

Star Island Corporation



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From the President

Just as the island was being awakened – the open up crews were on Star and volunteer weekends had begun – I had the pleasure of presiding over the Annual Meeting of the Star Island Corporation. It was a very full and satisfying day. The Annual Meeting followed a morning meeting, the second meeting of the newly formed Council of Conferences (see page 11 for more information on the Council of Conferences meeting). Many delegates to the Council joined Corporation members for the Annual Meeting and the social hour that followed it. It was good to be in the company of so many active and dedicated Shoalers.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting included Vice President Bruce Par-



At the Annual Meeting, Paul Jennings and Irene Bush present Ed Rutlege with an award for his many years of service

sons' recognition of passages in the Star family – deaths of Shoalers over the last year and births and marriages. Bruce also recognized Rozzie Holt, Donald Brookfield, and Albert Doolittle as those holding the longest tenures in the Star Island Corpora-

FROM THE PRESIDENT, page 12

Homeland Security Update

As you may have heard by now, the Steamship Company's ferry Thomas Lighton, both because of its capacity to carry a large number of passengers and because it provides ferry services, will be subject to complicated Homeland Security regulations, effective immediately. With a number of highly sensitive installations in and around the Port of Portsmouth, such as the naval shipyard and a liquid propane terminal upriver, the Coast Guard will expect strict compliance with all security procedures. The information found on page 15 is being

sent to everyone attending a conference this summer. It represents the best information we have to date, but because a number of issues are as of yet unresolved, this information may raise questions to which we do not have answers. Both the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company and the Star Island Corporation will do all we can to make traveling to and from the island as convenient and as pleasant as it can be. We ask that you be as patient as possible and give the

HOMELAND SECURITY, page 15

2005 Annual Meeting Notice

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Star Island Corporation will take place on April 30, 2005, at a location as yet to be determined.

Newsletter Editor: Joe Watts

From the Executive Director

Warm weather, especially when it comes early in the spring, brings spring fever. But on Star Island, the ebbing winter brings spring feverishness – spring fever is not really an option as we go full tilt toward getting the island ready for the new season. Between April 3 and the June 11 start of the season, our staff will have logged more than 680 workdays and our scores of volunteers will have logged well over 600 workdays – enough to keep one person busy for almost six years. Working alongside our staff and volunteers are electrical, plumbing, masonry, and general building contractors. With the exception of the Spring of 2002, when the pier was reconstructed, this is the most ambitious and project intensive open-up in many years. Several major projects are underway (and should be finished by the time you receive this newsletter), all in addition to the regular work of putting the floats back in the water, getting plumbing and electrical systems up and running, bringing the wastewater treatment plant back on line, keeping up with interior and exterior painting, preparing almost 200 sleeping rooms for occupancy, weeding and mulching gardens, and getting all of our public rooms and meeting spaces ready for conferences. Our projects this spring include:

Oceanic Fire Escape – An internal staircase is being constructed behind the Snack Bar, from the ground floor (in Pel Hall) to the top of the hotel.



The new five story fire escape in Oceanic will run from the ground floor (Pel Hall) to the fourth floor—staff photo

The new five story stairwell will provide a safer means of exit from the Oceanic and will replace the external fire escape that leads from the Oceanic to the dining room roof.

Kitchen Equipment Improvements – You will not see the kitchen upgrades unless you come for a “behind the scenes tour,” which I highly encourage. The kitchen is getting two new ovens, a chest refrigerator, and a triple sink in the dish room. The bakery is being enlarged and the entire food services area has been spruced up with new floor paint and more functional storage spaces.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, page 3



The landing craft transports trucks full of building supplies to and from the island (left). Sometimes just getting supplies to the island is quite a challenge (right)—staff photo

Calling All Former Pelicans!

FORMER PELICAN INFORMATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Name When You Were A Pel (if different): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Primary E-mail: _____ Secondary E-mail: _____

Year(s)/Crew(s) worked: _____

Please check your preference below:

- The Star Island Corporation may give out my contact information to other former Pelicans inquiring about my whereabouts.
- I would prefer to be contacted by the Star Island Corporation if a former Pelican is inquiring about my whereabouts.
- I would prefer that my contact information be kept confidential from other former Pelicans.

