



# STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Star Island Corporation • Summer 2006 • Volume XXXII, Issue 3

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

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

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*Edited & produced by  
Brian Winters with inval-  
uable assistance from all  
contributors. Thank you!*

## *Ninety Years of Stewardship on Star Island*

In the summer of 1916—July 22nd to be exact—a pageant unfolded on Star Island, culminating as the deed to the Island was received by Mr. William I. Lawrance, first President of the Star Island Corporation, which had been organized and chartered in December of 1915. Mr. Lawrance then read a proclamation (written, of course, in those pre-gender sensitive days):

*Star Island is now and hereby dedicated forever to the glory of God and the well-being of man; to the brotherhood of all earnest souls, to the untrammelled study and utterance of truth, to the promotion of pure religion.*

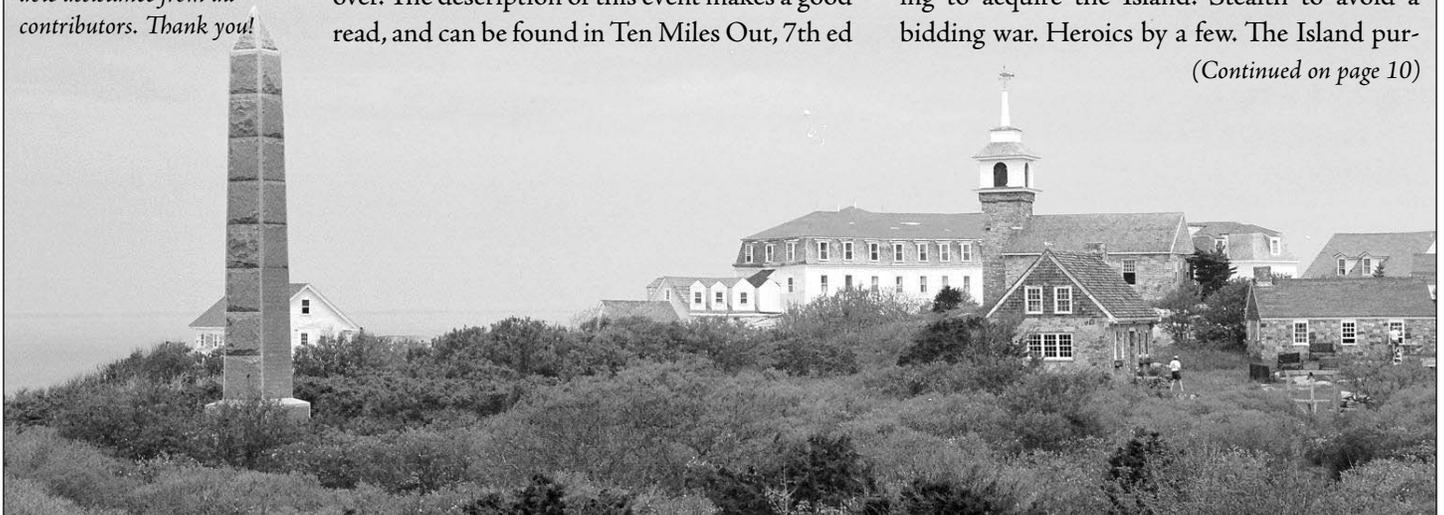
And some pageant it was. Columns of shoalers congregated on the porch of the Oceanic and marched to the points of the compass to symbolize connectedness to the Island's earlier history. Imagine an American Indian in full costume greeting them from the North, Captain John Smith clambering up the rocks (from the East) to extend his hospitality, Rev. John Tucke greeting them at the foot of his monument, and then a representative of The Spirit of the Shoals speaking from Fort Star. All before the final climax at the chapel when the keys of that building and the deed were finally handed over. The description of this event makes a good read, and can be found in *Ten Miles Out*, 7th ed

(originally by Lyman Rutledge; 5th and 6th editions edited by Frederick T. McGill and 7th ed. edited by Edward Rutledge) and in the Omnibus Edition of *The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend* by Lyman V. Rutledge (unpublished manuscript). The cast of characters and credits can also be found there.

