

Our mission since 1915 is to hold and administer Star Island and other properties we acquire for religious, educational and kindred purposes.



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From the President

I am watching the snow fall on the Piscataqua, looking at the white world surrounding me, but—as I write this to you—I am thinking about Star, next summer, and the experiences we will have from the moment we step on the boat to our first good view of the island. What will the summer of 2005 bring? It will bring many changes some of which may feel to many like the movie *Back to the Future*. The more things change, the more some of the changes repeat what used to be. Yet, I believe that the changes you will see are moving us forward and, for the most part, in positive ways. Some have created financial stress and others will result in economies and

greater security about our current and future operations.

Remember last summer? We built a laundry so that all of our sheets and towels could be washed on island. It seemed very novel to the board to do this and sensible too! Not only would the laundry relieve Pelicans of the time and effort of carrying 5,000 pounds of linens and towels on and off the Laighton, it would ensure that we always had what was needed on the island and it would save us money to boot! The board thought we were approving something totally new until Ed Rutledge, our Island Historian, let us know that we used to have a laundry

FROM THE PRESIDENT, page 3

Council of Conferences Fall Meeting

The Star Island Council of Conferences met on October 16 at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, CT, to follow up the work done at the council's spring meeting. Star Island Corporation President Irene Bush welcomed the delegates, who were selected by each conference, as well as many guests from conferences and the SIC Board. Executive Director Paul Jennings gave a State of Star—Summer 2004 presentation which included a report on various projects, including improving access to our physical facilities, marketing our conferences, and extending the September season. He noted the service changes necessary in some conferences as a result of the lightning strike this summer that knocked out our fire alarm system.

Director of Development and Community Relations Deborah Lielasus Tombleson reported on the State of Star Island Fund Development in 2004, which credited the many ways in which the Corporation and Annual Fund conference representatives worked together effectively for the common good and invited all present to share ideas about how to contribute to the Annual Fund process.

COUNCIL OF CONFERENCES, page 12

This issue of the Star Island Corporation Newsletter was edited and produced by Joe Watts, Deborah Lielasus Tombleson, and Kate Brady with the assistance of photographer Sean Elliot and all contributors. Thank you!

From the Executive Director

Around the time you receive this newsletter, the 2005 Chairs and Registrars will be gathering in Framingham, Massachusetts, to meet with staff in preparation for the 2005 season. February marks a shift in focus from bringing closure to the past season to planning for the next. Pelicans are hired, volunteer weekends planned, contractors get final approvals for capital projects, new and old Shoalers begin registering for conferences, and conference leaders put finishing touches on their plans and bring to life once again, the rich traditions of our summer conferences.

Shoalers value timeless island traditions but change, as we know, is an invariable facet of life. This year, change brings us a new ferry service. Conferees will now be traveling to and from Star aboard the Captain's Lady, a seventy-eight foot, 149 passenger vessel. The Captain's Lady is used primarily for off-shore whale watches and is well suited for the weather and sea conditions around the Shoals. Use of a vessel this size is actually the revival of a tradition from many years ago when two round trips were necessary to bring the conferences to the island. For many long-time Shoalers, this will be a taste of nostalgia but for others, this will become a "new" tradition. Captain's Fishing Charters, owner of the Captain's Lady, is based in Newburyport, Massachusetts but will operate from the dock immediately adjacent to our conference parking lot in Portsmouth. To see pictures of the boat, please log on to www.captainsfishing.com. The change in ferry companies came about this fall when the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company (ISSCo.), owner of the Thomas Lighton, notified us they would be unable to continue their contract with us in part because of the complications presented by Homeland Security. We are confident that the change in boat companies will have little impact on most conferences and we will do our best to make the transition as easy as possible. A long term agreement with Captain's Fishing Charters is being discussed this winter and by late summer, we will be able to apprise you of the nature of ferry services for the next several years. Your conference leaders will be sending much more detailed information to you in the spring regarding ferry schedules and daily boat service to and from the island.