◀ On occasion, the Star Island Corporation shares its mailing list with interested groups like ISA-UU or ISHRA, but does not otherwise sell or distribute their mailing list to any outside entities. ▶

Please return this form by mail to: **Former Pels**
 Star Island Corporation
 10 Vaughan Mall, Suite 8
 Portsmouth, NH 03801

Or e-mail your information to: office@starisland.org (subject = "Former Pel")

If you have any suggestions or ideas about the Pelican alumni association project, please list them below or e-mail them to us: _____

If you know of other former Pelicans who do not currently receive the *Star Island Newsletter*, please share a copy of this form with them or include their names and addresses below so that we can put them on the mailing list _____

If you are interested in getting together with former Pelicans on Star Island, consider registering for the Pelican Reunion Conference, September 4-6, 2004. Please visit our web site at www.starisland.org for more details, or call the SIC office at (603) 430-6272.

From the Director of Development

As part of being hired as Star Island's first Director of Development last June, one of the first and most important tasks has been integrating my work with that of the staff and Board of Directors. That has meant defining our roles in ways that make our work easier and more productive.

For many years, we've had a fine volunteer effort to raise funds and many, many people are so dedicated to Star Island that they donate time, money, and materials abundantly and without any need to be asked. Some may question why we need to move beyond this all volunteer effort. Others ask if it says "development" in the title, does that have anything to do with the kind of development that would, as one person asked me "replace the Oceanic with a Ramada Inn"?

The answer to the second question is an unqualified "No!" With an affiliation to no particular conference, the Director of Development can best be seen as a bridge between those that give their resources in support of Star Island and those that utilize those resources. Each has an obligation and a right to communicate certain things to the other, not the least of which is how the resources will be used. In hiring a Director of Development, Star Island was acknowledging not only the need to increase the amount of resources needed to maintain the conference center, but the need to have more communication going in both directions. That need is not based on any desire to dot the island with new buildings or double the amount of staff. It is based on the fact that for many years we've been bringing in less each year than we actually need. Over time, that has meant that many necessary projects have been deferred and, as old buildings and an island nine miles out to sea will demand, it's time to pay the piper. We need to bring in 20% more this year to cover current and deferred needs and those like the new fire escape, brought on by increased regulations.

Over time, I hope to get to speak with all of you personally and answer any questions you might have about "development." In the meantime,

please feel free to get in touch with me and, if you'd like, we can arrange a time to meet. I rely on each of you to help further my education about all things Star Island. It's clear to me, as I hope it is to you, that those areas of most importance include upholding the traditions of Star Island, maintaining our historical integrity, protecting the refuge for a simple life, and keeping our honored place within the Shoals communities. ±

Deborah Lielasus Tombleson

Planned Giving

There are a variety of ways you can make a lasting contribution to Star Island. The simplest and most direct of these is to name Star Island in your will. The Fred and Ginny McGill Society was established to educate Shoalers about these options and to honor those who have included Star Island in their bequest plans. Star Island can also easily be listed as a beneficiary of any planned gift including annuities and trusts that you set up with your financial planner or estate attorney. There are multiple tax advantages associated with these lifetime gifts. We are currently seeking ways for you to work directly with Star Island, much in the way you can with larger institutions like universities, to make certain kinds of planned gifts. This is a complex process and one we want to undertake carefully. In the meantime, if you don't have a financial planner or estate attorney, we can put you in touch with someone who can help. We can also provide bequest language for you to use or help you write language that honors your wishes. For more information, please give me a call at (603) 430-6272 or send an email to dtombleson@starisland.org. ±

Deborah Lielasus Tombleson

Come to Star Island This Summer - Space Still Available!

When's the last time you went to a conference on Star Island? Last year, a few years ago...never? Is the conference you normally attend full? Perhaps you've always come to the same conference and are looking for something new. Maybe you're a former Pelican who misses Star Island. Or perhaps you've never been to Star but have heard many wonderful stories. Whatever the case, now's

a great time to visit Star Island.

Many of our surprisingly affordable conferences still have openings for the 2004 season. The following list includes conferences with space available at the time this newsletter went to press. Review these conferences to see the many ways in which your spirit's home is calling you...

