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President's Column

Happy Holidays from SSHSA!

Christmas Eve in New Orleans, Revelers on Canal Street, 1884, from Frank Leslie's newspaper. - Wikimedia.

We've had a very exciting year. Our membership continues to grow and more members are supporting our Annual Fund. We have entered Phase II of our education initiative, which will utilize our collections to help youth learn important concepts in science and technology. With the help of our staff, volunteers, and interns, we have made progress in unpacking our collections and cataloguing our brochures and ship plans. Additionally, we have received major grants for collections assessment, digitizing and preserving historic travel posters, and in support of our education and outreach program.

We will be opening our library for members, researchers, and guests to beginning on National Maritime Day, Friday, May 22, 2015.

Donate to SSHSA

The weather outside may be frightful, but inside we are organizing the collections, preparing to send out the winter issue of *PowerShips*, and asking all of our members to make a tax-deductible donation to the Annual Fund before the end of the year.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are used wherever the need is greatest – from archival materials to preserve our collections

to operations support. Your contributions allow SSHSA to help researchers, develop our education program, and catalog the unique resources in our archives.

You can [donate online by clicking here](#), by calling us at (401) 463-3570, or by mail. You may also consider a gift of appreciated stock to offset gains from 2014.

Your donations make a difference to SSHSA. Please contribute today.

(Above photo: Hudson River Dayline steamer *Alexander Hamilton* in winter layup in New York, SSHSA archives.)

\$100,000 Challenge from Brent Dibner... Our Time to Act is Now

We are pleased to share that SSHSA Board Member Brent Dibner has pledged \$100,000 to SSHSA, provided we can raise an additional \$300,000 in fairly short order. This pledge, along with others in the pipeline, is helping SSHSA ensure success. Keep SSHSA in mind for giving this holiday season!

In the very near future, we will be sharing with you our detailed plans and long-range goals for sustainability. This comprehensive effort will be known as Our Homecoming and will be launched in 2015, our 80th Anniversary year. In the meantime, if you're able to make a

It is the time to reflect upon the year's events and what an emotional and rewarding year it has been for SSHSA.

We have lost some close friends and mentors and have forged some great new relationships this year that will propel the society forward for many more years to come.

Thanks to Matt's determination and refusal to take no for an answer, we were able to secure our long-term lease and finally create a home that we all are excited to be a part of and proud to show off. If you were unable to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, we are planning a host of events at our new Headquarters on and around May 22nd, which also happens to be National Maritime Day.

We have already received a number of accolades in regard to our new home and we are seeing some exceptionally positive results, including a grant to help preserve our loose poster collection. This is a direct result of the stability this new "home" brings to

the Society.

It is immensely rewarding to see boxes upon boxes of our collections being organized and presented in a way that reflects the true depth and history of our archives. This also serves as a modern, useful resource for the Society and the public as a whole. We are excited to see what the future holds for us here in our new location.

I also want to mention that we are always looking for interested members to join our Board of Directors and volunteers to serve on the many committees that are all vital to the Society. Please feel free to contact Matt or myself at any time if you are interested.

2014 has been an extremely exciting year for SSHSA and we expect more positive happenings in 2015 as well.

Cheers and happy holidays to everyone!

Erik Ryan
President
eryan@ryan-designs.com

It's time to renew your membership

Many of you received membership renewal notices in the mail. Please be sure to renew your membership to ensure you do not miss out on any issues of *PowerShips*. You may renew your

contribution before the end of the year, if you are interested in making a new pledge, or want more information, then please contact Matthew Schulte, SSHSA's Executive Director, directly at mschulte@sshhsa.org. Working together, we know we can rise to the occasion.

Give the Gift

of *PowerShips* Magazine

Do you know someone who is interested in ship history and preservation? SSHSA membership make excellent gifts for the maritime enthusiasts in your life! To purchase a gift membership (or to renew your own for 2015), please [click here](#).

Coming up in *PowerShips*

The next issue of *PowerShips* will arrive in January! Please be sure to [renew your membership](#) if you have not yet done so to ensure you receive a copy.

