



The LBIHA Gazette

Spring, 2026

Spring has arrived on Long Beach Island—and with it, one of the most exciting seasons in our Museum's 50-year history.



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Celebrating 50 Years

In 2026, the Long Beach Island Historical Association celebrates 50 years of volunteer dedication. Our volunteers have been the heart of the Museum—preserving the island's history, welcoming visitors, and bringing its stories to life. This milestone honors their commitment and passion—and invites you to join us in celebrating all that they have made possible.

LBI Historical Association & Museum

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

A Message from the President

Spring has arrived on Long Beach Island—and with it, one of the most exciting seasons in our museum's 50-year history.

As we move from planning into action, the energy around the Museum continues to build. Our exhibits are evolving, our programs are expanding, and our calendar is filled with opportunities to gather, learn, and celebrate together.

This milestone year is not only about honoring our past—it's about ensuring our future. With critical preservation needs identified and a full season of programming ahead, your support and participation have never been more important.

Whether you join us on the golf course, attend an event, volunteer your time, or simply visit the Museum, you are helping to keep Long Beach Island's history alive.

I would be remiss if I didn't draw particular attention to our sponsors. Whether you are a golf outing sponsor or a museum sponsor our cultural programming reaches new heights thanks to your investment in the history and heritage of our island. Your support ensures that our museum remains a vibrant, accessible space for education and inspiration. Specifically, your donations and endowments have helped us upgrade our electrical systems, replace broken HVAC and A/C units, upgrade lighting both in and out of the museum, and refit our porch lift, thereby keeping our 144-year-old museum building ADA-compliant. By working with us, you are helping to preserve our shared heritage and foster a more enriched community for generations to come.


Beyond financial support, it is your commitment to partnership that truly resonates. You are not just donors; you are active collaborators in our mission. We are honored to work alongside organizations and individuals who value the intersection of community recreation and cultural preservation.

On behalf of the Board and the entire team, THANK YOU for being a part of our journey. We look forward to many more successful seasons together. Too numerous to mention here, but a full list of both our museum and golf sponsors is on our website.

To our incredible team of volunteers: *thank you*. Every day, we are moved by the dedication, energy, and heart you bring to our mission. Whether you are working behind the scenes or on the front lines, your contributions are the engine that keeps us moving forward.

We know that time is the most precious gift anyone can give, and we are so grateful you chose to share yours with us. You don't just help us meet our goals—you make our community a brighter, more supportive place for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you this season.


Denise Cleveland, Ed.D.

Museum Update

MUSEUM UPDATE



Exhibits Taking Shape

Our refreshed Early LBI Merchants exhibit highlights island commerce, from milk delivery to the Beach Haven Ice Company and a detailed General Store model. The Military Exhibit is nearing completion, featuring uniforms and artifacts donated by local residents. A newly updated children's area now offers engaging, hands-on experiences.

Preserving Voices from the Past

We continue to digitize our Porch Rocker Sessions—archival recordings of longtime LBI residents—now available to visitors through new QR-enabled experiences.

Caring for Our Historic Home

As we celebrate 50 years, preserving our 1882 building remains a priority. Thanks to your support, we've upgraded exterior lighting, installed new air conditioning, and replaced the handicap lift—enhancing the visitor experience and ensuring the Museum's future.

Membership Update

Membership Update: Renewals Made Easy Staying Connected, Made Simple

We're making it easier than ever to stay connected to the Museum.

This season, we are transitioning membership renewals to a **secure online platform through Zeffy**. Many of our members will begin receiving email reminders when it's time to renew.

This new system allows you to renew quickly, securely, and without interruption—so you can continue supporting the Museum and all that we do.

Keep an eye on your inbox—and thank you for being such an important part of our community.

MEMBER RENEWALS MADE EASY



LBIHA in the Spotlight

Last summer, the Museum had a special moment in the spotlight.

Producers of *Driving Jersey* and *Here's the Story* - a PBSNJ series, selected the LBI Historical Museum as the backdrop for an interview in the series episode titled, "Ya Got Your Beach Badge?", which features an interview with William Tandy, publisher of *Eight Stone Press*, which publishes a magazine called *Beach Badge* and highlights stories inspired by life at the shore. The episode airs on April 22, 2026 at 8:00 PM

We're proud to have our historic 1882 building featured as part of this storytelling experience, helping share LBI's story with a wider audience.

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

LBIHA ON
PBS

April 22, 2026 @ 8:00 PM

Local Artist Spotlight

The Museum continues to inspire not only historians—but artists as well.

Local historic artist, Cathleen Engelsen has created a stunning painting of the LBI Historical Museum, capturing the charm and character of our beloved 1882 landmark.

This piece reflects more than a building—it captures the memories, stories, and sense of place that make the Museum so meaningful to our community.

A heartfelt thank you to Cathleen for helping preserve LBI history through art.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSEUM

Inspired by History,
Captured in Art



LBIHA GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

REGISTER TODAY!
SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

May 4, 2026

Eighteen Miles of history. One unforgettable day on the green!

