

FAULKNER'S LIGHT BRIGADE

A Commission of the
Guilford Preservation Alliance

P.O. Box 199
Guilford, CT 06437

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Quinnipiack will arrive at Guilford Town Marina on Thursday September 11, 2003 to take guests around Faulkner's twice daily during the annual Open House (See calendar on p. 5)

FAULKNER'S LIGHT BRIGADE
A Commission of the Guilford Preservation Alliance
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Published by Faulkner's Light Brigade
P.O. Box 199, Guilford, CT 06437
Richard S. DiNardo, Editor
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Guardian of the Light
\$1,000 and up.

Benefactor of the Light
\$500 - \$999

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\$250 - \$499

Lightkeeper
\$100 - \$249

Beaconer
\$50 - \$99

Mariner
\$25 - \$49

Friend
\$10 - \$24

Senior or Student \$5 - \$9

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

- New Membership Membership Renewal
 I am interested in helping the Brigade as a volunteer. Enclosed is my company's matching gift form.



The schooner Quinnipiack will again ferry passengers around Faulkner's Island Sep. 12-14 for this year's Open House.

Photo by Fred Farnsworth

Bicentennial Beacon Beams Brightly on Birthday

As brilliant fireworks illuminated the night sky over Jacob's Beach in Guilford, Connecticut, and the sonorous notes of an old foghorn pierced the darkness, one could almost imagine the 200-year-old Faulkner's Island Lighthouse taking a bow about three miles offshore. Long Island Sound's beloved "Grand Dame" was saluted in grand style by her benefactors, the Faulkner's Light Brigade, on the weekend of September 7 and 8, 2002...

The 200th birthday celebration took place on Saturday evening, while the island was opened to visitors on both Saturday and Sunday. During the two-day open house, a total of 925 people toured the inside of the tower, guided by members of the Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation Team from Group Long Island Sound. Petty Officer Pete Jennings said, "It's nice to be present. We all volunteered. People get to ask us questions and see what we do."

The open house drew many private boaters along with a number of VIP guests, mostly former Coast Guard keepers and descendants of Coast Guard and civilian keepers. The oldest of the former keepers present was William Parker, who came all the way from California for the event. Parker was stationed on the island as a young Coast Guardsman in 1945-46, immediately following a stint on a patrol boat during World War II.

Parker said he was saddened to see the tower standing without the keeper's dwelling, which was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1976. "It's a shame the house isn't still standing," he commented. "But it would be expensive to maintain." Parker says he saw the northern lights while he was stationed on Faulkner's Island – something he hasn't seen since. He has maintained an interest in lighthouses and visits them whenever he can when he's on vacation.

Among the Saturday visitors to the island were Mark Robinson, Faulkner's last Coast Guard officer in charge, and engineering officer John Von Ogden, another member of the last crew. Both men helped with the investigation that followed the 1976 fire. The station was automated and destaffed immediately following the fire. Robinson and Von Ogden, who have remained good friends, recall a storm when they witnessed about two feet of the bluff fall away at one time.

Bob Baranski, who served with the Coast Guard on Faulkner's Island 1957-58, remembers that when he was stationed at Faulkner's, he had just met his wife-to-be and wasn't so happy to be stuck out on an island for three weeks at a time. "We had a bad winter with lots of ice," he recalls. Baranski attended the Saturday evening celebration with several family members.

Continues on page 2

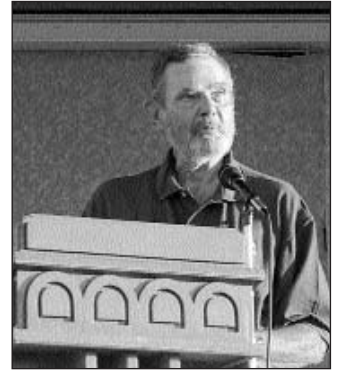
Bicentennial Beacon Beams Brightly on Birthday - continues from page 1

Another ex-Coast Guard keeper at the events was Steve Martin, who was on the island from 1966 to 1970. He remembers reroofing the boathouse during his stay. Asked about his reaction to the celebration and seeing the island after so many years, Martin commented, "It's tremendous, but kind of a shock" to see the lighthouse without the keeper's house.