Coming up in the Winter 2015 issue:

Aboard the SS *Rotterdam*

Norm Laskay takes us aboard the SS *Rotterdam*, where today you can have a good meal, a good drink and a good sleep, in a good museum. You'd never know that its steaming days were over as it looks like it's ready to cast off and make its way to New York City or on a cruise to the Mediterranean.

Hoboken's Pier B

In "Lives of the Liners," William Miller reminisces about life on Pier B

membership by mailing us the completed form, or you may do so easily and securely by [clicking here](#).

If you have already renewed your SSHSA membership, thank you!

Visit our Social Media Sites

Click on the logos below to access our social media websites. These websites are updated constantly with history, current events, and updates on SSHSA's new headquarters.

from 1900-1980, where German liner companies were once an important part of Hoboken.

Modeling the SS *Catalina*

Norman Kelley describes his challenges in building a model of the SS *Catalina*, the much-treasured ferry that plied the west coast waters between San Pedro and Santa Catalina Island between 1924 and 1975.

U-Boats in the Bahamas

Shortly after the United States' entry into World War II there were 170 enemy patrols by German and Italian submarines in the waters around the Bahamas and Bermuda. Those patrols sank 181 ships, 70 of them U.S.-flagged steamships. Eric Troels Wiberg tells their story and that of the survivors.

No Fire Bell in the Night

Arthur Johnson shows us how the sinking of the 5,000-ton cruise steamship *Yarmouth Castle* in 1965 led to new legislation and an international agreement that made the cruise trade safer for passengers and crews. This article, edited by Don Leavitt, was first published in *Steamboat Bill* in Fall 1974 and is reprinted in celebration of *Steamboat Bill/PowerShips'* 75th anniversary.

A Unique Maine Museum Flagship

Captain William J. Frappier introduces us to the *Rekord* of 1914, a sail-assisted, diesel-powered, freight and passenger craft that first arrived in Maine waters in the mid-1970s and is now based in Rockland Harbor at the Sail, Power & Steam Museum. The historic vessel is recognized internationally by The World Ship Trust and flies the official TWST flag at her masthead.

2014 SSHSA Award Winners

We are officially recognizing our 2014 Award Winners, including the *Edward M. Cotter* (Ship of the Year), the *Wallace Foss* (Tug Boat), the *Aphrodite* (Yacht), and individual service award winners CDR John Hamma, Dennis Hale, Geoffrey Hamer, and John Henry.

Museum Profile: Columbia River Maritime Museum

PowerShips highlights the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon. The museum's six galleries, Great Hall, and the lightship *Columbia* interpret the Pacific Northwest's rich maritime history.

SSHSA Receives Champlin Foundations Grant

We are pleased to announce that the Rhode Island-based Champlin Foundations has looked favorably on our application and is providing \$23,000 toward our Historic Poster Preservation project.

Following the consolidation of our operations, we began sorting and organizing the many categories of artifacts, papers, and images while assessing their condition. The process has been valuable for identifying materials at risk or in urgent need of conservation.

Among these artifacts, we have identified several hundred travel posters. Rolled up in tubes or tied with string, many of these posters are fragile or are deteriorating. The individual posters have been identified and separated, but still need to be safely unfurled and stored flat. Once safely straightened, the posters can be digitized, preserving the images and information they contain. Having a digitized version will also alleviate physical handling of the items.

Vintage “travel posters” promoting cruise lines’ itineraries had far reaching effects beyond documenting transportation styles and schedules. They were created by artists whose graphic designs became iconic symbols of the golden age of travel. They reflect the history and, in some cases, the propaganda of their time. These colorful and beautiful images quickly became collectibles and the subjects of exhibitions, journals, and commercial interest. When combined with the digital images from our Stephen Barrett Chase Collection of ocean liner posters, the items in this project will form one of the largest travel poster collections in the country. With digital visual images and an inventory, they would be keyword searchable by the public, including enthusiasts, researchers, and historians.

Intern Spotlight

SSHSA was very fortunate this fall to gain an intern from Salve Regina University. Hailing from Oregon, Christopher Lehrbach is enrolled in the Cultural and Historic Preservation program.

New Members

Welcome aboard to SSHSA!

