

the Mainstay

News & Events of the Seamen's Church Institute of Newport



VOL. I 2009

Making a Difference – for 90 Years!

For 90 years, fulfilling the mission of Seamen's Church Institute has been possible because of the caring and generous support of so many individuals, organizations and businesses from throughout the community, State, and all parts of the world. We strive to do what we can, with what we have, where we are – and often receive a note to show that we are, in fact, continuing to make a difference.



The 18 Market Square site purchased by benefactors Edith & Maude Wetmore.
Photo © Wilfred Warren Photographic Collection of SCI.

"I wanted to say thank you so much for everything Seamen's has done for my son and me. We now have our own space where we can relax and feel safe. I don't know how we could have done it without the Seamen's Institute. You are an angel – our angel."

"What a difference a day makes, especially when I have the opportunity to enjoy a pleasant conversation over a delicious hearty bowl of homemade chicken soup. Thank you for your patience, kindness, understanding, and outright assistance to this tired, sick man. Your recent financial assistance certainly gave me comfort and a needed relief from stress and anxiety. I thank you for everything and offer a special prayer for you and Seamen's Church Institute."

"Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for your generous gift. I shopped wisely for the girls and had a great time. They will have a super Christmas and the expressions on their faces, and the excitement in their voices is my Christmas present – and Seamen's made that possible. Thank you and God Bless."

"I am a hardworking mother of two beautiful children and have been fortunate enough to have the services of the SCI in my corner. When times have gotten hard for my family and me, the SCI was there with open arms, hearts and minds. There are times when I was apathetic about going to organizations to ask for help because the atmosphere was so impersonal. However, I can honestly say that I have never once felt that way walking into Seamen's. The continued support of the SCI is one this community desperately needs, especially in the hard economic times we are all facing. Thank you for all the time and support you have given to my family."



Now listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, this haven is the only original structure remaining on Market Square, and is one of the few along the Newport waterfront still being used for its original purpose – care for the community.



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New Officers Take the Helm at SCI

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors of Seamen's Church Institute of Newport, **Peter A. Gerard** accepted the new position of Chairman of the Board and will focus on bringing a successful conclusion to the Capital Campaign for major renovations to the Institute's building on Market Square which is on the National Historic Register. **David C. Brown** was appointed President, succeeding **Richard C. Grosvenor**. **Richard V. Thursby** succeeds Brown as Vice President, and **Capt. Joseph M. Davis, Jr.**, and **John H. Ellis** were reappointed Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

"I'm delighted we have someone of Dave's caliber to take the reigns from Rick Grosvenor whose leadership has been truly inspiring," Gerard said. "Dave has extensive experience in not-for-profit management and fundraising and I think we'll make a great team." For his part, Brown said he looked forward to working with Gerard to close the capital campaign. "I think it's great Peter has made a commitment to see the campaign succeed, and together we will work toward that goal while continuing to provide mariners and others in our community with a wide range of supportive services."

Brown joined Gerard and other Board members in commending Grosvenor for his extraordinary service to the organization. "Rick made sure we didn't forget those for whom we have always existed to serve—men and women of the sea—while extending our constituent base to include others who have hit the doldrums," said Board member **Henry H. Anderson, Jr.** "Rick kept us focused on our mission while successfully completing the first phase of the capital campaign which has already led to major improvements in our facilities," added **Dr. Robin Wallace**.

Seamen's Hosts 89th Annual Meeting

SCI's Annual Meeting was held on November 7th, with over 125 guests in attendance. The meeting began with a reception in the Mariner's Lounge, and due to the great turnout, moved to the Newport Harbor Hotel for the business meeting and guest speaker.

Kendall Chen was appointed to the Board of Directors for a three year term and rotating off the board after many years of service was **Timothy J. Mills**. We thank them both for their commitment and active participation in the mission of Seamen's Church Institute.

Guest speaker for the evening was **Prentice K. Stout**, a nationally recognized oceanographer, author, photographer, naturalist and teacher, who shared his beautiful collection of digital images depicting the "Crystal Desert" as well as his experiences while traveling to Antarctica. Limited time permitted only a portion of Mr. Stout's presentation, so he has been invited to bring the entire program back to Seamen's on March 23 — see events listing in this issue, or visit www.seamensnewport.org for information.

Living our Mission



(ABOVE) Jean Babcock and David Leys of the Newport Yacht Club Endowment Fund serve commercial fishermen on the State docks.



(RIGHT) Jean Babcock, David Leys and Michael Janicki serving soup.

A Message from SCI President David Brown



I am honored to have been elected by our Board of Directors to succeed Rick Grosvenor as President of Seamen's Church Institute. During his ten years as our president, Rick ensured that Seamen's served the needs of our traditional constituency, men and women who make their livelihood on the water, while expanding our outreach to assist others in the community with urgent needs. He initiated a \$2.5 million capital campaign to renovate and upgrade our facilities and under his leadership, Phase I of the campaign has been completed. We now are in the homestretch to complete Phase II this year, to the benefit of all those we serve.

