



Photo by Joe Arvay

In 'Sconset

NEWS FROM THE 'SCONSET TRUST SUMMER 2017



The Rocket Light

**ELLIOT GEWIRTZ,
CHAIR & PRESIDENT**

That's what our Sankaty Head Lighthouse was at one time affectionately called. This summer the Trust marks the 10th Anniversary of the moving of the Light in October 2007. The Light was moved some 400 feet to the northwest onto land provided by Sankaty Head Golf Club. The move came just after the Trust completed a two-year long process of acquiring ownership of the Lighthouse with the assistance of the Nantucket Historical Association from the U.S. Coast Guard. The acquisition and move was made possible by your generous financial support and the support of the entire Nantucket community. We will mark the occasion with several special events this summer including our August—"Sconset History Night" presentation on Sankaty Lighthouse and our family friendly Jog in the Fog on July—starting at Ruddick Commons and ending at the Lighthouse. Our complete summer calendar of events is included in this newsletter but let's focus for a moment on the Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse was built in 1850 at a cost of \$10,000, stood 60 feet tall and

weighed some 400 tons. The brick and granite for the Tower was shipped in by schooner from the Cape. Atop the bluff, the Light stood some 165 feet above sea-level and could be seen more than 20 miles out to sea. It was designed to warn ships off the Rose & Crown and other shoals lying to the east and south.

It was a technological wonder in its day, being the first Lighthouse in the United States to employ a Fresnel lens. The lens with its beehive system of prisms was able to counteract the natural diffusion of light, focusing an intense flashing beam of light through its central lens far out to sea. The Light was originally powered by a single wick whale-oil lamp which needed tending throughout the night. It sat on a platform with a clock-like mechanism using weights suspended on wire cables within the tower to rotate the platform. The mechanism had to be wound by its keepers several times a day and was so for almost 80 years prior to being replaced by an electric motor.

The Fresnel lens was such a success that it was used thereafter on all American lighthouses. In the 1930s, Sankaty Light was electrified and in the 1940s the Coast Guard took over its operation and maintenance. Finally, and after 100 years of service, the Fresnel lens was replaced in 1950 and sits to this day in Nantucket's

Whaling Museum. It's well worth a visit.

From its beginning the Lighthouse was a home to its keepers. While the Light had a dozen or so keepers in the century prior to its being taken over by the Coast Guard, two of the keepers, Joseph Remsen and Eugene Larsen, together with their families, watched over the light for almost 50 years of that 100-year span. Then like now they enjoyed the vistas, the sounds of the sea, the sunsets, the birds and the surrounding moors.

Indeed, within a few short years of its construction the platform atop the Light had to be expanded to better accommodate visitors. Even in Keeper Larsen's time, a summer in 'Sconset would not be complete without one or more visits to the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse was placed on the National Registry in 1987. It is the only original Lighthouse on Nantucket still standing.

So do enjoy your Sunday family strolls to the Lighthouse, stay a while and take it all in. You might even give yourself a pinch to remind yourself how lucky we all are for another summer in 'Sconset.

*This short summary of the history of Sankaty Light is drawn from Rob Benchley and Bob's Felch's book *Keeping the Light* published by the Trust, and *Nantucket Light* by Karen T. Butler, Mill House Press 1996. Any errors are mine.*

Don't forget to renew your Trust membership! Visit sconsettrust.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Celebrating the Year of the Light

ELIZABETH G. GRUBBS
Executive Director

I arrived on island Daffodil Weekend and immediately went searching for island gold: There was nowhere more glorious or in fuller bloom than the Lighthouse grounds where so many have been honored and remembered through the planting of daffodils. Several dozen people were snapping pictures and strolling the grounds on a perfect afternoon. Thanks to all of you who made the grounds so beautiful and secured our beloved Lighthouse for future generations.

We will celebrate all of our 'Sconset Trust lights this Year of the Light. We see the results of your work and generosity from post to post. Thank you.

Please read about all the informative and entertaining events in the months ahead and mark your calendars. Also enjoy and share the enclosed informational brochure with thanks to authors and editors Lilo Cunningham and Cynthia Fraser Gallagher.

See you soon and welcome home to those of you who are returning to the island.



Annual Preservation House Tour

June 24, 2017 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Visit 2 historic Ocean Avenue homes overlooking the sea: 1 and 49 Ocean Avenue

The 2017 preservation house tour will feature two historic homes on Ocean Avenue overlooking the sea. One Ocean Avenue was built in 1919 on the site of the demolished Ocean View Hotel Annex directly above the Sconset train depot. The magnificent architecture is a blend of the English country house and shingle style, which artfully uses brick, cobblestone and shingles throughout the estate. The owners have carefully restored the house and kept some of the original appliances. Down the street "Swallow's Nest," built in 1883, is an adorable Sconset cottage, very much today as it was originally designed. A small reception will be held in the garden. Advance complimentary tickets are required, and can be picked up at the Trust office at One New Street.

—Elizabeth Churchill



The 'Sconset Trust

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Executive Director

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T-shirt design by Clare Baurmeister

NEW EVENT!

Jog In The Fog 4.05k Fun Run & Walk SATURDAY, JULY 29 • 8:30 A.M.

Sponsored by the 'Sconset Trust, the run begins at 8:30 a.m. at Ruddick Commons and end at Sankaty Head Lighthouse. Preregistration required, entry fee of \$20 for adults, free for children and students. All runners and walkers receive a Jog In the Fog t-shirt.

