

The LBIHA Gazette

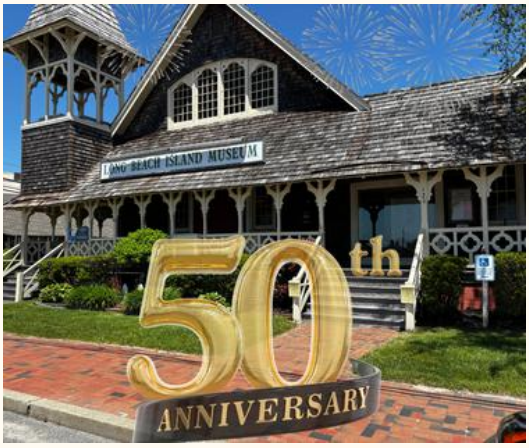
Fall, 2026

Celebrating a remarkable 50th anniversary year—made possible by our community, powered by our volunteers, and inspired by the history we are preserving for generations to come.



What's Inside

- ✉️ From the President
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History is Always in Season

Celebrate fall with music, special events, and traditions that bring our Museum—and our community—together.

LBI Historical Association & Museum
129 Engleside Ave, Beach Haven, NJ 08008 | www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org | 609-492-0700

A Message from the President

As we entered our 50th anniversary year, we knew it would be a special one. What we could not have anticipated was just how wonderfully our community would celebrate it with us.

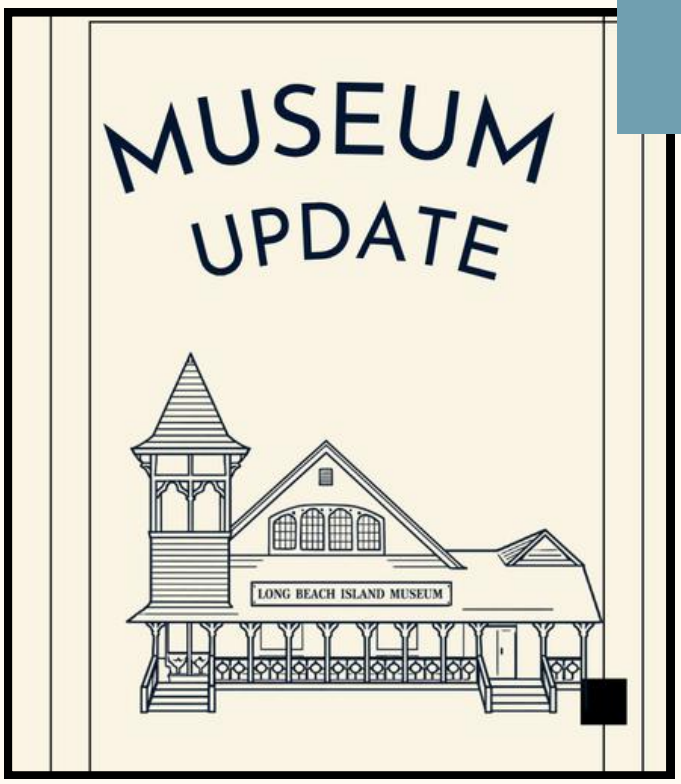
Throughout the summer, our Museum was filled with visitors discovering LBI's history, children learning and creating, neighbors reconnecting, and volunteers sharing the stories of the Island we all love. We welcomed longtime friends and many new faces—and were reminded again and again that this Museum is much more than a building filled with artifacts. It is a place where our community's stories are preserved, shared and passed from one generation to the next. None of this happens without you.

To our members, sponsors, donors, community partners and especially our dedicated volunteers, thank you. Your generosity, enthusiasm and countless hours of support made this remarkable season possible.

As we celebrate how far we have come since our doors first opened in 1976, we are also looking ahead. There is important work still to be done to preserve our historic 1882 building, care for our collections, expand our programs and ensure that the stories of Long Beach Island continue to be told.
Fifty years is an extraordinary milestone. Together, we are building what comes next.

With gratitude,





Museum Update

A Special 50th Anniversary Recognition
This summer, the Museum was honored to receive a special letter and commemorative plaque from New Jersey State Senator Carmen Amato, Jr., recognizing our 50th anniversary.

In his letter, Senator Amato wrote:
"This milestone anniversary is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Museum's leadership, volunteers, supporters and community partners whose continued commitment has ensured that the stories and legacy of Long Beach Island are preserved for future generations."

We are honored to receive this recognition—and especially proud to share it with all of you who have been part of the Museum's story and helped make these 50 years possible. **Click to read the full letter.**

Your Support at Work: Investing in Our Historic Museum

For over a year now, we have been talking about critical capital improvements to our museum. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, members, museum and event sponsors, and every visitor who attended our events this year, we were able to successfully replace the air-conditioning system in the museum! This critical infrastructure upgrade ensures a comfortable environment for our guests and plays a vital role in preserving our historic building and collections for years to come.

And that wasn't all. This year's improvements also included replacement of our handicap lift, electrical upgrades throughout the building, and updates to our technology and internet infrastructure. We still have more improvements on our roadmap that will help secure the future of our museum and exhibits, but we are deeply grateful to our entire community for making this important improvement possible.

