

Russian Sailor Feels Welcome in Newport

When you first meet Alexi Federouk, a veteran sailor from Russia, you can't help but notice his engaging, enthusiastic personality and great smile. Talk to him for just a short time and you begin to understand why this is the kind of man who was able to handle his near-death experience at sea in mid-July.

Alexi has been interested in sailing, and anything connected to the sea, for as long as he can remember, devouring any books he could find on maritime history, sailing, sea captains, and related topics. At an early age, he was well-known around the boatyards of his historic hometown of Velikiy Novgorod, north-west of Moscow and situated on the Volkhov River, just 3 miles from Lake Ilmen, the largest lake in Europe. Alexi became a regular crew hand in the local yacht club and by the early 1980's, he was serving as captain of sailing teams in small Lake races, always dreaming of a day when he might own his own boat and sail in the open sea.

Trained as an Engineer, Alexi was a machine operator in a metal working factory. This experience played an integral part in his conversion of a wooden hull from a 29 ft. Olympic class racer which had been sitting idle for over 20 years. "When I asked about restoring the hull, everyone thought I was crazy, so the boatyard gave it to me," he explained. For over three years, Alexi worked on all that was necessary to create a seaworthy yacht. He personally made all 1555 hand-turned brass screws and the winches for



Russian sailor, Alexi Federouk aboard FASON.

his boat. "Building materials were nearly impossible to get in Russia in 1988, so I had to make most of the parts myself and adapt what I could get to what I needed," Alexi said. He named his yacht FASON in honor of his Federouk ancestors, his son Sergei, his daughter Oluso, and his wife Natasha. "All the time, I dreamt about the ocean, about the trans-Atlantic race, and step by step, I slowly move toward my dream."

Through 2007, he increasingly tested his yacht, and himself, by participating in single-hand races and extended sails in Lake Ilmen, the Baltic, and the Northern Atlantic. "I wanted especially to test me and my yacht because it is very important to know before a race or sailing in the open ocean," he said. By early this year, Alexi felt ready for the 2008 Jester Challenge from Plymouth, England to the Azores, then to Newport, RI. Leaving from St. Petersburg, Russia, Alexi began the Jester race in England, and arrived in Sao Miguel in 11 days and 7 hours, finishing 12th in a competition of 40 vessels.

Alexi had a relatively easy sail for 7 weeks, traveling more than 3000 miles across the Atlantic from the Azores to Bermuda. "I was living my dream and knowing this is what I was meant to do," he said. On July 16th, some 600 miles south of Newport, a storm with F12 conditions and 64 knot winds was the ultimate test of Alexi's yacht and personal fortitude for 12 harrowing hours. A wave sent the FASON into a 360 degree roll over, breaking the mast in 3 pieces, splitting the antenna, damaging the rudder beyond repair, and draining the fresh water supply. The creative and ever optimistic sailor managed to jury-rig pieces from the sail to the stub of the mast and stretched remnants of sail to collect rain water for drinking. With an improvised sail, but without a



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Capital Campaign Update Given at Donor Reception

Approximately 100 people gathered at Seamen's Church Institute on June 3rd to be a part of the organization's first donor appreciation reception. The Seamen's Board of Directors used this opportunity to install distinct bronze plaques in several areas of its building and grounds to honor a number of generous benefactors, many of whom attended the reception. "We've raised over \$1.4 million with our first-ever capital campaign, Foundation for the Future, and we have a lot of people to thank for this accomplishment," declared Richard Grosvenor, Seamen's Board President and a Co-chair of its \$2.5 million campaign.



The Comfort Family (Peggy, Lyn, Emily, and Kim) was just one of the donors recognized with a bronze plaque for their support of Seamen's Church Institute.



"While there are many worthy organizations that promote the humanities, we provide for the humans!" stated Harry Anderson, a Seamen's board member who has generously supported the Campaign and for whom the recently restored Henry H. Anderson, Jr. Library at Seamen's Institute was named.

