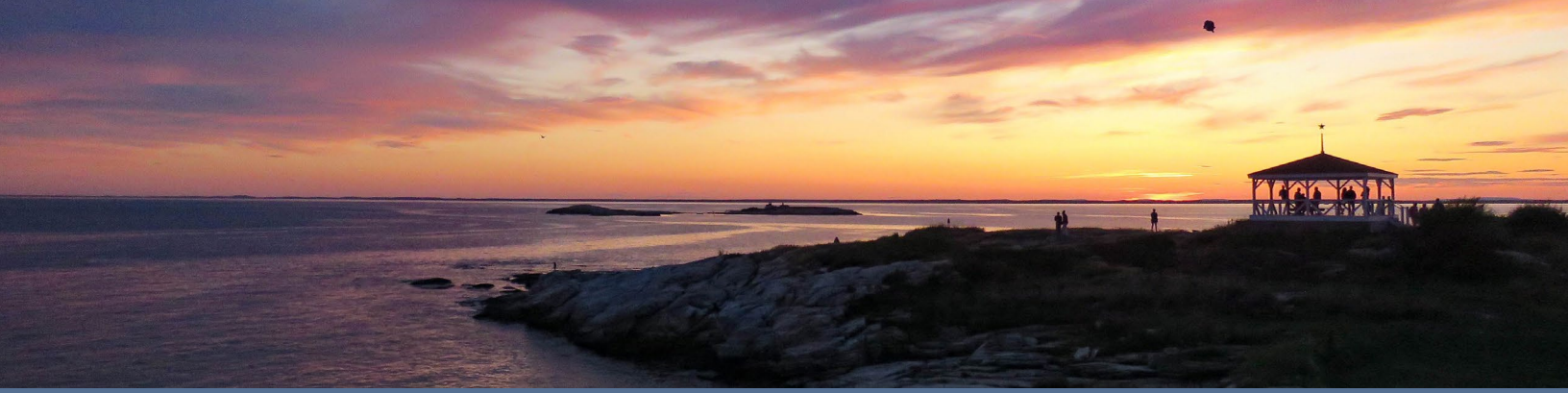




SPRING 2021

Star Island



Dear Shoalers,

I know you share my excitement that we will be back on Star Island this summer! We have all missed the camaraderie, the smell of the sea air, the learning and connecting with one another, the traditions...I could go on and on. Our Spirits' Home awaits us!

For all of us, it's been a year like no other. There are so many emotions tied up in these difficult fifteen months for our country and the world. We are grateful that the pandemic has greatly subsided in our region, and yet we are conscious that COVID-19 continues to persist around the globe, and we are mindful of the continued challenges and suffering.

I have been so heartened by the Star Island community's response and support. We really do look out for each other; a cornerstone of our Star Island philosophy. I have full confidence that we will have an inspiring, meaningful, and much appreciated season on the island.

In this newsletter, you will find details about how we will conduct our conferences this summer. There is also updated information on our website. The many staff and volunteers who participated in countless Zoom meetings to build consensus on how to reopen safely deserve thanks and credit for their thoughtful work. And this work continues, as we monitor an evolving landscape of updated rules, requirements, and guidelines. We are committed to having a safe and meaningful summer on Star Island.

Late last year, we established a Strategic Resolution that is centered on this important historic moment. Many of you are familiar with our Beloved Community Project; a focused effort on anti-racism and what we can do to help end white supremacy culture and become a more inclusive organization and place. This will entail revisiting how we consider and celebrate the history of Star Island and the Isles of Shoals. In addition,

the unique circumstances of being an island in the Atlantic require us to look closely at the repercussions of climate change and what it means for Star, including an action plan to mitigate sea level rise. And of course we are focused on health and safety, as well as the health of our organization and our beloved island. There is much work to be done and we welcome our wider community to participate as we move forward with our Strategic Resolution.

I cannot wait to be back on Star Island, and to see many of you there. Yes, there will be some changes and adjustments to keep us all safe, but the core experience of being together, challenging ourselves, relaxing, laughing, and enjoying family, friends, and new guests promises to bring a summer to remember. Certainly it will be one we appreciate!

