



SPRING 2017

Star Island



"At Star Island, acceptance, kindness, and compassion are as important as the sea air."

Hello Friends and Shoalers,

After a memorable year celebrating our Centennial and a record year for enrollment, we are gearing up for a fantastic summer season ahead on Star Island. There are so many interesting and inspiring conferences and programs scheduled for 2017. We are particularly proud to be hosting three conferences focused on climate change. If you haven't made your Star Island plans yet, please check out our website at starisland.org where it's easier than ever to see the offerings and understand the value of an all-inclusive island getaway.

I think we can all acknowledge, it's been a terribly tumultuous time for our country. I want to take this opportunity to reiterate Star's commitment to being a place that promotes civility, tolerance, and respectful discourse. The rancor and volatility in our political sphere are at odds with the values we embrace and practice. At Star Island, acceptance, kindness, and compassion are as important as the sea air. This is a place where those who come are free to

renew spiritually and explore matters of consequence. Or to simply connect with family and friends. This deep connection is unchangeable and more important than ever. Civility. Respect. Acceptance. We look to our guests and Corporation members to show that these values are at the heart of our community and all we do.

Some highlights to report from last season: we had a financially strong year in terms of fundraising and attendance, allowing us to offer more financial aid than ever before. This is yet another example of how our commitment to "living our values" is a priority. In addition, The Green Gosport Initiative continues to be a model of sustainable practices. We are looking forward to sharing the latest technology as our Water Reclamation and Wastewater Treatment Facility gets off the ground. Our team is working closely with the state of New Hampshire to create an efficient and effective system that respects water as a resource and treats our waste. You will also notice the improvements to the Oceanic and other buildings that are in need of maintenance and historic preservation.

Other news—we have increased 2017 wages for our returning Pelicans by a dollar an hour. I am pleased that our organization has taken this important step that shows how much we appreciate our hard-working Pels. As an organization, we will continue to review our employee compensation in the future.

There are many more milestones that are detailed in this newsletter, so please read on and enjoy.

And finally, for Star Island to continue offering the life-enriching experiences for you and your family, we count on your support. Please know we appreciate your donations, your volunteer hours, and your commitment to our magical island.

Here's to being 101!

Warm regards,
Joe Watts
Star Island Corporation CEO



Star Island News & Events



Don Gorvett—Phantom Ships

Renowned printmaker and Perkins Cove artist Don Gorvett discussed his work and his recently created woodblock print of the historic Oceanic Hotel to commemorate Star Island's Centennial year at the Portsmouth Public Library and at the Ogunquit Museum of American Art in August. Look for the print in the Oceanic lobby this summer.

Oceanic Talks

Thanks to Ann Beattie who traveled near and far throughout New Hampshire to present her historic talk: 140 Years At Sea, the Oceanic Hotel. Over 600 people attended the events which helped raise awareness and donations to support the continued restoration of Star's historic hotel which was named to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save in NH list in 2015. Collaborative partners for the talks include the Portsmouth Athenaeum, New Castle Public Library, Discover Portsmouth, New Hampshire Historical Society, Moffatt-Ladd House, and the Pierce Mans in Concord. We are thankful to our event sponsors, Isles of Shoals Steamship Company and Five Maples, and to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for their most generous continued support of the Oceanic restoration. We also thank the McIninch Foundation and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and Putnam Foundation for their support.

the boats race to the finish in Gosport Harbor. Once again, a fantastic kite display was provided by Fun with Wind, and Shoaler Dave Finklestein provided a gourmet BBQ as part of the awards ceremony. Special thanks to Sysco for their generous donation of all food for the weekend, and to all our event sponsors! Save the Date for the 8th Annual Gosport Regatta on Sunday, September 17, 2017.



Todd Bonita Gallery

The Gallery hosted an art show in honor of Star Island's Centennial. A group of seafaring gallery artists sailed out to the Isles of Shoals to paint over the summer. Todd Bonita Gallery's exhibit "Oceanic" celebrated the inspired works from their painting trips and the rugged beauty of the Shoals.



