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## QE2 brought back to life off the coast of Dubai

After more than 10 years on the sidelines, the *Queen Elizabeth 2* finally reemerged to the public last month at her new home in Dubai. Her cruising days long over, she will serve as a floating luxury hotel off the coast of the Middle East country, something that many were starting to believe would never happen.

Cunard sold the ship to Dubai World for about \$100 million in 2007, and the ship received a grand welcome when she pulled in to Port Rashid the following year. However, the world economic crisis took its toll on her new owners, who were forced to delay their plans. Years went by, and some believed she was destined to be sold again, perhaps this time to the breakers.

But then a post appeared on the liner's Facebook page in mid-April announcing the soft opening of the new hotel, and soon stories were popping up in media outlets across the world. Although the initial plan was to gut the vessel, the owners ultimately decided to restore the ship at a cost of more than \$100 million.

So far, seven of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*'s 13 decks are under operation, with 224 cabins available. The Dubai government hopes to push that number to 600-800 rooms before the year is over, ranging from a \$150 a night to \$15,000 a night for the *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Mary* suites.

The vessel has had a storied career. She traveled more than 6 million miles, carried 2.5 million passengers and crossed the Atlantic more than 800 times. She joins her Cunard ancestor, the *Queen Mary*, and the former Holland America ship *Rotterdam* as one of the few classic liners to cross over to a new use after retirement.

## The spring issue of *PowerShips* has landed!

Issue #305 of *PowerShips* features articles on "Mini Liners" of the 1930s, Alcoa's Combination Liners, the ferry *Binghamton*, the Australian steam vessel *Preana*, Ship Research Part 3, and more. Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

## What you're missing on social media!

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.

For more information, visit [www.qe2.com](http://www.qe2.com).

(Photo: [www.qe2.com](http://www.qe2.com).)

## Three SSHSA award winners net \$500k in national maritime grants

The Maritime Administration announced more than \$2.6 million in grants last week, including more than \$500,000 to three SSHSA Ships of the Year.

The Liberty Ship ***John W. Brown*** (2007) and the ***Virginia V*** (1995) each received \$200,000 in funding, while our most recent Ship of the Year, the ***Columbia*** (2017), received just over \$100,000.

The National Maritime Heritage Program grant awards are made possible through a partnership between the Maritime Administration and the National Park Service, and are funded by the recycling of vessels from MARAD's National Defense Reserve Fleet.

"From exploration, to industry, and military conflict, these grant projects tell the story of our nation's history through a maritime lens," National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith said. "Through a collaborative effort, the National Park Service is dedicated to conserving these treasures and enhancing public awareness of our maritime heritage."

"Since 2014, MARAD has provided more than \$7 million in funding to support our nation's maritime heritage projects," said Maritime Administrator Mark H. Buzby. "These ships, lighthouses and other strategic maritime vessels have played an integral role in our nation's success at sea. By preserving these maritime artifacts, we hope to inspire future generations with America's maritime legacy."

Located in Seattle, Washington, the Virginia V Foundation will use its portion of the matching grant funds to reframe the stern of the historic ship, while Project Liberty Ship will preserve the hull and underwater portions of the *John W. Brown*. The SS *Columbia* Project's funding will be used to stabilize and preserve the former Bob-Lo boat.

Some other notable ship history projects include:

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## Tell us what you think about ShipHistory.org

STEAMing Into The Future is in it's final stages of testing!

Our new educational website ([www.shiphistory.org](http://www.shiphistory.org)) will officially be live on National Maritime Day, May 22, 2018. After collecting survey responses from teachers, we would like to open it up to the general public for your thoughts, comments, and suggestions.

Please consider taking time to review our education program and [click here to give us your feedback](#) in this brief 8-question survey. We appreciate all of your help!

## Canada to offer apology for turning

- **The Maritime Museum Association of San Diego**, \$49,993 to ensure the long-term stability of the sailing ship *Star of India*.
- **San Francisco Maritime National Park Association**, \$174,945 for Phase II of the USS *Pampanito* World War II submarine Preservation Project.
- **Mystic Seaport Museum**, \$103,703 for the 1921 Fishing Schooner *L.A. Dunton* Documentation and Survey Project.
- **Destroyer Escort Historical Museum**, \$200,000 for the shipyard repair of the USS *Slater* mast and hull.
- **City of Alexandria**, \$97,117 for the conservation of Alexandria's 18th-century Wooden Ship.

