

The regularly scheduled **November 2026 public meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026, starting at 7:00 PM**. Our presenter will be Britta Forsberg, Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay. Save Barnegat Bay is the only independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit exclusively dedicated to the protection and preservation of Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Britta's presentation will focus on the role of Save Barnegat Bay, its history and the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect Barnegat Bay.

2026 - Point Pleasant Historical Society 50th Year Anniversary

Written by - Kathy Heim

This year the Point Pleasant Historical Society celebrates its fifty-year Anniversary. Founded in 1976 as the Shore Harbor Historical Society, a created name to show that the Society would be covering more than just Point Pleasant. It was long time local resident, Margaret "Peg" Busse who planted the seed of a need for a historical society to properly preserve the history, artifacts and memories of days gone by. Peg and the founding members were interested in preserving the histories of Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Beach, Bay Head, and Mantoloking since there were no other local groups doing this. Founding members included Peg Busse, Victoria Hassett, Carolyn Martin, Emery Wheeler, Nancy Skinner, Anne Abendschoen. Doris Baker designed the society's "Rosamund" ship logo, which we continue to use.

Peg worked tirelessly to sign up new members and offered her home and yard for meetings. She worked to advance Historic Society's goals, kept our records, and made the Shore Harbor Historical Society famous for Beach Plum Jam. Donated items were stored in the garages and basements of the Society officers. Early meetings were held in the Nellie Bennett School in Point Pleasant sitting on those small child chairs. Using the school also explains the pattern of our public meetings that followed the school schedule.

The Shore Harbor Historical Society was famous for its fundraisers, especially the annual Beach Plum festival. This featured beach plum syrup from founder Peg Busse's historic bushes in Point Pleasant mixed with vanilla ice cream by ice cream wizard Bob Hoffman. There was also a well-regarded Strawberry Festival. The Historical Society marched and had floats in the annual summer Big Sea Day parade.

I joined in 1986 so I can't give first-person history of those early years. Peg Busse caught me by the shopping carts at Foodtown and cajoled me into joining.

As the Society was becoming more established, there was discussion of changing the name to something that represented a town or area that really existed. There were several interesting suggestions and members voted to accept "Point Pleasant Historical Society." We also rented a post office box in Point Pleasant Beach, so mail didn't bounce between the addresses of former officers. We still have that post office box number, historic 1273. *(over)*

COOKIES NEEDED FOR THE BENNETT CABIN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

Cookies are needed for the annual Bennett Cabin Christmas Celebration. **This year Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Cabin from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on December 12 and 13 to visit with children, pose for pictures and spread holiday cheer.** We are asking for volunteers to provide cookies for treats for the children (and adults!). Please call Sharon Morris at 732-892-8827 before December 1st if you can bake or purchase cookies for the event. Leave your name and phone number and Sharon will return your call as well as give you a reminder call the week before the event. Thanks to all who have helped in the past, and to those able to help this year. Remember: Please, no nuts in the treats, as so many have allergies! **Thank you!**





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Point Pleasant Historical Society *Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach*

Between the small school chairs and occasional hallway confusion of visitors, there was discussion about finding a more established location. A museum where the historic items could be displayed. As for our Public Meetings for many years, we were able to rent the meeting room at the Woman's Club on St. Louis Avenue in Point Pleasant Beach. Since 2023, the Society has been meeting in Point Pleasant Borough Hall on Bridge Ave. This allows for larger crowds, better parking and is free to the Society.

Meetings continued to be popular with a variety of speakers and programs available. Talking with other local historians, we realized we should look for a museum location. We learned that people were more inclined to donate or share their historical photos, books, collections, etc. if they knew the donation was going to a museum instead of being stored in the homes of society officers.

In 1993 we opened our first museum in downtown Point Pleasant Beach at 636 Arnold Avenue, on the second floor above the Provident Bank now Gold Fever. For the Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum fundraising was now more important as it was our first adventure as a rent-paying museum. Dedicated and strong members carried up previously donated items, display cases, shelves and began creating a real museum, celebrating the history of the area. Thanks to The Malones, Jerry Woolley, The Heims (Kathy & Jeff), Barry and Bob at Borden's, Paul Bonsper of Point Beach Interiors and more. Making decent color copies was now an option (technology!) so treasures that residents shared but were unable to donate could be copied. Our collection and displays expanded and benefited. 1993 was also the same year the Historic Society incorporated with the initial Trustees; Patricia Malone, Jerry Woolley, Mark Lott and Kathy Heim.

We knew a second-floor location was difficult, both for our aging visitors and the labor involved in carrying new donations up the stairs. We kept our eyes open and in 1996 Councilman and member Jim Malone was able to secure us rent-free space in Point Pleasant Beach Borough Hall -- in the "trailer" on the New York Avenue side of the Municipal Building. In 1996 gladly moved to our present home. Gladly because it was on the ground floor and we didn't have to pay any more rent!

Thank Heavens for the town fathers. We survived Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and are still in that location, continuing to fill every square inch with historical memorabilia of all shapes and sizes, dresses, books, pamphlets, model boats, railroad spikes, playbills, photos, videos, paintings, life preservers, and much more. Point Pleasant Beach Historical Preservation Commission's plan is for the Historic Society to move from the Municipal Building to the former Coast Guard station on Inlet Drive. The Point Pleasant Beach Historical Preservation nine-member Commission is working to transform Lifeboat Station 105 into a museum and community space that would include historical exhibits, a cafe, gift shop, meeting space and areas available for private events.

Today Jim Malone remains the Society's President, Sal Marino, Vice-President, Jim Harris, Treasurer and Richard Morris the Museum Administrator. The mission of the Point Pleasant Historical Society and Museum has not changed since its founding. Fifty years later the Historical Society's Mission is still **"to preserve and share the rich history of both Point Pleasant Beach and the Borough of Point Pleasant"**. Thanks to the dedicated people who have volunteered their time over the years and the individuals that have donated our historic artifacts to make the Point Pleasant Historical Society a success.

This year as we celebrate the 250-year Anniversary of our Nation, let's also celebrate the 50-year Anniversary of the Point Pleasant Historical Society & Museum.



*Left: First
Museum in 1995
at 636 Arnold
Ave.*

*Right: Current
Museum in 2026
at 416 New
Jersey Ave.*