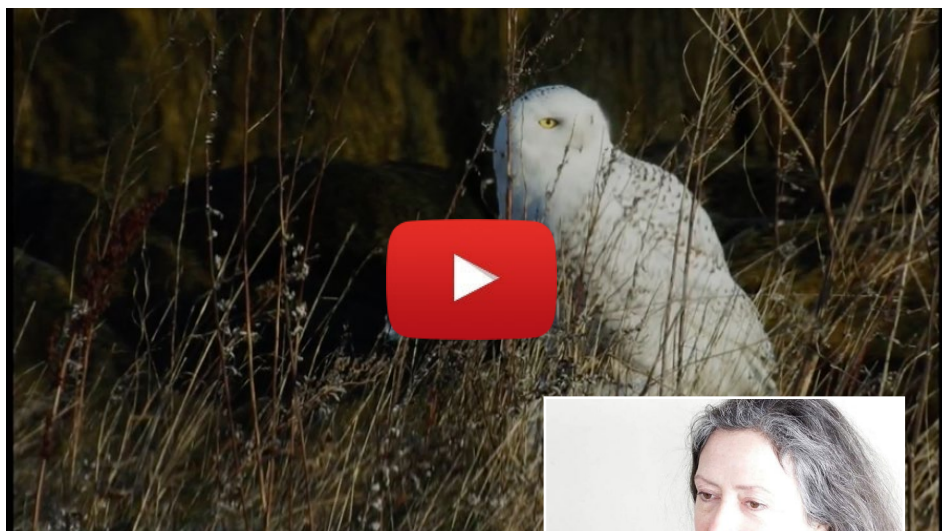
With Star Spirit,

Joe Watts
Star Island Corporation CEO



Star Island News & Events

FOR KIDS
**Star Island
Countdown
Chain!**
PAGE 7



[Click to Watch Video](#)

Starry Night Recap

Star Island's annual fall fundraiser, Starry Night, looked a little different in 2020. Our auction moved online and so did our programming. We were thrilled to have Star Island winter caretaker and artist Alexandra de Steiguer headline the event and share a stunning presentation about her life on the island during the winter months. Alex also generously answered questions during a Q&A session afterwards. Alex's presentation is available for viewing at the link above. We are deeply grateful for Alex, for both her careful watch over our Spirits' Home and her breathtaking artistic talent.



We are also pleased to share that our Starry Night auction raised over \$20,000 for the island. The auction offered works of art by many Shoalers, including paintings, quilts, and other handmade items. Interactive items included a Zoom session with CEO Joe Watts, a yoga class on Star Island, a retreat in the Poconos, and more! We even offered pickles and beans from the Pelican Garden, alongside Star Island calendula seeds and homemade vinegar.

We are so thankful for all who participated in the auction, including many generous donors and enthusiastic bidders! We are looking forward to seeing what future online auctions may bring.

RETURNING TO STAR ISLAND

What to Expect

For people who are fully vaccinated (2+ weeks after final dose):

- Masks and social distancing will not be required outdoors (but are still required indoors and while boarding/disembarking the ferry)
- COVID-19 testing prior to arrival will not be required
- Proof of vaccination will be required

For those that are not fully vaccinated (including children):

- Individuals must either be distanced 6'+ or wearing a mask when outdoors
- Proof of a recent (within 72 hours) negative COVID-19 PCR test result will be required (please reach out to our island medical team at FAS@starisland.org if you would like assistance lining up a test)

Recognizing that we are a public/congregate setting, and that there will be unvaccinated people on island this summer (e.g. children), masks will remain mandatory for everyone when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Star Island is within the waters of N'dakinna, the traditional lands and waterways of the Abenaki, Pennacook and other related Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.



Community of Care

As the anticipation and excitement of returning to our Spirits' Home grows, we are pleased to present the Star Island Community of Care Statement

The Star Island Community of Care Statement

This season may look different, but many things will remain the same. The balance of tradition and change, the friendships, the beautiful setting – and of course our community. Star Island is a **Community of Care** – one in which people look out for each other, support each other, and care about each other.

