



# THE POMHAM GLOW

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse,  
*A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation*  
**Mission Statement**

To ensure the historic restoration and preservation of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and to improve public awareness, appreciation and access to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

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JANUARY 2017

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



#### **NEW YEAR, NEW CHAIRMAN**

2017 begins with a new Chairman, Joe Estrella. He has served as Vice Chairman for several years and is also the Captain of the Lady Pomham. We wish Joe the best of luck as he takes on his new role as Chairman.



#### **OUTGOING CHAIRMAN 2014-2016**

Jean Zunda was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chairman of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. She served from 2014 to 2016. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our organization as Chairman for these past two years. Jean will now serve as a Member At-Large on the board and is also on the Events Committee. Your dedication to preserve Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is remarkable. Thank You, Jean!

**MEMBERSHIP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
EXCEEDS \$20,000 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016**

*A letter from Nate Chace*

I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER! Back at the time of our 2016 Annual Meeting in November, we kicked off our capital campaign among our membership to raise dollars to support the third and last stage of our restoration efforts – the renovation of the interior of the Lighthouse. With the \$150,000 grant on hand from Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission to jump start our campaign to raise approximately \$400,000, I had no idea what your response would be. WELL – LOOK AT US! AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016, SEVENTY-NINE (79) OF US, INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A FAMILY, HAVE PLEDGED AND/OR CONTRIBUTED \$20,520 TO THE CAMPAIGN! In addition, several other individuals who are not members of our little group heard about what we are doing and specifically asked that their \$325 in total contributions be added to the membership capital drive, bringing our end of year total to \$20,845!!

The gifts have been of all sizes – some very modest and some quite sizeable. But all gifts have been from the heart. Some gifts have been paid by return mail – some gifts are being stretched out in installments on a monthly basis for up to a year. Your response has been absolutely terrific!!

And given the fact that our total is being matched by our anonymous donor, you have in effect added \$41,690 to date to our restoration efforts.

And we are not done yet! A number of members have indicated that they would prefer to donate in 2017 rather than 2016. Hopefully by the time of our next newsletter I will be able to report addition donations from our membership.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Thank you to the membership for being so willing to step up to the plate – the percentage of members responding positively to our appeal is HUGE. Thank you to Alex Dias, Joe Estrella, Carlene Joiner, Dave Kelleher, Eileen Moser, Louise Paiva, Mike Tripp and Jean Zunda who have all made calls on behalf of the campaign. And thank you to all for making my job so painless – I am very proud of what our small, grassroots organization has accomplished to date, and I look forward to the time when we will be able to celebrate the grand re-opening of a fully restored Lighthouse. It truly is one of the Jewels of Narragansett Bay.

If any of you have any questions about donating or about the campaign in general, I can be reached by phone at my office at (401) 453-6409 or by mail at Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, c/o Nathan W. Chace, One park Row, Suite 300, Providence, RI 02903.

Stay tuned! We are on a roll!

Nate Chace  
Director of Development

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED!**

John Alexyon  
Priscilla Allen  
Raymond Anderson  
Beth Anterni  
Anna-Frances Apap  
Cynthia & Norman Bosse  
Gloria Cady  
Linda & Don Carlson  
Mary & Nate Chace  
Nancy & Paul Clover  
Hilda Connors  
Carolyn Conti  
Janola & Anthony D'Aloisio  
Alan, Lisa, Alex & Adam Dias  
Joanne & Bob Donahue  
Nancy & Don Doucette  
Becky Ellis  
Pat & Joe Estrella  
Delores & Benny Evangelista  
David Gavin  
Louise Goulet  
Anne Greene & Mike Skorvanek  
Kathy Guglietti  
Jocelyn & Dwight Haley  
Cilla & Bob Horst  
Will Howarth  
Erin & Brad Huntley  
Anne Johnson  
Carlene & Jim Joiner  
Patricia & Edward Katz  
Evelyn & Dave Kelleher  
Annette & Paul Kelleher  
Betsi & Don Knapp  
Judie Knilans  
Valerie & Joe LaCross  
Ann Linde  
Shirley & Roy Loiselle  
Mary Aronson Lum  
Celeste & Bill Lynch  
Levi Chandler Maaia