The National Park Service will administer these projects as direct grants to state historic preservation offices, which will disburse funds to applicants. [Click here for a full list of National Maritime Heritage grant recipients.](#)

## Officials celebrate launch of latest Navy ship

The Navy christened its newest Independence-variant littoral combat ship (LCS) earlier this month during a ceremony in Mobile, Alabama. The future USS *Cincinnati* (LCS 20) is the fifth U.S. Navy ship to honor Ohio's third largest city.

"The future USS *Cincinnati* is a symbol of the strong connection between the people of Cincinnati and the Navy and Marine Corps team," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "The ship serves as a testament to our commitment to growing the Fleet and our partnership with industry and the American public."

The principal speaker was Cincinnati Councilmember David Mann, also a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio. Former Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker served as the ship's sponsor.

An LCS is a modular, reconfigurable ship designed for near shore operations. Using an open architecture design, the ship can easily be reconfigured for different roles, including anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, anti-surface warfare intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and more. The USS *Cincinnati* is approximately 418

## away MS *St. Louis* during WW II

Nearly 80 years after a boatload of Jewish refugees were turned away from North America as they tried to flee the Holocaust, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that he will deliver a formal apology to survivors and their families in the House of Commons.

Captained by Gustav Schröder, the MS *St. Louis* was carrying more than 900 German Jews seeking asylum from the horrors taking place in Europe during World War II. The refugees were turned away by Cuba and the United States before heading to Canada, which relied on a “none is too many” immigration policy to send the ship back to Europe, ultimately resulting in the deaths of 254 of the passengers.

“An apology in the House of Commons will not rewrite this shameful chapter of our history,” Trudeau said in a statement. “It will not bring back those who perished or repair the lives shattered by tragedy. But it is our collective responsibility to acknowledge this difficult truth, learn from this story, and continue to fight against anti-Semitism every day, as we give meaning to the solemn vow: ‘Never again.’”

Canada’s apology follows one made by the U.S. State Department six years ago that included 14 survivors of the incident. Cordell Hull, secretary of state in 1939, advised President Franklin Roosevelt not to accept the Jews and ordered U.S. Coast Guard vessels to follow the *St. Louis* and prevent it from landing off the coast of Florida.

Built by the Hamburg-America Line in 1928, the *St. Louis* was a diesel-powered ship that regularly sailed the

feet long and 104 feet wide. She was built under a \$4.5 billion contract with Austral USA that includes 15 littoral combat ships.

The previous four ships named *Cincinnati* each had a colorful history while serving the country. The first ship under that name was a stern-wheel casemate gunboat that served during the Civil War and was sunk by Confederate fire on two separate occasions. Raised both times and returned to service, she was decommissioned following the war.

The second *Cincinnati*, a cruiser commissioned in 1894, served extensively in the Caribbean before, during, and after the Spanish-American War before being decommissioned in 1919. The next in line was a light cruiser commissioned in 1924 that served around the world and earned a battle star for World War II service that included convoy escort and blockade duty. She was decommissioned in 1945 after the war ended. The most recent *Cincinnati* was a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine commissioned in 1978. The boat served for 17 years before being decommissioned in 1995.

(Photo: Sister ship USS *Independence* (LCS 2) at sea.)

## Cunard plans on-board celebrations for royal wedding

Planned your latest cruise before the date was set for the upcoming royal wedding? Cunard has you covered.

The luxury cruise line recently announced that it will have exclusive celebrations on board *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth* on May 19 in honor of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s nuptials. Anyone on board one of the “Three Queens” during this momentous occasion will have plenty of chances to celebrate, including a screening of the ceremony; Royal Wedding Afternoon Tea with specially created cakes, traditional finger sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and jams; celebration cocktails; a commemorative dinner and keepsake menu in the main dining rooms on board; and a celebration cake modeled after the one that the Prince and Princess-to-be will share.

Passengers on all three ships will have the opportunity to toast the happy couple from all over the world. Guests on the *Queen Mary 2* will be headed towards the UK as they celebrate the royal wedding, while guests on the *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria* will be in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Portree, Scotland, respectively.

trans-Atlantic route from Hamburg to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and New York before the war. While on board, the refugees were treated well at Schröder's insistence. Dances and concerts were conducted, religious services were held in the dining room, and swimming lessons took place in the on-deck pool.

Upon returning to Europe, the *St. Louis* was adapted as a German naval accommodation ship from 1940-44. Following the war, she was used as a hotel ship in Hamburg in 1946, and later sold for scrapping in 1952.

