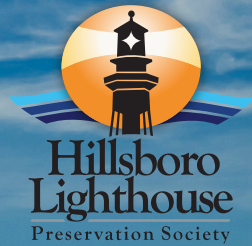


# BIG DIAMOND



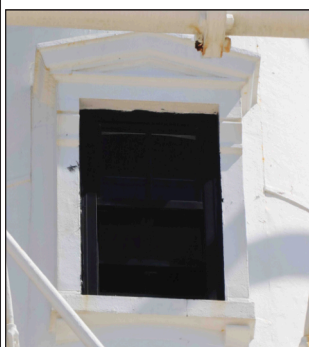
December 2023  
Volume 26  
Number 1



INDEX	
Lighthouse Windows	1
President's Message	2
New Web Cameras	4
2023 Gala	5
Membership Info	6
2024 Gala	7
Volunteer with us	7
Spotlight: Museum	8
2024 - Tours and Events	8
Memorial Brick Program	9
Hillsboro Inlet District	10
Amber Thompson (Velez)	10
Joan Rauert - Retirement	10
Business Sponsorship Program	11

## THE LIGHTHOUSE GETS NEW WINDOWS - Ralph Krugler (with photos)

Water intrusion and salt erosion of the lighthouse are two of the worst and most chronic problems we face in maintaining the light. Water intrusion issues actually date back to the earliest days of the Station.



**NEW WINDOW INSTALLED  
CIRCA AUG 2023**

The originally installed windows in both the cylinder and Service Room have been replaced over the hundred plus years of the lighthouse's service with whatever were available. The original wood framing naturally deteriorates over time leaving the tower less secure the longer the windows stay installed. So, this is a somewhat regular occurrence that must be monitored and prevented.

With this new round of window deterioration, the southern upper cylinder window became so insecure that when shut, one could actually pass their fingers between the upper and bottom sections of the window directly to the outside. Also, the eastern window in the Service Room was in even worse shape. Its deterioration was so bad that the frame disintegrated on the top edge of the lower pane of glass and had actually fallen off.

With each passing storm, we just kept hoping that the new window project could be approved and completed. But, with 2020 shutdowns, the resulting supply chain issues, and getting government body buy in, the project would be delayed long past what we originally estimated in our project schedule.

HLPS Vice President Ed Dietrich was tasked with the window replacement project, since he has a long professional history of exactly this skill set.

Ed started the project by reaching out to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to work with them in obtaining approved window options. This approval is needed in order to maintain the historical standing of the lighthouse.

Ed also petitioned the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA), seeking funds that are supposed to be made available for projects exactly like this. And as one would expect, this didn't go as smoothly as we would have desired.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## WINDOW INSTALLATION



**CIRCA AUG 2023**



**PREP FOR NEW WINDOWS  
CIRCA AUG 2023**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - KEN HERMAN

As years go for the HLPS, 2023 has been a very productive year. We have completed two of our outstanding four major projects:

- New front (and top) doors (cost approx. \$20k)
- New windows (cost approx. \$40k)

The two remaining major projects from our list from 2022 are:

- Repainting the entire lighthouse
- Bottom lighthouse strut replacement / refurbishment.

Of which, the painting project is scheduled to be underway within the first half of 2024. The painting project is estimated to cost well over \$100k. Also, keep in mind that we will be returning the day marker back to its pre-1969 color scheme.

Some of our more ongoing projects that we were able to make progress on this year are:

- Added two new cameras to the top of the lighthouse (and maintaining our original inlet camera)
- Added electronics to the top of the lighthouse for placing sensors and streaming data

Some other milestones that were also obtained in 2023 include:

- Holiday lighting of the lighthouse (12/2022)
- The 2023 fundraising gala
- Planning for 2024 fundraising gala
- Planning for refurbishing the service room
- Planning for refurbishing / replacing the bottom lighthouse struts
- Holiday lights - again this year (planning for new light configuration)

And we are still in the consideration and planning planning stages for the following future projects:

- Updating the electrical system of the lighthouse
- Placing flagpole on lighthouse

Also if one keeps tabs, they will see two new items on our project list:

- Refurbishing the service room. We are currently in the planning stages of meeting with a company that is willing to donate Dade County pine for this restoration project. More to come on this in the future.
- Updating the electrical system of the lighthouse. With the advent of more outages from lightning strikes, we are working with an electrical contractor to bring the lighthouse electrical system up to modern standards. We are hoping to complete this by early 2024.