Thomas Elliott had established The Isles of Shoals Summer Meetings Association and then brought religious conferences to Star Island starting in the summer of 1897. The 100th anniversary of that sequence of events was celebrated in 1997 on the Island. However, until the summer of 1916, shoalers attending religious conferences on Star had been guests or patrons, hosted first by the Lughton family, then the Piscataqua Savings Bank (when the Lughton's hotel operation went bankrupt and the bank which held a mortgage on the property foreclosed), and finally by Mr. Lewis Parkhurst in 1915.

The sequence of events leading to the formation of the Star Island Corporation is another drama: Storm clouds gathering. A bank which did not want to be in the hotel business. Star on the chopping block. Hostile interests looking to acquire the Island. Stealth to avoid a bidding war. Heroics by a few. The Island pur-

*(Continued on page 10)*



## From the President



I'm writing this on the first day of Spring. The acceptance letter to my conference—Life on a Star II—arrived today and the daffodils along my driveway are about to bloom. This is all pretty good news. As you may imagine, there is a tremendous amount of activity in the Star Island office and the beginnings of work out on Star itself. Our new Director, Amy Lockwood, has faced a steep learning curve. Fortunately for us, she is a quick study with good instincts and intelligence. She has met many Shoalers in the three short months that she's been with us and I can say many of us are enjoying this new partnership including, I believe, Amy. The work load has been daunting—hiring Pelicans and their supervisors, hiring new part and full-time staff, preparations for open-up, dealing with boats, parking, conference needs, etc. A great deal has been accomplished through hard work by many on Amy's staff. Thank you Joe, Ben, Sumar, Kristi, Kat, Olivia, and Brian.

The Board held a retreat with Amy late in February to get to know each other and plan out our work together. We began thinking about the next strategic planning phase for Star Island. We near the end of our Vision 2000 plan and, having realized many of our goals, now must again foresee what we hope for in Star's future. Right now, we are do-

ing the make-ready for the Star Island Corporation annual meeting which will probably just have taken place as you are reading this. It too is a look back and a look forward for the 300 plus members of the corporation who elect the officers of the corporation and the endowment and hear and respond to reports about the work of the board and staff over the last year and plans for 2006 and beyond. Membership in the Corporation is open to all committed Shoalers; more information is available by contacting the SIC office, going to <http://www.starisland.org/StarIsland/AboutUs/Membership.htm>, or asking for application materials at the desk when you are on Star this summer.

We are also looking forward to the sixth meeting of the Council of Conferences, that relatively new group made up of delegates from each of the conferences who provide advice to the Star Board and share best practices with each other. The Council is meeting the morning of the SIC Annual Meeting.

This is a challenging time for Star's volunteers and for staff—what else is new? We have many new people on staff. Those of you who come to early conferences will be able to say goodbye to Linda Anderle and Ben Fowler, two people who have devoted many years to Star and who

will be orienting their replacements. We are committed to using volunteers well and there are many Shoalers who have offered their talents on work weekends and committee assignments. We have ambitious Facilities, Capital, and Maintenance plans to guide us in using our resources wisely.

While our project list is shorter for next summer, we still have some mandated and other work to accomplish. Conference leadership is working very hard to make sure each conference is fully subscribed and the SIC is very grateful for the seriousness with which they've taken on this task. All Shoalers will need to think about being active stewards who help meet our annual fund goals. Room and board income and annual fund gifts allow us to meet our budget and, thus, give good service to conferees at as reasonable rate as possible and also maintain Star's infrastructure.

At this time of many beginnings and challenges, may you meet those in your own life with grace. Star and my Star friends have helped me through a difficult year and I hope, in whatever way you needed Star, it has been there for you. May we all get to spend time on Star in actuality and in memory as summer again approaches.

—Irene Bush

## Notes from the Underworld



When I told my friends last spring that I was going to be working as a waiter six days a week all summer on a small island in New Hampshire they asked if I was going willingly.

Why would I, in the summer after my senior year of high school, not want to spend the summer at home with friends I have known for years. I was taking a pay cut from my job the summer before as an intern reporter at a regional newspaper, and wouldn't even be able to drive home on weekends because I'd be stuck sweeping floors on some rock.

I came out to the island on a rainy day in early June anyway.

