The LBIHA Gazette

Winter, 2026

2026 is shaping up to be unforgettable—join us for a year full of events, discoveries, and fun!

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Celebrating 50 Years

In 2026, the Long Beach Island Historical Association proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary. For half a century, we've worked to protect the island's heritage through exhibitions, education, and community programs. This golden milestone is a tribute to everyone who has helped keep LBI's history alive—and an invitation to celebrate with us all year long.

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

A Message from the President

From all of us at the LBI Historical Association, we wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

For nearly 50 years, the Long Beach Island Historical Museum has preserved the people, places, and events that define one of New Jersey's most distinctive coastal communities.

Conceived and built by residents concerned that the island's past was being lost to development, storms, and time, the LBIHA established the Museum dedicated to collecting, researching, and sharing LBI's history. Today, the Museum is housed in the former Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, an iconic 1882 landmark saved and repurposed as a home for the island's stories.

The Museum's exhibits chronicle centuries of island life—from early Native American presence and maritime traditions to shipwrecks, the U.S. Life-Saving Service, lost communities like Tucker's Island, and the growth of fishing villages, resorts, and family businesses. As physical reminders of the past disappear, the Museum safeguards the collective memory of the island.

To mark its 50th anniversary, the Museum will host a yearlong schedule of special programs and events, including:

- The launch of History Happens Here, the rebranded Speaker Series, Monday Night Talks, beginning January 21st,
- New virtual History Happy Hours start February 11,

Along with anniversary highlights such as:

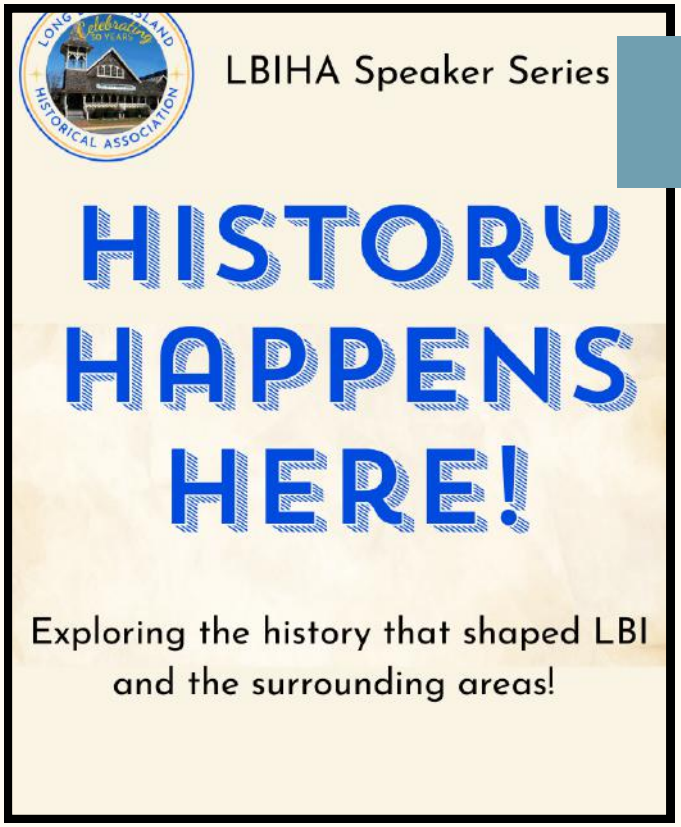
- The inaugural Golf Outing Fundraiser on May 4th,
- An Open House on May 30th, and
- A 1970s-themed dance party on July 5th,
- A Candlelight Concert on October 2nd.

What began as a grassroots effort has grown into a cultural cornerstone—ensuring the stories of Long Beach Island are preserved for generations to come. Our museum was built by the community for the community.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families to the museum this year, starting January 21st. We hope you will enjoy our programs. Please visit our website for details on these and other events.

Denise Cleveland Ed.D.

Denise Cleveland, ~~Ed.D.~~



History Happens Here!

We're excited to introduce a fresh new format for our Speaker Series—designed to make exploring local history more accessible, engaging, and fun than ever before. Programs will be held on specific Wednesdays, beginning January 21st and continuing through June 17th. Evening sessions are online only.