While stationed at Faulkner's, Steve Martin once gave a tour to a local high school student named Joel Helander. Helander has been devoted to preserving the lighthouse and its history ever since. He published a book, *The Island Called Faulkner's*, in 1988. And most importantly, he founded the Faulkner's Light

Brigade, a commission of the Guilford Preservation Alliance, in 1991. The Brigade has been the salvation of the proud old tower.

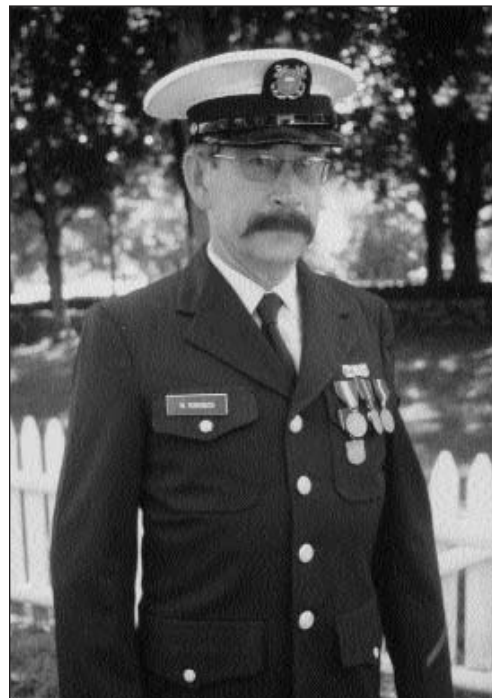
Fred Farnsworth, chair of the Faulkner's Light Brigade, served as the master of ceremonies for the Saturday evening celebration. "This is more than a commemoration of Faulkner's Light," he said. "This is also a celebration of a successful campaign of preservation... The campaign



Fred Farnsworth,
Chairman of
Faulkner's Light
Brigade.



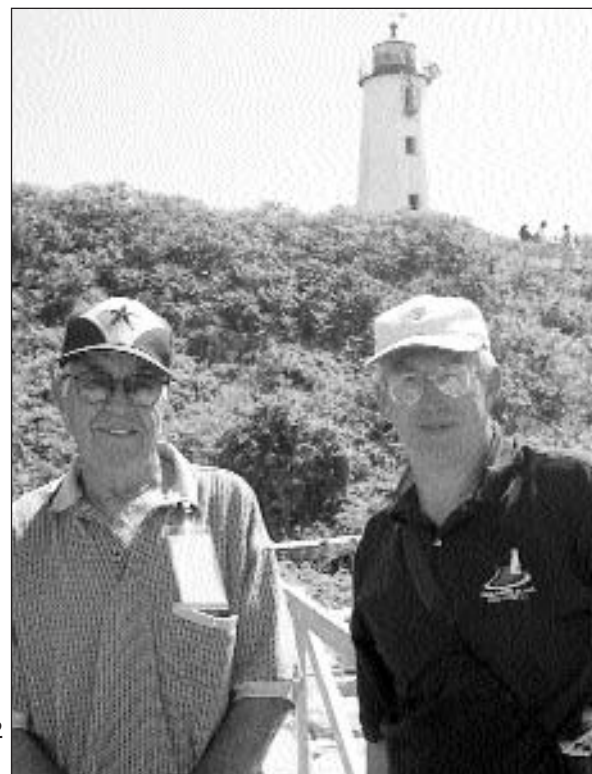
Six former Coast Guard keepers of Faulkner's Island Light took the stage at the celebration. Left to right: Mark Robinson, John Von Ogden, Steve Martin, Richard Webb, William Parker and Bob Baranski. photo by Joel Helander



