

the Mainstay

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



Seamen's
Church
Institute

VOL. II 2011

Seamen's Provides Shelter From The Storm

There's nothing like a strong hurricane forecast to bring Seamen's mission into focus!

Throughout our 92-year history, the Seamen's Church Institute of Newport has been a "safe haven" for boaters from all parts of the world, and this was especially true during the last weekend in August when Hurricane Irene arrived in the Newport waterfront.

In preparation for the storm, Superintendent John Feld and his three young sons, with additional volunteers, brought everything from the basement storage closets upstairs, Home Depot delivered pallets of sand, and all the entrances to the building were boarded and sand-bagged, leaving the only access through the Memorial Garden. Emergency generators were connected and tested. By late afternoon Saturday, all our rooms on the third floor were occupied with sailors and travelers escaping the storm with even a few additional guests accommodated with air mattresses in the Mariner's Library. Safety signs were posted throughout the building and all guests were provided with flashlights. The Aloha Café made up sandwiches in advance and food not in refrigerators attached to a generator was transferred to coolers of ice.

Irene arrived on Sunday morning and SCI lost electricity quite early. Folks couldn't do much more than sit, chat, read, play cards and wait out the weather – kind of like living on a



boat. Monday morning, looking a little like he'd been to sea for several days, without much sleep, John's duties as Superintendent expanded to include cooking breakfast of scrambled eggs, home fries, and sausages (with bread, not toast) for our 14 guests and others who stopped by looking for hot coffee. Even some of the regular folks for Monday morning's AA meeting joined us. After a bit of prodding, John put out a collection can and just over \$100 was donated by those who enjoyed his cooking and the camaraderie of their 48 hour adventure.

Guests were from China, Sweden, Australia, British Columbia, California, and New York. One boat Captain was relieved to find a safe place for his four German crew members, and John picked up two fellows at the Melville Boatyard who decided the Library would be

preferable to staying on their boat. A message recently received from one of these gentlemen reinforces how Seamen's made an impression:

"This is Mike, from Colorado, one of the stragglers you so graciously put up in the library the weekend of Hurricane Irene. I do want to thank you again for you hospitality....Jeff and I did find his boat in good shape, and after spending time after Irene putting her back to rights, we set sail Tuesday morning to get her back to Jeff's home port on the Chesapeake."



From the President

We are nearing year's end, and what a year it's been for Seamen's. Some of the highlights are covered in this edition of the *Mainstay* but suffice it to say that 2011 was a year of both challenges and accomplishment. The major renovations to our historic building are essentially completed, made possible by the \$2.5 million Capital campaign which itself is in its final stages, with less than \$180,000 left to raise. The fact that we will have completed this significant construction project and a major fundraising effort during the worst economic downturn in memory, speaks volumes for the commitment, dedication and spirit of the entire Seamen's Family—staff, members, friends, volunteers and our Board.

Our new Superintendent, John Feld, came aboard in February and hit the deck running and he has not slowed down since. He brings significant experience in the human services field and not-for-profit management and has a vision and passion for Seamen's and our mission that will serve us and our constituents very well in the years ahead.

The fifth annual **Rock-the-Docks Lobsterfest** fundraiser was the best ever, and raised over \$32,000 in support of our mission. A record number of supporters have become **Friends of SCI**, our membership group, and we are launching an **Annual Appeal** as we shift our fundraising focus from the Capital Campaign and renovating and maintaining our facilities to funding the critical and ongoing daily operations that allow us to serve as a Safe Haven for mariners and others in the community in need of help. When you are asked to help us in this effort I hope you will ask two questions: Does Seamen's have an impact on our community? Can I have an impact on Seamen's? The answers to both are a resounding **"YES!"**

David C. Brown, *President*
Board of Directors

Campaign goals are realized and anticipated...

Thanks to the generous support of so many, our History with a Heart capital campaign has successfully accomplished the long-awaited installation of our elevator and other renovations to our historic building which are now being well utilized. The first phase of the engraved bricks for our Recognition Wall at the Bowen's Wharf entrance are in place and the second phase will soon be ordered to complete the Wall in the spring of 2012.