Meet Our Summer Intern Austin Bentley



The 'Sconset Trust is delighted to welcome Austin Bentley as a summer intern. Austin has been a Trust volunteer for the past three years and brings a wealth of talents to the position. He is a senior at the University of Texas studying Geography. He has spent every summer in 'Sconset and was employed by the Town of Nantucket as an Ocean Lifeguard for four years. He has also interned with SBPF. After college he plans to attend graduate school to study Architecture.



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2016 donor report is online and can be downloaded in pdf format from our website. For those of you who prefer a hard copy, please give us a call or stop by the office for a copy.



ANNUAL APPEAL

Again this year we are including our annual appeal envelope with this newsletter. Please support our efforts as generously as possible.

THANK YOU!

A Night Under the Light

🚩 Celebrating the Year of the Light 🚩

Sunday, July 16, 6-8:30 p.m.
Sankaty Head Golf Club

Cocktails 🚩 Raw Bar 🚩 Music 🚩 Silent Auction

The annual benefit for the 'Sconset Trust



Marcella & Rhoads Zimmerman, Chairs

GALA SPONSORSHIPS

1984 Founder \$1984
(4 gala tickets)

'Sconset Light \$1000
(4 gala tickets)

'Sconset Rose \$500
(2 gala tickets)

2017 SILENT AUCTION

Vintage 'Sconset

Art & Paintings

Sporting Adventures

Weekend Getaways

2017 MARKETPLACE

Tervis Tumblers

Burgees & Ties

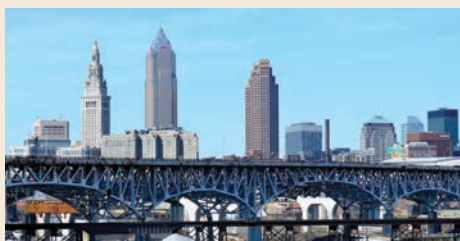
Lighthouse prints

**Peter Millar
Polo shirts**

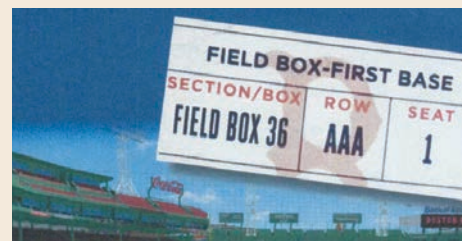
🚩 A Sampling of Auction Items 🚩



COMMEMORATIVE FLAG
flown over the Capitol
on Flag Day 2017



CLEVELAND EXPERIENCE
Two Club Level Seats and
Two Pre-Game Field Passes to
the Cleveland Browns vs. New
York Jets game on Oct. 8, 2017.



AN EVENING AT FENWAY
Red Sox vs White Sox
August 3, 2017



UNIQUELY 'SCONSET
Tour the Village with
a friend on two 'Sconset-
themed bikes



PATRIOTS FOOTBALL
Signed by Bill Belichick



VINTAGE 'SCONSET
Framed prints, Tony Sarg
Alphabet book, Lego model
and more!

A Night Under the Light Sponsors

1984 Founder

Ann and Eric Baurmeister*
Marlene Benson*
Jackie and Bill Bishop*
Lesley F. Blanchard*
Martha Dippell and Danny Korengold*
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'Sconset Light

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'Sconset Rose

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*Sankaty Light Capital Maintenance Fund



LIST AS OF MAY 10TH

14th ANNUAL NYC SOIRÉE

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017



Despite snow flurries during the day, a stalwart and enthusiastic group of over 100 celebrated the Year of the Light and the quickly approaching summer. Karen and Michael Lynch hosted this fabulous event.

Thanks also to the following sponsors:

Karen & Michael Lynch, hosts

Janet & Samuel Bailey
Anne & Eric Baurmeister
Barbara Bispham
& Gerardo Ubaghs Carrion
Patti & Doug Brown
Kathy & David Cheek
Chrissi & Chris Crampton
Martha Dippell & Daniel Korengold
Lynn & Mark Filipksi
Samantha & Matt Fremont-Smith
Jocelyn & Charlie Gailliot

Barbara & Elliot Gewirtz
Karel & Frank Greenberg
Pam & Doug Hendrickson
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Ellen Mitchell & Charles Byrne
Alexis K. Otto
Colleen & Will Overlock
Liz & Jeff Peek
Alice & George Rochat
Mary & Don Shockey
Courtney & Patrick White
Susan & John Whitney



Michael Lynch, Karen Lynch, Brittany Lynch, Alexandre Lynch, Dan Lentz; in front: Michaela Lynch Meir, Andrew Meir



Karyn Frist, Doug and Patti Brown



Russell Filipksi, John Lyons, Pat Dolan, Peter Townsend

Thank you

New **trACK** Nantucket Bike App

We're please to announce the new trACK Nantucket biking companion app from ReMain Nantucket and twelve other island partners. The app features 8 self-guided tours, audio and written directions, maps, facts and photos. The app is available on Google Play or at the Apple App Store, or find it on Facebook.



The 'Sconset Trust

OVER 30 YEARS OF CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION 1984 ~ 2017

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9TH ANNUAL 'SCONSET HISTORY NIGHT

August 14, 2017



» **NEW TIME:** Doors open at 6:00 pm Presentation starts at 6:30 pm

"Sankaty Head Light"

Recollections of a glorious past and the move to save her

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the relocation of the venerable old light. A presentation of the Siasconset Historical Research Group under the sponsorship of the Nantucket Historical Association, the 'Sconset Trust, the Nantucket Preservation Trust and On the Isle.

Mission

Our mission is to protect the unique character of the 'Sconset community through conservation of open land and preservation of historically and/or architecturally significant structures in and around the village.



Image courtesy of the Nantucket Historical Association