7th Annual Star Island Gosport Regatta

Forty boats set sail at the Gosport Regatta, the historic sailing race organized by the Piscataqua Sailing Association to benefit Star Island. Hundreds gathered on island to watch

Starry Night Success!

Shoals Historian Ann Beattie presented a fascinating talk—the artistry of Celia Thaxter's salon—at our fall fundraiser, Starry Night. Close to 100 people attended the event at Discover Portsmouth which raised over \$12,000. Highlights included a Celia Thaxter poetry reading by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Kate Leigh, an exhibit of items from the Thaxter Museum/Vaughn Cottage, a silent auction full of wonderful donated items, music by Shoaler Joe Pescatello, and food by The Kitchen. Thanks to sponsors Fred C. Church Insurance Company, Axis Computer Networks, Island Cruises, Sam Adams, Peter Paul Wines and to Shoaler friends who loaned items for the exhibit and donated to the auction.

NH Preservation Alliance and NH Historical Society Visit Star

Close to 200 visitors came to Star last fall to enjoy a day of stunning views and stories of New Hampshire history while touring the island and its trademark structure, the 140-year-old Oceanic Hotel.

Earth Day Celebration

Thank you to Blue Ocean Society and our many volunteers who helped celebrate Earth Day with a beach clean up at Foss Beach in Rye. We collected 245 pounds of trash.

For more information on upcoming events go to www.starisland.org/programs/events

Star Island Corporation

Four Year Strategic Map 2017–2020

Community

OUR COMMUNITY GOAL springs from the hospitality we extend on Star Island, welcoming and nurturing new relationships, preserving existing relationships, and expanding our impact on the lives of our community members.

- Create a diverse and inclusive spiritual community modeled on our best selves on our best day. Live our values through hospitality within our community to each other and in our inclusive and generous reception of all guests and visitors.
- Develop centers of excellence in our hospitality and amenities to improve the island experience for conferees, visitors and employees.
- Conduct our operations as an employer, and citizen of the Seacoast Region and beyond, consistent with our highest values and goals.
- Mentor and support our community in learning about Star Island, including our culture, values, history, ecology and green initiatives, and share what we have learned in the Seacoast Region and beyond.

Economic

OUR ECONOMIC GOAL focuses on moving us from economic stability to sustained economic vitality, and includes identifying and obtaining the financial resources to ensure our long-term success, while being mindful of cost effectiveness.

- Develop and implement a long-term plan for sustained financial vitality that addresses improvement and preservation of our buildings and infrastructure.
- Develop and implement a process that ensures our long-term financial planning secures the goals and objectives set forth in our strategic plan.



- Being mindful of affordability, increase guest acquisition and retention rates, with a particular focus on families and younger people.
- Enhance and expand opportunities for Island amenities and activities each year.

Environment

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL encompasses the protection and preservation of the natural and built environments of Star and Appledore Islands, developing and modeling sustainability to accommodate the needs of the present and to ensure future opportunities.

- Develop and implement a comprehensive adaptation plan, including how we will address the effects of climate change on Star and Appledore Islands.
- Increase education and awareness of the unique natural and historic ecosystem that the Isles of Shoals and particularly Star Island represent, and through this awareness, inspire people to effect positive change in the Seacoast Region and beyond.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive and measurable energy plan which models sustainability and environmental best management practices, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
- Improve and maintain safe and structurally sound facilities, which meet the accessibility, lighting, comfort and regulatory needs of all of our island constituencies.

Stewardship

OUR STEWARDSHIP GOAL encompasses the many ways we ensure that Star Island, its values and its spiritual and educational opportunities are present for us, for our children, and succeeding generations to enjoy.

- Encourage all who come to Star to protect and cherish the natural and built environment, helping to preserve it for others and for the future.
- Design comprehensive fundraising plans that are representative of our strategic goals and objectives.
- Value individual conference identities and constituent groups within the philosophy of a single Star identity.
- Celebrate our history and successes by recognizing Shoals milestones and those who sustain Star Island through gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- Develop engagement opportunities that keep the spirit of Star alive throughout the year, for both Shoalers and potential Shoalers.