For the first few weeks I wished I had listened to my friends. Despite knowing many fellow first-season pels through my years attending the International Affairs conference I felt completely out of place. While just about half of the pels serving on the island each year are new, and most serve together on the housekeeping and waitrae crews, I felt like I was the only one who didn't understand the appeal. Waking up before seven to set tables, getting only a few broken up hours off during the day, and not finishing work until after eight each night seemed more like slave labor to me than a fun summer job. I quickly realized just how little I had learned about the amount of work

it takes to run Star in my 17 years as a conferee.

While being a waiter never grew on me, my fellow pels did. I began to let myself become part of the things that make Star the great community it is. I observed the cardinal rule of enjoying Life on Star. I made my own traditions and followed them as I pleased.

By napping every morning after serving out breakfast, swimming, sailing, and rowing in Gosport Harbor, and blocking out unfulfilling aspects of my job by focusing on the phenomenal people who did it right alongside me, I came to love being on-island even more than I had as a conferee.

This spring when I told my friends I am going back to the same island for another summer they still didn't get it. How could walking around some rock six nights a week all summer with a flashlight be fun? I don't know yet, but I am pretty sure it will be.

—Wes Howe

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Wes Howe is a life-long attendee of the International Affairs conference. He is night crew supervisor on the 2006 pelican staff and will attend Harvard University in the fall after completing a year off from school.

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## The Newsletter Needs Pels & Penguins!

We're looking for former Pels to write about some aspect of island life in days gone by, and current Pels to compare and contrast their experiences. Email [bwinters@starisland.org](mailto:bwinters@starisland.org) if you'd like to participate.

## Heritage Committee Call for Experts

Dan Fenn, Chair of the Heritage Committee, would like to hear from anyone with any expertise in the area of historical furniture from the Hotel era.

If you have anything to offer the committee, please email Dan at [FennDH@aol.com](mailto:FennDH@aol.com) or call the Star Island Corporation office.

## About the Newsletter Redesign

The headlines and body text of the newsletter are now set in Adobe Jenson Pro, a modern version of a typeface first designed by Nicolas Jenson & Ludovico degli Arrighi in the 15th Century.

Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, we have been able to upgrade our design software to Adobe InDesign. With InDesign, we can use mixed color inks as well as professional OpenType fonts with ligatures & optical kerning, resulting in greater legibility.

## From the Executive Director

I'd like to start this spring message with a happy report on Star Island in the winter. In mid-February the entire year-round staff made a day trip to the island to enjoy, of all things, a roaring snowball fight! Several new staff had not been to the island before and some actually had pre-season work to do. Brad Anderson and Alex De Steiguer, the island winterkeepers, welcomed us into their cozy abode at the EMB, and we were able to enjoy good company and work on a sparkling clear winter day. And now are equally happy to report that the thaw has come to New Hampshire, and the waves of open-up staff are moving out to Star to kick off the great upcoming season.

We have made great progress in the last few months. We have some new terrific staff on board (see *New Faces*, left). In particular we are pleased to welcome Joe Watts as Interim Conference Center Director and Skip Holt as our new Facilities Manager. Joe and Skip will be the senior staff team on the island this summer, and are looking forward to having the island ready for your Star Island magic when you arrive in a few weeks.

We have a great new Pelican crew coming in for the summer with lots of experience to bring back to the island. We also will have new faces amongst the Pelicans, and we are eager to welcome them as the weather warms.

As you may recall, prior to my hiring, the Executive Director position was restructured at Star Island Corporation. I'll be there to meet conferees at our opening orientation for each conference and will be on the island work with staff and meet conferees one or two days per week. The rest of the time I'll be working from the Portsmouth office with the administrative staff to keep the Corporation running smoothly. My daughter Sophie will

be with me much of the time we're on the island, and we are excited to be incorporating Star Island as part of our summer this year!

Our work on the Star Island facilities is getting underway. We have a much lighter project schedule this year, which in combination with our great new staff will allow us to be fully ready for you on your first day on the island. This summer expect to see new dock ramps to make getting on and off the boat safer, and a new fire egress tower on the back of Cottage D. We have a number of smaller projects that will be completed during the summer, and we'll be doing planning for making the chapel path accessible. We hope to complete the chapel path work in the fall of 2006 or spring of 2007, depending on availability of funds.

