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New SSHSA Members

Welcome aboard!

Mr. Ray Barnowski
Mr. Donald Beach
Mr. William Bennett
Mr. Dominick Bisbano
Mr. Chris Bradford
Mr. James C. Bulman
Mr. Greg Carlson
Mr. Simon Curtis
Mr. Mark Dickinson
Mr. Thomas Ewert
Ms. Shirley Forshee

'Seas & Greetings' from SSHSA

As we look to put a bow on the roller coaster that was 2021, we wanted to take a moment to thank every single one of you out there who has shown us love and support this year. It hasn't always been easy, but we have weathered the storms and come out even stronger each time. The result is a strong foundation that we will continue to build on in the coming year, and we truly couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!



The crew at the Ship History Center will be on shore leave beginning Friday, December 24, and return on Monday, January 3, 2021. [Membership renewals \(click here\)](#) and end-of-year [Annual Fund donations \(click here\)](#) can be made online or by calling 401-463-3570 when we return.

Thanks to everyone for your understanding, and we hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

Photo: One of the many participants in this year's San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, held on December 12 and 19. It was the 50th anniversary of the parade, which boasted a Twelve Days of Christmas theme (www.facebook.com/sdparadeoflights).

President's Message

As the newly elected President of the Board of Directors of SSHSA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our immediate past president, Don Leavitt, for his three years of dedicated service to our organization. Don has served during one of the most challenging, yet productive periods in our

Greenacres Public Library
Mr. Peter L. Hughes III
Mr. Tom Hughes
Mr. David Karle
Mr. John Katz
Mr. John MacFarlane
Mr. Travis Martin
Mr. Patrick Mooney
Mr. Fletcher Neal
Mr. Robert O'Brien
Mr. Terry O'Connor
Mr. David Pelfrey
Mr. David Pressler
Rice University Library
Mr. Timothy Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Darien Rye
Mr. William Scheeren
CAPT Patrick Sikes
Ms. Theresa Smullen
Mr. David Wooddell
Mr. John Wright

Captains' Circle

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

Engineer

Mr. Charles T. Andrews
Mr. Michael Fisher
Mr. Robert J. Golden
Mr. Webster S. Martin
Mr. William G. Muller
CAPT and Mrs. Roland R. Parent
Mr. Richard Rabbett
Mr. Thomas C. Ragan
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith
Mr. John S.W. Spofford
Mr. Douglas A. Tilden
CAPT and Mrs. Terry Tilton,
USN (Ret.)
CAPT Robert F. Wasson Jr.

Commodore

Mr. James Berwind
CDR Andrew O. Coggins Jr.,
USN (Ret.)
Mr. Alexander D. Crary
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dacey
Mrs. Rita Draper

organization's history, steering us into calm waters with his leadership and commitment. As president, Don oversaw the purchase of The Ship History Center in Warwick, Rhode Island, and the successful start our Full Ahead! campaign in 2020 in addition to many other initiatives that are allowing us to finally get closer to being able to fund the future of our organization.



Although we are well underway to meeting our goals, there is still much work to be done. While in the wheelhouse, I am excited to continue working with our Executive Director, Matt Schulte, our dedicated staff, and all the talented and committed members of our Board of Directors in our efforts to preserve and advance our shared interests in our maritime heritage.

As we steam "Full Ahead" in our effort to reach the next generation and secure the future of SSHSA, we are looking to reach out to more people in a variety of formats that will extend well beyond our flagship program, PowerShips, to include an increase in member stewardship and additional member activities.

I am excited about our future and look forward to working with all our members to record, preserve and disseminate the history of engine-powered vessels.

Happy Holidays,
Pat Dacey

Photo: Newly elected President Pat Dacey (right) spent the summer handing out SSHSA's annual awards, including the Ship of the Year award to the *Cape Henlopen*. Also pictured (from left) are SSHSA Archivist Astrid Drew, Membership Director Bryan Lucier, *Cape Henlopen* Captain John Wilber, and SSHSA Project Coordinator Alissa Halacy.

SSHSA meets the Posner Challenge with time to spare

Santa came early for SSHSA this year thanks to everyone out there who helped us meet the \$250,000 challenge put forth by the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh.

