

Spring 2005

Volume XXX, Issue 3

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

**Star Island Corporation:
Ninety Years and Going
Strong!**



*Fred & Ginny McGill Society
Limited Edition Pin*

Inside This Issue:

From the President	1
Haynes Bequest	1
From the Executive Director	2
Passages	4
Shoalers in the News	5
In Brief	5
From the Director of Development & Community Relations	6
What's in a Name?	7
Open Conferences	9
Boat Information	11

This issue of the Star Island Corporation Newsletter was edited and produced by Star Island staff with the assistance of all contributors. Thank you!

Star Island Corporation



From the President

In this year of almost constant change, I'd like to recognize some milestone events and then, share a few reminiscences from long ago that were contributed by Shoalers when asked how things have changed over the last fifty years. Please know that the Board welcomes communications from Shoalers about past history as well as the present.

First, I must acknowledge a very difficult change that will soon occur. With sadness, the Board has accepted Paul's decision to retire after seven seasons on Star. It has been a whirlwind of work since the

Jennings joined us in 1999. We have much to celebrate about Paul's time with us and we know that he will be difficult to replace. Paul came on board with a mission that he achieved: he restored the Pelicans to their important place in our Shoaler community. As a result, standards for the hospitality we now offer were raised to a high level. In these critical endeavors, he was supported by Lisa Jennings whose work complemented Paul's and enhanced so much of our Star experience. We have also depended upon Paul's superb crisis management during the

(Continued on page 3)

Florence Haynes Leaves \$1M Bequest to Star Island Permanent Trust

Florence Haynes attended UCC Conferences on Star Island every year from 1956-1994. She became a Corporation member in 1976. Two years ago, she died at the age of 97 and left her estate worth about \$10 million to six organizations: Harvard Medical School, Bangor Theological Seminary, The Congregational Church of West Medford, Mount Holyoke, and Star Island Corporation.

Dr. Haynes lived most of her life in West Medford, MA. She graduated from Radcliffe College in

1931 and in 1933 earned her PhD. from Harvard. From 1943-1950, she worked jointly with Dr. Lewis Dexter and Dr. Soma Weiss at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (now Brigham & Women's) on medical research of the relationship between hypertension and heart disease. Together they published several articles in the American Medical Association Journal and the New England Journal of Medicine. After Dr. Weiss's death, Dr. Dexter and Dr. Haynes developed a plasma

(Continued on page 5)

From the Executive Director

As many of you know by now, Lisa and I have decided to retire in December of this year and thus, this summer will be our last on the island as members of the staff. Among the many things we anticipate in the years ahead will be a return to the island as conferees.

Lisa and I are looking forward to the next phase of our lives even as we eagerly plan for this summer. The work that must be accomplished before the season starts will make this spring the most demanding and challenging open-up of my tenure. Four projects must be completed by mid-June: the construction of two fire towers for Gosport along with extensive renovations of Gosport's interior, the installation of reverse osmosis desalination units, the replacement and proper grounding of the fire alarm system, and the upgrading of our communications systems upon which our new data management systems are dependent. Other projects include improvements to the Chapel and a host of other smaller but very important projects. In order to insure that the work will be finished on time, we began the Gosport project immediately upon the departure last fall of the final conferences, and we are sending staff out to the island several weeks earlier this year than in the past. It will take the hard work of our staff and contractors, and the dedicated work of the hundreds of volunteers scheduled for the spring to get all of the work accomplished, but we have become accustomed to meeting these challenges. By the time summer comes around, I trust that island life will settle into well-rehearsed routines and that Lisa and I will be able to enjoy our time with all of you as we bring our work on the island to a close.

I would like to share with all of you the letter I sent in early March to recent members of the staff and to the members of the Corporation. A copy of that letter follows. I hope to see many of you on the island this summer, sharing one last season together.