As many of you know from conference mailings, we also are pleased to be offering a new conference boat system this year. We will be running on the same Captain's Fishing Charter boats (the Captain's Lady & Captain's Lady II) as last year, but will be running out of Rye Harbor. The trip from Rye Harbor to Star Island is only about thirty minutes, so we'll have shorter trips out & back, meaning more time on the island!

I have very much enjoyed the Shoalers I've had the opportunity to meet over the last few months, especially at the Annual Meeting and Council of Conferences meeting in April. Everyone involved with Star Island has great ideas and energy to share, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue to preserve and energize the wonder of Star Island for ourselves, our families, and others in the community.

—Amy Lockwood



A rare sight—Star Island with snow covering the tennis courts.

### New Faces

Join us in welcoming all our new staff & board members, as well as new Pelicans, who are too numerous to mention here!

**Skip Holt**, Facilities Manager

**Justina Kone**, Assistant Conference Center Director

**Sumar Maji**, Assistant Facilities Manager

**Karen Mathiasen**, new member of the Board of Directors

**Karen Muldoon**, Development Director

**Kristin Stockmayer Lavery**, Island Registrar

**Doug Voss**, Boat Captain

**Joe Watts**, Interim Conference Center Director

## Conferences with Openings

On a waiting list? Missed the priority deadline? Want to introduce a friend to Star Island? Sign up now for a conference that still has openings! All information is current as of press time. Please consult your Blue Book or the Star Island Corporation website for more information on registering—and don't delay, they'll fill up quickly.

### *Young Adults Conference*

*Saturday, June 16 to Monday, June 19 or*

*Saturday, June 16 to Tuesday, June 20*

Make new friends and reconnect with old ones, including the island itself. Activities include workshops, socials, bonfire, chapel, dancing, singing, and all the other things you love about Star. Our age range is adults in their 20s and 30s.

### *Conference on the Arts*

*Saturday, June 17 to Saturday, June 24*

Get in touch with the beauty of Star at an adult conference to relax, reflect and meet new and old friends while nurturing your creative energies and artistic abilities. Workshops include dance, drama, music, photography, stone sculpture, drawing and writing, and evening music and drama and morning chapel services by Mary Tiebout are also offered.

### *Isles of Shoals Historical & Research Association (ISHRA) Conference*

*Tuesday, June 20 to Saturday, June 24*

In "Flora of the Shoals: A Botanical and Historical Exploration," ISHRA has invited the Botanical Society of America to join in exploring the impact of island flora on the Shoals' natural, human and cultural history. A study and inventory of flora and marine algae will be enhanced by lectures and workshops (including painting and photography) on the flora's influence on art, cooking/healing traditions, and everyday life. The #1 Workshop: relax and enjoy Star Island as it bursts into bloom!

### *Natural History Conference*

*Saturday, June 24 to Saturday, July 1*

Focusing on a 10-year study of Canada lynx, we'll learn how the cat's survival is dependent on climate, forestry practices and the snowshoe hare. Enjoy guided walks, an art workshop, silent auction and talent shows. Morning and candlelight chapel services, sing-alongs, and games add to the fun, fellowship, and magic of this conference.

### *Young Religious UU Conference*

*Saturday, June 24 to Saturday, July 1*

Whether new or old to YRUU, "Rejuvenation" is an innovative and traditional chance to recharge your spirit and renew energy you may have lost on the mainland. Join us for week-long workshops, from photography to art to men's and women's groups to

fun in the sun.

### *Religious Education Conference*

*Saturday, July 15 to Saturday, July 22*

In the quest to find our words of faith, renowned theologian and author Rev. Dr. Thandeka will invite us to consider inspiring and practical goals for Affect Theology, a theological approach to Unitarian Universalism. RE Week offers resources and respite for professional and volunteer leaders involved in life-span religious education, and engaging programming for their families. Minister of the Week: the Rev. Denis Meacham. Please see [www.StarREWeek.com](http://www.StarREWeek.com).

### *International Affairs Conference*

*Saturday, July 22 to Saturday, July 29*

"Power Shifts: Regional Hotspots Confronting the U.S." looks a decade ahead to understand how regional challenges from unanticipated and misread transnational trends beyond U.S. control may alter its global influence. We offer expert morning theme talks; evocative debate; imaginative writing, music, and yoga workshops; evening timely topics; vibrant toddler-to-teen programs; morning/evening chapels; games; island exploring; and personal rejuvenation in intergenerational, welcoming community.

