



SPRING 2022

# Star Island

**New Island  
Song**  
LYRICS PAGE 3

Dear Shoalers,

As I sit down to write this letter, I am filled with joy and excitement for the upcoming season on Star Island. Another summer is upon us, and there is much to look forward to: reunions with our Shoaler friends and family, the sound of the ocean from all angles, the delightful first sip of a lime rickey, and the laughter of children and adults alike. What I'm most looking forward to is the blending of traditions old and new. Over the years we have carried on important traditions and created new ones as our community has grown. This feels especially important as we embark on the 2022 season.

The vision of the Star Island Corporation 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. This vision has been central to Star Island's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, the Beloved Community Project. In this newsletter you will learn more about the Beloved Community Project, including programming planned for this summer by our new Island Minister and Beloved Community Project Manager Rev. Christana Wille McKnight. We will also share the lyrics to the new Star Island song, along with a special video. These are just a few of the steps we are taking toward creating a more inclusive environment on Star Island, and we realize there is always more work to be done. [You can learn more about the Star Island Beloved Community Project here.](#)

Meanwhile, the ongoing pandemic continues to be at the forefront of our minds. Promoting public health and protecting our island community remains a top priority. We feel confident in our efforts with the knowledge and experience we gained from last summer. Thanks to the continued hard work of many, we will once again enjoy the island and each other in a fun and meaningful way, mitigating risk as much as possible.

While a great deal of what is so special about Star Island comes from the things that have lasted through the years, there is also opportunity in new – new friendships, new traditions, new experiences. We will continue to appreciate the old, embrace the new, and learn more about ourselves and each other in the process. I look forward to seeing you soon on Star Island!!

With Star Spirit,

Joe Watts  
Star Island Corporation CEO





# New Star Island Anthem!



## “Here on Star”

In November, a team of Shoaler-songwriters embarked on a mission to create a new island anthem song. The intent for this new song was that it should capture the celebratory spirit of the retired Grand March song, as well as the voices and values of our treasured island community. In order to do this, we asked for your help.

## Why is Star Island your Spirit's Home?

Although you come from a wide range of conferences and life experiences, hundreds of you wrote back to our November survey with answers that deeply echoed each other. You wrote about morning fog and ghost stories; the chapel bell and candlelight and laughter. You wrote about acceptance and family; about feeling connected to others and to a deeper history. You wrote about children and peace.

The song “Here on Star” is the result of a true community effort that began with you. We’d like to express our gratitude to the hundreds of people who contributed to the making of this song—from those who answered the survey to those who recorded tracks or contributed videos. Our hope is that this song will allow us to forge new memories together as we march hand-in-hand across the front porch.

Warmly,

Ray Castoldi, Carla Diaz, Isaac Eddy, Kemp Harris, Wren Kitz, Justina Maji and April Rosario



Special thanks to Gary Lue for creating this video!



# Star Island Anthem Lyrics

## (Chorus)

You will come back, come back to Star  
No matter who or where you are  
Be ye near, or be ye far  
It's our Spirit's home

The Lighton brings us to the Pier  
To this spot we hold so dear  
From the porch, take in the view  
You see me and I see you  
Ancestors and future kin  
Looking out, Looking in  
It's our spirit's home  
...woo-hoo!

Be with me (with me!), I'll be with you (with you!)  
Cause here on Star that's what we do (we do!)  
Here on Star, be who you are  
It's our Spirit's home  
(Chorus)

East Rock for the rising sun  
Muskrats waddle one by one  
Softball's playing on the lawn  
Rocking chairs are rocking on  
Generations laugh and bound  
Then we hear that fog horn sound  
It's our spirits home  
...woo-hoo!

Dance with me, I'll dance with you  
Cause here on Star that's what we do  
Here on Star, be who you are  
It's our Spirit's home  
(Chorus)

Lanterns floating up the hill,  
Candlelight, and all is still,  
Quiet steps and quiet night,  
Children sleeping, all is right,  
Sing together on a star,  
Gathering is who we are,  
It's our spirit's home  
...woo-hoo!

Sing with me, I'll sing with you  
Cause here on Star that's what we do  
Here on Star, be who you are  
It's our Spirit's home  
(Chorus)





**Save the Date!**

## Star Island Gosport Regatta Sunday, September 18

### Join us for day of festivities on Star Island!

Voyage to the Isles of Shoals on the M/V Thomas Loughton as the historic race begins in Portsmouth Harbor. Watch the sailboats make their way to Gosport Harbor and enjoy lunch and live music on the island. This is a family friendly event and all are welcome!