Helen & Fred MacDonald  
Philip Malouin  
Carole & Barry Marshall  
Carol Ann Martinelli  
Dani Medeiros  
Harry Moore  
Eileen & Albin Moser  
Lester Nathan  
Joan & Charlie Nelson  
Robin & John O'Halloran  
Ellen & Ken Ordway  
Louise & Don Paiva  
Patty & Bob Patterson  
Louise & Don Perkins  
Deborah Peterson  
Lorraine Pregonzer  
Gail Provost  
Florence Quigley  
Peg & Bill Racca  
Jason Rafferty  
Sarah Garcia Mata & Richard Ripley  
Thelma Rocha  
Connie Rogers  
Elaine & Bob Scanlon  
Roberta & Ken Schneider  
Rose Marie Sirenski  
\*Susan Socher  
Judith Souza  
Dennis Tardiff  
Meredith & Walter Thayer  
Catherine Travers  
Ella & Mike Tripp  
Kathy Turbitt  
Andy Valerio  
Penny Webster  
\*Wendy Weiss  
Linda Whelan  
Jane Desforges & Michael White  
Susan Dunnington & Michael Wright  
Ida Zecco  
Jean & Gary Zunda  
\*Denotes Non-Member

## ELECTRICAL PROJECT UPDATE

The long-awaited laying of the electrical cable and tie in to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is 99.9% complete. As this is written in time for an early January, 2017 publishing, the only thing left to do with the project is throw the switches to send power through the cable to the lighthouse. The powering up of the cable has been delayed in part because of National Grid's busy schedule. National Grid finished installing the transformers, switches and meter January 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next and last step of the contract is for the contractor's certified electricians to close the switches in the correct sequence both on shore and at the lighthouse and test their work.

Physical work on the electrical cable install began on October 17<sup>th</sup> when Specialty Divers Service arrived at Pomham Rocks with a huge spool of underwater cable. Special Diver began the project with the installation of a trench with a conduit from the shoreline of the island into the basement of the lighthouse. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, with the trench complete, the cable was pulled up through the conduit into the lighthouse basement. From there, the cable was laid from the lighthouse under water over to Exxon-Mobil's property where the cable was terminated and connected to an adjacent utility pole for the further connection to the transformers, switches and metering.

Since the incoming voltage

through the underwater cable to the lighthouse is 480 Volts, a 900 lb. transformer was installed in the basement to bring the voltage down from 480 volts to 240. The 240 volts is then fed to the circuit breaker panel where the voltage can be used as 240 volts or 120 volts as needed depending on the circuit breaker type used. An isolation switch ahead of the transformer was installed as well should work on the transformer or circuit breaker panel be required in the future. The switch, transformer and breaker panel are all of high grade stainless steel construction.

While Specialty Divers were busy with their responsibilities, Friends of Pomham Rocks personnel were busy with the project as well. Four 4000 watt, 220 volt electric heaters were procured. Although the heaters are designed to be mounted in a wall, they were mounted in freestanding steel frames. When it was mentioned to electrical consultants that the heaters were going into a 146-year-old lighthouse, they highly recommended not putting them in the walls.

The heaters were wired with #10 gauge 10' long pigtails so they can be positioned in the lighthouse as needed for proper heat distribution. Additionally, four 220 volt outlets were installed. Two outlets in the baseboard of the living room and two outlets in the baseboard of one of the large bedrooms. #10 gauge wires were run from the outlets down into the basement where

the electricians made the connection to the circuit breaker panel. Upon energizing power to the lighthouse, Friends of Pomham Rocks personnel will go out to the island, plug the heaters in and get them running for the remainder of the winter. The heaters have built in thermostats that will be set for an above freezing temperature of 40 degrees F. This should dry the air in the lighthouse and have the desired effect of stopping any further degradation of the interior materials.

The final contract price for the project is \$301,000. Additional expenses were the four electric heaters at \$260.00 each and associated wire, outlets and plugs at \$282.00. Heater frame materials were donated.