CONFERENCE:	DATES:	HOW TO REGISTER:
<i>YAC (Includes LRA)</i>	6/11-6/15	Brooke Bradicich, (603) 229-0775 or imakirschgirl@yahoo.com
<i>Arts</i>	6/12-6/19	Bob Flanagan, (919) 332-0949 or registrar@stararts.org
<i>ISHRA</i>	6/15-6/19	Janet Saunders, (603) 234-0682 or jsaunders@jmacofnh.com
<i>Natural History</i>	6/19-6/26	Russ Peterson, (207) 363-0985 or rpeters9@maine.rr.com
<i>YRUU</i>	6/19-6/26	Celia Reef, (978) 362-1149 or Poetrypuppy@yahoo.com
<i>Religious Education</i>	7/10-7/17	Ellen Gilman, (603) 669-2514 or starislandre@comcast.net
<i>IRAS</i>	7/24-7/31	Bonnie Falla, (610) 432-8711 or fallab@moravian.edu
<i>UCC I Family</i>	7/31-8/7	Crista Woolley, (301) 540-0408 or StarRegUCC1@aol.com
<i>UCC I Youth</i>	7/31-8/7	Crista Woolley, (301) 540-0408 or StarRegUCC1@aol.com
<i>Laity</i>	8/13-8/15	Jane Coyne, (603) 253-6338 or JBCNH@aol.com
<i>Midweek I</i>	8/29-9/2	Gillian Carter, (212) 787-0170 or gillian.carter@nyu.edu
<i>Midweek II</i>	9/6-9/10	Leigh-Ann and Howard Bennett, (215) 672-6129 or iamhoward@acitv.net
<i>Elderhostel I</i>	8/29-9/3	Special Instructions: Contact Corporation office for instructions, (603) 430-6272 or office@starisland.org
<i>Elderhostel II</i>	9/5-9/10	Special Instructions: Contact Corporation office for instructions, (603) 430-6272 or office@starisland.org
<i>Pelican Reunion</i>	9/4-9/6	Marc and Jane Soule, (978) 263-1240 or registrar@pelicansarepelicans.com
<i>Women's Gathering</i>	9/8-9/10 OR 9/10-9/12 OR 9/8-9/12	Catherine Jenkins, (617) 825-9780 or jenkinsboston@aol.com
<i>Other Conferences</i>	September	Contact Corporation office, (603) 430-6272 or office@starisland.org

In Brief

- « **South Church Bed & Breakfast Program:** Once again South Church (the Unitarian Universalist Church of Portsmouth) is sponsoring the South Church/Star Island Bed and Breakfast Program. If you or those you know are interested in a night or two in the Seacoast area before or after your conference, South Church would like to provide accommodations. The B & B Committee will match you with a host home according to your needs and availability. South Church will benefit financially but all will enjoy the personal connection which comes with sharing private homes with travelers. The prices remain the same, \$55 for a single and \$75 for a double (in same room), including continental breakfast. To avoid disappointment, please make your reservation one month in advance; call (603) 436-4762 or e-mail uuchurch@ttlc.net.
- « **Spring Volunteer Weekends a Huge Success:** Volunteerism on Star Island is in full swing and, by the time you're reading this newsletter, five weekends will have taken place and over 600 workdays will have been turned in by over 160 volunteers! Some volunteers also spend a week, part of a week, or more on Star, as they are able. This annual volunteer effort is absolutely essential for opening up our facilities and completing minor and major facility upgrades. We owe all of our volunteers our deepest appreciation!
- « **Annual Meeting Bowl:** Thanks to all of the volunteers who brought delicious treats to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. One generous individual brought grapes in a bowl that was left at the church. Are you missing a boat-shaped pottery bowl, cream and light brown in color, with a star painted in the middle of the inside? It measures about 8" by 20". If it's yours, please contact Charleen at the Portsmouth office, (603) 430-6272, so we can ship it to you right away!
- « **Annual Fund Donations:** This year's Annual Fund brochure had an option for making your pledge in seasonal (or quarterly) payments. The dates we gave were March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. For those of you who chose that option, we'd like you to know that our intention is to charge your payment for the months preceding when we receive your gift. For example, if we receive your pledge with this option in June, we will charge for both March and June as the Annual Fund runs January to December 2004.
- « **Correction:** In the last edition of this newsletter (Vol. XXIX, No. 2), we thanked all of the Shoalers who made donations of time, materials, and money. Inadvertently, we omitted Dr. Jonas Gavelis, who should have been listed alongside his wife, Bonnie Sylvester. †

Shoalers in the News

- × **Edith W. Pierson:** On March 14, 2004, Edith Pierson was enrolled in the Clara Barton Sisterhood of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation by the South Church UU Women's Federation of Portsmouth, NH. The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created by a vote of the 1979 Biennial Convention to honor UU women aged 90 or over to recognize their contributions to the life of their religious association and women's organizations. Edith worked on Star Island in a variety of capacities – most notably as year-round groundskeeper/winterkeeper – between 1969 and 1994, along with her husband Dave. †

Passages

Births:

Julia Natalia Yermack, daughter of Rocio Aliaga and David Yermack, March 5, 2004

Lily Anwen Watts, daughter of Brenda Bladen and Joe Watts, March 13, 2004

Marriages:

Torrance Kopfer and Nola Riedel, May 8, 2004

Deaths:

Sidney Barnes died on January 24, 2004. Sidney and her husband attended the United Church of Christ I Family Conference for many years.