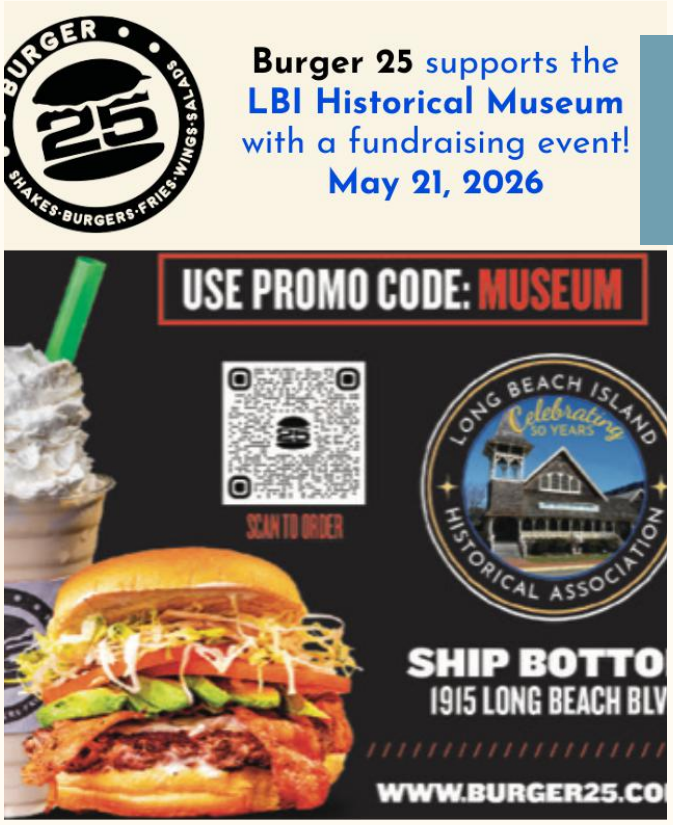
Join us in person at the museum at 1:00 PM (doors open at 12:30), we welcome you with delicious, warm coffee provided by Whittingham Coffee House and tasty morsels from Baked on the Beach for a relaxed and social afternoon of learning.

Prefer to tune in from home? Our **History Happy Hour, held online via Zoom at 5:00 PM**, kicks off with our favorite bartender showcasing a featured cocktail inspired by the evening's topic.

LBIHA Golf Outing

Tee up for an unforgettable day!
Join us **May 4, 2026** at LBI National Golf & Resort for the LBIHA Golf Outing Fundraiser—featuring a box lunch, shotgun start at 1:00 PM, fun on-course challenges, a delicious buffet dinner, and exciting gift basket raffles.

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, proceeds will support much-needed improvements to our historic 1882 museum building. **Don't miss this chance to play, celebrate, and support LBI history!**



Burger 25 Supports LBIHA

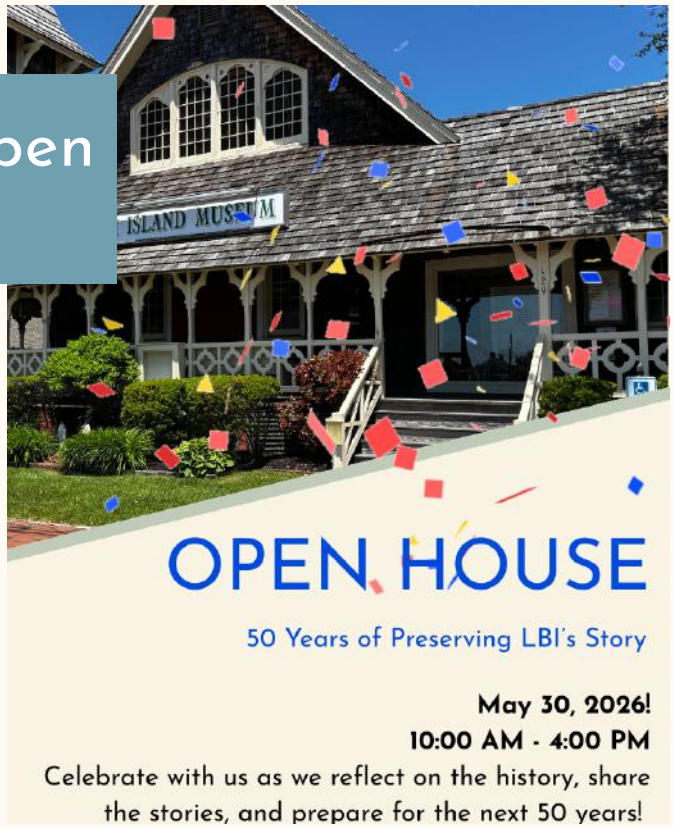
Get ready for an exciting day of community spirit and mouthwatering bites! On **May 21, 2026, Burger 25** is teaming up with the LBIHA for a delicious fundraiser that you won't want to miss.