Seamen's historic building is the only original structure remaining on Market Square and is one of the few buildings on the Newport waterfront still being used for its original purpose. Given the building's age and dramatic increase in use, Seaman's Institute embarked on its first campaign several years ago. With a \$600,000 Phase I completed, in 2008 Seamen's is hoping to conclude its \$1.2 million funding goal for Phase II with a \$250,000 Challenge Grant from the Aletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust. The Institute is now within \$400,000 of achieving its Phase II goal. The success of this project will have significant impact on the Institute's much-needed transitional residency program as well as on the protection, accessibility and functionality of its historic building at 18 Market Square.

TOP: Noreen Drexel (center) is recognized for the generosity of the Aletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust by SCI Superintendent Jack Grant and Board Member Judy McLennan. BELOW: The reception was also an opportunity to honor a special birthday for Henry H. Anderson, Jr.

Seamen's Church Institute says...

Thank You!

To the Newport Yacht Club
for hosting a reception to benefit the Seamen's Church Institute as the NYC's Charity of Choice on September 28th.

To all our Capital Campaign Donors and Friends of SCI
for your ongoing support.

To the Rotary Club of Newport
for a donation of \$250, to assist with the purchase of a new washer and dryer for our well-used Laundry Room facility.

To the Kiwanis Club of Newport
for their donation of \$500 toward the purchase of a new washer and dryer.

The Docks were Rockin'!

The 2nd Annual Rock the Docks event, hosted at the Newport Shipyard in July, was a huge success! Over 180 supporters of SCI enjoyed dancing to the music of Abbey Rhode, the delicious food offered by Sparks, and the liquid refreshments provided by The Pour People. The weather was perfect for the sunset event overlooking Newport Harbor and nearly \$10,000 was raised for Seamen's Church Institute. Thanks to the donation by Events Committee Member Ann Souder, an original oil painting by Andrew Stranach-Walton of Bath, UK was offered with the assistance from our "guest" auctioneer Peter Gerard. A winning bid of \$6,000 from Kendall Chen of Newport provided the first significant contribution to the \$250,000 Matching Challenge Grant from the Aletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust. A fine time was had by all, and another Rockin' event in 2009 is already being discussed!



ABOVE: Gale Chen, Rob and Isabella Walker, and Kendall Chen celebrate Kendall's new oil painting.



ABOVE: Virginia Sheerin, Carol O'Malley, and Marshall Lawson enjoyed the great evening of friends, food, music, and support for SCI.

RIGHT: The efforts of Ann Souder, Jack Grant and Marie Robinson ensured that the 2nd Rock the Docks event was a success!

Rock the Docks Party Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lauren Anton | Judy McLennan |
| Merry and Stephen Barker | Carol O'Malley |
| Gayle Bordlemay | Brin and Bob Peck |
| David C. Brown | Caroline and Jan Slee |
| Peggy and Lyn Comfort | Ted Slee |
| Ingrid and Tom Flynn | Ann Souder |
| Melinda and Peter Gerard | Lynne and Henry Spingler |
| Hank Halsted | PJ and Dick Thursby |
| Nancy and Platt Johnson | Margo Waite and Rob Menson |
| Pam and Brendan Kelley | Roberta and Michael Warren |

A New Face At SCI

Deedra Durocher joined the Seamen's Church Institute Staff in June as a part-time Administrative Assistant and Coordinator of Special Projects. A resident of South Kingstown, Deedra and her husband Norman owned Kingstown Camera & Portrait Studio in Wakefield for 29 years until it closed in 2005. Most recently she was Membership Services Manager at the South Kingstown Chamber of Commerce.



"Although I'm a native Rhode Islander, I really had no idea of what the Seamen's Church Institute was all about until I began to work here. It is amazing to see the scope of services this organization is able to provide to such a widely diverse audience of boaters, clients, visitors, donors, and those in need from the community," said Durocher. "Working with Seamen's great staff, and the very involved Board, has been a wonderful experience. I'm enjoying the opportunity to meet and work with the people and businesses in the Newport area and telling them about all that Seamen's is doing in the community."