It is with the usual mixed emotions that come with a major life change that I write to let you know that this coming season will be my final year on the island and that I will retire as Executive Director at the end of December 2005. To have worked with a dedicated and tireless Board

of Directors, hundreds of talented and enthusiastic volunteers and conference leaders, and a remarkably skilled and committed staff, has made my work with the Star Island Corporation rich and rewarding beyond measure, and I am profoundly grateful for the privilege to have served you these past years. The pull for Lisa and me to stay is as strong as the Gosport tides, but the desires to find new ways of enriching our lives and to live at a gentler pace are even stronger. I am proud of the work we have done together, and I am confident that our work will continue to bear fruit and that Star's future is in every way secure, bright and vibrant.

My decision to leave in December also reflects what I believe is in the best interests of the Corporation. As you know from my letter to you this fall, the Board approved and we embarked on a major administrative reorganization, and I committed to seeing us through that process. A key component of the reorganization was the creation of a Director of Island Planning and Operations and we embarked on an aggressive search to fill that position. While we had many talented candidates, and very strong finalists, the conclusion of the search committee was that we had not found precisely the right match. Consequently, we chose not to fill the position but rather to put in place a contingency plan to meet the challenges of the new season which is now just around the corner. With the deferment of an appointment of what is essentially the second in command position, I had to rethink my own timetable. Rather than extend the timeframe beyond what Lisa and I had planned on when we came to Star in 1999, it seemed wiser to leave a little sooner and allow a new Executive Director to fill the position. As the new Executive Director settles in and decides when and how to proceed with the reorganization, I will remain on as an adviser to both the Board and Executive Director through December 2006. In my new role, I will be able to work with the Board and others to address issues of long-range and strategic planning that have too often been pushed aside by more immediately pressing issues.

There is always the temptation to see the work through, at least until you are over the next hurdle or turn the next corner. But sooner or later someone else has to take the next hurdle and round the next corner. The decision to leave feels right, even though the leave-taking will be bittersweet. This timetable will enable me to focus all my energies on the work that needs to be done this spring and summer to insure a successful season. Once the season con-

(Continued on page 3)

(From the Executive Director continued from page 2)

cludes and without the press of day to day operations, I can shift my focus to longer range matters. Nothing stokes my fire like a good challenge – and we have many this year. We also have exciting new opportunities such as building new and stronger ties to seacoast communities through our new boat services, working with the Council of Conferences as it enters its second year of work, and assisting conference leaders in their work to insure full conferences. I feel called to do my best work yet, and I promise you no less.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting and if not then, on the island this summer. I look forward to one more year of working together, and then to a future with new possibilities for us all. Lisa and I thank you for all you have done for Star, and for your encouragement and support. You, and our work together, will always be a uniquely important part of our lives.

± Paul Jennings



Rowboats on Star by Jeff Spoor

(From the President continued from page 1)

pier reconstruction, several destructive squalls and a damaging lightning strikes to name only a few of the challenges over these years. He has kept us safe and kept us going.

These have been eye opening times for us all. We have become acutely aware of how vulnerable Star is—to repercussions of homeland security, to dependence on a boat to transport the conferences and bring water to the island, to regulatory agencies that demand hundreds of thousands of dollars in building projects and to having inadequate backups for people and machinery—such items as generators and critical staff members to run our increasingly complex infrastructure. We are now focused in a sharper way with financial, capital and ongoing maintenance plans forecasted out five and ten years. We are in much better shape and we owe Paul our gratitude for his help in this.

This year, for the first time since I joined the Board, we had a milestone event—a Staff/Board Retreat in January. We did this because we know we face a very challenging summer with many must-do projects and dislocations related to reorganizing staff to better cope with what is on our plate and creating an effective partnership in a difficult year. Our goal was for the Board to be in-

formed about operations and for the Staff to be informed about what the Board is grappling with so that we could arrive at creative solutions and mutual support. We dealt with issues in three main areas – *Sustainable Environment* (completing the long range facilities and ongoing maintenance implementation; completing transportation arrangements; completing mandated Gosport fire safety egress and the water reverse osmosis system); *Sustainable Stewardship* (achieving full conferences, completing the long-term financial plan; increasing income from annual fund, trust, capital campaign, launching the Sustaining Stewards campaign) and *Sustainable Leadership* (completing the staff reorganization, planning for leadership this year and for succession; managing demands and changes on Board and Staff). The collaborative work we did with the able facilitation of All Star I conferees, Jan and Jim Prochaska, continues to inform Staff and Board priorities.