Mark C. Robinson of Pulaski, VA was the last officer-in-charge or "head keeper" at Faulkner's Island Light Station in 1976. During his visit, he lent his Coast Guard dress uniform to the Henry Whitfield State Museum, where it will be part of the island exhibit through the end of 2003. photo by Joel Helander



The crowd at the celebration was entertained by the Guilford High School Voices, who led everyone in the singing of "Happy Birthday, Dear Lighthouse." photo by Joel Helander



Ex-Coast Guard Keeper William Parker (left) visited with Joel Helander of the Faulkner's Light Brigade. photo by Fred Farnsworth

Faulkner's Light Brigade Membership

New Members and Renewals during 2001 and 2002

Anna Dwyer
 Doug & Audrey Eisenlohr, Sr.
 Nancy & Philip Elderbaum
 Palmer & Eleanor Epler
 Philip & Josephine Evans
 Judie Fine
 Elizabeth J. Fox**
 Elizabeth Gardner
 George & Kay Gaughran
 Susan Geist
 Louise & William Gilpatrick**
 Susie Gowrie
 Olive S. Greene
 Pete & Betty Greenvall
 Guilford Funeral Home
 Adele Haggarty
 Maryanne & Mark Hall
 Bill & Nancy Hendricks
 Julie & John Herold
 Elizabeth V. Horowitz
 Eleanor B. Hubbard
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 Virginia Rogers
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 Ann E. Sottery
 Reeves Spencer**
 Carter Stilson
 Richard & Karen Stoll
 Steve Sutcliffe
 Jan W. Tarrant
 Nancy C. Thompson
 Henry & Evelynne Tichy**
 John & June Torino**
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 George B. Uihlein
 Fred Ulbrich, Jr.
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 Ruth Woodruff
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\$10-\$24

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\$5-\$9

Henry P. Bakewell, Jr.**
 Annemarie Baltay
 C. Allan Borchert
 Phoebe Bruck
 Louise Carey



The Guilford Citizens Fair Day parade on Sept. 21 carried the theme of Faulkner's Lighthouse. The fourth-graders of Calvin Leete Elementary School depicted the era of the lightkeeping Kimberly family on the island, 1818-1851. photo by Joel Helander

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 Dr. Harlan B. Hamilton**
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 Ruth Kurle
 Thomas Mangan
 John Moffit
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Newton
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 SNET
 Turner Construction
 United Technologies

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 Eleanor Wolf

Listing represents those members who have made a donation in either 2002 or 2001.

** Denotes four consecutive years of donations

* Denotes Bicentennial Sponsor



Faulkner's Light Brigade Membership

New Members and Renewals during 2001 and 2002

Fireworks being barged over to Grass Island for the Bicentennial finale. photo by Fred Farnsworth.

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\$1000 and up
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Myles & Carol DuBay**
Vernon & Marjorie Dudley**

still isn't over. It was a long slog for 11 years!" Ginny Baltay, co-chair of the Bicentennial Committee, added, "Behind us was a multitude of individuals... a cast of enthusiastic and diligent volunteers."...

Joel Helander delivered the keynote address in eloquent fashion. "Night and day, in calm or tempestuous seas, in warm sunshine, swirling blizzards, or howling Nor-easters," he said, "Faulkner's Light has created a sanctuary of security and trust. It is a monument to the American nautical soul." After recounting much of the station's history, Helander concluded, "The Grand Dame of Long Island Sound is still the mariner's salvation. She is the story of survival and continuity. She remains preserved as a beacon of joy and security, an American symbol of hope and reliability." Helander dedicated the event to the ex-keepers who were present, and six of them took the stage to thunderous applause.

Darkness descended and the fireworks began. At the same time, a huge air-operated foghorn removed many years ago from Faulkner's Island was sounded over and over again from a truck in the parking lot. The rich, satisfying sound was a fitting note to close on.