### *Institute on Religion in an Age of Science*

*"Emergence: Nature's Mode of Creativity"*

*Saturday, July 29 to Saturday, August 5*

Emergent properties arise in Nature as a consequence of relationships. They can be reduced to their component parts, but are something more, or something else, hence novel and generative. Emergence provides new ways of thinking about cosmic and biological evolution, opening exciting possibilities for reinterpreting traditional religious views about creation, causality, morality, and the very nature and purpose of human being. Scientists, religionists, and conferees will explore this terrain.

### *United Church of Christ Family Conference I*

*Sunday, August 6 to Saturday, August 12*

Old friends and new come together for fun, fellowship, and spiritual nurture. We'll learn from each other at morning and evening chapel services and during our program, and enjoy events like art, softball, bell ringing, singing, and creative writ-

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ing. Special activities for young adults, children, and adolescents abound. Be as active or idle as you choose, and return home refreshed and renewed.

### *UCC I Youth*

*Sunday, August 6 to Saturday, August 12*

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 and helps ensure richness in fun, fellowship and spirituality.

### *United Church of Christ Family Conference II*

*Saturday, August 12 to Friday, August 18*

Families and individuals will have a fun-filled and relaxing week on Star. While children play and learn in small, supervised morning groups, adults are free to relax or explore spiritual and intellectual topics at chapel and during theme talks. The afternoons and evenings abound with creativity: music, art, drama, crafts, intergenerational activities and much more. Please join us at this, our 40th anniversary of the family conferences, as we celebrate and enjoy the fellowship of life.

### *UCC II Youth*

*Saturday, August 12 to Friday, August 18*

Embark on an exploration of the world's religions and how its people operate in their own spiritual environments. We'll engage in discussions about different cultures and their views on life, the universe and everything, play games, travel the island, make new friendships and renew old ones, start new traditions and carry on our favorites as we define our faith and place in the world.

### *Weekend Conference of the Laity*

*Friday, August 18 to Sunday, August 20*

Families and individuals of all ages gather to enjoy a weekend of fun, fellowship, and spiritual reflection. Explore your faith, attend sunrise and candlelight worship services, participate in recreation and craft activities, or simply relax and enjoy the peace and beauty of Star Island. It is an experience you will always remember. Supervised activities are provided for children and teens.

### *Life On A Star Family Conferences II*

*Saturday, August 26 to Saturday, September 2*

LOAS welcomes families and individuals of all kinds, offering something for everyone young or old, serious or silly, quiet

or active. Theme talks, morning and evening chapel services, a range of workshops, young adults circle, family activities, and programs for children are offered to stimulate thought, spirituality, creativity, and fun, while allowing time for friendship and appreciation of Star's natural beauty.

### *26th Annual Pelican Reunion Conference*

*Saturday, September 2 to Monday, September 4*

To reconnect our Spirits with Star Island, we invite Pelicans of all generations – from 1897 (in spirit) to 2005 – to renew friendships and create new ones, connecting with the things that make Star Island a special place in our lives. Experience a weekend as structured or unstructured as you want, with activities including island history, quilting, yoga, music, work project(s) and PIT groups. Please see [www.pelicansarepelicans.com](http://www.pelicansarepelicans.com).

### *Elderhostel I & II*

*I. Sunday, September 3 to Friday, September 8*

*II. Sunday, September 10 to Friday, September 15*

Elderhostel on Star, an educational program for adults age fifty-five and older, offers workshops on Watercolor Painting (#11879) and Birding on the Isles of Shoals (#11716) during Elderhostel I, and History and Ecology of the Isles of Shoals (#12720) during Elderhostel II. For more information, call toll-free, 877-426-805.

### *Midweek Retreat I*

*Monday, September 4 to Friday, September 8*

### *Midweek Retreat II—Retreat to a Star*

*Monday, September 11 to Friday, September 15*

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.

### *Granite State College: Courses on Star Island*

*Tuesday, September 5 to Friday, September 8*

Take a learning retreat! Study what interests you, in a beautiful and serene setting. UNH's Granite State College hosts various courses on Star in an accelerated format. Courses are open to all, whether for a degree program or personal enrichment. One preparatory session is required, to be held in Portsmouth prior to Star Island trip (TBA). For more information, call the College at 603-334-6060.