Mr. David A. Abercrombie
Mr. Neil Anderson
Mr. Jerome Batchelor
Mr. Andre Beaumont
Mr. Paul Beddoe
Mr. Daniel Benarcik
Mr. Ralph Burns
Mr. Dick Chipchak
Mr. Robert Coats
Mr. Everett Cooper
Mr. Ray Coye
Mr. George H. Davidson
Mr. John De Broske
Dr. Robert W. Dellers
Dr. J. Robert DiFulgo
Mr. Andrew Donovan
Mr. Edmund Dornheim
Mr. Edward J. Feeney
Mr. John Franiak
Mr. Peter Gardner
Mr. James Garrison
Mr. Frank C. Getz
CAPT Todd Gilmore
Mr. William Grant
CAPT Dave Paul Grasso
Mr. A. Allen Green
Mr. Matthew Hall
CAPT Dave Hashagen
Mr. Roy Hibberd
Mr. Richard H. Hosfield
Mr. John Hughes
Island Free Library
Mr. Paul Iurlano
Mr. John Jensen
Mr. Isaac Johnson
Mr. Tom Jordens
Mr. Thomas Kepler
Mr. Peter Kirkegaard
Mr. John Kummings
Mr. Christopher Lehrbach

Mr. David Love
Mr. Joe Macosko
Mr. Paul Makosky
Mr. Joseph Manfredi
Mr. David E. Martin
Mr. Clifford Matteson
Mr. Irwin Scott McLaughlin
Mr. John Mertens
Mr. Steven Milne
Mr. Bruce Miner
Mr. Myron Molnau
Mr. Richard Muller
National Iron and Steel
Heritage Museum
Mr. Jim Nicholas
Ms. Eileen Nowak
Mr. Paul O'Donnell
Mr. Stephen Oppenheimer
Mr. James Palko
Mr. Dimitrios Pappas
Dr. Henry E. Parfitt
Mr. George Parson
Mr. Frederick Petersen
Mr. Arnold Rathmann
Mr. David Raube
Mr. Christopher Reeves
Mr. Daniel Reynolds
Mr. Daniel Rich
Dr. P.T. Rockwell
Mr. John Sawin
Mr. George Schuster
Mr. Jeffery Scott
Mr. R. David Seip
Mr. Dan Somma
Mr. Eric Stevens
Mr. Mark D. Stozer
Mr. John Stroia
Thomas Jefferson High
School for Science and
Technology Library
CAPT Tony Thomlinson
Mr. John J. Tillbride
Mr. Michael van der Sleen
Mr. Reid Van Sluys
Mr. Rudy Vandenberg
Mr. Kurt D. Voss
Mr. Byron Walker, Sr.
Warwick Public Library
Mr. Stephen Weaver
Mr. William White, Jr.
Mr. Philip Whitehouse
Mr. Norman Wood
Mr. John Yerkes

Chris began with inventorying the George Sharp Collection. This collection includes paintings, photographs, and drawings from the well-known maritime firm that designed numerous vessels, including the iconic NS *Savannah*. Not all of the ship designs became a reality, but thanks to Chris' work, researchers and enthusiasts alike can study and appreciate these vessels. During the inventorying process, Chris carefully logged any information written or stamped on the items, their rough dimensions, condition, and subject matter. The inventory of the George Sharp Collection can be viewed on our website's Research Center by [clicking here](#).

Once he completed the George Sharp inventory, Chris moved on to working on the Braun Brothers' collection of brochures and ephemera. The original boxes holding the brochures were decrepit and water damaged, and inconsistently sorted. Chris' task was to survey and organize the brochures by date in new archival boxes.

The Braun Brothers traveled extensively, photographing and collecting from the countries and cities they visited. In addition to ephemera, the collection comprises a vast array of photos and color slides, a portion of which can be viewed in SSHSA's Image Porthole by [clicking here](#).

(Above image: Intern Chris Lehrbach in our brochures room.)

Changes in Staff

SSHSA bids farewell to Development Director Vera Harsh, who accepted a new position at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut. Much was accomplished during Vera's tenure here at SSHSA, but she assures us that she and her husband, John, will continue to support our cause. We wish her the best of luck in her new position!

Captains' Circle

A big Thank You to our Captains' Circle members for their membership and support!

