

It is an exciting time at Star Island. Many of us in the Star Island community have been reflecting on what it means to be in community together. Star is a place that strives to be all-encompassing: welcoming people from many backgrounds, identities, and different lived experiences.

This season, we are welcoming people who are coming for the very first time and folks who have been part of their conferences and the wider Star Island community for decades. And while we come from many different places and stages, we have shared values together on Star Island.

This year, we are excited to be holding up kindness as an island-wide theme. In this time, when our world has been experiencing crisis, we believe we all need kindness more than ever. At Star Island, we have the gift of being able to help create and model a world that is in line with our values as a Beloved Community.

We are excited to welcome you to the island this summer! There are so many things to look forward to... the sound of the foghorn and the bell buoy, the sparkle in a child's eye, and the sip of a lime rickey.

These things represent just a few of the many seemingly small yet truly extraordinary reasons why Star means so much to so many of us - but ultimately what brings us back year after year is the community we build. The connections we create and nurture. We are all in this together – building on old relationships and developing new ones, creating a community of kindness, and belonging for all.

With Star Spirit,

Joe Watts
Star Island Corporation CEO



Cottage E & Manager's Cottage

This year, our capital project plans include restoration of these two cottages. For each building, we will focus on siding (and sheathing, as needed), trim, windows, painting, etc. – essentially, we properly "button up" each building with long-term preservation in mind.

Fire Detection System Upgrade

This fall, we are planning on installing a new fire panel behind the front desk. This installation will serve as a primary component of the next generation fire detection system we will be phasing in over the next few seasons. The new fire panel will be compatible with our existing fire detectors, which enables us to install new detectors in a methodical way over time.

Star Island's Landscape

One of the amazing features of Star Island is its landscape. We recently launched an effort to develop a landscape management plan for the island. There is a lot to consider - native plants/plant communities, pollinators and migratory birds, aesthetics, invasive plan management, resiliency related to flooding, and more. The results of a separate (already underway) vegetation fire risk assessment effort will be folded into our landscape management plan.

We have drafted a strategic plan, and we are in the process of receiving input from stakeholders. A strategic plan is, essentially, a roadmap of where we want to be heading over the next several years. We are excited to hear from a wider circle of Shoalers this time around, so please keep an eye out on the island this summer, as we hope to hear from you before the plan is formally adopted this fall.

Governance Review

We are in the midst of a governance review, examining our current processes against the backdrop of best practices in nonprofit governance, and studying what systems we want to preserve and what system enhancements or changes we want to adopt, especially with regard to our commitment to move towards a more diverse and equitable environment on Star. Our Governance Task Force is gathering input from a variety of internal and external sources and expects to finalize its recommendations next year.

Cottage Boardwalk & Railing

The entire boardwalk from Cottage A to Cottage C will be rebuilt this year, and we will install the same railing system we have on the front porch of the hotel. We are grateful to the McIninch Foundation for awarding Star Island a \$25,000 grant for this important accessibility project, which covers roughly a quarter of the project budget.

Breakwater Project

We are excited for this once in a lifetime project! Every 50+ years or so, the United States Army Corps of Engineers undertakes a significant repair/rebuilding of the breakwaters that help form Gosport Harbor (see page 11 for more). Over the course of this year and possibly next, the breakwaters will once again be repaired, helping to protect Gosport Harbor and the Shoals for decades to come. We are looking forward to hosting the breakwater contractors this summer (rumor has it, we may even have RVs on the island!) to help facilitate project efficiency and, possibly, to engage them to work on some island projects, such as road improvements. Stay tuned for more information as we have it!

Underworld Renovations

The "Underworld" is located beneath the first floor of the Oceanic Hotel, and contains the showers, laundry facilities, employee dining hall and community spaces, offices, and more. We are planning improvements for this important yet not widely known space - among other things, we will improve fire safety, provide quality facilities for our employees to eat and congregate, and reorganize our laundry operations in a more efficient way. This is a major, multi-year project – stay tuned for more, including ways that you can pitch in to help!



Night, our speaker, author, and former Pelican Isaac Fitzgerald shared with us a story about how his life was changed. During his first season working on the island, he attempted to achieve the traditional feat of "Jedi Waitrae" -- clearing all dishes from both of his tables on two trays. However, he decided to add a challenge to this already near-impossible feat by carrying both of those trays at once -one on each shoulder. Inevitably, he found himself standing among the dishes, all of them broken on the floor, as the Island Manager, Paul Jennings approached. As a young person, he was afraid that this would be the end of his time on Star Island. Rather than fire him. Paul let Isaac know that while he had made a grave mistake in trying to carry too many things at once, we all make mistakes and he could learn from them. Isaac shared that this kindness extended to him impacted his life in ways he could never have anticipated.

