

SCUTTLEBUTT

SANDY HURLEY RETIRES



Sandra Davis Hurley
Curator/Director

After 40 years with the O.C. Life-Saving Station Museum, I have decided to retire at the end of October. I made the decision last year about this time and had planned to spend my last summer season enjoying school field trips, group tours, programs, and special events for one more year, but alas, the Covid-19 pandemic changed everything. Fortunately, we were able to open the museum to the public in mid-June with many restrictions and modifications.

I started with the museum in early 1980 when I was finishing up my degree in Biology at Salisbury State College – yes, back then it was not yet a university! I only needed a few credits to graduate and I was taking two easy classes, Lifesaving (water rescue) and Photography. During this time my mother, Janice Davis, and my future in-laws,

George and Sue Hurley, were very much involved with the Ocean City Museum Society, which had just opened the museum to the public in 1978. One of the first things they did was install saltwater aquariums and stock them with local sea creatures. They soon discovered how much time was involved in maintaining these aquariums so they asked me if I would be interested in working a few days a week to take care of the aquariums and do a little office work. Needless to say, what started as a part-time job evolved into a life-long career for me. I started with the title of executive secretary then later became assistant curator. When Sue retired in 2010, I became the curator.

You might say that I grew and evolved along with the museum. How fortunate I was to be able to learn and work along side some of the most dedicated and fascinating citizens of Ocean City. The town's first councilwoman, Thelma Conner, was one of those people as well as Bill Wimbrow, J.D. Quillin, Granville Trimper, Irma Jester, Dot Mumford, Dr. Frank Townsend and his wife, Lillian, Faye and Wayne Watson, and Ken Jordan to name a few. Of course, George and Suzanne Hurley were my first mentors. It is because of their vision, guidance, and hard work that the museum has been so successful. Through the years the Museum Society has been lucky enough to gain members who would volunteer to do research, assist with group tours, present programs, and provide much needed support. I would like to recognize some of them and show my appreciation for helping me along the way. Retired teachers Bob and Sandy Stevens became members and volunteers in the early 1990s and helped us develop quality programs as well as leading group tours and field trips through the museum. Another retired educator, Tom Wimbrow and his wife Betty, came along a few years later and gave many hours as volunteers. Bob Stevens and Tom Wimbrow both shared a passion for the U.S. Life-Saving Service, and I came to rely on their knowledge and experience. In most recent years board members Gordon Katz and Mabel Rogers have been of invaluable help with research, writing, and giving programs to the public.

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HURLEY RETIRES.....CONTINUED

Staff

Sandra D. Hurley

Executive Director/Curator

Christine Okerblom

Assistant Curator

Cara Downey

Office Associate III

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Shirley Moran

Louis S. Parsons III

J. D. Quillin III

Robert Rothermel, Jr.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and City Council of the Town of Ocean City for their continuing support of the Museum Society and for giving me the opportunity to have a fulfilling career working as a valued employee of my hometown. It would not have been possible for the museum to achieve the success and longevity we have enjoyed without this partnership.

Through the years I have had the good fortune of working with and getting to know some wonderful people who I can't thank enough. Diane Knuckles served as assistant curator when I moved up to the curator position and I could always count on her in every way. More recently Christine Okerblom and Cara Downey have been very supportive and of great assistance to me and I hope that they continue to serve the museum for many years to come. During my time as curator/director I have been able to depend on dedicated museum aides Harry Ballantyne, Robin Breeden, Richard Mance, Sonya Russell, and Robin Beauchamp to staff the admissions desk and gift shop and I would not want them to go unrecognized.

My husband Jeff was also born and raised in Ocean City. Together we have three fantastic daughters, two of whom live on the West Coast. In my retirement I hope to do a lot of traveling, especially to the West Coast, and spend quality time with family and friends.