LBIHA Golf Outing Fundraiser

Tee up for an unforgettable day!

May 4, 2026 - Shotgun Start 1:00 PM
LBI National Golf & Resort

Enjoy a day on the greens at LBI National Golf & Resort with great company, fun on-course contests, and a lively awards dinner—complete with silent auction and gift basket raffle - all in support of the Museum's 50th year.

Spots are filling quickly—secure your foursome today!

Not a golfer? Join us for the dinner celebration.

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 attached, 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?



Burger 25 supports the LBI Historical Museum with a fundraising event! May 21, 2026

USE PROMO CODE: MUSEUM



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WWW.BURGER25.CO





50 Years

Join us as we celebrate **five decades** of preserving LBI History!

50th Anniversary - Open House!

Saturday, May 30th, 10:00 - 2:00

Join us for a milestone celebration as the Museum marks 50 years of preserving Long Beach Island's history—made possible entirely by the dedication of our volunteers, past and present.

Explore the Museum through guided and self-guided tours, connect with the community and learn some LBI history maybe you didn't know! Be sure to register for the guided tours.

2:00 - 4:00 PM - We will be celebrating the museum's 50th Anniversary, honoring our history and the many volunteers over the years, ending with a special tribute to John Coyle, whose vision helped bring the Museum to life.

A day of history, gratitude, and celebration—don't miss it.

Back to the Beat - 1976!

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

Celebrate 1976. Get ready for a far-out night of music, movement, and memories as we celebrate the year it all began.

Dance the night away to the best of disco, rock 'n' roll, funk, and pop—surrounded by good vibes, great company, and the spirit of 50 groovy years.

Enjoy libations, lite fare, and a DJ spinning all your favorites

Take part in fun contests and exciting raffles throughout the night

Dust off your bell-bottoms—this is one party you don't want to miss.

Celebrating the year the Museum opened—1976.

SAVE THE DATE!

Back to the Beat - 1976!

LONG BEACH ISLAND MUSEUM

A Seventies Dance Party!
Rock n' Roll - Disco - Pop - Funk

JULY 5, 2026 / 7:00 - 11:00 PM

Turn back the clock and hit the dance floor!



LBI PARACON EXPO

August 29, 2026 - An all day event!

Step into a world where history meets the unexplained at PARACON 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, PARACON invites you to discover, question, and connect—all while supporting the preservation of LBI's rich history.

History Happens Here

History Happens Here - LBIHA Speaker Series
History. Community. Conversation.

Our popular speaker series continues this spring with engaging in-person programs that bring the stories of Long Beach Island and the surrounding region to life.

Join us at the Museum on select Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and enjoy fascinating presentations in a relaxed, welcoming setting—complete with coffee from Whittingham's Coffee House and tasty treats from Baked on the Beach.

With four programs remaining, now is the perfect time to join us—whether you attend one or experience them all.



LBIHA Speaker Series

HISTORY HAPPENS HERE!

Exploring the history that shaped LBI
and the surrounding areas!

Our Signature Summer Events

Annual Trash & Treasures Sale!

June 20 - 9:00 - 3:00
June 21 - 10:00 - 4:00
Not all treasures are buried!



Trash & Treasures Sale

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

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

Get ready to dig, discover, and score amazing finds at one of the Museum's most popular summer traditions. From vintage gems and unique home goods to games, books, and unexpected surprises—there's something waiting for everyone.

Come early, bring friends, and enjoy the thrill of the hunt—because the best treasures don't last long!

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

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 @ 10:00 AM. Check out this summer's program online!

S.T.E.A.M. into Summer at the LBI Museum!



A weekly program for kids ages 5 - 12



Historic "Summer Cottages" & Landmark 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 23 through August 29, and include a visit to the restored Fisherman's Cottage.

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

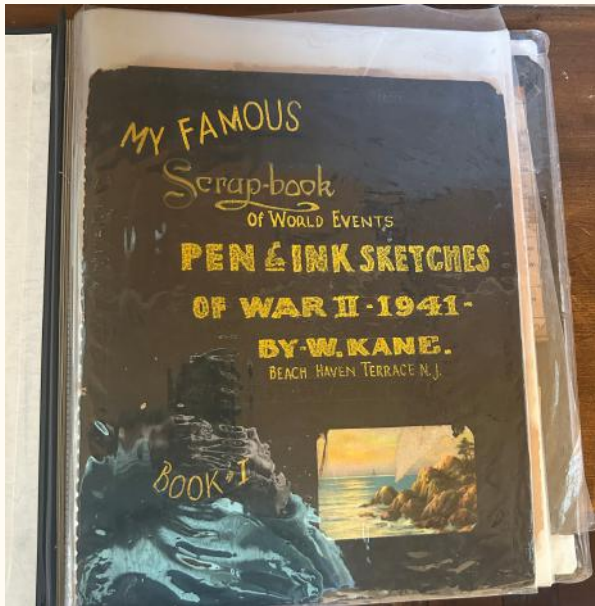
Chocolate Fair!

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!