Membership Update



Membership Makes It Possible

This year has shown us just how much can happen when a community comes together. Our members are an important part of making it all possible.

Membership helps us preserve our historic 1882 building, care for our collections, create new exhibits and programs, and continue sharing the stories of Long Beach Island. Along the way, members enjoy special benefits including Museum admission, event and gift shop savings, priority access to programs, and member communications.

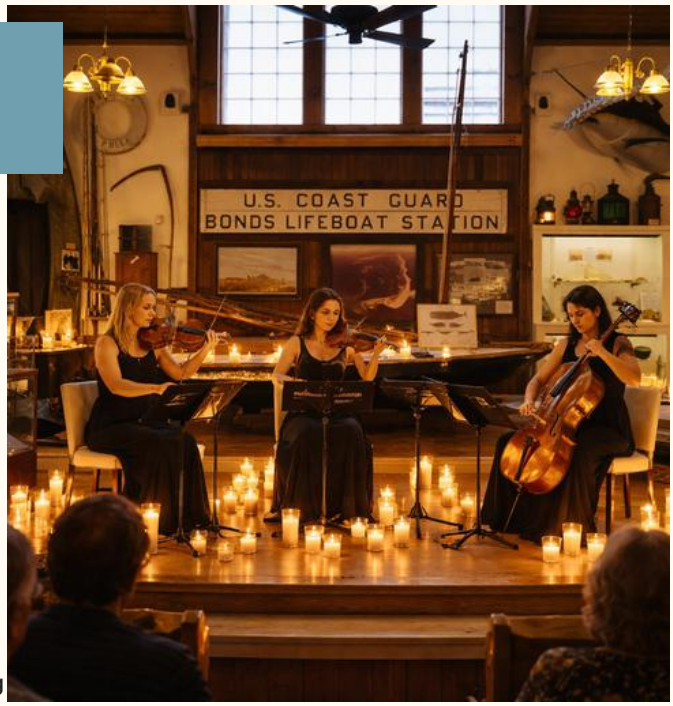
Already a member? Thank you. Your support truly matters.

Not yet a member? Join us as we begin writing the Museum's next chapter—and help preserve LBI's history for the generations that follow.

Join. Renew. Preserve What Matters.
Become a Member

Coming This Fall!

Candlelight Concert

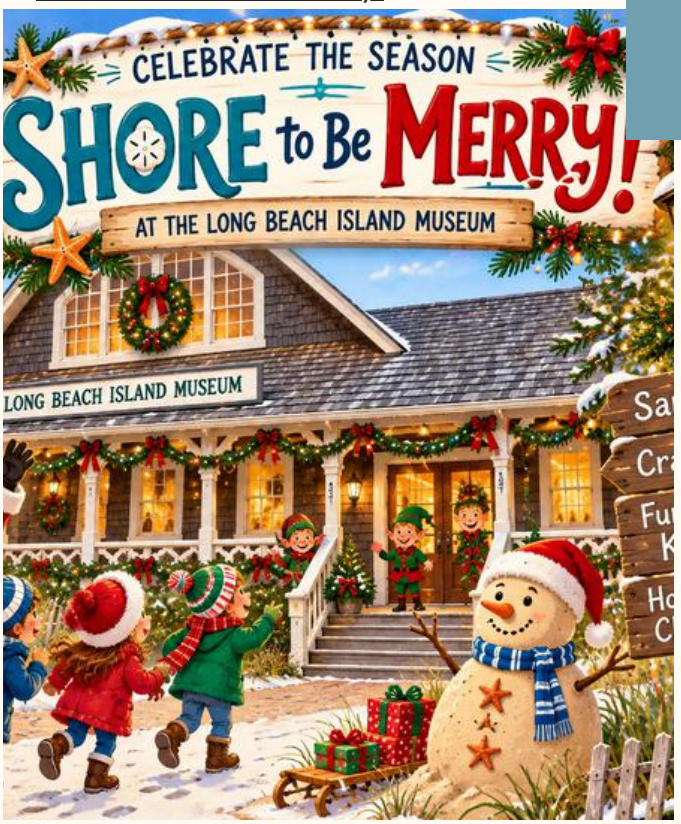


An Evening You Won't Want to Miss!
Friday, October 2, 2026 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Imagine the Museum aglow with candlelight as Four Shore Strings fills our historic 1882 building with music from Elvis and The Beatles to Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift.

Begin the evening with sparkling wine and lite fare, then settle in for an intimate live performance in one of LBI's most unique settings.

Coming for Chowderfest weekend? Start your weekend with us Friday night! And make a night of it with special offers from participating local dining and lodging partners.
Seating is limited – reserve your tickets today.

👉 Tickets Available Today!



Celebrate the Season

Saturday, November 28, 2026
12:00 - 3:00 PM

The holidays are Shore to Be Merry at the LBI Historical Museum!

Bring the kids and join us for a festive day of holiday fun as the Museum gets merry with a little LBI twist. Enjoy a cheerful afternoon filled with seasonal activities, special surprises and plenty of holiday spirit for the whole family.