Janet Craw died on February 2, 2004. Janet was a longtime Shoaler, attending the United Church of Christ I Family Conference in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, the United Church of Christ II Family Conference in the 1970s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s, and the Laity Conference in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s.

Dorothy B. Lightfoot died on February 1, 2004. She was 89. Dorothy, a Corporation member since 1962, first went to Star in 1953, and continued to attend the All Star and Natural History Conferences every year since then. She and Howard, her husband of 62 years, were chairs of All Star in 1961. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her four children, Ann, Jean, Jack, and Bob, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the Star Island Corporation.

Judith Froebe Miller died on April 16, 2004, of pancreatic cancer. She was 63. Judy was a Corporation member since 1995 and an All Star I conferee since 1987, which she and her husband Dug chaired in 1997. During most of her years at All Star I, Judy served as a children's staff member or volunteer with the children's program along with Dug. In addition to her husband, Judy is survived by her daughters

Scotia Miller and Shannon Miller (Smock) and two grandchildren.

Walter H. Stockmayer died on May 9, 2004. He was 90. "Stocky" began attending conferences in the 1950s and attended his last International Affairs Conference in 2003. Stocky is survived by his sons, Ralph and Hugh, and their families, including eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild; he is predeceased by Sylvia, his wife of 64 years.

Elizabeth Bradford Storer died on January 1, 2004. Elizabeth, an emeritus member of the Star Island Corporation, attended the Natural History Conference in the 1960s and All Star II in the 1980s.

Harold Lee Wagner died on December 31, 2003, after a tragic fall from the garage attic. He was 83. Harold attended his first conference in 1975 and served in a variety of capacities over his years at the Laity Conference, including chairperson, registrar/treasurer, and on the sponsor committee. Harold is survived by his wife Ellie. Star Island Laity Conference was the first date to go on the calendar every year.

Joyce Frances Wartmann died on November 23, 2003, of acute Parkinson's Disease. She was 78. Joyce attended conferences on Star Island in the 1960s and brought her husband, William, out to Star in the mid-1970s. Though unable to attend conferences in her later years, Star remained a very important place in Joyce's heart. In addition to her husband, Joyce is survived by her daughter Jasmine Star.

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



Notes From the Underworld

Choosing one fond summer memory to recount for you would be like trying to illustrate the beauty of the sky by lying outside on a cloudless night, wearing a paper bag with a tiny hole in it over your head, and staring at a single star. But I'll try to make that single star shine bright enough to illuminate an entire island.

I always say Star Island is the most difficult thing to write about in the world. You can write about how beautiful it is, how much you love it; you can write about the depths of the ocean and the depths of your best friendships. You can try and try to describe the island's enchanting allure to someone who has never set foot off the mainland, but I'm sure you'll agree with me that it never seems to do it justice.

My mind digs through images of everyday Star life – the vicious seagulls, the postcard sunsets, the view from East Rock – to try to get to the deeper memories, the ones that, like a buried treasure, are hard to locate but priceless when uncovered.

For me, one of these memories is changeover lunch, the one meal a week where all the Pels get to sit outside and eat on the front porch or the grass of the front lawn. In the middle of what is generally an *oh-my-god-how-are-we-going-to-make-all-these-beds-in-time* whirlwind of a day, that half-hour lunch in the sun seems to stretch on forever.

Pels, demonstrating the true spirit of creative fun (one of my favorite byproducts of the island's lack of formal entertainment) play ridiculous games in the lawn such as "Hop on One Leg and Try to Push Each Other Over" or "Chase the Dog with a Piece of Meat." As I watch with silly admiration, I ponder what the secret is – does Star Island lure and attract this kind of creative person, or does the distinctive lifestyle bring out the best qualities in those who visit?

As I anticipate another week of cramming for finals, eight-hour shifts, and guilt-inspired trips to the gym, Star consumes my mind. Milk spills needlessly over the rim of the glass as I fantasize, mid-pour, about the salty seawater messing up my hair.