We never know how our words or actions might change someone's life forever. I think it happens more than we realize, and often more than we remember. Right now, we are in the process of healing a broken world.

This summer on Star Island, we can, as our vision calls us to, be a model of the world "as it might ideally be" while engaging with an island-wide theme of kindness.

To be kind requires a strength that does not always come easily. One of my role models in how to live with kindness is the 14th Dalai Lama, the leader of the exiled Tibetan Buddhist community who was forced to leave his country many decades ago. The Dalai Lama has faced political and personal challenges many of us cannot imagine, and yet he continually returns to the idea that to be kind is the way forward for our world, individually and together.

He wrote in his book "A Policy of Kindness" that "When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace. And there are ways in which we can consciously work to develop feelings of love and kindness."

We hope that everyone who visits the island this season will find opportunities to help one another, forgive, and extend kindness to each other. This summer, we are excited to journey together as a Star Island community to remember the impact we can have on each other, and to lean into the difference than kindness can make in the world.



We couldn't be more excited to welcome the following folks to the Star Staff!



Assistant Conference Center Director, **Michele Carreiro** brings years of experience working with non-profit organizations and performing arts centers across the country. She looks forward to island life, and to working together with the staff to ensure every Shoaler has a meaningful and enjoyable experience with us this summer. Michele is thrilled to have the opportunity to put her experience to work for Star Island, a place close to her heart!

Development Manager, Laurie Contrino is a passionate, results-driven, creative professional with years of nonprofit experience. She'll utilize her diverse skills to positively impact Star, become a meaningful part of driving the mission, and authentically connect with the community. To say she is looking forward to living and working on Star Island this summer would be an understatement! Please be sure to say hello on the island - she can't wait to meet you.





Communications & Program Manager, Chelsea Haskell grew up in Vermont and fell in love with Star Island during the first sunrise she saw on a creative retreat with the former non-profit she worked for. Chelsea is an avid sailor that raced in the Gosport Regatta and recently moved back to the Seacoast from the mountains of Park City, Utah. She is very excited to be part of the team!

Executive Chef, **Seth House** grew up attending the LOAS conferences and spent many summers working as a Pelican. He found his creative passion cooking at restaurants in the Seacoast region and brings with him years of food service experience and a deep love for Star. Seth is immensely excited to bring his culinary knowledge to the island and looks forward to overseeing the creation of delicious meals for so many wonderful folks this summer.





Island Registrar, Bill Knox has been a conferee at All Star 2 for many years, including chairing with his wife Margot in 2017 and serving as Conference Treasurer since 2018. He was also an End of Season Pelican last summer - you may remember him wearing his iconic bowtie working behind the front desk. Bill is incredibly excited to be taking on this new relationship with Star Island, and he's looking forward to working with you all!

Assistant Island Engineer/Administrator, **Sabine Michaud** found Star Island through the YES Conference, and has continued to work for the island for many summers. Sabine has worked in various positions for the island, including on the crew of sixteen during the pandemic closure of 2020 and as Conference Services Supervisor. She understands how important the island is, and is passionate about maintaining it so that folks can continue to grow bonds for a long time.





Island Dog, **Phoebe Dog Simard** is 6 months old, part beagle and part . . . it's anyone's guess! She has been working hard in the office this winter, where she loves to wiggle all over when greeting new friends and giving kisses. Phoebe's heard great things about Star Island and is excited to be a first year puppy Pelican! Look for her peeking out of Doctor's Cottage or behind-the-scenes in sustainability areas where her person, Kristen Simard, works.



THE ANNUAL FUND

supports every aspect of the Star Island Experience!

You make it possible!

We are grateful for supporters like you, who recognize Star Island as a special and important place and choose to make the Island a philanthropic priority.

Through your generosity, you act as a steward of our Spirit's Home, helping to fulfill our mission to hold and maintain Star Island for future generations.

THANK YOU.

Ways to give:

ONLINE starisland.org/donate



BY MAIL

Star Island Corporation Morton-Benedict House 30 Middle Street Portsmouth, NH 03801

Kids Corner

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Draw a line from each waste item to the correct receptacle.