When you swing by the Ship Bottom location, **25% of all food purchases will go directly to supporting the museum,** helping to preserve our rich local heritage. So grab your friends, **bring the flyer, see attachd**, or order online and use the **online code MUSEUM** to make your meal count! Who knew that indulging in a juicy burger could also mean helping to keep our island's history alive?

50th Anniversary - Open House!

Join us, Saturday, May 30th, 10:00 - 4:00, for our 50th anniversary milestone celebration at the LBI Historical Museum as we mark 50 years of preserving Long Beach Island's history. This special Open House will:

- Honor our founders and their vision for the museum and the island,
- Guided tours of the museum - share the stories and history that shaped our community,
- A tribute to John Coyle, president of the LBIHA steering the opening of the museum in 1976,
- Celebrate five decades of preservation while looking ahead to the future.



Back to the Beat - 1976

It's a **far-out Seventies Dance Party** as we celebrate 50 groovy years of the LBI Historical Association & Museum.

Dust off your bell-bottoms, grab your platform shoes, and hit the dance floor for a night of disco, funk, and unforgettable memories.

The evening includes delicious libations, lite fare, and music provided by a DJ, so you can sip, snack, and dance the night away!
📅 Date: July 5, 2026
🕺 Time: 7:00 - 11:00 PM
📍 Location: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, Beach Haven, NJ

Candlelight Concert

Experience an enchanting evening where music and history meet. On **October 2, 2026, from 5:30–7:00 PM**, the museum glows by candlelight as Four Shore Strings performs an inspired program spanning generations—from Elvis to Ed Sheeran, the Beatles to Taylor Swift—all within our unique museum setting.

Begin the night with quiet background music, a glass of sparkling wine and lite fare from 5:30–6:00 PM, then settle in to relax and enjoy a truly unforgettable concert experience. ✨

Our Signature Summer Events

Join us for two days of treasure hunting where you'll uncover unique finds at prices that will make your wallet sing! From gently used pots and pans to charming small furniture, vintage gems, games, toys, and books, there's something for everyone!

Everything must go, so grab your friends and family and make a day of it—because who doesn't love scoring a fantastic bargain? Plus, don't forget, not all treasures are buried; some are just waiting for you to discover them right here at our museum!

Get ready for creativity and fun at the Summer Kids S.T.E.A.M Program! Designed for kids aged 5 to 12, this exciting adventure blends STEAM activities with fascinating historical artifacts.

Every week, families dive into a brand new design challenge that sparks imagination and teamwork, turning problem-solving into an unforgettable family affair. The program will run Monday mornings in July & August. Check out this summer's program online!

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!

Collection Spotlight

Behind the scenes, the Museum's Collections Care Committee has been bringing Long Beach Island's past to life—one artifact at a time. Throughout the winter months, the committee has been hard at work processing new acquisitions and refreshing Museum exhibits.

One recently completed exhibit highlights early Long Beach Island shops and merchants. Artifacts once displayed across several areas have been thoughtfully consolidated to tell a stronger, more cohesive story of island commerce. This engaging glimpse into early business life features Cranmer Nails, milk delivery on LBI, the Beach Haven Ice Company, and a detailed General Store model.

Enhancing the experience, the exhibit includes a QR code that allows visitors to listen to Joe Sprague, a lifelong LBI resident, discuss milk delivery on LBI, recorded in 1982 as part of the Museum's Porch Rocker Sessions. These original analog recordings are currently being converted to digital format to preserve them for future generations.

A second new exhibit, now nearing completion, focuses on military uniforms and artifacts. This growing collection complements local efforts to recognize the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary and features clothing, equipment, and personal items donated by LBI residents who served. Together, these exhibits reflect the Museum's ongoing commitment to preserving and sharing the stories of Long Beach Island and its people.