### *NH Society of Photographic Artists*

*Thursday, September 7 to Sunday, September 10*

Open to any interested photographers, this is an opportunity to share work and techniques. Using digital cameras, we will

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make prints and project images captured during the weekend. Includes short trips to other islands. For more information, visit [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org).

### *Isles of Shoals Historical & Research Association, September Weekend*

*Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10*

This year's gathering will explore the natural history of the island's complex ecosystems, from geology and tidepools to the wind, water and weather. Several guest speakers, social events, rowboat trips, and a visit to Duck Island's seals are available, and as always candlelight chapel services and plenty of rocking chair activity.

### *Writers in the Round Retreat*

*Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10*

This four-day creative retreat offers daily classes, time for composition and collaboration, group workshops and nightly song and poetry swaps. Its spirit is supportive, creative and collaborative, a time for stretching boundaries, cross-genre inspiration, and fresh salt air. We welcome all levels of artistry.

### *Writelines*

*Monday, September 11 to Wednesday, September 13*

Unleash your creativity and see what happens when writers of all skill levels and genres learn from each other. Benefit from your peers' input, the comments and handouts of the director, and the relaxing, creative environment of Star, and be prepared to leave rejuvenated and ready to write some more.

### *Star Women (formerly Gathering of Renewal)*

*Wednesday, September 13 to Friday, September 15,*

*Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17, or*

*Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17*

Experience nature on an island out in the wind and the wild sea – a soulful place to be alone or with other women of all ages, talking and walking over the rocks. Please join our circle and share yourself.

### *Dover Yoga*

*Wednesday, September 13 OR Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17*

Disembark for this 4th annual Star Island Retreat to free your spirit and energize your soul with a weekend of yoga and meditation on this beautiful island. Various classes are offered for all levels. Please contact Dover Yoga at (603) 740-9700, or visit [www.doveryoga.com](http://www.doveryoga.com).

### *Star Guilford: Rethinking the Small Church Choir*

*Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17*

The co-choir-directors of the Guilford Community Church United Church of Christ in Guilford, Vermont, will teach four-part SATB songs from their choir repertoire, many of which they have arranged themselves. These songs are musical, often energetic, relatively easy to learn and draw primarily on a wide variety of American musical genres. Themes examined will be the extended seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter and the lengthy Story of Moses as it occurs every third year in the lectionary. Other sessions will include selections from the genres of "Shape Note" hymnody and "folk" gospel singing, and samples of songs by composers Moses Hogan, Ysaye Barnwell, and Neely Bruce. This will be a weekend particularly for choir directors and singers in small church choirs who are looking for ideas to revitalize their music ministry. Music reading ability is recommended, but not absolutely necessary. All singers are welcome for a stimulating weekend of group singing in harmony.

### *Star Hampshire Traditional Music & Dance*

*Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17*

Enjoy the magic of Star Island and traditional New England music and dance during our 15th annual spirit gathering, where musicians, callers and singers will lead you through traditional community dance from past and present. For more information, contact Patrick Stevens at (603) 436-8372, or email [pstevens21@comcast.net](mailto:pstevens21@comcast.net). ☒



# Notes from the Underworld



## Our Spirit's Home

*Notes from the Underworld collects perspectives from Pelicans. If you would like to contribute a piece, please email [bwinters@starisland.org](mailto:bwinters@starisland.org) with your ideas.*

As I wrote the title for this article, I had to consider the placement of the apostrophe in the word "spirits." I had debated placing the punctuation after the 's', indicating the possession of one home by multiple spirits. What I decided to do was to place the apostrophe before the 's', denoting the possession of a home by a single spirit. I feel that this punctuation is more fitting because the aim of my article is to address the importance of spirit amongst the Star Island community, and specifically the Pelicans.

Few things are of such importance to the Star Island community as the spirit of the Pelicans. Our special island would not be the same without this unique work force. There are plenty of summer jobs available to college-age, young adults that pay more, provide more than three showers per week, offer a less rustic living environment, guarantee a higher probability that one's toilet will flush without manual assistance, allow for more privacy, and require less dependence on one's co-workers than Star does. So why do Pelicans keep coming back? They keep coming back because of the island spirit.