Peter Gerard, in the new position of Chairman of the Board, is taking the lead role in seeing that we achieve our campaign goal, including meeting the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust challenge grant of \$250,000 by June of this year. We are within \$110,000 of meeting that challenge and your Board is committed to ensuring we succeed.

Fundraising for not-for-profits is always a challenge, with many worthy charitable organizations competing for individual and institutional support. This is especially so in these times of economic uncertainty. But it is also true that during such times the many people we serve are in even greater need of our help. When I hear, "we have to be careful these days" in response to a request to contribute to SCI, I respond, "yes – and we also have to be full of care for those less fortunate than we in these turbulent times."

Since 1919 Seamen's has provided rapid response care-giving to people in need, and our mission is the same today, with the primary focus on helping people. We have a proud history of coming to the aid of those in need, both in good times and bad. With the help and support of our members and friends, we will continue to provide a safe haven for those we have always served, the men and women of the sea, and others in our community who need a helping hand during a difficult period in their lives.

Since 1993, Seamen's Church Institute has reached out to "men and women of the sea" by instituting the **Soup to the Docks program**. Hot soup, chili, American chop suey or similar comfort food is delivered twice weekly to three commercial fishing docks on the Newport waterfront by a small and committed group of regular volunteers. On the other side of the Bay, in the fishing port of Galilee, Seamen's provides funding for a similar program for those working on the docks or in the fish processing plants. These programs provide more than just a hot meal at no charge. With our regular presence to the fishing community, Seamen's shows itself to be a caring resource offering a range of assistance to many who are often "outside the system". On a recent February morning, **Jean Babcock** and **David Leys** of the **Newport Yacht Club Endowment Fund**, and Salve Student Intern **Michael Janicki** brought beef minestrone and cookies to some pleased commercial fishermen on the State docks.

During the Holiday season, Seamen's enjoys another opportunity to put our Mission into practice by extending an open invitation to the community to join us for food and friendship. On Thanksgiving Day, a traditional dinner with all the fixings was served to over 100 people from throughout Aquidneck Island. More than 25 volunteers were involved with preparation and serving as well as contributions from 13 families, community organizations and businesses that provided donations, deserts, floral center pieces, table cloths, serving pieces, chairs and tables.

Our Christmas morning breakfast, and the Holiday Breakfast hosted by the **R. Michael Curran family** on December 29th each served an estimated 125 people to a hearty buffet of breakfast favorites.



(TOP) Christmas morning was shared with area residents who joined us for breakfast.

(BELOW) The Curran Family once again brought their Holiday breakfast to Seamen's for about 125 visitors on December 29th.

SCI'S 2008 DONORS

*Our heartfelt thanks to all our 2008 donors!
Whether support was given to our
Capital Campaign, the Friends of SCI,
regular donations, our Holiday appeal, or
donated items and services, the generosity
of the community makes it possible for
the Institute to continue our Mission.*

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Womens Network RI

We would appreciate hearing from you regarding any necessary corrections. Our apology for any omissions or errors.

Something's Always Happening at SCI!

In celebration of 90 years of service to seafarers, visitors, and the community, SCI has planned a variety of events each month during 2009 to encourage folks from throughout Rhode Island to visit our beautiful historic building and learn more about this great organization!

Jon Dember and Steve "Doc" Wood, kicked off our **Sundays at Seamen's Music Series** with traditional folk music on February 8.

Contact us for reservations to the March 23rd speaker event, or for more information. Dates and details for future events will be posted on our website.

PHONE: 401-847-4260

EMAIL: deedradurocher@live.com

WEB: www.seamensnewport.org

MUSIC SERIES

Sundays at Seamen's

4–6pm / \$5 suggested donation at the door
Café opens at 3:30 with pastries and beverages

MARCH 8 Jon Campbell shares his unique stories and songs of fishermen and fishing along the New England Coast.

APRIL 5 Los Viejos Muchachos, aka The Good Old Boys (Julio Amaro & Steve Cerilli), offer Latin acoustic guitar music.

MAY 3 Kevin Sullivan, formerly of Abbey Road, on guitar is accompanied by his wife, Gianna, on flute.

SPEAKER SERIES

Something Else at Seamen's

MARCH 23 / 6:30 – 8:30PM "The Crystal Desert: An Antarctic Journey". Oceanographer and marine biologist Prentice K. Stout will present his entertaining tale and exceptional photos of his visit to the land of King Penguins and the Albatross. *Reservations are necessary; space is limited (see left for reservation information).*

APRIL To be announced; program not confirmed at press time.