You know from other articles in this newsletter that we face many changes. Not only is this the Jennings' last summer on the island, our transportation will be markedly different. We will be making our own drinking water. We will have a new, better functioning fire board and alarm system and two new fire escape towers to complement

(Continued on page 7)

Passages

Births:

Laila Elise Vazifdar, daughter of Kristi & Phiroz Vazifdar, January 24, 2005.

Marriages:

Lisa Phoenix & Chris Harris, October 16, 2004.

Eric Schuman & Lorn Folsom, March 5, 2004.

Deaths:

Cosette Allen passed away on January 7, 2005. She was 62. Cosette first attended Life on a Star 2 in the early 1970's with her husband Ted and two children, and co-chaired the conference with her husband in 1974. She later served as Island Nurse for the first Arts Conference and attended both the Arts and Natural History Conferences with her husband and her mother-in-law. The hooked rug she created of the Parsonage on Star Island was recognized as one of the 15 best original-design hooked rugs in the country in 2004 by Rug Hooking Magazine. She is survived by her husband Ted, their two daughters, her granddaughter and her mother-in-law.

Peter C. Brockett passed away on February 3, 2005. At the age of 83 Peter had spent over 50 years attending and participating in the Weekend Conference of the Laity. Most people will remember him as "The Goblet Man." He and his wife Rutheva chaired the conference at least twice and in 2001 he co-chaired with his daughter Bunny Wells, who had been a Pelican in 1975 and 1976. Peter loved Star Island and took great pleasure in telling everyone about the camaraderie felt by those who attended the conference. He is survived by his five children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

John Malcolm "Mike" Dunn, M.D. passed away on December 13, 2004. He was 77. Mike and his wife Polly attended the Life On A Star 1 Con-

ference every year from 1972-1985. After 1985, they alternated attendance between the LOAS conferences, the Conference on the Arts and Elderhostel, attending their last conference in 1999. While on Star, Mike enjoyed spending time in the Art Barn. He became a Corporation member in 1983 and was given *emeritus* status in 1997. Mike is survived by his wife Polly, who is also an *emeritus* Corporation member.

Wilbur D. Emmons passed away on February 1, 2005. He was 95. Wilbur and his wife Florence attended the first Life On A Star conference in 1963 and returned in 1964 for LOAS 2. He and Flo attended Star several times in the 1970s and returned again in 1987 and 1988 to attend LOAS 2 with their grandchildren. Wilbur is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Florence in 2003.

Laurence "Larry" Freeman passed away on October 1, 2004. He was 92. Larry and his wife Nancy attended the United Church of Christ 1 Family Conference for over 30 years. While on Star, he enjoyed fishing, playing bridge with friends and volunteering his time in the carpentry shop. Larry is survived by his wife Nancy, a son, two daughters, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Arthur Koe passed away on January 25, 2005. He was 90. Although not often seen on Star Island, Arthur played a behind-the-scenes role in supporting the island. Arthur's wife Ruth was the Office Manager of the SIC Boston office for 30 years and he faithfully supported her in her job, in her efforts with the Star Island Gift Shop and through frequent trips to the dock in Portsmouth to drop off or pick up Ruth. A Corporation member since 1972, Arthur is survived by his wife of 62 years, a daughter, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his daughter, Ruth Brady.

(Continued on page 5)

(Passages continued from page 4)

Jeff Russian passed away on January 7, 2005. He was 50. A longtime Shoaler who attended All Star 2 from ages 6-18, and later served as a bellhop, Jeff "did come back" to Star during the summer of 2004 for the Life On A Star 2 Conference with his wife Liz Ames and son Zachary. In addition to his wife and son, Jeff is survived by his father Steve Russian, brother Dana Russian, and sister Amy Russian. He was predeceased by his mother, Zabelle Russian.

(Florence Haynes continued from page 1)

renin assay and found that hormone in the blood of some, but not all, patients with hypertension.