Text and photos by Jeremy D'Entremont - Reprinted with the permission of Lighthouse Digest, www.LighthouseDigest.com



Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro addresses the crowd at the celebration.



Ginny Baltay Bicentennial Chair, setting up for the community celebration at Jacobs Beach.

photo by Fred Farnsworth.

Our Thanks...

Faulkner's Bicentennial Committee

Ginny and Charlie Baltay,
Co-Chairs
Joe Arnold
Richard Buckley
Lewis DeSanto
Fred Farnsworth
Joel Helander
Vaughn Knowles
Mary Alice Lee
Walter Mills
Liza Petra
Bill Seekamp
Gail Tomsich
Guy Verney

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Faulkner's Light Brigade

Founder

Joel Helander, Chair 1991-2001

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Ginny Baltay
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Jody Folk
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Vaughn Knowles
Walter Mills
Guido Petra
Sally Richards
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Guilford Savings Bank

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Sea Mist LLC
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Total Health Center
Virginia and Charles Baltay

Many friends who helped with their time and in-kind contribution

Tahme Adinolfi & GHS Voices
Alisa & Mark Mierzejewski,
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Karen Stark
Rob Stevens, Printing
Thomas Terribile
Bruce Thain
AND All the FLB volunteers

OWN YOUR OWN LIGHTHOUSE...

It's been called "The Great Beacon Giveaway" by some, and the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program may be your best chance to own a lighthouse. Over 300 are slated by the federal government for adoption, 20 this year, including the venerable New London Harbor Light in Connecticut. Established in 1760, she is the fourth oldest lighthouse in the country and a veteran of both the Revolution and War of 1812. The original structure, 64 feet high and lit by a wooden lantern, was replaced in 1801 with the 89-foot tower that stands today. The Barker's Island Lighthouse in Salem, MA and the Conimicut Shoal Lighthouse in Providence, RI are also to be given away this year.

Local government and nonprofit groups who plan to put these lighthouses to recreational, historical or

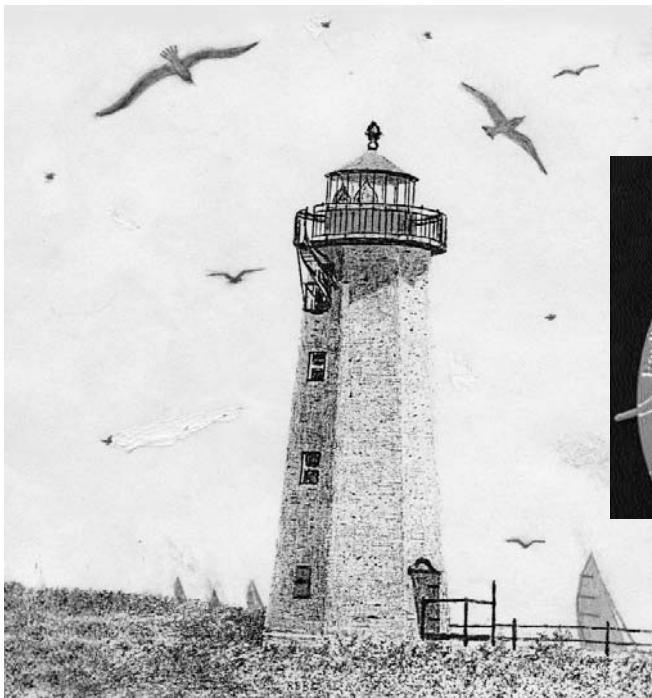
educational use are given first choice at no charge. Should too few qualify, which is likely given the typically huge restoration and maintenance funds required, the feds will sell to the highest bidder. Preservationist groups like the New England Lighthouse Lovers of Groton would like to forestall a private sale in New London, but they will have to work hard and quickly. With her perfect location on Long Island Sound and her charming keeper's cottage a bowline's throw from residential streets, the Harbor Light would probably bring over \$1 million at auction - a tempting prospect to Washington in these lean times. For more information, see the U.S. Department of the Interior website www.doi.gov.

