

Jamestown on tour for town clerk convention

By Donna K. Drago

Jamestown was the subject of a course for city and town clerks last Thursday — one of several choices they could make to receive professional development credits in their field.

Some 60 members of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks, in Newport for a three-day convention, elected to take a guided trolley tour of the island on Nov. 16, with representatives of the Jamestown Historical Society as their guides. Jamestown Town Clerk Arlene Petit pitched the idea to the historical society and the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, hoping they would sponsor the offering. "It was oversubscribed," Petit said about the tour, adding, "We had to turn some people away" from the clearly popular offering.

Petit said that participants had to write a paper about the tour in order to get the professional credits.

The tour began at the library, where the clerks were welcomed by Town Administrator Bruce Keiser and members of the chamber, then JHS members Harry Wright and Jim Buttrick hopped on the two trolleys to conduct the historical tours.

The itinerary included stops at the Jamestown Windmill, the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum, and Watson Farm.

Petit said that the tour was geared to show the development of an island community. Noting that while there were several hundred convention attendees, very few actually are town clerks on an island, she said.

"We have unique needs," Petit said about living on an island.

Petit said she came up with the idea for the tour because she is very proud of her community and she wanted to show it off.

"This is a real thrill for me," Petit said.



Beavertail on clerks' tour

Sixty town clerks from all over New England took a historical tour of Jamestown last week as part of their annual convention held in Newport.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

Choristers to sing holiday concert Dec. 9

As part of the Christmas in Newport celebration, the Newport Navy Choristers, under the direction of JoAnn Loewenthal, will present "Christmas in Song" on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at St Lucy's Church, 909 West Main Rd. in Middletown.

The Newport Navy Choristers are composed of active duty, retired, reserves, military dependents, and civilian personnel. They have raised over \$350,000 for worthwhile local charities for over 50 years.

All proceeds for this year's concert will go toward benefiting the Fort Adams Trust, which is a non-profit organization formed to work with the state of Rhode Island as a tourist attraction supplying educational exhibits on the history of the fort. Restoration is underway to make this the finest example of this type in North America.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Laurie Labrecque, special events director, at 841-0707 or by contacting any chorister member. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors over 62 years and children under 12 years of age, and \$20 for families. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. To purchase tickets in Jamestown, call Roxie Smith at 423-2376.

For more information, contact JoAnn Loewenthal, chorister director, at 849-4823, or go to the Chorister Web site at www.newportnavychoristers.org.

LaSalle to give entrance exam

LaSalle Academy in Providence will hold its entrance exam on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 8 a.m.

The school is located at 612 Academy Ave. and walk-in registrations will be accepted.

Call 351-7750 for more information.

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