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## President's Message

*By Pat Dacey*

As we approach spring and begin our organization's 87th historic year, I am

## Better than a pot of gold: SSHSA members invited to join two more virtual talks

Ready for another armchair adventure? Our friends at the World Ship Society – Port of New York Branch have two that may pique your interest.

This month's new program will welcome back Captain Albert Schoonderbeek of the Holland America Line on Friday, March 25, at 6 p.m. Eastern for "The Liners and Cruise Ships of Scandinavia." The presentation is free and open to all SSHSA members, but advanced registration is required. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Scandinavian Liners are the ships that sailed from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. These small countries were traditionally seafaring nations, and extensive fleets were built to connect their populations to the rest of the world. From the 1860s onward, Scandinavian liners sailed the world's oceans and continued to do so until the decline of the transatlantic passenger ships in the early jet age. Many lingered on as cruise ships during the next few decades.



The tremendous growth of the cruise industry in the 1960s through the 1980s was because of Scandinavian maritime enterprise. Norwegian-based companies Royal Caribbean International, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Viking Line and others led the way in the early years of the modern cruise business. Captain Schoonderbeek, current fleet master for Holland America Line, will cover this entire period, from the early Thingvalla Line to the latest "Apartment of the Seas."

anxious



and concerned for those affected by recent world events. Despite the current situation, I am pleased to report that the state of SSHSA is secure with a sense of purpose and a clear vision for the future. As we continue our Full Ahead! fund development campaign for 2022, we are actively focused on expanding access to the cherished maritime historical collections in our archives, increasing awareness of our SSHSA's STEAMing into the Future education program, and continuing to provide the necessary funding for the future of our organization.

As we are all aware, maritime history is being made every day and one only must look at recent events as evidence. Just last week, Ernest Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, was discovered in the Antarctic 106 years after it was lost. And in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, there are some historical firsts that deserve to be recognized. Commander Billie Farrell of the U.S. Navy recently become the first female assigned to captain the USS *Constitution* in the ship's 224-year career, and both Cunard Line and Norwegian Cruise Lines announced that their

The PONY Branch will also hold a special encore presentation of Christian Roden's "The Royal Family and Ships of State: The Politics of Ocean Liner Design and Decoration" on Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m. Eastern on Zoom. [Click here to sign up.](#)

From Brunel's *Great Britain* to Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth 2*, the English royal family has embraced ocean liners as a political tool that is as useful to crafting their image as their palaces and wardrobes. Roden will highlight the longstanding relationship between the royals and transatlantic travel, and explore the interiors of many of these vessels and their surprising connections to the great names of British architecture and design.

Roden is an independent maritime historian, curator, and author, specializing in the French, Swedish, and American merchant marine. He has published in the *Winterthur Portfolio* and the *Magazine of the Decorative Arts Trust*, and has guest curated exhibitions at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia and the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Wilmington, Delaware.

Photo courtesy of Captain Albert Schoonderbeek.

## Long Beach offers lifeboats, seeks new designation to preserve *Queen Mary*

Looking to add a unique piece to your *Queen Mary* collection? The City of Long Beach is offering 20 lifeboats from the iconic ship as a way to preserve her legacy for generations to come. The lifeboats – which measure 36 feet and 12,000 pounds – need to be removed because they are causing undue stress on the vessel's outer shell. The city is keeping two lifeboats to be restored and displayed once critical repairs are completed and the ship is reopened to the public; hopefully sometime this year.



Individuals and maritime museums who are interested can bid on one or all of the lifeboats, but will be responsible for transportation from Long Beach. Applicants also must provide evidence that they have the capacity and experience to preserve the artifacts. [Learn more and place your bids by clicking here.](#)

As far as the *Queen Mary* herself, Long Beach officials may seek help from the federal government in its preservation efforts. According to a March 11 memo from John Keisler, the city's director of economic development, the city may seek to have the *Queen Mary* designated as a National Monument, which is defined by the National Park Service as "a place of historic, scenic, or scientific interest set aside for preservation."

respective newbuilds, *Queen Anne* and *Celebrity Beyond*, will each have a female captain - Inger Klein Thorhauge for Cunard and Kate McCue for NCL - who both will oversee construction/startup and take command upon completion.

It is with your continued support that SSHSA will continue to record, preserve and share our maritime past, present and future.

