



# STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Star Island Corporation • Winter 2009 • Volume XXXV, Issue 1

Our mission since 1916 is to hold and administer Star Island and other properties we acquire for religious, educational and kindred purposes.

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Edited & produced by Justina Maji with invaluable assistance from Brian Winters and all contributors. Thank you!

## Star Island's New Mainland Home

Star Island has moved! Our new offices are located just a stone's throw away from our old location. We're now at the Morton-Benedict House, 30 Middle Street. This historic building, part of the former Portsmouth Library, now the Discovery Center, was made ready by a volunteer paint crew of thirty-seven Star stalwarts led by Dave and Patty Boynton. Lunch for the crew was provided by Flatbread Co., a local restaurant that, upon hearing of this volunteer effort, decided to stop by with pizzas for everyone.

Our move was made easier by other generous members of the Star Island community. "New" office furniture was donated by Josh Davis, board member and long-time LOAS conferee. Leslie Lowry

stopped by our old location to help us pack up, and Brad Greeley, Mark Woolley, Joe Pescatello and Tony Codding tirelessly stood over the paper shredder disposing of papers we no longer needed before sending them off to be recycled. After settling in, Bruce Parsons (chair of this year's Pelican Reunion Conference) came by to lend his expert eye and hung our artwork. He also generously donated a few of his beautiful framed photographs of the island.



We hope you'll stop by soon for a visit! Our new address:

**The Morton-Benedict House**  
30 Middle Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

—Irene Bush & Justina Maji



## From the President, Brad Greeley



It was probably the summer after my first year of Junior High (back in 1950 when our schools were named that way). My family and I were packed into a couple of rooms on the northwest corner of Oceanic, first floor, for our conference: All Star (no number then). I had graduated from the grades to the youth group, albeit the junior one. The memory I hold from that week was what followed the exercise event. I loved Capture the Flag and the other things we did. But the quiet activity was new. Our leaders (can't remember their names, sadly) would describe a dramatic scene. And we had to figure out the "solution" and the why.

The situation that sticks in my mind almost 60 years later is the one where the school bus is careening down the narrow mountain road with a steep drop off on one side and solid rock on the other. The brakes have failed. The bus has the youth group in it. As it comes around the bend immediately in front of the bus are a mother and three young children walking down the mountain. The width of the bus and road are very similar but even if they all went to one side, which side? There is no time for signals and such planned moves. If they all lay down very quickly the bus probably would ride right over them. But they're much to frightened to imagine that. So the driver of the bus (we each got to be in that role) has to decide whether to drive off the side of

the road to save the family -- and kill all in the bus, probably. Or NOT: to drive straight ahead and surely kill all those in the way.

We spent a long time trying to think of ways to escape the dilemma (the advisors were quick to disallow those attempts). And then, trying to construct moral arguments for one of the forced choices.

The Island makes all kinds of lasting impressions on us. And they are not all of the funky water system, or personal connections, or the natural beauties and wonders kind. The wrestling with moral and philosophical issues which was ignited by my youth group experiences on Star had a great deal to do with where I choose to spend my professional life. I'm sorry I can't thank those youth advisors who got me puzzling over life with those moral conundrums. But I'm sure glad they did.

Life does have a way of forcing choices on us. Fortunately few are of the magnitude of the brakeless bus. But we regularly encounter ones that are hard to reconcile. The change in the economy has forced upon all of us choices we didn't expect to have to make. I hope all of you are managing to choose to come to Star for a week this summer even though it may be more challenging to do than in earlier years. We need you -- and perhaps this is the year one of your children, or yourself, will have an important transformative experience.

As you know, we have been forced to review our conference schedule in a way we never imaged we would. The Board has decided to keep the original calendar

in place through 2010. Before conferences begin this summer we will let everyone know the schedule for 2011 and beyond.