Collection Spotlight



Sketching History: The Work of Bill Kane

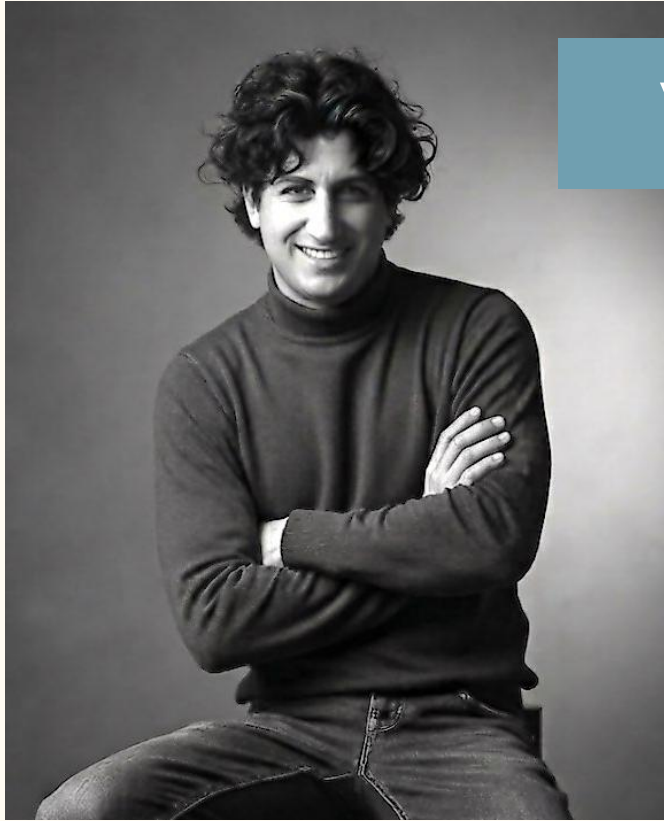
From Wartime Illustrations to Island Legacy
William "Bill" Kane (1907-1984) was a Long Beach Island staple for decades. He and his wife, Edna, owned and operated a "mom and pop" corner grocery store called the Nor'Easter Shop in Beach Haven Terrace from the 1950s until the couple's retirement in 1980.

Bill also garnered attention as a talented artist and cartoonist. Recognition of his creative work grew during World War II, when he contributed as an aerial photographer and documented the war through art. His cartoons—often humorous and wide-ranging in subject—depicted servicemen, battle scenes, and wartime life, and were published in local newspapers across the island and nearby mainland communities.

Today, his work is preserved at the Long Beach Island Historical Museum, where one of his World War II scrapbooks is on display. The scrapbook, filled with his cartoons, sketches, and photographs, is featured in the museum's new 2026 exhibit "Local Lives in Service," that highlights the island's connection to wartime history and military service.



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!



Volunteer Spotlight

In 1947, Honey and Pete Gravino, my great-aunt and uncle, built a house in Brighton Beach that became the hub for their large Italian family. Though modest, it was more spacious than the homes of my grandparents and their 11 siblings across New Jersey, allowing three generations to gather each summer on New Jersey Avenue. After Uncle Pete passed and the house was sold in 1990, my father and his cousins continued the tradition through weekly rentals. During those years, the museum became a customary stop on our annual visits.

After college, I moved away from New Jersey, and it would be more than 30 years before I spent meaningful time on LBI again. That changed two years ago when I walked through the museum doors—an experience that felt like stepping back into my childhood. Returning during a time when life had unexpectedly caused me to take a pause, it gave me the chance to heal and reset in a place where my roots run deep, something I will always be grateful for.

Volunteering has offered a rewarding outlet to use skills that don't always fit into everyday work. For me, that has meant exploring interests in design, organization, and hands-on projects. From the work I did refreshing the kitchen to contributing to exhibit design, each effort has felt like a quiet thank you to a place filled with meaningful memories for me.

Maintaining a museum requires balancing preservation with progress. I've been inspired by the leadership team's openness and creativity, which has brought renewed energy to this historic space. Their willingness to embrace new ideas ensures the museum remains vibrant, relevant, and welcoming to future generations.

As I prepare to begin my next chapter away from LBI, I leave with deep gratitude for those I've worked alongside. I'd especially like to thank Marilyn and Denise for supporting my ideas, and Tracy, John, Shirley, and Ron for their collaboration and camaraderie. This museum is truly a treasure, and its continued growth will carry its legacy forward.

Congratulations to the Board, its officers, and all the volunteers on 50 remarkable years. I hope everyone takes pride in being part of something so meaningful and enjoys the celebrations ahead.

Thank you, David!

*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.

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.

Membership
MATTERS



Celebrating 50 years of
perserving the history of LBI!



Preserve the Past Support the Future

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!

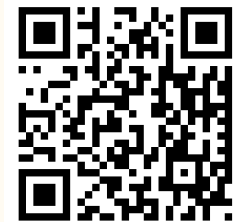


Join us at the museum...
where stories from the past spark memories for the future.

 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.

Historical
NEW JERSEY
COMMISSION



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**



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