We reached the goal on November 5, unlocking a matching \$250,000 grant that will be used to support program enhancements at the Ship History Center and share more of the organization's unique maritime collection

Mr. Andrew Edmonds
Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Ferguson
Mr. Charles C. Fichtner
Mr. John B. Henry
Mr. Scott G. Huston
Ms. June Sherry Ingram
Mr. Neil E. Jones
Mr. Jeff Macklin
Mr. Otto Marx
Mr. Daniel L. McCoy
Mr. William M. McLin & Mr. Samuel J. McKeon
Dr. Laurence and Carole Miller
Mr. Gregory Murphy
Mr. Art Peabody
Mr. Donald Pomplun
Mr. Thomas Reed
Mr. William M. Rosen
Mr. David Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Shuttleworth
Mr. Britton C. Smith
CAPT Cesare Sorio
Mr. Kent Strobel
Mr. Clinton Strong
Mr. Terence Turner
Mr. Stephen Weaver
Mr. Peregrine White

Commander

Mr. Joseph Bains
Mr. Preston B. Baker
Mr. A. Pierce Bounds
Mr. Gabriel Caprio
Mr. William Cooper
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CAPT Roger Crossland
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Mr. Bruce J. Estell
Mr. Joseph J. Farcus
Mr. Mark Gathings
Mr. Paul S. Gravenhorst
CDR Michael Greene, USN (Ret.)
Mr. W. Scott Hale Jr.

online. This is just the latest gift from the Posner Foundation, which has supported SSHSA for more than a decade with strategic investments designed to advance our mission, reach, scope and capabilities.

Although this Posner Challenge has passed, there is still time to contribute to SSHSA's Full Ahead! campaign. We have already raised more than \$1.5 million overall to archive and interpret a collection that comprises hundreds of thousands of images, objects, artifacts, periodicals, artwork, official records and memorabilia that help tell an extensive history of powerful ships, their passengers and their crews.

[If you are considering any additional end-of-year giving at this time](#), we hope that you will keep us in mind. In fact, there are several tax benefits to take advantage of that expire at the end of the year, including:

- If you take the universal charitable deduction for cash gifts, the standard deduction is \$300 for single filers and \$600 for married couples filing jointly. This is available for cash gifts to qualified charities like SSHSA.
- If you itemize your cash contributions, the CARES Act raised the cap on annual contributions for those who itemize from 60 percent of your adjusted gross income to 100 percent. Excess contributions can be carried over to the next five years.
- The annual limit for corporations was increased from 10 percent of taxable income to 25 percent.

Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up to secure SSHSA's future, and to those who are currently considering a gift. We truly could not do this without you. [To read more about what we hope to achieve through the Full Ahead! campaign, please click here.](#)

Make sure you're on board for 2022

We know you've already made your lists and checked them twice, but one more look might be in order before things get really hectic. After all, you



Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P. Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and
Helen Hazen
Mr. Han Helders
Mr. Hank Kaminski
Mr. Nicholas Langhart
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Langill
Mr. Thomas Lavin
CAPT Leif Lindstrom
Dr. Mark P. Macina
Mr. John Mahoney
CAPT Warren McDonald,
USCGR (Ret.)
CAPT Ronald J. Meiczinger
Mr. W. John Miottel
Mr. Carl R. Nold
Mr. Patrick D. Ortego
Mr. William J. Raver
Mr. Roy C. Rose
Dr. Timothy J. Runyan
Mr. Howard Smart
Mr. Donn R. Spear
Mr. Alexander Swavy
Ms. Margaret Jean Wort

Mariner

Mr. Ronald Amos
Prof. Lester Bartson III
Mr. Richard L. Barwis IV
Mr. Brian Baum
Ms. Michele R. Berard
Mr. and Mrs. Steve
Beringhouse
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D.
Bieser
Mr. Ted Blank
Mr. Jerry Boyd
Mr. L.J. Bryan
Mr. Terry Bryll
Mr. J. O. Busto
CAPT Gerard P. Carroll
Mr. Christopher P. Cavas
Mr. Charles W. Clarke
Mr. William D. Comings Jr.
Mr. Jim Coonrod
Mr. David Corry
Mr. Terry B. Curtis
Mr. Edward Dietrich
Mr. Michael Dugan
Mr. Paul Eberst
Mr. Arild Johan Ellingsen
Mr. Jonathan Ely
Ms. Kathy Farnsworth and
Mr. John Teichmoeller

don't want to ring in the new year without making sure you're on board for the latest issue of *PowerShips*, do you? [Click here to renew now!](#)

If you've been with us through last year's purchase of the Ship History Center and this year's \$250,000 gift courtesy of the Posner Foundation, then now is not the time to disembark. We've got some great plans in store for 2022 and we're putting a call out to all of our friends and neighbors to get on board and join the party.

Whether you're a longtime passenger or someone who's been ashore for the last few years, there has never been a better time to re-enlist. With all hands on deck, we'll be able to bring more of our archives and programming online in the year to come, so even those who are thousands of miles away can access ship plans, photographs, our STEAM education program and more.

We have not been sitting idle over the last two years. SSHSA has received hundreds of important objects and artifacts over the past year, and the contributions of members like you will help us take the next step and share them with the world through our programs and websites at www.sshsa.org and www.shiphistory.org.

[Click here to read more](#) about our individual membership levels, or [click here](#) and relax this holiday season knowing that your 2022 will be full of ship history. We wish you all the best over the next couple of weeks and look forward to toasting the new year with you in January!