Fondly,

Sandy



DIFFICULT TASK — Decoy carvers agree that the most difficult thing they can attempt is to create a lifelike duck with wings spread. On display at the Ocean City Life Saving Museum on the Boardwalk are many of Norman Hudson's masterpieces, including this one being held by museum executive secretary Sandy Davis Hurley. Behind her is a photograph she took of Hudson at work. (Randy Walter photo)

1982 Newspaper Article

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020 has shaped up to be one for the history books. That is trite but oh so true. The repercussions of this year will affect us for years. But our Museum is resilient and will adapt our operations to make certain we continue to be a vital part of Ocean City. We want to capture this year so if you would like, please share your 2020 Ocean City experiences with us. After all that is our job!

We were pleased with the response when our doors finally reopened to the public. Visitors have been responsible and kind. Our daily programs were well received.

Let me start with some sad news so I can end with some positive news. After more than 40 years of dedicated service we are saying good bye to Sandy Hurley our committed Curator. We are currently draining her brain of all the Ocean City history she has!!! She will be missed.

We've also cancelled our 7th Annual 5K. We are optimistic 2021 will be better (fingers crossed).

On August 17 Mayor Rick Meehan read the City proclamation declaring October 10 - 17 History Week. He and the Council have been so supportive of our efforts. Sadly we had to cancel our third Historic Home Tour but we have some other exciting events for the week. You will find the detailed events inside the newsletter.

One piece of History Week I would like to stress is our Spirit Award. We are looking for individuals or organizations/groups/businesses that have made strides in preserving Ocean City's cultural or natural history. Preservation can be in the form of written documents, structural preservation, artistic renderings, educational material or interpretation. Last year's awardee was local author Hunter "Bunk" Mann, who wrote two pictorial history books, "Vanishing Ocean City" and "Ghosts in the Surf." Those who wish to send in a nomination should describe what the nominee has done to preserve Ocean City history in 500 words or less. All nominations must be sent in by Oct. 1. To send in a nomination, please visit www.ocmuseum.org/support-us/spiritaward. The award will be presented during a virtual fundraiser, Pieces of Our Past, live broadcast on Sunday, October 11, 2020.

We are still waiting for the State to open grants for the Bank of Ocean City building on the corner of Dorchester St. and Baltimore Ave. That is going to be such a plus for downtown OC.

That's it for now. Stay safe. Enjoy the Fall—my favorite time of year.

Until next time.



Senator Mary Beth Carozza, left, and Museum Society president, Nancy Howard, right, enjoying the newly opened exhibit ; "A Feminine Touch"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

