

# **Star Gathering 2 UCC Family Conference 2013 Newsletter**

2013, March, Issue 3

**Karen Ellis Returns to Lead Basket Weaving Program**

**Staff Needed for Children's Program**

**Review of 'Stranded'. The Star Island Episode**



*Picture taken by Carolyn Kerr*

## Karen Ellis to Lead Basket Weaving Program



Picture taken by  
Donna Kendall

Karen Ellis returns this summer to reprise her very popular basket weaving serendipity program during

Star Gathering 2 UCC Family Conference.

Karen describes how basket weaving has been a large part of her life. "I love weaving baskets and have been weaving since I was a Girl Scout in Indiana earning my basketry badge. That was many, many years ago!!! I have been teaching basket weaving to all ages of folks on Star for at least 10 years. It's been wonderful to see folks return each year to weave and share their knowledge with new weavers. It's also a joy to have grandparents work with their grandchildren to weave a basket together. You'll find me teaching basket weaving for both SG1 and SG2. Besides weaving baskets, I lead a busy retired life in South Paris, Maine with my husband John. My personal joys are times spent with my family (especially Nana/Papa Day each week), times spent at our church in Auburn, Maine, times teaching literacy, times shared with friends, and of course, my times spent on Star. I'm pleased to be a member of the SIUCC board and look forward to sharing a rocking chair with you this summer or maybe weave a basket?"

## Staff Needed for Children's Morning Program

The Star Gathering 2 UCC Family Conference is seeking staff to lead the children's morning program. Positions are available in all age groups. Each position carries with a \$350 stipend, which will be applied toward room and board charges. There is also a small allowance for supplies.

The children's morning program is an important component of our overall program. For three hours each morning the children play together, learn about nature, and learn about Star Island. They renew friendships and make new friends that will last a lifetime. The children's program also allows parents to attend morning chapel and the morning program offered by speaker of the week.

If you know someone in your church or community who likes to work with children and who might be interested in the Star experience, please suggest this opportunity to them.

### WANTED

## Apprehended



Lapsed Shoaler, Bruce Murray. Often accompanied by Beth Murray. Last seen in Kentucky. If sighted, approach with caution; Murray has been known to excite mirth and raucous laughter. *Update: Murrays will be at SG 2 this summer.*

### Most Amazing Star Island Photos

Please share with us your most amazing and favorite Star Island pictures. We will include some of them here for others to enjoy. *Thanks to Sean Barry for this photo.*



### Memories



*Pictures by Kathie Giering*





'Stranded' on the SYFY Channel: **The Star Island Episode**. Aired at 10:00 PM on February 27, 2013.  
<http://www.syfy.com/stranded>

*From ghoulies and ghosties  
And long legged beasties  
And things that go bump in the night  
Oh, and from TV shows as bad as this  
Good God deliver us.*

*Reviewed by Warren Giering*

Last night, Kathie and I watched the premier episode of the new TV show, 'Stranded', which aired on the SYFY channel. The hour long show was about three 'intrepid' twenty something 'paranormal investigators' who spend five days stranded on **Star Island** in the closed up, vacant and *haunted* Oceanic Hotel. The show starts with a singularly uneventful and *long* boat ride to Star. Once abandoned on the Island the putative tension grows as the group walks down the pier, up the walkway, pass the ruins of the well-house, and then ascends the great and *ominous* stairs leading to the Hotel ("Jaws" music, please.) In the dark interior of the Hotel, the investigators, equipped with night vision cameras, flashlights,

*Picture provided by the Star Island Corporation*

walkie-talkies, some kind of electronic recording equipment, and accompanied by the ubiquitous cameraman, skulk the halls of Oceanic seeking evidence of the paranormal activity, chasing noises, seeing windows that are open and then closed, listening to voices that they can't record, seeking the souls the drowned waitresses, and tying dolls to door knobs. (The lynched dolls were some kind of ghost trap.) They assiduously search for ghosts, apparitions, phantoms, phantasms, wraiths, revenants shades, and spooks and all the while they give creepy commentary with their faces illuminated by flashlights held beneath their chins (spooky music here).

This show was the most the laughable, the most sophomoric, the most amateurish, cringe worthy, and the lamest entertainment. The intrepid trio was 'freaked out' by everything and by nothing. After the umpteenth utterance of "I am really freaked out by this", I was ready to barf. At one point during the night, the young man in the group tells one of his female compatriots to go to the pink parlor. The dialog went something like this (paraphrasing and

embellishing).