Photo: Cover of the upcoming *PowerShips* issue #320. See below for more about what's inside.



Coming up in *PowerShips* #320

The next issue of *PowerShips* is in production now and will be mailed toward the end of January. There's still time to [renew your membership](#) today - make sure you don't miss it!

Mr. Charles Feyler
 CAPT Mike and Sue
 Finnigan
 CAPT George H. Fisher
 Mr. James Flynn
 Mr. Brian J. Fournier
 Hal and Mattie Fuller
 Ms. Susan L. Gibbs
 Mr. Roger Gill
 Mr. Gary Gmoser
 Mr. John Gray
 Mr. Robert A. Haslun
 Dr. Patrick T. Conley
 Mr. Albert R. Hinckley Jr.
 Mr. Randolph P. Huber
 Mr. Alan Huguenot
 Mr. Charles Jones
 Mr. Martin Keane
 Mr. Timothy J. Kelly
 Mr. Murray Kilgour
 Mr. Matthew Lawrence
 CAPT David Leech
 CAPT Adrian M.
 Loughborough
 Mr. Laurence P. MacDonald
 Mr. Gary Maehl
 Rev. Armand Mantia
 Mr. James P. Martin
 CAPT Brian McAllister
 Mr. David L. McColloch
 Mr. Max McKee
 Mr. Alan McKie
 CAPT Thomas McLean
 Mr. John Miknavich
 Mr. Charles W. Moorman
 Moosehead Marine Museum
 Mr. Brian Morgan
 Mrs. Harry Morgan
 Mr. Chris Mosley
 Mr. Brian L. Norden
 Mr. Michael J. O'Callaghan
 Mr. Ronald L. Oswald
 Mr. Richard G. Pelley
 Mr. James C. Pendleton
 Ms. Lisa Plotnick
 Mr. David L. Powers Jr.
 Mr. Richard A. Proeschel
 QMI - Restore The Queen
 Mr. Michael Revnes
 Mr. Tim Rooney
 Mr. Robert H. Savarese
 Mr. John L. Schiavone
 Mr. John W. Schumann
 Mr. Howard Schutter

Big Mama: Towboat Sprague

Terry Tilton enlightens us with the story of the world's largest steam-powered sternwheel towboat, which achieved legendary status along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers during the first half of the 20th century. The towboat *Sprague* established multiple records for cargo movement, some of which are still in existence 100 years later.



Carnival's Inaugural Ship – The Mardi Gras

In *Lives of the Liners*, William Miller offers a fascinating account of how the *Empress of Canada*, once owned by Canadian Pacific Steamships, became Carnival's first cruise ship, the *Mardi Gras*.

We learn of trouble with unions, tight money, and the poor condition of the ship, which led to severe challenges during its first cruise. Fortunately, the story ends on a high note.

Forgotten Ships & Two Italian Legends

Join Laurence Miller in experiencing the cruise and passenger shipping industry at a time of its critical evolution from crossing to cruising in the 1960s. Set sail aboard the *Ocean Monarch*, *Viking Princess*, *Franconia*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Michelangelo*.

Ship Images on Record Album Covers

Richard Weiss introduces us to his finds from yard sales, garage sales, estate sales and, of course, antique shops – hard-to-find record album covers featuring ships that include *Mardi Gras*, *Christoforo Columbo*, *Brazil*, *Caronia*, *Oceanic*, *Batory*, *Carla C* and *Leviathan*.

Photo: With a heavy cargo of oil destined for Memphis, Tennessee, the sternwheel towboat *Sprague* – or Big Mamma as she was called – passes beneath a bridge at Vicksburg, Mississippi. (SSHSA Archives).

Chapter News

Southern California

Mr. Daniel J. Sentilles
 Dr. Robert A. Shea
 CAPT Ron Skaggs
 Mr. John Sleeter
 Mr. Shapleigh Smith
 Mr. Mark G. Southern
 Mr. Roy L. Spring
 Mr. Alan Stover
 Mr. Gregory Straub
 Mr. Michael Thomas
 Mr. Steven Tise
 CAPT Dan Turbeville
 Mr. Daniel A. Utti
 Mr. Richard Vanaria
 Dr. Charles U. Walker
 Mr. Chase Welles
 Mr. Jack Wendler
 Mr. Eric Wiberg
 Mr. Ewald Wiberg
 Mr. Steve Winter
 Mr. Kirk Youngman
 Mr. Robert Zinman

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Provided by Bruce Vancil, Chapter President

November 6, the last meeting of 2021, saw us huddled yet again in Zoom. This meeting required participants to register to prevent the Zoom bombing experienced in the past, but the process was not universally appreciated. That included yours truly. It seemed complicated and felt full of technical glitches. Maybe I'm just out of practice. Here's hoping we can gather again sometime soon.