JOIN US AT THE...

Aloha Café

Make it a point to stop by the Aloha Café for breakfast and or lunch – and tell your friends to do the same! Enjoy the great food, at very reasonable prices. You'll have money left to buy a SCI mug for just \$10 or one of our SCI caps in your choice of 4 colors for just \$16!

Visit Seamen's Website at:
www.seamensnewport.org

New Friends & Visitors Discover SCI

Some of the nicest people find their way to the Seamen's Institute and are delighted to find a comfortable place to relax or take advantage of the services offered in our historic building. Whether it's the free WiFi internet connection, the shower and laundry facilities, some time to sit in the Mariner's Library or Chapel, or a hearty affordable breakfast or lunch, or any number of other available services, everyone seems to agree that Seamen's does provide "A Safe Haven for Men and Women of the Sea".



Scott and Shondra Woessner of West Simsbury, Ct, visited Seamen's for the first time in late August and were so impressed with the intimate and lovely Chapel by the Sea that they arranged for their wedding just three days later! Jack and Deedra served as witnesses and were pleased to celebrate their special day.

The family of **Ben and Chad Thut** of Seattle, with their new dog "Basha Ferdinand Magellan" were visiting Newport for the first time in early July and enjoyed breakfast at Seamen's Aloha Café. Dad had been stationed here in the Navy and wanted to introduce them to the "City by the Sea". They started their boating adventure in Maine 8 months earlier on a 45' sailboat. .



Marlene Dick and her fine-feathered friend "Orie", a 6-year old miniature Haines McCaw parrot, enjoyed using the new washer and dryer in the Seamen's Laundry Room. Although she'd visited Newport many years ago, Marlene said this was the first time she'd had a chance to visit the Seamen's Institute. She complimented the *Newport Harbor Guide* for encouraging their week long boating visit here from Newark, Delaware.

Comments from our Guest Log...

The importance of Seamen's mission can be found in the unsolicited comments written in our guest log:

"This was the best breakfast we've had in Newport."

Joel & Joan Waterhouse, Windsor CT, June 2008

"Thank you for your super hospitality!"

Clarke & Lou Valles, July 2008

"We've seen the Seamen's building before, but had no idea how nice it is inside and all that you do! What a treasure!"

Kenny & Jean Cook, Danielson, CT, August 2008

*We'd like
to hear
from you...*

As we approach our 90th Anniversary of service to countless visiting sailors, tourists, and residents of the Newport community, we would love to hear from those who have visited or supported us over the years.

Do you have a Seamen's Institute story to share? What do you especially like about SCI?

Please pass on your thoughts to **Deedra Durocher** in the Seamen's Church Institute office,

18 Market Square, Newport, RI 02840 or send an email to deedradurocher@live.com.

SCI Events

NOVEMBER 7, 2008

88th Annual Meeting of Seamen's Church Institute

A reception and business meeting on Friday evening, November 7th, will celebrate the SCI and recognize the accomplishments for the last year and future plans for the organization. New Board members will be elected and introduced. Our guest speaker for the evening will be author, marine educator, Narragansett Bay historian Prentice K. Stout who will share his travels and images of Antarctica and "The Crystal Desert". For more information on this program and event, contact the office at SCI at **401-847-4260**.

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

5th Annual Winter Concert

The Rhode Island Wind Ensemble, an outstanding group of approximately 50 professional and skilled amateur volunteer musicians, will once again provide an evening of beautiful music from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Sunday, February 15th, 2009 at the Rogers High School Auditorium as part of the Newport Winter Festival schedule. The performance will include traditional and contemporary selections, as well as some special surprises. This always well-attended annual concert will be a great event for the entire community and Seamen's appreciates being the beneficiary of the evening.