With a matching grant of \$150,000 from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust for a restricted Building Endowment Fund, and the remainder of the construction portion of the campaign, we have just under \$180,000 left to raise before closing this ambitious \$2.5 million fundraising effort.

You can help us meet this goal through a one-time donation or three year pledge, by contacting the Seamen's office at 401-847-4260 or seamensnewport@gmail.com

...as the focus shifts to maintaining *The Mission*

Annual membership in the **Friends of SCI** makes it possible for Seamen's to continue our original mission of providing assistance each day of the year to local and visiting mariners and the community. SCI comes in contact with over 40,000 people annually, providing a wide variety of ongoing programs and services as well as offering emergency funds on a case by case basis. With six membership levels starting at \$25 (*Friend of the Sea*) up to \$1,000 (*Helmsman*), there are opportunities for new or renewed memberships to suit every budget.

While the Friends of SCI memberships serve as a source of funds to help support our mission, additional revenue is required to help us meet our day-to-day operating expenses. With the end of the Capital Campaign in sight and the building renovations it has funded nearly complete, the Board of Directors will embark on an **Annual Appeal** this winter to support the operations budget of Seamen's. Unlike most not-for-profit organizations, Seamen's has not conducted formal annual fundraising appeals to supplement our membership dues. We are now undertaking our first Annual Appeal and you will soon receive a letter from our 2011 Campaign Chair, Dr. Robin Wallace, with details on how you can participate and help us succeed in this most important fundraising effort.



Newport Mayor Stephen Waluk, Theresa Behrendt, SCI Board member Judy McClennan, Annette Bourbonniere, Noreen Drexel, Gladys Szapary, and Superintendent John Feld celebrate the dedication of our Brick Recognition Wall in June 2011.

From the Superintendent



After the eighteen month renovation and refit of Seamen's, this summer season was like a "shake down" cruise of a ship just released from dry dock. Being new at the helm, I learned a lot about how this ship sails and the effort of a very small staff to keep her on course.

As you will note below, after 38 years Anna is leaving SCI. Her dedication, commitment and understanding of Seamen's and her loving service to this Mission cannot be replaced. In my first six months she was my right hand, she was my Chief, confidant and advisor in all matters big and small. She kept me on course, at full speed ahead, and

taught me what it takes to run the day to day operations. I will always be indebted for the experiences and education she has imparted to me since my arrival in February.

Please join with me as we say Goodbye and Thank You to Anna for all she has done for the Mission of Seamen's Church Institute of Newport. The New Year will undoubtedly bring changes but I am confident we will continue on course at a steady speed, keeping our mission as our compass point.

John Feld, *Superintendent*

Maritime Scholarship Presented



(L-R) Board President David C. Brown, Recipient Ian Larcom, and Scholarship Chair, George Crowninshield.

Ian A. Larcom, a graduate of Middletown High School, was named the 2011 recipient of the Leonard W. & Katherine C. Hayward Maritime Memorial Scholarship. Ian began his studies this fall at the Maine Maritime Academy and will be majoring in Marine Transportation. His goal is to one day serve as captain of the biggest boats on the world's waters.

The Leonard W. & Catherine C. Hayward Memorial Scholarship was established in 1998 by Seamen's Church Institute to support students of all ages from Newport County who are preparing for a career in the maritime occupations. Financial support for the Memorial Scholarship is provided by SCI to honor "Bill" Hayward, a WWII sailor and past president of Seamen's, and his wife "Kitty", an ardent volunteer who shared her enthusiasm for providing educational opportunities to area residents.

Board member **George Crowninshield** served as Chair of the 2011 Selection Committee along with **David Grant**, **Mary Beth Pike**, and **Bob Healey**.

2012 scholarship application deadline is May 6, 2012. Application forms are available at SCI or on our website at www.seamensnewport.org. Submit 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 John Feld at the Seamen's Church Institute.



Best Wishes to a Dear Friend

Anna DeSousa, a cornerstone of Seamen's history for 38 years, has plans for new adventures in 2012. While we wish her the very best as she takes on new challenges, we will certainly miss her seemingly limitless energy as well as her understanding of every nook and cranny of our history, building and operations.

