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**For Immediate Release**

**From: Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum**

**NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP BASKET MUSEUM OPENS 2013 SEASON WITH EXHIBIT  
"Coming Home"**

**Nantucket, MA., April 24, 2013** – The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum [www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org](http://www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org), begins its 14<sup>th</sup> season on April 25<sup>th</sup> with **Coming Home**. This exhibit features baskets from several major off island collections that are returning to Nantucket for the season. Many of these baskets have never before been seen by the public.

Included in the exhibit is an extraordinary collection of cocktail purses representing many of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century weavers. There are also celebrity baskets that were owned by former first lady, Lady Bird Johnson and the fashion designer Adele Simpson. A pair of pristine, traditional José Reyes purses that were once owned by a woman who spent time in an internment camp during WWII are also on display.

The exhibit also features two significant weavers from two different time periods. The first, Davis Hall, a seaman aboard the South Shoal Lightship is represented with an outstanding set of nesting baskets. He is also known for developing the oval form that gained popularity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also featured, are the works of William "Bill" Sevrens, a direct descendent of Tristram Coffin who led investors in 1659 to purchase Nantucket from Thomas Mayhew and settle the island. It was Sevrens, who was credited with adding a penny to the inside base of a basket as a way to identify the date it was made. In addition to being a prolific basket maker, Sevrens held classes in basket making and there are many of his former students weaving on the island today.

In addition to the basket collections on display, the museum holds a weekly lecture series with interesting topics including: basket restoration, current trends in basket making and caring for lightship baskets. "We like to think of the museum as a destination where people can gather to learn the history of lightship baskets and forge friendships with others who are passionate about Nantucket lightship baskets. In addition to the exhibit and weekly lectures, the museum will hold adult and youth weaving classes and an open weave for basket makers to congregate, share projects and gain assistance." said Maryann Wasik, Museum Executive Director.

The museum is open Thursday – Saturday, through May 25 and Tuesday – Saturday from May 28 through October 12. The hours are 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children under 17.

**About the Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum** - The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the awareness and appreciation of lightship baskets and their makers, by educating and engaging the public about the complexity of this art form unique to Nantucket, and placing it within a broader context of related crafts. The museum is dedicated to preserving Nantucket's rich history of basket making by exhibiting historic and contemporary baskets, providing a permanent home for lightship baskets, supporting scholarship of this art form, and encouraging and mentoring new generations of lightship basket makers.

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