

# Arts

## WOMEN HISTORY

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England; a dramatic reading before and after the concert by Susan Beaumont which is inspired by the journal of sea captain's wife Susan Veeder; on-going crafts activities for children and more features still in the development stages at the end of last week.

Chris Mason, the association's Public Programs Coordinator, said visitors at the event will learn about some special Marys in island history such as Mary Gardner Coffin and Mary Coffin Starbuck. Mary Gardner Coffin, whose portrait hangs in the NHA collection, was married to Jethro Coffin when the Gardner family gave the couple the land beneath The Oldest House, built in 1686, and the Coffin family gave them the present of lumber to construct their home. These gifts united an original island family, the Coffins, with the Gardners, considered "newcomers." Mary Gardner Coffin's portrait, painted when she was about 50, is the oldest portrait in the NHA collection.

Mary Coffin Starbuck attained status as a merchant running a trading

post on Petticoat Row with her husband Nathaniel. She was also a driving force behind the beginning of Quakerism on Nantucket, becoming a member of the society herself then leading others to convert their religious affiliation.

Susan Veeder, also memorialized in an NHA portrait, traveled to sea aboard the ship *Nauticon* with her husband, Captain Charles Veeder. During the voyage she maintained a journal describing events of the trip accompanied by her watercolor illustrations and the sad tale of the ship birth and nearly immediate death of the couple's baby. Beaumont's reading is inspired by Veeder's journal.

Another historic island women in the NHA portrait collection depicted with her husband, Captain Robert McCleave, is Eliza Ann Chase McCleave, who used souvenirs her husband brought from his travels to



*Mary Gardner Coffin is one of the women of history who will be featured at Saturday's Women of Nantucket Festival at the Whaling Museum. Her portrait is the oldest in the NHA collection.*

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., England and Berman will perform. England said the two grew up in the same small town in New York state, but though their mothers were acquainted the women did not meet until they came to Nantucket. They will sing cover songs with women's themes, songs they have collaborated on, the "Lucretia Mott Song" written about a Nantucket historical figure by Margaret Hope Bacon, and Berman's and England's original songs, including Berman's "Nantucket's Girl's Song," based on a poem by Eliza Brock written when Brock was aboard a whaleship.

England will sing her lullabye called "Darlin'" from her new CD, "Nantucket to Nashville," as well as songs from that album including "The Wave," about small, seaside town life and a shanty-type tune called "Sweet Sea Clover."

Admission for the Women of Nantucket Festival, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29 at the Whaling Museum is free for NHA members and costs \$15 for non-members. ■

## TALENT SHOW

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their talent, so why not use the wonderful stage at the high school?"

Proch explained that in January the school staff knew they wanted to offer some type of fun, community winter event and then happened to discover a Community Talent program guide dated 1998. A little further investigating showed that the idea originated 13 years ago but lapsed for the last 10 years. Proch is pleased to be reinstating the presentation.

"I hope this will generate interest and we can showcase future events. We knew we would attract young children as well as adults, so we didn't want to make it into a contest," said Proch. "We didn't want children getting up on stage for the first time and then having them be judged. This is to empower people to get up there and

share what their talent is. They are all winners. This world is too full of achieving — they are all winners in my eyes for getting up and performing, and that's an achievement in itself."

So far, acts include Virginia Bullington and Annabell Gould singing "I'm Not That Girl," from the Broadway show "Wicked." Also featured will be Catherine, Mary and Adrian Goode with Emily Kitsock in a combination singing, dancing and comedy routine; Katie Ponce, who will sing; and Sophie Proch, Isabelle Roberts and KD Tornovich who will sing together.

Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Proceeds offset the cost of producing the show and NCS children's programs such as the elementary school's Arts and Discovery held after academic hours and towards new programs planned for middle school students. ■

stock a "mini-museum" at their home. The artifacts, which she charged to see, became important after the Great Fire of 1846 when so many irreplaceable items were lost. Her museum's contents are now part of the NHA collections.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum, Nantucket, Massachusetts, is seeking an Executive Director. The Executive Director is accountable to the Board of Directors and is responsible for carrying out Board-approved goals and objectives; training and facilitating the work of the staff; and for operating the organization within the approved budget. The Executive Director has primary responsibility for fundraising, museum program management, financial and organizational management, external communications and planning.

### EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Five years experience with museum, cultural, arts, and/or non-profit organizations with documented track record
- Fundraising
- Business and financial management, accounting systems, educational programming, computer systems (Excel, Power Point, and Word) and the ability to communicate clearly with the Board of Directors and Board Committees
- Managing and directing diverse group of employees and volunteers
- Able to establish, develop, and cultivate relationships with agencies, businesses, foundations, private groups, and individuals who are or will become partners or major donors
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Present/past living experiences on Nantucket a plus

### EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree or higher or commensurate experience.

### SALARY/BENEFITS:

Competitive.

For a more detailed job description please visit:

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

Send resume to: Search Committee, Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum, PO Box 2517, Nantucket, MA 02584

or send pdf of cover letter and resume via email to [search@nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org](mailto:search@nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org)



## Brown Baggin' It

**The NHA's FREE Food for Thought Series  
Thursdays, Noon to 1 PM—Bring Your Lunch!**

Thurs., Mar. 27:

**Pat Butler will discuss her book, *Sea Captain's Houses & Rose-Covered Cottages***

In 2003, *Sea Captains' Houses and Rose-Covered Cottages: The Architectural Heritage of Nantucket Island* was named a New York Times notable book of the year in architecture. The illustrated lecture will provide an overview of Nantucket's architectural heritage, from the 17th c. through the 21st c.

Saturday, March 29 from 1 to 4pm

**NHA Hosts Women of Nantucket Festival**

Join us to discover how women helped play a vital role in Nantucket history.

- Listen to stories of notable Nantucketers • Take a Women's History Tour
- Live music by singer-songwriters Susan Berman & Amy England
- Meet contemporary women of Nantucket, and more!

### Current Exhibitions

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit: **In Search of Giant Squid**, Peter Foulger Gallery, in the Whaling Museum.

January 18–June 20, 2008 : **Moby-Dick: Intaglio Prints by Janet Ball McGlinn**, Whitney Gallery, Research Library, 7 Fair Street.



**NANTUCKET  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**



13 Broad Street  
508-228-1894  
[www.nha.org](http://www.nha.org)  
Fri. – Sun., 11-4 pm