



SAVING LIVES THEN. CHANGING LIVES NOW.

## HULL LIFESAVING MUSEUM

The *Messenger Line* is the museum's periodic newsletter. A life-saving crew initiated a rescue involving a breeches buoy by firing a line-carrying projectile from shore to ship using a small, cannon-like gun. This first, light line, that was used to haul a series of ever-stouter lines to the wreck, was known as *the messenger line*.

# The Messenger Line

April 2010



1117 NANTASKET AVENUE, HULL, MA 02045 • 781-925-5433 • HULLLIFESAVINGMUSEUM.ORG

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### *First Thursday Lecture*

## A City So Grand: The Rise of an American Metropolis, Boston 1850-1900

**Stephen Puleo**

Co-Presented with the Hull Public Library & the Department of Conservation and Recreation

Thursday, May 6, 2010, 7 pm

Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse, 204 Nantasket Avenue, Hull

**Admission is Free**

A City So Grand chronicles a breathtaking period in Boston's history for the first time. Readers will experience the abolitionist movement of the 1850s, the 35-year engineering and city-planning feat of the Back Bay project, the arrival of the Irish that transformed Boston demographically, the Great Fire of 1872 and the subsequent rebuilding of downtown, Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone in Boston, and the many contributions Boston made to shaping transportation, including the Great Railroad Jubilee of 1851 and the grand opening of America's first subway. These stories and many more paint an extraordinary portrait of a half-century of progress, leadership, and influence that redefined Boston as a world-class city.

### *First Thursday Lecture*

## Nantasket Beach Railroad: The Nantasket Branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad

**Marc Frattasio**

Thursday, June 3, 2010, 7 pm

Hull Lifesaving Museum

**\$3 members, \$5 nonmembers**

Join New Haven Railroad historian and author Marc Frattasio as he discusses the history of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, with a focus on the Nantasket Beach branch. The railroad once ran the length of Hull, carrying visitors to the beaches and attractions, all the way to the Pemberton Hotel. The railroad even provided free passage to Boston for shipwreck survivors rescued by the Point Allerton lifesavers!



## 2010 Summer Adventure Program

by Victoria Stevens, Curator

*"If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life."* Rachel Carson

For six weeks each summer, it is my great good fortune, along with my fellow teachers Peggy Kelly and Michelle Donahue, to spend summer days helping to foster the sense of wonder and discovery that is the essence of childhood, and of summer. Today's highly scheduled, outcome-oriented world often seems to have little patience for the meandering paths of little ones, whose learning is ignited by unexpected discoveries and shared delight in new experiences. With Summer Adventure, we strive to build an oasis of good old-fashioned summertime, combing the shoreline for shells and hermit crabs, enjoying stories of ships and lighthouses, giggling with friends over juicy watermelon, and generally making the most of every day, rain or shine. We can hardly wait!

### July 6-8

#### Sea Dog Adventures

Dogs have played a part in seafaring adventures for centuries. We'll learn about some of the famous and favorite lighthouse and Coast Guard dogs.

### July 13-15

#### Lighthouse Legends

Learn what it was like to grow up at a lighthouse, and famous stories about our local lights, Boston Light, Minot's and Scituate Light!

### July 20-22

#### Seaside Arts

Our junior artists' colony will take our art to the great outdoors, painting "on location" and trying some fun new techniques.

### July 27-29

#### Pond Yachts\*

A chance to create a classic wooden "pond yacht" that sails beautifully. The celebratory launch is a highlight of the summer!

### August 3-5

#### Tide Pool Explorations

We'll hit the beach to visit our neighbors in the intertidal zone. What could be better than tiptoeing through tidal pools, learning about hermit crabs, sea stars, sea snails, and more.

### August 10-12

#### Shipwrecks and Lifesavers

The ship's aground! Man the lifeboat! Join in the rescue—just like Joshua James and his crew!



### Summer Adventure (continued)

The Summer Adventure Program offers six weeks of discovery and exploration for children ages 5-9. Summer Adventure meets Tuesday-Thursday from 9:30-12, with a different theme each week.

