



STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

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

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Edited & produced by Priscilla Hodgkins and Jon Wahlgren with invaluable assistance from all contributors. Thank you!

Living up to a long legacy

One island, seven days, eight catered social events, 19 family meals, 87 scheduled events, 98 children in the children’s program, 278 conferees and (All Star) one great week!

When we were asked to be the chairs for AS I, we knew we had a big job ahead of us. AS I is the oldest, largest and first family conference of the year. It has a bewildering number of traditions, rituals, expectations, surprises and taboos. It requires a great deal of planning, thought, energy, coordination and guessing.

If it is anything, AS I is organized. All past chairs have a retreat one weekend each year to discuss all of the issues surrounding our conference. We have a smaller, year-round Executive Committee that takes a finer focus on governance and operating issues. We have detailed notes for all our on- and off-island volunteer jobs. As chair-elects, we had a year to “shadow” the current chairs and experience the nuances and dynamics of “being in charge.” And we have mentorship, documentation and tradition. Our conferees quietly and efficiently go about their volunteer jobs, fixing and adjusting as they do, that a great deal of concern was taken out of our hands. As a former chair once told me, “It’s like a circus and you’re the ringmasters. It may look

like confusion, but, when the spotlight comes on and you step into the ring and blow the whistle, everyone knows their acts.”

Of course, the conferee side of the equation is really less than half. Over the course of many years, and with two daughters as Pels, we knew the key to a successful week was the staff. Working with Joe, Justina, Athena, Shannon and the other supervisors was a pleasure. As the first and largest family conference, AS I can be a shock to the staff. Careful and thoughtful planning and advice from Joe and Justina made all the difference!

This was even more evident as we were chairs in 2007 and Star Island was closed to conferences with less than 72 hours before ours was to start. Even then, thoughtful action by the island staff and some supportive former chairs enabled us to react quickly, notify our conferees and begin over again for 2008!

It was the most fun we have ever had.

-Patricia and Tom Coleman
All Star 1 2011 co-chairs



Farewell to Three Generations of Shoalers

By Debbie Weiner Soule

Three generations of dedicated Shoalers died this spring, each leaving a gap in the fibre that is Star Island.



Rozzie Holt, former Head Housekeeper, Registrar, and Assistant Manager (the first woman to serve in that position) died on May 19, 2011 at the age of 95. Rozzie had first come to Star Island in the 1930's, working as a waitress and making the acquaintance of "Uncle Oscar" Loughton. She returned to the Star staff in the 1950's, training her housekeeping staff to exacting standards. "I still clean bathrooms the way Rozzie taught me," said Liz Erickson. "Then, there are those hospital corners [in the beds], with the tri-fold foot blanket and towel sets for guests."

Rozzie formed a close relationship with the island legends of the 1960's and 70's: Fred and Ginny McGill, (manager) Harry Lentz and (chef) Lenny Reed, as well as the Cedar Island lobstermen, Norman Foye and his son, George. She was one of the founding donors who brought the Rutledge Marine Lab to life; after she retired from Star, she could be found birding on Appledore Island. She loved the Pelican community, and kept scrapbooks full of photos of her friends and adventures, treasuring the Christmas cards which showed Pelican babies and growing families. She was an island original and, for those who knew her or only knew of her, the stuff of legends.



Bill Clegg, aged 73, former president of the Star Island Corporation, died on June 3 after an eighteen-month illness. Clegg, who began attending the All Star I conference at Star Island in the 1970's, along with his wife, Christine and his children, brought his talents and wisdom to the board of the Star Island Corporation in the late 1980's. He served as President of the Corporation at a time of transition and financial stress, taking his job as the "Mayor of Star Island" seriously. In that role, he worked tirelessly to keep the peace, help move the economy in productive ways, perform good works to advance the position of the 'town', shake hands with visitors and newcomers, and honor the history of the island community.

As I reflected in my blog appreciation of Clegg's life, "All of us who visit Star for a day, a week, or a lifetime should take a moment to say a small word of thanks to Bill for helping to ensure that the place has remained open and available for us to visit: it was not a given that this would be so." A memorial gathering honoring Clegg's memory was held on June 19th in Connecticut, marked by poetry and prose, remembrances, and the music he so loved.



Casey Frazer Hill Mercer, aged 28, died unexpectedly on June 16, 2011, of injuries sustained in a single car accident. Casey, who was raised in the All Star I conference from the age of 5, married Tim Mercer, a former Pelican and the love of her life, on August 22, 2009.

Casey graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts, taught Spanish and headed the foreign language program at the Hyde School in Bath, Maine, and was due to take a new position teaching Spanish at the Kent School in Connecticut, in September, 2011. A gifted singer and visual artist, she had performed with the band Maybe Utah, and enjoyed creating pen and ink drawings, which she had begun selling on Etsy.

