



For Immediate Release

From: Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum

NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP BASKET MUSEUM OPENS 2010 SEASON WITH EXHIBIT

From Folk Art to Fine Art

Nantucket, MA., May 17, 2010 – The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org, presents its 11th year of exhibiting antique and contemporary baskets. This season's exhibit, which opens May 28, charts the transition from the early utilitarian baskets woven aboard lightships and on shore beginning in the mid 19th century through the weaving techniques of today. The exhibit includes many examples of the finest quality baskets woven more than 100 years ago as well as the masterful creations by a handful of present day weavers.

Featured in the exhibit are the works of Captain Andrew Jackson Sandsbury, who served aboard several whaling vessels and the South Shoal Lightship. On loan from his great-great granddaughter is one of his baskets. Also featured are the works of Clinton "Mitchy" Ray and José Formoso Reyes with both weavers represented by examples of their works from private collections and the museum's permanent collection.

As part of the exhibit, there is a commemorative to Nancy Chase. Nancy celebrates 50 years in her craft as a master carver and is significant for her contribution to the ever-evolving artistry of the Nantucket Lightship Basket. Work from her private collection is on display along with the many pieces she has made for people throughout her career.

There is also a tribute to Albert K. Ottison who passed away in March of this year. This local legend was a carver and a weaver for more than 75 years.

"We educate the public about this important part of Nantucket history with our exhibit, lecture series and weaving program. Visitors are amazed to learn about the time, talent and skill required to make these works of art" said Maryann Wasik, Director. In addition to the exhibit which changes annually, the museum offers Thursday afternoon lectures and a year-round weaving program for young people.

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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