Anna's time with Seamen's began when she was a teenager during the period of Superintendent Rev. Archie Burdick. Since that time, she's experienced many changes at SCI, collected a lifetime of stories, and developed long-lasting friendships with staff, volunteers, guests, and clients who have come through Seamen's doors over those years. It is more than an understatement to say:

Anna, thank you for all your years of dedicated service to Seamen's and we will sincerely miss you!

Our Mission

HAS MANY FACES

Every day, Seamen's makes a difference to someone walking through our doors. Sometimes it's a free meal at the Aloha Café, or a referral for assistance with one of the social service agencies in Newport County. It might be a lead for a job on the waterfront, or a warm coat from our closet of gently used clothing. The extent of our care, concern, and assistance is as varied as the needs of the individuals themselves.

Recently, an attorney from Connecticut contacted us to say Seamen's was left a modest bequest from the estate of a client. The deceased was a mother whose son sought refuge at Seamen's 15 years ago. Not surprisingly, her son was given love, compassion, guidance and a listening heart. Although he passed on few years ago, she never forgot how much SCI had comforted and cared for him during a time he needed our support. There are countless stories of how our mission is put into action...here are just two recent examples:

Jaime arrived at Seamen's from the Carolina's hoping to join a local lobster boat here in Newport where he'd crewed before. In spite of a strong work ethic, he now finds it difficult to make his way as a working fisherman and travels up and down the coast, as far north as Canada, looking to crew. We were able to provide him with a room while he looked for work and within days he had a spot on a lobster boat in New Hampshire for a couple of trips. At one point, while helping hang memorial pictures of local sailors in our Bowen's Wharf lobby, Jaime noticed the portrait of Max Unger III, a fellow crew member for 12 years aboard the Hedy Brenna. He mentioned how Seamen's played such a major role in helping Max's family heal and move through the trauma of losing a son, husband, father and friend. Hopefully his brief stay here provided a "safe haven" and instilled a feeling of hope and caring at a challenging time in his life as well.



Johnny (his American nickname), a 19 year old student from China, came to work in Newport for the summer on a student visa. Sharing a room with a co-worker provided by his employer was okay until one evening when a heated argument with his less than sober room mate resulted in a visit by the Newport Police. The next morning he was told he no longer had a job or place to stay. With little money and no contacts in Newport, he was referred to SCI for assistance. After a brief conversation, it was clear Johnny was uncertain of what his options were. John offered a room on the third floor; he cleaned, painted, did laundry, swept the sidewalk, and anything else he was asked. Before he returned to China,



he shared his experience at Seamen's: *"August 26th is fresh in my memory. I was almost out of money, far away from home and no place to stay, with a hurricane approaching... nothing could be worse. I came to Seamen's and was greeted warmly by the staff. I honestly was just hoping for a place to stay for a night or two, but you not only took me in, you also gave me a home. It felt like I had found a bit of Heaven! I believe the last three weeks at SCI will be an absolutely unforgettable memory for my whole life."* We've received an email from Johnny that he is back in college in China and misses his new friends in Newport.

Since We Last Spoke...

SCI Weddings

In July, Alexander Hall and Heather Morse chose the Chapel of the Sea for their wedding, followed by a lovely reception in the Mariner's Lounge and garden. It was our second wedding of 2011.



Aloha Café

From May through October, the Aloha Café was pleased to provide over 1350 sandwiches and lunches for various sailing races in Newport's harbor for the Ida Lewis Yacht Club, Sail Newport, the New York Yacht Club, and the Clagett Annual Regatta. We also were received a great review: *"Aloha Café - Good Food, Good Deeds, Good Cause"* in the October 14th issue of *The Phoenix*.

Music at SCI

Seamen's invited three local musicians to play in the Mariner's Lounge as part of Bridgefest in August. **Mary Brizard** offered folk and gospel selections; **Tim**



May and **Tom Perrotti** played original and traditional songs in the Celtic and bluegrass styles; and **Jon Campbell** (above) shared his songs and stories of life on and around the sea.