All year long I dive into work, swearing someday this productivity will manifest itself as happiness. All those aced tests will turn into a perfect career; those yoga classes into a killer body. On Star, everyday itself feels like a year fully lived, and the only goals are making sure the job gets done before dinner, and a paragraph of my book gets read before the comforting sun lures me to sleep. Everything is *warm* in all senses of the word—a word whose importance I so neglect throughout the year.

Now that contracts are out, the Star Island buzz is all around. Us Pels call each other up for the first time since the last boat departed. "Are you going back this summer? What's your job? Want to share a room?" We gleefully recall and retell buried stories from the summer before, and the summer before that, and the one before that.

It makes me think of one of the most poignant moments I've had on the island. It was a melancholy day, and I was standing on the truck trestle feeling down about something or other, staring out into the distance in an over-dramatic way. A friend came up to me and asked me what was wrong, and after hardly even listening to my response, he made a comment that (pardon the cliché) rang with truth.

"The amazing thing about the ocean," he said, "is that it's so constant. No matter what is wrong, it's always still there. It's almost impossible to be sad while staring out at the ocean and thinking about that."

Today, I am counting the days until the boat takes me back home to Star. And though I'm anxiously anticipating the hot afternoon dives off the dock, and sprinting up Dishie Rock to try and catch the sun dip below the horizon *twice*, what I'm looking forward to most is the friends I'll see again and the friends I know I'll make.

No matter how you put it, Star seems worlds away from where I sit now, but even so, I can almost taste the ocean. ±

Star Island Recipe

The following delicious Star Island chowder recipe will provide you with a taste of Star Island, whether you are cooking for 6 or 380...Enjoy!

ROASTED RED PEPPER AND CORN CHOWDER

To Serve 6:

5 TBSP butter or margarine
 3 cloves garlic, chopped
 1 large onion, chopped
 5 TBSP flour
 2 cups milk
 1 cup vegetable or chicken stock
 1 bag frozen corn, thawed at room temperature, or kernels cut off 4-5 ears of corn
 1 12 ounce can roasted red peppers, or 4 red peppers roasted and peeled
 3 potatoes cut in small cubes
 1 cup heavy cream
 1/4 cup chopped cilantro (you can substitute parsley if you don't like cilantro)
 salt and pepper to taste

To Serve 380:

6 pounds butter or margarine
 1.5 cups garlic, chopped
 3 gallons onion, chopped
 1 gallon flour
 20 gallons milk
 10 gallons vegetable or chicken stock
 20 pounds frozen corn, thawed at room temperature, or kernels cut off 80-100 ears of corn
 2 #10 cans roasted red peppers, or 70 red peppers roasted and peeled
 20 pounds potatoes cut in small cubes
 6 quarts heavy cream
 1 gallon chopped cilantro (you can substitute parsley if you don't like cilantro)
 salt and pepper to taste

1. Place butter or margarine in a heavy saucepan large enough for all the ingredients, and melt over medium heat.
2. Add garlic and onion and sauté until soft.
3. Add flour and stir and cook until it is well incorporated and you have a paste (this is the roux).
4. Whisk in milk and stock, and continue stirring until this mixture is almost boiling and thickens, about 10 minutes.
5. Reduce heat to low and add potato cubes and let cook until they are soft but firm, about 10-15 minutes. Stir occasionally, making sure to scrape the bottom and sides of the pan. Be careful not to let the soup scorch at this stage! The pan needs to be heavy and the heat low.
6. While the soup is simmering and the potatoes cooking, put half the corn and the roasted red peppers in the food processor and puree. If you used canned peppers, add the juice to the soup – it has good flavor.

☞ STAR ISLAND RECIPE
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7. When the potatoes are just tender, add the corn/pepper puree, the remaining corn, and the cream, heat through.
8. Add salt and pepper to taste, and warm.
9. Serve garnished with cilantro.

To speed up cooking time you can precook the potato cubes (don't over cook). Also, you can preheat the milk and stock mixture before adding it to the rue in step 4 – this will greatly reduce the amount of cooking and stirring time needed for the soup to thicken.

This soup, plus a taco salad or quesadillas, makes a great meal. It's good to have spicy and mild salsas on the table, both for the soup and the other dishes. A little chopped fresh jalapeno pepper makes a great garnish for those who are bold.

Be careful when cooking cream soups to keep the heat low and stir often. If you need to leave the soup for awhile, turn it off, then resume cooking when you return, or you risk scorching it.