Every Shoaler has a role in keeping our community safe. By committing to follow the required rules and regulations below, Shoalers will build our Community of Care, and make our season successful. **We're all in this together!**

- Present proof of vaccination or a recent (within 72 hours) negative COVID-19 PCR test result before coming to the island
- Wear a mask and maintain social distancing [as required](#)
- Follow rules regarding dining, showers, guest rooms, and other [Island Living policies](#)
- Practice excellent hand hygiene
- Pay attention to your body and report any COVID-like symptoms to the medical staff

Anyone spending the night on Star Island age 12 and up are expected to be fully vaccinated (2+ weeks after final dose). If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our health team at FAS@starisland.org

For more information, please see our [2021 Update](#) and [FAQ page](#).

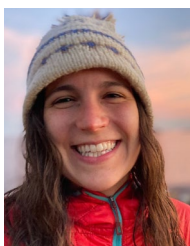
Meet the Island Nurses



Anne Henry, BSN, RN, Island Nurse, FAS Clinical Staff Member

Anne first came to Star Island as crew on a sailboat moored in Gosport Harbor in order to enjoy long walks and lime rickeys. Since then she's served as a volunteer Island Nurse and member of the Health Committee and is now on the island nearly full time. She also works for the CDC. With a background as a Registered Nurse in ambulatory care, public health, and emergency care, she is committed to keeping everyone safe

and healthy while we enjoy the island experience we've all come to love as much as possible this summer. She can still often be seen making laps around the island and drinking only a lime rickey made with Ginger Ale as that is simply the best way to make it.



Sarah Whalen, MSN, RN, Island Nurse, Community Health Coordinator

This will be Sarah's 5th season as the Island Nurse. She has been coming to Star Island since 2013 when she started as a Pelican on the Chamber Crew. She recently completed her Master's in Nursing and will be sitting for her certification exam to become a Family Nurse Practitioner in July. She is committed to the health and wellbeing of everyone who

comes to Star Island and has experience in supporting both physical and mental health. She can often be found walking her dog, Navy around the island or enjoying an ice cream cone at the snack bar!

Anne and Sarah can be reached at FAS@starisland.org

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Trade Your Partner, Do-Si-Do – Trying a New Conference

Written by Terri Behm



When I first attended a conference on Star Island, I knew no one. It was a total leap of faith after the island beckoned to me during a cruise on the Thomas Loughton. By the next summer, I was settling into my volunteer role organizing daytime activities for the all-adult Natural History Conference (NHC). When I got married a few years later, we had a second small ceremony with our Star family. We had bonded! As my husband Ken and I were planning to chair a conference on climate change, however, we also welcomed our daughter, Bella. Thus, the clock started ticking on us leaving NHC and finding a family conference to attend.

The next year was big for us. The Patriot's Day flood that spring wiped out half of our home down to the studs in Merrimack, NH. We hurried to rebuild and managed to secure the last spots in Life on a Star Conference 2, which by lucky coincidence happened to be the conference friends had suggested might be the right fit for us.

Gratitude for spending time healing at our Spirits' Home probably made us more open than usual. Our new conference family warmly welcomed us. We spent the week appreciating mornings with our

child happily interacting in the baby barn while we talked to other adults. Afternoons we took a family nap with the sounds of seagulls, fog horns, and island cacophony floating through the windows on the sea breeze. At night, we took advantage of Hall Monitoring in Oceanic and enjoyed music and the talents of others on island. We formed new traditions and friendships. We still laugh that we traded early-season Pels arriving and learning their jobs for watching the summer Pels head back to the mainland for college and late-season Pels arriving to learn their jobs.

By 2008, we were conference chairs and Bella was a busy toddler. I ran conference business while Ken ran after her. She mostly liked to run after seagulls. We had a huge new appreciation for children's programs! While we were still sad to say goodbye to our NHC friends, we eagerly anticipated the next summer at LOAS 2 and have been attending it ever since.

When I started serving on Star Island Corporation, I met lots of dedicated Old Shoalers from all the conferences. I can testify that while every conference definitely has its own special flavor, every group on island has a majority of things in common. First, every conference has a bunch of people who also love the island and usually make fun dining and porch-sitting companions. Live music, art, and great food can be found anytime people gather on Star Island. Candlelight services in the chapel are always magical. Morning singers and Polar Bearing cross all conference boundaries. Nature is explored and appreciated. History comes alive.

