



The LBIHA Gazette

Summer, 2026

Celebrating 50 years of preserving Long Beach Island's heritage through the support of our community, the dedication of our volunteers, and a summer full of unforgettable experiences.



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A Summer of Celebration Awaits

As we mark the Museum's 50th Anniversary, we're celebrating all season long. Discover new exhibits, attend signature events, explore island history, and create lasting memories with family and friends as we honor the past and embrace the next chapter.

LBI Historical Association & Museum

129 Engleside Ave, Beach Haven, NJ 08008 | www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org | 609-492-0700

A Message from the President

This July, we will reach a monumental milestone: the Long Beach Island Historical Association Museum will officially turn 50 years old! We marked this golden anniversary on May 30th with guided tours, a 50-year timeline exhibit, and a heartfelt tribute to the visionaries who built our foundation.

Our story began in the wake of the devastating 1962 Ash Wednesday storm. Witnessing the rapid loss of our historic structures to development, 45 determined residents chartered this association in May 1975. While they initially eyed a different building, founding members like John Coyle, who stepped in to save the former Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church from demolition or commercial conversion. Through some clever, bold maneuvering, they secured our permanent home, and the museum opened its doors in 1976.

For half a century, our museum remains completely volunteer-run—powered by more than 1,000 dedicated neighbors helping neighbors. Today, we protect treasures ranging from an ancient dugout canoe to our digitized Porch Rocker and oral history tapes. To honor this rich legacy, we recently unveiled a plaque dedicating our stage as the John Coyle Baymen's Exhibit.

As we look to the next 50 years, our mission remains vital but requires renewed commitment. A recent historic preservation assessment identified \$1.3 million in essential repairs needed over the next five years. Simultaneously, we are expanding our reach through our Island Voices video project and digitally cataloging our entire collection to connect with members nationwide.

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Denise Cleveland, Ed.D.

MUSEUM UPDATE



Museum Update

The Museum will be Opening Soon!

Beginning June 29th (Mon), the museum opens daily 10:00 - 4:00 PM

July & August - Open Daily from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (exception is Mondays, the museum will open at 11:00 AM to accommodate for our Kids S.T.E.A.M. Program)

September - Weekends Only - 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Save the Date: LBIHA Annual Membership Meeting!

When: Sunday, August 16th at 4:30 PM

Our members are the heartbeat of the Long Beach Island Historical Association, and your voice matters! Join us for our Annual Membership Meeting as we look back at our recent successes, share exciting updates for the future, and celebrate the incredible community that keeps local history alive. We will be voting for new Board Members at this meeting, as we do every year.

Spring Programs & Fundraising Success

What a spring it has been! From our 50th Anniversary Open House and inaugural Golf Outing to History Happens Here and community partnerships, your enthusiasm and support helped make this season one of our most successful yet. Every ticket purchased, membership renewed, sponsorship secured, and donation received strengthens our ability to preserve Long Beach Island's history.

Now the excitement continues. With a summer full of walking tours, Kids STEAM, Trash & Treasures, the Chocolate Fair, Back to the Beat, PARACON, and more, we invite you to join us for another season of history, discovery, and fun. Your participation helps keep the Museum a vibrant center for education, preservation, and community.

Membership Update

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary season, now is the perfect time to renew your membership—or join for the first time.

Renewal reminders are being and have been sent through our new membership platform, Zeffy. If you don't see yours, be sure to check your spam or junk folder.

Your membership includes unlimited museum admission throughout the season, discounts on select special events—including some of our 50th Anniversary celebrations—priority access to programs, member communications, and gift shop savings.

Most importantly, your support helps preserve Long Beach Island's history for future generations. Don't miss a moment of this special anniversary year. Renew or join today and be part of the next chapter of the Museum's story.

MEMBERSHIP Matters



STRONGER
TOGETHER



YOUR VOICE.
OUR MISSION.



SUPPORT.
CONNECT.



GROW.
THRIVE.



MAKE AN
IMPACT.





Honoring Our Past

On May 30, friends, members, volunteers, and community leaders gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Long Beach Island Historical Association & Museum.