Commodore (\$500)

Mr. Lawrence Allen
Mr. Charles T. Andrews
CAPT Ted and Sherry
Davisson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W.
Eberle
Mr. and Mrs. William
Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J.
Ferguson
Mr. Robert J. Golden
Mr. John B. Henry
Mr. Murray Kilgour
Mr. John Mahoney
Mr. Ralph S. McCrea
Mr. William M. McLin &
Mr. Samuel J. McKeon
Dr. Laurence Miller
CAPT & Mrs. Roland R.
Parent
Ms. Mary L. Payne
Mr. Richard Rabbett
Mr. Thomas C. Ragan
Mr. David Ruebsamen
Mr. Erik Ryan
Mr. William A. Schell
Mr. and Mrs. James W.
Shuttleworth
Mr. Douglas A. Tilden
Mr. Terence Turner
CAPT Robert F. Wasson,
Jr., CPA

Commander (\$300)

Mr. Preston B. Baker
Mr. James Brandmueller
Mr. Odd A. Brevik
Mr. William D. Comings, Jr.
CAPT Robertson Dinsmore
Mr. William W. Donnell
Dr. Clive Dudley, D.D.
CAPT Kenneth M. Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P.
Hayes
Mr. Neil E. Jones

(Above image: Vera Harsh at the 2013 ShiPoisum Conference in Long Beach, California.)

Upcoming Events

We are participating in the **New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference** in Providence, Rhode Island on April 16, 2015. This conference will give us the opportunity to meet current and potential SSHSA members and to showcase some of the images from our archives. Be sure to stop by our booth and say "Ahoy!"

The **Council of American Maritime Museum's Annual Meeting** will be held from April 13-14, 2015, at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. Representatives from SSHSA are expected to be in attendance.

In Memoriam

John A. Pagenstecher, a stalwart SSHSA member and donor, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2014. SSHSA is a much better organization having known the kindness of our friend, John Pagenstecher.

In 2008, a call came from a referral from our colleagues at National Maritime that John wanted to connect with us regarding a collection of ship brochures left to him by his late Uncle Peter Walton. John wanted to see that the brochures would find a good home. He selected SSHSA as stewards after a series of meetings in his then current home state of Maryland and while in transit through New Hampshire. SSHSA's Executive Director Matthew Schulte, former Assistant Director Rebecca Torsell, and later members Bill McLin and Jack Shaum met with John and his wife, Wendy. A lasting friendship

developed. John and Wendy joined other SSHSA members on a "Vagabond Weekend" in August 2013 up in Islesboro, Maine and had the experience of a lifetime aboard Bob McNeil's SY *Cangarda*. John was a retired federal employee, businessman, and lifelong sailor. He

Mr. Laurence P. MacDonald
CAPT Warren McDonald,
USCGR, (Ret.)
Mr. John N. Park Jr.
Mr. William S. Reid
Mr. Roy C. Rose
Mr. Stephen Smith
Mr. Donn R. Spear
Mr. Kent Strobel
CAPT and Mrs. Terry Tilton,
USN (Ret.)

Mariner (\$200)

Mr. Gino Arrue
Mr. Thomas Barrett
CAPT Lester H. Beck, USN
(Ret.)
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent
Bellafore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D.
Bieser
Mr. Stephen Bird
Mr. Peter Brix
Mr. J. O. Busto
Mr. and Mrs. Donald
Caldera
Mr. Gabriel Caprio
CAPT Gerard P. Carroll
Mr. Charles W. Clarke
CAPT John M. Cox
Mr. John J. Crowley, Jr.
Mr. Richard W. Curtis, Jr.
Mr. Patrick Dacey
Dr. Hillary Don
Mr. Andrew W. Edmonds
Mr. Daniel E. Eesley
Mr. Jonathan Ely
Mr. Richard A. Forrer
Mr. John F. Gibson, III
Mr. Eric Gouvin
Mr. Bruno Hable
Mr. Robert A. Haslun
Mr. Albert R. Hinckley, Jr.
Mr. Carl R. Nold
Mr. Buell Hollister
Mr. Robert Kamm
Mr. Thomas E. Kettenburg
Mr. Charles F. Lehman
Mr. Reginald Lewington
Mr. Gary Maehl
CAPT Michael Cicalese
Mr. James P. Martin
Mr. Daniel L. McCoy
Mr. Steven Gross

had an endless supply of yarns to spin as well as intriguing recollections from his life while in the CIA. He will be greatly missed.

