



# The Seafarer

MARITIME MUSEUM 732.349.9209 [BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum.org](http://BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum.org) Summer 2025

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*George Corbeels*



**Welcome to Summer 2025!**

This past fall and winter, the weather kept us working inside our shop most days. On December 14th, we

held our annual open house and raffle draw, with light refreshments and drinks while patrons toured both our museum and the newly-opened Above & Below: Caldwell's Diving Museum right next door. Check them out if you haven't yet! It showcases the history of diving and shows off some of the memorabilia Jim Caldwell gathered over a lifetime spent diving in waters from Bikini Atoll, to Toms River, to South America.

As a reminder, our museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm, and arrangements for group tours can also be made by contacting the museum via phone or email. While visiting, stop by our Ship's Store! We have new and vintage shirt designs, jewelry, antique brass and many other nautical items for sale. You can also find us on Facebook, LinkedIn and our website, where store items can also be purchased.

As always, we need member volunteers to help support cont'd on page 2

## A.J. MEERWALD ARRIVING FOR TOMS RIVER TOUR

The A.J. Meerwald, New Jersey's tall ship, will be docked at Island Heights Yacht Club on the Toms River from Wednesday, July 9th through Sunday, July 13th and offer events to bring together passionate sailing, history and maritime enthusiasts.

Dockside tours for the public will be offered Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Due to the shallow depth of the river, public sails will not be offered but can be enjoyed in later July port visits to Atlantic Highlands and Jersey City.

Schedule of Events on page 2



## PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2025 MARITIME MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

(FORM IS ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE - NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!)

[BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum.org](http://BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum.org)  

## A.J. MEERWALD (cont'd)

### TOMS RIVER PORT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Wednesday - July 9th

12 pm - Parade of Sail in Toms River to Island Heights Yacht Club (est. time; watch from along the shore!)

1 pm - Arrive Island Heights Yacht Club (IHYC)

5 pm - Dockside Reception & Public Open Boat Tours at IHYC (OPEN TO PUBLIC)

### Thursday - July 10th

9 am - 3 pm - Youth Education Programs (BBYRA Members & Education Outreach Partners)

7 - 8 pm - "Maritime Career & Leadership Pathways" Panel at IHYC (2nd Floor) (OPEN TO PUBLIC)

*Panelists: Jane Millman, Magenta Project; Capt. Fern Hoffmann, AJM; Billy de Rouville, de Rouville's Boat Shop*

### Friday - July 11th

9 am - 3 pm - Youth Education Programming (BBYRA & Education Outreach Partners)

### Saturday - July 12th

TBD - A.J. Meerwald will be the finish Boat at the Toms River "Challenge Cup," the 2nd oldest American sailing trophy, hosted by Toms River Yacht Club. Watch party at TRYC for club members; the public can view the race from public spaces along the shores near the course

### Sunday - July 13th

10 am - 12 pm - Coffee with Captain Fern Hoffmann & Open Boat at IHYC (OPEN TO PUBLIC)

4 - 6 pm - Evening Farewell Beach Party (for Bayshore Center (BCB) Members at Save Barnegat Bay.)

*Members at the Bosun Level (\$100) or higher are invited with a guest. Youth are free and are invited to sail their small boats over. If you live or sail on Barnegat Bay, join BCB as a Barnegat Bay Society Member (bayshorecenter.org)*

## THANK YOU

Toms River Port Sponsors: Silent Maid, Coastal Queen, Mission Spirits, Ward Wight Sotheby's International Realty, Bivalve Packing & de Rouville's Boat Shop

Education & Outreach Partners: Save Barnegat Bay & Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum

## PREZ REPORT (cont'd)



our mission through boat restoration and museum maintenance, and can also use help at the many shows we attend throughout the year. No experience is necessary - just an interest in helping maintain Barnegat Bay regional maritime history!

Speaking of shows - stop by and say hi at Downtown Toms River's Summer in the Street, held all along Washington Street (we're usually in front of the courthouse with one of our duckboats). It'll have live bands, demonstrations, food, cold drinks, family fun, activities, crafts and much more! Mark your calendar for it: Saturday, July 19th from 2 to 8 pm.

Finally, we welcome back an old friend to the museum: Nick Zorojew has rejoined our board of trustees and we look forward to the fresh ideas and help that comes with him.

**NEW BBMM SWEATSHIRT**

Available Online or In-Person at our Ship's Store!