*Cross-section of the cable*



*Cable laying on the island*



*One of the 4,000 watt, 220 volt electric heaters*



View of the electrical hook up on Exxon Mobile's side



The new electrical panel and transformer in the cellar of the lighthouse



The "huge" spool of electrical cable arrives on a barge



### THANK YOU

A special thanks to all those that were involved in bringing electricity back to the lighthouse a reality. Your hard work, perseverance, and years of dedication to this project have helped bring the Pomham Rocks lighthouse to its final step of restoration, in which the interior will be restored.

### 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues will be due by February 15, 2017. Membership levels are as follows:

Assistant Keeper (18 & Under):	\$15
Individual Membership:	\$30
Household Membership:	\$50
Lighthouse Inspector:	\$100
Lighthouse Superintendent:	\$250
Commissioner of Lighthouses:	\$500

Please mail your checks to:  
P.O. Box 15121  
Riverside, Rhode Island 02915

Checks can be made out to:  
Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

**THOSE THAT PAY THEIR DUES BY FEBRUARY 15, 2017 WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING TO WIN A TRIP FOR 10 PEOPLE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE.**

Thank you for your support in restoring and maintaining this historic landmark.

## BOAT MAINTENANCE

The Pomham Santa run on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from Haines Park to Sabin Point marked the last official duties of our fleet of two boats. The smaller “red” boat is always trailered and kept at a storage facility when not in use. Its winterization involves pouring stabilizer in the gas tank, putting all the loose items in our storage room and having a shrink wrap cover installed. The winterizing of the larger “Lady Pomham” is quite a bit more involved. First, Pomham Rocks Boat Committee personnel treat the diesel fuel tank with a fuel preservative to prevent gelling and Microbiological contamination. Next, an alcohol based antifreeze is run through the entire seawater cooling system to prevent freezing and potential engine block damage. Next, the Lady Pomham is pulled from the water at Haines Park by a marine transporter company onto a trailer for transportation to its winter storage site on Amarat Street, East Providence. There, she is carefully taken off the trailer and set on large wooden blocks to support and distribute the weight of the vessel evenly along the keel. Special adjustable stands made for the vessel are then put against the hull and chained together to hold the vessel rigidly upright. Next, the hull is scrubbed and power washed with hot water. This is done to remove the staining from the Providence River, seaweed and barnacles. It's a huge improvement having the hull cleaned like this.

From this point on, Boat Committee personnel take over again and install rigging for the winter cover using large PVC piping and fiberglass strapping. A large tarp is then installed over the entire vessel and tied with more fiberglass strapping. Of course, an assessment is made of the condition of the hull, fittings, bumpers and zincs to plan for any repairs in the spring before the vessel is put back in the water. There is some expense to all this. To have the Lady Pomham pulled from the water and transported to the storage site is \$180.00. The hull scrub and hot water pressure wash is \$50.00 (a bargain). The storage facility gets \$500.00 for the winter storage. In case you didn't know, the annual fee to moor the Lady Pomham at its Water Street dock is \$1,200.00. The smaller “red” boat incurs an annual storage fee of \$365.00. The shrink wrap for the winter is about \$40.00.



*Lady Pomham being removed from the water*





*Lady Pomham being power washed*



*Lady Pomham being prepared for winter storage*



*Lady Pomham all winterized*

### **2017 WORK PARTIES**

We are beginning to plan our summer work parties for 2017 and gathering names to create a new list of interested members to participate in these work parties. Tasks out at the island include a range from keeping the dock clean to mowing the grass. If you are interested in going out on a work party for the summer of 2017 please contact 401-585-4731 or [work\\_party@pomhamrockslighthouse.org](mailto:work_party@pomhamrockslighthouse.org) and leave a message to be added to our new work party list. Please be sure to include your name and contact information.

Thank You!

### **2017 EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Our committee plans and coordinates social activities and fundraising events for the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse such as the annual summer outing, annual banquet and Pomham Santa. We welcome new members. This year we have the following ladies as our co-chairs: Mary Chace, Patricia Estrella, Lisa Dias, Anne Greene and Louise Paiva. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Please call 401-437-2846 for directions.

