Historic East Point Lighthouse opens doors for annual ‘Artists’ Day Open House’

East Point Lighthouse, the last remaining lighthouse on the New Jersey side of the Delaware Bay, will be the site of the annual “Artists’ Day Open House” on Saturday, Sept. 15, when the 163-year-old structure opens its doors and surrounding landscape to artists of all ages.

The day will feature painting time by local artists, with whom the public is encouraged to interact, tours of the lighthouse and music entertainment. There will also be a tent set aside for children to test their artistic talents.

History

Built in 1849, the lighthouse is situated on the east bank of the Maurice River in Heislerville. It was originally illuminated by an oil lamp burning whale oil and operated over the years by ten “keepers” and their families who lived on site. The last such employee left near the end of September, 1911.

For years afterward, until the attack on Pearl Harbor, the lighthouse continued to provide its beacon of light to travelers through an automated system that would

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Grant Writing Workshop set for Sept. 5

The Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission will present its latest Programming for Success workshop, “Grant Writing and Social Media for Non-Profits,” on Wednesday, Sept. 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m at the Levoy Theater, 126-130 N. High Street, Millville. The workshop will be facilitated by Rachel Dukeman, a cultural marketer and planner headquartered in Philadelphia.

Ms. Dukeman is a principal with the firm of R&R Creative and is an expert with new media specializing in enlivening public experiences in ways that appeal to diverse audiences.

She manages a website on culture in Philadelphia (www.philaculturati.com) and holds a Master of Arts degree in Museum Communication from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she was the recipient of the Museum Studies Award for Service to

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East Point offers haven for artists at annual event

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fuel the light for long periods of time. The grounds were kept by a resident custodian until 1941, when the light was extinguished to prevent its acting as a signal for enemy ships.

At the end of the war, East Point Light was not re-lit. As with other vacant structures at the edge of the bay, vandalism and weather quickly took their toll, and by the time the Federal Government was ready to deed the property to the State of New Jersey in 1955, the lighthouse was in great need of repair.

The structure remained abandoned and boarded up until 1971, when a group of concerned local residents formed the Maurice River Historical Society to save the lighthouse. However, on the evening of July 15, 1971, a fire broke out, destroying the lantern room and roof and severely damaging the interior.

Through the efforts of the Maurice River Historical Society the lighthouse was stabilized and in 1980 was reactivated by the U.S. Coast Guard as an aid to navigation.

In the 1990’s the Society successfully placed the lighthouse on the National Register of Historic Places and restored the exterior. The next phase of restoration includes the interior portions of the lighthouse.

For more information or to make a donation, contact the Maurice River Historical Society, P.O. Box 141, Heislerville, NJ 08324, (856) 546-7810.

Grant Workshop offered by marketing expert

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the Profession.

She also received the Engage 2020 Leadership Award from the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (2010); Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship Award for the American Association of Museums Conference (2009); the Emerging Museum Professional Fellowship for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (2008); and the Richard C. von Hess Fellowship Award and Grant for research on free admission at the Baltimore Museum of Art (2006).

She has written social media communication plans for a variety of non-profits from performing arts to film to mental health awareness and has given presentations on social media communication topics including: “Museums and the Social Web: From Exhibits to PR to Fundraising” at the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Annual Conference (2009); “Discovering Your Hidden Target Audience Online” at the Association for State and Local History Annual Conference (2010); and “Engaging Next Generations Audiences” at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Conference (2012).

The workshop will provide a step-by-step guide to the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission’s re-grant application process for arts and history organizations. The guidelines will be reviewed, and the application will be explained in full detail. Ms. Dukeman will also present a “best practices” discussion on social media for non-profits.

To RSVP for this FREE workshop, contact the Commission by phone at (856) 453-2175 or email at mattpi@co.cumberland.nj.us. This is a free workshop open to the general public.