Casey's life was celebrated in a memorial service at First Parish in Lexington, Mass., Unitarian Universalist on June 25 with ceremonies marked by bright colors, music, and deeply sad but intensely loving remembrances of her short but meaningful life.

Passages



Rob Lietar married **Charity Clark** in May 2011 (pictured).

Julia Case, former Pelican and daughter of Charlie Case & Sherry Walworth, married **Ian McIntosh** on June 25, 2011.

John Rose, a long-time participant in conferences at Star Island, passed away in December 2010.

Arthur W. Crampton Jr., husband of Rose Mary Crampton, passed away on March 20, 2011. They have

no conference history but their donations have been credited to UCC 1&2.

NHC conferee **David Le Gallee** passed away on April 28, 2011.

Lifelong Shoaler **Malcolm Ferguson** passed away on June 11, 2011 at the age of 91 from heart failure. He started coming to the islands as a young child when his grandfather, architect Frank Ferguson, owned Lunging Island.

Opportunities for Clergy

Given the spiritual heritage of Star Island, its ties to UCC and UU, and the beautiful stone chapel, it's no surprise that clergy have special status on the island. However, you may not know that there are opportunities for clergy to spend a night or a week on the island with all their expenses paid.

Each conference has a Minister of the Week whose responsibilities are to lead chapel services once a day. A minister in fellowship with the UUA, authorized for ministry by the UCC, or credentialed in an equivalent way by another religious, educational, or kindred organization is deemed to be qualified. All expenses (room, meals, and ferry) are provided by for the minister and one other family member. There are accommodations for families in the Parsonage and there are no fees for children under six.

Each conference may also host a visiting minister for one night on the island; room and board is provided by Star Island and boat fare and program fees are provided by the conference. This is a great way for a minister to visit the island and become acquainted with a conference and the island. Contact Priscilla Hodgkins via email at phodgkins@starisland.org for more information or if you'd like to refer a minister for either program.

The Isles of Shoals Association Unitarian Universalist (ISAUU) sponsors their Clergy Grants Program, which provides funding for UU clergy and their families to attend Star Island conferences. The intent is to introduce ministers to Star Island conferences and to support the minister's personal and professional relaxation and rejuvenation. The application deadline for 2012 will likely be February 12. Visit their website for details: <http://www.shoals.org/clergy-grants/>



Photograph by Irene Bush

There is also a conference for clergy and one for religious educators. This is the second year for the Clergy Conference, which is a six-day gathering for UCC and UU clergy in their first 10 years of ordained ministry. Rev. Susan Beaumont, Senior Consultant with The Alban Institute, will lead discussions. They are accepting registrations: August 27 to September 2.

Lifespan Religious Education Conference: A Unitarian Universalist Faith Development Experience for religion educators, ministers, and musicians. This lively family conference is held July 16 through July 23.

This summer there will also be a retreat for retired ministers September 5-7.

Please visit starisland.org for more information.

Focus on the Conferences

N.H. Society of Photographic Arts

Saturday, July 30 to Saturday, Aug. 8

This conference is an opportunity to improve your photographs, add to your portfolio and work with other photographers in a supportive environment.

Star Gathering I Family

Saturday, July 30 to Saturday, Aug. 8

From ancient times until now, people have wrestled with how to tell the stories of God's presence in their lives. In this sacred space, through personal reflection and interactive storytelling activities, we will explore ways to share the stories of our faith.

Star Gathering II Family

Saturday, Aug. 6 to Saturday, Aug. 13

We live in the midst of growing awareness of the unity of creation and the terrible brokenness in our lives and world. Explore Celtic Christian spirituality as a way of being engaged as Christians in the human journey towards wholeness.

Life on a Star Family Conference II

Saturday, Aug. 20 to Saturday, Aug. 27

We live at a time when media and culture blend into an almost irresistible force that defines how we connect and therefore who we are. With mobile devices and YouTube, you've got a printing press and the power to reach the world in your pocket. Come explore this revolution during a week of relaxation and fellowship. *See page 7 for more.*

Clergy Conference

Saturday, Aug. 27 to Friday, Sept. 2

This 2nd Annual conference will focus on clergy serving local congregations in their first



N.H. Society of Photographic Arts 2010 photograph by Jeff Spoor

1-10 years of ministry — ordained, licensed or commissioned. We welcome those serving UU and UCC churches as well as ecumenical colleagues to join us for 6 days of programming, collegiality and time for rest and renewal as we gear up for the new church program year.