## 2016 ANNUAL BANQUET

Our annual meeting and banquet for 2016 was held at the Rhode Island Yacht Club in Cranston on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Event Committee worked hard to come up with a new place to hold the event and wanted to try having the event as a luncheon so that it would be better for our seniors who have difficulty driving at night. Our efforts paid off seeing that we had a record number of members attending (72) and the beautiful banquet room at the club proved to be an ideal site with the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse just across the River. We are very thankful to Dave Tessitore and the staff of the Rhode Island Yacht Club for their hospitality and allowing us to use their facilities for no cost. Mary Chace did all the contacting with the yacht club and the caterers. After a social time for the members, the luncheon was served by the staff from Revolution Caterers. It was well received by all whether they chose fish, chicken or roast beef. After desert, the annual meeting was held.

Chairman Jean Zunda ran her last meeting, as she was finishing up her two-year term. Reports were made by the board members. Nate Chace made a report about the progress for putting electricity out to the lighthouse and addressed the kickoff of a major fund raiser to help raise \$150,000 so that we could match the \$150,000 matching grant that we had received from the State Preservation Commission

Joe Estrella and Alex Dias, made reports about projects completed in the lighthouse and Dave Kelleher reported about all the events that were held during the year. A power point program about all the events and projects during the past year, developed by Alex Dias, was presented and narrated by Dave Kelleher with input from Alex Dias and Joe Estrella.

Anne Greene and Dave Kelleher then presented Jean with flowers with our thanks for all she accomplished during her term.

Anne Greene then announced the names of those on the 2017 board member slate. The membership voted and approved the slate. Our newly elected Chairman, Joe Estrella, then addressed the group, looking forward to serving as chairman and asking for help from the membership to accomplish his many goals and ideas. The meeting ended with the beautiful viewing of the rising of the large moon over the lighthouse and the Providence River.



THE 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**JOE ESTRELLA**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**DAVID KELLEHER**  
**VICE CHAIRMAN**

**MIKE TRIP**  
**TREASURER**

**ANNE GREENE**  
**SECRETARY**

**NATE CHACE**  
**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**JEAN ZUNDA**  
**MEMBER AT-LARGE - MEMBERSHIP**

**CARLENE JOINER**  
**MEMBER AT-LARGE - FACEBOOK**

**ALEX DIAS**  
**MEMBER AT-LARGE - WEBSITE/GROUNDS**

**DENNIS TARDIFF**  
**MEMBER AT-LARGE - BOATS**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



### POMHAM SANTA

Once again, Santa made a visit to the Riverside Shoreline aboard a boat. The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse requested that Santa come to Riverside again this year. He (Andy Leddy) met us at Haines Park's boat ramp and boarded the Lady Pomham to begin his trip around the shoreline. Joe Estrella was the captain of the Lady Pomham with help from first mate Dennis Tardiff, and elf Dave Kelleher. Mike Tripp ran the red boat behind the Lady Pomham with help from Ken Ordway.

The group headed out to some cheers from people on the shoreline off Riverside Drive, rounded the jetty and went out to just north of Bullocks Point Light where we then began the trip on the shoreline of Terrace Avenue. That is where several residents waved from their decks, windows and backyards. The group then sailed past Rose Larisa Park and then along the shoreline near White and Narragansett Ave heading to Sabin Point Park. At the park, The Friends served hot chocolate, coffee and munchkins to the crowd that gathered there. Anne Greene picked up the donated goodies at the Dunkin Donuts store on Pawtucket Ave (Thank You Dunkin Donuts) and brought them to the park where Pat Estrella, Kathy Turbitt and Carline Joiner served the crowd.

Santa circled around the park a couple of times as the children and their parents cheered and waved. As was the

case all along the route, the crowds that waved to Santa this year were smaller than in the past. It was a very cold day and very windy. Due to the very windy and cold conditions on the water, Santa and his crew returned to the Cove instead of going to the lighthouse.



### POMHAM CHRISTMAS TREE

This holiday season our former chairman, Jean Zunda, was kind enough to donate a Christmas tree to the East Providence Senior Center 2016 Winter Fest. The sign below the tree reads: "Guiding Santa to East Providence for 145 years!". Our tree was decorated with red lights and red garland along with pictures of the lighthouse as ornaments. This was all topped off with a red decorative bell. Thank you, Jean, for taking the time to put this all together!