And finally, we would like to welcome our new Membership Chair - Amber Thompson (Velez). Amber is the great-grand-daughter of lighthouse keeper Warren Bennett (1941). We appreciate her stepping up and taking on this responsibility. She has been working with us for a while to find the best use for her talents. We finally found it. Thank you Brian for being the interim chair for 2022-3. If you take any of our monthly tours, Amber is the person you will be speaking to at the docks.

### ORIGINAL DAY-MARK



The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours.

### HLPS OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

#### **Ken Herman**

President / Webmaster / Big Diamond

#### **Ed Dietrich**

Vice President

#### **Brian Ginch**

Treasurer

#### **Betsy Slagle**

Secretary

#### **Arthur A. Makenian**

Executive Director / Preservationist

#### **Amber Thompson (Velez)**

Membership Chair

#### **Bill Slager**

Tour Coordinator

#### **Pam Wunderlich**

Museum Chair / Gift Shop Chair

#### **Debbie Divich**

Public Relations Chair

#### **Ralph Krugler**

Historian

#### **Dave DeJesus**

Monument Director

#### **Joe Suggs**

Dock Manager

#### **Edward J. Chandler Esq.**

Counsel

#### **Board of Directors**

Frederick R. MacLean, Jr.

John (Jack) Burrie

Chris Doone

Rob O'Neill

#### **Key Volunteers - Tours**

Phil Petito, Fred Steinlein, Jack Shaw, Lewis Druss, Harry Silverman, John Weis, Jim Ferri

#### **Key Volunteers - Museum**

Sheldon Voss, Toni Hamm, Misty Jackson, Cindy Nothe, Misty Jackson, Gloria McVaugh, Raelynn DeParsqual

#### **Key Volunteers - USCG Aux.**

Carlos M. Arenas Rona Trachenberg





**THE LIGHTHOUSE GETS NEW WINDOWS - Continued (page 1)** (Ralph Krugler with photos)



**SERVICE ROOM WINDOW PREP  
CIRCA AUG 2023**

To start with, the FLA turned us down for supporting funds. This was because instead of using the wood framing, as they insisted, we instead opted for modern hurricane protection with associated framing. And although the windows used modern materials, they are made to look historically accurate. We chose this option because we felt that the wood option would rot much quicker than the modern materials, and they would never seal properly in the first place. Not to mention that getting the wooden option would have cost considerably more due to the custom nature of the lighthouse windows.

SHPO also preferred the wooden framing, but in direct contrast to the FLA, were happy to grant us permission for the modern looking upgrade. They agreed that we are in a special circumstance, being so close to the beach, and sometimes special circumstance require waivers to the suggested norms.

The USCG were very positive about the entire project. They happily agreeing to whichever option we chose; as long as we got the other agencies to approve. The USCG views us a reliable and trustworthy partners in the preservation and maintenance of the lighthouse, and we

work hard to maintain that trust.

So, after months and months of back and forth with these multiple agencies the project continued forward - without the backing funds from the FLA. We felt that the issue of modern materials was something we could not compromise on, and it would benefit the long-term preservation and integrity of the lighthouse structure if we stood our ground. Hurricane proofing and preventing water intrusion was just that important. Fortunately, we have some wonderful backers who generously donated to this project. So, the FLA backing money would have been nice, but it wasn't a deal breaker.