Road Scholar I & II

Saturday, Aug. 27 to Friday, Sept. 2 or Monday, Sept. 5 to Sunday, Sept. 11

Road Scholar will continue to be what Elderhostel was: a program created for and attractive to older, primarily retired adults; the minimum age is 21. Explore birding, watercolor painting and digital photography on a historic ocean island.

Historic Star *New!*

Saturday, Aug. 27 to Friday, Sept. 2

Historic Star has something for everyone: Writing, photography, scrapbooking, a recreation of Celia Thaxter's salon, Isles of Shoals archeology finds, contra dancing and more. Explore travel memories from visitors to the Isles of Shoals in the fish-

ing and resort eras of bygone centuries and create and record your own memories of your time on enchanting Star Island.

LGBTQ Family & Friends *New!*

Saturday, Aug. 27 to Friday, Sept. 2

This conference welcomes single LGBTQ people, friends and relatives; couples; families with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members. Themes and activities weave together talks on LGBTQ advocacy, workshops (poetry, story-writing, drumming and yoga), and some good old-fashioned fun.

*30% discount for
Historic Star
and LGBTQ*

*Star Island's two newest conferences,
Historic Star and LGBTQ, offer every-
one a 30% discount on room and board.*

For a full listing of this season's conferences, including information and how to register, visit starisland.org/conferences/2011-listings/.

Volunteers Invited to Pel Reunion

Pel Reunion leadership has graciously opened enrollment to Star Island volunteers.

If you have been a volunteer for Star Island, you are invited to attend Pel

Reunion, which is held over Labor Day weekend.

There are options for attending for two or three days, beginning Friday, Sept. 2 and ending Monday, Sept. 5.

Volunteers are eligible for Hurricane Earl's 10% discount for room and board for this year's conference (see page 7). For more information, visit Pel Reunion under "Conferences" on starisland.org.

Calling All Shoalers: Host a Starry Night!

One of the most rewarding aspects of working for Star Island is the singular dedication of its volunteers. The fundraising volunteers are no exception. The successes of the Annual Fund and Capital Campaign are evident in the funds raised for services offered and projects accomplished, including a new roof, a renovated bathroom, financial assistance for conferees, and Ambassador recruitment and training. With the right resources, anything is possible.

Pelican Adam Shapiro proved that point in May by being the first Shoaler to host a fundraiser for the Starry-Night-A-Thon. He held his event, "A Great Day in May," in New Haven, CT and invited his college friends and fellow Pelicans. Adam got ten bands for his event and they played throughout the night, helping him to raise \$300 for the Star Island Annual Fund. It is impressive to see such enthusiastic support for Star by a member of the Pelican community, and gratifying to help the next generation of Shoalers take responsibility for the care of Star Island.

It's easy to host a Starry Night event for the Starry-Night-A-Thon. This fun, social celebration gets its name from events held in 2009 and 2010 that were attended by about 200 people and generated additional support for the Annual Fund. This year, we figured out a way for everyone to be part of the fun no matter where you live by creating a Starry Night-A-Thon. Shoalers near and far are welcome to organize your own Starry Night event and join in the fun in your own region. Here's what to do to make this event happen where you live:

- Find a space: Your church or your home depending on number of guests
- Plan a program: Options include music, art exhibit, Star Island video or slide show, invite a guest speaker, or view the movie "Weight of Water" about



Photograph by Alex DeSteiger featured at Starry Night 2010.

the Smuttynose murders starring Sean Penn

- Arrange for refreshments: Dessert and coffee, pot-luck finger foods, spaghetti supper or other simple options
- Track down other Shoalers in your region to co-host
- Ask for a donation at the door (\$20 suggested) to benefit Star Island
- Get out invitations by going viral on the internet! Or contact the SIC Development Office for a list of Shoalers in your area.

If you are interested in being part of the Starry-Night-A-Thon social and raising some money for Star Island in the process, please contact the Development Office to make arrangements by calling (603) 430-6272 or emailing amatthews@starisland.org for more information.

*-Angela Matthews
Director of Development*



Photograph by Jill Brody featured at Starry Night 2010

Star Island received two grants this spring to support re-construction of Cottage A. The Samuel P. Hunt Foundation gave a \$25,000 1:4 challenge grant for the cottage and the McIninch Foundation gave a \$25,000 to enhance accessibility of two guest rooms and to create a shared bathroom. Work can now begin in the fall of 2011.

Trio of New Videos Showcase the Magic of Star Island

Three short videos were recently posted online by the Corporation. The videos, each with a distinct theme, portray Star Island through lively interviews and stunning photographs.

The first video, “A Magical Place,” can be found on the front page of the Star Island website. The other two, “Spirituality” and “Conferences,” can be found by following the link from the front page. The videos were produced and edited by longtime Shoaler and videographer, Sara Frost Schoman.

