

Author of N.J. shore bucket list book walking the walk

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**
Special to the Star and Wave

The way people view the world is constantly changing, opening our eyes to different avenues and taking us in new directions.

Author R.C. Staab's view of the state's coastline changed after he wrote his book "100 Things to Do at the Jersey Shore Before You Die." Not long after its publication, Staab set a goal to walk all 139 miles of the Jersey shore.

"I realized there are lots of smaller towns and beaches that I didn't quite get to spend any time in," Staab said. "I didn't investigate or understand how they related to each other." The book acts as a bucket list guide of activities to do throughout the four counties. Staab said he did not intend for the book to be a travel guide for every town. "I realized there was kind of a gap that I could fill by literally exploring the towns from the beach and walking the length of them," he said. "Even in my town of Sea Bright, I had never walked the length of the town on the beach."

Starting this spring and extending into summer, Staab will walk from Sandy Hook to Island Beach State Park, from Barnegat Lighthouse State Park to Beach Haven, and from Brigantine to Cape May.

"I realized that your view or what you think you know about your town, there is always more to be discovered," he said.

Preparation

Staab began planning

the journey, knowing he would walk nonconsecutive days for several months.

He and his wife, Valari, split their time between a condo in Manhattan and a house in Sea Bright. For the past 18 months, the couple opted to work from their shore home, a smaller town with a better ability to social distance than in Manhattan.

"Coming out of the [pandemic] now, the idea of giving myself a challenging physical [task] was something that made me feel like a positive way to re-experience the Jersey shore," he said. "Especially [after last year] when there were so many restrictions."

Staab's walk is his personal journey to mark the emergence from the pandemic, combined with sharing his love of the shore with the people in each town.

"I used my book as a base of operation as I considered doing the Jersey shore walk," he said. "The first part of the walk was easy enough to do because it was within an easy drive from my house, and I could do it in the morning or the afternoon."

One afternoon, Staab sat down and planned his walk, figuring out how to do it and how long it would take.

"Once I did that, I [thought] about how many miles I could travel in a month since I exercise every day," he said.

As he planned the walk, he had to consider aspects that could interrupt his progress, such as the weather.

"When you look at it, you think anyone could do it. But when you have to actually do it you have to consider," he said. "You can't necessarily wear running or walking shoes on a steep beach. Fac-tors like these have added an interesting challenge."

As Staab's walk takes him farther down the coast, the trips require a more extended day of traveling or overnight stays.

"I walk as many miles as I can or what seems reasonable in a two-day period," he said. "I haven't found it incredibly difficult, but there have been times where I wondered why I was doing this and if I really need to finish."

Discoveries along the way

Although each town shares the Atlantic Ocean, each town offers a different lifestyle for locals and vacationers.

"From Asbury Park to Ocean Grove, to Bradley Beach, to Avon by the Sea, each town shares a common boardwalk or promenade," Staab said. "The promenade changes textures from different kinds of woods to concrete. The towns each look so different."

Staab said Asbury Park, Ocean Grove and Bradley Beach are tied closely together by the same developers.

"Today they don't have much in common and are almost more different than they are alike, except for



RAAB

the fact that they share an ocean," he said.

When Staab was in Strathmere and Sea Isle City, he found himself reminded of Sea Bright.

"There is a part of Sea Isle that reminds me of Sea Bright because the peninsula is so skinny there, that there's the ocean, dunes, a road with telephone poles and the houses are all west of the poles," he said. "Most of the towns, you don't see the poles so close to the ocean."

This unexpected discovery is one Staab said he would never have made if not for his journey.

Keeping track

To keep track of nonconsecutive walks, Staab will take a picture of the street where he paused his journey.

"I'm very regimented. For example, the other day I stopped at 29th Street in Ocean City to the tip of Corsons Inlet State Park and then I went over to Strath-

mere to the northernmost point, to 29th Street in Sea Isle City," he said.

The farther south Staab walks, the closer he gets to the many barrier islands that make up southern New Jersey.

"If my goal is to walk the whole island, I know when I come back to finish Sea Isle City that I will finish that island," he said. "The next day I'll walk some of Avalon, Stone Harbor and the next day some of Wildwood. I always pick up where I ended last time."

Staab is excited to return to Cape May and go around the tip of the island. "I've been to Cape May numerous times, but I'm really interested in walking beaches of Cape May because the island is not a straight shot, like Wildwood, Stone Harbor or Avalon," he said. "I'm going to go around the tip and walk all the way to the lighthouse or continue to Sunset Beach."

Staab said he plans to figure out his endpoint when he gets to Cape May. "The lighthouse is a great landmark," he said.