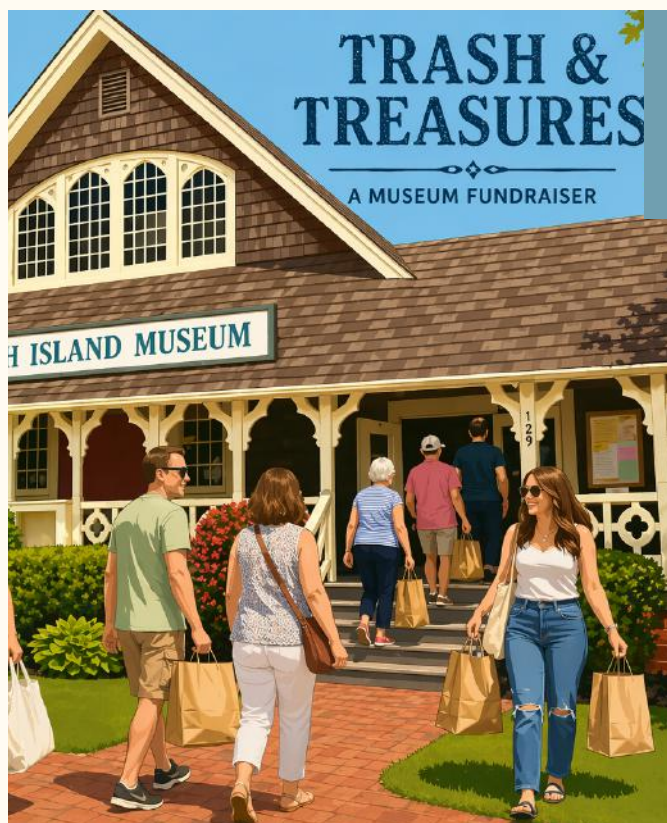
The day included self-guided and docent-led tours, a tribute to one of the founders John Coyle, recognition of the volunteers who have helped shape the Museum over the past five decades, and an afternoon reception filled with memories, laughter, and gratitude. Together, we honored the vision of those who believed Long Beach Island's history was worth preserving—and the community that continues to support that mission today.

While the Museum has spent 50 years preserving the Island's stories, the celebration also reminded us that our work continues.

Thanks to the dedication of our members, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and visitors, we are well positioned to preserve and share Long Beach Island's rich heritage for generations to come.

Missed the celebration or want to relive the day? Watch our 50th Anniversary Tribute Video and join us in celebrating the people, places, and stories that make Long Beach Island so special.

► [Watch the 50th Anniversary Tribute Video](https://youtu.be/7dDoOmQBVBc?si=jfdFJHcZnFG6ggR1) - <https://youtu.be/7dDoOmQBVBc?si=jfdFJHcZnFG6ggR1>



The Annual Trash & Treasure Sale!

Trash & Treasures Sale

June 27th, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

June 28th, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Hunt is On!

Trash & Treasures is back with aisles full of hidden gems, vintage treasures, collectibles, books, games, home décor, and unexpected bargains. Whether you're searching for something special or simply love the thrill of discovery, there's always a treasure waiting to be found.

💎 Arrive early for the best selection, bring your treasure-hunting crew, and see why this annual tradition draws shoppers back year after year. Don't be surprised if you leave with more than you planned!

👉 One person's clutter is another person's treasure!

Back to the Beat - 1976!

**July 5, 2026 | 7:00 - 11:00 PM | Adults 21+
Turn Back Time. Hit the Dance Floor.**

The year was 1976. Disco ruled the airwaves, bell-bottoms were in style, and the LBI Historical Museum opened its doors. Now it's time to do it all again!

Join us for an unforgettable night of music, dancing, nostalgia, and fun as we celebrate the Museum's 50th Anniversary.

What's in store?

- 🎧 DJ spinning the biggest hits of the 70s
- 👗 Best 70s Attire Contest
- 🎤 Best Dressed 70s Idol Competition
- 💃 Dance Contests including The Hustle and The Bump
- 🍷 Libations & lite fare
- 💰 Cash-only 50/50 Raffle
- 🎉 Plenty of surprises throughout the evening



Whether you're channeling the Eagles, David Bowie, Elton John, Farrah Fawcett, or John Travolta, this is your chance to relive the decade—or experience it for the first time. Dress Groovy. Dance Boldly. Celebrate 50 Years.

👉 Get All the Event Details - www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org/70s-dance-party



Looking for Kids Summer Activities on LBI?

Join our Kids S.T.E.A.M. Summer Program

S.T.E.A.M. Into Summer!

Looking for a fun, engaging way to keep your kids learning this summer? Our popular Kids S.T.E.A.M. Program combines hands-on creativity with the fascinating stories of Long Beach Island.

Each Monday, children ages 5-12 tackle a new challenge—from building sailboats and bridges to experimenting with buoyancy, communication, and problem-solving. Every activity encourages imagination, teamwork, and discovery while connecting science, technology, engineering, art, and math to the world around them.

- 🚀 Hands-on projects
- ⚓ Weekly challenges
- 🎨 Creative problem-solving
- 🏛️ History-inspired learning

Give your young explorer a summer filled with creativity, confidence, and fun. Spaces are limited, so register early!