**WINDOW FOR NEW DAY-MARK  
CIRCA AUG 2023**

Once the funding was secured, the project hit another snag - finding a manufacturer. Ed ran into a few problems in this regard. First, the sizes of the two window openings. The cylinder windows are smaller than Service Room windows. Plus, they are not common sizes. And, with our special requirements, many manufacturers declined the job.

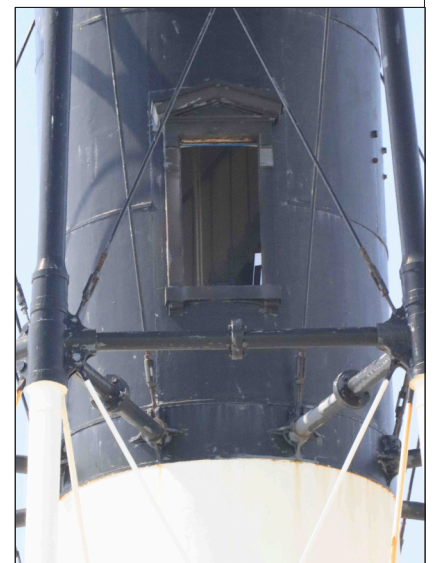
Finally, Boca Impact Window & Door rose to the challenge and produced five (5) cylinder and four (4) Service Room windows for us. After years of delays, the windows finally were scheduled to arrive on August 11, 2023. In preparation, all the windows were removed. Also, the bottom two windows openings had a considerable amount of erosion which required much grinding of the metal structure to remove rust. This is needed to expose solid material in which to screw the new frames into. Arriving on time, the new windows were installed without incident.

was purposely done in preparation for the complete tower repainting project scheduled to occur in 2024. With the new paint job, we will also restore the original day-mark.

The original day-mark had the lighthouse 2/3 black (top) and 1/3 white (bottom), which included that section of the lighthouse. This day-mark lasted from 1907-1969 when the USCG painted the structure and expanded the white portion of the lighthouse upward one section. This change made the lighthouse 1/2 black and 1/2 white.

Finally, with the new windows installed, it was time for the real world test; a severe rainstorm. Heavy rains have hit the tower from every direction in the month from installation to the writing of this article. We are happy to report that the new windows have proved to repel all water as desired.

In closing, we would like to extend many thanks to our supporters who donated to this project and Boca Window & Door who came in way under the anticipated cost!



**MISSING WINDOW IN CYLINDER  
CIRCA AUG 2023**



## NEW FOR 2023 - TWO NEW WEB CAMERA VIEWS! - Ralph Krugler



UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC CONDUIT PATH FROM  
GENERATOR ROOM TO BASE OF LIGHTHOUSE  
**CIRCA 2023**

As much as we try to maintain the historical accuracy of the lighthouse, there are just some things that do have to change with the times. For instance, the lighthouse originally ran on oil, but now runs on electricity. Also, the original electrical lighting was from an incandescent bulb, but now runs on a series of twenty-eight (28) LED lights with an accompanying computer controller.

To that end, in 2022, with the help and suggestion of volunteer Ray Vaughn, a fiber optic line was run from the old generator room (the building to the north of the flagpole) through an existing underground low voltage conduit line to the base of the lighthouse.

Then, a second fiber optic line was connected to the first one at the bottom of the lighthouse and run up the inside the cylinder of the lighthouse, terminating in the Watch Room. This simple process has allowed many current and future plans to come to life.

The first of these plans to be made possible with this upgrade is the installation of two (2) new webcams. To much fanfare, these cameras made their official debut to the public on the night of our annual fundraising gala in March 2023.

The two (2) new cameras are fixed to platforms we custom made and are mounted to the base ring of the Lantern, inside the big diamond glass of the lighthouse. One faces north, allowing viewing of the Atlantic, ICW, and municipalities up to Deerfield Beach and Boca Raton. The south facing camera shows the weir, inlet, and Atlantic coast down to Port Everglades and beyond.

Both cameras allow views not available anywhere else, and are visited daily by fishermen, divers, and many others to get a better idea of what to expect before heading out for a day on the water.