You also know that Cornell extended an offer to purchase the part of Appledore that the SIC owns. After conversations with them during which we offered to finance such a sale if we agreed to sell, they withdrew their offer. They are now asking us to help them rebuild their sewage system and give them more time to decide if they want to stay on Appledore. These are very hard choices and we continue to talk with them about answers. We will keep you informed.

The conclusion of our Annual Fund in 2008 was short of our goal for the year by more than \$100,000. Tough choices had to follow. The Staff and Finance Committee did yeomen's work redrawing the budget and the Board approved the revised draft at the January Board meeting. More than ever, we urge you to come to the Island this summer, invite your friends to come, as well, and give a generous gift to our Annual Fund. They are choices that have to do with the life of our beloved Island.

Nor did we have any choice about moving from our old office. They said go. We went. And, thanks to sharp work on the part of our Staff, we have a wonderful new home just up the street in Portsmouth. We're up and running there and ready to bring you the best summer ever on Star Island. Come by the Office and say hello. And then "Sail out, sail out, to Gosport Harbor and lose yourself in dreams."

*In the spirit of Star,  
Brad Greeley, President, SIC*

# Introducing Our New Development Director, Angela Matthews

Justina Maji, Development Associate, asked Angela some questions to help us all learn a little about Angela and how she is thinking about Star Island. Here are her responses to Justina's questions.

*What was your first impression of Star Island Corporation when you came to interview in October?*

My first impression came long before October. For four or five years in the 1990s I was on Star Island for the IRAS conference as part of the childcare team. My friend Sandra Woodworth recruited me because our sons were best friends. Chris got to go along with Asher to play and I got to go along with Sandra to work. It was extraordinary. The time on the island was always rejuvenating and the friendships with conferees and caregivers developed over the years into a lovely circle. Chapel services are always a special experience on Star and the service our children's group offered consistently got rave reviews.

## How to Join the McGill Society

*There are so many ways to support Star Island. In addition to an annual gift you can include Star in your estate plans in a number of ways such as:*

- Include Star Island in your will.
- Add a codicil to your will.
- Name Star Island as a beneficiary on a certificate of deposit, life insurance policy, commercial annuity or retirement plan.
- Name Star Island the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust.
- Make a gift to benefit Star Island through a charitable gift annuity.

*If you have any questions about the McGill Society, contact Angela Matthews at (603) 430-6272 or [amatthews@starisland.org](mailto:amatthews@starisland.org)*

Walking in the door to the corporate offices in October just confirmed everything I had already experienced about Star. This is an amazing place to work and my co-workers are a dedicated and intelligent group of men and women who will provide inspiration for the hard work ahead of us.

*Isn't this a sort of coming home for you?*

Ironically, this month (January) I am reversing the commute I started 8 years ago when I left Portsmouth for a position with Plymouth State University. I was with New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for all of the 1990s first as a program officer then later as executive director. Before that I was the executive director of Community Child Care Center now located out at the Portsmouth Community Campus, and before that I taught at Lafayette and Little Harbor schools. It's great to be back in the city I called home for almost 30 years.

*What do your children think?*

I have two children –adults now – and they are very happy. Tracy actually worked one summer for Sandra during IRAS and Chris spent many summers on Star. Tracy graduated from Portsmouth High School and Chris was a sophomore when we moved north. They love Portsmouth and will enjoy coming back to visit me once I'm settled here. But first I have to sell my house so I'm commuting for now so they still get to see a lot of me.

*The Seacoast division of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation recently awarded a grant to SIC for community outreach. You mention that you worked for the division. What were some of your memorable projects?*

NHCF and the Seacoast Division are amazing organizations. So much great work flows through them including this outreach grant to SIC. Their belief in SIC is an important endorsement for us with

other funders. We – and by we I mean donors, volunteers, staff, and non-profit organizations in the region – did so many things when I was there. To name a few, I am most proud of the lasting impacts of the Diversity Project that gave Portsmouth the Black Heritage Trail, the Affirming Seacoast Partnership to make the Seacoast a safer place for LGBT and Questioning adults to live, a Lila Wallace Readers Foundation grant for Arts Build Community that evolved into the City's Cultural Commission Arts-Speak, the Papoutsy Seminar for Women Entrepreneurs that resulted in the creation of the Women's Business Center (WBC), and the Collaboration of Community Foundations for the Gulf of Maine that received considerable support from national foundations to assist in the protection of the Gulf marine environment.