OUR MISSION: To own and maintain Star Island and such other property as the Corporation may hold or acquire, as a center for religious, educational, and kindred purposes consistent with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

OUR VISION: To create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.



Sustainability at Star Island



On ★ we have 3 gardens that are maintained with organic agriculture practices. Garden crops are incorporated into conferee & staff meals.



I am one of 80 fowl here at ★. Last week we ate 367 lbs of your food waste!

- 2 Barred Rocks laying here (Holly + Thistle)
- 2 Swedish Blue ducks (Jiffies)

1/3 of all food produced worldwide gets wasted in food production & consumption

2817 lbs food waste was diverted to compost during the week of 8/27-9/2



Cardboard is shredded on island and used in the compost process. 572 lbs of cardboard was diverted from landfill during the week of 8/2

Glass is crushed on island and used for cement mixtures and as fill for projects. 2015 glass bottles were diverted from landfill so far in 2016.



Nearly 30% of trash in landfills is paper, 18% is plastics. Much of this is reduced!

Green Gosport Initiative Update

BY JACK FARRELL

Since 2012, Star Island has prioritized sustainability efforts to reduce operating costs and improve our effort to be an exemplary steward of our island. The Green Gosport Initiative has led to significantly reduced environmental hazards and decreased our overall environmental footprint. As you may know, our plan integrates energy and water conservation and efficiency measures with the installation of a 130 kW ground mounted solar array. The project results have been impressive: reducing our fossil-fuel consumption and carbon footprint by 75 percent. In addition, we have implemented a waste reduction program and reduced our landfill trash by 40 percent. An important goal is to continue the momentum. This can be achieved through the use of innovative technology, creative re-use of resources and waste products, and collaboration with regulators. All of these provide opportunities for environmental education and examples of sustainable practices that extend beyond the Island.

Our past success has inspired us to look for further opportunities to reduce our overall water and energy consumption. Currently we have an energy intensive wastewater treatment process which will be replaced with a more energy-efficient process that is reliable and operator friendly. A central component to the new system is finding ways to reuse treated wastewater effluent into everyday operations, such as for toilet flushing and irrigation. A collaborator in this effort has been The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Says Assistant Commissioner Clark Friese, "New Hampshire looks forward to working collaboratively with Star Island to reach its energy reduction goals and incorporate sustainable features such as water reuse. NHDES hopes that Star Island's work will serve as a model for others to follow."

We are pleased to report that design work continues on the planned upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. Our primary goals for the project are to improve wastewater treatment on

the island by increasing system reliability, reducing seasonal start up difficulties, improving system aesthetics, reducing use of hazardous chemicals, and reducing energy consumption. The design team includes SIC staff, consulting engineers, and regulators from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). A wastewater summit last fall with state officials led to a series of productive winter meetings and a clear roadmap to the final design with NHDES.

While the final treatment technology has yet to be confirmed, biological membrane filtration technology is the top contender. A final evaluation of all available technologies is presently underway. Technologies available today have the potential to reduce energy consumption for wastewater treatment by one half to two thirds of present demand. Reductions of this magnitude represent the chance to reduce island diesel consumption by an additional 25 to 30 percent.

The project is expected to include significant reuse of treated effluent for irrigation and toilet flushing. Use of treated wastewater for these purposes has been proven safe and effective in other areas where water shortages are commonplace. While regulations in New Hampshire are in place for irrigation uses, the Star project would help create a regulatory template for use of treated effluent for purposes beyond irrigation, including the potential for such uses in toilets and laundry.

Meanwhile, the project has been ranked among the top contenders for funding by the NHDES under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This program provides federal funding through long-term low interest loans for wastewater treatment projects administered by the states. The Island's participation in the program would mark the first time in New Hampshire that a nonprofit organization qualified for this funding.

It is expected that final approval for the project will be in hand by early 2018. This would allow construction to begin late in the year allowing the new system to come on line for the 2019 season.



An interview with acclaimed photographer and Star Island winter caretaker **Alexandra de Steiguer** who reflects on her 20 years of solitude

Alexandra is a two time Artist Fellow of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Her work has been exhibited across the country. She creates her images using film and traditional darkroom methods and hand prints her images on gelatin silver paper.