Dr. Haynes is remembered as an intensely private and quiet woman who enjoyed bird walks on Star Island, was a consistent presence at her church, and took public transit to Harvard well into her 80s in order to keep up on medical research. Dr. Haynes was never married and has no known surviving relatives. We are deeply grateful for this gift and encourage all Shoalers to make a provision for Star Island in their wills. It is the simplest and most direct way to provide for Star's future.



Shoalers in the News

Jennifer Whitten, *Conference on the Arts*, is one of five nominees for Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, NH. The Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program is dedicated to building community through poetry by appointing and supporting an outstanding local poet as Poet Laureate for the city, sponsoring events that feature area poets and authors from outside the New Hampshire Seacoast, and encouraging a love of poetry among people of all ages.

Patty and Dave Boynton, *United Church of Christ Family Conferences*, will be volunteering at the *Casa San Jose de los Huerfanos* in Colima, Mexico for 12 days in early April. The Casa is an orphanage for about 125 children and the Boyntons will be helping with much-needed maintenance and repairs on the facility. Evenings will be spent with the children playing games, learning songs, and teaching each other English and Spanish.

George Bernard Stryker, Jr. passed away on January 7, 2005. He was 84. George was a Shoaler of nearly 40 years, who attended the International Affairs Conference. He was a long-time member of the Star Island Corporation and 45 year member and former Chairman of the Board of Davies Memorial Unitarian Church. George provided much assistance to the Corporation in making the Star Island Wastewater Treatment Plant operational in 1995. He is survived by his wife Estelle, four sons and eleven grandchildren.

In Brief

Chapel Accessibility Display and Survey:

There are many points of view about making the Chapel more accessible. At a workshop at the Council of Conferences meeting, members studied a report from the Physical Access Subcommittee of the island's Facilities Committee and discussed this issue. They decided to explore in each conference during the summer of 2005 what Shoalers believe should be done about physical accessibility with respect to the Chapel.

Members decided to be available to hold a workshop on accessibility during each conference, speak with any individuals who wished to discuss this issue, and use a survey to obtain conferees' thoughts. It is hoped that the surveys will provide information that can then be used by the Council of Conferences to make recommendations to the Star Island Board of Directors.



From the Director of Development & Community Relations

Together this year we must raise \$550,000 to fund Star Island's basic maintenance, equipment, and capital priorities. It's an awesome responsibility we individually and collectively hold.

Two years ago, there was talk on the front porch about forming a "minnow club" to combine multiple smaller gifts into a "big fish" that could take on the upkeep costs of Star Island. This Chapel Mosaic represents something grander than that big fish.

If one face was missing, the picture would not be complete. If several were gone, the hole would be startling. Any more than that, and the Chapel would be unrecognizable.

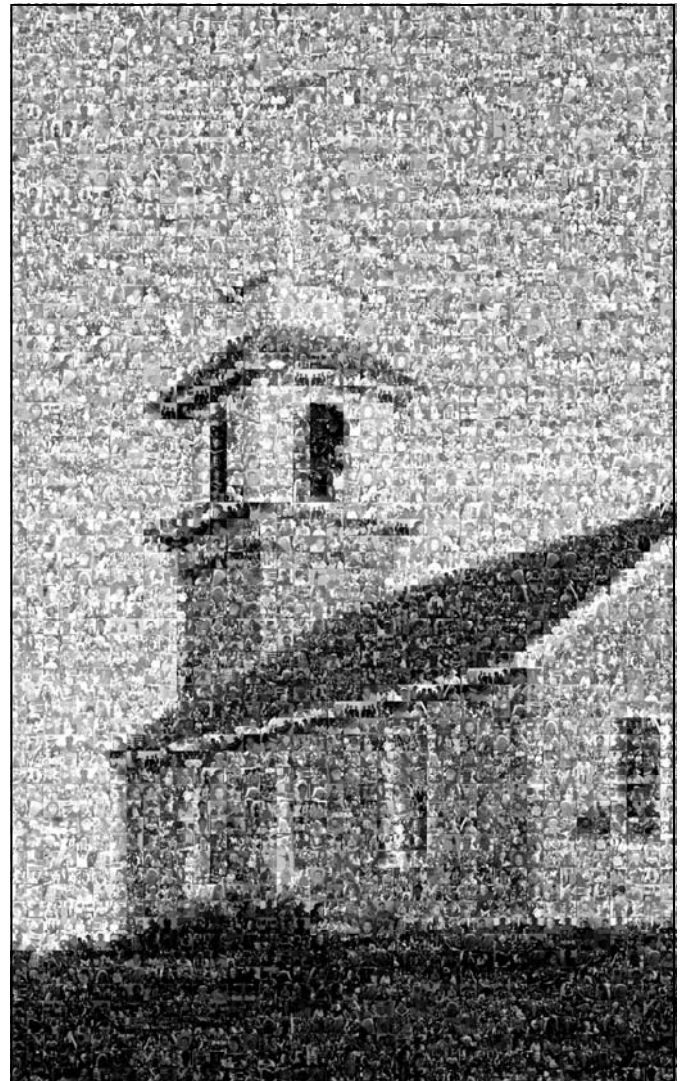
Within this mosaic are Shoalers who had the foresight and passion to make provisions for Star Island in their wills. Though no longer in our presence, they hold a permanent place in our mosaic.

