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Executive Director's Message

Speaker series, Ocean Liner Gala postponed

After careful consideration of the federal government's recent guidelines regarding the novel coronavirus, the board and staff at SSHSA have made the difficult decision to postpone our upcoming lectures with Susan Gibbs (April 18) and Douglas Tilden (May 1), as well as our annual Ocean Liner Gala fundraiser on May 2. Although we were holding out hope as late as last week that we would still be able to hold these dates, the developments over the last five days have made it clear that the risk would be too great for all of our friends, family and members.



UNITED STATES LINES

We are working with our guest speakers and our partners at the Squantum Association to lock in new dates, and we will share them with you as soon as we are able. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at info@sshhsa.org or 401-463-3570 if you have any questions.

Thank you all for your understanding, and please be safe and smart as we work our way through this crisis together.

Surplus periodicals for sale

If you're looking to fill out your personal maritime library, now is your chance! SSHSA has identified titles from our periodicals and books that are surplus or out of scope, and we're now offering these titles to interested society members.

When I said that SSHSA's 85th anniversary year would be an unforgettable one, this wasn't quite what I had in mind. We kept our eyes on the news and hoped that a couple more weeks would help us see things more clearly, but the picture has just become more muddled as things progressed. With government guidelines becoming more restrictive with no end in sight, there was no choice but to press pause on all of our upcoming events until we know more about what we are facing.

Although disappointing, it is undoubtedly the right decision to make. We simply couldn't chance everyone's health, and saying "the show must go on" and trying to fit within whatever federal guidance is in place at the beginning of May would just be a watered-down version of what we had hoped to present to you.

That being said, we are committed to success of the organization and are in this for the long haul. We appreciate the commitment that each and every one of you has shown us over the year, and we know that we are a much stronger organization thanks to you and your generosity. We can't wait to share our new plans with you once it is safe and prudent to do so.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work on the next issue of *PowerShips*, which is expected to be shipped on time around the middle of next month. There are a lot of great stories in this one that will help pass the time for those of you who are trying to limit your

The books range in subjects from military history, to riverboats and inland waters, to ocean liners and passenger shipping. Periodicals cover all kinds of subject matter and perspectives, from model making, to historical society magazines, to international shipping. There's something for everyone!

[Click here for a full list of the magazines currently available.](#) Titles are arranged alphabetically and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. So have a look and see if you can provide a good home to these maritime stories.

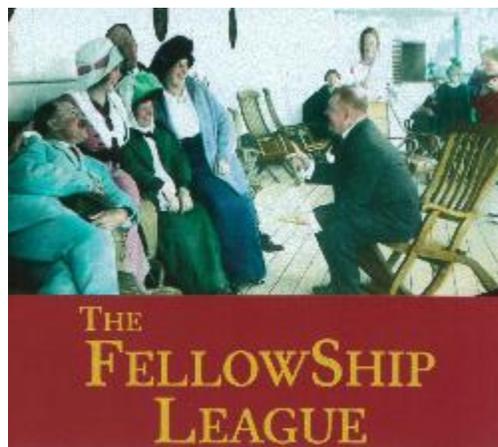


To place an order, or if you have questions, please call our office at 401-463-3570, or e-mail us at info@sshhsa.org. Out of concern for the current coronavirus situation, please do not come to the Ship History Center without first calling to make an appointment.

Are you a member of the Fellowship League?

The Steamship Historical Society of America (SSHSA) has been fortunate to have had members remember SSHSA in their estate plans. Had it not been for these types of gifts in the beginning, SSHSA may not be here today. In fact, the organization has received more than \$2 million dollars in bequests since its inception, and we believe that tradition of leaving a legacy should, and needs, to continue.

By thinking of SSHSA in your estate plans, you are joining many others who believe in the tradition of making gift provisions to an organization they have supported during their lifetime. Through a properly executed will, an individual can perpetuate his or her interest by making a bequest. It is a prudent way to continue lifetime commitments.



Have you already made provisions to leave a legacy? Does SSHSA know your intent? Join the prestigious group of men and women of The Fellowship League and let SSHSA know of your commitment. Contact Lori at ldipersio@sshhsa.org.

Ways to Give

- Life insurance policies or retirement account

exposure. Make sure that your membership is up to date or get on board by the end of the month to guarantee your copy now! We're always available at info@sshhsa.org or 401-463-3570 if you have any questions or want to sign up.