Mark your calendar and bring the kids – you won't want to miss this merry day at the Museum!

More details coming soon.

Collection Spotlight



The LBI School Tiles: A Story Preserved

A treasured piece of Long Beach Island history has a new home—and its story is just beginning.

The historic fireplace tiles from the former Ship Bottom school are more than architectural remnants. They are pieces of LBI's educational and cultural history, connecting us to generations of students who gathered around the school's fireplace.

Featuring deeply molded, handcrafted reliefs believed to reflect the American Arts and Crafts movement, the tiles carry a fascinating mystery: Who made them? Historians have connected them to either Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, founded by Henry Chapman Mercer in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, or the Trent Tile Company of Trenton, New Jersey. Both were renowned for their handcrafted tiles used in schools and civic buildings.

After the school's 1951 expansion, the fireplace became a beloved gathering place. For years, teacher Mrs. Bjornberg brought students together before the hearth, using the tile figures to inspire stories and lessons about the seasons and history.

When the former four-acre school property was sold to Michael Pagnotta Architects, the Trustees of the LBI Historical Association worked to rescue the tiles for preservation. In summer 2026, Mr. Pagnotta delivered them to the LBIHA Museum in Beach Haven.

Now, the next chapter begins!

This winter, LBIHA's Collections Care Committee will begin the painstaking process of assessing how to separate and preserve the slightly damaged tiles from the industrial-strength adhesive holding them together and sticking to the surrounding concrete and brick.

The goal: a work-in-progress exhibit in summer 2027, with plans to create a permanent display in the future.

A school. A story. A treasured piece of LBI history—
preserved for generations to come.

Meet A Volunteer



Diana Royer

Member &
Museum Volunteer

MY STORY

My love of history began with childhood trips our parents took me and my sister on each Thanksgiving: Williamsburg, Plymouth Plantation, Fort Niagara, Monticello…. While I majored in English at Mary Washington College (studying in the Civil War cemetery on Marye's Heights, overlooking the field upon which the Battle of Fredericksburg occurred), I took so many history courses I was practically a double major.

After completing my PhD with a dissertation on Nathaniel Hawthorne, I was lucky to get a teaching position at Miami University, which oversees the William Holmes McGuffey Museum, a National Historic Landmark 1833 house museum. A Hawthorne story had appeared in a McGuffey's Eclectic Reader, and I volunteered to give tours as a museum docent for nearly 30 years.

Over those decades I procured an extensive collection of Victorian clothing through my auction- attending friend, the late Richard Plunkett. The garments were a wonderful tactile teaching tool to help my students understand the daily lives and physical movements of the characters they read about in novels.

After retiring, renovating the Beach Haven Park summer home my parents built when I was born, and moving in late in 2025, volunteering at the LBI Historical Museum was a top priority. I had attended their Monday night lectures during grad school to learn from John Bailey Lloyd and others, and I wanted to be a part of keeping Island history alive for current and future visitors to and residents of LBI. I've enjoyed my time this summer at the museum and training for the Historic Walking Tours—I even led a few near the end of the season! I truly appreciate being part of this dedicated volunteer community and look forward to my future work with the other members.



Preserve the Past Support the Future

As we celebrate the museum's 50th anniversary, sponsorships play a vital role in shaping what comes next. Your support helps preserve our historic 1882 building, fund critical repairs and improvements, and bring new exhibits and programs to life.

As a 100% volunteer organization, we rely on sponsors to help us continue sharing the stories that define Long Beach Island. Every sponsorship is more than a contribution—it's a commitment to preserving our shared heritage.

By becoming a sponsor, you are helping ensure that the museum remains a place where history is protected, experienced, and passed down for generations to come.

Your Donation Counts!

The Long Beach Island Historical Association & Museum, proudly housed in an 1882 building on the National Register of Historic Places, is celebrating its 50th anniversary—and planning for the next 50 years.

Each day, we see the magic this place creates: a child discovering history with wide-eyed wonder, or an adult reconnecting with cherished island memories. These moments remind us why preserving LBI's stories matters.

Join us in protecting the history that shaped our island—and inspiring generations still to come.

Donate today!







Feeling Lucky?

Our 50/50 Raffle is underway—and every ticket is a chance to win while supporting the Museum!

Members received raffle tickets with the recent Membership/President's mailing, and additional tickets are available for $3 each or 4 for $10.
Want more chances to win?
Mail a check payable to LBIHA and we'll send your raffle tickets directly to you:

LBIHA
PO Box 1222
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

And if you'd like extra tickets to share or sell to friends and family, just let us know—we'd be happy to get them to you!

Every ticket purchased supports the Museum—and the more tickets sold, the bigger the jackpot!

The winning ticket will be drawn November 28 at Celebrate the Season: Shore to Be Merry.

You do not need to be present to win.
Take a chance. Support the Museum. You could be our lucky winner!

Long Beach Island Historical Association received funding from a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission from grants funded by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.
LBIHA is a qualified organization of the New Jersey Cultural Trust.
The LBIHA is a certified 501(c)(3) organization.

Join us at the museum...
where stories from the past spark memories for the future.

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