Each conference has at least one thing that also makes it unique—from social hour treats to cardboard boat regattas, fierce bocce tournaments, contra dances, Secret Shoalers, ghost stories, musicales, giant water slides, and specific classes! Wouldn't it be fun to come to a familiar place and experience it in a new way?

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, all conferences will run at limited capacity

this summer. As I write this, we are registered for LOAS 2 and hoping we make the lottery. If not, we're thinking of trying Star Gathering 2. I look at it like a family reunion with the side of the family you don't see as often so you get to meet all your second cousins and great uncles and aunts. Star family is still family, even if you haven't met yet.

How to Choose Something New?

- Do you normally attend a family conference? How about a different family conference? I promise you will quickly bond with other parents and grandparents as you toggle between playgrounds.
- See a theme that catches your imagination? I chose my first conference by selecting a topic that interested me.
- Are your kids going to be at sleepaway camp or visiting grandparents after pandemic separations? Maybe an adult week would be your speed this year.
- Summer all booked making up for lost 2020 adventures? Try a late-season midweek or long weekend offering in August or September.
- Want to learn something new? How about yoga, painting, music, quilting, writing, or photography (to name a few)?
- Just want to sit in a rocker to read and chill? A midweek retreat might be just the ticket.
- Have you longed to learn more about the history of the isles? Isles of Shoals Historic and Research Association (ISHRA) and New England Heritage will enthrall you.

No matter what you choose, the things you likely love about Star Island will be there waiting for you. So will your new branch of the Star family tree.



Beloved Community, Remembered

Written by Rev. Sophia Lyons

In 1914 the pacifist-centered Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR) was formed in both the US and UK in response to the outbreak of the First World War. Hundreds of Christian religious leaders from countless branches of the church gathered together to write what is now known as “The Basis,” which articulated their pledge toward building a more just and peaceful world, rooted in Universal, Radical Love. This Basis continues, to this day, to be a vitally important piece of reference for the US branch of the FoR, which is still thriving. In fact, the FoR is now known to be the largest, oldest, interfaith peace and justice organization in the United States! Further, this Fellowship has helped form, launch and strengthen peace fellowships of many faith traditions to form a network of faith-based nonviolent action organizations—the Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian Universalist Peace Fellowships are just a few of the many that continue the work of proclaiming Love, Peace, and Reconciliation as alternatives to war, hatred, and the oppression of our fellows and lands.

I must admit that I very much enjoyed

discovering the FoR and reading of its good works in the world, spanning back 100 years. Wow. My finding the Fellowship of Reconciliation was precipitated by an article I recently came across that pointed to the common misconception around Martin Luther King Jr. being the original visionary of *Beloved Community*. The term, in fact, was coined by 20th century American philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, whose philosophy anchored itself to the fundamental belief that humans’ survival was hinged upon an ethical, peaceful, community-oriented Love. This vision ultimately galvanized the Fellowship of Reconciliation, whose guiding principles were, and are, rooted in Royce’s description of this Love or *Beloved Community*. It is Royce (drum roll please) that is one of FoR’s original founders, and (another drum roll, please), it was the Fellowship of Reconciliation that threw itself behind the complicated and necessary organizing that made both the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Freedom Rides immeasurably impactful. It was ultimately the relationship that King and the FoR formed during this time that lent

to King’s stunning expansion of the term *Beloved Community*, that has captured the imagination of people all over the world...including our very own Star Island community.

And what do we mean when we say Beloved Community? Both Royce and King agreed that Beloved Community was one rooted in peace, reconciliation, redemption and love. Royce believed in *dependence* on an ethical, peaceful community. As a philosopher and theologian, he was not just talking about a personal want, but a collective, human *need*. King infused this vision with the explicit language of love, particularly Agape Love, which he defined as the “love of God operating in the human heart” ([Papers 2:127](#)). That, “At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love...When we rise to love on the agape level we love [humankind] not because we like them, not because their attitudes and ways appeal to us, but we love them because God loves them. Here we rise to the position of loving the person who does the evil deed while hating the deed that the person does” ([Papers 6:324; 325](#)). When we pool all of this together, we

find ourselves morally bound to building Beloved Community so as to give ourselves *life* and to practice loving one another as the greatest of spiritual acts.