*Wow, that is a lot of action!*

I know. There were many people and organizations involved in those initiatives and it was a lot of fun.

*What do you think about the plans for Star Island Corporation and the possibilities from your perspective as a fundraiser?*

This is a very exciting time to be involved with SIC. I've been so impressed with the few volunteers I've met so far and everything I've been learning about the Annual Fund. You and Brian Winters and especially Irene Bush have done an amazing job this past year or so building a very strong annual fund and gaining support for Star. The grant SIC just received from the Piscataqua Region of NHCF allows us to hire Priscilla Hodgkins as a half-time Outreach Coordinator. She organized the highly successful Seacoast Day last year and will repeat that this year along with implementing other strategies of the SIC marketing plan. Many Shoalers are engaged volunteers and supportive **(Continued on page 4)**

# Seacoast Day on Star Island

The second annual Seacoast Day on Saturday, June 6 will bring 200 guests to Star Island for a day of tours, exhibits, workshops, lunch, and meetings with conference representatives. After their day on Star Island we know many will be making plans to come back for a conference, a weekend, or a day trip, just as those who attended last year's Seacoast Day did.

Last June 149 people from local and state government, funding agencies, local businesses, newspapers, our vendors, and members of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce attended Seacoast Day and enjoyed a lunch provided by The Wentworth By-the-Sea. We were surprised to



learn that over 80% of the guests had not been to Star Island but not surprised to see that many of the people who came to Star last summer for a personal retreat heard about this option on Seacoast Day.

Invitations will soon go out to our neighbors in the seacoast area in business, government, the arts, and funding. Once again we expect to introduce Star Island to many people who have only heard about the Isles of Shoals or seen the islands floating on the eastern horizon. On June 6 they will enjoy a delicious lunch on the piazza provided by a local restaurant, learn about the town of Gosport, meet a few Star Island Pelicans, and get a glimpse of what it would be like to spend more than a few hours on this special island. Activities for this year's guests will include docent-led tours of the island, talks about the island's history, and possibly hands-on workshops in digital photography, sketching,

## How to spend a few days or a week on Star Island

- Attend a conference: find one that suits you at [starisland.org](http://starisland.org); click on "conferences" or call us at (603) 430-6272 and request a conference catalogue.
- Plan a personal retreat: request a brochure from [office@starisland.org](mailto:office@starisland.org). Watch the Star Island website ([starisland.org](http://starisland.org)) for more information about personal retreats.

and/or marine biology. Other plans-in-progress include a performance of sea shanties and a sing-along. In addition, this year representatives from conferences will be on hand to answer visitors' questions and help them register for a week-long or three-day conference. They will also have the opportunity to make plans for a personal retreat, an overnight visit of a few days to a week-long sojourn on Star Island whatever plan suits their own needs for a get-away.

—Priscilla Hodgkins,  
Community Outreach Coordinator

## Tell us your Favorite Star Island Story!

It's Star's version of *StoryCorps*. Whether they are sentimental, laugh-out-loud hilarious, or both, we want to hear your favorite Star Island stories. Send them by mail to the Star Island office, or by email to [jmaji@starisland.org](mailto:jmaji@starisland.org), and they will be shared on our website and in future newsletters.

## New Development Director, Continued

of keeping Star vibrant and shining. That's good news because we have a lot of work to do in the next few years if we are going to succeed with a capital campaign. Campaigns thrive when there is a strong combination of staff and volunteers working together.

*What is needed for a successful campaign?*

The primary reason people give is because someone asks them. Of course, they want

to support organizations they care about. They want to join their financial support with a successful, thriving organization. SIC is making and impressive recovery from 2007 when the Island opened late. Bold action and consistent follow through by leadership ensures a complete fiscal recovery.

