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Introducing Honorary Co-Chair Molly Mansfield

Shining the Star campaign honorary co-chairs were selected to represent the past, present, and future of Star Island and for their prominence in the Star Island community. Edith and Dave Pierson, representing the past, and Joe Watts, representing the present, have already been profiled in prior campaign updates, leaving Molly Mansfield's profile for this edition.

Representing the future and the next generation of Star stewards, Molly is a perfect choice for many reasons. Molly's parents met on Star as Pelicans and her family has attended conferences since she was an infant. "Star Island has always been an important part of my life. As a child I looked forward to my annual visits as eagerly as I awaited my birthday or Christmas. As a teenager, Star Island was the most fun place to find out who I was and to build friendships. For many years I volunteered on Memorial Day weekend to help the island prepare for a season whose tail end I would catch when we returned for the Pel Reunion Labor Day weekend in late summer. For me, Star Island was fun, was friends, was family, was love, was spiritually uplifting, was learning, was being in awe of the power of the ocean, was reconnecting with nature, was rewarding work, was vacation, was home. And today, most fortunately, it still is." Molly accepted the invitation to serve as honorary co-chair because she wanted to encourage everyone in the Star Island community to be a part of the effort that it takes to sustain the island that gives us so much. "Star Island gives to us all and belongs to us all, and so each of us has a role in the efforts which sustain Star so that we can pass it along to the next generation of Shoalers." To read Molly's complete co-chair statement visit the Star Island web site at <http://starisland.org/donating/capitalcampaign/mansfield/>



Campaign raises over \$2 million in pledges and gifts for capital projects

To date the Shining the Star campaign has prompted just over \$2 million in current and \$1.5 million in planned gifts and pledges for a total of \$3.5 million. "Over 50 households have joined the McGill Society with a bequest or other type of planned gift for Star since this campaign began," said campaign co-chair Irene Bush. "Our goal was \$1 million for the Permanent Trust, and we have now

surpassed that goal with \$1.5 million pledged from wills and estate plans.” These gifts will come to Star Island over the next five decades enhancing current and permanent resources and positively impacting access and affordability.

The most critical dollars for the campaign, however, are those being raised to support the capital improvements and life-safety projects that are urgent and necessary. Irene said, “The response by Shoalers has been inspiring. That we have raised just over \$2 million in gifts and pledges to support capital projects from only 128 households is extraordinary.” In addition to private gifts, Star Island has received one government grant and three foundation grants that have helped to replace the roof on the Oceanic Hotel and that will begin the much-needed repairs to Cottage A. Irene said that seeing results like the new red roof or the beautiful new bathroom on the second floor of Oceanic has been gratifying and I hope powerfully motivating for anyone who was waiting to see results of the campaign.

The public phase of the campaign will kick off in March of 2012 with the spring appeal mailing, and will continue with a special event on Star for each week of the conference season.

Cogswell Benevolent Trust awards \$10,000 grant

One of the big stories of the Shining the Star campaign is the way that the non-Shoaler community is responding. The first break-through came in the spring of 2010 with the announcement of a grant from the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (L-CHIP), and was followed in the spring of 2011 with grants from the McIninch and Hunt foundations with grants of \$25,000 and \$25,000 respectively. The latest support from a private foundation came from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, located in Manchester, New Hampshire that awarded a grant of \$10,000 to support the purchase and installation of new windows and doors for Cottage A renovations. The photo to the right shows the renovations begun this fall and supported by McIninch and Hunt foundation grants. The tower holds the life-safety required second egress.



Expanding the circle of support for Star Island is an outcome of the capital campaign. It requires of Star the commitment to maintaining access to Star by those who are not connected with a conference. It is part of a campaign promise fulfilled in maintaining the island as a private historical site open to the public and with all of the services of a small town. In this sense, Star Island is our (Star Island Corporation’s) gift to all guests who come each summer. By sharing Star may we experience the sentiments of this anonymous quote, “Life is an echo – what you send out comes back.”

With Star Spirit,

John Bush

Irene Bush

Campaign Co-Chairs

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The McIninch Foundation
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation