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Grant aids SSHSA's purchase of Ship History Center

SSHSA just got a big boost in its efforts to provide a long-term home for our unique collection of maritime ephemera, artwork, artifacts and books.

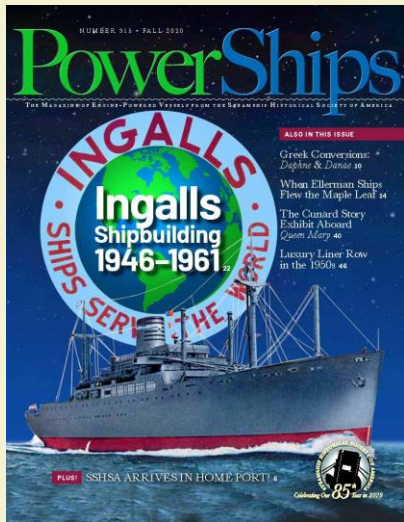
The Champlin Foundation, a Rhode Island nonprofit that helps fund capital projects to enhance the local community, announced today that it will contribute \$155,000 toward the purchase of the Ship History Center. The money will be used for the building's debt reduction.

"The Champlin Foundation is pleased to provide grant funding to Steamship Historical Society of America to help this important community non-profit advance its vital mission," the organization said in a statement. "Champlin Foundation grants are awarded on a competitive basis and our grant to SSHSA is a reflection of our confidence in the organization's ability to improve the lives of Rhode Islanders in significant ways."

SSHSA had been leasing the building that houses the Ship History Center since 2014. The former college library building was perfect for SSHSA to bring all of its collections and library into one physical location. Today, the Ship History Center serves as a museum, research library, archive storage, meeting space and administrative headquarters.

"We appreciate all of the support the Champlin Foundation has shown us over the years, but this grant is particularly special," Executive Director Matthew Schulte said. "By uniting this collection in a permanent home, we can better serve maritime enthusiasts across Rhode Island and the world. This is a huge step for us as we help the





The fall issue of *PowerShips* has landed

Issue #315 of *PowerShips* features Ingalls Shipbuilding 1946-1961, Greek Conversions: *Daphne* and *Danae*, When Ellerman Ships Flew the Maple Leaf, The Cunard Story Exhibit Aboard *Queen Mary*, and Luxury Liner Row in the 1950s. 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](#),

next generation gain a clear understanding of where their ancestors came from, how goods get here and what it's like to travel on the sea."

The Champlin Foundation has provided SSHSA with more than \$270,000 since 2007 to assist with projects like cleaning, restoring and digitizing images from our collection so they could be displayed online in our Image Porthole. The most recent grant prior to this was for \$19,500 to fund proper display cases, light cleaning and repairs for the George Hawley Collection of ship models.

Photo: The Ship History Center in Warwick, Rhode Island (SSHSA).

Cruise line seeks volunteers for government-mandated sailings

As the Centers For Disease Control begins to lift its ban on cruising, one of the biggest companies in the world is offering a free cruise to test its proposed coronavirus measures.

Royal Caribbean has started a Facebook group called Volunteers of the Seas to offer simulated trial sailings that will help craft safety policies to be used when the company starts offering paid voyages again. Officials have not said how many volunteers will be chosen for the trips, but noted that it has received more than 100,000 requests since the signup link was posted.

"Our priority is to ensure that we can exercise our comprehensive set of measures in a safe and healthy manner while making sure we provide a memorable vacation experience," Royal Caribbean said on the page. "This group will serve the community of adventurers who are excited and ready to be the first back at sea."



The simulated voyages are required by the CDC before cruise lines are given an opportunity to resume operating from U.S. ports. Media reports say that the cruises are likely to take place next year and include CocoCay, the company's private island located north of Nassau in the Bahamas.

Those who are interested in submitting their names for consideration can sign up at <https://cruisesimulationform.questionpro.com>. To join

and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



Ocean Liner Gala V is live on YouTube

SSHSA's members and supporters have come through time and time again, and this year's virtual Ocean Liner Gala was no different. With your help, we raised more than \$40,000 to chart a new course for the future and bolster our education and archival efforts.

If you haven't had a chance to check it out already, you can view the entire Ocean Liner Gala online at our YouTube page by clicking [here](#). We had a great time showing off the Ship History Center and sharing some of our successes over the past year. There were also stories from a couple of longtime members; something that we hope

the Facebook group for further updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rcibackatsea>.

Photo: Enter now to win a free trip on a Royal Caribbean ship as part of their Volunteers of the Seas trial sailings (Royal Caribbean, Facebook).

Christmas tradition carries on with aid of Coast Guard ship

The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinaw* got into the Christmas spirit last week, loading up more than 1,000 trees for a journey down Lake Michigan to Chicago.

Once in port, the trees are normally offloaded from the *Mackinaw* by local youth volunteers, including Sea Cadets, Venture Crews, Sea Scouts and Young Marines. While COVID-19 concerns prohibited youth groups from participating this year, the trees were loaded onto trucks for distribution to more than a thousand deserving families throughout Chicago by Ada S. McKinley Community Services.



The Coast Guard has delivered more than 25,000 trees this way over the last 20 years, but the tradition began at the turn of the last century.

Captain Herman Schuenemann and the *Rouse Simmons* were among two dozen crews doing late-season Christmas tree runs between northern Michigan and Wisconsin to Chicago. The ships would be decorated with lights and families would flock to the docks to pick out an inexpensive tree. His efforts earned Schuenemann the nickname "Captain Santa."

But tragedy befell the ship and its crew in 1912. Loaded with enough trees that some observers called it a floating forest, the ship was lost in a strong storm off of the Upper Peninsula on November 23. More than a dozen men lost their lives.

The more recent tradition was founded in 2000 by a group of mariners aboard the previous *Mackinaw* (WAGB-83) who were discussing the sinking and wanted to do something meaningful for the community. The transportation of the trees takes place while the ship is completing regular training exercises that include removing buoys for winter maintenance and preparing the crew for cold-weather service.

to do more of as health concerns allow.

Thanks to everyone who came out to watch and made this event such a success in these uncertain times. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Photo: Crew members set up a makeshift studio in the Ship History Center for the Virtual Ocean Liner Gala on November 7 (SSHSA).

Vancouver photo exhibition pays tribute to Holland-America Line

This year marks 100 years since the first Holland-America Line vessel called at Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1920. To commemorate this centennial of Dutch-Canadian trade, the Vancouver Maritime Museum will display select photographs by Walter Edwin Frost in a micro-exhibition, *A Lens On Vancouver's Past: Walter Frost's Holland-America Line (1920-1975)*, starting this Thursday, December 3. The 10 photographs have been carefully chosen from 83 black and white photos taken by Walter Frost of 31 HAL vessels in Vancouver Harbour.

Walter Frost (1898-1988), a lifelong resident of East Vancouver, donated an extensive collection of 13,369 black and white photographs to the City of Vancouver Archives in 1984. The images capture much of the industrial activity of early- and mid-20th century Vancouver with a focus on ships in Vancouver Harbour. The busy waterfront provided Frost with a constant stream of subject matter.

The service is provided by the support of many sponsors, donors and contributors. Those interested in making a gift can visit www.christmasship.org.

Photo: The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinaw* delivers Christmas trees from northern Michigan to Chicago last year (U.S. Coast Guard photo - Cmd. John M. Stone).

Destroyer museum to honor service of Black Americans

USS Kidd Veterans Museum has partnered with the clothing company STMPD Legacy to create a line of apparel presenting the accomplishments of Black Americans in the U.S. military to a new audience.

Represented by the designs are the 761st Tank Battalion, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the first Black American women officers in the Navy.

The 761st Tank Battalion, made up primarily of African Americans, was formed in 1942 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. The unit chose a black panther as their insignia and the motto "Come out fighting." The Battalion was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their service in Europe during World War II.



The Tuskegee Airmen, popularly known as the Red Tails, were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. Formed in 1941, the unit trained at several airfields surrounding Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. According to the rosters, there were at least ten Tuskegee Airmen from Louisiana.

In November 1944, Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances Wills graduated from the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School (Women's Reserve) at Northampton, Massachusetts. In December of that year, they received their commissions as WAVES officers. WAVES were assigned around the world, including the U.S. Naval Station Algiers in Louisiana.

According to STMPD Legacy founder Kyle Perrilloux, "Our apparel strives to share the courageous stories of Black people in America and is designed to promote conversations about historical people of color whose legacies are not traditionally shared."

Floris van Weelderen, curator of the micro-exhibition, discovered Frost's photographs while chronicling his father's 1960s sea voyages on Holland-America Line freighters and passenger ships. Floris observed that Walter's photographs provide a remarkable visual record of the evolution in maritime shipping and naval architecture.

Dr. Joost Schokkenbroek, Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum hopes that visitors to the exhibition will be inspired to further explore or revisit the VMM collection. "These photographs are taken in the 'old days' of photography, before Photoshop was developed. In that sense, these images don't lie. They tell the story and show the reality in an undisturbed, frank, authentic manner. I think Walter Frost did an extraordinary job in capturing the beauty of the HAL ships."

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The shirts are co-branded as STMPD Legacy and USS Kidd Veterans Museum, and are available at the museum's store located on the Riverfront in Downtown Baton Rouge. It is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Photo: STMPD Legacy founder Kyle Perrilloux with the new designs in the USS Kidd Veterans Museum Store (USS Kidd).

Breakers are busy as ship owners try to survive pandemic

When it comes to the pandemic, most of us are stuck trying to wait it out until a vaccine can be developed and released. But in the cruising world, waiting is no longer an option for many ships.

A recent piece on [Bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com) highlights the increasing number of cruise ships that are making their way to the breakers this year, numbers that include vessels that were hosting sold-out sailings earlier this year.

Whereas companies may have sold or leased ships to other carriers in lean times prior to this, the unprecedented nature of the pandemic has left them with nowhere to turn.

Instead of letting the debt pile up, owners are now turning to recycling efforts to try and cut their losses.

Scrappers take the vessel and try to milk every last bit of value out of it, from the steel in the superstructure that is used to make rebar for construction projects around the world to things like artwork, decking and even toilets.

With Carnival alone expected to designate 18 ships for disposal in 2020, officials say the average age of ships being recycled will get younger and younger if pandemic restrictions aren't loosened soon.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

Photo: From left, a Maersk freighter; Royal Caribbean's *Monarch* and *Sovereign*; and Carnival's *Inspiration*, *Fantasy* and *Imagination* are being recycled at the Aliaga ship recycling port in Izmir, Turkey (Chris McGrath/Getty Images Europe).



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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Renew Your Membership Today

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