An unintended benefit occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. People who didn't want to fight the crowds, both on the water and on the beach, stayed away; preferring to watch fireworks remotely live on the webcams. Not only were they able to see their local display, but put side-by-side in two windows, they were able to watch every show in the area. Something to remember for following years.



FIREWORKS FROM NORTH VIEW CAMERA ANGLE  
**CIRCA 07/04/2023**



FIREWORKS FROM SOUTH VIEW CAMERA ANGLE  
**CIRCA 07/04/2023**

### Details to get to the two new webcams:

Access to both of these cameras is now available on our webpage at:

[www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org).

Along the top menu bar (where you can find some great information) is a link to our three (3) webcams. Our original inlet cam still remains, with a view of the top of the lighthouse and inlet.





## 2023 HLPS GALA - ANOTHER FUNDRAISING SUCCESS! - Rona Trachtenberg

Photographs courtesy of Patty Daniels Photography

### \$50,000 was raised at the 2023 Hillsboro Lighthouse Fundraising Gala

On Friday, March 10th, 150 guests attended the Big Diamond's 116th Birthday Bash and annual Fundraising Gala dressed in attire befitting The James Bond Moonraker theme.

Tickets were completely sold out, within four weeks, due to the popularity of this non-profit fundraiser and the attendees who put their money where their hearts are to preserve this historic and fully-functioning Aid-to-Navigation.

The planning team of Debbie Divich, Christina Doone, and Board Members from The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, arranged for the guests to have free parking at the 14th Street Alsdorf Park Pier and ferry rides to/from the Lighthouse, where all the festivities took place.

The weather was perfect, the clear sky was filled with stars, and the full moon was rising as the revelers started their evening with an open bar (beer, wine, liquor) donated by Ms. Divich and staffed by Donna Klacik, Kathleen Shea, Lynda DeField, and Nick Divich.

The tables were adorned with nautical centerpieces created by Gala chair Debra Divich and Christina Doone.

Once the guests' thirst was satiated, they enjoyed an hour-long array of tasty appetizers including: seared Ahi Tuna with ginger soy sauce and sprinkled with black/white sesame seeds; black/blue flat bread with skirt steak melted with mozzarella and blue cheese topped with caramelized onions; crab cakes in lemon butter; praline brie in a puffed pastry cup topped with creamy remoulade; and chicken satay in a sweet & spicy Thai peanut sauce.

Then the guests dined on a variation of Hugh's Catering's signature salad: mixed greens, sliced pears, dried cherries, blue cheese, with honey balsamic vinaigrette.

The main course consisted of an assortment of rolls, plus Maine lobster tails and petite filet mignon served over whipped Yukon potatoes and decorated with grilled asparagus spears and French baby carrots.

Dessert consisted of French macarons and assorted mini-fruit tartlets. This was all cooked, prepared, served and plated perfectly by Hugh's Catering of Oakland Park, FL.

If you have just read the above description and are smiling to yourself, then you were probably one of the fortunate diners to have enjoyed that delicious meal. However, if you are salivating and bemoaning the fact that you missed out on such a sumptuous spread then I highly recommend you consider attending next year's Gala because Hugh's Catering keeps improving their menu each year and you won't want to miss out on their 2024 creative delicacies.

Now it was time for the evening activities to begin, which were hosted by Master of Ceremonies local disc jockey Jeff Martin.

Guests danced to live music by the Time Frame Band, the Majic Bus Band, and Sheldon Voss.

The James Bond theme was highlighted by a Monte Carlo-style casino complete with authentic crap and roulette tables.

The three silent auction items were: a ride on the Goodyear Blimp, a stunning ceiling panel painted by local artist Carrie Bennett, and a clambake dinner for eight cooked by Duane Z. Congratulations to the three highest winners and everyone who raised their paddles to make during this auction.