Plastic bottle



Diaper



Snack wrapper



Banana peel



Napkin



Cardboard box



LANDFILL



COMPOST



RECYCLING



Di Di

acswindas

Isles of Shoals (Islands)

Directions: Unscramble the letters to make a word. Don't forget that proper nouns need capital letters.





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syeeav	
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Maine Islands:

eaprp	olde
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radec	
uoeys	nsmtt



Each week on Star Island has particular qualities that come to life once people step onto the pier and make their way up to the Oceanic. And each week on Star Island also has a particular focus that becomes energized upon this arrival. While people might come to know a particular week or two quite well, the breadth of programming offered each summer is astounding. With overall themes related to arts, history, religion, science, and personal growth, it's important to dig a little deeper into each conference to learn what they will focus on this summer. Here are a few conferences we are looking forward to:

Life on a Star 2 is a family conference (families and individuals welcome) that is looking at the stories we tell about ourselves. Building from an understanding that our communities are formed and defined by stories, rituals, and monuments, Life on a Star 2 will bring people together to discuss the culture we receive from those before us, and the culture we recreate responsibly. Life on a Star 2 takes place **August 20 - 27**.

Star Gathering 1 and **Star Gathering 2** are also both family conferences (families and individuals welcome). Star Gathering 1 will focus on the theme "To Be Loved We Must Be Known." Star Gathering 2 will focus on the theme "Joy on the Rocks: Resiliency, Resistance, and Beauty on Star Island and in Our Lives." Community building runs deep at each conference. Star Gathering 1 takes place **July 30 - August 6** and Star Gathering 2 takes place **August 6 - August 13**.

Natural History Week invites Jennifer Seavey, Ph.D., to help uncover the fascinating ecological secrets of the Isles of Shoals. Seavey is the Kingsbury Executive Director of the Shoals Marine Laboratory located on Appledore Island, a short boat ride from Star. Between Seavey's opening and closing lectures, "guest" scientists from the Shoals Marine Laboratory will highlight their specific research including how they collect data and what their findings are helping people understand about our changing climate. Natural History Week takes place **June 18 - 25**.

Building Bridges is an all-ages, light-hearted, and inclusive conference grounded in Unitarian Universalist values (families and individuals welcome). This gathering celebrates diversity, freedom of exploration, and a sense of wonder with an overarching goal of creating and strengthening connections between the people who attend. Morning programming for adults includes two workshops: one on spiritual practices, and one on Unitarian Universalist history. Building Bridges takes place **July 16 - 23**.

Youth Empowerment and Spirituality is a youth and young-adult conference for anyone age 16 to 22. The goals of YES are simple: help people empower themselves, grow together, make lasting connections within the community, and explore spirituality in our own ways. This week is full of activities, theme dinners, late night talks, and good vibes. Youth Empowerment and Spirituality takes place **August 6-13**.

The summer is full of options at Star Island, and you are encouraged to discover what each conference emphasizes during their week by visiting starisland.org/programs.



Many of us are familiar with the Tucke Monument, which is the largest gravestone in New Hampshire and was erected on Star Island in 1914. Rev. Tucke was on Star Island from 1732 to 1773, and served in many capacities there; as the minister, judge, educator and physician. The gravestone of Rev. Tucke tells us that he had many virtues, including being just and a careful physician to both the bodies and souls of his people.

Rev. Tucke may have been all of these things, but he was also a person who lived a time when structural injustice and racial oppression were built into the systems and structures of society, and he actively participated in that injustice by enslaving people in his household.

To our knowledge, Rev. Tucke enslaved two people; a woman by the name of Candace and her daughter Dinah. Dinah was twelve years old at the time of Rev. Tucke's death, and was listed in his probate paperwork as one of his possessions.

This summer, we are putting up an educational panel near Rev. Tucke's memorial to share some of the story of Candace and Dinah. If you are interested in learning more about the context of some of our memorials, and the complex and multi-layered history we have on Star Island, be sure to attend the Beloved Community Project workshop that will be offered this year at every conference.



Homelands is an augmented reality application which brings Abenaki lifeways of the past, present, and future into the world around you.

When the Abenaki Wisdom
Curl appears, tap on it for
additional information about
the illustrations you
encounter!



This educational resource is brought to you by the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People, Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective, Film Unbound, and the UNH Center for the Humanities.



The project is funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and generous donations from individuals.



Our current partner sites include Odiorne Point State Park and Seacoast Science Center, Strawbery Banke Museum, and the Star Island Corporation.

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Homelands launched in March 2023, and is available for free on the App Store and Google Play.