The year ahead, and especially this spring, will be unusually busy as we make plans for the new boat service and undertake a challenging array of projects referenced in Irene's article. As we prepare for the new year, we are working more closely than ever with conference leaders to insure that conferences are filled. In early January, I sent

a letter to chairs and registrars reminding them of the work we must do together to avoid undersubscribed conferences. In 2004, our room and board revenues would have been significantly more than we brought in, had all of our conference been fully subscribed. Every unfilled space is lost income for the year and a lost opportunity to build strong conferences for the future. Every unfilled space makes it all the more difficult to undertake necessary capital projects and keep room and board rate increases to a minimum. For this reason, I ask that we all make it our business to promote our conferences and insure that each week, 260 conferees will share the joys of a stay on the island. Meeting our five year budget and island improvement objectives are largely dependent on achieving close to full utilization of the island.

As we look to the next five years and beyond, it is clear that the Corporation must be an evolving entity ready to meet new demands. We have faced and met considerable challenges over the past several years. However, the successful work of the past will be diminished if we do not now position ourselves to engage in proactive, strategic planning to respond to the island's deteriorated infrastructure and to prepare for a future complicated by forces increasingly beyond our control.

The critical need at present is to focus on the requirements of our facility without losing forward momentum on improving Corporation and conference center operations.

For this reason, the Board approved a revised staffing plan intended primarily to add depth to our facilities and maintenance staff and enable me to attend to long range needs. To do so, we will hire a Director of Island Planning and Operations who, in addition to serving as the key facilities planner, will serve as the island manager and chief operating officer of the corporation. This will enable me to focus time and energy on issues such as ten year financial and capital planning, long term ferry and parking arrangements, lease negotiations with Shoals Marine Lab, the acquisition of a shore-side facility and to assume a more active role with Deborah Tombleson in our fund development and community relations efforts.

The staff reorganization should be completed by early March. To date, we have filled three year-round positions. Ben Fowler, long-time seasonal staff member, is now in the year-round role of Chief Engineer. In addition to experience accrued over his many seasons on Star, Ben has

From the President—*continued from page 1*

and it is only in the last few decades that we paid to send linens off island to be washed.

You'll be reading from Paul that our boat service is changing and we will now bring conferences on and off the island in two shifts. Does this sound novel? Not to me and probably not to many of you. In years past, when smaller boats were used, conferees were scheduled for as many as three boats before the entire conference was assembled. While we will miss the ease of making one trip in the Thomas Loughton and are sad to see our historical relationship with the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company and the Whitaker family come to an end, the complications of homeland security and ISSCo's need to revisit its business plan impel us to make this change. Our new service is with an excellent company and we hope to work with them on a longer term contract once we test out the logistics at the beginning of summer 2005.

While laundry and boat service may cause us to reminisce about recreating what used to be in a new, modern form, there are other changes that are totally new, required by outside forces like fire marshals and the changing priorities of vendors like ISSCo. As you walk up the path, the hotel will look different to you. A new fire tower will extend from the left side of Gosport and the porch will stretch out a little longer in front of it. There will be another tower on the back of Gosport, invisible until you walk behind the hotel. Aesthetically, we have tried to minimize the impact of this change, but there was little choice about the construction of the towers. Without them, we would not be allowed to use Gosport and the rooms are needed to accommodate full conferences.

Another less visible change is the planned installation of a water treatment (reverse osmosis) system which will provide drinking water. Without the Loughton's water deliveries, this became necessary too. In addition to these planned new capital projects, work will continue to maintain the capital we already have. Staff and board are working hard to figure out how to accomplish all that needs to be done and how to pay for it.

Changes and challenges will always be with us. In the midst of the re-organization we are undergoing, the board and the entire full time staff met together for the first time for an end-of-January Retreat, facilitated by long-time Shoalers Jan and Jim Prochaska so that we can together manage change—those that are occurring and those that need to occur. Our goal is to understand from all points of view what Star requires—the many imperatives to keep our facility viable and to make the best conference season possible for all of us. We must figure out how to use our somewhat scarce resources without overburdening and burning out those who contribute so much to being the special place we are. The retreat was an essential and inspirational step in creating the kind of partnership necessary in this time of change. As a small non-profit, we will probably never have quite enough money, quite enough staff or quite enough volunteers to accomplish all that Star needs, but I hope you agree with me that we are being thoughtful and prudent in our planning for change and in our deployment of our resources. I want to thank the board, the staff, the Pelicans and all of you for all that we collectively contribute in time, effort and money to the Star enterprise. Everyone's contributions are essential. May we all keep up the good work.

