



ROSE ISLAND

Annual Report 2019

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roseisland.org

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

"To preserve the historic and environmental integrity of Rose Island, to maintain and operate its Lighthouse, and to provide education and public access for all people"

The Foundation

The Rose Island Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. RILF supports this mission by providing memberships, environmental education for schools and youth groups, fundraising events, tours and overnight accommodations, and tax-exempt contributions from conservation and preservation minded individuals, families, groups, and businesses.

The Island

Rose Island is about 18 acres in size. It consists of a wildlife refuge, the lighthouse, and the Fort Hamilton Barracks. Between March 1st and August 15th, public access around the perimeter of Rose Island is restricted for nesting birds. In the winter, from late October to early April, you can often see harbor seals resting on Citing Rock on the east side of Rose Island, which is surrounded by extensive underwater eel grass beds

The Lighthouse

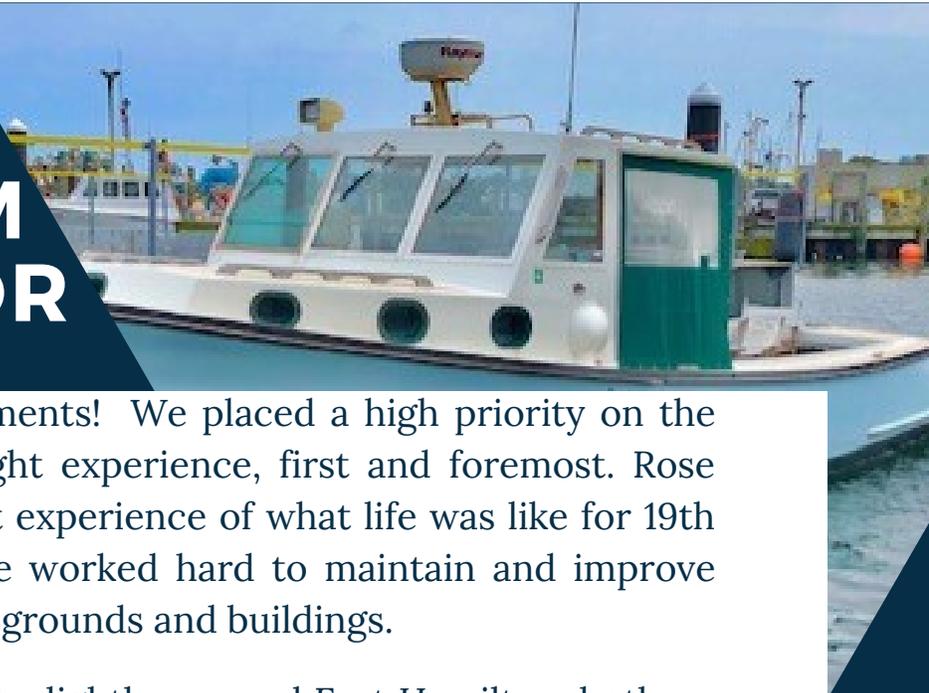
A mile offshore, beyond the reach of Newport's utility lines and services, the Rose Island Lighthouse stands as an independent, energy-efficient building that was home to keepers and their families for over a hundred years.

After the Newport Bridge was built, the Light Station was abandoned as an aid to navigation. For the next 14 years it fell victim to scavengers, vandals and the weather. In 1984, volunteers of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation restored it to its 1912 appearance, installing environmentally sensitive utilities for electricity, water, sewer, and heat. On August 7, 1993, after the funds had been raised to pay all the restoration bills, the beacon was joyously re-lit. Rose Island Light is once again listed on today's charts as a private aid to navigation. The Lighthouse is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Visitors of all ages can learn about the Lighthouse's history and can experience, first-hand, the keeper's self-sufficient, resourceful way of life...learning that lasts a lifetime.

By: *Brian Tefft*

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2019 was a year of accomplishments! We placed a high priority on the Rose Island Lighthouse overnight experience, first and foremost. Rose Island offers a unique overnight experience of what life was like for 19th century lighthouse keepers. We worked hard to maintain and improve the beauty and condition of our grounds and buildings.

We continued preservation of the lighthouse and Fort Hamilton, both on the National Register of Historic Places. We exposed the south curtain wall of historic Fort Hamilton and exposed 3-acres of island long covered by non-native invasive vegetation. In doing so, we improved the ecology of Rose Island, and provided opportunities for visitors to walk a mile-long trail and view the ruins of WWII and also wildlife habitats. We began a colony nesting bird project to attract native egrets and herons back to the island where they have nested in the past. We improved habitats by planting 80 native red cedar trees on the island. We held four very successful and well attended events that included a book signing, an artists retreat and an old fashioned clam boil. We are also updating our website making it better and more user friendly for all.

Certainly, I could go on, but space is limited and I'll let you look for yourself when you visit us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian C. Tefft". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE PRESIDENT

Eli Dana

TREASURER

Joseph Tamburo

SECRETARY

Joanne Morlan

DIRECTORS

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Katherine Hoepfner-Karle

Ally Maloney

Gil Stringer

Adam Thayer

Alexandra Maraccio

Gina Marie Manoni

Megan Leitch

ROSE ISLAND BY THE NUMBERS IN 2019

2,000

total day use visits

430

overnight guests in the lighthouse

75

cruise ship tours

1,131

cruise ship visitors

240

elementary school visits

146

Save the Bay tour visits



The Rose Island Lighthouse is a place that provides inspiration and heartfelt memories to all who visit this spectacular location in Newport, RI.

It's your Island

Help us protect it

PRESERVATION

The mission of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation (RILF) is to preserve the historic and environmental integrity of the island and to maintain and operate its lighthouse for public access.

EDUCATION

Our staff and volunteers collaborate with schools, colleges and universities, youth groups, and other interested organizations to provide environmental and historic information about the unique role Rose Island has played in the past and continues today and into the future.

EXPLORATION

The lighthouse museum, wildlife refuge, and meeting and picnic areas are open for daily visits, exploring, guided tours, and events. Plan an overnight stay in one of 5 unique guest rooms to experience the historic serenity of Rose Island firsthand.

Preservation - Education - Conservation

Your donation supports:

- The continuous restoration of the barracks, lighthouse and foghorn buildings
- The funding for education and research development activities
- The safety of the facilities for an enjoyable experience for visitors to Rose Island





PAST EVENTS

Art on Rose Island
The Curious Childhood of Wanton Chase
The Traditional Clam Boil

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 29, 2020
Paddle for Rose Island
All details TBA

CONNECT WITH US



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<https://www.roseisland.org/>