

# A HOLIDAY NEWS FLASH

## *Lighthouse Education & Nautical Studies*



December 2022



### A LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS

“’Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house....” The Keeper’s children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of Flying Santa danced in their heads.

The highlight of every lighthouse family’s holiday season was a visit from Flying Santa. This legendary flight began in 1929 as a gesture of thanks to lighthouse keepers who had guided float-plane pilot Bill Wincapaw safely back to his port in Rockland.

From that year forward with the approach of December 25th, lighthouse children spent a good deal of time outside gazing across the sky and listening for the sound of an airplane’s engine. When that moment arrived, their screams of glee drew out the entire family as Santa flew over scoping out his target. They hollered and waved to Santa as he tossed out their Christmas package containing candy for the kids, a newspaper for Dad, an apron for Mama, magazines, and a Bible for the family.

The tradition continues, but today, the Friends of Flying Santa brings holiday cheer to Coast Guard families and lighthouse stewards via helicopter.

### Board of Directors

Elaine Jones  
Hal Marden  
Terri Kelsea  
Jean McKay  
Carolyn Nichols

### LIGHTHOUSE EDUCATION & NAUTICAL STUDIES Who are we? & What do we do?

Lighthouse Education & Nautical Studies (LENS) is a nonprofit whose mission is to research, retrieve, and record our nation’s maritime history, and provide educational materials, programs and services about lighthouses and maritime topics.

Founder Elaine Jones was responsible for acquiring and transforming the Burnt Island Light Station in Boothbay Harbor into an outstanding educational facility for the State of Maine. Directors Jean McKay and Carolyn Nichols both served as educators providing experiential learning for students and teachers.

Since her 2020 retirement, Jones has been leading an impassioned charge to share her extensive knowledge, stewardship strate-

gies, lighthouse restoration experiences, and collection of photos/documents of maritime history with teachers, students, and the public.

The organization’s focus will begin in its home State of Maine with objectives of:

- Sharing stories, documents, photos, knowledge and experiences in our kiosks, website, and by request
- Presenting on-site or in the field
- Developing lessons for all ages
- Providing superb experiential learning opportunities on land and at sea
- Fundraising to sponsor summer camp & lighthouse fieldtrips for Boothbay region school children.

YOUR SUPPORT  
WOULD HELP US  
MEET OUR GOAL  
OF EDUCATING  
OTHERS ABOUT  
LIGHTHOUSES  
AND MARITIME  
HISTORY!

Please Visit Our Website at: [www.lighthouseeducation.org](http://www.lighthouseeducation.org)



## SERVICES PROVIDED BY LENS IN 2022



### TEACHER TRAINING ON LAND & AT SEA

- Learned How to Sail & Navigate A Course
- Appreciated Early Exploration & Maritime History
- Gained Knowledge About Maine's Fisheries
- Visited Boothbay Region's Lighthouses & Life-Saving Stations
- Received Post-COVID, Spirit-Lifting Experiences



### SHARING INFORMATION

- Informational Kiosk at Bass Harbor Light Station
- Presentations at Lighthouses & for Owners Facing Lighthouse & Life-Saving Station Restorations
- Old Photos for Artists & Maritime Foundations
- Website: [www.lighthouseeducation.org](http://www.lighthouseeducation.org)

### TESTIMONIAL

*We came away from your talk with a lot of ideas from the lessons you learned and your experiences that will be very helpful for Curtis Island. Audra Caler, Camden Town Mgr.*



### SUMMER CAMP TRAINING and CAMP SPONSORSHIP



- Experiential Learning at its BEST
- Lighthouse Education from Former Keepers
- Daily Journal Entries to Record Experiences
- Intertidal Searches & Tide-Pool Discoveries
- Sport-fishing & Lobstering Activities
- Chart-plotting Treasure Hunt, GPS Hike & More

### TESTIMONIAL

*It was fun going in the lighthouse and I love all the old stuff and I love the history of the lighthouse. Olivia*



### **SWING INTO ACTION!**

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE  
DONATION WILL HELP  
SEND MORE KIDS TO CAMP  
& GET MORE TEACHERS ON  
THE WATER IN 2023.



Please Send Donation To:  
LENS, PO BOX 213  
W. BOOTHBAY HBR, ME 04575

Online Donation  
[www.lighthouseeducation.org](http://www.lighthouseeducation.org)

**Happy Holidays and Thank You for Your Support!**