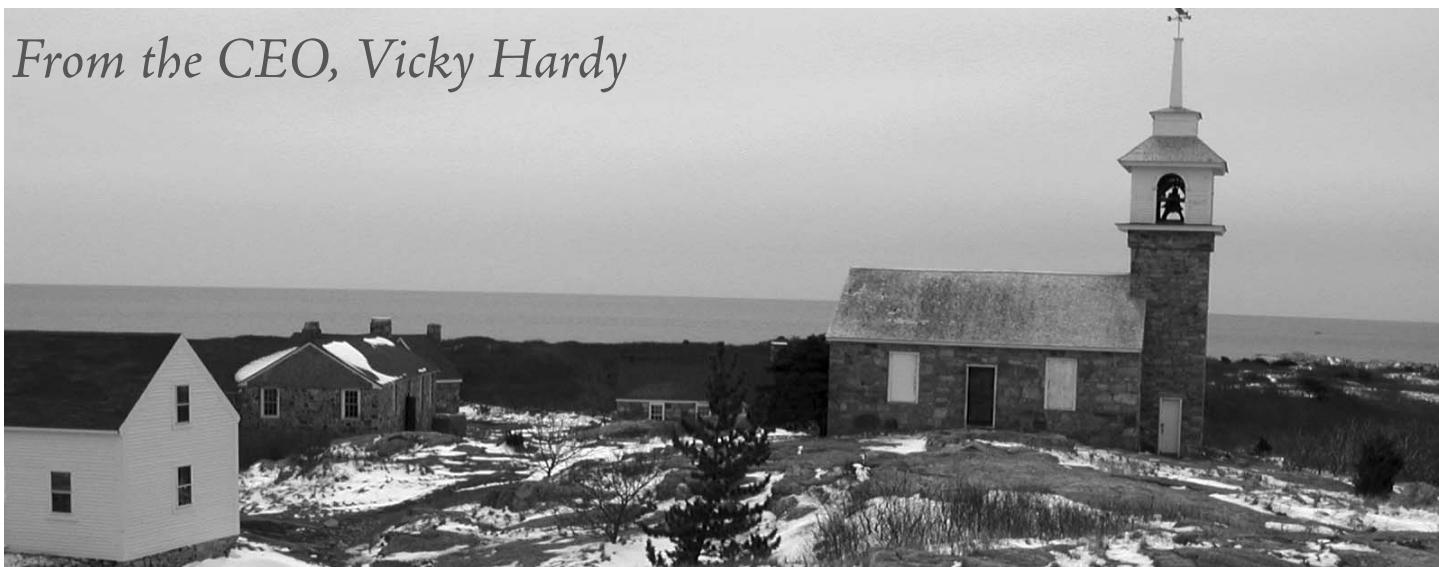
In each of these areas of operation – volunteers, donors, staff – Star Island is blessed with a solid foundation. Cam-

paings also need capable and visionary leadership and Star has that too in a strong and committed board of directors, its president Brad Greeley, and CEO Vicky Hardy. Everything is in place and ready for us to move forward. Justina, we're going to have some fun!

*Aren't we already having fun?!*

—Justina Maji & Angela Matthews

## From the CEO, Vicky Hardy



*Wanted: CEO for New England non-profit; position involves working on an island, with thousands of intense and passionate people, in centuries-old buildings with multiple challenges...the faint of heart need not apply!*

It was just over one year ago that I received a phone call from Brad Greeley who, on behalf of the Board of Directors, invited me to serve as the CEO of the Star Island Corporation. This offer came after an intensive process involving multiple interviews, reference and background checking, and long conversations with the Search Committee.

Over the holidays, I had the opportunity while snowbound with my family in Seattle, to reflect on the past year, and my experiences...and thought I might share some of those thoughts with you.

