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Executive Director's Message

Sit back, relax and enjoy the movie!

We've got some good news for the film-loving shipsters out there! You can bring our video collection at the Ship History Center right to your living room. We have begun converting our collection of historic videos to a digital format and uploading for your streaming pleasure.



Our YouTube channel is officially live with a wide-ranging assortment of content, including oral history interviews, documentaries and even some home movies. Check it out at [YouTube.com/c/ShipHistory](https://www.youtube.com/c/ShipHistory). Don't forget to subscribe to our channel and like and comment on the films. We already have close to 200 channel subscribers and the most popular film is the documentary "The Mystery of the Edmund Fitzgerald" with over 19,000 views!

Each week on Friday, we will be sharing a film to our social media channels with the tag #FridayFilmNight. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Get your snacks and popcorn ready and join in the fun!

Authors seek first-hand accounts for book on World War II tankers

A group of four enthusiastic maritime researchers – three of whom are former Chevron seagoing staff, and one who is a renowned maritime

It seems like we're turning a couple of corners here. After an extremely difficult winter for much of the country, temperatures are finally starting to come around. We had our first 60-degree day here at the Ship History Center last week, and we hope there's plenty more where that came from. Additionally, it looks like vaccines are rolling out steadily, which means we can finally start to see a future where we can open the doors to the archives and see everyone in person again.

Our Full Ahead! comprehensive campaign is in full swing and we are making great headway. Check out the detailed information on our newly dedicated



website www.fullaheadcampaign.org or drop a line back to us and we will follow up. It will be great to have all on board!

In the meantime, **I hope that you're taking advantage of all of the digital content** that we've been offering throughout the last few months. [Our YouTube channel is starting to take off](#), with thousands of views already racked up. You can find out more in the article to the right, but we hope you take the time to stop by, subscribe and enjoy a trip down memory lane.

We're also glad to see so many people signing up for our **joint talks with the World Ship Society in January and February**. Next up is a presentation from Mr. Ocean Liner himself, Bill Miller. The program, "Fred & Ginger At Sea: Art Deco Ocean Liners," is scheduled to take place on March 26 at 6 p.m. Keep an eye on your email for details on how to sign up.

Finally, **SSHSA will be well-represented at the annual meeting of the Council of Maritime Museums** taking place in

history author and publisher – are looking for shipbuilders and sailors who have experience with the legendary T2 tankers that were built in United States shipyards during World War II.



The authors say that these vessels formed a large part of the backbone of the Allied forces during the war and served into the Vietnam era, but have never received the kind of publicity that some of their contemporaries have gotten, such as the Liberty Ships.

The book will contain the complete history of the T2 tankers, highlighting particular events during their service time, as well as technical specifications. For instance, one of these vessels with a long and successful service time was the *Chevron The Hague*, sailing in the Dutch Chevron Fleet. Texaco and many other companies also had quite a few of these vessels in their fleets.

If you are a current or former Chevron/Texaco employee with memories of these vessels and would like to contribute, please email info@gbooksinternational.nl or jandirkdavidse@ymail.com for more information. The books will be written in English and available worldwide. The authors say it will contain plenty of information, photographs and drawings surrounding the creation and operation of these unique ships.

Photos: Approximately 500 Type T2 tankers were built for the United States Maritime Commission during World War II, including *Chevron The Hague*, formerly known as *Boonesborough*, which was constructed in Mobile, Alabama, in 1945.

Some thoughts from our readers

In the past couple of months, we received a few kind notes from our members and friends that we'd like to share. Have something that you'd like to pass along to us or your fellow shipsters? Email us at info@sshhsa.org or send a letter to the Ship History Center, 2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886.

April. SSHSA Archivist Astrid Drew and Education Director Aimee Bachari will be presenting “STEAMing Into The Future: Meeting the Challenge of Virtual Education” on Tuesday, April 20, at 12:55 p.m., while I will be offering an update on SSHSA’s recent successes at 4:15 p.m. The conference is virtual and open to the public for just \$39. [Click here for more information.](#) We hope you can join us!