ONGOING

Weekly AA meetings in the Library

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Sunday | 9:30 am |
| Tuesday | 8:00 pm |
| Wednesday | 8:00 pm |



The Memorial Garden at the Seamen's Church Institute.

Community Events

OCTOBER 16, 2008

Women in Business Brown Bag Lunch

Newport County Chamber of Commerce will host their monthly meeting for a dynamic group of women for networking and camaraderie at Seamen's from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Women business owners from the Lower Thames Street Business Association will speak on the creation of their organization and what is being planned for the Holidays. Contact Kathleen@NewportChamber.com or call **401-847-1608** (*All are welcome, but reservations in advance are requested.*)

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Joint Women's Network Meeting

Women's Network RI and WCSWANS groups will host an evening for social and networking at Seamen's from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Terry Wildemann of Winds of Change Leadership Center and the H.E.A.L. Network. Seamen's Church Institute will be the charity of the evening. Contact [Cheryl McCarthy](mailto:CherylMcCarthy@womensnetworkri.com) at www.womensnetworkri.com (401-480-2465) or [Maureen Umehara](mailto:MaureenUmehara@wcswans.com) at www.wcswans.com (401-694-1284). (*All are welcome, but reservations in advance are requested.*)

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Musica Dolce Public Concert

A classical music concert at Channing Memorial Church, with requested non-perishable food items being donated to Seamen's Church Institute for distribution.

Host an Event

AT SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

Have you considered the Seamen's Institute as a location to host a business meeting, social gathering, or special event? SCI's harborside building offers both historic ambiance and convenience. Arrangements can be made for just one hour or the full day. Rates are very reasonable, and catering can either be done on-site or with your own, or one of our recommended catering vendors.

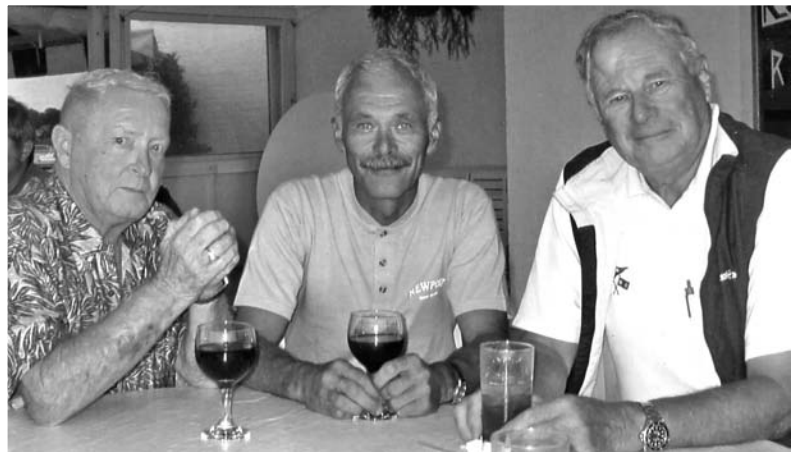
Both our newly appointed [Henry H. Anderson, Jr. Library for Mariners](#) and first floor [Mariner's Lounge](#) can accommodate meetings, receptions or sit-down dinners and our historic [Chapel by the Sea](#) offers a memorable setting for intimate weddings and services.

Give us a call at 847.4260 and tell us exactly what you need, and we'll make it happen. It's that simple!

continued from page one...

rudder or radio, Alexi drifted with the Gulf Stream for over 16 days and 600 miles to the Nantucket Shoals. A fishing boat came to his rescue, with food and water, sending a message to George Pike of Newport whom Alexi had read about in an old copy of the *Newport Harbor Guide*. George, a member of the SCI Board of Directors and long-time member of the Newport Yacht Club, has worked with single-hand sailors since 1969. After receiving the message, George contacted his "angel network" on Newport's waterfront to rally support for the unexpected visitor from Russia.