A good variation on this soup is to add ¼ pound of bacon cut in little pieces, in step 1, and use only 2 TBSP of butter. Cook the bacon 5 minutes, with the butter, then continue the recipe. The bacon fat becomes part of the fat in the rue and the bacon makes the soup even heartier.

To roast your own peppers you need to have a gas stove and a pair of good metal tongs. Place whole red bell peppers directly on the flame on a

stove burner. Depending on the size of the peppers you can put one or two on a burner at a time. After a few seconds, the skin of the pepper will start to char and turn black where the flame touches it. When the skin is bubbling and black, turn the pepper(s) with the tongs to expose another part of the skin to the flame, and as the skin blackens on each part, keep turning the peppers until most of the skin is blackened. It's O.K. if some of the pepper is still red, as long as most of the skin is charred. As the peppers are roasted, place them in either a plastic bag or a bowl with a lid. This is called "sweating" the pepper. Let the peppers sit in the plastic bag or covered bowl until they are cool enough to handle, then take the peppers and rub the skin off – most of the skin will just pull off. Then break the peppers in half and remove the seeds. Rinse the pepper and you have a roasted pepper. It will be soft and shiny. It's O.K. if a little skin sticks to the peppers; don't worry about it. Roasted red peppers are a great addition to many recipes and it's nice to keep some in the refrigerator. Canned peppers are good, but home roasted are definitely much better! ±

Sarah Wicker, Food Service Manager

Council of Conferences Meeting a Success

The second meeting of the Council of Conferences was held on May 1, the morning of the Star Island Corporation Annual Meeting (see front page for more information on the Annual Meeting). Approximately sixty Shoalers, representing Star Island's many conferences, were in attendance. The body worked together to make organizational decisions about mission and structure with the helpful facilitation of David Sanderson, the consultant who helped develop the *Vision 2000 Strategic Plan*. Sanderson commented that he

was pleased to have the opportunity to work with such a good group of people.

Reaction to the meeting was very positive. International Affairs Conferee Karen Mathiasen said that "the Council of Conferences provides a wonderful opportunity for the various conferences to share their best practices, whether it be filling conferences up, raising money, achieving diversity, welcoming new Shoalers – or simply avoiding some not-so-good practices."

◊FROM THE PRESIDENT
continued from page 1

tion. We are thankful for all that they and people like them have done over the years to sustain Star Island. Executive Director Paul Jennings gave an engaging talk to a rapt audience. He showed slides of what occurs on Star when we are not there – from snowy owl sightings to repairing the storm damaged dining room roof, and the recently begun, labor intensive, costly work to create a new fire exit without which we could not open this summer. He spoke eloquently about all of the activities needed over fall, winter, and spring to make the island ready for our return.

The Treasurer's Report, presented by Treasurer Edmund Jones, and the report from David Yermack, President of the Permanent Trust, our endowment fund, demonstrated how much care has gone into financial planning and stewardship over the last years. Deborah Tombleson was formally introduced to the Corporation as our Director of Development. She talked about the need for our financial support of the recently developed Facilities Plan, which will help us catch up on long deferred maintenance of the Star Island infrastructure, make essential capital improvements, and fund reserves that will cushion us when emergencies occur. We are doing well, and we must continue and do even better.

Changes have been rapid and they are not yet fully integrated. Despite dedicated, hard-working staff and active volunteers, we are coping with many new challenges and requirements. In this last year, we have addressed a committee structure that is tired, developed a ten year financial plan with a sound building life cycle facilities component, dealt with major issues related to imposed regulatory demands such as the new fire egress, engaged in the normal press of preparation for Summer '04, and set important goals such as renewing our valuable, long-term relationship with Cornell University/Shoals Marine Lab. We have taken steps toward improved governance with the previously adopted bylaws changes, the Council of Conferences, and a commitment to revitalizing committees.

With the recent mid-course adjustment of *Vision*

2000, our strategic plan remains an excellent guide, inspiring the work of all who are advancing the Star enterprise. We have taken *Vision 2000* very seriously – we review and update it every year and constantly check back for guidance. We hope you have studied the plan (posted on our web site at www.starisland.org) and share our confidence in it as a living document and guide for our work. Corporation members affirmed this mid-course adjustment at the Annual Meeting, and we are well poised to accomplish another “chapter” in this great challenge we set before ourselves nearly five years ago.