When I consider building Beloved Community I think about my own liberation, my own joy, my own freedom *as being tethered to yours*. This is an ancient principle—that we are bound up in each other and where one suffers, we all suffer. Period. The root of my ministry always circles back to this: that the building of a spiritual community committed to practicing the principles of Beloved Community must be one where we radically welcome everyone. Everyone.

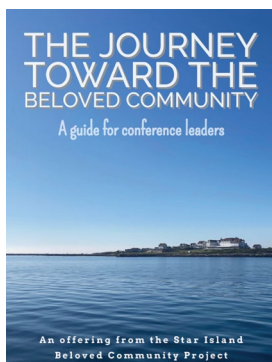
And this is really, really hard work. There has been much written about

Beloved Community being a *practice* not a destination that we arrive at; that it is impossible to build this place perfectly because the planet and its peoples still suffer. But we can practice it. We can keep trying to build it. We can always be asking ourselves how to be more radically loving and welcoming. And isn't that wonderful? Isn't it a relief to know that we will never do this perfectly, and that, indeed, it is the practice of being in Beloved Community that holds such stunning promise and healing?

Our Star Island Beloved Community Project was carefully planted in our rich soil not just when the 'project' was launched, but long before. This island has been a place where thousands upon thousands of people

have come to heal, to be loved, to love, and to belong. *To truly belong*. This is what Royce meant when he spoke of the basic human need for a loving community, and its immeasurable impact on the peace and reconciliation of the world. We all know that Star Island is a community rooted in imperfect Love. One that is here to both challenge *and* rest; amend *and* forgive; listen *and* raise voices; grieve *and* celebrate. And we will continue to do all of this together. *Together*.

As our Beloved Community Project expands, questions, wrestles, and grows, let us not forget who we are. Let us take heart. Let us keep on loving the hell out of this world (literally), failing miserably at it, and forgiving ourselves and each other. *This* is Beloved Community. Amen!



We're excited to share with you a supplement to the Program Leadership Handbook that is made available to all conference leaders. "The Journey Toward the Beloved Community: A Guide for Conference Leaders" is part of the Star Island Corporation's Strategic Resolution adopted last year to continue the work of the Beloved Community Project, further the conversation about racial injustice, and demonstrate action around anti-racism and the end of white supremacy culture in our communities.

Star Island Corporation Strategic Resolution

OUR MISSION since 1915 is to hold and maintain Star Island and such other property as the Corporation may hold or acquire, as a center for religious, educational, and kindred purposes consistent with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. (1915)

OUR VISION is to create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.

COMMUNITY

We are committed to continue the work of the Beloved Community Project, further the conversation about racial injustice, and demonstrate action around anti-racism and the end of white supremacy culture in our communities.

We will review and revise the policies, processes, organization, and structures of the Star Island Corporation to ensure that they do not present barriers to inclusion.

Through the lens of dismantling white supremacy culture, we will re-examine the history of the Isles of Shoals, the events and people that we celebrate, and our ongoing traditions.

PUBLIC HEALTH

We will develop a clear set of milestones that need to be achieved in order to reopen Star Island to the public.

We will establish additional operational protocols to ensure the safety of our communal Island environment in future years.

We will review and revise our long-range financial, facilities, and stewardship plans in light of 2020's island closure in order to achieve sustainability and enhance the vitality of our operations.

ENVIRONMENT

We will continue the work of the Green Gosport Initiative to decrease our direct and indirect reliance on fossil fuels in our operations.

We will develop an adaptation plan to address and mitigate the impact of rising sea levels and storm severity on our facilities and operations.