We’ve got more irons in the fire and anticipate more great announcements soon. Until then, may you all have calm winds and following seas.

There is still time to renew your SSHSA membership

The spring issue of *PowerShips* is coming together as we speak. 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!

Mr. George E. Chandler
Mr. Nicholas Curtis
Mr. Jan Davidse
Mr. Francisco de la Fuente
Mr. Michael A. Eggleston
Mr. David Engen
Mr. David Foote
Professor Eric Ierardi
Ms. Charlotte Irene Kemp
Mr. Charles Johnson
Mr. Dave Keyser
Northborough Free Library
Mr. Gregory Perry

Compliments for SSHSA holiday card:

I upped my membership. Why? The card you sent depicted the Resolute.

The Schnoor side of my ancestors were chief pursers on her. They were in Hamburg America. My Aunt Irma, though, ran the shops on the Bremen. That was my mom’s side.

My father’s mother’s side were all NDL [Norddeutscher Lloyd] – chief purser on the George Washington; deck officer, Bremen, before the Great War; chief purser, Columbus; chief engineers, Bremen and Europa; and baggage master, Bremen.

Thanks and sail on!

- Rev. Bart Muller, Michigan

Hey crew,

I really enjoyed the card you all sent, mostly the inside of the tug Resolute. As you can see, the pictures are me as mate looking out. I was later to become captain on the Resolute and many other tugs in the Baltimore tug fleets, both Baker Whitely and Curtis Bay. All told, my entire career of 40-some years was spent in the tug industry. I’ll soon be 94 and still upright. Take care.

- Preston Bryant, South Carolina

David Raube of California sent in this poem with a note “Thought this might be of interest to you if you don’t have it already. You are doing a great job!”

The Engineers

*The siren shrieks its farewell note, and proudly on her way,
The brand-new giant liner moves in grandeur down the bay.
A marvelous creation, her builders' joy and pride,
The white hope of her owners as she floats upon the tide.
The passengers in festive mood mid'st laughter, jest and quip -
With keen delight enjoy the great ship's maiden trip.
She's sure to break the record, she'll do 30 knots or more,
Is the hope of all on board as she leaves her native shore.*

*Upon her bridge the captain proud, and like all skippers bold -
Bedecked gorgeous uniform of navy blue and gold.
All eyes are fixed upon him - and it's going to his head,
he stops to drop the pilot and rings up: 'Full speed ahead.'*



Ms. Evelyn Riccio
Mr. Paul Strubeck
Mr. Austin Weber
Mr. Bradley Weiss
Mr. Kenneth Wheeler

Captains' Circle

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

Engineer (\$1,000)

Mr. Charles T. Andrews
CDR Andrew O. Coggins Jr., USN (Ret.)
Mr. William W. Donnell
Mr. Michael Fisher
Mr. Robert J. Golden
CAPT & Mrs. Roland R. Parent
Mr. Richard Rabbett
Mr. Thomas C. Ragan
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith
Mr. Douglas A. Tilden and Ms. Teresa Keller
CAPT and Mrs. Terry Tilton, USN (Ret.)
CAPT Robert F. Wasson Jr.

Commodore (\$500)

Mr. Alexander D. Crary
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dacey
Mr. Donald Deckebach
Mrs. Rita Draper
Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Ferguson
Mr. Brian J. Fournier
Mr. John B. Henry
Mr. Scott G. Huston
Mr. Neil E. Jones
CAPT Philip C. Kantz
Mr. Otto Marx
Mr. Daniel L. McCoy
Mr. William M. McLin & Mr. Samuel J. McKeon
Dr. Laurence and Carole Miller
Mr. Charles W. Moorman
Ms. Mary L. Payne
Mr. Donald Pomplun
Mr. Thomas Reed
Mr. William M. Rosen