### Hiring • End of Season

**Have you always wondered what it would be like to work on Star Island?**

**Do you know someone who would make a great Pelican however isn't available all summer?**

**Are you retired and have a few weeks available to spend on a beautiful island working as part of an incredible team of staff?**

**Do you know someone who is interested in being a full season Pel but wants a taste of the experience before signing on for the whole summer?**

End of season is a great way to get a glimpse of the amazing experience of being a Star Island Pelican.

We will be looking for applicants (18+ years of age) who can work at least a full week (preferably longer) during the period of mid-August to mid-September.

Please help spread the word! The end of season application will be available our website starting in July: <https://starisland.org/working/#seasonal>

### Board of Directors

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April Rosario

Tophers Soltys

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# Intentional Welcome

Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, *Island Minister/Beloved Community Project Manager*



When my daughter was about seven years old, she joined a gymnastics team. She had always been climbing and jumping, so after a few years of going to tumbling on Saturday mornings, I wasn't very surprised when the coaches asked if she might be interested in taking the sport more seriously. I remember I met with the coaches and had a list of questions about things I had not understood from the "packet" of information we had been given. From hair ribbons to conditioning exercises, it seemed as though there was a whole separate language I needed to learn for my seven year old to join this team! "Don't worry" the coaches assured me. "It will all make sense the more you do it. The other parents are good resources."

I stood on the sides of the bleachers for the first several practices. The other parents, whose children had been on the team longer than mine, all had their "places" on the bleachers, and no one seemed very interested in talking to the new parent or making a space for me to sit down. I would silently listen to the conversations around me, wondering how they got to know each other, and what secrets about this sport I was supposed to learn from them. It was not until a few

months into practice that a woman I had not seen before literally extended her hand to me from the bleachers. "Come and sit with me!" she offered, asking "Which child is yours on the team?" With that, I was welcomed into the society of parents, began learning about the sport, building connections and being in relationships.

I learned over the following months that the other parents at the gym had never meant to exclude me from the coveted bleacher seats; one of the other mothers even said to me with some surprise, years later "It just never occurred to me to look around the bleachers. I always felt comfortable here and figured everyone else did too." No one was trying to be unwelcoming and yet without explicitly making an effort to reach out, I felt there was no place for me among people who were eventually very welcoming, kind and supportive.

Intentionally welcoming behavior is not always intuitive. It can be hard, and involve extra thought to reach out to someone we've never met before, or to learn about a perspective that is different from the ones that we carry. And yet, one of the great gifts of being human is that as we live, we grow. We can have experiences, develop as people, and make new and different friendships. It is through relationships that we experience much of our lives, and in community that we find meaning and purpose.

This year, the Beloved Community Project on Star Island is focusing on the idea of intentional welcome as our summer theme for the year. We are offering four different program possibilities for each conference to take part in and engage with the ideas of intentional welcome. I look forward to seeing you all on the island this summer and hope as many people as possible from each conference join us in our offerings!

## Beloved Community Project

**Book/Movie Group:** Join us to reflect together on "The Hate U Give," Angie Thomas's bestselling novel about a teenage girl who grapples with racism, police brutality, and activism after witnessing her friend murdered by the police. This book has also been adapted into a movie and is written for ages 14 and up. The movie is available on-island for a conference-wide or individual screening, and the books are available in the bookstore and for lending at the front desk.

### Intentional Welcoming

**Workshop:** As human beings, it is easy to live in the patterns of who and what we are familiar with. Join us for this workshop that will help us widen our perspectives, get to know each other, and help us live into how we can be more welcoming in this world as individuals and as a community.

### Island-Wide Welcoming Initiative: Share Your Starlight

This year on Star Island we are asking everyone on the Island to join us in building Beloved Community every day. For our Share Your Starlight challenge, we want every person to talk to someone you don't know every day you are on Star Island. After you talk to someone you don't know, you get to go and put a star sticker on our Share Your Starlight board. By the end of each week, we hope our Starlight boards will be filled with as many stars as we can see in the night sky!

### Beloved Community Chapel

**Service:** I will be available to work with all conferences to offer at least one worship service throughout the week, in consultation with the conference leadership and the Minister of the Week.

I look forward to seeing you all this summer!



On May 21st, Lois Williams – All Star One conferee & celebrated Star Island Historian – celebrated her 90th birthday, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and several Shoaler friends.