Ralph Krugler, HLPS Board Member, supervised the private tour of the Lens Room that is only open once a year, during this Gala. Guests who climbed the 175 steps to the top enjoyed the 360 degree view, the full moon, and got an education on how the bi-valve Fresnel Lenses shine its beacon an incredible 28 nautical miles (32 land miles).





### 2023 HLPS GALA - Continued (page 5)

The fantastic evening was digitally documented by Photographer Patty Daniels, whose photographs from the evening can be viewed at

<https://pattydanielsphotography.pixieset.com/hillsborolighthousegala2023/>

HLPS Board President Ken Herman was thrilled that this year's Gala raised \$50,000. "Every dollar is earmarked to pay for the upkeep, renovations, and repairs for the Lighthouse," he confirmed. "The new door is being installed, along with nine new windows, and an interior and exterior paint job. Thank you to our generous donors !!!"

If you weren't able to celebrate with us this year, don't worry. Simply mark your calendars to attend the 117th Birthday of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, which will take place on Friday, March 22, 2024 with the theme of a Tribute to Jimmy Buffett Under The Full Moon.

This year tickets sold out quickly, so be sure to monitor Eventbrite as the 2024 tickets will become available online beginning February 2024 at <https://hillsborolighthousegala.eventbrite.com>.

If you have any further questions, wish to be a corporate/business sponsor, or want to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact Debbie Divich via e-mail at [media@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:media@hillsborolighthouse.org) or phone (786) 251-0811

We look forward to seeing you at our 2024 Gala!



### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join today to help preserve our lighthouse's heritage and receive these benefits:

Join online: <http://hillsborolighthouse.org/join-us>

- \* A subscription to our newsletter "The Big Diamond"
- \* Free admission to all tours, programs, and lectures for the membership period
- \* Timely updates to events related to the lighthouse

**Membership rates:**

Individual \$50.00 / year	Business (non-profit) \$150.00 / year
Family (of 4) \$75.00 / year	Business (for profit) \$175.00 / year
Family (of 6) \$100.00 / year	Lifetime \$600.00 or more / once (per person)

HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC. (HLPS) IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT, CHAPTER 496.405, FLORIDA STATUTES: REGISTRATION #CH8700. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800) 435-7532 FROM WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.





## 2024 HLPS GALA - 117<sup>th</sup> Lighthouse Anniversary Gala - A Jimmy Buffett Tribute



Friday, March 22, 2024.

Calling all boat captains, sailors, fishermen & women, beach bums, Parrotheads, Coral Reefers and neighbors!!!

Join us at the Hillsboro Lighthouse to celebrate 117 years of Light on Friday, March 22, 2024, from Sunset to Moonrise (7-11 pm)

Enjoy and open bar and Hugh's Culinary will provide heavy appetizers, & dessert at the Hillsboro Lighthouse under the stars, all night long.

In keeping with the Jimmy Buffett-theme, dress to impress! (a white sports coat and a pink crustation with a pencil thin mustache) Leave the jeans and hoodie at home, as cocktail attire is requested—costumes are encouraged. A PRIZE will be awarded to the couple with the most authentic attire (costume) — whether you are A Son of a Sailor, a Pirate at 40, wear your finest Caribbean attire and go on your own adventure! If costumes aren't your thing, the chic elegance of Black & White (to match the colors of the Lighthouse) attire is totally acceptable.

Sailors, Captains, & , please, leave your heels at home so you can safely, climb 175 steps to the top, for a rare opportunity to visit the lens room and see the brightest and only working second-order bivalve Fresnel lens in the world!

During the evening, you may participate in our live auction, climb to the top of the lighthouse, enjoy our open bar (liquor, beer & wine) & dance the night away under the full moon.

This year the we have 2 great items in our live auction. The Good Year Blimp and a spectacular work of Art on one of 13 original 117-year-old ceiling panel, created by local artist Dan Mathew. We will not have a silent auction this year. As guest check-in volunteers will register the guest credit card to a auction paddle. This "raise your paddle" auction will help us;

paint the exterior and interior of the lighthouse and repair and replace it's bottom struts.