"Unless you live there, you tend to focus on the beach and the commercial boardwalk section and public beach. You wouldn't think to walk from Cape May Point to Sunset Beach. You don't know what's there until you actually start to explore."

As he has continues to walk, Staab encourages people to get out of their comfort zones and explore.

"It's easy to be in your comfort zone when you come to the shore, where you go to the same beach, restaurants, bike path," he said. "But people get in their head and one of the things people have commented about the book and even my stories about the beaches, they didn't know that was there."

Staab logs his journey and writes about each beach as he goes along at jerseyshorewalk.com.

He plans to end his walk in August and, weather permitting, will walk the rest of Sea Isle City, Avalon, Stone Harbor and part of Wildwood. A second trip will allow him to finish Wildwood, Diamond Beach and Cape May.

Point to resume in-person meetings

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission will return to in-person meetings beginning in August for the first time since April 2020.

The borough moved its meetings to the Zoom virtual platform during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commission normally held its monthly work sessions in a small room of Borough Hall and monthly commission meetings in a moderate-sized room atop the volunteer fire company hall.

Commission approved a resolution July 8 to return to meeting in person for the monthly Borough Commission meeting but to continue to broadcast work sessions via Zoom due to the small size of the conference room.

Resident Mary Kelly said she received an offer from Zoom to sign up for professional Zoom features that included unlimited meetings for groups of three or more, record to the Cloud and stream to social media.

She said some borough residents are unable to attend commission meetings and suggested all meetings be available to the public on Zoom or via livestream.

"In the time-honored idea of open government and accessibility of folks, I wanted to put it back on the table

for your consideration," Kelly said.

Neighboring Cape May livestreams most of its government meetings while Lower Township offers a recording of Township Council meetings several days afterward. West Cape May offered Zoom meetings through much of last year and the beginning of this year but has returned to in-person meetings.

In other business, Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk

reported the borough received a clean audit with no issues. She credited Chief Financial Officer Jim Craft, accounts payable clerk Marie Hood, tax collector Kim Stevenson and Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace for the positive audit.

Mayor Robert Moffatt said seasonal beach tag sales have increased significantly.

"The beach population is larger than it's been in past years," he said.

BILL HORGAN
Painting Co.
Est. 1969

Interior • Exterior • Power Wash
WE PAINT THE TOWN

Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-4970

Phone and Fax: 609-884-1482
www.krobatschplumbing.com

Mark Krobatsch
NJ State Lic.#6101

Krobatsch
PLUMBING & HEATING
"Where quality counts"

NATURAL GAS CONVERSIONS
ENERGY EFFICIENT GAS EQUIPMENT

CIM

CAPE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

EXPERIENCE, INTEGRITY, TRUST

LET'S TALK

Call me today for a complimentary portfolio review.

Visit our website and sign up for our free newsletter.

609.884.8085

www.capeim.com

gary@capeim.com

Providing advice on financial, estate, tax planning, and all matters affecting your wealth.

Securities and advisory services offered through Cetera Advisors, LLC. Member FINRA/SIPC., a Broker/Dealer and Registered Investment Advisor. Cape Investment Management, LLC, is independent of Cetera Advisors.

Gary Padussis,
President
Registered
Principal

Cape Investment Management
139 Broadway | Cape May, NJ | 08204

Historic COLD SPRING VILLAGE

EARLY AMERICAN OPEN-AIR LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

THE 1800s COME TO LIFE when you visit restored, historic buildings on a 30 acre site. Historically clothed interpreters demonstrate blacksmithing, printing, woodworking, bookbinding, and more!

IN ADDITION TO the trades and crafts buildings, visitors will find farm animals, Country Store, Village Bakery, Cold Spring Brewery, and Cold Spring Grange Restaurant.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding weekend events, admission prices, and hours of operation, visit hcsv.org or Facebook

Automobiles, Trains, and Planes Weekend

Sponsored by **Kindle Ford-Lincoln, Inc.**

July 17 & 18, 11am - 4:00pm

Visit hcsv.org and click on the **BOOK NOW** button to explore schedule and ticket availability.

All profits support HCSV Foundation, a non-profit living history museum.

735 Seashore Road/Rt. 626, Cape May NJ, hcsv.org

COLD SPRING BREWERY

c.1804

NEW JERSEY'S FIRST NON-PROFIT BREWERY

733 Seashore Road/Rt. 626, Cape May NJ, coldspringbrewery.org

609-854-3077

UV Air purifiers installed to reduce air-borne germs

"It Takes a Village.."
RAISE A BARN
Ask us how YOU can help!

Growlers & Cans TO GO

LIVE MUSIC on SATURDAYS
Free Parking
Dog Friendly

All profits support HCSV Foundation, a non-profit living history museum.