Also pictured here is the next generation of Shoalers – our children — who will learn to lead by examples of generosity, or live with the consequences of inheriting a neglected Star Island.

Like the good artisans and fisher folks who came before us, let's promise ourselves to take care of Star Island for now and for generations to come.

Please use the enclosed remit envelope to give to this year's Annual Fund to the very best of your ability.

± Deborah Lielasus Tombleson



***Here is the Chapel, here is the steeple,
open the doors, and see all the people!***

Chapel Mosaic by Christopher Lielasus using photos of Shoalers taken by multiple photographers.

Your 2005 Annual Fund Team

Irene Bush, Star Island Corporation Board President

Paul Jennings, Executive Director

Tom McNaugher, IA, Annual Fund Chair

Deborah Lielasus Tombleson, Director of Development & Community Relations

Hilary Niles, Development & Community Relations Associate

And the generous support and leadership of multiple conference representatives including, we hope, you!

(From the President continued from page 3)

the one built last summer. The complexities of operating Star continue to grow and the Board spends a great deal of time talking about how best to meet the challenges of running the Star Island Conference Center in the 21st Century. We have sought advice from the Council of Conferences, from SIC members and SIC committees and from Staff. How different is it to operate Star from 50 years ago? Here are some memories contributed by Dick Case, Jr., Nancy Meyer and others.

The regulatory environment in the '50s was completely different. We largely flew under the radar screen. If a little fuel was spilled, there was no reporting. Trash was incinerated, bottles were broken on the rocks and donated to the ocean, and food garbage was dumped by the bell buoy. Large pieces of equipment were used as moorings: one half of the moorings in Gosport Harbor are old pieces of machinery – things like engine blocks or flywheels.

All the fuel came out in 55-gallon drums. It was the night engineer's job to pump the fuel into the day tank using a hand crank, which was a slow process. Arnold Whittaker was out there one off-season and had to hand-pump the fuel. He decided this was crazy and built a ramp to roll the drums up on and added a valve to siphon off fuel.

Remember the smells that emanated from the dump as we burned trash and debris? Speaking of smells, effluent was released into the ocean with no treatment; this process was considered environmentally sound, at the time. It was released through a pipe since the only requirement was that we not pump effluent into the Harbor.

Fire safety was a big issue from the time the island reopened after the war. That's when smoking bans and bans on using some of the Hotel sleeping floors were imposed: no one slept on the 4th floor, only Pels on the 3rd floor, and conferees on the 2nd floor. (There was, in fact, a plan to tear the Hotel down and re-build a more efficient, safe one.) Through the 60s, there were weekly bucket brigade fire drills, using conferees along with staff to transport water from the ocean to the fire drill site. Word has it that there was little left in the bucket by the time the water was passed along from the ocean up the line to the Hotel.

Smaller boats provided transportation and it required at least three trips per conference. The Kiboko and Viking were mostly open; they had closed areas, but not everyone could fit. Conferees brought rain gear and made do. There was no shore side parking. Folks found their own parking in town or made other arrangements. One clever family used to schedule their annual auto maintenance that

week and just dropped the car off at the garage in Portsmouth.