± Irene Bush

From the Director of Development & Community Relations

Nearly all of you reading this newsletter have enjoyed time on Star Island – either as a guest, day visitor, conferee, volunteer, or employee. You know that it takes all of us working together to continue the traditional gathering of our family and friends in a “world apart” from the rigors of daily life. Where else can you spend restful retreat nine miles out to sea on the historic remnant of a New England fishing village and proud survivor of the Grand Hotel era?

If we engage in a cost analysis of where to spend our leisure time and compare a vacation on Star Island to any other, there is no way to adequately measure the intangible value of what is received as one of the special few who have discovered this place and who return whenever we can – often year after year.

Because of this love of Star Island and desire to participate in its care, many of you contribute your time and talent to a volunteer project or by serving on a committee. These gifts make it possible to sustain our way of life.

As an involved Shoaler, you also know that the need for funds is especially great right now because of mandated, costly egress projects, an unexpected loss of room and board income, and the press of deferred maintenance needs. For this reason, 25% of you have given to the Annual Fund and brought us within sight of our \$500,000 goal.

For those of you who have not yet contributed, please use the enclosed envelope to send your pledge or donation in today. If everyone

reading this newsletter, who has not yet given, sends in just \$27 we will reach our goals for 2004 and be able to end this year on a satisfying note – all the more satisfying because we will have achieved 100% participation.

But because there are some who will not be able to contribute even that modest amount, we ask everyone to give to the best of their ability. If you’ve already donated to the Annual Fund and can do so again, please consider an additional year-end gift.

You may also know Star Island Corporation conducted a Capital Campaign Feasibility study in 2001 and as a result is embarking on a five-year “Sustaining Stewards” fund raising program to catch up on deferred maintenance and capital projects. We will officially launch this in January 2005 so look for more information then. During the current “silent phase” we have already received commitments from four Shoalers at a level of \$15,000 or more per year in each of five years. If you would like to talk about where you fit in this plan, please give me a call at (603) 430-6272 or send an email to dtombleson@starisland.org. We need all who can to join this dedicated group. While we know that only a few have the capacity to give at that level, we need everyone to contribute fully to each year’s Annual Fund so we can secure the future of our beloved Star Island.

All your gifts are gratefully received.

± Deborah Lielasus Tombleson,
Director of Development & Community Relations



The Tall Ship Friendship, a reconstruction of a 1797 three-masted American “East Indiaman,” stopped overnight at Star Island on its way from Salem to Portsmouth on August 12. Captain and crew from the National Park Service, local press, and a documentary film maker joined us for dinner and a behind the scenes tour of Star Island. In return, the 175-foot museum merchant vessel invited all conferees, staff, and Pelicans to come aboard for a tour.

McGill Society Membership Secures Future of Star Island

Members of the McGill Society – Shoalers who have named Star Island in their will – contribute directly to the stability of Star Island’s future. All unrestricted bequests to Star Island Corporation are held by The Star Island Permanent Trust Fund, a separate legal entity created in 1998 to maintain separate custody and professionally manage the Corporation’s endowment funds. The five Trustees of the Permanent Trust are elected from membership of the Corporation based on their expertise in investment management, and at least two of the five Trustees must be members of the Corporation’s Board of Directors. Star Island Corporation receives an annual disbursement of income from the Trust – the exact amount is based on a percentage calculation in line with what is done at other nonprofit institutions. The Trust’s investments have been managed since 1994 by Wilkins Investment Counsel, a Boston-based firm, and have earned strong returns in excess of the relevant market averages. Investments conform to social responsibility guidelines consistent with the values of the Corporation’s membership and its UU and UCC heritages.

The Trust has grown in recent years because of superior investment returns and because of bequests to the Star Island Corporation. Over the past three years alone, bequests received by Star Island and added to the Trust have amounted to almost \$300,000. A long-term goal of the Corporation is for the Permanent Trust to grow large enough to subsidize a third or more of Star Island’s annual budget, a percentage in line with the most successful and durable non-profit organizations. This increase – nearly nine times the current size of the Trust – depends upon the generosity of those forward thinking members of Star Island’s McGill Society.