MAY 2 / AFTERNOON TIME TBA Robert Macomber, award-winning maritime writer, lecturer, and television commentator shares some of his own experiences from travels around the world.



(TOP) Doc Wood & Jon Dember.
PHOTO: JUDI WOOD
(BELOW). Prentice Stout among the penguins.

NEWPORT HARBOR GUIDE

Publication of the *Newport Harbor Guide* is now underway. We are particularly pleased this year's issue has been chosen to also serve as the **Official Commemorative Program of the 12 Metre Golden Year of Racing & World Championships**. In addition, the complete 2009 issue will be posted on our website for world-wide viewing or download, offering advertisers even greater exposure.

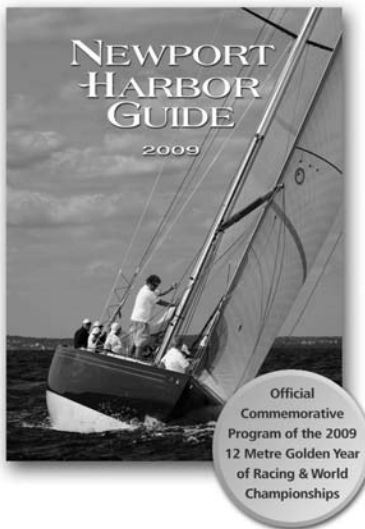
Advertising opportunities in this "keepsake" issue, include display ads and directory listings with website links. **Advertising deadline is Monday, March 30.**

The *Harbor Guide* is the premier marine resource for the Newport waterfront, featuring commentary on events and local points of interest, as well as practical information relating to the Harbor. The *Guide* serves as an easy reference to the area's marine services and supplies, provisioning, transportation, attractions, retail outlets, restaurants, health care providers, and more!

Don't miss this opportunity to advertise your business or service and support the Seamen's Church Institute. For further information and to download a rate brochure, visit www.newportharborguide.org or www.goldenyear2009.com or contact:

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Email: LTungett@cox.net



2009 Maritime Scholarship

The Seamen's Church Institute is pleased to announce that candidates are being sought for the Leonard W. and Katherine C. Hayward Maritime Memorial Scholarship to students from Newport County who are pursuing marine-based occupations. This annual scholarship is given in memory of Leonard W. Hayward, former SCI Board President and his wife Kitty, an ardent volunteer for Seamen's.

The deadline for Scholarship Applications is May 8, 2009. Application forms are available at SCI or on our website at www.seamensnewport.org and should be submitted to:

**The Scholarship Committee
Seamen's Church Institute
18 Market Square, Newport, RI 02840**

Anyone interested in contributing to the Scholarship Fund, is encouraged to send their designated donation to Jack Grant at Seamen's Church Institute.

We thank David W. Williams of Oneco, CT for designing and building our new display case. Check out the assortment of retail items for purchase as additional ways to support the services of Seamen's!



SCI Welcomes Student Interns

Jordan Gerace, a senior marketing student at Salve Regina University was the first student intern to work with SCI. During the 2008 fall semester, Jordan researched SCI's Chapel of the Sea for a future brochure detailing the history of its construction and dedication, and also worked on other SCI promotional efforts.



Jordan Gerace, SCI's first student intern.

During the 2009 spring semester, marketing and business administration senior **Michael Janicki** will assist with the promotion of the Aloha Café among other projects. Born in Hawaii and interested in cooking, he's working on spreading the word about our great and affordable menu, including a regular email broadcast of our Café's daily specials.

Through a new partnership with the **Rhode Island Small Business Development Center** and the **College of Business at Johnson & Wales University** during the spring semester, Seamen's will benefit from a student/faculty project to evaluate the business operations of the Aloha Café.

Visit Our New Website:
www.seamensnewport.org

Check out our new website to get all the latest SCI news and event information!

Send us your comments or questions using the contact page email links.

Support the Institute

The Mariners' Lounge

The Mariners' Lounge offers an opportunity for individuals and businesses to make unrestricted contributions to SCI's Capital Campaign Renovation Fund. Donors contributing \$500 or more will be listed on plaques mounted in the Mariners' Lounge (*former SCI Dining Room*). Recognition is 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 (see our website: www.seamensnewport.org)

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

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

Clothing & Other Donations

Quality used and new clothing is collected and distributed to fishermen, lobstermen, SCI residents, or anyone in need. Clothing for men and women is greatly appreciated. Towels for our shower facilities, pillows and bed linens for our transitional housing rooms, and hotel-sized toiletries are always welcome.

Reply Form

To donate 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: _____

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
Facilities Manager

Bill Daniels
Night Manager

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Newport, RI 02840

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FAX: 401.847.4284

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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 90 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
VOL. 1 2009

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