Is it different to operate the Star Island Conference Center today? What can we learn and use from the past? How must we adapt to the present? Join the dialogue. Opportunities for two-way communication abound on the Council of Conferences, at the pre-meetings before the Annual Meeting, by talking to the Board member introduced at your conference, or writing a letter. If we hear from you, you will hear back from us.

This year, we will have a summer newsletter. I look forward to telling you in it the process the Board will map out at a May retreat for finding Paul's successor. I also look forward to telling you about the SIC Annual Meeting and the coming together of the Council of Conferences—both of which occur at the end of April. As spring moves into summer, I expect you may be looking forward to time on Star Island as much as I am. May our rock in the ocean be in good shape for us and may we all have a wonderful summer experience.

± Irene Bush

Be an End-of-Season Pelican!

Serving as a Star Island Pelican has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's twenty "best summer jobs in New England." The end-of-season employment period runs from mid-August to early October, and jobs include kitchen crew, housekeeping, maintenance, and other duties. To apply, please download the complete EOS application from our web site, www.starisland.org, or call or write our Portsmouth office (office@starisland.org, (603) 430-6272, 10 Vaughan Mall, Suite 8, Portsmouth, NH 03801.)

±

Conferences with Openings (as of press time)!

On a waiting list? Missed the priority deadline? Never been to Star Island? Looking for a new experience? Sign up NOW for one of these conferences that still have openings. Don't delay...they will fill fast!

Young Adults Conference

Saturday, June 18 to Tuesday, June 21

Brooke Bradicich

imakirschgirl@yahoo.com

603-229-0775

Make new friends and reconnect with old ones, including the island itself. Activities will include workshops, socials, a bonfire, chapel services, dancing, singing, and all the other things you love about Star Island. Our age range includes adults in their twenties and thirties.

Conference on the Arts

Saturday, June 18 to Saturday, June 25

Bob Flanagan

registrar@stararts.org

(919) 833-3724

This is an adult conference dedicated to the growth and enjoyment of creative energies and artistic abilities. Workshops include photography, drama, visual arts, dance and music. Be inspired by performances by world-class artists. Whether you choose to join a workshop, work on your own, or sit on the porch, the beauty of the island will motivate your creative talents.

Isles of Shoals Historical Research Association - June

Tuesday, June 21 to Saturday, June 25

Amy Cook

acook@alene.com

(603) 440-8010

ISHRA's historically-themed conference will focus on "Gosport's Graven Images" – the gravestones dotting the village's landscape and the Gosport citizens that lay beneath them. Listen to the stories the stones tell about early American art and symbolism, stonecutting, genealogy, and long ago "Life on a Star." Enjoy painting, photography, and flower "rubbing" and "pounding" too! Hear the surf, read a book, and relax whilst rocking on the Oceanic Porch!

Natural History Conference

Saturday, June 25 to Saturday, July 2

Russ Peterson

rpeters9@maine.rr.com

(207) 363-0985

A theme topic is selected each year, and an expert lecturer is invited to present daily sessions during this adult conference. Laboratory and field observations are incorporated whenever possible. Enjoy guided bird, flower, geology, and low tide walks. Participate in an art workshop that will unlock your hidden talents. Morning and candlelight chapel services, sing-alongs, games, and more add to the fun, fellowship, and magic of this conference.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Conference

Saturday, June 25 to Saturday, July 2

Celia Reef

poetrypuppy@yahoo.com

(978) 362-1149

YRUU spends this week exploring the world around us and the world within us. We'll grow together, and individually. Along the way, you'll participate in activities ranging from bonfires to candlelight chapel services, to swimming, strolling, lying in the sun or relaxing with friends.

Religious Education Conference

Saturday, July 16 to Saturday, July 23

Mike D'Attilio

DATTILIM@strose.edu

(518) 489-6442

Theme speaker Richard Gilbert, renowned UU minister and writer, will share tools for creating authentic community that can transform individuals, congregations, and religious education programs. Experience community in workshops and special events with professionals and volunteers. Families welcome to participate. We offer the UU Identity Module and an RE Credentialing workshop. Take home ideas, songs, games and a renewed spirit.

Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

Saturday, July 30 to Saturday, August 6

Bonnie Falla

fallab@moravian.edu

(610) 432-8711

Varieties of Spiritual Transformation: Scientific and Religious Perspective: Spiritually transformative experiences are among the most powerful experiences humans can have. Because of their significance, many scientists are engaging in ground-breaking studies of spiritual transformation from biological, psychological, and socio-cultural perspectives. This conference will combine scientific findings with interpretations of world religions to achieve a deeper, integrated understanding of spiritual transformation.

United Church of Christ Family Conference I

Sunday, August 7 to Saturday, August 13

Crista Woolley

StarRegUCC1@aol.com

(301) 540-0408

Come together for a week of fun, fellowship, and spiritual nurture. We'll learn from each other at morning and evening chapel services and during our program. We'll also enjoy events like art, softball, bell ringing, singing, and creative writing. Special activities for young adults, children, and adolescents abound. Be as active or as idle as you choose, and return home feeling refreshed and renewed.

(Continued on page 9)

(Open conferences continued from page 8)

United Church of Christ Youth Conference I

Sunday, August 7 to Saturday, August 13

Young people gather to form a special community. Close friendships are formed, spiritual lives strengthened, and we learn more about ourselves, God, and the people we want to become. We greet old friends and meet new ones, participate in programs, games, activities, sports, discussions, and chapel services. Ample free time allows us to enjoy the beauty of Star itself and help to ensure that this conference is rich with fun, fellowship, and spirituality.

United Church of Christ Family Conference II

Saturday, August 13 to Friday, August 19

Lori Benson

starucc2@comcast.net

(508) 807-0273

Do something wonderful for yourself during a fun-filled and relaxing week. While children play and learn in small supervised morning groups, adults are free to relax or explore spiritual and intellectual topics at Chapel and theme talks. The afternoons and evenings abound with music, art, drama, and intergenerational activities.

United Church of Christ Youth Conference II

Saturday, August 13 to Friday, August 19

This summer we "Celebrate a Year of Our Faith!" Explore the important times of the year and the holidays that help define our faith. Meet new people and strengthen relationships with old friends as we build a community participating in sports, games, activities, discussions, and worship. Learn about our faith and ourselves as we share stories and experiences that define who we are.

Weekend Conference of the Laity

Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21

Jane Coyne

JBCNH@aol.com

(603) 253-6338

This weekend conference provides a chance for families and individuals of all ages to enjoy the peace and beauty of Star Island. We will have many opportunities for fellowship, worship and personal reflection as well as time for recreation, crafts, reading, making new friends or to just be. This weekend includes supervised special activities for children.

Pelican Reunion

Saturday, September 3 to Monday, September 5

Marc Soule

registrar@pelicansarepelicans.com

(978) 263-1240

This is the 25th anniversary of this reunion conference for Pels and their families. The weekend includes candlelight chapels, arts and crafts, children's programs, singing workshop, adult talks, sports, work project, and plenty of time to sit on the porch and reminisce. It's a great way to spend Labor Day Weekend.

Elderhostel 1

Sunday, September 4 to Friday, September 9

Elderhostel 2

Sunday, September 11 to Friday, September 16

Elderhostel is an educational program for adults age 55 and older. This year, Elderhostel 1 focuses on "Watercolor Painting" (program # 11879) and "Birding on the Isles of Shoals" (program # 11716) and Elderhostel II focuses on "History and Ecology of the Isles of Shoals" (program # 12720). Call Elderhostel toll-free at (877) 426-8056 to request information (reference specific program numbers).

Midweek Retreat I

Monday, September 5 to Friday, September 9

Gillian Carter

gillian.carter@nyu.edu

(207) 439-6866

Midweek Retreat II—Retreat to a Star

Monday, September 12 to Friday, September 16

Leigh-Ann & Howard Bennett

iamhoward@verizon.net

(215) 672-6129

Relax, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of Star as fall begins in this part of the world. Midweek Retreats are adult conferences with no planned activities except morning chapel and the traditional candlelight chapel service each evening.