(Above photo: John Pagenstecher aboard the SY *Cangarda*, August 2013.

Chapter News

Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist in running the chapter. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Fletcher, Chapter Chairwoman, at efletcher11@cox.net.

Delaware Valley

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 2:00PM.

Meeting Information: Christmas Party and Members Show and Tell

Bring stories, pictures, and items of interest to share with your fellow members. Contact Steve Loveless at (267) 288-8479 or oceanlinerbuff@aol.com if audio/visual help is needed. Please bring a "sweet treat" to share. Main course and beverages will be supplied.

Upcoming Delaware Valley Chapter Meetings:

Sunday, January 18, 2015

Sunday, February 15, 2015

Sunday, March 15, 2015- Richard Wagner will speak about the *Queen Elizabeth 2* and *Titanic*.

Southern California

Mr. Kevin F. O'Donnell
Mr. Oscar J. Olson, Jr.
Oregon Maritime Museum
Mr. Richard Potter
Mr. David L. Powers, Jr.
Mr. George Prince
Mr. W. Bruce Redpath
Mr. William M. Rosen
Mr. John W. Schumann
Mr. Bruce C. Seibel
Mr. John O. Snyder
Mr. Alexander Swavy
Mr. Peter Templeton
CAPT John S. Tucker
Mr. William T. Van Wagner
Mr. Richard Vanaria
Mr. Hubert Wicki
Mr. Gregory Williams

Contact Us!

Steamship Historical Society of America

2500 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 463-3570
www.sshsa.org

Matthew Schulte
Executive Director
mschulte@sshsa.org

Alissa Cafferky
Membership Coordinator
acafferky@sshsa.org

Karen Sylvia, Office
Administrator
ksylvia@sshsa.org

Astrid Drew
Research & New Media
adrew@sshsa.org

Jim Pennypacker, Editor
PowerShips
editor@sshsa.org

Richard Barwis
Advertising Representative
richard@cornerstone-media.biz

The Southern California Chapter had a great meeting in November (our traditional Tea meeting) with speaker Patrick McLaughlin, Mate of a Crowley Tug in Alaska. Only 23, Pat, a graduate of SUNY Maritime Academy, has attained his Mates ticket and presented a wonderful talk on what it is like to serve on a tug today. There were many questions asked afterwards and it was obvious that his talk was very well received by the 25 members present.

The Chapter also found good homes for the late CDR John Hamma's maritime models and books per his family's gift. An active member of the Chapter, John was also President of SSHSA. A raffle was also held and turned out to be quite popular.

The Southern California Chapter meets aboard the RMS Queen Mary, in the Caronia Room at 1PM the first Saturdays in February, May, August and November.

(Above image: Father Christmas from the cover of Leslie's Magazine in 1914. - Art.com image)

Golden Gate

A field trip to the Liberty Ship SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* took place on October 4, 2014. Four members of the Golden Gate Chapter took part in the field trip. The *Jeremiah O'Brien* is moored in San Francisco at Pier 45 in the Fisherman's Wharf area.

The members had not toured the vessel for a number of years. Overall, she is in excellent condition thanks to the many volunteers who continue to maintain her. The ship has recently opened a new exhibit area that is the result of maritime historian Ed Von der Porten's ten-year project to create a small museum in the hold. The museum includes a highly detailed D-Day diorama of Omaha Beach. The

diorama was donated to the *Jeremiah O'Brien* by the People of France in recognition of the vessel's important role during WWII.

The members of the Golden Gate Chapter greatly enjoyed the field trip to the *Jeremiah O'Brien*. The vessel is always worth a trip because of her historical significance and excellent state of preservation. The many connections of the vessel to the San Francisco Bay Area also made it a memorable visit.

For more information on SSHSA Chapter meetings and events, please [click here](#).

The Telegraph is the quarterly electronic newsletter for members and friends of Steamship Historical Society of America. It is produced in March, June, September, and December.

Alissa Cafferky, Editor, *The Telegraph*