

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 2<sup>nd</sup> means of egress on my 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Dad tries hard to keep his spirits up given his present health condition. This week he had his 85<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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