S M L XL \$45  
XXL \$48  
XXXL \$50  
(online order shipping not incl)

## MARITIME MUSEUM @ 50: A LOOK BACK

*Karen Porcello*

As America looks forward to celebrating its 250th Anniversary in 2026, the Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum, formerly the Toms River Seaport Society, looks forward to celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

The Toms River Seaport Society was founded in 1976 as a result of a study made by the Toms River Seaport Study Commission created by the Dover Township Committee, now the Toms River Township Mayor & Council. Its first museum opened on June 27th, 1977 and was a room in the Dover Township Municipal Parking Authority building at 117 E. Water St. until the township sold the building. Today it is the site of Riverfront Dental Care.

A yearly tradition since 1977, weather permitting, has been the Beckett's Bucket A-Cat Race named in honor of Diane and Edward Beckett of Toms River for their countless volunteer hours in the beginning years of the Society. Besides creating the museum exhibits, Diane was in charge of the museum while her husband, Edward was the first acquisitions chair.

After the initial museum site's closure, artifacts were put in storage and board meetings were held in various locations, including the Toms River Municipal building, until an ongoing lease for 78 E. Water Street - our present location at the Carriage House and grounds of the former Joseph Francis estate - was signed with Ocean County in the early 1980s.

The Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum story will continue in future Seafarers.



BBMM's first 50 years would not have been possible without the continuing support of its membership. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2025, Please consider to do it now by completing the application on the back of this Seafarer. Your renewal would be sincerely appreciated.

## IN SYMPATHY

The Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum extends its deepest sympathy to the family of BBMM Life Member, James D. Caldwell, Sr.

Jim founded an international maritime recovery firm and cable-laying fleet corporation in New Jersey. Recently, he and his son, Stephan, became our neighbors upon opening Above & Below: Caldwell's Diving Museum at 82 E Water Street, next door to our museum, to showcase the history of diving and sharing the memorabilia from the field that Jim collected from all over the world.



OPEN THUR, FRI & SAT, NOON-4 PM  
RIGHT NEXT TO THE BARNEGAT BAY MARITIME MUSEUM!

## SHOP TALK

George Corbeels



Through the fall and winter, we completed restoration of our Van Sant Atlantic City Lifeboat (previously mis-identified as a Hankins - sorry about that!). It is now displayed on our lawn with its new gray interior and white hull, with “signature” blue seats and trim. Upon completion, our volunteers rolled right along into work to our sailing duckboats ahead of this August’s annual World Championship Duckboat Regatta at Mantoloking Yacht Club.



First in the shop was “Lady Jane,” which had a deck color change from green to blue, as the former always showed its water spots once hauled out of the water. The change also included removing our former society name. The interior was then cleaned up and repainted as close to the same gray as its original. From there we brought in “Delux Duck” for a

yellow deck repaint and old name removal. A quick job, “Ocyplode” was next for its own deck repaint (it’s keeping the blue).

With all four duckboats in dry dock since last August, we’ve begun filling them with water to swell the hull boards and make them watertight for our August sailors.

Once swelled, paint touch-ups will bring them to Bristol inspection condition (along with freshly varnished and painted masts and booms) to rejoin the regatta fleet at Mantoloking.

“Liberty Belle,” last year’s winner of the “Barnegat Bay Feather-Edged Sneakbox Contest-Tradition” category, for the Hazelton Seaman Memorial Award at the Old Time Barnegat Bay Decoy and Gunning Show in Tuckerton, will need very little work to prepare it for the race.

On to things around our museum, we were able to purchase aluminum ramps this past winter and, with much-needed help from Sea Scouts Ship 6, install them in April. One is at the entrance to the museum’s first floor and the second is inside the first floor leading from Ship’s Store to lower garage and outboard motor area. These ramps improve access to our nautical history holdings for many of our guests.

This past May 15th, our museum was invited and attended the annual Salute to Ocean County, held at the county college campus, and put on by the county cultural and heritage commission. We celebrated with those present the work and accomplishments of many of our fellow county residents dedicated to improving the arts and history county wide. It was also attended by numerous county dignitaries, including 9th District Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr., county commissioners

cont’d on page 5

and the president of the college. At the awards portion of the night we received a history program grant for our local boating restoration and preservation.

To wrap things up, our report on forthcoming summer plans: we look forward to more reworking of the former library space into a new exhibit area that can be used to expand what we already have on display for the Joseph Francis Lifecar. This may include seeking an extant lifecar for permanent display or fabricating a new, more interactive one for our museum patrons to experience. Our museum, you may already know, stands on a portion of the 1868 estate of Joseph Francis, the inventor of this life-saving vessel.

Stop by and learn more about it!

