

etc.

Travel



This lighthouse is typical of those seen throughout the Chesapeake Bay.  
Photos by Barbara Ann Rosenberg

# St. Michaels' Other Face

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Special to the Jewish Exponent

**T**he Eastern Shore of Maryland fairly shrieks "sailing" — at least to those folks lucky enough to own one of those graceful beauties with one or more masts that ply the waters of Chesapeake Bay. Sometimes, these vessels berth for a night or longer in one of the beautiful harbors that line the bay and make it so appealing. St. Michaels is one of the prettiest and most protected harbors in season.

I've done my share of sailing and am frequently invited aboard friends' boats, since I possess several attributes that make me a welcome guest during sailing season: I know my way around a galley and generally bring enough goodies to feed all on board. Also, I'm married to a good sailor who is a superb navigator and who can, and often does, take over the tiller.

We had never been to the Eastern Shore in winter, after most of the tourists flee for warmer climates or the security of their own hearths. Much to our surprise, it has another kind of magic in winter, quite dif-

ferent from the charms of summer.

The whole area is tranquil and lovely. There are no long lines of traffic into town, even on Friday evenings. In fact, it's downright pleasant to fly past large open tracts of land that in the summer are lush with corn, tomatoes and potatoes, but later in the season are dun colored and fallow, yet managing to transmit a sense of pure tranquility.

Driving into the area from the north, once the "civilization" of Wilmington, Del., is left behind, there's virtually nothing to stop for en route to your destination. Bring a soda and a sandwich if you're traveling through your lunchtime, or simply plan to skip the meal.

Once you get to St. Michaels, though, it's all very different. There are plenty of charming restaurants to choose from to slake your thirst and assuage your hunger, in addition to many delightful places to stay.

## The shining star in the firmament

The Inn at Perry Cabin is undoubtedly the star among them, located just off the main street and fronting on the water. It provides an ideal base for meandering around town, or you can just settle in to enjoy the changing moods of Chesapeake Bay while sitting in a comfortable wing

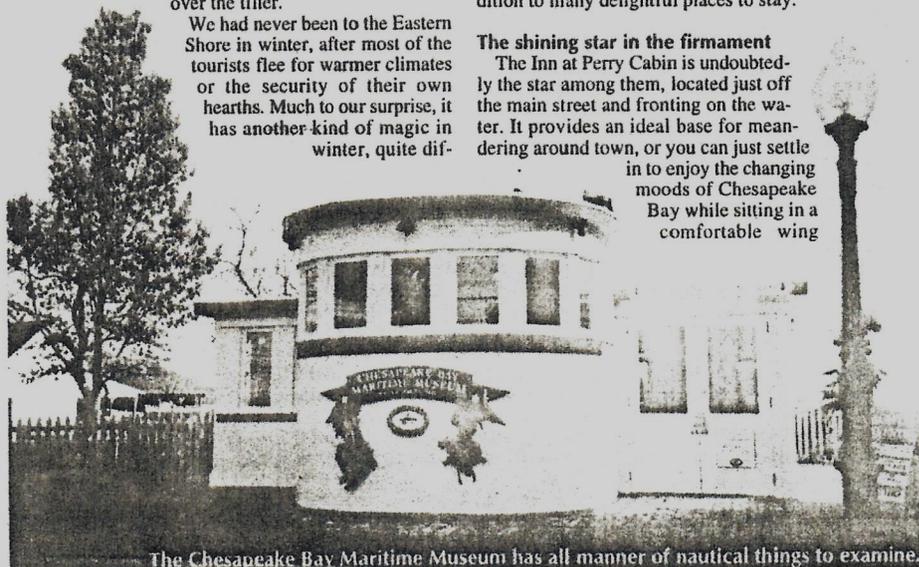
chair in front of one of the fireplaces.

There are other, smaller inns and bed-and-breakfast properties where people stay to enjoy the charms of the area, with fewer amenities, perhaps, but also for far fewer dollars per night.

There is a wonderful Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum about a quarter of a mile off Talbot Street, the main street of the town, with all manner of nautical things to examine and admire. It's spread out over 18 acres, and some pieces are displayed in reconstructed 18th- and 19th-century homes.

Talbot Street is where the action is, and it is also the way that leads to Tilghman Island, a sparsely settled "end of the road" kind of place, settled by fishermen who have plied the bay for generations but who now, unfortunately, find pollution and overfishing a serious threat to their livelihood. Nevertheless, it's an interesting short trip (about 14 miles) to ride out to the island, by auto or bicycle.

There are quite a few small restaurants in town where it's possible to have whatever fish is in season. The Bistro serves up delicious specimens, cooked to perfection, served nicely with superb homemade coleslaw as an accompaniment. Or there's a funky little luncheonette called Suddenly Last Summer that, poking fun at all the historic signs affixed to the town buildings, displays its own date of origin proudly — "1997."



The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum has all manner of nautical things to examine.