If you need information about making a bequest to Star Island Corporation, please contact Deborah Lielasus Tombleson at (603) 430-6272 or dtombleson@starisland.org. ±



The Gift of Music

In addition to Annual Fund contributions, some Shoalers donate items to Star Island. There are innumerable cases, for which we are very grateful, that have made it possible for us to transfer funds that would be spent purchasing these items to another priority area. There are other gifts that provide Star Island with something that wasn’t in the budget because of the essential demands of maintenance and facilities improvements, but which have lifted the spirit and made life on Star more enjoyable or aesthetically pleasing. It is this second category that leads us to make a request for anyone with a well-maintained, quality piano in good working order to consider donating it to Star Island’s music program. Please contact us at (603) 430-6272 or kbrady@starisland.org. ±

Calling on Volunteers

We need...

Researchers and writers to assist with a project to summarize the history of construction, naming, and memorial status of buildings and rooms on Star. We hope to have a framed page for each site this summer.

Someone to organize photos onto CDs by year and subject for easy reference.

Assistance with grant research.

People who can be called upon for mailing projects. (Lots of stuffing, sticking, and stamping!)

Please contact Kate Brady at (603) 430-6272 or kbrady@starisland.org if you’re interested in any of these jobs. ±

Passages

Births:

Everett Stiles Martin, son of Amelia Stiles and Dominick Martin, September 10, 2004.

Alexa Kai Peterson-Ismail, daughter of Lara Ismail and Heather Peterson, April 9, 2004.

Katherine Doris Robie, daughter of Karen (Staubi) Robie and Bruce Robie, April 1, 2004.

Marriages:

Lara Ismail and Heather Peterson

Deaths:

Philip Brady died on September 5, 2004. He was 87. A longtime Shoaler, Philip attended LOAS II almost every year from 1969 to 1997. He was predeceased by his wife Eleanor, who attended conferences with him until her death in 1992. Philip had been a Corporation member since 1975, earning emeritus member status in 1998. He is survived by three sons, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Donald Winters Brookfield, Sr. died on May 25, 2004. He was 92. Don first attended YPRU on Star in the 1920s, along with Fred McGill and Lyman Rutledge. In 1950, Don brought his entire family out for the first part of family week (later All Star I), and they have continued to come to Star in one capacity or another ever since. Predeceased by his wife Phyllis and his son Douglas, Don is survived by his children, Beverly (Kinraide), Donald, David, Jane (Curran), and Susan (Cowan), sixteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Julian E Bulley died on July 28, 2004. He was 80. Julian attended his first conference in 1947, which was chaired by Fred and Ginny McGill. In 1957, Julian and his wife Janice brought their children to All Star, later attending an occasional IA and LOAS conference. Most recently (2003), Julian attended All Star I and Pelican Reunion. Predeceased by his wife and his son Joel, Julian is survived by his daughters Jessica and Joanne and three grandchildren.

Edith Cann died on September 9, 2004. She was 90. Edith enjoyed a yearly trip to Star to visit her

children (including Corporation member Donald Cann and daughter-in-law Janet (Walker) Cann) and five Pelican grandchildren. Her favorite things were picnicking in the summer house, visiting the gift shop, sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch, and having ice cream just before the boat left for Portsmouth.

Pat Johnson died on September 18, 2004. She was 76. Pat attended the Arts Conference for fifteen years, from 1987 to 2001. She will probably be best remembered for her flute playing. Pat is survived by her husband, two sons, and daughter Barbara Orwick, a ten year Arts attendee.

Ruth M. Stringer Littlefield died on January 19, 2004, after complications from knee replacement surgery. She was age 91. She began visiting Star in the 1940s with her son and husband and continued to visit each summer until her death. In later years Ruth served as a volunteer seamstress, climbing the stairs to the upper floor sewing room. Ruth is survived by her son Laurence I. Stringer and his wife Shirley, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Daniel Pentlarge died on September 21, 2004. Daniel was a Pelican in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Brian K. Simm died on September 22, 2004. Brian attended UCC in the 1990s often serving as Artist in Residence. Brian was a retired New Hampshire district forester who loved to paint the Maine coast and the mountains of New Hampshire. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla and two sons, Scott and Steve. ±



If you have information about births, marriages, and/or deaths in the Star Island family, please send it to the editor of the *Star Island Newsletter*, 10 Vaughan Mall, Suite 8, Portsmouth, NH 03801, or e-mail it to kbrady@starisland.org.