First and foremost, the one qualification for the position that was not listed and reviewed...the ability to survive rough seas in a small boat and not get sick! Hav-

ing been thoroughly tossed about in the Privateer, and rocked and rolled in the PJ waiting off the float for the Uncle Oscar to leave, I can verify that I apparently do have "sea legs".

Second, this is a very large community of interested people; I was aware when I accepted the position that we had a Board of Directors, a separate board for the Trustees of the Permanent Trust, and more than 300 members of the Corporation. What I did not appreciate was that the mailing list of almost 8,000 households represented another very large contingent of people with ideas, opinions, and a healthy investment in the future of the Island.

To paraphrase Martha Stewart, "this is a very good thing!" We need all the helping hands and hearts we can find to survive and grow in this economy, in this century, and in this moment. For example, 37 people under the skilled guidance of Dave and Patty Boynton, transformed our quite shabby new offices into a beautiful

home for our Portsmouth base. Without all those hands and hearts, I would be sitting in very dingy room, painted institutional green (you know the color!), with a filthy 1970s carpet. Their magic has made coming to work every day a real pleasure...and Dave managed to cut the supplies budget/bill in half!

So I will leave you with the words of John Wilkins, President of Wilkins Investment who has managed the Permanent Trust through very rocky waters: "Investors have greater optimism as 2009 begins than they did one year ago." I too have greater optimism; we completed a successful full season in 2008, we have found some terrific people for our staff team, we have already received our first \$1,000 gift for the 2009 Annual Fund, and registrations have begun. You will come back, and I am proud to be standing at the top of the ramp to welcome you home for 2009.

Cordially and with fondness,

Vicky



## Help Spread The Word About Star

Interested in doing presentations or give services in churches and other venues to market Star's conferences? The outreach toolkit includes a CD slideshow about Star, beautiful brochures, blue books, an information sheet that highlights FAQs about each conference, a description of the Isles of Shoals, a mailing list sign-up sheet, and more. If you can help do some outreach to help us "fill beds", request a toolkit by contacting the Portsmouth office.

## From the Development Office



It feels good to begin this Development Office update with the thought that – in fact – I am a Shoaler. For several years from 1997 to the early 2000s I was recruited by my friend Sandra Woodworth to be a childcare-giver for the IRAS conference. Among the many benefits was the opportunity to attend some unforgettable lectures and to meet and talk with so many interesting people including some very cool children.

I vividly recall that first summer on Star when it seemed I'd stepped onto the set of a very long running play where everyone knew the lines and the next scene. Warnings not to stand too close to the porch bell around meal times or lifting the nest of cups onto the table to watch them spin into place or standing in line to get a lantern for the candle-lit processions to evening chapel all became a comfortable and familiar part of my own experience. This is indeed a special place and it is good that it has endured unchanged for almost a century in a time when almost nothing stays the same for a minute. It's the rudder that rights us as soon as we step foot off the boat – we have come back!

In large measure, it is your volunteer support that makes Star Island possible. So many of you start and end the season as volunteers for Island Open and Island Close and then come in between for Island rest! We are grateful for this

commitment of time and talent that saves enormous expense to the Corporation. The names of all the 2008 volunteers appear at the end of this annual donor list. There will be a more detailed report in the 2009 year-end newsletter of the 37 volunteers who helped to paint and ready our new home at Morton-Benedict House. Dave and Patty Boynton managed the volunteers and the materials and in less than a month – and under budget! – transformed the drab space into sparkling new offices. They deserve our recognition now for the countless hours they spent on the fussy task of preparing the space so that others could apply the broad brush strokes. Thank you, Dave and Patty.

Last fall the Development Office posted an in-depth survey at the Survey Monkey web site. There were 215 who completed the online survey on every subject from personal connection to leadership to fundraising. The results are very interesting and will help us to shape the coming capital campaign. There were many good ideas and excellent input to the questions on fundraising, particularly in relation to responding to gifts. We learned that:

- Timely and accurate gift acknowledgement was cited repeatedly as highly important to donors.
- Many respondents also wanted to know the impact of gifts through stories and

postings at the web site.