*And now begins the battle for the trophy of the seas,
By men not clad in blue and gold but lowly dungarees*

*On deck the scene is blithe and gay, fair ladies, song and wine,
But hell is popping down below beneath the plimsoll line.
The chief maps out his orders to his staff on watch below,
His men obey his mandates as about their tasks they go.
"Steam pressure must not fluctuate, the bearings not run hot,"
"Revolutions not allowed to drop" to make that thirty knot.
At dinner on the first night out the skipper proudly boasts:
"We'll surely break the record!" — as the gallant ship he toasts.
The task of breaking records grows no grey hair on his head,
His contribution ended when he rang "full speed ahead."*

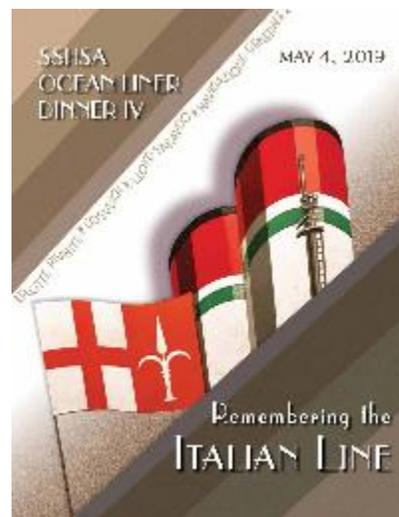
*Through weary days and sleepless nights to consummate their dream -
The engineers toil tirelessly 'till Ambrose Light's abeam.
The record has been broken, average: thirty-one point four -
The captain wears another stripe, he's now a "commodore."
And thus he claims the credit for what other men have done,
He boasts through press and radio the "victory" he has won.
Forgetting even to mention as he prates his ballyhoo,
The men of brain and brawn and guts, who shoved the great ship through.*

*The moral of this story indicates conclusively,
The glory seldom goes to those who win the "victory."
So keep this simple thought in mind when thrilled by record trips,
The men behind the throttles are the men who drive the ships.*

Program Guides for sale

The response to our United States Lines commemorative program sale was so overwhelming that we've decided to offer the remaining limited run of programs from our other Ocean Liner Dinners available for purchase on the [SSHSA Ship Store](#). Like the tribute to USL, each program is a love letter to a particular vessel or line that we honored at one of our Ocean Liner Dinners – the [Queen Mary](#), the [Titanic](#), the [Normandie](#) and the [Italian Line](#) (click on any of the names to see a digital version of each).

Originally only available to dinner attendees and donors, each of these booklets are available for just \$10 plus shipping. There was a very small number of programs produced, and



Mr. David Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Shuttleworth
Mr. Britton C. Smith
CAPT Cesare Sorio
Mr. Kent Strobel
Mr. Terence Turner
Mr. Peregrine White

Commander (\$300)

Mr. Joseph Bains
Mr. Preston B. Baker
Mr. Gabriel Caprio
Mr. William D. Comings Jr.
CAPT John M. Cox
CAPT Roger Crossland
Mr. John J. Crowley Jr.
Mr. Robert Ian Danic
CAPT Robertson Dinsmore
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Eberle
Mr. Andrew Edmonds
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.
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P. Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Helen Hazen
Mr. Han Helders
Ms. June Sherry Ingram
Mr. Hank Kaminski
Mr. Nicholas Langhart
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Langill
CAPT Leif Lindstrom
Dr. Mark P. Macina
Mr. Jeff Macklin
Mr. John Mahoney
CAPT Warren McDonald, USCGR,
(Ret.)
Mr. W. John Miottel
Mr. William G. Muller
Mr. Carl R. Nold
Mr. Patrick D. Ortego
Mr. Roy C. Rose
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smart
Mr. Donn R. Spear
Mr. Alexander Swavy

Mariner (\$200)

Ms. Michele R. Berard
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Bieser
Mr. Ted Blank
Dr. Bruce Booth

we have fewer than 10 available for each. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. [Click here to secure yours now!](#)

The Ocean Liner Gala is our single-biggest event of the year, and a critical source of funds as we move forward with innovative new programs online and here at headquarters in our newly acquired building. This is the start of a new chapter for the organization, and we thank each and every one of you out there who sponsored a photo. Every dollar raised helps bring us closer to sharing the ingenuity and innovation of the sail-to-steam era to the next generation.