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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**FOR SALE: 21' Herreshoff sloop, "Lucy."** Boat in immaculate condition, restored 2014 by de Rouville's Boat Shop. Originally owned by Slade Dale, she was built in 1951 and has sailed 60 years on and off in Barnegat Bay. \$20,000. Inquiries or to place a classified ad please call (732) 349-9209 or email [BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum@gmail.com)

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### FOR SALE: Canoe Trailer



Canoe/kayak trailer, very good condition, no title, fits four: \$1,000.

Please contact the museum (732) 349-9209 or email [BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:BarnegatBayMaritimeMuseum@gmail.com)

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## SCENES FROM THE SHORE @ JOHN F. PETO STUDIO MUSEUM

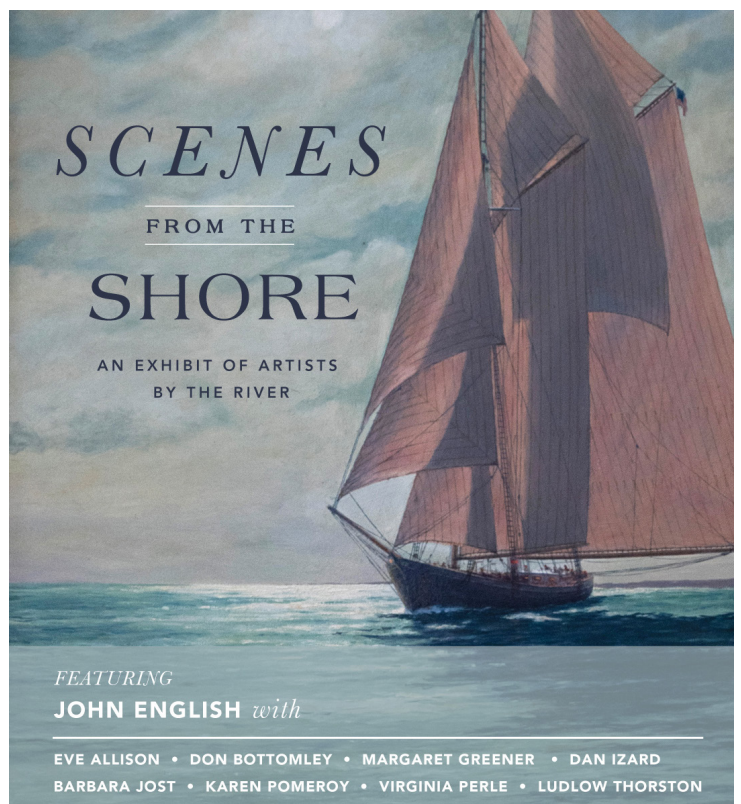
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This summer, all are invited to enjoy the latest exhibition of the John F. Peto Studio Museum, Island Heights, with *Scenes from the Shore: An Exhibit of Artists by the River*, running through August 31st.

This exhibit spotlights the evocative work of featured artist John English, whose art beautifully captures the interplay of light, water, and life along our cherished riverside landscapes. Additional artists on display in this exhibition include: Eve Allison, Don Bottomly, Margaret Greener, Dan Izard, Barbara Jost, Virginia Perle, Karen Pomeroy, and Ludlow Thorston. Harry Bower, John F. Peto Studio Museum curator, together with the museum's Art Committee, worked for months to curate this exhibit.

This marks the first exhibit in their new exhibit hall, which Past President Frank Parisi says is "fully accessible and is an outstanding addition to the John F. Peto Studio Museum... and will allow for further expanded exhibits, additional community programming, and greater access to the disabled."

*For additional information about the exhibit, upcoming events, or to schedule a tour, please visit [petomuseum.org](http://petomuseum.org) or contact the museum at 732.929.4949.*





**MARITIME MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 1111

Toms River, NJ 08754-1111



*Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum received funding this year from a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.*

**PRESIDENT**

George Corbeels

**VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR**

Karen Porcello

**SECRETARY - Vacant**

**TREASURER - Gary Moon**

**TRUSTEES**

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Jennifer Suwak    Stephen Abruzzese  
Nick Zorojew

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR**

Erik Weber

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**MGR.**

Edward Reilly

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The Barnegat Bay Maritime Museum operates at Water Street and Hooper Avenue in Toms River, dedicated to preserving the maritime heritage of the Barnegat Bay.

**Clip and mail to P.O. Box 1111, Toms River, NJ 08754-1111**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Benefactor  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1000 Life</b> |

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*Special Assistance / Accommodations available upon request.*