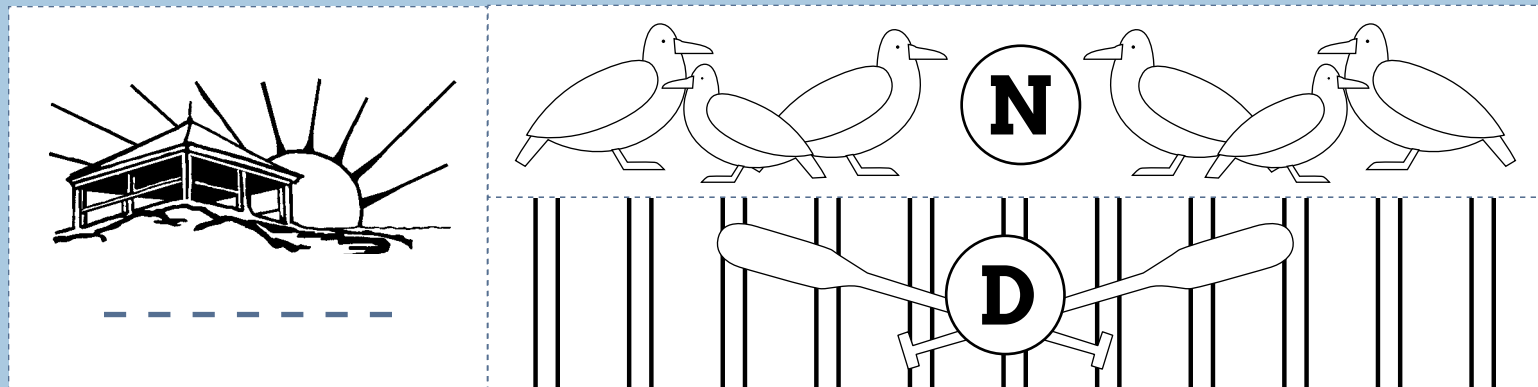
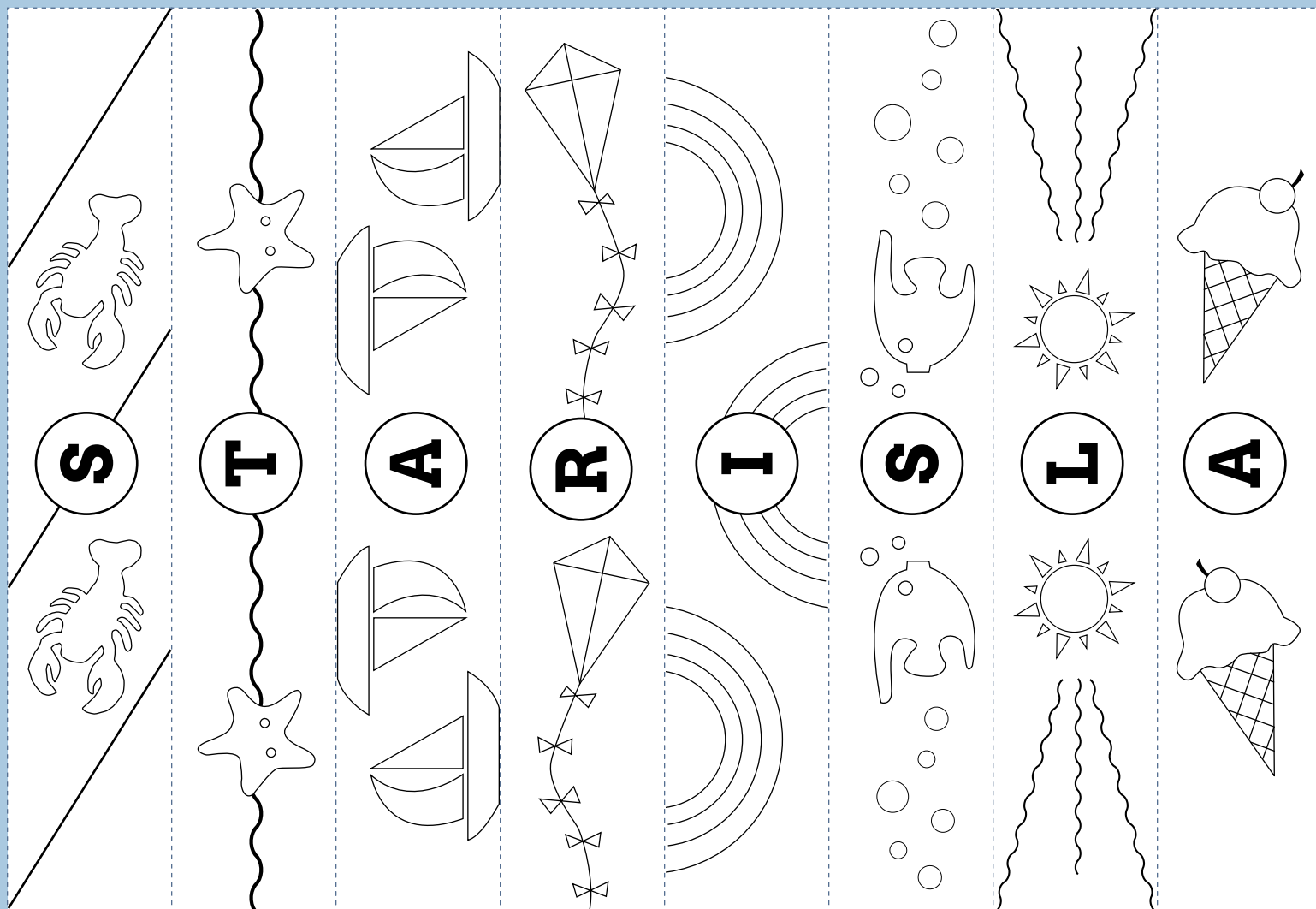
We will augment the ways in which we can serve as a resource for the Seacoast Region and beyond to learn about the issue of climate change and demonstrate practical mitigation strategies to combat its effects.

