

A Spring Break to Remember!

By Aidan Waterman

Over spring break, my family and I stayed in a lighthouse. The lighthouse was on Rose Island, which is just off of Newport, Rhode Island. Newport housed a torpedo factory, and Rose Island was where all the warheads were assembled. That way, if anything went wrong, the explosion wouldn't damage the factory itself.

My grandparents rented the whole island for two nights, but there were places we couldn't



Photos by Connie Tuttle (Aidan's grandma) and Megan Waterman (Aidan's mom)

go to, particularly the historical building where the torpedoes were armed. Besides, the old factory building didn't need tourists' help; it was falling apart on its own.

I got a decent look from far away when we first arrived on the island, and it didn't seem to me like there was much left. On the other hand, the lighthouse was in perfect condition. The lighthouse was 150 years old!

To get there, my parents and I drove a few hours, got stuck in rush hour traffic (in the concrete depression jungle that is NYC on any day other than New Year's

or Thanksgiving), and slept in a hotel for the night. The next day, we drove the rest of the way. Considering that DRIVING to an ISLAND is not easy (unless you are James Bond), we rode a small ship to Rose Island. The ride took about 10-15 minutes.

The rooms in the lighthouse looked really old inside, with lots of cottage white and all of the furniture being made of wood. There was also an older (90's or late '80's, probably) ceiling fan that was really buzzy.

I know what you all are wondering: how do you get up to the top of the lighthouse? There was this wooden spiral staircase. That staircase leads to an area larger than a landing, but smaller than a room, with small windows to look out of. However, the room contained a wooden ladder (not that high) that leads up to the top of the lighthouse where the light is located.

Running water was limited; the place collects rain-water. We also brought water bottles. There was also a lower level

where my parents and I slept that had a bunch of antiques, including records, a victrola, and a pipe organ. We were not allowed to touch them because it's a museum as well.

My grandparents, parents, aunt, and I talked a lot and showed each other videos. I showed Doctor Who. I also got to watch reruns of Futurama at the hotel. It was a very interesting spring break trip. I enjoyed the trip. The lighthouse had a lot of vintage decor in it. Most importantly, I got to see my family after COVID.

The Cicadas are Coming!

By Kara Chwang

Every 17 years, billions of cicadas come up from underground and invade several states. They will appear in places like New York to Illinois to northern Georgia, but those aren't even where most cicadas will emerge.

These "Brood X" cicada populations will boom in Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey by May 2021.

In fact, once these cicadas come up from underground, they will be here to stay for 4-6 weeks.

Cicadas are not harmful to humans or crops, but they are loud- especially when there are billions of them.

According to earthsky.org, the volume level will reach around 100 decibels (the same intensity as a motorcycle). The last time this happened was April 2004,

so this will be the first time many students here will experience this, or at least remember it.

Luckily this only happens once every 17 years, so the Brood X cicadas won't be back until Spring 2038.



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