- You told us that recognition is important but it must be cost effective.
- Just about half of survey respondents like the new listing by giving circles while the other half of respondents prefer a single alphabetical list.
- Some respondents thought that loyal donors who give year after year deserve special recognition on lists and one respondent suggested loyal donor pins or decals.

Mostly, the survey told us Star Island donors want to feel valued. Your gifts help us to achieve excellence in all that we do, and to provide the highest level of service to all who call Star Island home.

In 2008 your gifts to Star totalled \$544,263. We are grateful for your support and recognize your generosity on the following Donor Recognition List. We will do all that we can in the coming year to assure you that your gifts are appreciated and critical to the success of our mission. Yes, thank you and thank you again. Your support allows us all to keep coming home.

—Angela Matthews,  
Director of Development

## Saying Thank You...

It is with deep gratitude that we list these generous donors of money and time to Star Island in 2008.

**Annual Fund Donors** make a monetary gift of any size to the Annual Fund.

**Sustaining Stewards**, marked ✱, pledge to support Star Island with a gift of at least \$5,000 annually for five years.

**McGill Society** members have included Star Island in their estate plans or made a gift through a charitable gift annuity.

**Gifts to the Permanent Trust** are outright gifts, of any size, designated to the Permanent Trust. In addition, all bequests go to the Permanent Trust unless otherwise specified.