Memorial Garden

Once again, the Seamen's Memorial Garden was recognized in August as part of the 2011 Awards from "Newport in Bloom" for helping to "beautify Newport through the planting and display of flowers."



5TH ANNUAL ROCK THE DOCKS

Even Irene Can't Spoil a Good Party!

The 5th Annual Rock-the-Docks Lobsterfest was originally scheduled for August 28th, the day Irene blew into the harbor. With the quick adjustments understood by any good sailor in times of rough weather, Seamen's festive fundraiser was rescheduled to September 25 at the Newport Shipyard. Co-chaired by board members **Carrie Slee**, **Peggy Comfort**, and **Mary Gilbane**, the event was a huge success and perhaps our best time to date!

With more than enough steamed lobster to accommodate our 140 guests, a raw bar, salads, corn on the cob, coffee, and homemade desserts, SCI's Board of Directors and spouses did yeomen's work as they prepared, cooked, and served a fantastic feast. The Honky-Tonk Knights provided just the right music for the festivities and dancing into the evening. **Gary Jobson** was on hand to sign his latest book "*An American Sailing Story*", with proceeds from sales benefitting SCI. **Peter Gerard** once again did a great job presenting additional ways those attending could support Seamen's; he offered naming opportunities for restoring the exte-



Jan Slee and Jim Gibson, prepare the lobsters (PHOTO BY DENISE DRAPEAU WALKER).



(L-R): John Feld, Judy McLennan, Carol O'Malley, and Melinda Gerard take a break from their appointed tasks.

(BELOW): Carrie Slee and Rob Walker serve guests.

rior of 14 windows on our third floor, \$250 gift cards for distribution to families in need during the holidays, and a SCI basket providing 2 nights lodging, a \$20 gift certificate to the Aloha Cafe, and a SCI mug, cap, tee shirt. Just over \$32,000 was raised to support Seamen's operations and capital campaign!

The evening would not have been possible without the generous support of our Honorary Chairs, the **Dana Family**, and our sponsors: **Newport Shipyard**, **Newport Tent Company**, **Premier Racing**, **The Embroidery Team**, **Aquidneck Lobster Company**, **Newport's Lobster Fleet**, **Frank Field**, **The Parlor Service & Pour People**, and **Narragansett Beer**.



Stateroom Lodging at Seamen's!

Since mid-June, Seamen's is delighted to open the newly renovated rooms on the third floor for overnight guests - and the response has been fantastic! More than 150 guests have checked in from 21 states, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Australia and England. We've hosted fishermen, working boat crew members and sailors, participants in sailing races and regattas, students, military, business travelers, and visitors to Newport. The overall reaction to our beautifully refurbished accommodations has been extremely positive. Our new online reservation system at www.seamensnewport.org has been well utilized, but others have come to us as referrals, walk-ins, or phone inquiries.

As with the Aloha Café, the ten lodging rooms at Seamen's provide an opportunity for a social enterprise by our non-profit organization. By utilizing some of the unique assets of our facility, location and organization's history, we are generating additional revenue beyond the less predictable funding from grants and individual donations. These opportunities for self-sustainability will help ensure the continuation of our mission to serve and assist others.

The success of our new lodging program has been largely due to the dedication and commitment of **Sheila M. Tyler**, an amazing volunteer. We've been able to take full advantage of Sheila's experience as a former bed & breakfast owner (The Architect's Inn) to develop the standard of quality and management systems needed for this new SCI enterprise. In addition, her talent for promotion and connections within Newport County were critical in getting the word out about the availability of rooms at Seamen's as the summer season got underway. We also thank Board member **Carrie Slee** for her decorating and furnishing expertise, and are fortunate to have **Audra Ziobro**, a student at IYRS, who provides general rooms management and overnight security, as well as cooking at the Aloha Café on the weekends.



Annual Meeting

Friday, November 18, 6:00–8:30 pm

The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Seamen’s Church Institute of Newport will be held at 18 Market Square and is open to all Friends of SCI, supporters, and the public. A reception in the Mariner’s Lounge will be followed by a brief business meeting and a presentation by Mike Holty of the Wounded Warrior Project. Additional information will be posted on our website and through an email notice as soon as more details are available.