Details: Leave the driving to us! Park at Alsdorf Park.

This year, getting to the Gala is even easier and more fun. Leave your car at Alsdorf Park, located at 2901 NE 14th Street, Pompano Beach, and take the ferry at the dock to the Hillsboro Lighthouse. At the end of the evening, you will return via ferry to your car. This is the only way to get onto the private Lighthouse Property.

The first of four ferry transports will leave the Alsdorf Park dock at 6:15 pm, followed by the second, third, and fourth in 25-minute intervals. The waiter-served hors d'oeuvres will begin promptly at 7:15 pm and continue for the next hour. If you don't want to miss these mouth-watering morsels, please consider leaving early, parking early, and taking the earliest ferries possible.

Open bar, all night, passed Hors d'oeuvres: 7:00-8:15 PM - Dinner by Hugh's Catering

Guests will dine on waiter- served hors d'oeuvres, cheese burgers in paradise, Sheldon Voss & The Promise Band will entertain you all evening with his live band.

## « « « « « WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER! » » » » »

### Help us keep the Light Shining...

We are an All-Volunteer Organization. If you have a few hours a week or once a month to share with use, please call 954-242-3988.

Join our great group of people who love our historic Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse and want to keep it lit for generations to come!





**SPOTLIGHT: THE HILLSBORO INLET LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM - Pam Wunderlich**



Located just across the waters from the historic Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, in the newly named “Roy L Rogers Family Park” at the Hillsboro Inlet, is the museum dedicated to the preservation of the lighthouse and its history.

The museum opened in 2012 and was remodeled in 2019. The museum is operated by volunteers from the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Knowledgeable staffers from the society are prepared to share highlights of the iconic lighthouse’s colorful history, including details of the harrowing adventures of James E. “Ed” Hamilton (perhaps the most famous “Barefoot Mailman”) who mysteriously disappeared in October of 1887. Only his clothes and mailbag were found on the north bank of the inlet where the lighthouse now stands.

A number of books and magazines are available to those visitors curious to delve deeper into the history of the lighthouse and the surrounding area. Visitors may also wish to browse through items in the museum’s gift shop including artwork, T-shirts, coffee mugs and more. Profits from the sale of these items help fund HLPS projects to restore and maintain the historic property.

The museum is currently open Tuesday through Sunday 11 am – 3 pm, closed on Monday. The HLPS is seeking additional volunteers to enable Monday openings as well as extending hours of operation.

HLPS volunteers enjoy many benefits from their association with the organization. The superb views of the lighthouse from the museum are a daily pleasure.

Volunteers meet and greet visitors from around the US and the world and share the history of the lighthouse just across the water. Volunteers are asked to donate 4 hours or more per month at the museum.

The museum staff is a happy, upbeat crew which brings visitors back again and again, so “people skills” are a must. Volunteers should be computer literate, reliable and willing to show up promptly at assigned times.

If being a member of the HLPS sounds like something you would enjoy, contact Pam at (954)242-3988 or email [museum@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:museum@hillsborolighthouse.org). You’ll be glad you did.



**Hillsboro Lighthouse 2024 Events & Tours**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

March 9th (Sat.) 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
USCG grounds - at Lighthouse



**117th Lighthouse Gala**

March 22nd (Fri.) 6:00pm - 11:00pm  
on lighthouse grounds

**January 06<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**July 14<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**February 11<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**August 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

**March 9<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**September 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

**April 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**October 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**May 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**November 9<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**June 8<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

**December 8<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – Sands Dock**  
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