Stay up to date on social media

Keep up with all things #shiphistory in real time! Be sure to follow us on all our social media channels. Liking, commenting and sharing our posts helps us to reach more shipsters and promote our mission. Below are a few important highlights, but we post every single weekday on our social media channels if you want to log on, follow us and join in the fun!

SSHA on the Photo Detective Podcast – Our archivist Astrid Drew was featured on the Photo Detective Podcast, helping listeners find out how to find our digital assets and conduct research on ships. You can listen to the episode here: <https://maurentaylor.com/episode-108-researching-the-ships-of-our-ancestors/>.

Life On Board: Passengers – We shared our updated lesson on what life was like for passengers, which included an interview with educator and former SSHA Board of Directors President Ted Scull. The lesson was expanded to include new primary sources documenting cabin class, as well as an extension activity to challenge students. You can view the lesson



here: <https://shiphistory.org/2017/09/22/life-on-board-passengers/>.

Using Steamships to Teach Dimensional Analysis - Students are taught how to use conversion factors to turn one unit into another unit of measurement, such as kilometers to miles, through steamship examples. This lesson was written in collaboration with Chris Koutros, a high school chemistry teacher and the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers Southern Division Chair. Check it out here: <https://shiphistory.org/.../steamship-dimensional-analysis/>.

Mr. A. Pierce Bounds
 Mr. Terry Bryll
 Mr. J.O. Busto
 Mr. David B. Butler
 CAPT Gerard P. Carroll
 Mr. Charles W. Clarke
 Mr. Steve Cohen
 Mr. Jim Coonrod
 CAPT David Cox
 Mr. Terry B. Curtis
 Mr. Edward Dietrich
 Mr. Michael Dugan
 Mr. Paul Eberst
 Mr. Andrew W. Edmonds
 Mr. Jonathan Ely
 CAPT Mike and Sue Finnigan
 Mr. James Flynn
 Hal and Mattie Fuller
 Ms. Susan L. Gibbs
 Mr. Roger Gill
 Mr. Gary Gmoser
 Mr. Robert A. Haslun
 Dr. Patrick T. Conley
 Mr. Albert R. Hinckley Jr.
 Mr. Buell Hollister
 Mr. Randolph P. Huber
 Mr. Tom Jordens
 Mr. Martin Keane
 Mr. Murray Kilgour
 Mr. Thomas Lavin
 Mr. Matthew Lawrence
 CAPT David Leech
 CAPT Adrian Loughborough
 Mr. Laurence P. MacDonald
 Mr. Gary Maehl
 Rev. Armand Mantia
 Mr. James P. Martin
 Mr. A. Michael Marzolla
 CAPT Brian McAllister
 Mr. David L. McColloch
 Mr. Max McKee
 CAPT Ronald J. Meiczinger
 Mr. Charles A. Miller III
 Ms. Diana Moraco
 Mr. Brian Morgan
 Mrs. Harry Morgan (Joanie)
 Mr. Chris Mosley
 Mr. Brian L. Norden
 Mr. Michael J. O'Callaghan
 Mr. Ronald Oswald
 Mr. Art Peabody
 Mr. Richard G. Pelley
 Mr. James C. Pendleton
 Ms. Lisa Plotnick
 Mr. David L. Powers Jr.

Project-Based Learning Art Lesson - In this lesson, written in collaboration with high school art teacher Barbara Mullen, students learn through a variety of shiphistory.org lessons and oral history interviews to draw inspiration for their mixed-media sculpture. If you've ever been wondering how to use our resources for project-based learning, have a look at how one educator utilizes social studies and primary sources for art at <https://shiphistory.org/.../objects-and-immigration-stories/>.