A Star Island UCC Legacy—Harold and Janet Crow

Janet Coffeen Crow and the Reverend Harold “Pappy” Crow provided Star Island with a long history of leadership and positive influence. They played a central role in making the United Church of Christ (UCC) Family Conferences what they are today, and Pappy’s vision ultimately led to the creation of the Art Barn.

Janet and Pappy first came to Star in 1954 as the guests of Clara Loewe, a longtime Shoaler, who gave them the responsibility of bringing young people to the Congregational Conferences. With their strong and loving leadership, working hand in hand with longtime Shoaler, fellow leader, and close friend Edith Pierson, the Family Conferences began and continue to this day. Lisa Duncanson, Interim President of Star Island UCC, Board member, and UCC conferee, says “the Star Island UCC Conferences wouldn’t be what they are today without Pappy and Janet. Their efforts turned the UCC Conferences into family conferences. Their desire to bring our families together in this special place, to grow together and share our love of Star, was the impetus behind the UCC Family Conferences. Their presence and involvement at Star is greatly missed, but their legacy continues in their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.”

Many of us enjoy the Art Barn, which was Pappy’s inspiration. He approached the Board with the idea of turning the old ice house into an art center. Originally, the idea was turned down, but with some persistence, the project was ultimately approved. Pappy’s good friend, Grandpa Bourne, was the carpenter that made the idea a reality. A plaque in the Art Barn honors the contribution of these two friends.

Over the years, four generations of the Crows have attended what is now UCC II, sharing in their deep love of the Island. The Crows were close friends with many fellow Shoalers, including Ed and Elaine Kennedy, Sargent Desmond, Dave and Edith Pierson, Roz Holt, Lyman Rutledge, Ginger Milesky, the reverend Dr. Henry Millan, and Ron and Leigh Smith, to mention a few.

Janet and Pappy blessed Star with decades of ongoing involvement and leadership. They have been at the heart of the UCC conferences from their beginnings until now, and their legacy is still carried on by their family and the new generation of UCC leaders, many of whom have been involved all of their lives. Though they have both passed on, their contributions to Star Island live on for all of us to share. ±

Shoalers in the News

Sean D. Elliot: On July 10, former Pelican, Pel Reunion conferee, and volunteer Sean D. Elliot was elected National Secretary of the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA). The National Secretary serves a two-year term on the NPPA’s Executive Committee. Sean had served on the board as the associate director and then director from Region One (New England) since 1998. The NPPA is a non-profit professional organization with 10,000 members.

Bruce Parsons: Former Pelican and current Board VP Bruce Parson’s long awaited book of photographs, *Star Light*, is now at the printer, scheduled for a November 15 publication from Peter E. Randall Publisher. For thirty years, Bruce

has photographed the island and the sea, seeking just the right “magic light,” and these photos make up the only color collection of Star Island photographs currently in print. A portion of each sale of the book and accompanying prints will be donated to the Star Island Corporation.

Amy Smith: LOAS I conferee Amy Smith is in the news again, this time as a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, a \$500,000 no-strings-attached prize which acknowledges creative and undiscovered thinkers in a wide range of fields. Amy was named a “MacArthur genius” on September 28 for her continuing work inventing simple technologies to solve problems in the poorest places on earth. ±

çFROM THE PRESIDENT *continued from page 2*

recently graduated with a mechanical engineering degree from the University of New Hampshire. Sumar Maji, another long-time seasonal staff member, has moved into the year-round role of Chief Operator of the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities and will be responsible for both drinking water production and wastewater treatment. Sumar is a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services licensed treatment plant operator. We are also pleased to welcome Hilary Niles as our Portsmouth Office Assistant. Hilary is also the volunteer Program Director for Portsmouth Community Radio and brings strong communication and organization skills to her new role. She graduated from University of New Hampshire and studied at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. We are in the process of screening forty eight applications for the Director of Island Planning and Operations position and we expect to make an offer of employment by the end of February.