These exhibits are more than artifacts—they're the stories of our island and its people. History has never looked so good—come take a closer look!

Member Spotlight
Lily Myers-Cooke

Hello, my name is Lily Myers-Cooke. I' m originally from Los Angeles, California and before I moved to Long Beach Island I thought of New Jersey as New York' s ugly cousin. I didn ’t know anything about The Jersey Shore aside from a television show that need not be mentioned. My ignorance was vast. I arrived on Long Beach Island by chance and by love. And now it will forever hold a place in my heart. My fiancé was born and raised here. We first came in 2020 and did a pop-up shop, then eventually moved here in 2022 to open the business permanently. I currently own and operate Sunny in Surf City. We sell vintage clothing, records, art and our own line of clothing which we design and print on site.

My experience here has been a unique one, because I have never experienced this place as a vacation destination. I have been working and owning a business here since I arrived. An unusual privilege that provides a varied perspective. I was fascinated by Long Beach Island from the moment I got here. An 18 mile island off the coast of New Jersey? Even geographically it’ s bizarre!

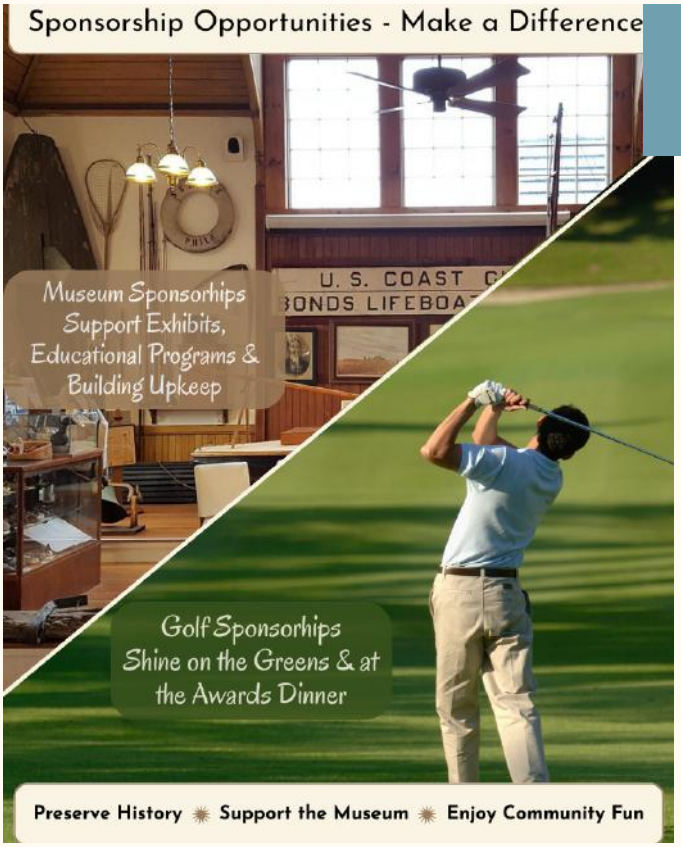
I started my first foray into the history of the island by going to the library and looking at the archives of old Sandpapers. Between the advertisements for bygone businesses, the articles and events that seemed out of step with what I currently lived in, I was fascinated. The rate of change here feels unprecedented. I loved talking to people who had families here for decades or were here when the houses didn ’t look quite so large. And that’ s what led me to The Long Beach Island Historical Museum.

My first visit was one of astonishment, It was easy to imagine children visiting on school trips and the friends I’d met on the island having memories of it. There was a distinct charm and I was smitten. Beach Haven has such a special lure for me because it feels closer to what I imagine the island was like in its Boardwalk days. Whenever the Summer business hours got to be too much, I’d ride my bike from Surf City to Beach Haven and usually stop at the museum.

On one of these days, I noticed a new exhibit and asked a woman (who I later got to know as Denise Cleveland, the president of the museum) about it. The exhibit was L.B.I. Voices, an exploration of stories and people from the island' s history. It seemed to be exactly my interest and I let her know that I would love to help if the need was there. From that point forward I started the process of archiving cassette tapes from a series the museum recorded in the 1970’ s-1980’ s called “The Porch Rocker Tapes. ” The voices of island patrons and historical figures recorded on the porch of the museum or in the home of the speaker. We have since digitized them and integrated some into the exhibits at the museum. And we hope to do more!