Southern California Chapter Makes its Social Media Debut – Now you can follow the chapter on Facebook at [@shiphistorysocial](https://www.facebook.com/shiphistorysocial) and on Instagram at [@Ship_History_SoCal](https://www.instagram.com/Ship_History_SoCal).

Two New Black History Lessons – During Black History Month, we also promoted two new lessons focusing on the lives of Black Sailors During the Age of Sail (<https://shiphistory.org/2021/02/05/black-sailors-in-the-age-of-sail/>) and how Mississippi steamboats facilitated the internal slave trade, but simultaneously gave increased freedom through maritime work and sometimes allowed for escape to the North (<https://shiphistory.org/2021/02/26/steamboats-enslavement-and-freedom/>). You can view all our lessons on #blackshiphistory here: <https://shiphistory.org/tag/black-history/>.

Operation Hannibal – Thanks to author and new member Michael A. Eggleston, we shared the fascinating story of the effort to evacuate German civilians from East Prussia in the closing days of World War II on the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. You can learn more by reading his book, *Operation Hannibal: The World War II Evacuation of East Prussia and the Disaster at Sea* and by visiting www.wilhelmgustloffmuseum.com.



Women's History Month – We kicked off the month with Eliza Thorrold who was granted a master's license in 1897 to operate the 44-foot steam tug *Ethel and Marion* after the death of her husband. On International Women's Day, we shared the story of Blache Leathers aka "Little Captain," who earned her master's license and captained the steamboat *Natchez* on the Mississippi River. We have more stories to share so be sure to follow us for more fascinating stories of women in maritime throughout the month!

#ArchivesHashtagParty with the National Archives – Along with other archives across the country, SSHSA shared items from our collection based on topics from the National Archives. We shared some primary sources for our education lessons in February for #ArchivesBlackEducation. For March, we shared navigation tools and a

Mr. Richard A. Proeschel
QMI - Restore The Queen
Mr. Douglas H. Ramsay
Mr. William S. Reid
Mr. Tim Rooney
Mr. Bruce Rowe
Dr. Timothy J. Runyan
Mr. Robert H. Savarese
Mr. John L. Schiavone
Mr. John W. Schumann
Mr. Howard Schutter
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. Clinton Strong
Mr. Michael Thomas
Mr. Steven Tise
Mr. Richard Vanaria
Dr. Charles U. Walker
Mr. Stephen Weaver
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Aimee Bachari

ship cutaway for #ArchivesYouAreHere. Overall, SSHSA and our colleagues across the country reached 9.8 million people!

Want more? Click on the icons below!

Photos: Photos like this one showing steerage passengers on the deck of a ship highlight what ocean crossings were like for many immigrants who came to America (Library of Congress). Bottom, the *Wilhelm Gustloff* was trying to evacuate more than 9,000 World War II refugees when it was sunk by a Soviet sub on January 30, 1945, the largest maritime disaster on record (Wikipedia).



Coming up in *PowerShips* #317

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 Birth of U.S. Lines

August 15, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United States Lines. Former vice president of the company Douglas Tilden helps SSHSA honor its role in our maritime heritage with colorful stories of the many high-profile individuals who were caught up in the turbulent drama of its origins in 1920s America.

Harvard Hits Honda

George F. Gruner gives a detailed account of the last hours of the SS *Harvard* – known as the White Flyer's perfect wreck. He describes the faulty navigational assumptions, dead-reckoning errors and distrust of the technology of the time that led to the disaster on the rugged California coastline at Point Arguello, near Honda Point (the Devil's Jaw).

Elder Dempster to West Africa

William Miller introduces us to the waning days of the once vast British Empire and the Liverpool-based Elder Dempster Lines, which offered



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passenger and cargo service to West Africa in the 1960s to ports such as Lagos, Takoradi and Tema in places such as Ghana and Nigeria.