This island spirit is embodied not only by the conferees, from old shoalers to first-time visitors, but equally as strongly by those who work for the island: from the management, the SIC and ISA, and volunteer committees, to the Pelicans and countless island volunteers.

It is this spirit that distinguishes the special community that is Star Island from the seagull and poison ivy infested rock that it could be, and it takes the giving, of ALL members of this community, to our greater cause to keep this spirit alive. This brings me to another thing that all members of our community also have in common: unhappiness with regards to issues of money on Star Island.

For the management there is the difficulty of planning the budget and keeping up our funds to support this wonderful island. For the Pelicans the problem is sorting out if and how we can accept tips and donations, and how to fairly divide them amongst Pelicans who have conferee contact and those who don't. For the conferees, there is the difficulty of sorting out how much, and when, one is able to give to provide for the island and to support our annual fund.

My purpose here is not to ask you to give money; what I am asking you to give is spirit. No matter to what part, or parts,

of the Star Island community you feel connected, please give as much spirit as you can. It doesn't take much effort, it's free, it feels great to do, and everyone benefits from it immediately and for generations thereafter.

To the conferees I ask, please give spirit: be involved with your conference, connect with your fellow conferees of all ages, be a teacher and a learner, help the conference chairs in any small way you can, continue to compliment pelicans on work well done, but also be sure to let the managers know if something needs improvement, and involve others in our unique community.

To the management and decision-makers of the island I ask, please give spirit: continue to make decisions that foster and enrich our special community, continue to recognize the needs of all parts of the community (Pelicans, conferees, volunteers, and yourselves alike), and keep in mind the big picture, remembering the spirit that is all of our ultimate goals when the politics and money issues of the island fog the memory of what is truly important.

To the Pelicans, specifically, I ask, please give spirit: respect the rules and unique quirks of the island, never forget that the

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## From the Development Office



I've always been struck by the phrase, "all creation and the Isles of Shoals" because it expresses for me how different Star Island is from the daily world I inhabit or from any vacation I've taken. Star has sun and rain, fog and surf, a small beach, many rocks, a big hotel—aspects of many vacation spots. Yet, in its rugged simplicity and with its conference families of friendship, it has something more that is built on the deep meanings developed for many of us over years of returns. In an uncertain and polarized world, Star welcomes us each year and is a constant that gives us rest,

re-creation and renewal. We make time for spiritual growth through relationships, learning, creativity and appreciation of the beauty that surrounds us. We see our children grow and come to love the island as we do. We are strengthened by this time out of ordinary time for the rest of the year and in our ability to be of service when we return to "all creation."

Because Star means so much to so many, those of us who can—each according to our ability—have the responsibility of ensuring that being a Shoaler is an experience

that continues to be available to us and to as many others as need Star's beauty and gifts. We owe it to ourselves and to the generations who will follow us— just as we have followed those who had the foresight to preserve Star for us 90 years ago.

Please give generously to this place of heart, mind and spirit. Make a gift that speaks to your commitment to this very special place. As we look forward to summer and as we all "wish we were there," I hope Star can count on your support.

—Irene Bush

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## Passages

### Births

**Christopher Yermack**, fourth child to **David Yermack** and **Rocio Aliaga**.

**Carmen Grace Phinney Baskette**, daughter of 2005 UCC 2 Minister of the Week **Molly Phinney Baskette** and husband **Peter**, was welcomed into the world on March 26th by her parents and brother **Rafe**.

**Lillian Walker Martini**, daughter to **Jodi** and **Mark Martini** and granddaughter to **Janice** and **James Prochaska**, on March 8th.

### Deaths

**Ray Wilkins**, former chair and founder, in opposition to all the energetic Polar Bears, of the Lazy Dog Club died on February 19th. He was 81 years old. Dr. Wilkins was born in Boston and served as a WWII combat soldier in the European and Middle East Theaters. He is survived by his wife **Dorothy M. Wilkins** and children, **Leslie A. Wilkins** of Cincinnati, Ohio, and **Vincent M. Wilkins** of Sunnyvale, Calif.

**Sienna Lavanhar**, daughter of 2000 International Affairs Minister of the Week **Marlin Lavanhar** and his wife **Anitra**, died suddenly in May at age three.