## New SSHSA Members

### Welcome aboard!

Mr. Eric Anderson  
Mr. Bill Archer  
Ms. Amy Bresnahan  
Mr. Hadley Hartshorn  
Mr. John Ickes  
Mr. Tom Johnson  
Mr. Robert Mayeux  
Mr. Ken Miller  
Mr. John Minter  
Mr. Don O'Neill  
Mr. Benjamin E. Rising  
Mr. Brandt Rising  
Mr. Tony Rizzuto  
Sandy Bay Yacht Club  
CDR Matthew Sneed  
St. Mary's High School  
Mr. Scott Sterowski  
Mr. Peter Thomsen  
Mr. Matthew Tucker Eng  
Mr. James Watts  
Mr. Chris Williams  
Mr. Roy Zimmerman

## Captains' Circle

A big Thank You to our Captains' Circle members

The ship already enjoys status as a National Historic Landmark, which makes it available for grants from the National Historic Preservation Fund, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Save America's Treasures Grant Program. However, sites that are designated National Monuments are owned and operated by the federal government, which has more resources available to preserve the ship.

Officials recommend the City of Long Beach hire a consultant to handle the application process. The designation can only be bestowed by Congress or the President of the United States.

The memo also recommended that the city sign a short-term agreement with a qualified hotel operator to get the *Queen Mary* up and running for special events and hotel stays by the end of 2022. The company that is selected will be responsible for reopening the ship and operating it for five years with an option to extend it for up to two additional one-year terms.

[Click here to read the full 14-page memo on the reopening plan.](#)

**Caption: Cunard Line's *Queen Mary* leaving her Manhattan pier with assistance from the tug *E.F. Moran Jr.* (Photo: SSHSA Archives).**

## Fundraiser will celebrate SS *United States* at Mariners' Museum

On Saturday, April 9, the Hampton Roads Chapter of the SS United States Conservancy is hosting a fundraising Heritage Tour at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

During the morning session, which will run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., speakers will include Susan Gibbs, granddaughter of the ship's designer William Francis Gibbs and president of the conservancy; Admiral Mark Buzby (retired), U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and former administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration; Captain James McNamara, SSHSA member, SUNY Maritime alum and chairman of the Maritime Industry Museum; Larry Driscoll, author of *The Last Great Race: The SS United States and the Blue Riband*; and Bill Fox, *PowerShips* book review editor, retired naval architect and maritime author.



*The Last Great Race: The SS United States and the Blue Riband*; and Bill Fox, *PowerShips* book review editor, retired naval architect and maritime author.

Three 30-minute afternoon sessions, with a 30-minute break between each, will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will include:

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. Donald Pomplun  
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.  
Mr. Peregrine White

### **Commodore**

Mr. James Berwind  
CDR Andrew O. Coggins Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Mr. Alexander D. Crary  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dacey  
Mr. Robert Ian Danic  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Eberle  
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. Daniel L. McCoy  
Mr. William M. McLin &  
Mr. Samuel J. McKeon  
Dr. Laurence and Carole Miller  
Mr. Art Peabody  
Mr. Thomas Reed  
Mr. William M. Rosen  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Shuttleworth  
Mr. Britton C. Smith  
CAPT Cesare Sorio

- "New Technologies to Save a Maritime Icon" - A presentation by the ship's original design firm, Gibbs & Cox.
- "Commanding the SS *United States*" - A presentation by SUNY Maritime graduates, including Captain James McNamara.
- "First Ladies of the Sea: The SS *United States*' Transatlantic Trailblazers" - A presentation on Elaine Kaplan, Dorothy Marckwald, Anne Urquhart, and more.
- "Grandfather's Ship: The SS *United States*" - A children's book reading by author Elizabeth Fletcher & her service dog, Lincoln McCarthy.

Closing remarks will be held beginning at 4 p.m. Throughout the afternoon sessions, there will be book signings and sales, wine tastings, a chocolate station with activities for children, ship items from the Mariners' Museum that aren't normally on display, and a special SS *United States* merchandise table.

The Mariners' Museum \$1 admission for non-museum members is not included in the event ticket price. Parking is free. Breakfast and lunch may be purchased through the Mariner's Museum Cafe.

[Click here for more information or to purchase tickets.](#)

**Caption: A promotional poster made by Moran Towing portraying the SS *United States* in New York harbor with a Moran tug by her bow (Photo: SSHSA Archives).**

## **Coming up in *PowerShips* #321**

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!

### **On the Waterfront – The Hoboken Piers**

In *Lives of the Liners*, William Miller offers an absorbing history of the Hoboken Piers, site of the Marlon Brando movie *On the Waterfront*. For decades, the piers welcomed big liners and working freighters, immigrants and troops, and freight of almost every type and description. Big liners included *Imperator*, *Nieuw Amsterdam*, *Leviathan* and many others.