Coastal Cotton and Comfort

Terry Tilton presents a fascinating history of the movement of cotton from Savannah, Georgia, to the U.S. Northeast, the founding of the Ocean Steamship Company (known as the Savannah Line) and, in particular, the *City of Chattanooga*, the largest ship of the line.



Daniel K. Ludwig's National Bulk Carriers

Jim Shaw recounts the life of Daniel Ludwig, who rose from eighth-grade dropout to founder of Welding Shipyards in Virginia and National Bulk Carriers, a ship-owning company. He would go on to create a new series of ships that ranked, at that time, as the world's largest cargo carriers.

Photos: Top, a United States Shipping Board war poster by James Montgomery Flagg (Douglas Tilden). Bottom, Many packages aboard the Savannah Line included accommodations at the Hotel De Soto, located directly in Savannah, or the Hotel Cloister at Sea Island, located about 90 minutes south of the city (SSHSA Archives).

Chapter News

Southern California

Provided by Bruce Vancil, Chapter President

February 6 was the date of yet another SSHSA SoCal members' meeting, again held on Zoom. Peter Knego presented his latest chapter in the "On The Road to Alang" series, the soon-to-be-released "Torn Castle: On the Road To Alang, Part Three." It offered a fascinating look into the rich history and sad demise of the Union Caste Line's RMS *Windsor*

Castle. Before the sneak peek of Torn Castle, Peter presented two short productions telling the history of the *Windsor Castle* and his encounters with the liner.

This was our best-attended Zoom meeting since having to adjust because of the pandemic, with some people participating from England where the meeting ran from 8-10 p.m. local time. Nice to have you with us!

Mark your calendar for our next meeting, which will also be conducted on Zoom

on May 1. Kate Vescera will give a talk on “*The Queen Mary* in Long Beach.” Our second speaker will be Jason Klavir discussing the scrapping of cruise ships and asking the question “Gone Too Soon?” He will focus his discussion on five specific ships facing the cutters torch. Watch *Ocean Times* for the details, but expect the meeting to start at 1 p.m. Pacific and end around 3 p.m. The link will be provided prior to the date.

The SoCal Chapter is proud to introduce two members that have stepped forward as volunteers. Kate Vescera is the chapter’s new secretary/social media manager. All are invited to visit the chapter’s new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/shiphistorysocal>. In addition, CAPT Alan Huguenot has come aboard the *Ocean Times* team as the Assistant Editor.

Don’t forget to check out the SoCal Chapter’s website at <http://socalsshhsa.org/>. Chapter member and Vice President Jim Shuttleworth has done a wonderful job as the webmaster in bringing the chapter into the 21st century.

The April 2021 issue of the *Ocean Times* presents a wide variety of articles beginning with a personal account by CAPT Brian McManus about the ships and crews stranded by war in “Notes from the Great Bitter Lake.” Charles H. Bogart—the *PowerShips* Regional Editor for Western Rivers—tells his personal experiences in “An Encounter with *SS Atlantic Captain*.” Jim Shaw—the *PowerShips* Regional Editor for the West Coast—relates the story of “An Historical Wreck.” Jim also shares the story of the USAT *Mount Vernon* in “A Panama Passage” in this issue’s Ship Shot. Bill Miller continues his stories about the ships we have enjoyed as he relates the life of “The Space Ship *Hamburg*.”



There will also be a May *Ocean Times Special Edition*. The issue includes the history of collectables that many of us have on our shelves in “Waterline Ship Models, An Overview.” Tramping Cyber Space asks the question “What is the Difference Between an Ocean Liner and a Cruise Ship?” Also, we are introduced to the *Joseph Lykes* and *Lykes Innovation* is this issue’s Ship Shot.

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 of the April edition of the SoCal Chapter's *Ocean Times*, which will be released soon. Click on the image to visit the chapter's website for more information or to 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 slldvcsshsa@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.