Star Island Countdown Chain

Summer will be here before you know it!

Use this 10-day countdown chain to celebrate
each day closer to visiting Star Island!

INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK



INSTRUCTIONS

- * Cut out this entire page from the booklet
- * Color in the 10 countdown strips and summer house
- * Cut each slip along the dotted line, giving you 10 strips to make loops
- * Cut out the Summer House and cut one slit along the dotted line—this is where you will insert your first chain loop.
- * Insert your first slip of paper through the slit in the summer house and tape to itself to create a link
- * Continue to loop and tape the rest of the slips until you have a STAR ISLAND 10-day countdown
- * Hang and prepare to countdown! Take one loop off each night before bed or each morning upon rising. And before you know it'll you be at the Summer House!

Parents, take photos of your kids counting down the days until their trip to Star Island and share with us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter!

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PASSAGES



Congratulations and Best Wishes

Miranda Chinman and
Emily D'Addario

Andrea Greeley and
Ty Wivell

Adam Hunnicutt and
Aliza Majewski

Amy Lipton and
Alex Henrie

Jared Lipton and
Audrey Merriam

Nicholas Wells and
Rachel Kramer

Welcome to the World

Knolls Charlie Allen-Hall

Dylan Todd Blakney

Eleanor Louise Bush

Eben Willet Witherbee Case

Miranda June Dahab

Kieran James Jowaisas

Remy Hui An Wang
Kennedy

Leo Sedovic-Peloquin

Finnley June Salb

In Loving Memory

Hazel J. Anderson

Mary Ann Armstrong

Anna Bender

Jim Bradley

Ellen Brandenburg

David Burnham

Des Desmond

Judge Hilton (Spike) Dier

Karen Ellis

Dan H. Fenn, Jr.

Tony Flaherty

Janet Forsman

Christine Gallagher

Jack Grebe

William Roy Hamilton, Jr.

Torvy Hurd

Edith Kates

Dorothy Keller

Tom Kinraide

Deb Kolbjornsen

Evie May

Ellen McAvoy

Diane McCorry

Marilyn Meardon

Peter Mercer

George Misner

Anne (Nancy) Palmer

Moses Michael
Pellegrino

Robert Pollack

Joe Quigley

Emma Lou Sailors Louis

Jackie Smith Miller

Betty Reed Spencer

John Spencer

Dana Swift

Bill Thorpe

Scott Ward

Writing A Page For The Star Island Memorial Book

Your description should give your loved one's history with a focus on how they were involved with Star Island and/or what Star Island meant to them. There is no cost but a gift in memory is always welcome. Visit www.starisland.org/donate/memorials for more information.

Please accept our apologies for any incorrect passages or omissions, and let us know about the error by calling the Star Island office at 603-430-6272.



Star Island

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www.starisland.org

We will come back!