At the event, Lois shared remembrances of a life spent balancing her passions with the expectations of her generation. A New Jersey “farm girl” and graduate of Cornell University – where she met her husband Peter – she at once pursued motherhood (six children!), further education (a Ph.D. earned while pregnant with the sixth child), a later-in-life career supporting public education in Baltimore, and more than 50 years of passion projects on behalf of communities she loved: Princeton, New Jersey; Potomac, Maryland; Lancaster County, Virginia; and, for nearly half a century, Star Island.

Having attended the Unitarian church in Princeton, Lois and Peter had long heard of Star and in 1975, finally found that they could afford a week at All Star Two. Introducing four of their then-five children that summer to Star’s exceptional community of friendship, intellectual

discourse, honest work, and fun, they must have sensed that future generations of their family would come to regard Star as their own “Spirit’s Home”. Their children became Pelicans (including two Pelican marriages) and over the years returned with their own families (including seven more Pels, so far).

Like most Shoalers, Lois found over the years that Star sparked her own curiosity and creativity. For her, inspiration came from the island’s rich history. In 2007, she wrote a book, *Religion at the Isles of Shoals*, that continues to be sold at the Star Island book shop. Also, in the mid-2000’s, she began a longstanding friendship and collaboration with former Board of Directors President Irene Bush: Together, they created a new brochure for Star’s Celia Thaxter Museum. From there, Lois became more involved with the museum and with Vaughn Cottage. Understanding Star’s challenges in preserving its artifact collections from the island’s fishing, hotel, and conference eras as well as its deficit in highlighting Native American history,

Lois worked with the Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee to improve collection management and preservation.

In 2016, as a result of her affinity for the museum and Star Island lore, Lois gave one of the largest gifts the SIC has ever received. In consultation with CEO Joe Watts, Lois’s gift was used not only for the museum, but also to help rebuild Brookfield and the Rutledge Marine Lab. Brookfield now displays six panels – developed in collaboration with island staff and other volunteers – detailing key facts and events about early cod fishing at the Shoals. During her early research, Lois had learned that the fish products of New England were the third-most valuable export from the American British colonies on the eve of the Revolutionary War, behind West Indies sugar and rum and Virginia and Maryland tobacco.

In Lois’s 46th summer at Star, we celebrate her curiosity, generosity, and lifetime of achievements, and wish her a very happy birthday.