### **Vietnam on a Carrier**

Working as a purser for the Military Sea Transportation Service in 1966, author Don Persson was told to report to duty on a C-3 named the

Mr. Kent Strobel  
Mr. Clinton Strong  
Mr. Terence Turner  
Mr. Stephen Weaver

### **Commander**

Mr. Joseph Bains  
Mr. Preston B. Baker  
Mr. A. Pierce Bounds  
Mr. Gabriel Caprio  
Mr. William D. Comings Jr.  
Mr. William Cooper  
CAPT Roger Crossland  
Mr. John J. Crowley Jr.  
Mr. Donald Deckebach  
CAPT Robertson Dinsmore  
Mr. Bruce J. Estell  
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  
Mr. Hank Kaminski  
Mr. Nicholas Langhart  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Langill  
Mr. Thomas Lavin  
CAPT Leif Lindstrom  
Dr. Mark P. Macina  
CAPT Warren McDonald,  
USCGR (Ret.)  
CAPT Ronald J. Meiczinger  
Mr. W. John Miottel  
Mr. Carl R. Nold  
Mr. Patrick D. Ortego  
Mr. Hollis S. Paige  
Mr. William J. Raver  
Mr. Roy C. Rose  
Dr. Timothy J. Runyan  
Mr. Howard Smart  
Mr. Shapleigh Smith  
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

USNS *Croatan* (TAP-43), only to be surprised to learn that his C-3 turned out to be a World War II *Bogue*-class aircraft carrier. This is his story.

### **The Sea Dart II: Charting the Past of a Sea Scout Ship**

Tyler Fuller, a sea scout aboard the *Sea Dart II*, presents the story of the people who cared for this Sea Scout ship, a 1953 army T-boat, and the immense amount of work it took to meet Coast Guard specifications.



### **A Tanker Tale**

One day on a dreary winter morning, author Den Leventhal read an announcement put up by the union hall manager for a regular Third Mate posting on a tanker, the *SS Julesburg*. So begins his fascinating tale.

**Captions: Top, The USNS *Croatan* at the Alameda Naval Air Station (Photo: Don Persson). Bottom, the *Sea Dart II* underway (Photo: James Zatwarnicki).**

## **Chapter News**

### **Delaware Valley Chapter**

After a two-year hiatus because of the coronavirus, the Delaware Valley Chapter is making plans to **start meeting again beginning with a get-together on Sunday, April 3 at 2:30 p.m.** With things still on hold at the Independence Seaport Museum, the Chapter will meet on board the battleship *New Jersey*, located at 100 Clinton St. in Camden, New Jersey. The purpose of this meeting will be to see each other again (at long last), to evaluate whether this new space is a viable option for us, and to discuss future activities/events for our group.



The meeting room is one deck down from the main deck of this World War II-era battleship, and accessible via what is essentially a ladder. Any society member is welcome to join us, but space is limited and reservations are required. Please contact Delaware Valley Chapter Chairman Steve Loveless at 215-495-8889 or [slldvcsshsa@gmail.com](mailto:slldvcsshsa@gmail.com) to sign up by Sunday, March 27. Attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis and refreshments will be served

Ms. Michele R. Berard  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Beringhauser  
 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. Jim Coonrod  
 Mr. David Corry  
 CAPT John M. Cox  
 Mr. Terry B. Curtis  
 Mr. Edward Dietrich  
 Mr. Paul Eberst  
 Mr. Arild Johan Ellingsen  
 Mr. Jonathan Ely  
 Ms. Kathy Farnsworth and  
 Mr. John Teichmoeller  
 Mr. Charles Feyler  
 CAPT Mike and Sue Finnigan  
 CAPT George H. Fisher  
 Mr. Brian J. Fournier  
 Mr. Keith Franson  
 Mr. Norman J. Freitag  
 Hal and Mattie Fuller  
 Ms. Susan L. Gibbs  
 Mr. Roger Gill  
 Mr. Gary Gmoser  
 Mr. John Gray  
 Mr. Robert A. Haslun  
 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. Gunstein Langset  
 CAPT David Leech  
 CAPT Adrian M. Loughborough  
 Mr. Laurence P. MacDonald  
 Rev. Armand Mantia  
 Mr. James P. Martin  
 Mr. Robert Mason  
 Mr. David L. McColloch  
 Mr. Alan McKie  
 CAPT Thomas McLean

For more information on the ship, including directions and parking, visit [www.battleshipnewjersey.org](http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org). If you have any questions or additional needs, feel free to contact Steve.

**Caption: The Delaware Valley Chapter will hold an informational meeting aboard the battleship *New Jersey* on April 3 to see if the space is a good fit for future gatherings. RSVP to Chapter Chairman Steve Loveless (Photo: [battleshipnewjersey.org](http://battleshipnewjersey.org)).**

## Southern California

*Provided by Bruce Vancil, Chapter President*

February 5 saw the Southern California Chapter's first meeting of the New Year. The Board of Directors met that morning, and we were informed of the resignation of one of our board members. Kate Vescera of Long Beach was appointed to fill out the term. She is a member of both the chapter and national organizations, and we look forward to her contributions as a board member.