Good luck to all of our friends, family and members out there. We look forward to seeing you in person once again!

There is still time to renew your SSHSA membership

We are working our hardest to make sure that the latest issue of *PowerShips* stays on track despite all of the uncertainty in the world today. Check your membership status today and make sure you don't get left at the dock!

You can join or renew instantly by calling us at (401) 463-3570 or online by [clicking here](#). We look forward to welcoming you back on board.

New SSHSA Members

Welcome aboard!

Admiral Farragut Academy
Mr. Russ Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Aprile
Mr. William Black
Mr. Matthew Bonvento
Mr. Peter Carter
Mr. Thomas Clark
Mr. William Cone
Mr. Roland Desrochers
Mr. Nicholas DeWitt

- Stocks and other securities
- Real or personal property
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable lead trusts
- Contribution of ones' residence while retaining the right of use as long as the donor shall live
- Appreciated securities/property

Thank you to all of our members and friends who have stepped forward to help carry SSHSA's message on to the next generation. We truly could not do this without each and every one of you.

Stay up to date on social media

If you're not following us on our social channels, you're missing a lot that we share with our followers in between e-blasts! Make sure you click the links below to stay connected to all things #shiphistory!

We shared a Christmas dinner menu from the Panama Pacific Line's *SS Pennsylvania* to celebrate the holiday season.

Promotion for the year-end appeal continued and thanks to our supporters, we raised nearly \$90,000!!!

On this day series continues:

- January 14, 1953, the Italian Line's *Andrea Doria* made her maiden voyage. We shared a January 1956 image of the ship at Pier 84 in New York, courtesy of SSHSA's Braun Brothers Collection.
- January 23, 1909, the White Star Line's *Republic* is rammed and sunk by the Lloyd Italiano liner *Florida* off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, making it the largest liner lost at sea prior to the *Titanic*.
- February 6, 1945, Bob Marley was born. Did you know that lyrics from his Redemption Song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrY9eHkXTa4>) were taken from a speech by Marcus Garvey, founder of the Black Star Line steamship company? To learn more about the Black Star Line, the first black-owned and -operated steamship company, visit our education program, STEAMing Into the Future: <https://shiphistory.org/2020/01/20/the-black-star-line/>.



Our crew at SSHSA highlighted ship history stories throughout Black History Month using the hashtag #blackshiphistory. Our archivist recently discovered one issue of *Colored Shipbuilder* (July 1944), which was published by the North

Mr. Duncan Dickson
 Mr. Martin Everson
 Mr. Brett Furlong
 Mr. J. Hermann
 Mr. Donald Hetherington
 CAPT Tom Hinderhofer
 Mr. Ronald F. Jablonski
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 Mr. Svein Kruse
 Mr. Gunstein Langset
 Ms. Cathy MacPherson
 Mr. Michael Mark
 Morristown Public Library
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 Mr. Gerald Ricketson
 Mr. Alan Robinson
 Mr. Michael Rochowiak
 Mr. Brent Runyon
 Mr. Michael Ryan
 Smyrna Yacht Club
 Mr. Jack Spratt
 Mr. Gregory Straub
 Mr. Thomas Thompson
 Mr. Willem Van Doorn
 Commodore Ronald Warwick
 Mr. Thomas Webb

Captains' Circle

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

Engineer (\$1,000)

Mr. Charles T. Andrews
 CAPT & Mrs. Roland R. Parent
 Mr. Douglas A. Tilden and Ms. Teresa Keller

Commodore (\$500)

Mr. Joseph Bains
 Mr. Odd A. Brevik
 Mr. Douglas E. Bryan
 CDR Andrew O. Coggins Jr.,
 USN (Ret.)
 Dr. Patrick T. Conley
 Mr. Alexander D. Crary

Carolina Shipbuilding Company (1941-1946) for its 4,500 African American employees.

On President's Day we shared a menu for Lincoln's Birthday Dinner onboard the US Lines' SS *Washington*, February 12, 1939.

We began sharing and honoring the stories of women in ship history for Women's History Month. We started with a Sarah Elizabeth Ray who, in 1945, was told she could not ride the Bob-Lo boat the SS *Columbia* with her classmates because of her race. She left peacefully but went to the NAACP and a legal battle ensued, going all the way to the Supreme Court with Thurgood Marshall arguing on behalf of Ms. Ray. She won and helped pave the way for the landmark ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education. Read more in depth in *PowerShips*: <https://shiphistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Columbia.304.pdf>. You can also check out her story highlighted in our education program, STEAMing Into The Future: <https://shiphistory.org/2017/07/21/desegregating-the-ss-columbia/>.