These videos describe the Island and conference experience in a way that is more engaging than printed materials. The videos – now on the web (Vimeo and YouTube) – are also available for use by “Ambassadors” on DVD. They vary in length from three to five minutes.



From left, Sara Schoman, Peter Vandermark, and Alison and Scott Will.

Sara interviewed 12 Shoalers in the SIC office space which she and her crew cleverly converted to a film studio complete with bright lights and a giant scenery drape.

About the videos, Sara says, “I loved doing this project! It was an honor for me to be involved.”

FEATURED SHOALERS

Carrie Tyler
Susan Thorner
Ryan Langley
Joe Pescatello
Brad Greeley
Ann Beattie

Alison and Scott Will
Peter Randall
Patty and Dave Boynton
Diane Parsons
Leslie Lowry

To see all three videos, be sure to visit www.starisland.org or contact Sara at www.videocontact.com or www.tapestry.com.

Videographer's notes

- The Shoalers who agreed to be interviewed recounted the importance of Star Island in their lives. Despite their vastly different interests and life situations, it was fascinating to hear how much their sentiments mirrored each other. The word “magic” was mentioned several times, along with beautiful, peaceful, community, and life-changing.
- The photographs are what made it possible to create videos during the off-season. I could feel the wonder as I looked at them. It was difficult to choose which to use, and there

were many others I wish I could have included. The good news is that all the images were donated by professional and lay photographers for use by the Star Island Corporation. Hopefully, more will be shared in future projects.

- Each person was interviewed for 20 minutes or more. That means only a small fraction of their comments are heard in the three, intentionally short videos appearing on the Star Island website: “A Magical Place,” “Conferences,” and “Spirituality.” Selecting the interview segments, and then reviewing more than 600 photographs to use in combination.

Let's just say that it was time-consuming and I loved every minute of it!

- While credits are included at the end of each video, it is especially important to thank the professional photographers who donated their photos: Sean D. Elliot, Peter Randall, and Alex Wolff. I also want to thank Peter Vandermark, a partner of the project's videographer, William C. Rogers. Peter is a former Pelican! He generously volunteered to help with the set-up and breakdown of equipment. And THEN, he let me use his computer to do all the editing!

—Sara Schoman

Renovations to Oceanic Bathroom



The second-floor bathroom of the Oceanic Hotel has undergone a fantastic renovation, complete with new layout, fixtures, lovely sage green color, and more. Renovations were paid for by donated Capital Campaign funds. Be sure to visit this new facility while on Star Island this summer!

Earl's Discount for Laity and Pel Reunion Conferences

Star Island reopened on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend last year after brief closure due to threats from Hurricane Earl. Guests attending the Laity and Pel Reunion conferences had to leave the island along with most of the staff.

This year Star Island is offering a 10% discount for

room and board to everyone who attends Laity or Pel Reunion, Friday, Sept. 2 or Saturday, Sept. 3 to Monday, Sept. 5. This 10% discount is in addition to any other discounts (10-10 Bring-A-Friend, scholarships, etc.).

For more information, visit Laity and Pel Reunion under "Conferences" on starisland.org.

Life On A Star II

Peter Phipps, Managing Editor for New Media at The Providence Journal, an instructor at the University of Rhode Island and long time Shoaler, will talk about the future—The World in Your Pocket. What is the future of media when all media is digital? Does journalism have a future? Will you be able to read a newspaper in 2015? Does it matter to society?

We live at a time when media and culture blend into an almost irresistible force. Media connects us to friends, family and the world, and the mix of media and culture defines how we connect to each other and, therefore, who we are. With mobile devices and YouTube, you've got a printing press and the power to speak to the world in your pocket.

Peter will explore the transformative power of communications technology — how it has changed family, politics, culture and commerce. He will review the change from analog to digital; the music technology battleground; how advertising's cultural narratives create desire and demand; how the media manipulates us for power and profit; how movies transfer culture and define our values; capitalism, sexism and racism; mass media and the colonization of our minds; television and the shared cultural experience; and the rise and fall of newspapers, now at the point of transition or destruction.

Join the LOAS II community as we examine with Peter the amazing technological revolution that is truly changing our world and the way we live in it. This exploration will leave plenty of time for relaxation and camaraderie. Rock on the porch in between stimulating workshops, hearty meals, gorgeous sunsets, fun, and fellowship. Children will enjoy their own program with wonderful leaders and fun activities.

It may not be too late to sign up. Visit starisland.org and click on the tab for Conferences.



LOAS II photograph by Irene Bush



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WMUR-TV 9's New Hampshire Chronicle featured the story of Star Island's Gosport Regatta on July 13. The show will be available to watch online at wmur.com/chronicle and starisland.org at a later date.

For more photos from the 2011 Gosport Regatta, visit facebook.com/GosportRegatta.



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