Holiday Meals

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Plus One

With the very capable direction of restaurateur and caterer **Kim Comfort**, Seamen’s will once again provide a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 24th, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm with turkey and all the regular side dishes as well as plenty of great pies! On Christmas morning, and on a morning during the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day, we will also be hosting our annual Breakfast Buffets from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Last year, an estimated 450 guests from the community were served at these festive meals which are only possible through the amazing efforts and generosity of our SCI Board members, staff and volunteers, as well as financial and food donations from individuals, local organizations, churches, and businesses.



“Gus” Anievas Concert

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Celebrated pianist **Augustin “Gus” Anievas** will offer a delightful program, Rachmaninoff The Docks, on Sunday afternoon, February 12. The concert, at a location still to be confirmed, will benefit Seamen’s Chapel of the Sea Restoration Fund. Born in New York, Gus gave his first recital at age 5 and has been impressing audiences around the world ever since.



Annual Winter Community Concert

Sunday, February 19, 2011

Newport Marriott Hotel, 7–9pm

We are anticipating another delightful evening of beautiful music from the **Rhode Island Wind Ensemble** on Sunday, February 19, in the Atrium of the Newport Marriott. This free concert is offered by the RIWE to benefit Seamen’s Church Institute through donations collected at the event. Last year, thanks to the generous sponsorship of **People’s Credit Union** and the support of Newport Marriott, an audience of over 400 enjoyed the concert featuring the “Music of Ireland”.



Volunteers MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

On October 10, Seamen’s was pleased to host twelve volunteers as part of the annual **Great Day of Service** by local churches to various non-profit organizations in Newport County. Divided into three teams, our group made quick work of three major tasks: painting the laundry room, organizing the Mariner’s Library, and sanding two garden benches for staining. A great **“Thank You”** goes to everyone who participated!



For more than a year, Rogers students and sisters **Myranda** and **Tiphonie Fuentes** (above) have devoted their Monday afternoons after school to help bring order to the many books in

our Henry H. Anderson Library for Mariners. They have pulled out those items that are not really relevant to a maritime theme and organized the remaining books and publications by broad categories for easier access.

Thanks to the effort of **Tom Settle** and his sons, **Zack** and **Logan** (below) this spring, Seamen's now has a much needed workbench in the Boatswain's Locker in the basement. They built and painted the bench, as well as the walls and bookcases, making for a much more efficient and tidy work space. Thank you, gentlemen!



There are so many ways that volunteers make the difference – with our Rock-the-Docks fundraiser, Soup-to-the-Docks, holiday meals, decorating Seamen's for the holidays, and the occasional wish-list project. During 2012, we plan to create a list of new volunteer opportunities and a workable database of potential volunteers to be contacted.

Interested? Contact Deedra at:
seamensnewport@gmail.com

Support the Institute

The Wetmore Society

The Wetmore Society is a special recognition program for those who designate Seamen's as a beneficiary in their estate plans. To learn more about The Wetmore Society and the potential advantages of including Seamen's in your estate plans, please contact us at (401) 847-4260.

Friends of the SCI

Our annual membership program allows SCI to continue to provide services to boaters, visitors, and residents from throughout the community. Join on our website via Paypal:
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:

- * Contribute through United Way; SCI's donation number is 2770
- * Memorial donations
- * General donations for operations

Clothing & Other Donations

Gently used and new clothing, especially warm winter items are welcome for distribution to fishermen, dock workers, and anyone in need. Clothing for men and women is appreciated (*please donate children's clothing and toys to other agencies*). Towels and hotel-sized toiletries are always welcome.

Volunteer

SCI volunteers can make a real difference! Contact us for volunteer opportunities.

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 join **Friends of the SCI** at the _____ giving level.
- I would like to support the work of Seamen's in the amount of \$ _____.
- My donation is enclosed payable to *The Seamen's Church Institute*.
- Please charge my: VISA Mastercard

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____

SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____



**Seamen's
Church
Institute**

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

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 91 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

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