Old Time Music

Monday, September 5 to Friday, September 9

Will Fielding

wpfield@sover.net

(802) 464-3260

Writers in the Round

Sunday, September 11 to Wednesday, September 14

Deidre Randall

dcr@deidrerandall.com

(603) 205-0552

Writelines Workshop

Tuesday, September 12 to Wednesday, September 14

Ms Dale Slongwhite

writelines@mail2world.com

(781) 213-7914

Star Women (formerly A Women's Gathering of Renewal)

Wednesday, September 14 to Friday, September 16 OR

Friday, September 16 to Sunday, September 18 OR

Wednesday, September 14 to Sunday, September 18

Imke Littman

ilittman@optonline.net

(631) 324-3116

This conference is a retreat for women with a mind/body/spirit focus, allowing plenty of time for reflection and fun. Minimal structure fosters an environment that encourages individuality, spontaneity, and creativity while respecting solitude and silence. All this and the rugged beauty of late summer days on Star Island.

Boat Schedules and Information

As we reported to you in the winter newsletter, most of our conference ferry services will be provided by the *Captain's Lady*. Travel time to and from the island will be just under an hour. For six and seven day conferences, the *Captain's Lady* will depart from Portsmouth at 10:25 a.m. and 2:55 p.m. On conference departure days, the boat will leave Star Island at 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., arriving in Portsmouth at 9:05 a.m. and 1:35 p.m. respectively. For weekend and September conferences, additional boats will be added to the schedule to enable conferees attending those conferences to arrive and depart within a short time of each other. If you will be attending a conference this summer or in the fall, you will receive your boat assignment and instructions from your conference leaders as part of your conference acceptance materials. There are a few important things to keep in mind as you plan your travel to the island this summer:

➤The boats operate from the Burge dock which is immediately upriver from the dock used by the *Thomas Laighton*. Parking will be in the same lot we have used for the last several years (\$9.50 per day or any portion of a day).

➤Boat fares will be added to your room and board bill (\$25.50 for adults, \$23.50 for children 3-12, and no charge for children under three). Because we use block parking, you must arrive and depart on either the early boats or the late boats. For example, if you depart from Portsmouth on the first boat to the island, you must depart from the island on the first boat to Portsmouth.

➤Luggage capacity is extremely limited and we must run the island's work boat, the *Pamela J. Thayer*, to supplement the luggage carried on the *Captain's Lady*. For this reason, and because the docking arrangements will require more island staff to handle luggage, you must limit your luggage to one carry-on bag, musical instruments, and one "checked" bag per person. Bags exceeding 50 lbs. will be transported on the workboat but will be loaded last and

only if there is room. Conference staff with special freight needs must make arrangements for such freight through their conference leaders.

Overnight conference guests and Pel guests may get to the island via the *Uncle Oscar* which operates from Rye, NH, the *Pamela J. Thayer* which operates from Portsmouth NH, or through private charters. Overnight conference guests should make arrangements through conference Chairs. Pel guests should make arrangements through the Front Desk.

➤*Uncle Oscar*: The *Uncle Oscar*, a twenty passenger boat, will operate Sunday through Friday from the Town Dock in Rye. The boat will depart from Rye at 11:15 a.m. and arrive at the island at 11:55 a.m. The boat will remain at the island until 1:20 p.m. The boat will arrive back in Rye at 2:15 p.m. after a brief tour of the Shoals. The fare is \$24 round trip for adults. Overnight parking for conference or Pel guests is available adjacent to the dock in Rye (\$8.00 per night or \$4.00 for the day). For more information please visit www.uncleoscar.com.

➤*Pamela J. Thayer*: The Star Island staff boat carries 25 passengers, only six of whom can be paying passengers under Coast Guard regulations. The boat will operate Monday through Friday. Fares are the same as on the conference boats and will be added to room and board bills. Parking will be in the conference parking lot (\$9.50 per day or any portion of a day).

In addition, *Prince of Whales* will make a weekly trip to the island each Monday departing from and returning to Newburyport, MA. The boat will depart Newburyport at 9:00 a.m., arrive at Star at 10:00 a.m., depart Star for Newburyport at 12:00 p.m., and arrive at Newburyport at 1:00 p.m. For more information please visit www.welikewhales.com.

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