SI: After your first winter on Star, did you have any idea that the arrangement would last this long?

Alexandra: I didn't have any expectations either way, I just knew for sure that the chance to work in a place so remote and solitary was incredibly special, and I was deeply thankful for the opportunity.

SI: How has spending winters on Star changed your work as an artist?

Alexandra: I started photographing when in my late teens after I'd signed onto my second tall ship. When you live and work at sea, far past the edges of civilization, surrounded by wild nature, you have no choice but to feel a sort of "broadening" in the way you see the

world. Caretaking on Star Island all these many years has had a similar effect on me, and has definitely expanded my way of seeing. The challenge for me is to portray this broader perspective in and through my work.

SI: How has your time on Star Island changed you as person?

Alexandra: For the better, I hope! I definitely feel more connected to all of the wildness here. This experience has made me more aware of the choices I make in how I live, and how each choice impacts the whole. Most of the time, I also feel more centered as a person. But it's also true that extended periods of solitude can skew the "truths" that we think we know, and I've increasingly felt the "different-ness" of my perspectives as they clash with those of the outside world.

SI: As you reflect back on 20 years of winters on Star Island, what are a few memories that stand out the most?

Alexandra: There are so many. The two times that a snowy owl flew directly

toward me from across the island, only to veer just at the last moment and fly just past my shoulder. Those are two truly sublime moments. The storms are pretty spectacular too, there was one storm that took the newly installed wind-turbine erected behind EMB (it looked like a giant double-helix), and ripped it to shreds while I watched through a window, the big metal fins flying everywhere in the 91 mph winds.

SI: What are your hopes for the future of Star Island?

Alexandra: I hope that Star Island continues to be a place where people gather to find community, and also that special kind of fulfillment that comes of spending time surrounded by the wild and the elemental. This is very important. But I must also speak for another community—the wild animals with whom I share my winters—and there are many. My sincere hope is that we can continue to share these islands, and to remember that, while we humans are visitors here, there are those for whom this is a home.

Alex de Steiguer presented *Senses of Place: Winter Life on a Small Island in May* at the Star Theater, Kittery Community Center. Alex shared her experiences and some of her work at this special event. We are grateful to sponsors CrossCurrent Communications, Wentworth Greenhouses, Piscataqua Savings Bank, Southport Printing and Sam Adams, and thank you to Kent Allyn for providing amazing music for the event!

PASSAGES

Writing A Page For The Star Island Memorial Book

Your description should give your loved one's history with a focus on how he or she was involved with Star Island and/or what Star Island meant to him or her. There is no cost but a gift in memory is always welcome. Visit www.starisland.org/donate/memorials for more information.



Pam Raiford, spouse of long-time Writers in the Round conferee **Guy Capecelatro**, died April 13, 2017.

Former conferee **Matthew John Bandedchi** passed away on January 5, 2016.

Anthony J. Peluso, father of International Affairs conferee **Christopher Peluso**, passed away May 23, 2016.

International Affairs conferee **Tom Fulda** passed away on June 1, 2016.

Longtime conferee **Jane Blount** passed away on July 9, 2016.

Heidi Peterson, daughter of Corporation members and longtime Shoalers **Russ and Sue Peterson** passed away on July 11, 2016.

All Star 1 conferee **Phoebe Hamilton Soule** died on June 12, 2016.

Kelly Sykes-Clark was born on July 20, 2016 to former Pelican **Pete Sykes and Audra Lynn Clark**.

All Star 2 conferee and father of current SIC board member and Corporation member **Jordan Young II, Jordan Young** passed away on July 22, 2016.

Cain Bryant McIntosh was born on July 26, 2016 to former Pelican **Julia Case McIntosh** and husband **Ian**, and to longtime Shoaler grandparents **Charlie Case and Sherry Walworth**.

Former Pelicans and Corporation member **Emily Cann and Tyler Dumais** were married on July 30, 2016.

Ezra Wahlgren was born on September 5, 2016 to former SIC Office Assistant **Jon Wahlgren and wife Jessica**.