The members' meeting in the afternoon was conducted via Zoom and featured two presenters. Kate presented a history of German ocean liners and was well-received by the attending audience, which was the largest we have seen in a Zoom members' meeting. Wayne Yanda followed with a presentation focusing on "The Art & Design of APL's *President Jackson Class*" that also was very well-received. The quality of our lecturers seems to be as good as ever. If you have any comments, I'd like to hear them. Shoot me a note if you'd like at [steamer@pacbell.net](mailto:steamer@pacbell.net).

**The next meeting is set for May 7 via Zoom** and will feature two presenters - one joining us from Iowa and the other from the United Kingdom. Join us at 1 p.m. Pacific time and participate in a meeting that expands the fellowship of ship enthusiast across the USA and the world. More specifics will be available when invitations come out. Hope to see you there!

Our West Coast has its fair share of maritime history—including powered-ship history—that is often overlooked. The April issue of the *Ocean Times* has mostly focused on that West Coast history.

One ship that was at the beginning of steam-powered history on our shores is the SS *California*. While not the first steamship on the North American West Coast—the *Beaver* that operated in the Pacific Northwest beginning in 1836 is



Mr. John Miknavich  
Mr. Charles W. Moorman  
Moosehead Marine  
Museum  
Mr. Brian Morgan  
Mrs. Harry Morgan  
Mr. Chris Mosley  
Mr. Brian L. Norden  
CAPT Harry Olsen  
Mr. Ronald L. Oswald  
Mr. Richard G. Pelley  
Mr. James C. Pendleton  
Ms. Lisa Plotnick  
Mr. David L. Powers Jr.  
Mr. Richard A. Proeschel  
Mr. Michael Revnes  
Mr. Robert H. Savarese  
Mr. John W. Schumann  
Mr. Howard Schutter  
Mr. Daniel J. Sentilles  
Dr. Robert A. Shea  
CAPT Ron Skaggs  
Mr. Joel A. Slagg  
Mr. John Sleeter  
Mr. John O. Snyder  
Mr. Mark G. Southern  
Mr. Roy L. Spring  
Mr. Alan Stover  
Mr. Steven Tise  
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Mr. Daniel A. Uitti  
Mr. Richard Vanaria  
Mr. Chandler Vance  
Dr. Charles U. Walker  
Mr. Jack Wendler  
Mr. Eric Wiberg  
Mr. Ewald Wiberg  
Mr. Steve Winter  
Mr. Kirk Youngman  
Mr. Robert Zinman

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credited with that claim—it was the first American steamship to transit the Straits of Magellan and also the first Pacific Mail steamship to pass through the Golden Gate, this in 1849.

*California* and its similar sister ships, the *Oregon* and *Panama*, operated the Pacific Ocean leg of U.S. Mail service connecting Panama, the city, to West Coast ports up to Oregon. The entire mail route operated from New York City to Chagres—later to Aspenwall (now Colon)—then overland across the Isthmus to Panama and via steamship up the western coast.

From this beginning, our West Coast became the connection to ports and cultures across the Pacific Ocean. We have a rich history of ocean liners, freighters, coastal packet boats, riverboats, steam schooners, tugs, workboats and today's cruise ships.

The April Ocean Times presents histories of a selection of the ships that served on the Pacific Ocean. Crusader Lines connected Japan, the Philippines, Malaya, Indonesia, New Guinea, and a number of South Pacific Islands to our West Coast. On a smaller scale, Catalina Cruises connects us to Catalina Island. Also, the Port of Long Beach hosted the renaming ceremony of Carnival Cruises Carnival *Radiance*.

This issue also provides video links to even more West Coast maritime history in this issue's Tramping Cyber Space.

Our West Coast has shiploads of stories—histories of ships and personal experiences—enough to choke our harbors.

The April Ocean Times also brings us the interiors of the *L'Atlantique* of Compagnie Sud-Atlantique, a ship that was lost too soon. Continuing "Ice Everywhere!" (January 2022 Ocean Times) is the story in words and photos of the repairs to the *Robert E. Hopkins* necessitated by the damage incurred fighting the Hudson River ice. The experience of tendering from and returning to the *Raffaello* at Sint Maarten is told in "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](mailto:ladysherrill@msn.com)) for information and a membership form.

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

**Caption: A preview of the cover for the April 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 (Photo: Southern California Chapter).**

### 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.

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**Bryan Lucier, Editor, *The Telegraph***

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