We celebrated #internationalwomensday with Kate Sutton! Did you know that Kate Sutton assumed control of the Providence Steamboat Company in 1923, becoming one of the first women in the country to operate a fleet of #tugboats?

Check out SSHSA board member Andrew Coggins being interviewed on CNN about the effects of the coronavirus on the cruise and travel



industries: <https://t.co/28nCwMApDk?amp=1>.

After a week of downbeat news from the cruise industry, here's one positive story. In what's claimed as a first in maritime history, Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Edge* departed Port Everglades yesterday with an all-female bridge and onboard leadership team, commemorating International Women's Day. Led by Captain Kate McCue, the first American female cruise ship captain, the crew included 26 other women representing 16 different countries. The 2,918 passenger capacity *Celebrity Edge* began its seven-day Caribbean journey by being led out to sea by retiring pilot Captain Cheryl Phipps, one of only a few female pilots in the country.

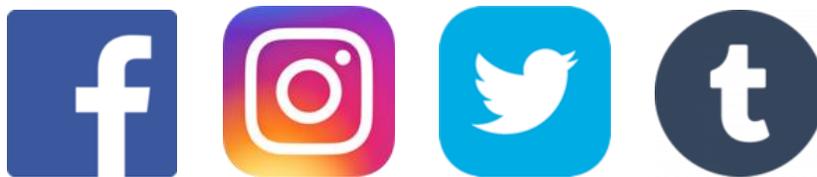
Want more? Click on the icons below!

Photos: Above, Marcus Garvey, founder of the Black Star Line steamship company (Wikimedia Commons). Below, SSHSA Board Member Andrew Coggins discusses the effects of the coronavirus outbreak on the cruise industry (CNN).

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 Mr. Robert Ian Danic
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 Mr. Joseph J. Farcus



Coming up in *PowerShips* #313

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

The Famous Four Sisters of the Grace Line

The advent of steamships offered an opportunity to many people looking for an escape from the grind of modern life – a visit to the sun-drenched tropical waters of the Caribbean. James Zatwarnicki Jr. presents the story of the famous four sisters of the Grace Line, which set the standard for the tropical comfort and luxury we have all become accustomed to.



Manhattan's Luxury Liner Row

Actress Tallulah Bankhead once said, “I never, ever go to the West Side – well, except to catch the boat to Europe!” William Miller reveals how Luxury Liner Row was, in many ways, a New York City landmark – most liners, especially the biggest and most famous ones, used those piers built along the Hudson.

To Shining Sea: SS Manhattan & SS Washington

In this *Steamboat Bill* Classic Reprint, Peter C. Kohler presents a comprehensive history of two of the most popular and profitable Atlantic liners, United States Lines' *Manhattan* and *Washington*. Exquisite photos of the ships' interiors reveal the glory that was achieved in the midst of the Depression.



The Original “Four Aces”

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Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P. Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Helen Hazen
Ms. June Sherry Ingram
CAPT Philip C. Kantz
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Langill
CAPT Leif Lindstrom
Dr. Mark P. Macina
Mr. Jeff Macklin
Mr. John Mahoney
Mr. Daniel L. McCoy
CAPT Warren McDonald, USCGR, (Ret.)
Mr. W. John Miottel
Mr. Carl R. Nold
Mr. William S. Reid
Mr. Roy C. Rose
Mr. Richard Scarano
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smart
Mr. Mark Snider
Mr. Donn R. Spear
Mr. Alexander Swavy

Mariner (\$200)

Mr. Jim Antonisse
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Bellafiore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Bieser
Mr. Ted Blank
Mr. Terry Bryll
Mr. J.O. Busto
Mr. David B. Butler
Mr. John Cameron Jr.
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Mr. Murray Kilgour
Mr. Stephen Lash

In 1931, the American Export Lines began sailing the first of four new passenger/cargo ships – *Excalibur*, *Exochorda*, *Exeter* and *Excambion* – between the United States and the Mediterranean. Eric Pearson describes how the ships' superb accommodations and excellent service attracted both passengers and profits.