On August 5th, a bruised but proud FASON and her Captain arrived in Newport. "Here I have met my angel in George Pike. I absolutely don't feel here that I am alone. I am a happy man," Alexi said. As for being in America, it was more than he had imagined. "It's a fairy tale," he explained. "I have met here a very big-hearted people, very helpful people, and very beautiful people. And, in such a beautiful place." Thanks to George Pike, and Robin Wallace, Chair of the RI State Yachting Committee, the fairy tale became very real for Alexi. An estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000 worth of assistance was extended from the generous and welcoming Newport community. The "angels" involved during the month of August included the City of Newport, IYRS and the Museum of Yachting, New England Boatworks, Dutch Harbor Boat Yard in Jamestown, R&H Contractors, the Newport Yacht Club, Elena Wilcox for translating, and of course, Seamen's Church Institute. Anyone who met Alexi wanted to hear his story, get to know him, and offer their support.



George Pike, Alexi Federouk and Robin Wallace

Alexi Federouk takes his experience in stride. The way he remembers it, only 24 hours were a problem in the 8 weeks that represented the adventure of his dreams. He met many new friends and will forever feel connected to Newport in a special way. Alexi returned home to Russia on September 2nd, but will return next spring to sail the FASON back to Lake Ilmen. He expects to compete in the next Jester Challenge, a single-hand trans-Atlantic race from Plymouth, England to Newport in 2010.

One afternoon while here, Alexi walked through the Common Burying Ground and noticed the number of grave stones indicating someone had died at sea. He was impressed with Newport's history and connection with the sea. In a way that few people can understand or appreciate, Alexi suggested during his visit that "The Ocean separates land, but it connects people." How true that is!

2008 Hayward Scholarships Awarded

The Seamen's Church Institute awarded two \$500 scholarships in July to local students pursuing maritime studies in 2008-09. Kenneth D. Grauer of Bliss Mine Road, Newport will be continuing with his second year in the program for Boatbuilding and Restoration Certification at the International Yacht Restoration School on Thames Street in September. Daniel J. Buckley of Morton Avenue, Newport will begin the two year Yacht Restoration program also at IYRS.



Recipients Dan Buckley (above) and Recipient Ken Grauer (right), both with Seamen's Institute Superintendent Jack Grant and Scholarship Chairman George Pike.



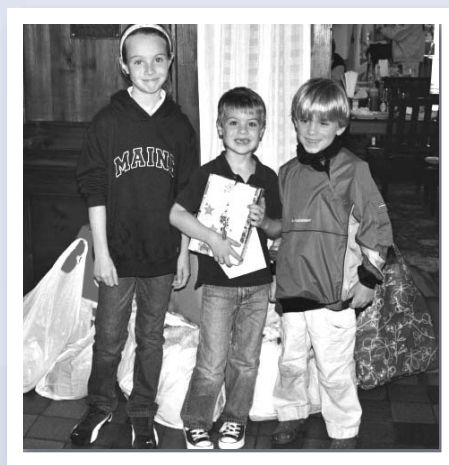
"The Leonard W. Hayward Memorial Scholarship has been established through the Seamen's Church Institute to support students of all ages who are preparing for employment in maritime occupations," explains Board Member and Scholarship Chairman George Pike. "We were impressed with each of these young men and their obvious interest in pursuing careers related to boats and marine technology. It is our pleasure to offer scholarship assistance to them for this year."

We welcome your donations to the Scholarship Fund. Please send your contribution to the Seamen's Church Institute at 18 Market Square, Newport and indicate it is in support of The Leonard W. & Katherine C Hayward Maritime Memorial Scholarships. .

Support the Institute

Jack Glassie of Newport celebrated turning 7 years old on September 14th by asking his friends from St. Michael's School to bring bath towels for Seamen's Institute, instead of gifts, to his Birthday Party. His parents, Tom and Kathleen, 10 year old sister Annie, and all his Party friends stopped by to help him with the many bags of brand new, fluffy towels! On behalf of the many visiting boaters and residents who will enjoy his generosity when they use our shower facilities, a special Thank You to young Jack for thinking of Seamen's on his Birthday.