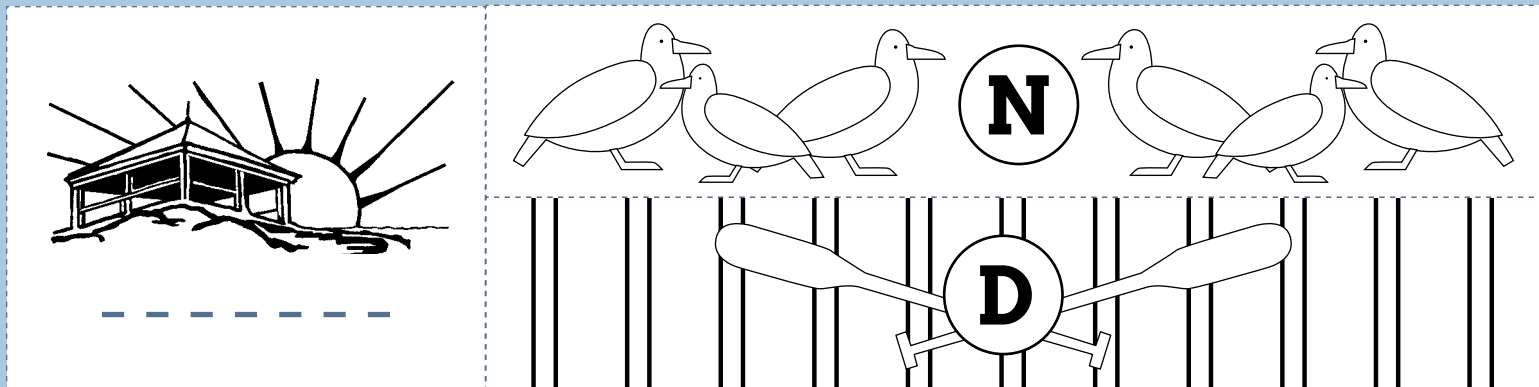
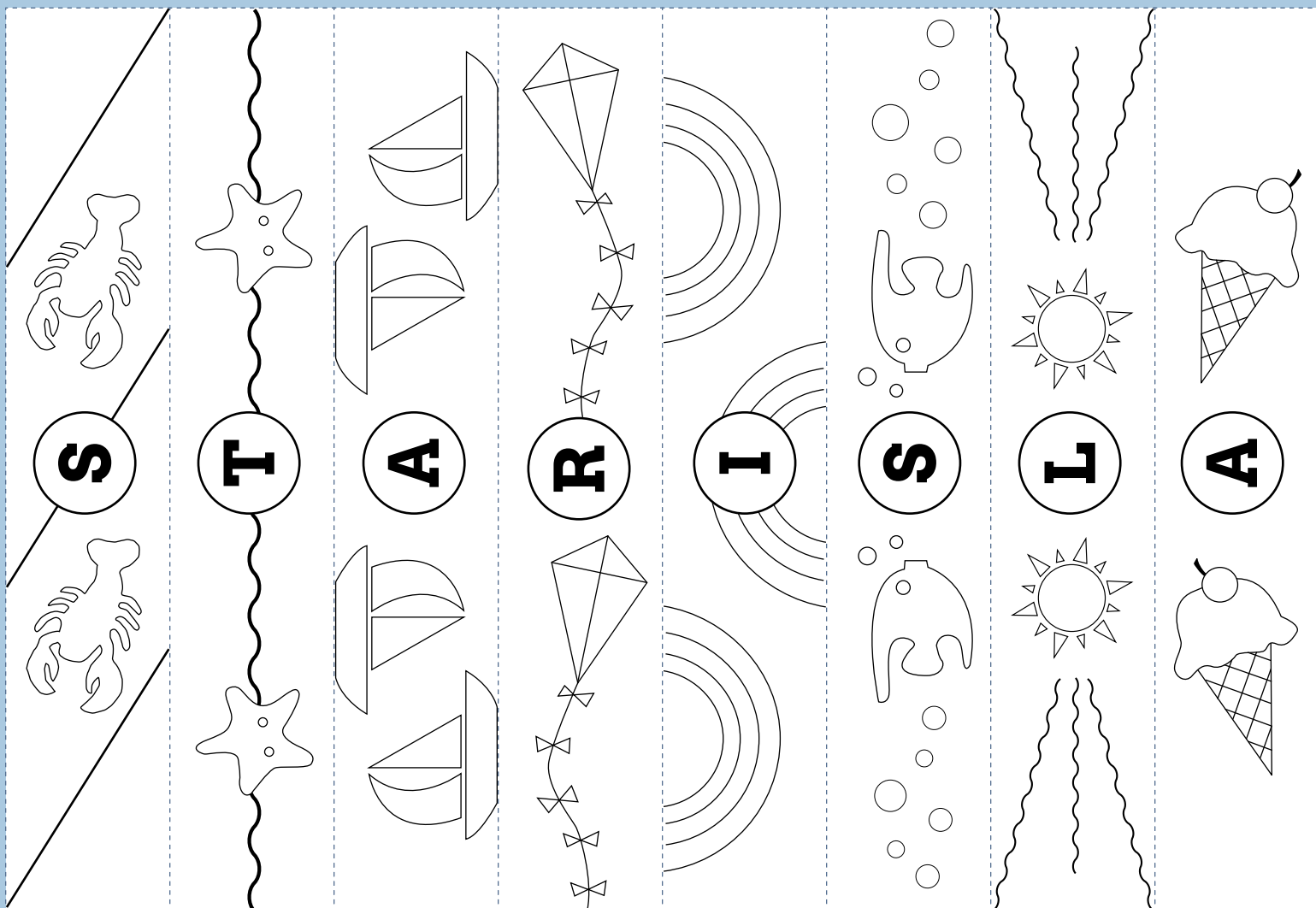


# Star Island Countdown Chain

**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**

Becky Cressy and  
Mike Alvarez

Marshall Frye and  
Kara Simard

Julia Hill and  
Dave McAndrew

Natael Kapuscinski and  
Bryan Acker

Jennifer Murray and  
Ryan Mazur

Arlyn Weeks and  
Forrest Foreman

Lisa Weinert and  
Barry Sutton

Lia Yanis and  
Chris Tourloulakis

## **Welcome to the World**

Erin Leigh Allshouse

Gael Jura Williams Eddy

Peyton Alexandra Henrie

Jonathan Louis Junkin

Cayden Guintu McAnall

Marley Jade O'Keefe

Raegan Gray Salb

## **In Loving Memory**

Anthony (Tony) Barrand

Anita Bierman

Sandra F. Blum

James Carter

John Coe

Rev. M. Sargent "Des"  
Desmond

Ellie Duhamel

Polly Dunn

Sally Easter

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Dick LeSchack

Rev. John Marsh

Rob Meier

Eileen Pratti

Don Schmitz

Gillian Strahlendorf

## **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](http://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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