Walk around to find illustrations of Abenaki lifeways. When illustrations appear in the distance, move closer to see more detail.

Naturalist Corner

Each day on Star promises some surprise, some insight, some little bit of magic that wasn't there before. In fact, last year the Assistant Naturalist Rhys Mahoney was nearly eaten alive?!

The day was mundane, then Rhys took a moon snail out of the touch tank to show some children. To his surprise the snail wrapped itself around his hand and began licking it with its radula, the saw-toothed tongue that drills through clam shells. Rhys could feel the circular movement on his hand, sawing away, but his attacker was a snail so he knew he had plenty of time. He replaced it in the touch tank and described snail feeding behavior to the kids. Such perilous adventures await your children every day on Star.

Unscripted youth programming is our heart and soul. The spontaneous interactions, the eye-opening encounters, learning how to explore and navigate a new world with others – these memorable experiences are why we continue this work. The whole island is our lab and the Marine Lab is our base camp.

Many conferees warm their souls over the winter with thoughts of Star. The Rutledge Marine Lab Committee members consult regularly to consider how to improve our operation, expand our vision, and find ways to put that magic into the mix. Here's how the committee members (drawn from former naturalists, volunteers, and those with an interest in our mission) spend their off-season. This winter, Gabrielle is preparing scavenger hunts for groups inside the lab, within the perimeter road, and across the island. Christine is writing a bird book (send bird photos to botanychristine448@ gmail.com), and Gillian is getting us a little bit closer to her dream of renewing Al Doolittle's astronomy legacy on Star. Long-time, long-time volunteers Christine and Emily have spent long hours updating the Marine Lab operations manual and natural history guides for visitors. Our newest member, Kathy, has jumped in to offer curriculum development ideas. Our Committee Chair Heidi guides our work.

Our 2022 RML Naturalist Aravis Albert and Assistant Rhys Mahoney had the opportunity to test out our updated water system and its adaptability to warming waters. We are lucky that they will both be returning in 2023! This spring, they are both thinking about plans for the summer. They will be monitoring temperatures at the dock and in various tanks to better understand the dynamics between flow rate and temperatures for both seawater and air. Aravis—who also works at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH—is recruiting and coordinating volunteers to work with visitors to the lab. Volunteer activities could range from weeklong staffing of the Marine Lab to sharing one's expertise and interest in a talk, walk, or workshop. Contact her at marinelab@ starisland.org (and conference chairs interested in a little something extra should check in with her as well).

Last summer, many kids handled their first snake, ate seaweed they picked, caught crabs, found new things they'd never seen, and scrambled over rocks to explore the tidepools. They made art from plants they collected, learned bird language and acted it out, and absorbed just a bit more about their surroundings. We can't wait to see you for new adventures on the island in 2023!

By Arthur Eves, RML Committee Member and former Island Naturalist







Solar Mary to the control of the con

THE COURSE.

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This great work has been built, under contract with the Government, by Thomas Haven and Jonathan Foliam. The workmen were employed upon it from July 5 to Oct. 13, 1392, and from April 25 to Oct. 18, 1892. The sum appropriated by Congress for its erection is \$11.500.

Feelino is \$11,000.

The bay, which is now formed between Smutty-Nose, Cedar, had Star laked, will afford a safe barboor for ressels bound to this port, when a northerly mind and who like prevent them from entering the river. The wall makes sufe anchorage also for small craft whenever the wind is from Shirth Past to North, and projects the boats on Star island beach in any casterly storm.

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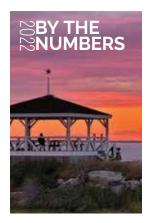


Safe Harbor Through the Centuries

In 1823, the first breakwater was built on the Isles of Shoals. Reprinted here, we can see some similarities that ring through the years, including that the breakwater will create "a bay, which is now formed between Smutty-Nose, Cedar and Star Islands, will afford safe harbor for vessels bound to this port." The work on the breakwater, then as now, was undertaken by the federal government through an appropriation by Congress.

Contextually, we can remember that in 1823 the Civil War had not yet happened, the average life expectancy was under 50 years old, and electricity little more than a scientific theory. When the initial breakwater was created, it was built from rocks found on the area islands, carted to the necessary parts of the Shoals by horse-drawn carriage. In 2023, the rocks and equipment will be coming over on barges from the mainland and be placed using gas-powered construction machinery.

We are blessed as members of the Star Island community to be stewards of an island out at sea that has endured through the decades. Though the breakwater repair is not being done at our initiative, we are glad to be able to support this necessary work that protects not only Gosport Harbor and the boats we all depend on to bring us to Star, but Star Island itself and the Isles of Shoals as a whole.