👉 [Learn More & Register](#)

Historic Summer Cottages & Landmarks Walking Tours

Step Into the Stories of Beach Haven

Take a walk through history, along the way, you'll hear about the families who shaped Long Beach Island—from early sportsmen and fishermen to hoteliers, entrepreneurs, and visionaries who helped build the community we know today.

📍 Tours depart from the Museum at 10:00 AM (weather permitting), running June 30 through September 4, and include a visit to the restored Fisherman's Cottage.

✨ A perfect way to experience LBI—one story at a time.

Embrace the charm of yesteryears and create unforgettable memories with us as we unravel the tapestry of history together.



ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FAIR

Step into a world of sweetness at the ultimate summer treat! Delight in a dazzling array of cookies, candies, and chocolate creations that promise to excite every palate. Little ones can savor timeless favorites, while adults 21+ can explore a special section of decadent treats crafted just for grown-up tastes.

From the first bite to the last, this evening is designed to spark joy, laughter, and shared memories for ages 1 to 100. Bring your friends and family, indulge your sweet tooth, and make this a summer night to remember—where every treat is a moment of pure delight!

Get your tickets today! -
www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org/chocolate-fair

Chocolate FAIR



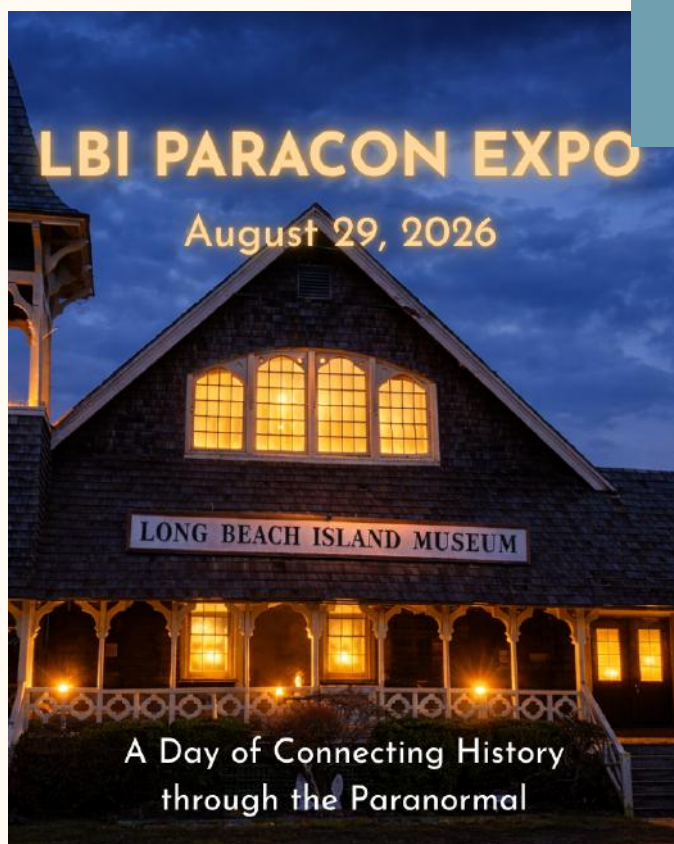
*A Sweet
Summer Tradition*

 **THURSDAY
AUGUST 6**

 **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

ADVANCED TICKET HOLDERS
Enter at 6:00 PM

AT THE DOOR ADMISSION
Begins at 6:30 PM



LBI PARAICON EXPO

August 29, 2026 - An all day event!

Step into a world where history meets the unexplained at PARAICON Expo—a one-of-a-kind Paranormal & Psychic Experience hosted at the LBI Historical Museum. This all-day event features expert speakers, paranormal investigators, and gifted psychic mediums, along with interactive exhibits and vendor offerings.

By day, explore the mysteries; by night, experience the museum like never before. Whether you're curious or convinced, PARAICON invites you to discover, question, and connect—all while supporting the preservation of LBI's rich history.

You won't want to miss this!
www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org/lbi-paraicon

Coming This Fall!

Candlelight Concert

Join us for an unforgettable evening where beautiful music fills the historic halls of the Museum. On Friday, October 2, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 PM, Four Shore Strings will perform a captivating program featuring favorites spanning generations—from Elvis to Ed Sheeran and The Beatles to Taylor Swift.

Begin the evening with a glass of sparkling wine and lite fare from 5:30-6:00 PM, then relax and enjoy the performance in the warm glow of candlelight. Surrounded by history and immersed in music, this unique concert experience promises to be a memorable highlight of the season.