**Ernestine Firth**, longtime Shoaler, passed away on January 18th.

**Frank Michalek**, father of **Janice Prochaska**, passed away on March 24th.

**Vera Weiner**, corporation member & conference chair, died on March 6, following a long illness. Vera and **Oscar Weiner** first came to Star in 1953 and were named to chair All Star One in 1957 (the first year when two All Star conferences were planned). She leaves her daughter **Debbie Weiner Soule**, son-in-law **Ben Soule** (both former Pelicans), and grandchildren **Emily** (also a former Pelican) and **Abigail**. ☒

## Star Island Welcomes Visiting Boaters!

Please pass the word: we welcome boaters to visit Gosport Harbor & Star Island from 8 a.m. until sunset mid-June through Labor Day. Boaters may tie their dinghies to the float at the end of our pier & visit the lobby, bookstore, gift shop, & snack bar on the first floor of the 1880s Oceanic House. Its main lobby, writing room, Pink Parlor, & dining hall provide a glimpse into the life of the Grand Hotel Era when Star Island attracted such notable artists & writers as Childe Hassam & Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Also open to the public are Vaughn Cottage, the hands-on marine lab, wonderful walking paths, a picnic-worthy front lawn a swimming area, & a village of historic buildings including a stone chapel & several cottages remaining from the early 1800s.

If desired, you may join us for a hearty & satisfying home-style lunch or dinner served family style in the hotel's dining room. Reservations can be made by calling 603-601-0832 or marine channel 80.

*(Ninety Years: continued from page 1)*

chased by a Shoaler (Lewis Parkhurst) for \$16,000. A Corporation chartered. A campaign; \$45,484 raised to buy and refurbish the Island. Finally the pageant on Star. Another interesting account, found in *Something Like a Star* by Frederick T. and Virginia F. McGill as well as *Ten Miles out and The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend* by Lyman Rutledge.

Now we look back over 90 years. A campus being brought up to modern health and safety standards. Buildings built: Tucke Parsonage, Parker, Newton Cen-

tre, Sprague, Founders, YPRU, Baker, Nichols Music Building, Charles Vaughn Cottage, a new Power House, Dement First Aid Station, Elliott Memorial Building, Brookfield Youth Center/Rutledge Marine Laboratory, Marshman, Louise's Barn. A wastewater treatment plant built, a pier reconstructed, a reverse osmosis system installed. The list goes on and on, an impressive record of accomplishments, many of them achieved in times of crisis and against the odds.

The Star Island Corporation is the orga-

nization which now has the responsibility to make sure that our Spirit's Home is there every summer, ready for us to occupy complete with boats to transport us, food on the table, beds to sleep in and a Chapel for our worship.

For those who want to help make our 100th anniversary in 2016 memorable, information about the formation of a Hundredth Anniversary Committee will soon be available at [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org).

—Ed Rutledge

*(Notes from the Underworld: continued from page 8)*

conferees are our highest priority and that we are here to serve them and because of them, continue to be good sports on the softball field and if you don't play, watch, come to all the Pelican shows and sing in the Pelican Encore, learn all the words to the Pelican Encore, learn the history of Star Island and the conferences, remind other Pelicans of Pelican events, thank the kitchen staff for a good meal, compliment the management for efforts well done, turn down your music and learn the sounds of the island, boost a fellow Pelican's spirit with a hug, stay on-island on a day off and explore, and continue to be an excellent and responsible fire response team.

Above all, though, these three things I ask of not only Pelicans, but of everyone: understand the interconnectivity of the island, that everything that you do affects not only you but everyone else in the island community; continue to work towards making Star Island and the Shoals a great place for you to live and grow, and for everyone else in the community too; and don't give up on this truly special place we have created and continue to create. If we can all work to keep our island a special place by giving as much spirit as we can, we will all be better off for the effort.

I think that I speak for all Pelicans in saying that we look forward to working with

Amy, Joe, and all of the staff, in what we hope will be a fantastic season this summer for all parts of the community!

See you at our spirit's home,

—Molly Mansfield

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Molly is just finishing her sophomore year at the University of New Hampshire. She has been a lifelong conferee for the Pelican Reunion conference and had her first year as a Pelican last summer on dish crew and chamber crew. She was also the first-year representative on Pelican Council. This coming season you will find her in conference services.

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