

FEBRUARY 2021



SCUTTLEBUTT

OCEAN CITY LIFE
SAVING STATION
MUSEUM



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WRITTEN BY NANCY HOWARD

We can finally put 2020 behind. For some the scars will be indelible. Hopefully for most of us the scars will fade. So let's concentrate on 2021 and what we are looking forward to.

Let me start by announcing that Christine Okerblom has been appointed Curator and Cara Downey assistant Curator of the Museum. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent staff. Both have proven themselves time and time again.

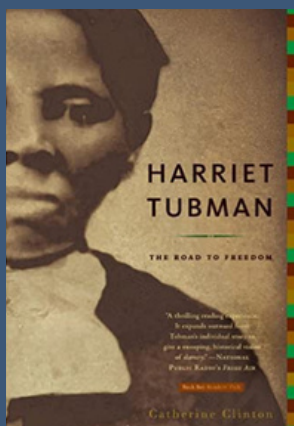


Hopefully when you read this we will know if we received a State grant for the external restoration of the Bank of Ocean City building at Dorchester St. and Baltimore Ave. The grant will allow us to begin the work that will make this building a centerpiece of Ocean City downtown and provide much needed space to the Museum. I know we want to put 2020 behind us but as an institution that is based on history we are asking for you to share your story. If you live in, work in, own a business or visited Ocean City we are interested in your account of the year. Visit our website to submit your story. Questions call Christine at the Museum.

We are making plans for 2021 History Week. In addition to our Historic House Tour we are working on other exciting aspects of History Week. One definite is our Spirit Award. The 2020 award was given to St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church for its wonderful restoration. Put on your thinking caps for who you would like to see win the 2021 award.

We are in the process of organizing a photograph contest in memory of Lou Parsons, a long-time board member. Lou was a very bright light for us and a fabulous photographer. We will keep you posted as we proceed with this annual event. Mark Saturday, November 13 on your calendar. That will be the day of our 7th Storm Warriors 5K run/walk. Keep your fingers crossed. More about that later. Well those are the highlights so far. There will be many more interesting events happening at the Museum in the coming months. Check out the website ocmuseum.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. And we can't ever thank our supporters enough. We are indebted to your generosity.

We look forward to sharing with you what has, is and will happen in OC.
Til next time, Nancy



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Are you looking for a good book? We can help! Our museum store offers a wide variety of books - "Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom" by Catherine Clinton is widely praised for its "impeccable research and its compelling narrative. Harriet Tubman is revealed for the first time as a singular and complex character, a woman who defied simple categorization."

FALL SWEPT US AWAY...INTO THE PAST WITH HISTORY WEEK



Left: Book signing with local author Anna Dolle Bushnell with her book "Dolle's Candyland, Inc."



Right: Winner of the Spirit Award, St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church

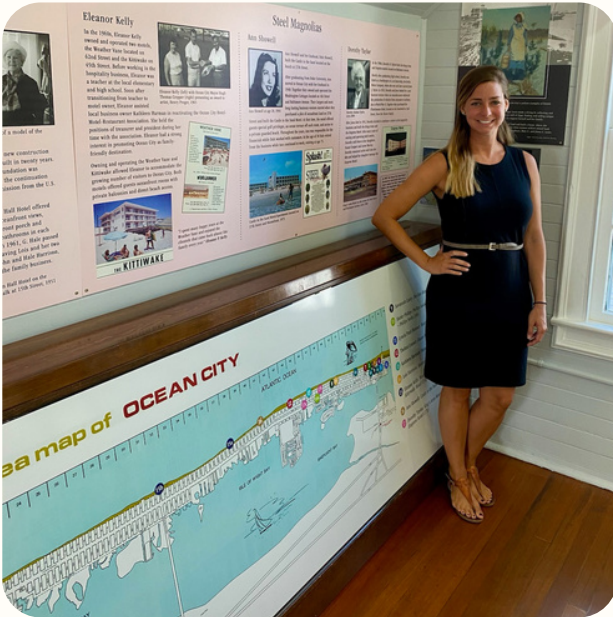
Bottom left : Family enjoys fall photo opportunity



SAVE THE DATE! HISTORY WEEK OCTOBER 10TH - 16TH, 2021

The Spirit Award recognizes a person or organization that has 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. It's never too early to send in your nomination! To do so, please visit ocmuseum.org





CURATOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE OKERBLOM

Dear members, I sit here today writing to you as the new Curator of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum. What can I say other than I am thrilled to have stepped into this position and would like to thank those who have welcomed me into this new leadership role.