Sources: *The Hartford Courant and Parade Magazine*

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

RUFUS B. BISHOP

1924-2002



In early December FLB members were saddened by news of the the passing of Rufus Bishop who for many years served as our financial secretary. Well-known among his many friends and neighbors for his selfless dedication to local causes, Rufus was also a talented artist. Several of his sketches of local landmarks were reproduced as commemorative ornaments for the Guilford Chamber of Commerce, including the beautiful rendering of Faulkner's Lighthouse seen here. He will be deeply missed.

Faulkner's Fashions



You can now make a fashion statement as well as showing the world your commitment to preserving Faulkner's Light by wearing a distinctive Faulkner's Light Brigade tee shirt or classic polo shirt.

The tee shirt is available in ash or sand and is priced at \$16. Sizes are M,L, XL and XXL. The polo shirt comes in navy or hunter green and is priced at \$29. Sizes are S,M, L, XL and XXL.

Both are available at Fleishman's Department Store in Guilford or you can order by sending a check payable to "FLB" to Faulkner's Light Brigade c/o Dan Coraluzzi, 303 Schoolside Lane, Guilford, CT. 06437. Add \$3.50 for postage and handling. If you have any questions call Dan at 203-453-1991. All proceeds benefit FLB.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING, 2003

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20
AT 7:30 p.m.**

Annual Meeting open to all FLB members in the Menunkatuck Room, 2nd floor, Guilford Community Center. Following the meeting, the North Guilford Congregational Church Choir under the direction of Cynthia Damer will sing such traditional sea-songs as the Navy Hymn, "My Anchor Holds," and "Throw out the Lifeline," as well as an early American anthem by Revolutionary War composer William Billings. A fervent patriot, friend to Paul Revere, and the first full-time American composer, Billings unsurprisingly died in poverty.

FROM APRIL 1, 2003

"Bicentennial Beacon: Faulkner's Island Lighthouse, 1802-2002" at the Henry Whitfield State Museum, Guilford, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The Whitfield Museum is closed until March 31, 2003 for the winter except for groups. Confirm reopening date by telephoning 453-2457.



Schooner Quininniack arrives at Guilford Town Marina to take guests around Faulkner's during the annual Open House.

Bruce Thain with the old Faulkners Island foghorn he restored for the Bicentennial.
photo by Fred Farnsworth

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
AT 7:30 p.m.**

Tim Harrison, publisher of *Lighthouse Digest*, co-author of *Lighthouse of Maine and New Hampshire* and of the children's book *The Littlest Lighthouse*, co-founder of the Lighthouse Depot Museum & Store in Wells, Maine, and President of the nonprofit American Lighthouse Foundation will speak in the Guilford Room, 1st floor, Guilford Community Center. Active in the restoration of several American and Canadian lighthouses, Harrison has appeared on the PBS miniseries *Legendary Lighthouses*, and on ABC TV's *Nightline*.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11
AT 7:30 p.m.**

Philmore Wass, retired Professor of Business Administration, University of Connecticut, author of *Lighthouse in My Life* (1987), passed part of his childhood on Libby Island, Maine, where his father was lightkeeper.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
AT NOON**



Among the items on exhibit at the Henry Whitfield State Museum is a fourth order Fresnel lens.
photo by Jeremy D'Entremont

**FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12 - 14**

Schooner Quininniack will take passengers aboard for two 3-hour cruises per day around Faulkner's in conjunction with the Annual Open House. Tickets MUST be purchased in advance at the Town Park & Rec. Office in the Guilford Community Center, Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Cruise hours: Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m; Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13 - 14
NOON TO 4:00**

Faulkner's Island Annual Open House. Public transportation to island is not available. Private vessels should anchor outside (west of) the wharf basin and take their own dinghies or kayaks to shore. Anchored vessels may also hail the water taxi provided for a nominal fee.