**Volunteers** offer their valuable time to help Star, whether on-island or throughout the year in Portsmouth.

## Annual Fund Supporters: East Rock

Dave and Lindy Anderson ✱

John and Irene Bush ✱

*IMO Laurel Sheridan*

*IMO Wally Reid*

*IMO Edith Doolittle*

*IMO Paul Mitchell*

*IMO Jake Wiren*

John Hickey ✱

Joyce Homan ✱

Shelley Powsner and Steve Skrovan

Janice and James Prochaska ✱

Anonymous

*IMO John Twomey*

## Turnstile

Montie and Jamie Brewer

Carolyn and Rich Dahab ✱

Tom and Bev Kinraide ✱

Rodney Lowe and Sally Russell ✱

Ric Martini and Kitty Welch ✱

Bernie and Suzanne May ✱

Bill and Barbara Peterson

Henry and Dana Powsner

Jon Skillman and Luanne Selk ✱

Tom and Rosemarie Smurzynski ✱

Bonnie Sylvester and Jonas Gavelis

Neil Wollman and Abby Fuller

Elizabeth and Larry Yermack ✱

Anonymous

## Summerhouse

Priscilla and Lou Andre

*IMO Priscilla Draper*

Brian Apgar

Allen and Elissa Armstrong

Bob Bader and Shelley Lauer-Bader

Roger and Beverly Baldwin

*IMO Dorothy Lightfoot*

Noelle Beadling

Henry and Maurine Beasley

Jane Bengtson

Bruce and Catie Berg

*IMO Al Doolittle, Wally Reid, Edith*

*Doolittle, and Rev. Laurel Sheridan*

Tim and Nancy Berners-Lee

Bob and Janet Bing-You

Susan Binzel and Chuck Binzel

Sally and Bob Blount-Lyon

Lee and Jim Blue

*IMO Judy and Bob Hawthorne*

Jennifer Blue and Rick Colby

Tom and Heli Blum

Lorene and Ed Bossong

Bart Bouricius and Connie Lentz

*IHO Irene Bush*

Dave and Patty Boynton

Kate Brady

*IMO Edith Doolittle*

Ellen and George Brandenburg

Ron and Barbara Buck

Joanne Bulley

Richard Case and Nancy Meyer

Tom and Patricia Coleman

Life on a Star I and II Conferences

All Star II Conference

Marc and Leslie Connolly

Roy and Marion Cook

Martha W. Copithorne

Ben Cordes

Ron and Cathy Cordes

Kim and Stan Corfman

Tad and Judy Crawford

Josh Davis and Lisa H. Davis

Nicholas Dembsey

Margaret Demere

Jane Dewey and Janet Wallstein

Toby Dills

Tom Duncan

*IMO Vivian Duncan*

George and Sally Easter

Herb Emers and Jill Brody

Patti & Will Emmons

*IMO Wilber D. and Florence H. Emmons*

Dan Fenn

Ross Fenster and Jane Leff

*IMO Ralph Fenster & Lillian Leff*

Plasha Fielding Will and Randy Will

Becky Friedkin and David Jones

*IMO Laurel Sheridan*

Emily Jones

Bill and Chris Gimpel

Jeanie M. Graustein

Karen Gray and Tom Kane

Bob and Elise Gray

Alan and Margaret Grometstein

Aaron and Sally Hamburger

Karl and Mary Haslinger

Dave and Georgie Haykin

*IMO Ken Cummiskey*

Gail Henry and Sam Francis

John and Cori Hoffman

Robert and Virginia Joffe

*IMO Joseph Joffe*

Bob and Bobby Jorgensen

Daniel and Kathleen Kahn

Tom and Sharon Kennedy ✱

John and Leslie Lintner

Karen Mathiasen and Martin Schrage

Gladys McCallum

*IMO Bonnie McCallum*

Jay and Carol McNamara

*IHO 1968 Pelicans*

Tom and Leslie McNaugher

Dug Miller

*IMO Judith Miller*

Nancy A. Miller

Rev. Beth Miller

George and Debbie Misner

*IMO Nancy Kirk*

Jon Murray and Harvey Reese

Gordon and Margaret Noel

*IMO David Stanley*

Bill and Janis Ossmann

*IMO Alden and Marie Bestul*

Cyndy and Steve Parr

Suellen and Chris Peluso

Russ and Sue Peterson

*IMO Al and Edith Doolittle*

Tamara A. Prull, M.D.

John Pustell and Randall Grometstein

Jonathan and Kathryn Rawle

Barbara Reynolds

*IMO Natalie Gulbrandsen*

*IMO George J. Troiano*

Ed and Nancy Rutledge



## Volunteers, continued

Keith Ward  
 Kat Waters  
 Caleb Webster  
 Arlyn Weeks  
 Deborah Weiner Soule  
 David Weinert  
 Jonathan Welch  
 Julia Wenker  
 Jen Whitall  
 Jeffrey Whitehead  
 Steve Whitney  
 Daniel Williams  
 Wren Williams  
 Chris Wilson  
 Rick Wilson  
 Wendy Wilson  
 Catherine Wolff  
 Mark Woolley  
 Lloyd Yanis  
 David Yermack  
 Jordan Young

## Thanks to Our 2008 Annual Fund Reps

Rodney Lowe (Annual Fund Chair)  
 Brooke Bradicich (YAC)  
 Samantha Scolamiero (ARTS)  
 Laurie Bussey (ISHRA June)  
 Roger Baldwin (NHC)  
 Ned and Kathy Tillman (ASi)  
 Dan Fenn (AS2)  
 Marc Spisto (RE)  
 Tom McNaugher (IA)  
 Jeanne Graustein (IRAS)  
 Sue & Charlie Stauffacher (SGi)  
 John Pustell & Randall Grometstein (LOASi)  
 Michelle & Gary Kunz (LOAS2)  
 Bunny Wells (Laity)  
 Deb Weiner Soule (PEL RN)  
 Carrie Tyler (Dover Yoga)  
 Jean Stefanik (ISHRA September)  
 Cathy Jenkins (Women)

## Passages

**Paul Brown**, Pelican from the 1950's, passed away on September 18. He is survived by sons Christian Mills-Brown, Peter Mills-Brown and his wife Amanda, granddaughters Meagan Elizabeth Smith and Amelia Marie Mills-Brown

Maria Maida, Pelican from 1988-1990 is happy to announce the birth of her son **Jackson Christopher Aler Maida** on April 27, 2008. He arrived a few weeks early at 5 pounds, 6 ounces.

