

**Special Events**

- 8:45 "History Happens Here" Cruise with Lewes Historical Society and Cape Water Taxi (Tickets Required)
- 10:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:00-4:00 New Exhibit—"The Wireless" at the Canonball House
- 10:45-2:00 Exhibits, Food Truck, Tours and Boat Rides open
- 11:00-3:00 Schooner A.J. Meerwald—Walk Aboard Public Tours
- 12:00 DRBA Liferaft Demonstration
- 5:00 "Lewes, A Light in the Dark: Over 340 Years of Helping Mariners in Distress." At the Lewes Public Library
- Sunday, 10:00 Schooner A.J. Meerwald—Schooner Sailing (Tickets Required)

**Lewes Maritime Day Planning Committee**

Eleisa Weber, Honorary Chair, Coast TV  
 Heath Gehrke, Cape May—Lewes Ferry, Director of Operations  
 Michael Safina, Overfalls Foundation  
 Betsy Reamer & Ted Becker, Lewes Chamber of Commerce  
 Janet Reeves & Giulia Kirsch, City of Lewes

**Official Sponsors of the 2024 Lewes Maritime Day**



City of Lewes  
FIRST TOWN IN THE FIRST STATE



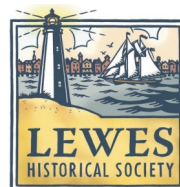
**LEWES**  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Bureau, Inc.



*Lightship Overfalls  
&  
Lewes Maritime Day  
Opening Ceremonies*

**Canalfront Park  
Lewes, Delaware**

**May 18, 2024  
10:00 AM**



## **OVERFALLS FOUNDATION**

Established on October 5, 2000 as a 501(c)3 non-profit, the mission of the Overfalls Foundation is to preserve, teach and honor the lightships and their sailors of the United States and the maritime history of our community through the preservation and display of the Lightship *Overfalls* (LV-118) and its collection of associated maritime artifacts.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael Safina—*President*

Dave Beck—*Vice President*

Bob Garry—*Treasurer*

Dave Shook—*Secretary*

John Bolster—*Curator*

Barry Buchanan—*Membership*

Ted Hack—*Volunteers & Tours*

Frank Manning—*Community Outreach*

Paul Merrick—*Programming & Special Events*

Bob Murphy—*Grants*

Brian North—*Legal Affairs & Communications*

Tom Rew—*Membership*

Marcos Salaverria—*Community Outreach*

Holli Wittman—*Digital Communications*

***Commitment—Integrity—Preservation—Stewardship  
Sustainability—Teamwork***

## **Thank You to Our Exhibitors and Organizers!**

Bayshore Center at Bivalve & S/V A.J. Meerwald

Bob Pratt

Cape May—Lewes Ferry

Cape Water Tours & Taxi

City of Lewes

Coast TV & Petey

Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs / Zwaanendael Museum

Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation

Friends of Lewes Canalfront Park

Freedom Boat Club

Cathy Gorman, Local Musician

Grandpa Mac

Groome Church

Henlopen Bait & Tackle

Lewes Board of Public Works

Lewes Chamber of Commerce

Lewes Fire Department

Lewes Historical Society

Lewes Yacht Club

Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation Institute

New Hope Canoe Club Team Atlantic

Overfalls Foundation

Pilots' Association For The Bay & River Delaware

Pirates of Lewes Expeditions

Quest Adventures

Sea Scouts, Ship 198

Sea Screens, LLC

Seaside Jewish Community

Sussex Family YMCA

Sussex Technical High School

University of Delaware

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

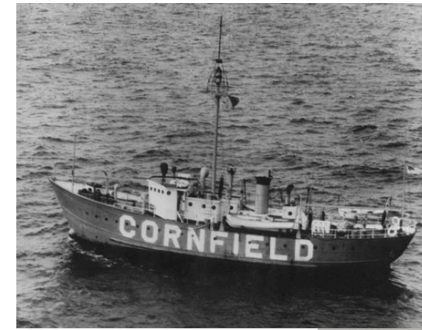
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Military Sealift Command



### CAPE MAY—LEWES FERRY

Owned and operated by the Delaware River and Bay Authority, the Cape May – Lewes Ferry is open year-round and has carried more than 43 million passengers since its inception on July 1, 1964. As an integral transportation system connecting the communities and economies on both sides of the Delaware Bay, the Ferry service is a significant catalyst for economic growth and regional tourism activity in New Jersey and Delaware. Its operations sustain over 4,000 jobs while generating tens of millions of dollars in local taxes and hundreds of millions in regional economic activity.



LV-118 was the last lightship commissioned in 1938 for the U.S. Light House Service which was subsumed into the U.S. Coast Guard in 1939. The ship served at Cornfield Point (off Old Saybrook, CT) until 1957, then at Cross Rip (between Nantucket and Martha's Vinyard) until 1962 and finished her active service in Boston until being decommissioned in 1972. LV-118 arrived in Lewes in 1973 and was named *Overfalls* in honor of the ships and American Lightship Sailors stationed at the mouth of Delaware Bay at the Overfalls Shoals lightship station. LV-118 was designated a National Historic Monument in June 2011.

## NATIONAL MARITIME DAY



In 1933, the United States Congress declared May 22 as National Maritime Day. The designation honors the contributions of the American Merchant Marine – civilians who have defended the freedom of the United States since 1775 and who executed the largest sealift the world has ever known during World War II. Approximately 1,554 merchant ships were sunk during the war and over 11,000 Merchant Mariners lost their lives .

Observance of National Maritime Day also honors the maritime industry and the benefits it brings Americans in terms of transportation, jobs, goods, and recreational opportunities.

This year we pay special tribute to the 7 sailors of the Lightship *Nantucket* (LV-117) who lost their lives 90 years ago this week, on May 15, 1934, when their ship was sunk by RMS *Olympic* after being struck by the ocean liner in heavy fog.

## OPENING CEREMONY

### Welcome

Eleisa Weber, Coast TV, Honorary Committee Chair  
Posting of the Colors, Sussex Technical H.S., USCG JROTC Color Guard  
National Anthem – Cathy Gorman

### Invocation

Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan, Seaside Jewish Community

### Introductions and Opening Remarks

Heath Gehrke, Cape May-Lewes Ferry Director of Operations  
Mark G Schaeffer, Sussex County Council District 3  
Delaware State Senator Russell Huxtable, 6th District

**Featured Speaker, LT Danielle P. Taylor, USCG**  
Supervisor for Marine Safety Detachment Lewes

### In Memoriam

Michael Safina, President Overfalls Foundation

Robert Cote, 1943-2023	John Page Holt III, 1939-2023
Beverly Kennedy, 1942-2024	J. "Faye" McDaniel, 1943-2023
William Reader, 1941-2023	Helen Schnoebelen, 1936-2024
Lightship Nantucket Crew, LV-117	Merchant Mariners

Eternal Father—Cathy Gorman

### Closing Remarks and Opening of Lightship *Overfalls*

Mayor Andrew Williams

### Benediction

Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

### God Bless America

Cathy Gorman

### Conclusion

Selection of Music by Cathy Gorman