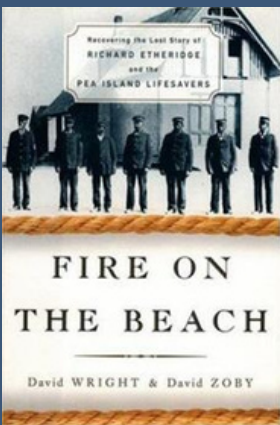
I started my work in museums in 2013 at the Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum. My time at DDCM was spent delivering programs, planning events, and building exhibits that promote an appreciation

of Delmarva's cultural and natural history. In 2017 I left the role of Animal Curator and Wildlife Educator to join the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum as Assistant Curator. My time here, thus far, has been nothing short of a positive experience. Working with former Curator, Sandy Hurley, who has a deep understanding of Ocean City history and 40 years of Museum experience, was invaluable to my development as a museum professional. I will reflect fondly on our time spent together.

I have learned that Ocean City residents, local business owners, and those who vacation here have a deep sense of pride for the town. That pride permeates throughout the museum as our exhibits showcase the hard-working men and women of Ocean City. For the past 43 years, the museum has captured and showcased Ocean City history. My hope is that we can adopt new and creative ways to celebrate our past, and in turn, connect with more locals, vacationers, and everyone in between. Whether that be through our website, new exhibits, or a special event. I look forward to connecting more people to the town we all love and appreciate so much.

Christine Okerblom

Curator



BOOK OF THE MONTH

"Fire on the Beach: Recovering the Lost Story of Richard Etheridge and the Pea Island Lifesavers" by David Wright and David Zoby is the heroic, long-forgotten story of the only all-black crew in the history of the U.S. Coast Guard.

OCLSSM COLLECTION

The museum collection contains almost 30,000 artifacts and continues to grow monthly! We are thankful to those who have donated this year and are excited to share with you items gifted in 2020...



The clown heads ("Jack" and "Chris") were part of a water balloon race game at the Trimper's Rides amusement park in Ocean City, Maryland. The clowns were always named after long time employees. "Chris" for Chris Trimper, a lifelong employee and 5th generation Trimper, who dedicated his life to the family business, entertaining boardwalk families, and serving his community. "Jack" is for Jack Jarvis a lifelong employee of Trimper's Amusements.

Gift of Gordon Brooks Trimper



**DO YOU HAVE AN ARTIFACT THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE TO DONATE TO THE MUSEUM?**

Contact Cara@ocmuseum.org

**DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF OUR
ARTIFACT COLLECTION?**

Go to ocmuseum.org/onlinecollection



ASSISTANT CURATOR'S NOTE

WRITTEN BY CARA DOWNEY

Dear Members and Friends of the Museum:

As I settle into my new position as Assistant Curator, I catch myself looking back on 2020 with awe and pride. I am immensely proud to be a part of such a fantastic team of people. When you take a moment to look beyond the exhibits, the Museum is made up of a resourceful staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, and a supportive group of museum members, all rooting for the Museum's success. Together, we made the best out of 2020 and were able to provide Ocean City visitors with a unique and inventive Museum experience.

Back in March, when we realized that our summer season was going to look vastly different, the staff and Board were quick to don their thinking caps and brainstorm ideas on how we can bring Ocean City's beloved Life-Saving Station Museum safely to you. Here is what we came up with...

During the summer months, the museum interns offered free social distance-friendly programming, complete with fish bingo and prizes. The Shark Program really reeled folks in and provided a half-hour of normalcy and entertainment for Boardwalk visitors, and our new Fishing Program, hopefully, had some visitors casting out their first line.

In October, we did our first ever live-stream virtual event "Pieces of Our Past" with Museum Curator, Sandra Hurley, and local historian and author, Bunk Mann. It was fun to show viewers in real-time fascinating artifacts and to have Sandy and Bunk trade stories either connected to or inspired by the objects presented.

Similarly, we took our "Little Learners" program virtual and introduced our viewers to Laughing Sal and Sammy the Surfer. Sal and Sammy met with special guests and have already learned all about sharks, art, and will soon be learning how to make a pizza! It has been great thinking up new ways to keep our little learners and their families entertained and engaged, and we hope you will tune in!