Photos: Top, a 1932 brochure advertises the four new "Santa" ships of the Grace Line. Bottom, the cabin class smoke room on board the U.S. Lines' *Washington*. (SSHSA Archives)

Chapter News

Delaware Valley Chapter

The Delaware Valley Chapter is tentatively scheduled to participate in a Fleet Week Parade Review & lunch on **Wednesday, May 20, at 9 a.m.** Hosted by the National Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island, the boat will leave from Pier 1, which is adjacent to the National Lighthouse Museum, 200 The Promenade at Lighthouse Point, Staten Island. The trip will be held rain or shine, and is expected to last about three hours. Check-in begins an hour before departure, with boarding taking place 30 minutes later. Tickets are \$77 for adults and \$42 for children age 10 and younger.

While the event is still scheduled at this moment, the Lighthouse Museum is closed through Sunday because of the coronavirus outbreak and will be re-evaluating its programs after that date. Contact Chapter Chairman Steve Loveless at 215-495-8889 or slldvcsshsa@gmail.com for further updates or to RSVP.

The Delaware Valley Chapter also recently joined the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, as well as the Port of Philadelphia Maritime Society.

Golden Gate Chapter

SSHSA members may wish to check out the ongoing free distribution of numerous used maritime books in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's Maritime Research Center. The books are duplicates or outside the scope of the park's archive, and there is no limit on the number of titles that can be carried away. The center is located at 2 Marina Boulevard, Building E, Lower Fort Mason, and the collection can be found at the front counter on the third floor.

Visiting hours at the center are 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. For an appointment to view the books, contact Reference Librarian Gina Bardi at (415) 561-7033 or Gina_Bardi@nps.gov. Visitors must be buzzed in by staff at the elevator or stairway entrance.

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.

Mr. Thomas Lavin
 CAPT David Leech
 Mr. Reginald Lewington
 Ms. Susan Linda
 CAPT Adrian Loughborough
 Mr. Laurence P. MacDonald
 Mr. Gary Maehl
 Rev. Armand Mantia
 Mr. James P. Martin
 Mr. A. Michael Marzolla
 Mr. David L. McColloch
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 Mr. Ronald Oswald
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 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew S. Schulte
 Mr. John W. Schumann
 Mr. Howard Schutter
 Mr. Daniel J. Sentilles
 Dr. Robert A. Shea
 CAPT Ron Skaggs
 Mr. John Sleeter
 Mr. Britton C. Smith
 Mr. Shapleigh Smith
 Mr. Roy L. Spring
 Mr. Alan Stover
 Mr. Sandy Thomson
 Mr. Richard Vanaria
 Mr. Stephen Weaver
 Mr. Chase Welles
 Mr. Kirk Youngman

Southern California

The Southern California Chapter's first meeting of the year took place on Saturday, February 1. There were two superlative presentations by some amazing and delightful presenters. Peter Knego went first, tracking the history and career of the SS *Stockholm* (currently SS *Astoria*) through all of her owners, refits and, of course, the famous collision with the *Andrea Doria*. In a spot-on tracking of changes over the decades, Peter described how the ship survived the collision and went on to be repaired and used in various services. As always, Peter was delightful.



In the second presentation, Tom Varney, who traveled from his home in Alaska to give this talk, discussed his work building a very large *Queen Mary* model and, later, a *Queen Elizabeth* model. The models, each composed of two sections, have been used in public display in a number of locations and events. His presentation contained a noticeable amount of well-crafted humor as evidenced by the frequent rounds of laughter from the audience.

And the audience deserves mention here. An estimated turnout of around 60 people (one of the biggest ever) filled the Carpathia Room to absolute capacity. The atmosphere was simply electric with excitement being palpable in both presentations.

The April issue of the *Ocean Times* is full of history both past and current. "Schuyler Otis Bland – C3-S-DX1 Prototype: A Real S.O.B.," is the account of this one-of-a-kind prototype design for a better emergency ship. Passenger ships are represented by "The Soviet Liner *Rossia*" and the "Carnival *Panorama's* Inaugural Arrival to Long Beach." More *Queen Mary* history is presented in "Synagogue at Sea." "Modern Marine Salvage" brings you the story and the challenges of cleaning up the mess when "ship happens." Ship Shot will give a glimpse of local Southern California history. Tramping Cyber Space brings us a link explaining the importance of a well-designed bow.

Want your own 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.

Photo: Tom Varney talks to a packed house about his models of the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* at the Southern California Chapter's February 1 meeting.

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