Tour dates and times subject to change



SCAN FROM MORE  
TOUR INFO

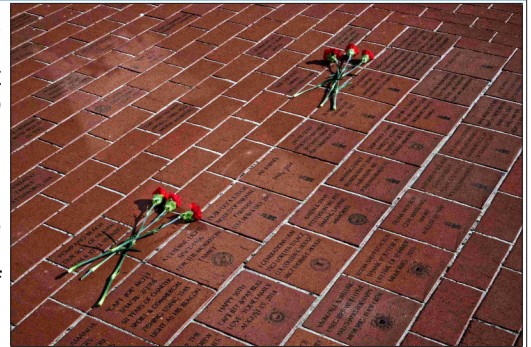




## THE MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM - A BEACON OF MEMORY - Amber Thompson (Velez)

The Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Memorial Brick program is more than just a fundraiser; it's a testament to the enduring connection between people and their history. The engraved bricks represent not only names and dates but stories, legacies, and the unwavering support of a community dedicated to preserving its maritime heritage.

Dave's leadership in hosting, installing, and managing this project has been instrumental in ensuring its success. His vision, tenacity, and dedication have allowed the Hillsboro Lighthouse to stand strong as a symbol of history, remembrance, and community support. It's a testament to the power of individuals to make a difference and keep history alive, one brick at a time.



As the sun sets over the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, it continues to stand tall and proud, thanks to the support of those who have contributed to the Memorial Bricks program and the leadership of Dave, whose commitment has been the guiding light in this remarkable endeavor. All profits from this project are used for the continued operations and restoration of the lighthouse.

### Vitralase Engraved Brick with *Your own Personal Message*



*Become a permanent part of the Hillsboro Light Station! Purchase a brick that will be placed in our "Centennial brick patio" so that, in the years to come, you will be able to bring your children, grandchildren and friends to see your name, their names and/or your commemorative note and/or place. You will be able to create your own message or choose from selected designs for your brick(s). These specially engraved, decorative bricks will be used throughout the "Centennial brick patio".*

*Just \$100 for a 4"x 8" and \$175 for an 8"x 8"- The price is for a brick with or without clipart.*

### **Brick Details**

*The bricks are 4"x 8"x 2 1/4" or 8"x 8"x 2 1/4" and are engraved using state of the art laser technology. This will insure strength and durability for many years to come.*

### **Mini Brick Replica!**

*In addition, we offer you the opportunity to purchase a miniature replica of the original. This mini brick can be used as a paperweight, given to a loved one or friend as a remembrance, or just as an everyday reminder! The mini brick replicas are **Just \$25***

Visit <https://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/memorial-bricks>

Or, reach out to **Dave DeJesus**, our monument manager, at one of the public tours of the lighthouse and grounds. He would be happy to answer any of your questions and provide you with more information about this program.



**THE HILLSBORO INLET DISTRICT - Ken Herman**



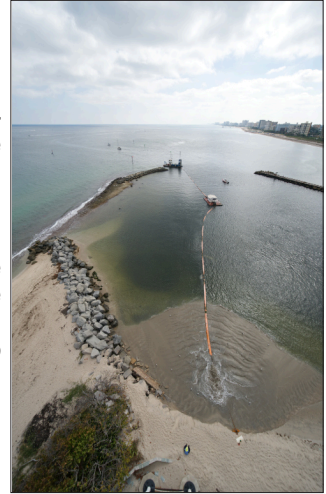
The HLPS would like to take the time to thank the employees of the Hillsboro Inlet District for their many years of help to our organization.

They have been outstanding partners in not only keeping our inlet waterway navigable for boaters by maintaining a safe depth to the inlet; but also assisting both the USCG and the HLPS in controlling the sand migration and erosion of the beaches surrounding the lighthouse.

So, if you ever find yourself wondering what those large barge-like structures are off the beach of the lighthouse, that is the dredging equipment used by the HID to do their job of keeping the sand migration under control.

They do this through sucking up the sand with a vacuum hose and placing it where needed. Usually, this is done through the pipe that starts on the USCG side and pops out in the southern beach - under the inlet. But on a as needed basis, they will also replenish the USCG beach and dock area.

They are a friendly and helpful crew of great guys that are always willing to step up. Thank you for all you do - we really appreciate it.



