

To my dear Friends and Family,

2000

Happy Holidays. My life here in Cape May continue to grow and is never, never dull. Next year, my business will be 10 Years old! I lived here for 7 years - can you imagine. Let me share my key experiences for this past year!

My biggest challenge for 2000 was complying to NJ State Law with a 2nd means of egress on my 3rd floor. By mid April, extensive lawyer fees, state inspections, arbitration etc, a brand new fire escape was installed. My first visitor was a furry animal who peaked in my window at midnight while I was surfing the Web. Immediately, I put the screen on my casement window, locked it and went to bed. It's a great view of Cape May if you like to stand on a fire escape.

During the winter I developed "Antoinette's Web Presence". <http://www.antoINETTEScapemay.com>. After extensive work, 24 photos and online availability, my customers now have a wealth of information at their fingertips, 24 hours a day. If you have a moment, check out my website at www.antoINETTEScapemay.com. Drop me an email - would love to hear from you!

Building my skills up to adequately maintain a 2 & 1/2 stories Victorian building has always been a challenge. After 180 hours of carpentry, electrical and plumbing training, I have overcome this fear, well Almost! For whatever reason, I was the only female to hang on 10 weeks and complete both the electrical & plumbing classes this past semester. I already signed up for my next class and look forward to my continued learning.

Soon, I will be having some time off from my busy schedule. In February 2001, after four years of planning, a friend and I are flying to Las Vegas for a short vacation. I realized the importance of taking time out of a hectic schedule to just relax and smell the roses. Las Vegas, here we come!

On a sad note, my Dad lost most of his vision as a Diabetic last winter. Also his leg muscles and bones were becoming very brittle. His Doctor stressed the danger for him of climbing 3 flights of stairs. So he moved next door to my sister Judi's family Cape May house. They made him quite comfortable, unlike my 3rd floor. Dad tries hard to keep his spirits up given his present health condition. This week he had his 85th birthday. Today, we are off with the family for an overnight stay in Atlantic City to have some family fun.

I continue to be active locally in many areas and am completing my 3rd and final year as President of the Greater Cape May Historical Society. My board is great and I especially enjoy learning about Cape May local history. I do look forward to being just a member soon and reading those great history books about Cape May yesterdays.

I did write some more "Yuletide Confessions of an Innkeeper" but have not published them yet. I plan to add them to my website. We are becoming a paperless Society, Right?

In closing, let me share a "Journal" entry that was written today by one of my guests.

"We've been coming to Cape May for the past 7 years. Actually we make several visits a year & try to stay at a new place each time. Antoinette's is definitely on our list for a revisit. Thanks for your hospitality & friendliness. We also enjoyed reading about the history and your brave venture to a totally new environment and "job". It's given my sister & I some hope for our dream. Happy Holidays!"

Never give up your dreams.

Have a Happy & Healthy Holiday and a great New Year!

Love to all, Deanna