## Contact Us

Steamship Historical Society of America  
2500 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 463-3570  
[www.sshsa.org](http://www.sshsa.org)

Matthew Schulte, Executive Director  
[mschulte@sshsa.org](mailto:mschulte@sshsa.org)

Bryan Lucier, Membership and Outreach Specialist  
[blucier@sshsa.org](mailto:blucier@sshsa.org)

Astrid Drew, Archivist  
[adrew@sshsa.org](mailto:adrew@sshsa.org)

Alissa Cafferky, Project Coordinator  
[acafferky@sshsa.org](mailto:acafferky@sshsa.org)

Aimee Bachari, Education Coordinator  
[steam@sshsa.org](mailto:steam@sshsa.org)

Jim Pennypacker, Editor  
*PowerShips*  
[editor@sshsa.org](mailto:editor@sshsa.org)

Richard Barwis  
Advertising Representative  
[richard@cornerstone-media.biz](mailto:richard@cornerstone-media.biz)

Cunard is no stranger to the royal family, as Queen Elizabeth II attended her first Cunard event in 1938 when she was only 12 years old. Since then, The Queen has launched and named four Cunard ships. Her Majesty is the only person who has been present at the launch of all three ships named Queen Elizabeth - the first in 1938, *Queen Elizabeth 2* in 1967 and *Queen Elizabeth* in 2010.

"We are excited to celebrate the royal wedding with our guests on board all three Cunard ships," said Josh Leibowitz, senior vice president, Cunard North America. "We are thrilled to honor this special moment in time, and to commemorate Cunard's longstanding special relationship with the Royal Family."

(Photo: [www.cunard.com](http://www.cunard.com).)

## Normandie tribute brings in \$50k for preservation, education efforts

We'd like to say a big thank you to all of our members, supporters and friends who came out to support the 2018 Ocean Liner Dinner here in Rhode Island. From the vintage newsreel footage to the French Line-inspired menu, it was a fitting tribute to the Normandie that will keep our education program and the Ship History Center moving forward thanks to nearly \$50,000 in proceeds from the event.

Whether you were in attendance, submitted an online bid, or contributed an item for an auction, please know that we deeply appreciate your dedication in keeping this organization strong.

Couldn't make it out for this year's event? [Click here for a photo album with tons of great photos from the night.](#) If you like what you see there, we are already working on the date and theme for next year's dinner, so keep an eye out for an announcement and plan on joining us in Rhode Island in 2019!

## What's Happening in Ship History?

*This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.*

**May 15**  
Fundraising Boat Tour

3:00 PM

\$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, \$20 for children under 12

Florida Maritime Museum

Cortez, FL

[www.floridamaritimemuseum.org](http://www.floridamaritimemuseum.org)

**May 19+20**

Pirate Days!

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

\$18 for adults, \$8 for children age 3-12, and free for children age 2 and younger

Maritime Museum of San Diego

San Diego, CA

[www.sdmartime.org](http://www.sdmartime.org)

**May 22**

National Maritime Day

Celebrate and thank a sailor!

**May 26+27**

Classic Workboat Show

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Free

Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center

Seattle, WA

[www.nwseaport.org](http://www.nwseaport.org)

**June 2**

Great Lakes Fish Fry

4:30 PM to 7:30 PM

\$20 for adults, \$11 for children under 12

Registration required, [click here](#) or call 419-214-5000, Ext. 200

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

[www.inlandseas.org](http://www.inlandseas.org)

**June 22-24**

Annual Wooden Boat Show

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

\$28.95 for adults, \$26.95 for seniors, \$18.95 for children age 4-14, and free for children age 3 and younger

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, CT

[www.mysticseaport.org](http://www.mysticseaport.org)

**June 30**

Star Wars Day at Battleship Cove

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

\$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors and military veterans (w/ID), \$15 for children age 4-12, and free for active military members (w/ID) and children age 3 and younger

Battleship Cove

Fall River, MA

[www.battleshipcove.org](http://www.battleshipcove.org)



**July 13-September 14**

Seguin Island Lighthouse Cruise and Exploration

Fridays, 10:00AM to 3:00 PM

\$56 for members, \$70 for nonmembers

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME

[www.mainemaritimemuseum.org](http://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org)

*Ahoy!* is the quarterly electronic newsletter for those interested in maritime history. It is produced in February, May, August, and November and distributed by Steamship Historical Society of America to friends, members and any other individuals interested in maritime heritage.

Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Find us on:

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SSHSA, 2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886