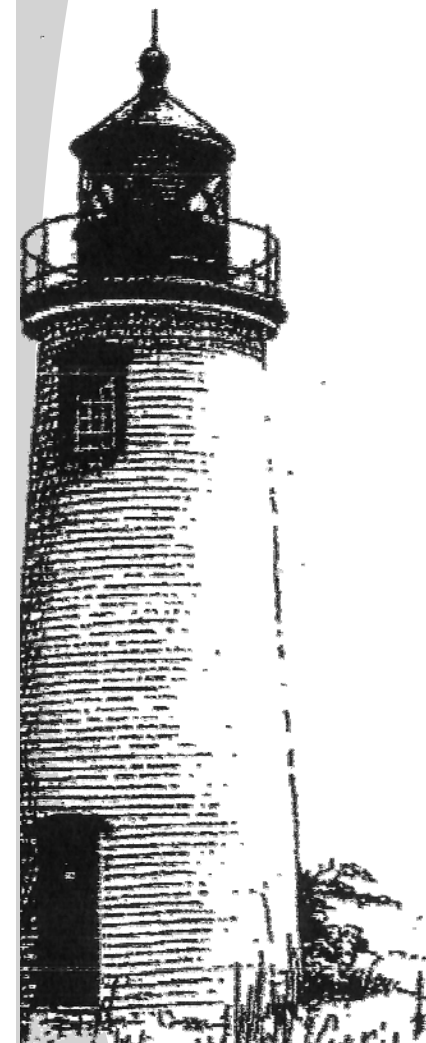
"Just a glorious day enjoyed by Walter and yours truly,

visiting Brewer Island, Boston Harbor, Boston Light-house, celebrating 300 years (1716-2016). Walked a short distance to Long Wharf, boarded and enjoyed a 45 minute cruise to Boston Light on one of the cleanest harbors I've ever seen. What a pleasure! Greeted at the dock in colonial garb by USCG Lighthouse keeper Sally Snowman, PHD, the only active lighthouse keeper in the country. "Keeper Snowman" invited three groups of us to the keepers' house for a tour. Each of the three had a relative that served at Boston Light over

the last 120 years. I had brought a c. 1904 picture of my grandfather George, his wife, mother and two sons Harlan and Thatcher having a lobster feed next to the Island cannon. She was overjoyed! In return, she gave us an auto-graphed copy of Boston Light A Historical Perspective".

From all the Friends, thank you Barbara for your passion, your sense of humor, your unwavering dedication to Plum Island and the Newburyport Harbor Light. Your legacy lives on.

The Friends are also saddened at the loss of another founder of the Friends, Arthur Woods, who passed away on March 4th. Arthur's contributions to the Friends helped shape the group through its formative years. We thank Arthur and his family for their long term contributions to preserving the light.



Barbara and Keeper Snowman at the Boston Light

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!!

Volunteer Dinner at Pita Hall Oct, 2017

Each year the "The Friends" honor the volunteers with yummy lobsters from Bob's Lobster. The volunteers, dedicated to keeping the lighthouse open for visitors also share their favorite recipes for all to enjoy. Next years Volunteer Dinner will be held in Oct. Date to be announced. If you would like to become a volunteer please contact Linda Collins at 978 290-1413



Imagine a world without cell phones, Skype, Facebook, Twitter, Facetime??

In August, Plum Island Light hosted the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) with the Newburyport Electronics and Radio Society.

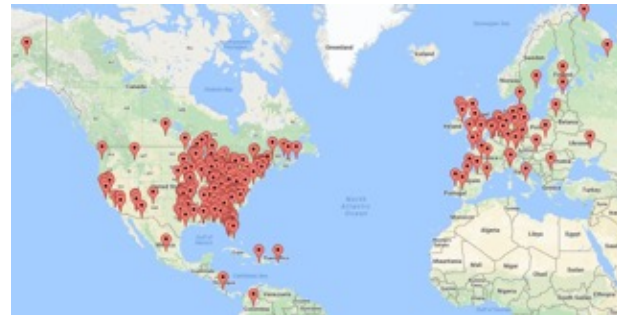
The Electronics and Radio Society is a local ham radio club. Members set up a temporary field station on the lighthouse grounds and were able to communicate with other operators around the world who were also part of the ILLW. Unlike last year, this time the weather was perfect for transmission and members were able to contact more lighthouses than

last year, and from much father away.