Indeed, there are many ways in which you can support the Seamen's Church Institute! Please review the many options and then consider the best way for you to be involved.



Jack Glassie (center) shares his birthday with SCI and sister Annie and friend Jack Fisher.

The Mariners' Lounge

The SCI dining room has been named the Mariners' Lounge, now offering an opportunity for individuals and businesses to make unrestricted contributions to the Institute's Capital Campaign Renovation Fund. Donors contributing \$500 or more will be listed on plaques to be mounted in the Mariners' Lounge. Recognition will be in three categories and donations of \$1,000 or more may be pledged for up to five years.

- GLOBAL \$5,000 +
- OFFSHORE \$4,999 – \$2,000
- COASTAL \$1,999 – \$500

Friends of the SCI

Our annual membership program allows SCI to continue to provide services to boaters, visitors, and residents from throughout the community. Membership has its benefits (check out our website at www.seamensnewport.org), including regular mailings of The Mainstay newsletter.

ANCHOR SOCIETY:

- HELMSMAN \$1,000
- STARBOARD WATCH \$500
- PORT WATCH \$250
- MARINER \$100
- FRIEND OF THE HARBOR \$50
- FRIEND OF THE SEA \$25

Clothing & Other Donations

Quality used and new clothing is collected and distributed to fishermen, lobstermen, SCI residents, or anyone in need. While most recipients are male, clothing for women is also appreciated. With winter months approaching, sweaters, coats, hats and gloves will be particularly needed. Towels for our shower facilities, pillows and bed linens for our transitional housing rooms, and hotel-sized toiletries are always welcome.

Volunteer

The important work of the Seamen's Institute depends on many hands, heads and hearts being involved to make things happen. See the reply form below for ways to offer your assistance.

Support SCI – Now & in the Future

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Seamen's Church Institute relies on the support of individual contributions and regional business donations. Please consider giving options such as:

- * Leave us in your will
- * Bequests & gifts of stock
- * Contribute through United Way; SCI's donation number is 2770.

Reply Form

To donate or volunteer please send this reply form to The Seamen's Church Institute in the enclosed envelope.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Donate:

- I would like to donate to **The Mariner's Lounge** at the _____ giving level.
- I would like to join **Friends of the SCI** at the _____ giving level.
- Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____.
Please make donations payable to The Seamen's Church Institute.

Please charge my:

- VISA Mastercard Account Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Volunteer:

- Plan/Staff an Event
- Soup-to-the-Docks Program
- Office/Clerical Tasks
- Other (your suggestion!): _____
- Computer/Data Entry
- Organize Photos & Archives
- Assist at Holiday Buffets
- Sort Clothing & Other Donations



How to Reach Us...

If you have a question, comment or suggestion please feel free to contact us...

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Jack Grant
Superintendent

Anna DeSousa
Office Manager

Deedra Durocher
Administrative Assistant & Special Project Coordinator

John O'Brien
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WEB: seamensnewport.org

The Seamen's Church Institute of Newport was founded in 1919 as a Haven for Seafarers and has been a vital resource on the waterfront for 89 years. The primary mission is serving those of the Sea. The seagoing population has enhanced the quality of life on Newport Harbor, making it a valuable and respected marine tradition.

Open to the public 365 days a year, the Institute welcomes the community and visitors from the world over to this historic gem in the heart of Newport's waterfront district. As a non-profit organization, The Seamen's Church Institute relies on the good will of the community. ***All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*** Your support enables the Institute to continue providing its unique and necessary services.

SCI Facilities & Services

Lodging

Shower & Restroom Facilities

Laundry Facilities

Library

Internet Access

Aloha Café

Soup-to-the-Docks Programs
in Newport & Galilee

Chapel of the Sea

Memorial Garden

Hayward Maritime

Memorial Scholarship

the Mainstay
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