Man: Go to the pink parlor

Woman: To the pink parlor? (Aghast).

Man: Yes, to the pink parlor.

Woman: Not the pink parlor! (Pleading)

Man: The pink parlor.

Woman. Not the pink parlor. Oh please, please, please not the pink parlor.

(Despair)

You can get the idea. Dumb.

In another scene, they head for the attic of Oceanic. They recoil in fear when they spy the sign painted on the stair riser that warns *off limits*. (overlay music from the *Pyscho* shower scene). One of them comments that “this is really serious”. Huh?

If you watch this lamentable show hoping to see scenes of Star Island, you will be disappointed. Aside from a few exterior views mainly of the Hotel, most of the show was shot inside. In one short outdoor segment, the ‘ghost busters’ decide to explore the Island. As they pass through the ‘turnstile’ one of the crew mumbles “there is no turning back now”. When they discover the small graveyard and scream “graveyard”, I truly expected their hair to burst into flames and for them to run into the sea. In another scene, when they are pelted by raindrops while at the end of the pier they beat a hasty retreat to the Hotel fearing a great tempest. (I swear I could hear someone crying, “I’m melting, I’m melting”.)

I was not surprised that this show was on the dark brown side of awful. I was surprised and frustrated by laziness of the show makers and their obvious lack of research and understanding of the history of Isles of Shoals. The Isles are indeed haunted, haunted by four hundred years of

history that lives on in the numerous , enthralling and thrilling tales and legends of pirates, smugglers, church burnings, massacres, murders, shipwrecks, storms, starvation, wars, sacrifice and the eventual glowing triumph of civility, art, goodness and spirituality. There is so much material to work with, so many stories to tell, so much beauty to exhibit, and so much spirit to capture. It boggles my mind that the producers of this show and the three ‘intrepid’ investigators didn’t have the gumption, curiosity or inspiration to explore creatively this material; in failing to do this they threw away a huge opportunity. Shame on them. Actually, I don’t think they care one bit.

After throwing away one irretrievable hour of my life watching ‘Stranded’ and writing this review so that no one else would have to suffer through this monstrosity of a show, I think that I deserve a lobster, an extra helping of clams and a lime rickey. Kathie, not so much. she smartly fell asleep.

On a very positive note, I was really impressed by one aspect of the show and that was the showcasing of the care with which the Pels and staff had prepared the Oceanic for the winter. All the furniture was stowed or covered, the halls and rooms were spotless and neat. Great job.



Art Barn. Taken by Peggie Morris

# BULLETIN BOARD



*Pictures taken by Sean Barry and Carolyn Kerr*

<p><b>Discounts:</b> Registration deadline is May 15, 2013 for new families and families who have not been to Star since 2010 to qualify for room and board discounts. For details  <a href="http://starisland.org/conferences/discounts/">http://starisland.org/conferences/discounts/</a></p>	<p><b>Star Island Scholarship (Financial Aid):</b> Application deadline June 1, 2013. (*You must be registered for the conference before applying.)  <a href="http://starisland.org/conferences/financial-aid/">http://starisland.org/conferences/financial-aid/</a></p>
<p><b>Pel discount:</b> Registration deadline is May 15, 2013 for former Pels to receive 50% discount on room and board. For details see  <a href="http://starisland.org/conferences/discounts/">http://starisland.org/conferences/discounts/</a></p>	<p><b>Star Island United Church of Christ Scholarship (Financial Aid):</b> Application deadline is May 29, 2013. Contact Mary-Lu' Esposito for more information and application form. <a href="mailto:marylu@cereal.mv.com">marylu@cereal.mv.com</a></p>



*Pictures taken by Peggie Morris*

Please send questions, comments or suggestions to the Conference Co-Chairs listed below:

Jenny Giering  
 9 South Worthington Road  
 Worthington, MA 1098  
 413-238-0179  
[dagnyvoice@gmail.com](mailto:dagnyvoice@gmail.com)

Warren Giering  
 117 Town Farm Road  
 Buxton, MA 04093  
 207-929-2125  
[wkgiering@gmail.com](mailto:wkgiering@gmail.com)