Right now, the "Save Our Stories" project is in motion, and we are hoping to collect stories from individuals living, working, or visiting the Worcester County and Ocean City areas. We are interested in learning how COVID-19 has impacted people's lives and plan to archive the stories for future generations to read and utilize. If you have a story, no matter how long or short, we would love to save it!

Looking back, I believe we came up with some ideas that will stick around for years to come, and I look forward to what this new year will bring.



WE WANT TO SAVE YOUR STORY!

If you live, work, or visit Worcester County/Ocean City, we would like to know how COVID-19 has impacted your life. There is no story too long or too short. All stories will be saved and archived.

To submit, please visit ocmuseum.org/covid-19-stories



COVID-19 Stories
SAVE OUR STORIES

KID'S CORNER

CREATURE FEATURE

RED FOX

DID YOU KNOW!

Red foxes are native to Delmarva and are often spotted in Ocean City. They can be seen in the early morning hunting in the dunes or crossing the beach.



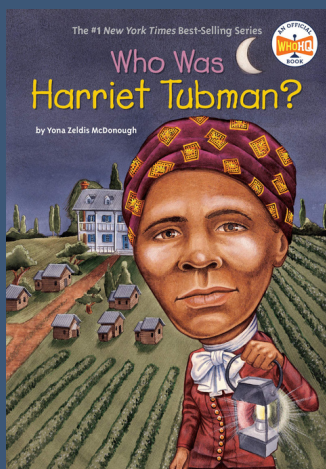
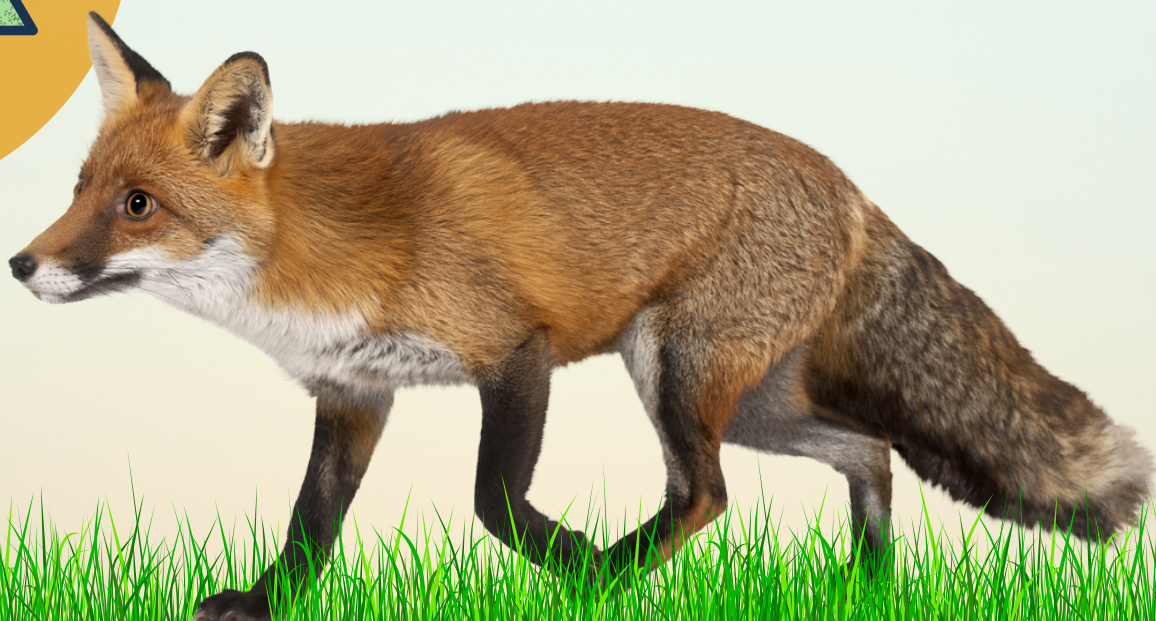
Red Fox's are omnivores who feed on rodents, rabbits, birds, frogs, and fruit.



They can live in forests, grassland, and suburban areas, but prefer wooded areas.



Red Fox's have 42 teeth



CREATURE FEATURE DRAWING: DO YOU HAVE A DRAWING OF A FOX?

If so, send it to us and we will feature it in our next newsletter! Email drawings to Christine@ocmuseum.org.