**AMBER VELEZ NÉE THOMPSON - OUR NEWEST MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / BOARD MEMBER**



Amber is a passionate advocate for the preservation of both maritime and terrestrial heritage, making her a unique and dedicated leader in the preservation community. With a strong commitment to the rich maritime heritage of the Florida coast and an equally fervent passion for land preservation.

As the new Membership Chair of the HLPS, Amber brings a wealth of experience in community engagement and membership development, informed by her family's history of dedication to this iconic lighthouse and her grandfather's advocacy for land preservation. Her deep familial ties to the lighthouse, through her grandfather Warren Bennett's service as keeper of the lighthouse 1941-1949, and her passion for land preservation underscore the personal significance and commitment she brings to her role and serve as an

inspiration to all who share her love for maritime history, ecological conservation, and the preservation of our cultural and natural heritage. Her personable and enthusiastic nature has a way of inspiring others to join the cause and become stewards of our treasured "Big Diamond".

Amber's vision for the HLPS is to foster a vibrant and engaged membership base that will not only provide essential support for the restoration efforts but also be ambassadors for the lighthouse's historical significance and its surrounding natural beauty. She believes that a shared sense of responsibility for preserving both the lighthouse and the land is key to ensuring the long-term survival of these cherished coastal landmarks and ecological treasures.

Amber's new role represents a promising future for the preservation of this historic landmark and the natural landscapes that surround it. Amber alongside her husband, David, host all public tours, sharing not just historical facts but also personal anecdotes that reflect her family's deep connection to the lighthouse. Together, with the other volunteers of HLPS they create experiences that merge the captivating history of the structure with the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect it for future generations.

**JOAN RAUERT - RETIREMENT FROM USCG AUX - Christina Doone**



Congratulations to Joan Rauert on her retirement from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lighthouse Point Floatilla 37.

Joan served faithfully for 15 years and some of her roles included: Boat Crew certified, Human Resources, Public Affairs, and Secretary. And, she encouraged new recruits along the way.

Thank you Joan for your volunteer leadership and answering the call to serve the United States Coast Guard as an Auxiliarist. Enjoy your retirement!





## HLPS: BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



### Mission:

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) would like to offer your business a sponsorship opportunity with exclusive benefits for you and your team.

### Business Sponsorship Tiers:

#### Bronze Level - \$500/year

- Annual Business Membership (up to 8 people per tour)
- Listing on HLPS website as a Bronze Member
- Annual acknowledgment in HLPS newsletter

#### Silver Level - \$1,000/year

- All benefits of Bronze Level
- Logo placement on HLPS website (on sponsor page)
- Exclusive guided tour of the lighthouse for up to 10 employees

#### Gold Level - \$2,500/year

- All benefits of Silver Level
- Premium logo placement on HLPS website (on sponsor page)
- Exclusive guided tour of the lighthouse for up to 20 employees
- 1 free memorial brick
- 2 complimentary tickets to the annual Lighthouse Gala

#### Platinum Level - \$5,000/year

- All benefits of Gold Level
- Prominent logo placement on HLPS website (on web camera sponsorship area)
- 2 free memorial bricks
- 4 complimentary tickets to the annual Lighthouse Gala

#### Additional Benefits for All Levels:

- Exclusive updates on HLPS preservation efforts
- Access to HLPS educational programs and events
- Networking opportunities with other business members

### How to Join:

To become a business member of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, please contact Debbie Divich via e-mail at [media@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:media@hillsborolighthouse.org) or phone (786) 251-0811. You can then choose your desired membership level and make a secure online payment.

We appreciate your support in helping us preserve this historic landmark for generations to come.

Return Service Requested



Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 326  
Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326  
[www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org)

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FT LAUD FL  
PERMIT 2224

Support Florida lighthouses by  
purchasing a 'VISIT OUR  
LIGHTS' auto tag.



[floridalighthouses.org/get-the-tag/](http://floridalighthouses.org/get-the-tag/)



March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - View of 2023 Gala from Lighthouse Tour (courtesy Patty Daniels Photography)