The annual event was founded in 1995. Presently, more than 450 lighthouses and lightships in 50 countries participating each year. The objective is to promote awareness of lighthouses and

lightships and the need for preservation and restoration, while at the same time promoting amateur radio and fostering international goodwill.

Learn more by visiting the club website at k1yrd.org



The Friends are always in need of volunteer assistance. To provide tours and education on the Light. There is currently an opening for a Board member.

Lighthouse tours are an excellent way to share stories of the island and beach life with summer visitors. I find the joy is in "giving back" by taking advantage of an opportunity to talk up our beautiful area.

*John Vogl
Board President*

2016 Wedding Highlights

It's always enchanting to be able to witness couples exchanging vows to each other. Each ceremony is unique and heartfelt. One ceremony incorporated placement of a memorial brick engraved with the couples favorite saying on our walk to solidify their commitment to each other. Another couple and their children each poured sand into a glass vase to symbolize the blending of their families. Another couple used the boat house as a backdrop

for the ceremony and photographs and decorated the back seat of their car.

The Lighthouse grounds are available for weddings. Please contact Linda Collins, 978-290-1413, lmanton3@comcast.net for assistance and scheduling.

The Friends are 100% supported by your contributions. Please consider donating, buying a brick and spread the word to friends and neighbors!



Light House Painting and Window Replacement

In 2016, the Friends were awarded Community Preservation funds from the City of Newburyport to carry out a project to paint the Lighthouse and replace 2 windows. The intent is to provide for continual routine maintenance and stave off future costly repairs. The Friends were awarded up to \$12,000, (including a 20% match).

The Community Preservation Act was implemented in Newburyport in 2002. The Act provides for state and local dollars to fund projects that foster historic preservation, open space, outdoor recreation and/or community housing. The Friends grant application was drafted by members Barbara Kezer and John Vogl. Upon notice of award, the Friends chose the local contracting firm 2Penn, LLC to carry out both tasks. Over the winter, 2Penn carpenter George Penniman replaced the two windows on the ground and landing levels of the lighthouse. The painting project will commence in Spring, 2017. The Friends are also looking into repainting the boat house on site to further preserve that structure.

The Friends are grateful to the Community Preservation Committee for their support for this project, the City of Newburyport for the contribution and 2Penn LLC for their assistance and efforts.

2017 Open House Schedule

The Newburyport Harbor Light at Plum Island Point will be open on the following Sundays weather permitting:

- May 28**
- June 11**
- June 25**
- July 9**
- July 23**
- August 13**
- August 27**
- Sept 10**

Special Events

The Annual Meeting will be on September 20th at 7:30 PM at PITA Hall.

At the September 24th open house, the Friends will be host to the 15th Annual Essex Heritage Trails and Sails. There will be numerous free events in the area. Everyone is welcome. For more info, please see www.essexheritage.org

Sept 24 (Sails & Trails)

Tours are from 1 to 4 pm

There is a short ladder at the top and sneakers are required. Children must be 42" tall and 5 years old. Parking and admission are free. Donations are accepted and appreciated.

MEMORIAL BRICK ORDER FORM

Honor the memory of a loved one, celebrate the birth of someone special, commemorate even yourself - the possibilities are vast. Memorial gift cards are available. Due the size of the brick, the inscription may only contain up to 3 lines with a maximum of 14 letters. Nick names and cottage names are fine.

To order, fill out coupon below. Please print clearly. Enclose your check or money order in the amount of \$50 and mail to:

Friends of Plum Island Light, P.O. Box 381, Newburyport, MA 01950

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Phone (____) - ____ - _____ Name _____

Address: _____ Email: _____