### CALL FOR OLD PICTURES

We are currently looking for anyone that may have pictures of the Sabin Point or Bullocks Point lighthouse. The Bullocks Point Lighthouse was badly damaged in the Hurricane of 1938 and was subsequently torn down because of the damage. The Sabin Point Lighthouse, a twin of Pomham Rocks, was destroyed in 1968, leaving Pomham Rocks as the last of 5 lighthouses originally on the Providence River. We are hoping to preserve the history of these other Providence River Lighthouses that are no longer standing. If you have pictures of either of these lighthouses and would like to donate them please send them or a copy to, P.O. Box 15121 East Providence, RI 02915, or they can be emailed to [history@pomhamrockslighthouse.org](mailto:history@pomhamrockslighthouse.org). Thank you



*Sabin Point Lighthouse*

## SUMMER TOURS TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Tour season was completed on October 1<sup>st</sup> with the last tour with Save The Bay Lighthouse Tours. It was a very successful summer. Save The Bay conducted 8 tours, 2 Northern Tours with stops at Pomham, 2 Southern Tours, 3 Ultimate Tours and 1 private tour. Dave was the narrator on all these tours and for his services Save The Bay donated \$1,875.00 to FPRL.

Dave has worked with Save The Bay over the last six seasons and has greatly enjoyed being on the bay and working with Captains Dan Blount and Eric Pifferman on board the Alleta Morris and the Elizabeth Morris. Dave will continue to keep in contact with Save The Bay as a consultant in hopes of future activities with that organization. However, with family commitments increasing, Dave will be unable to commit himself to all the year's tours, maybe just the ones that want to stop at Pomham.

Tours with Providence River Boat Company did not work out as well with most tours cancelled due to a low number of passengers and or weather. Providence River Boat did donate \$225.00 to our lighthouse for the tours that did go out to the lighthouse. It does not look like we will continue to work with Providence River Boat Co. next season.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Dave Kelleher continued to present educational programs to local groups as required by the American Lighthouse Foundation as part of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse's duty to encourage people to realize the importance of saving our nation's lighthouses.

Dave presented his Rhode Island Lighthouses Program to the residents of Brookdale/East Providence, located on the Wampanoag Trail in Riverside on Nov,6<sup>th</sup>. There were 35 residents who attended and asked many questions about some of the lighthouses that they recognized as he went through the program. Refreshments were served to make it a very enjoyable evening.

Dave presented the same program to a group of residents at Water View Villa in East Providence on South Broadway on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. 40 residents attended and seemed to enjoy themselves. They raised many questions about the lighthouses while enjoying hot chocolate and Christmas cupcakes. This presentation concluded Dave's programs for 2016.

## RHODE ISLAND YACHT CLUB VISIT

After 4 months of planning, we were excited to welcome to our shore 31 members of the Rhode Island Yacht Club, our nautical neighbors across the river. They disembarked from their boats onto our sturdy, new lighthouse dock, and climbed the secure ramp to join us in camaraderie in the lee of restored oil house, where a picnic table and chairs were set up for BYO refreshments (since we're still limited without electricity and an unrestored interior). We did make special accommodations for our visitors to receive a special tour of the lighthouse – with caveats about rickety stair railings and uneven surfaces. Kudos to those stalwarts who managed to squeeze into the lantern room!

The weather was superb – sunny, refreshingly fall – the wind just contained. The hard work all summer of our work parties headed by Alex Dias and Joe Estrella, and reported on in the September newsletter, made us proud to receive our enthusiastic visitors. Dave Kelleher provided his usual informative stories of the lighthouse, as well as the Friends' accomplishments in the restoration efforts in the relatively short time since our formation in the early 2000s.

Captain Joe Estrella drove 10 of our members in the Lady Pomham out to host our new friends. How

thrilling it was finally to be able to entertain guests – especially guests who share our appreciation for the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. We are looking forward to welcoming them again.

*~Mary Chace*



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## FOLLOW US ON

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