A reorganization such as this, while creating opportunities for some staff, displaces others. Joe Watts is now Assistant to the Executive Director; Kate Brady has had a title and responsibility change to Development and Community Rela-

tions Associate and works with Deborah Tombleson, Director of Development and Community Relations. Kristi Vazifdar is now Finance Manager, a step up in responsibility from her former title. Regrettably, in the restructured office, positions were not available for Charleen Imhoff and Dave Reynolds, both of whom left the Corporation at the end of the year. Charleen was key in enabling us to establishing an efficient year-round office in Portsmouth. Dave made extraordinary contributions to improving safety on the island for staff and guests alike and helped galvanize an aggressive approach to maintaining our facilities. His creativity and foresight helped to shape our views in such important areas as marine transportation needs and the imperative of a shore side facility. I am deeply indebted to both Charleen and Dave for their dedication to the Corporation and its vision, and for the role each played in the progress we have made.

And so we begin a new season of tradition and change. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in 2005 and to working with SIC Board and staff, and our hundreds of dedicated donors and volunteers whose collective spirit and generosity makes all of this possible.

± Paul Jennings

Would You Like to Serve on a Committee?

The service performed by volunteers on committees and similar working groups has played a significant role in making it possible for Star Island to become what it is today. The impact of the Vision 2000 report illustrates the point. Presently, a great deal is being done by a small number of dedicated Shoalers.

One of the main purposes of reorganizing the committee structure, including the creation of the Committee on Appointments, is to make it possible for more people to participate in this effort. There are currently a number of openings on several committees available for Shoalers with applicable interests and talents, and the time and energy to commit. These include the new Property Standards Committee, the Health and Safety Committees, the Rutledge Marine Lab Advisory Group, and others.

We are trying to finalize 2005 committee recommendations for approval by the SIC board by December 31, but openings will continue to occur year round. If your talent and interest cannot be used immediately, an opening is sure to arise in the near future.

Committee work can be demanding and time consuming, but the knowledge that you are a part of making it all happen can be richly rewarding, and you will be working with others equally dedicated to the Star Island enterprise.

If you have an interest in serving, please contact Ed Rutledge, Chair, Committee on Appointments, Edrut@gis.net, 15 Elysian Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540.

± Ed Rutledge

White Island “Lighthouse Kids” Update

In May, the Star Island staff again hosted seventy-eight seventh graders and their teachers on an overnight trip to Star. Their exposure to the island’s history, its environment, and view of White Island was an experience they will not forget.

These “Lighthouse Kids” have raised over \$60,000 for the repair and preservation of the White Island Lighthouse, which now will be matched out of the federal Save America’s Treasures grant awarded them in 2003 through the efforts of New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg.

Funds for the repair are being managed by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and plans for the repair have been slow to materialize. A landing base must be established before any major repairs can begin, which will mean another winter of exposure to a rapidly deteriorating structure. Undaunted, the Lighthouse Kids are planning a cleanup and work day and will bring out materials to do temporary patchwork.

Many thanks are due to the Kids, their teachers (especially Sue Reynolds), their sponsors, and their parents for their persistent efforts to keep the light shining and to continue to make it so much a part of our Star Island experience.

± Jack Grebe



Help Needed With Banquet Songbook

You're enjoying the banquet dinner as the conference wraps up another wonderful week on Star Island when the Master of Ceremonies rises and approaches the microphone. "Please turn to page eleven and join me in singing Gosport Harbor," he intones. You look around and find that there are only three or four slightly moldy songbooks on the table. Looking over the shoulder of your neighbor who is sharing a copy with the person on his other side, you get to listen more than read. This allows time to think back over the years and realize that the conference has only sung maybe three or four of these songs.

I found myself in this situation recently and started flipping through the book to see what else was in there. I was dismayed to see how many of the tunes I didn't know, and worse, how few authors I recognized. I resolved to do something about it.

It turns out that not only are there two editions of the blue songbook with which we are all familiar, but there was an even earlier song sheet with a few of the good old standbys. The latest edition was published in 1947.

I have a vision of reprinting the songbook—not only printing the words to the songs, but to include a simple melody line, so people could actually follow along with the music. Addi-

tionally, I would like to include a biographical sketch of the Shoaler who wrote the words.

