



Celebrating 490 Years of Anniversaries at Boston Light

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Just off Boston Light last week, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay hosted a sunset cruise to the oldest manned lighthouse in America as they celebrated 490 Years of Anniversaries at Boston Light on Bay State Cruise Company's flagship, Provincetown II.

"Save the Harbor/Save the Bay was founded in 1986, so it's our 30th Anniversary this year," said Save the Harbor's spokesman Bruce Berman, who married Save the Harbor's President Patty Foley 16 years ago just off Boston Light. "So rather than celebrate alone, we chose to honor our federal, state and non profit partners whose support has been so important to our success to join us, many of whom are also celebrating milestones this year."

2016 marks the 300th Anniversary of Boston Light, the National Park Service's Centennial, the 30th Anniversary of Cruiseport Boston, the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, and the creation of a new group, Boston Harbor Now.

378 people were onboard for the celebration, which took place on a beautiful summer evening despite predicted squalls and storms.

Honored guests included U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston Commander Captain Claudia Gelzer, Giles Parker, Superintendent of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, DCR Deputy Commissioner Matthew Sisk, Executive Director Fred Laskey of the MWRA (which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015), Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner Joan Meschino of Hull, Kathy Abbott, new president of Boston Harbor Now, Walter Hope, Chairman of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands and Save the Harbor's President Patricia Foley and Directors Paul Foster, Rick McKenna, David Spillane and Joe Savage.

"Coast Guard Sector Boston along with our other port partners was honored to join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

on Provincetown II to celebrate a summer of anniversaries," said U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston Commander Captain Claudia Gelzer. "It was a beautiful night to witness Boston Light and the Harbor Islands, and a good time was had by all."

"This sunset cruise was an incredible way for our partners to launch the 20th Anniversary of the Boston Harbor Islands as a State and National Park," said NPS Superintendent Giles Parker. Save the Harbor and all our partners on board are looking forward to connecting with the next generation of island explorers and harbor stewards this summer and into the fall."

Boston Light Keeper Sally Snowman narrated the cruise, and shared stories of her life on Little Brewster Island.

Save the Harbor's Song Leader David Coffin sang a beautiful lighthouse song, while Save the Harbor's storyteller Norah Dooley shared stories from Boston Harbor's past as the Pirate Mary Read.

Bestselling author Eric Jay Dolin signed copies of his new book "Brilliant Beacons: A History of the American Lighthouse", while photographer Jeremy D'Entremont signed prints and posters of his stunning photographs of Boston Light.

"This cruise brought together a wonderful collection of great people to celebrate the harbor and all the organizations who work so hard to support it," said Kathy Abbott, of Boston Harbor Now. "It's great to be back on the Harbor."

That sentiment was shared by Michael Glassfeld and Julie Pagano of Bay State Cruise Company, which hosted the celebration on board their flagship Provincetown II. "Kudos to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for bringing all these great people together. We are really looking forward to working with Save the Harbor to bring 10,000 kids to the islands this year as partners in their free All Access Boston Harbor program."

"It is going to be a terrific summer on Boston Harbor, the beaches and the Harbor Islands" said Save the Harbor's President Patricia Foley. "We look forward to celebrating our 30th Anniversary all summer long, as we connect 30,000 young people and their families to Boston Harbor with 30 free island trips and scores of free events and celebrations on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket. We hope to see you all on the harbor soon!"

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is a non-profit public-interest Boston Harbor environmental advocacy organization whose mission is to restore and protect Boston Harbor, the Boston Harbor Islands, our region's public beaches and the marine environment and share them with the public for everyone to enjoy.