FAMILY

Candy Boyer
Pottsville, PA

Kimberly Brown
Glen Burnie, MD

Bill Crabill
South Riding, VA

Benjamin Gibson
Ashburn, VA

Roberta Ginsberg
Key West, FL

Robert Hausel
Lewes, DE

Susan Morgan
Crofton, MD

Mark Rothgeb
State College, PA

Josh Walker
Hickory, NC

Jeff Wilcox
Connellsville, PA

INDIVIDUAL

Thomas Allen
Columbia, MD

Becky Anderson
Ocean City, MD

Daniell Anderson
Port Allegany, PA

Lisa Barker
Reston, VA

Darlene Beckler
Philadelphia, PA

Donna Bevan
Birdsboro, PA

Vladimir Blazamin
Altoona, PA

Brenda Bowen
Cheltenham, MD

Cody Brunn
Rochester, PA

INDIVIDUAL—Continued

Bob Burgess
Falls Church, VA

Angela Canche
Mercersburg, PA

Kristina Candelaria
West Lawn, PA

Patti Caudill
Timonium, MD

Ginger Chaney
Davidsonville, MD

Todd Charles
Cumberland, PA

Kathy Damato
Ocean City, MD

Beverly Daniel
Pasadena, MD

Peter Demers
Ocean City, MD

Kyle Donovan
Pittsburg, PA

David Duitscher
Parsonsburg, MD

Michael Foster
Northumberland, PA

Randi Galloway
Delta, PA

Michael George
Lima, OH

Jaime Giandomenico
Ocean City, MD

Richard Grant
Rochester, PA

INDIVIDUAL—Continued

Julia Haslup
Elkridge, MD

Scott Hynd
Paoli, PA

Holly Ioset
Syracuse, NY

Jaimie Jennings
Odenton, MD

Mary Kasprzak
Perry Hall, MD

Bonita Kessler
Lancaster, PA

Susan King
Pittsburg, PA

Paul Kirsch
Rocks, PA

Tony Kuhn
Reading, PA

Vince Lates
Woodbine, MD

Heather Laughman
East Berlin, PA

Daniella Lewis
Reading, PA

Alexandra Maroudas
Berlin, MD

Kat Masticolo
King of Prussia, PA

Jerry Matyiko
Sharptown, MD

Shirley Melnick
Drums, PA

Walter Migliori
Pequea, PA

Cullen Myers
Scott Township, PA

Rebecca Myers
Norwood, PA

Seth Myers
Somerset, PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

INDIVIDUAL—Continued

Dolores Miciche
Baltimore, MD

Teresa Neuman
Falling Waters, WV

Cassandra Niemiec
Clarksville, PA

Lisa Ninfo
Reading, PA

Pat Nordfors
Harrisburg, PA

Kristin Oshall
Coalport, PA

Andrew Page
Gettysburg, PA

Raynelle Patterson
Rocks, PA

Michelle Petrillo
Wilmington, DE

Zac Poveda
Port Jervis, NY

Anthony Pruner
Annapolis, MD

INDIVIDUAL—Continued

Linda Reese
Endwell, NY

Steve Reynolds
West Grove, PA

Rachel Rose
Northampton, PA

Jared Sechrst
York, PA

Krystal Shamonsky
Arnold, MA

Shelley Shedlock
Scranton, PA

Vik Shingadia
Alexandria, VA

Cathryn Shupe
Bowmansville, PA

Keirston Smith
Baltimore, MD

Tina Smith
Nottingham, MD

Cassidy Spade
Sewickley, PA

Georgia Sprenkel
Dover, PA

Whitney Sterling
Walden, NY

INDIVIDUAL—Continued

Kimberly Straight
Phoenixville, PA

Elizabeth Stratemyer
Baltimore, MD

Bob Straughn
Wilmington, DE

Claudia Taylor
Cary, NC

Elaine Vander Clute
Berlin, MD

Jennifer D. Vidas
Montgomery Village, MD

Christian Villano
Netcong, NJ

Robert Walker
Pittsburg, PA

Michelle Whitman
Endwell, NY

Alex Willis
York, PA

Robert Winters
Newville, PA

Jaela Woodson
Parkville, MD

Kevin Zona
Rochester, NY



Museum aide, Robin Breeden greets visitors at our additional entry desk in the boat room. It is almost entirely because of Robin's enthusiastic persuasion that we have this impressive roster of new members.

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMER

By Christine Okerblom

Summer 2020 is one for the books, as it brought forth new challenges and unexpected victories. The museum operated with different priorities in place. Providing a safe museum experience for our visitors was the most important goal of the season. Required face coverings, limited capacity to the museum, and a robust cleaning schedule were put into motion.

With precautions in place, we moved forward with our summer internship program. Garrett Allen, and Jennifer Brewster, biology students at Salisbury University, were brought on board in June. Their time was spent providing free programs to the public. Together they presented 56 programs and spoke to a total of 433 visitors. Moving forward with our free summer programs was a priority for us for more reasons than one. They have been up and running for more than twenty years and this summer, they provided a sense of normalcy to our visitors in a season full of change and uncertainty.

Our new exhibit, *A Feminine Touch; The story of the women who had a hand in shaping a town* opened in June and was well received by vacationers and locals alike. This exhibit has provided a spotlight for women who have helped shape Ocean City into the resort town it is today. This exhibit reflects resiliency, determination, and grit, providing our visitors with a source of inspiration.

For museum staff, the daily hum of visitors touring the museum, and attending our programs, felt like a victory. Overall, in summer 2020 the museum provided a space where families could learn and experience Ocean City's history while taking a step away from the rising concerns of COVID-19.



Interns Jen Brewster, left, and Garrett Allen, right, are shown using a seine net to collect specimens for the aquariums.

COLLECTIONS 2.0

By Cara Downey

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum may be small, but it is rich in history. As it stands, the museum collection contains almost 30,000 artifacts and is comprised of a diverse collection of photographs, postcards, and Ocean City ephemera, along with historic objects representing the tides and times of the United States Life-Saving Service.