We did have a fun and lively discussion as presenters shared items from their collections in an always-popular edition of Show-n-Tell.

Mark Perry showed the scrapbook of the *SS United States'* maiden voyage captain. It is loaded with congratulatory telegrams from many sources and little tidbits of the voyage and the press coverage at the time. He acquired it at auction and donated it to the team at the SS United States Conservancy for preservation. Nice going Mark!

Peter Knego was at sea, but provided us with a complete tour of his dining room, which included ship furniture, paneling, art, lighting, dishes, etc. The whole room is from a ship. As always, fascinating.

This writer presented two odd pieces of paper ephemera, including a pre-World War II Cunard brochure with quotes from several notables in American and English society proclaiming that war would not break out for years, if ever. The piece was printed in spring of 1939, mere months before the conflict began. My only question was whether this was an act of great miscalculation and interpretation of the world around Cunard's writers, a more callous promotion to pull in as many nonrefundable deposits as possible to help line the coffers of the company in anticipation for what was to come, or some other reason as yet unknown? I doubt anyone alive today would know. When asked, no one in the meeting had ever seen a brochure like it. I also showed an Italian Line passenger list for *Andrea Doria* dated for the final voyage. The big question here is whether these printed on board, in which case it likely got off the ship in a lifeboat via a woman's purse, or printed on shore and a "not-used-on-voyage" piece that was not present at the famous sinking. If anyone knows the printing system they used, please let me know.



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Richard Barwis
Advertising Representative
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Jim Shuttleworth shared some of his collection with the feature being a painting that he helped identify and finally acquire.

Bill Keene shared a treasure from SS *Rotterdam* (v), his favorite ship. He made an assertion with which I cannot disagree: "Most comfortable ship I've ever sailed in."

Kate Vescera presented a souvenir silver tea strainer from the *Aquitania*.

Lovetta Kramer shared ship-related memorabilia from her career. First was a plaque displaying a page from the February 15, 1988, edition of *Adweek* magazine, showing the Spruce Goose and *Queen Mary*. Lovetta also shared two photos from the *Queen Mary 2* maiden voyage out of Long Beach. The first was of the two Queens together, while the second was of the captain's table aboard the *QM2* during that voyage.

People seemed to go away happy despite the technical gaffs, having enjoyed seeing all of the beyond common collectibles.

The board team is working to prepare the calendar of presenters for 2022 with some great options. Do you have a presentation that you would like to offer the members? Contact me and I'll make sure Jim Shuttleworth gets the info to see if we can make something fun and interesting happen. My email is steamer@pacbell.net.

Election results were tabulated with board members Shuttleworth and Tilton easily being re-elected to their seats. If you wish to look into joining the leadership as a board member or volunteer, send me an email at the above address.

The January 2022 issue of the *Ocean Times* presents a wide variety of articles beginning with "SS *Great Britain*: Brunel's 1843 Masterpiece Returns to Her Birthplace" by chapter member Dr. Nelson B. Arnstein; a photo tour and history of the preserved/restored iron hull, steam-powered ocean liner. Chapter member Bill Miller continues his stories about the ships we have enjoyed as he presents P&O's *Chusan* in "A Special Visitor to Pier 40, New York." Bill also relates the excitement of the christening of *Sitmar's Fairsky* at San Pedro in May 1984. "Ice Everywhere!" by chapter member Don Persson brings us the story of the *Robert E. Hopkins* fighting ice up the Hudson River to deliver an emergency supply of heating oil and gasoline to Albany, New York. Chapter President Bruce Vancil presents "Notable, Important & Fascinating Ships" in his Tramping Cyber Space regular column.

Want your own email copy of the *Ocean Times*? Join the Southern California Chapter of the SSHSA. Contact Sherrill Smith (ladysherrill@msn.com) for information and a membership form.

Stay safe, stay well, and enjoy maritime history as often as possible.

Photo: A preview of the cover for the January 2022 edition of the SoCal Chapter's *Ocean Times*. Click on the image to visit the chapter's website and sign up for a copy.

Delaware Valley Chapter

When possible, Delaware Valley Chapter meetings are held at The Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River. Membership is \$15 for one year. Contact Chapter Chairman Steve Loveless at sldvcsshsa@gmail.com or 215-495-8889 for more details or if you are interested in joining.

Golden Gate Chapter

Golden Gate Chapter dues are \$6 in the United States and \$9 for foreign addresses. Membership includes six chapter meetings and field trips each year, as well as an 8-page newsletter mailed every two months. For more information, call chapter President Norman Freitag at 510-276-7520.

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.

Bryan Lucier, Editor, *The Telegraph*

SSHSA is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization funded by donations from members and friends. SSHSA is dedicated to sharing the maritime heritage of powerful ships, legendary passengers and hardworking crews. Gifts to SSHSA are appreciated and may be considered tax-deductible.