It is here that I need your help. I don't know many of these people but I am sure that in the wider Star Island community there are people who know each of the authors. On the facing page, you will find a list of all the songs and the Shoalers who wrote the words. If anyone knows any of these authors, send a small paragraph to me and I will include as much of the information as possible.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve the songbook, send them along. Maybe you would like to remove some of the songs (does anyone really want to sing about the Old Sightseer rolling and dipping its rail?). Help me to not only put a few more copies on the tables, but to make a new and improved songbook that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Please send your submissions to Marc Soule, 180 Stow Road, Boxborough, MA 01719-1804, marc.soule@comcast.net.

± **Marc Soule**



Ben Soule, Greg Case, Deb Weiner-Soule, and Charity Dove sing as Brad Greeley and Zach Bouricius look on.

<i>Song Title</i>	<i>Shoalers Who Wrote the Words</i>
A Pledge	Carol Hartwell, 1928
A Song Of Youth	Marcia W. A. Dane, 1930
A Voice From White Island	Frederick T. McGill, 1927
Beautiful Isles	Marcia Randall Ellingson, 1928
Blame It On The Rocks	Frederick T. McGill, 1927
Carry Me Back To Old Star Island	Minnie Ward Jackson, 1925
Farewell To Star	Doris Deline, 1939
Follow The Star	Dana McL. Greeley, 1928
Gosport Harbor	Frederick T. McGill, 1931
Hail, Star Island	Jack Draper
Heaven Will Protect The Shoaler Girl	Anonymous
Island Treasures	Nancy Harsh Knight Eleanor Macgregor Marples, 1926
Isles Of Shoals	Jean Slocombe Baxter, 1930
Lest We Forget	Helen W. Greenwood, 1907
My Heart Is Yours	Doran Jones, 1937
Oh, What a Beautiful Island	Lucy Call
Roll On Old Sightseer	Laura Wollrath Gregory, 1934
Round (Three Blind Mice)	Marion Drew Bassett, 1930
Shoaler's Farewell	Anonymous, 1923
Shoals Hymn	Josiah R. Bartlett, 1930
Shoals Hymn	Pauline Wood Cutten, 1939
Sightseer Song	Hans Axel Walleen
Song To Star	Hope Wescott, 1938
Star Island, I Love You	Elizabeth Hall Frederick Virginia Frederick McGill, 1927
Sunrise at Star Island	Lyman V. Rutledge
That's The Isles Of Shoals	Elizabeth Lindsey Rice, 1936
The Isles Of Shoals	J. O. Allen, 1939
The Rocks Of Star Island	Ethel R. Williams
There Is An Island	Pauline Wood Cutten, 1939
There's A Bright Little Isle in the Sea	Ione Sylvia
There's Something About Star Island	"The Trappers" 1934
Y.P.R.U. Song	Sara Comins, 1923

Council of Conferences—*continued from page 1*

The Interim President of Star Island United Church of Christ, Lisa Duncanson, welcomed the delegates on behalf of her group and the Isles of Shoals Association (Unitarian-Universalist) because the ISA (U-U) President, Arlyn Weeks, was unable to attend due to illness.

At the Spring 2004 meeting, the Council had appointed study groups concerning the Chapel, calendar issues, and liability concerns. The Council received reports from Steve Lazarus regarding the Chapel accessibility issue, from Paul Jennings regarding the contemplated calendar policies, and from Karen Mathiasen on steps necessary to limit the liability of our conferences and their leadership from exposure to litigation.

The delegates and guests broke into six small groups (achieving full conferences, calendar, liability and tax issues, financial accessibility, level of hospitality service, and Annual Fund) to share feedback on the 2004 season and the experiences of their conferences. Each small group then reported their findings to the entire Council. The issue of exceeding 260 registrations and how to achieve full conferences with full room occupancy was raised. A recommendation was made that the Corporation coordinate the purchase of liability insurance for each conference, which would be paid for through a small addition to each conferee's room and board bill. The equally important goals of ensuring that we remain finan-

cially accessible and deliver a high level of hospitality service to our conferees were presented. It was recommended that the island institutionalize the practice of buffet style breakfasts but that table service continues for other meals. Notes from the group sessions including their recommendations will eventually be available on our web site at www.starisland.org. The Council also discussed ways of ensuring that each conference pays its full room and board deposit.