As the collection grows, so does the desire to share our artifacts with the community. In 2019, we excitedly announced public access to our online collection of photographs and postcards. Since then, we have steadily added items and the hope is to one day have the museum's full collection available for online viewing. In order to achieve this goal, we must first reacquaint ourselves with the artifacts.

With the help of our interns, we started this process by cataloging the museum's 10,000(+) paper archives and photographing each individual piece. Garret Allen and Jennifer Brewster, this year's summer interns, dedicated a few hours each week to this project and by the end of the summer photographed and recorded over 300 individual artifacts.

Working with the collection has not only been a fun endeavor for staff and interns but has helped us to connect with the community in new and engaging ways. For this year's History Week, we will be offering a live-broadcast, "Pieces of Our Past," showcasing never-before-seen artifacts. The hosts will share stories that go beyond the specifics of the item and into the history of this wonderful beach town.



Salisbury University intern Garrett Allen, far left, hosting "All About Sharks" program on the boardwalk.



History Week

OCTOBER 10TH -16TH

FREE Admission for all Delmarva Locals: During history week we are offering free admission to all Eastern Shore locals. If you live on the Delmarva Peninsula stop by and enjoy the museum free of charge!

Fall Photo Opportunity: Be sure to stop by the museum for a fall photo opportunity. Pose with our display of fall flowers, pumpkins, and hay located on the boardwalk in front of our shark display and anchor.

History of our Surfmens: Monday through Friday at 1:00 pm join us for a free program as we take a close look at the equipment that was used by the United States Life-Saving Service to conduct rescue. This program will be held inside the museum's boat room.

All Things History Store Sale: Enjoy discounts on a wide variety of books, DVDs, and apparel within our museum store.

Annual Spirit Award: Do you know someone who has helped preserve local history? If so, we invite you to nominate them for the Spirit Award. Both individuals and organizations are eligible. Please visit ocmuseum.org for nominee requirements.

Saturday, October 10th Book signing with local author Anna Dolle Bushnell: From 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Anna will be signing her newest book; Dolle's Candyland, Inc.

Sunday, October 11th Pieces of our Past: On Sunday, October 11th at 1:00 pm, join us for an hour-long live broadcast, Pieces of Our Past, where we will share with our viewers several never before seen artifacts. To register please visit ocmuseum.org

Monday, October 12th Tour & Book Discussion: The Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum has partnered with Worcester County Library to bring you a tour of the museum where you will learn about the US Life-Saving Service and what life was like as a keeper. Along with the tour, there will be a book discussion of *In the Heart of the Sea*. To register for this event please contact Program Director Elena Coelho at 443-783-6164.

Tuesday, October 13th Showing of the Storm of 1962 Movie: Enjoy watching the storm of 1962 movie from the comfort of your own home. This iconic storm swept the Atlantic coast forever altering the island's landscape. Worcester County Library will be streaming this cinema at 5:30 pm. Registration can be found on worcesterialibrary.org after September 10th.

**OCEAN CITY MUSEUM
SOCIETY, INC.**

The mission of the Ocean City Museum Society is to inspire and support the interpretation and appreciation of the cultural and natural history of Ocean City, Maryland, the Worcester County coastal region, and equally, the historical role performed by the United States Life-Saving Service, and to preserve with subsequent mandate the 1891 structure that once served as the Ocean City Station.

PIECES OF OUR PAST

On Sunday, October 11th at 1:00 pm, join us from the comfort of your own home for an hour-long live broadcast, *Pieces of Our Past*, where we will share with our viewers several never before seen artifacts. Many of these artifacts are remnants of Ocean City's oldest establishments. Some of the items are as unique as they are old - a wooden leg, original rocking chairs from the Commander Hotel, and a 1940's chocolate bar in the shape of a whiskey bottle are just a few items you will get the chance to see and learn about.

Pieces of Our Past is a fundraiser that will help strengthen and grow the George and Suzanne Hurley Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is open to Stephen Decatur High School graduates who plan on furthering their education at Salisbury University, Wor-Wic Community College, or UMES. For registration please visit, www.ocmuseum.org/pieces-of-our-past



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