Candlelight Concert in the Museum
October 2, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Learn more and reserve your seat.

www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org/candlelight-concert

Celebrate the Season

Celebrate the Season. WINTER WONDERLAND IN THE MUSEUM

Create and Celebrate with Santa's Elves

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



Details Coming Soon

Celebrate the Season - A Holiday Tradition for Kids!

Kick off the holiday season with a festive morning of creativity, fun, and holiday magic at the Museum! Held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Celebrate the Season invites children and their families to enjoy hands-on maker projects, create special holiday crafts, write letters to Santa, and share in the excitement of meeting Santa himself.

Designed to spark imagination and create lasting memories, this cheerful event has become a favorite tradition for local families and visitors alike. Join us as we welcome the season with smiles, creativity, and a little holiday wonder.

Collection Spotlight

The LBI Historical Museum first opened its doors nearly 50 years ago—July 3, 1976. This summer we mark that milestone with a special exhibit celebrating the museum's founding and other key moments from the past half-century. To offer a glimpse of this special exhibit, we've included a photograph below. We hope it inspires you to visit the Museum and explore the many fascinating artifacts and stories featured during our golden anniversary year.

The photo shows the ribbon-cutting celebration on the museum porch. Local leaders and long-time island residents who supported the museum stand together in that moment of civic pride.



From left to right...

- **Hilda Kugler.** The museum currently has little information about Hilda and welcomes your input.
- **James Mancini, Sr.,** was Mayor of Long Beach Township for 22 years and later as Ocean County freeholder (now called County Commissioner). His service gave LBI a strong voice in county government.
- **Father Martin** was then rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents.
- Jack Lamping worked as a Tourist Agent for Ocean County and promoted LBI tourism with enthusiasm and an upbeat personality.
- Harvey Cedars Mayor **Reynold Thomas.** Thomas and his wife moved to Harvey Cedars in 1934. He served as mayor from 1955 until his death in 1983.
- **Robert Okevich** appears beside Mayor Thomas; we would welcome any details about him.
- **Mrs. Merle Grant**—cutting the ribbon— and her husband lived on 3rd Street in Beach Haven. As year-round island residents, her husband worked various jobs, including the town taxi service.
- Mayor **Robert Nissen**, Ship Bottom. A 58-year resident, he served 23 years as mayor and 10 years on the council and was secretary of the Ocean County Mayors for a decade. He was also deeply involved with the Boy Scouts for 18 years—and helped start the Ship Bottom Christmas Parade.
- Standing next to Mayor Nissen is **Jack Gardner**; information about him would be appreciated.
- **Karen (Mrs. Norm) Bosley** was an active youth volunteer—working with Cub Scouts and Little League.
- **Clara (Mrs. Julius) Robinson.** Clara and her husband were founding members of the Jewish Community Center in Spray Beach. Julius, an attorney, helped found the LBI Historical Association. The Robinsons also helped lead the project to acquire the Fisherman's Cottage that currently sits on museum property.
- **John A. Coyle** was the LBIHA Board president in 1976. John's history with the island and the museum were recently celebrated at the museum when its Baymen Exhibit was named in his honor.

These people represent a mix of civic leadership, volunteerism, and community ties—qualities that built the island's institutions and continue to shape life on Long Beach Island today. If you can add stories or photos of anyone pictured, or if you'd like to help care for museum artifacts and create exhibits, please contact us at lbimuseumevents@gmail.com.

Meet A Volunteer



Jan Gartland

Member &
Museum Volunteer

MY STORY

Volunteering has always been important to me. I have volunteered for as long as I can remember. I believe this country succeeds in large part based on its volunteers. It has a major impact on people, their families and their communities.

This will be my third year as a docent and my second year as a board member at the museum. This is something new for me since my time previous to the museum was spent volunteering in schools, hospitals and places related to needy children and their education. I have found the museum to be a wonderful resource for teaching children through its STEAM program held every Monday in the summer. The volunteers have also invited students from the local schools and summer camps to visit and enrich their knowledge of the history of the island.

It has been an honor to serve with such passionate people who are dedicated to preserving the history of the island using their knowledge and technical skills. The island became our home four years ago and I will continue to contribute to the preservation and future of the museum and to the island.

As a former teacher, I would always tell my students that every one of us has a gift, some are easily detected, but others take time to discover. I feel the same way about the museum. It is a very special gift that must be taken care of and preserved for years to come.

[Join the legacy. Share the journey.](#)

Be Part of the
Next 50 Years

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.

*Your sponsorship helps protect our 1882 landmark
and keep LBI's stories alive.*

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!





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



 129 Engleside Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008



www.lbihistoricalmuseum.org



609-492-0700

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.

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

