

Bay Head Historical Society

Serving Bay Head, Mantoloking and Lovelandtown

P. O. Box 127, Bay Head, NJ 08742

Newsletter ~ Fall, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to share a few of my thoughts on the recent passing of Dick LaBonté. An artist and historian, his unmistakable style is reflected most prominently in his interpretation of the photographic collection of Bill Schoettle. Their decades long collaboration resulted in paintings which adorn the walls of many houses in Bay Head and beyond. During my eight years as president of the Bay Head Historical Society we were able to exhibit his original works on several occasions. Some paintings had never been viewed in public. I thank Ann LaBonté Neff and the owners of these pieces for allowing this to happen. It was a once in a lifetime treat for those who attended the exhibits. Dick LaBonté will be remembered as a friend, a supporter and an artist.

We had a great season which was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Mantoloking with artifacts and photographs on display in *Early Mantoloking*, followed by *Decoy* which showcased duck and shorebird decoys, both working and decorative, from the collection of Mantoloking's own Connie Pilling. The exhibition was complemented by artist Kate Leigh Cutler's interpretation of many of the decoys on display. Thank you as always for your support and please visit often.

Finally, as we continue to grow, would you consider volunteering some of your time and talents to our effort? We are always looking for innovative ideas, enthusiasm and hands-on help. If interested, let us know through the "Contact Us" tab on the web site. (www.bayheadhistoricalsociety.com)

On a very serious note, there is a trend accelerating in Bay Head which threatens the very essence of our town...the needless demolition which is destroying the town's historic homes and the streetscapes they engender. On a more positive note, there is an effort underway to craft an historic preservation ordinance to try to save what is left. I urge you to attend the Planning Board meetings and learn the facts for yourself. The Planning Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at Boro Hall.

Peter Harrington
President