I'm sure you have seen the many positive changes in our facility and our finances, our financial management, the nurture of Pelicans and other staff, and our more transparent governance processes. These successes result from a collaborative process between Board, Staff, and Shoalers. We are very proud of our successes yet impatient about what still needs to be done, and we know that all of this requires our continuing attention and reinforcement. Paul Jennings and the Board are determined to build on work to-date and to leave to leave a legacy of:

- ... A well run, self-sufficient conference center with needed resources – both human and material
- ... A well maintained infrastructure
- ... A solid financial basis for accomplishing these two important goals
- ... A well functioning governance structure and good communication across the Shoaler communities
- ... Most important, an organization and an island that continues to nourish the spirit of all who choose Star

All Shoalers have a part in this legacy. Many have sustained Star with participation on committees, in other volunteer work of all sorts, as leaders and members of conferences, and with financial support. Contributions from all are needed and there are many ways to contribute.

- × A new Committee on Appointments will be supporting the Board in staffing committees

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- and bringing new leaders along. It is chaired by Ed Rutledge, who would be glad to hear from Shoalers about how they are interested in serving.
- × The Membership Committee, led by Debbie Duval, will be taking a more active role in encouraging nominations of Corporation members, particularly from underrepresented conferences. Let Debbie know if becoming a Corporation member is of interest to you.
 - × Conferences appointed delegates to the Council of Conferences meetings and they grappled with difficult issues and provided recommendations to the Board about such items as Chapel accessibility, insurance, tax and liability issues, and the conference calen-

◊COUNCIL OF CONFERENCES
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Nancy Witherell, of the Life On A Star (LOAS) Conferences, commented that “as always I am impressed by the enormous talent and energy of Star Islanders... I think harnessing that talent on behalf of the SIC and conferences is a brilliant idea. In addition, we all need to learn how decisions sought and made for our conference affect all the other conferences.”

As decided, the mission of the Council is to provide advice and recommendations to the Star Island Corporation Board of Directors and to share best practices among the conferences, using the current strategic plan of the Corporation as the foundation for its activities. The Council will be comprised of two voting members from each conference and as many non-voting members who can attend and join best practices and study groups.

Breakout workshops – on Liability Issues, the Conference Calendar, and Chapel Access – were held during the Council of Conferences meeting. Recommendations from these workshops were reported to the entire Council and forwarded to the Star Island Board of Directors for action.

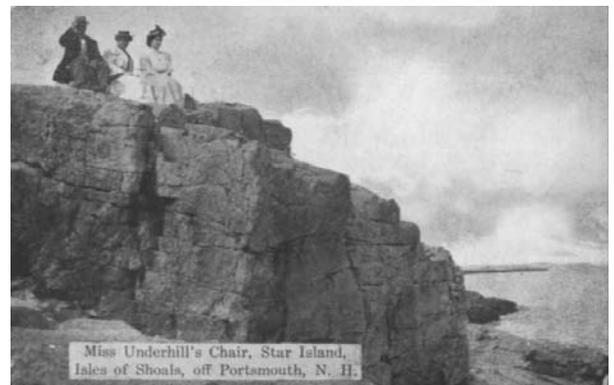
At the conclusion of the Council of Conferences meeting, SIC members were introduced to the

dar. Let your conference leaders know if you’d like to be part of this new advisory group.

- × Deborah Tombleson, Paul Jennings, and I most welcome talking with you about the many ways to consider supporting Star Island financially and – with planned giving – also benefiting yourself.

To continue the strides we have made in stability, financial growth, and involvement – to survive and prosper, we need your participation. Together, we can embrace the challenge of achieving robust health and we can all appreciate and participate in the work that will preserve Star as a very precious community of family and friends, our place of memory and hope, rest and renewal. Be in touch about your piece of the legacy. ±

Irene Bush



work that was accomplished during a “pre-meeting” of the Corporation’s Annual Meeting. With standing room only, reports were made about the organizational decisions and the recommendations to be forwarded to the Board of Directors. All Star I Conferee Janice Prochaska was “impressed with the interest in the [Council of Conferences] from the wide Corporation membership” and felt that the afternoon session, which summarized the morning meeting, “was well attended and brought forth many good questions.” Council and Corporation members seemed pleased about the Council’s existence and hopeful about the new relationships among conferences and the advisory role with the Board. The next meeting of the Council will take place on October 16, 2004, at a location to be determined. ±

2004 Boat and Parking Information

The following official Isles of Shoals Steamship Company (ISSCo.) boat schedule will be in effect throughout the 2004 regular conference season on Star Island. Please remember that this standard schedule does not apply to all conference boats (including YAC, Laity, and September conferences).