I’ ve loved my experience getting to know and become a part of the museum and I really hope that anyone who has any interest takes the time to come in. It gives back in spades.

Thank you, Lily!



Preserve the Past Support the Future

Two Paths for Sponsorship!
Looking for a meaningful way to connect with the community? The Long Beach Island Historical Association is now offering sponsorship opportunities for both our Museum programs and our annual Golf Outing.

Museum Sponsorships provide a chance to support exhibitions, educational programs, and special events, while showcasing your organization to visitors and history enthusiasts year-round.

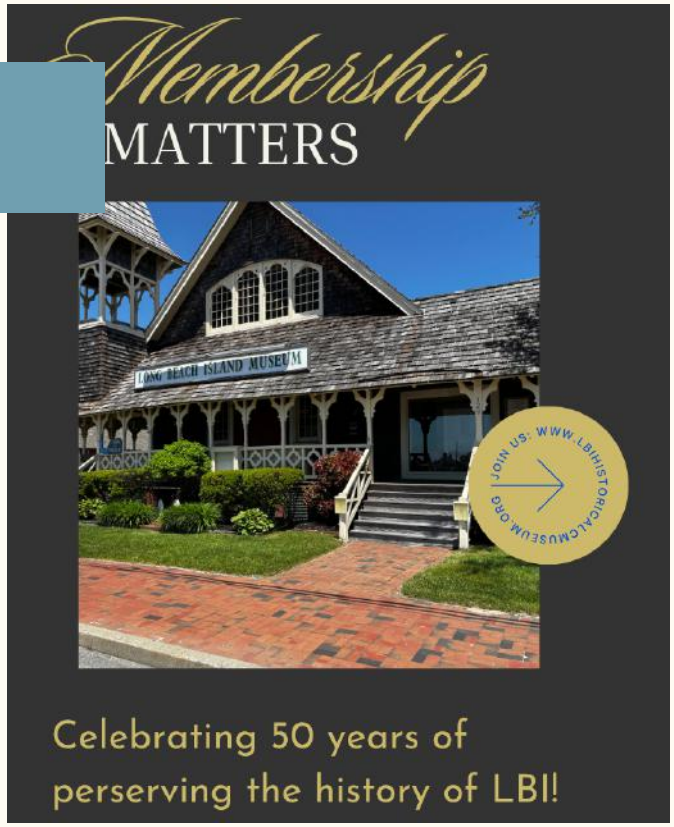
Golf Outing Sponsorships put your brand in the spotlight during a day of fun on the greens, including hole challenges, awards dinner recognition, and event promotions reaching golfers and community supporters.

Membership Does Matter

Your membership is more than a card—it's a commitment to preserving the stories, culture, and history of our island for generations to come. Member support helps us create engaging programs, care for our collections, and bring history to life all year long.

This month, we're proud to shine our Member Spotlight on Lily Myers-Cooke, whose enthusiasm and support reflect the spirit of our membership community.

Thank you, Lily—and thank you to all our members who make what we do possible.
Join. Renew. Make a Difference.



Preserve the Past Support the Future

The LBI Historical Association & Museum, housed in a beautiful 1882 building on the National Register of Historic Places, is turning 50 years old – and we're planning for the next 50.

Every time a child walks in with wonder in their eyes or an adult smiles at a memory from years ago, we're reminded how powerful this place truly is.

Join us in protecting the stories that shaped LBI.
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.

BURGER 25

BURGERS **FRIES** SHAKES **WINGS** SALADS

LET'S HAVE A FUNDRAISER

Get a great meal and show your support! Join us for a fundraiser to benefit **The LBI Historical Museum** who will receive **25%** of the total sales when this flyer is shown during the hours of **11:00AM - 8:00PM** on **May 21, 2026**

USE PROMO CODE: MUSEUM

SCAN TO ORDER

LONG BEACH ISLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Celebrating 30 YEARS

SHIP BOTTOM
1915 LONG BEACH BLVD

WWW.BURGER25.COM