The Council appointed a Council Coordinating Committee consisting of five members, Jan Prochaska (All Star I), Judy Crawford (LOAS I), Bunny Wells (UCC/Laity), Karen Mathiasen (International Affairs), and Tom Kennedy (LOAS I), to set the agenda for the next meeting. A Spring 2005 meeting was scheduled for April 30, 2005, on the morning of the day set aside for the Corporation's Annual Meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Irene led an appreciative activity asking those in attendance to offer a word or two that summed up their feelings. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with most affirming the need for this kind of ongoing exchange of views and information between the conferences and with the Corporation Board and management on our many common issues.

± Tom Kennedy, Council of Conferences
Coordinating Committee Member

In Brief

Star Island's Meeting House was listed in an October 15, 2004 *USA Today* feature as one of the "Ten Great Places to Seek, Find a Rural Church". The article, written by Shawn Sell of McLean, VA, for the LIFE section says: "The meetinghouse that stands on the crown of Star Island, 9 miles out to sea, now serves as part of a summer religious and educational conference center where candlelight chapel services are a cherished island tradition. Built in 1800 to serve the island's 120 people, this is the third church on the site and the fact that its walls are 2 feet thick says much about the North Atlantic storms that batter this former fishing village."

Lost Digital Camera? We are in possession of a Sony digital camera that was left behind on Star this summer. Pictures saved on the camera include shots taken of four women at Celia's Garden on Appledore Island (dated September 1) and a number of shots of an incredibly cuddly tan and white kitten. Please contact us at (603) 430-6272 if this is your camera. ±

The Pelican Perspective—Reflections on Fire Safety

Now

It was the beginning of July and didn't seem like a particularly daunting storm. But when lightning struck the chimney of the Oceanic hotel this summer and fried the Island's fireboard, nearly every staff person signed up for a two hour fire rounds shift (for every 24 hours) to make sure everyone on the island was safe. I had the 5-7 a.m. round, not so bad because I could catch the sunrise and see all the seagulls congregate on the front lawn for their bizarre pre-dawn ritual. In the early morning silence the island seemed like a completely different place. I watched polar bears

jump into the freezing cold ocean and saw Waitrae groggily setting tables for breakfast, before the rest of the island slowly woke up. Those with the "red eye" rounds—1-3 or 3-5 a.m.—got a taste of the Night Crew life. To keep spirits up, Pel Council came up with the idea of having a 'fire log' where people could

write down amusing and peculiar things that happened in the wee hours. To me, even more interesting than seeing the island in all these literal new lights, was the social uniqueness that the fire rounds brought to last summer. Most of us hadn't been working for even a month when the lightning struck, and the sense of urgency and challenge jumpstarted the sense of community among Pels. Pels helped other Pels that were tired and needed rest, and put in extra hours when they had free time. Luckily for all of us, the fireboard was repaired and replaced within a few weeks. But that night, and the weeks that followed it, demonstrated for everyone the kind of dedication to the job, the island, and the community that I believe makes being a Pel unique and extraordinary.



1988 Pelicans and Staff
Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH

...and Then

The recent serious consequences of the lightning strike that knocked out the fireboard got me thinking about a while ago and a less serious consequence of increased fire safety. Back in 1986, when I was head of Paint Crew, the island increased its fire training for the maintenance staff. We were the first line of defense against any possible fires and, to strengthen that defense, a professional firefighter was brought out from the mainland to train us. In addition to learning cool lingo like "APWs" (air pressurized water extinguisher) we got hands-on training in extinguishing

actual fires. It was an intense and valuable two days of training.

In true Pelican fashion, we learned and then we had fun. The maintenance staff decided that, if we were the island firefighters, then it only made sense to have a firefighter's ball. We picked a Saturday night, one week after Pelican Christmas

and began planning the ball. Esther Kennedy was head of Truck Crew that year and she deduced that since three of the maintenance crews were headed by women (Ruth Ewing was head Carpenter) we ought to form a ladies' auxiliary of the firefighters. Several of us got together and made a quilt for the auxiliary to auction at the ball with an appliqué of an APW on the front. The ball was held in the Art Barn and the lucky winner of the quilt brought it to college and proudly used it on her dorm bed.

± Nancy Meyer, Pelican, 1985-1990

± Meg Neal, Pelican, 2002-04

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