If you are planning to travel to the island this summer, please note that there are generally only two boats per day; there are no early morning boats (except on changeover days) and there are no evening boats. If you are attending a conference this season, it will be especially important to allow for sufficient time (at least one hour before the scheduled departure time) so that you do not miss the conference boat which, except for YAC, Laity, and September conferences, will depart

Portsmouth at 1:55 p.m. As there is no later boat, any conferee missing the conference boat will not be able to depart for the island until 9:25 a.m. the following day.

NOTE: See front and facing pages for important information about the new homeland security regulations.

ISSCo’s round-trip boat fares this summer for conferees and island guests will remain \$23.50 (\$21.50 for children ages 3 to 12 and free for children under 3). The standard public boat fare is \$30.00.

Parking for the 2004 season will be available at a lot adjoining the ISSCo. Dock. Parking rates will also remain the same, at \$9.50/vehicle/day. ±

REGULAR SEASON CONFERENCE CHANGEOVER BOAT SCHEDULE *				
BOAT DESCRIPTION:	Departs ISSCo. for Star Island	Arrives at Star Island	Departs Star Island for ISSCo.	Arrives at ISSCo.
First Boat (Conferees depart from Star Island)— CHANGEOVERS ONLY	6:25 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
Second Boat (Day-trippers depart for Star Island)	10:25 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Third Boat (Conferees depart for Star and Day-trippers depart from Star)	1:55 p.m.	3:05 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

* This standard SIC conference changeover schedule does not apply to all SIC Conference Boats.

REGULAR SEASON BOAT SCHEDULE (FOR NON-CONFERENCE CHANGEOVER DAYS)				
BOAT DESCRIPTION:	Departs ISSCo. for Star Island	Arrives at Star Island	Departs Star Island for ISSCo.	Arrives at ISSCo.
First Boat (Day-trippers depart for Star Island)	9:25 a.m.	10:35 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Second Boat (Day-trippers depart from Star Island)	1:25 p.m.	2:35 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m.

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boat crew and our staff your full cooperation. The regulations present new challenges and your patience will go a long way to helping meet this new challenge.

As of May 28, 2004, the following federally mandated regulations from the Department of Homeland Security require that the Thomas Lighthouse falls under strict security regulations very similar to those found at airports. The following list is incomplete and represents what we know to date. Needless to say, there are some questions that still need to be answered. When these answers are available, we will post them on the SIC web site at www.starisland.org. When you arrive at the dock, the baggage check/parking/security process will be made clear to you. The purpose of this article is to let you know many (but not all, unfortunately) of the regulations you will face this year when you arrive at the dock.

All passengers will be REQUIRED to follow these regulations:

BAGGAGE:

- × Label each piece of baggage with your full contact information.
- × Baggage must stay in your possession at all times prior to baggage check.
- × No access to baggage after it has been checked.
- × All baggage is subject to search.
- × No illegal and/or dangerous substances or items are permitted (same substances/items that would not pass through airport security). At this time, we believe that "dangerous" items such as art supplies will be permitted so long as they are packed away in your checked baggage, but we have not received final confirmation on this point yet.

IDENTIFICATION:

- × All passengers age 18 and older must furnish a valid photo ID in order to board the vessel.

- × All passengers under age 18 who are not accompanied by their parent/legal guardian must furnish ID.

ARRIVING AT THE DOCK and BOARDING:

- × Boarding stops 30 minutes prior to published departure time. It is strongly recommended that you arrive at the dock at least 1 hour prior to the published departure time.
- × When you arrive at the dock, either by car or by foot, you will be required to purchase your boarding pass before proceeding to baggage check.
- × Each person is subject to search.
- × Once you have passed through security, you will be segregated from those who have not passed through security, just like at an airport.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- × If you have received prior authorization from Star Island management (required) to arrive on Star Island by other means and then return by the Star Island ferry, you will be subject to all of the above regulations. You will need to purchase a boarding pass on Star Island before boarding the ferry.
- × You will be required to present your boarding pass on the return trip, so store your boarding pass in a safe place while you're on Star Island.

Again, we recognized that these new regulations will present a significant challenge for all of us this year. The Star Island Corporation and the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company (ISSCo.) ask for everyone's cooperation as these new regulations are implemented and enforced, and we will strive to make the transition as seamless as possible. ±



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