Former Pelican and former SIC staff member **Noah Blakney and Leslie Kingsley** were married on September 10, 2016.

Mitchell Desmond Tracy was born on September 11, 2016 to former Pelican **Erin Halacy Tracy and husband Mike**.

Former Pelican and Vaughn Curator **Sarah O'Connor and Chris Collins** were married on October 23, 2016.

Wren Acadia Kunz was born October 29, 2016 to former Pelican **Ben Kunz** and wife **Anna Mueller**, and to Corporation member and longtime Shoaler grandparents,

current Board President **Gary Kunz and Michelle Kunz**.

Corporation member and former Pelican **Peter Squires** and former Pelican **Anne Marple** were married on December 18, 2016.

Miller James May was born on December 22, 2016 to parents **Christopher and Jessa May** and All Star 2 conferee grandmother **Suzanne May**.

International Affairs conferee, Corporation member and island volunteer **Dave Haykin** passed away on December 23, 2016.

Tyler Case was born on January 29, 2017 to former Pelicans and Pel Reunion conferees **Hillary Adams Case and Greg Case** and to long time conferee and Corporation member grandparents **Mark Adams and Kyle Jorgensen Adams and Charlie Case and Sherry Walworth**.

International Affairs conferee and former conference chair **Ross Fenster** passed away on February 23, 2017.

Thomas Frederick Harris was born on February 27, 2017 to former Pelican **Joel Harris** and his wife **Jessica**.

Langley Orbit Muller-Barry was born on March 15, 2017 to former Pelicans **Anne Muller and Jessica Barry**.

Former Pelican **Mathew Kennedy** married **Alicia Wang** on April 15, 2017.

Jean Luc Thomas Ortiz was born on April 23, 2017; he is a 4th generation Shoaler, son of **Caroline Hill Ortiz** and husband **Jean Francois Ortiz**, and grandson of Board member **Mary Trudeau and Roger Hill**.

Donald A. Dembsey, father of International Affairs conferee, Corporation and Board member **Nick Dembsey**, passed away on November 26, 2016.

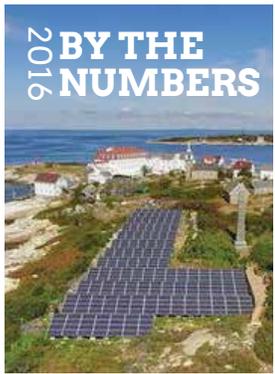
Alexandra Hill, wife of Corporation member **Jeremy Hill** and Star Arts conferee, passed away on April 15, 2017.

Please accept our apologies for any incorrect passages or omissions, and let us know about the error by calling the Star Island office at 603-430-6272.



Morton-Benedict House
30 Middle Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

The Green Gosport Initiative is Star Island's sustainability program. Named for the original fishing village on the island, this is a reference to the endurance, resilience, and creative spirit of the island communities that have called Star Island home. Learn more at www.starisland.org/the-island/green/



0 Gallons of Fresh Water Naturally Available on the Island

2 Vegetable and Herb Gardens

3 Sustainability Interns

11 Kilowatts Used in the Kitchen

12 Daily Hours of Solar Provided by Array

19% Power Use Reduction by Replacing Refrigerators in Food Service

27 Tons of Food Waste Composted (39,960 pounds)

72 Batteries for Solar Power Storage

79 Island Chickens

100% Power Provided by Solar Array Jan-May and Oct-Dec

420 Solar Panels

1,500 Pounds of Produce from Island Gardens

4,000 Cardboard Boxes Diverted from Waste Stream, Shredded, and Used in the Compost Process

4,711 Gallons of Rainwater Collected and Treated for Use

5,900 Estimated Fuel Savings in 2016

6,680 Pounds of Kitchen Compost Eaten by Island Flock

66,600 Kilowatt Hours of Diesel Generator Energy Used

69,850 Kilowatt Hours of Solar Energy Used

208,803 Gallons of Water Delivered by Boat 

300,060 Gallons of Water Produced through Reverse Osmosis Desalination

Almost **419,494** Estimated Total Gallons of Salt Water Used for Flushing

866,672 Gallons, Wastewater Treated