KIDS BOOK OF THE MONTH

"Who Was Harriet Tubman" by Yona Zeldis McDonough is for youth ages eight to twelve years of age. This illustrated book offers its young readers a view into the heroic life of Harriet Tubman.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO TOUR OF OCEAN CITY'S WINTRY STORMS (1912-1979)



STORM OF 1912 A blizzard in 1912 caused ice and snow to gather around the old Pier Building. Collection of Bunk Mann



STORM of 1917 John Bunting and Lyle Cropper in a horse and buggy on the beach after a snow storm in 1917. Collection of George & Suzanne Hurley



Minnie Birch, Norma, Grace Cropper, Nannie Williams, Gracie Cropper (2 years old) on the beach after the 1917 snow storm. Collection of George and Suzanne Hurley



STORM of 1917: Pier building collapse from snowstorm in 1917. Collection of Violet Davis.



STORM of 1932: A dog standing in what appears to be the snow-covered beach with an ice-covered bulkhead behind him. Collection of Daniel and Janet Trimper IV.



STORM of 1948: Imogene and Frank Gaskin in 1948 with ice on the beach and pier in the background. Collection of George and Suzanne Hurley.



STORM of 1948: A woman and a dog standing on a frozen ocean in April 1948. Collection of John Townsend.



STORM of 1961: A gentleman picking at the ice/frozen sand on the beach near 46th street after the Feb. 16, 1961 ice storm; Collection of the Maryland State Roads Commission.

STORM of 1961: Looking North from 17th street on the beach showing ice chunks piled up on the beach - Sandy Hill Motel visible. Collection of the Maryland State Roads Commission.

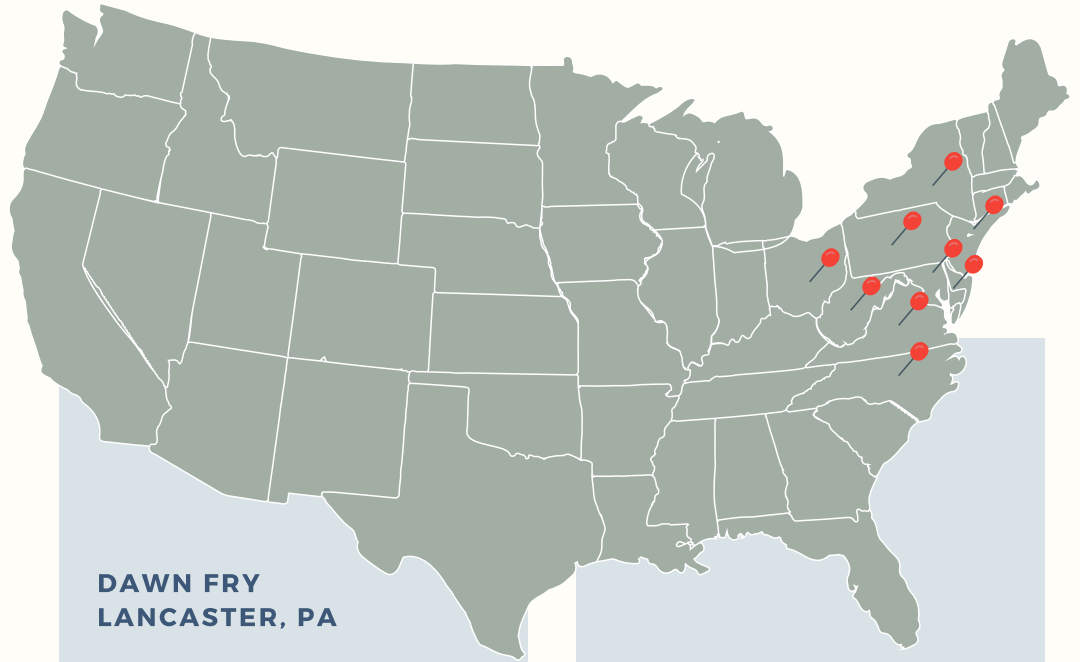


STORM of 1978: Morbid Manor Haunted House on the pier. Collection of Shirley Levitz.

STORM of 1979: Inlet during the Feb. 1979 ice storm/blizzard. Collection of Ken Jordan.



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OCEAN CITY
Life-Saving Station
MUSEUM

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A MEMBERSHIP TO THE MUSEUM? SIGN THEM
UP AT WWW.OCMUSEUM.ORG**

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$30.00
- Supporting \$100.00
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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.

OCEAN CITY LIFE-SAVING
STATION MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 603
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21843