**Prudence Crandall Randall** known to many Shoalers as "Prudie," died November 6, 2008, at the age of 90. Born in Ayer, she was the daughter of the late Rev. Frank B. Crandall and Doris F. Crandall. She was raised and educated in Ayer and was a graduate of Lasell College in Newton. Prudie owned Lunging Island and the Honeymoon Cottage which she offered to many Shoalers who had just married. She had a long history with Star. There is a photo of her as a child sitting on Uncle Oscar's lap. She had been a Pelican and often visited in Vaughn Cottage to read old Pel Papers from her era. She was an accomplished poet who often gained inspiration from her beloved Isles

of Shoals, where she spent her summers on Lunging Island with friends and family. A book of her poetry is available in the Star Island Bookstore. A lover of jigsaw puzzles, Mrs. Randall in her lifetime assembled more than 1,000 Springbox puzzles. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Ray and Jeanne Randall of Danvers; her six grandchildren, James S. Randall of Southwick, Terri A. Randall of Danvers, Nicole M. Randall of Danvers, Ruth E. Randall of Williamsburg, Richard F. Randall II of Lynn and Robert S. Randall III of Colorado; and two great-grandchildren, Lilith Randall of Southwick and Robert S. Randall IV of Colorado.

**Dr. Robert C. Sorenson**, IRAS Conferee passed away on February 22 at the age of 84. He is survived by wife Marjorie and son Christopher.

Robbie Thayer, volunteer, IA conferee, and Pelican in the 80's and 90's and his wife Suzanne Frechette Thayer gave birth to their second child, **Theodore Lincoln Frechette Thayer** on February 20 2009. First child, Francis, loves her new brother. \*





## *Ghost Hunters Visit Star Island*

### *Poetry: Isles of Shoals*

Upon the wide and lonely sea  
They lie in breakers line;  
Out-crop of ledge, far-flung and bare  
Barren, bleak, alone.  
Their craggy outline, low and black  
Against the earthen sky -  
Scarce breaks the undulating flow  
Of moving, surging brine.

Above the fringe of moss and weed  
That girds the tidal reach  
The stern and rugged face of ledge  
Bleached white by wind and spray,  
Arise irregular in range  
From cone to towering cliff,  
Each rift and chasm, inlet, dike,  
A wonder and delight.

—Prudence Randall

The television production crew for the Sci-Fi Channel's series *Ghost Hunters* came to Star Island in November to film an episode about its spectral visitors. The producers, directors and on-camera investigators from The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS) spent a week in Portsmouth preparing for their night in on Star Island. Their work began with historical research at the Portsmouth Athenaeum and included interviews with local historians and ended with a dark and stormy night spent on Star Island.

The Star Island episode will be broadcast as the premier program for its new season on March 18 at 9 pm EST on the Sci-Fi channel and it is the first of their program filmed in high definition. This is the second *Ghost Hunter's* program filmed in the Seacoast area. In October they spent a night in the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse at Fort Constitution in New Castle. This show aired on December 10 and is available for viewing on the show's website: <http://www.scifi.com/rewind/>

Star Island historian Ann Beattie met with the television crew to film a segment about major events in the island's history and lighter topics, including stories about pirates and mysterious events on the island.

Roxie Zwicker, author of three books, whose New England Curiosities tours include *Maritime Mysteries* and *Ghostly Lighthouses*, knows first-hand the effect of a *Ghost Hunter's* show. "After the *Ghost Hunter's* show about Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, the phone didn't stop ringing and we had to add dates for our Lighthouse tours," said Zwicker.

Visitors to the Seacoast and the Isles of Shoals this summer will likely include many who first heard of the area through one of the *Ghost Hunters* shows. We expect some will come to Star Island out of curiosity and we know some will come back because the spirit of Star Island will become part of them and they will become part of Star Island.

—Priscilla Hodgkins,



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