

Truro Historical Society

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Susan Kurtzman returned as our Director in December 2013; however, we are sorry to announce she has resigned to devote herself full-time to managing her principal business, Jobi Pottery. Summer is the busy season for Jobi, and Susan found that balancing her time between the Museum and her growing hand-made pottery business had become increasingly difficult.

We are pleased that Susan will continue to work on the development of exhibitions and events for the Museum until the end of February. She will then rejoin the Board of Directors and serve as head of the Exhibitions Committee.

Also, we are pleased to announce that Jim Summers, Board Member and Vice President of Finance, will serve as our Acting Director on a part-time basis until April 1, when he officially will become the Director of the Highland House Museum. Jim, a twenty-year Truro resident, worked as a licensed architect for the first 14 years of his career before joining VFA, Inc., in Boston. Jim served as the CFO of this large software solutions and services company that helps private sector and governmental organizations plan and manage their facility and real estate assets.

Finally, Beth O'Rourke of Truro has joined us as an Assistant to the Director. Her duties include planning and promoting music, speaking, and special events, assisting our Volunteer and Publicity Committees, and providing support to the director in Museum operations. Beth served as the Executive Director of Provincetown Community Television for seven years before resigning in December. She has been involved deeply in planning, promoting, and managing entertainment and charitable fundraising events on the Outer Cape.

ANNUAL THS FUNDRAISING DRIVE

In December we launched our annual fundraising appeal to the extended Truro community, and so far the response has been encouraging. We rely on fundraising to finance our \$100,000 per year operating budget, including the salaries of our staff and the costs of developing and presenting programs and events. We are privileged to occupy a National Historic Register property owned by the National Park Service, and we are responsible for all costs of operating and maintaining it. Like most museums, we cannot balance our budget with admissions fees and event revenues alone.

Many of you have gone to sunnier climes at this time of year and might not have received our annual appeal letter. Please respond to this reminder by going to the *Donate* page on our website (trurohistorical.org/donate.html) or by sending your contributions to THS Annual Appeal, PO Box 486, Truro MA 02666. Thank you. Every contribution, no matter the amount, is important!

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

Led by Susan Kurtzman, our Exhibitions Committee is immersed in developing two special exhibitions set to open in June and July.

Living Legacy -- The Elders of Truro opens in June and is a continuation of a project started by the late Joyce Johnson to create photographic portraits of Truro citizens whose lives personify the character, heart, and soul of our town. The photographs are being taken by Mason Morfit of Truro and will be exhibited in large format at the Highland House Museum.

Ellen Anthony, also of Truro, is preparing biographical information in text and digital video and audio formats. The portraits and biographical material will be added to our photo collection at the Museum after the exhibition and will be accessible to the public. Thank you, *Truro Treasures*, for a generous grant for this project.

Gone Fishing (July 3 to September 30) will focus on the many aspects of the history of the fishing industry in Truro and on the Outer Cape through the eyes of working local fishermen, craftspeople, artists, and professional boat builders.

The exhibition will include widely-acclaimed large-scale models of fishing boats built by fishermen and Truro residents Alfred J. Silva and his son, Mark; paintings of working lobster and fishing boats by local artists and from our collection; vintage postcards of fishing and boats on the Outer Cape from Peter Burgess; boat building tools; antique fishing gear and paraphernalia; an interactive photo and video montage by photographer Henry Moore; an exhibit on trap fishing in Truro; and Fishnet Industries equipment from Diana Worthington.

Auxiliary events inspired by the fishing theme are also in the planning stage, including three Wednesday evening speakers, a fundraising dinner event, and a silent auction of wooden fish (20-24" long by 4" wide) painted by 50 local artists. Details on these three events will be available soon.

VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome volunteers to help staff the Highland House Museum during the summer in two capacities: a) greeting visitors and introducing them to the many aspects of our permanent and special displays and exhibitions and b) working on specific projects related to preserving and displaying artwork and artifacts in our collection. The typical time commitment is one four-hour shift per week. Volunteers will enjoy an informative orientation program designed to broaden awareness and appreciation of Truro history and the many objects in our collection.

We also have ***summer internship opportunities for high school and college students***, and we will be glad to work out arrangements to suit capable student-age volunteers. If you know of any in your family or among friends, please let us know.

Please contact us at 508-349-0200 or thsdirector1907@gmail.com.