2.5
Tons of compostable cups/utensils

114
Pelican Guests

4.25 Tons of cardboard composted

Combinations
of Pelican
siblings
working
on island

B Dogs living on the island

1,322 Lobsters

New board members

Tons of food waste

127
Personal

retreaters

Alex & Brad's winters as island caretakers

260
Trips to island on the Shining Star workboat

150 yds of construction debris

1,106
Individual Annual
Fund donors

15 New corporation members

486
New conferees/
New Shoalers!

133 Pels on Island

Tons of paper towels composted

4.3 %

Surpassed the Annual Fund goal

81 %

Expansion of our Financial Aid/Grant Program

4,268
Cookies baked

3,366 Conferees 17,047
Bed nights

22,919

Gallons of water made by reverse osmosis Gallons of water delivered by the Laighton

305,708
Gallons of drinking water used

Anniversary for CEO Joe Watts

682 Gallons of ice cream



Work with us in August and September

Seeking applicants who can work for a week or more. Help spread the word!



Staff

Brenda Bladen, First Aid Station Coordinator

Kate Brady, Office Manager

Nick Bresinsky, Head Painter

John Bynum, Island Manager

Michele Carreiro, Asst. Conf. Center Director

Laurie Contrino, Development Manager

Hope Coolidge, Chief Financial Officer

Josselyn Donahue, First Aid Station Coordinator

Tim Dullea, IT Manager

Kelly Dwyer, Finance Coordinator

Dilly Etter, Food Service Coordinator

Lindsey Greene, Administrative Assistant

Chelsea Haskell, Communications & Programs

Seth House, Executive Chef

Dr. Ruth James, First Aid Station Director

Candi Kane, Logistics Manager

Don Kirlis, Island Engineer

Bill Knox, Island Registrar

Dan Linskey, Head Carpenter

Justina Maji, Conference Center Director

Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, Island Minister

& Beloved Community Project Manager

Sabine Michaud, Asst. Island Engineer

Kristen Simard, Environmental & Facilities

Operations Manager

Joe Watts, Chief Executive Officer

can work during LOAS 2

Perfect if you are

on a gap year, between jobs, retired or looking for adventure!

Board of Directors

Joni Abbadessa, *Treasurer* Kyle Belmont

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Cary Cuiccio, President SIUCC

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Rev. Debbie Duval. President

Liz Erickson

Lucia Green-Weiskel

Tom Kennedy, Vice President

Sabine Michaud, Pelican Liaison

Caroline Quijada

April Rosario

Topher Soltys

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

Passages

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.

In Loving Memory

Lois Ames Sheila Barrows Lois (Wright) Brown Ruth Bruns Ron Buck Rev. David J. Dean Connie Dunn Alan Finkelstein Caroline French Margaret Grometstein Raymond Hallows Jr. Aaron Hamburger Jean Hay John Barrett Heiser Heather MacPhee John Main Betsy Gimpel Mena John Nash Max Patton Norman Richardson Roy Shoults Tom Walton Mollie Whitaker Conrad Yanis Rev. Dr. Samuel Young

Thomas Zingale

Welcome to the World

Zachary Anderson
Evie Barnes
Warren Benedict Frye
Oliver Scott Henderson
Hazel Estelle Howell
Castin Hunnicutt
Malcolm Wang Kennedy
Gaililee Mariah Krasner
Sylvie Bea Lyon
Harriet McCarran
Leonidas Rasor-Carney
Milo Sedovic-Peloquin

Congratulations & Best Wishes Carol Carofiglio &

Cynthia Flynn & Wilmer Rivera Stephanie Katz & Jeremy Parker Jane Leff & Randy Becker

Ellie Alpern

Arlyn Weeks & Forrest Foreman

Star Island Beatitudes

Blessed are the Pelicans Blessed are the Shoalers

Blessed are those who plunge at dawn Blessed are those who sleep in

Blessed are those who climb out on the rocks Blessed are those who knit and read on the porch

Blessed are the sunny days for swimming Blessed are the cloudy days for making art

Blessed are those who come to learn Blessed are those who come to unlearn

Blessed are the musicians Blessed are the listeners

Blessed are those who carry lanterns nightly to the chapel Blessed are those who worship in their own ways

Blessed are those who host social hour Blessed are those who make social hour worth hosting

Blessed are those who have fruit for dessert Blessed are those who opt for the compost cookie