\*Registration for Pond Yacht Racers is \$75 members, \$90 nonmembers (due to a higher material cost). Registration for all other weeks is \$60 members, \$68

nonmembers (scholarships and 10% sibling discounts available). For information about summer 2010, please contact Victoria Stevens at 781-925-5433 or email [victoria@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:victoria@hulllifesavingmuseum.org). Registration forms are available at [hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://hulllifesavingmuseum.org).

## Garden Clean Up Day at the Station

Saturday, May 22, 9 am – 12 pm

While winter released the museum unscathed, spring's multitude of storm-driven flood tides, has left our gardens battered and beaten; flotsam and jetsam, rocks, sand, shells, and seaweed have inundated our flower beds. Please help us tidy our grounds for the summer season. Tools, plants, and mulch provided. All we need is you!

### First Thursday Lecture

## Great Shipwrecks of the American Revolution

John Horrigan

Thursday, August 5, 2010, 7 pm

Hull Lifesaving Museum

\$3 members, \$5 nonmembers

New England folklorist John Horrigan will present a chronology of great shipwrecks that took place during the American Revolutionary War. Weather along the American Atlantic coast inflicted more damage to British war ships than any naval engagement during the war. Beginning with the Gaspée Affair of June 9th, 1772 and the burning of the *Diana*, Horrigan will provide a brief chronology of American, French and British ships that were wrecked in battle, scuttled by privateers, or lost to severe weather. He will provide a detailed account of the destruction of the *HMS Somerset*, a massive 70-gun ship that was battered by two gales in 1778 and subsequently ran aground at Peaked Hill Bars off of Cape Cod; most of its sailors were taken prisoner and forced to walk from Provincetown to Boston! He'll also recount the harrowing ordeal of the American man-of-war *General Arnold* that ran aground on a sandbar off of Plymouth on Christmas Eve of 1778, giving an hourly account of this tragedy, speak of the Independence Hurricane and the Triple Hurricanes of 1780, and conclude his talk with the loss of the Dutch ship *Erffpins*.

## The Boston Harbor Shipwreck Website

[www.bostonshipwrecks.org](http://www.bostonshipwrecks.org)

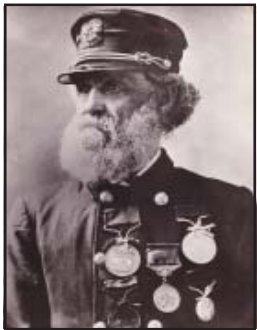
We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Boston Harbor Shipwreck Website, [www.bostonshipwrecks.org](http://www.bostonshipwrecks.org). The website is based on the Shipwreck Chart of Boston Harbor created by Robert Sullivan, longtime museum supporter and author of *Shipwrecks and Nautical Lore of Boston Harbor*.



The site links wreck locations to original wreck reports, photographs and teacher resources. We developed [bostonshipwrecks.org](http://bostonshipwrecks.org) with designers from Audissey Guides and support from MassHumanities and the Boston Marine Society, and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeology.

While the site is already rich in original research materials and fascinating stories, we hope the [bostonshipwrecks.org](http://bostonshipwrecks.org) will continue to grow. Do you have information to share? Please contact [Victoria@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:Victoria@hulllifesavingmuseum.org) or 781-925-5433.

Here's just a taste of one of the site's most engaging resources, first hand accounts of rescues, in the lifesaver's own words. In this Point Allerton US Lifesaving Station Log entry from February 25, 1900, Joshua James recounts the fate of two barges, the *Otto* and the *Keystone*, cut loose from the tug *Gettysburg* during a gale off Boston Light:



"A rocket was sent up from Boston Light 1 ½ miles N.E. by N. from the Station about daylight this morning, and was seen by surfman F.B. Mitchell while on West patrol. He reported at once and the Higgins & Gifford surfboat was launched to go there, arriving about sunrise. Found two barges ashore on the ledges at Boston Light Island, the "Keystone" was under

water, there was no one on board, they having landed in their own boat. The other barge the "Otto" lying nearby was full of water, the cabin house making shelter for the crew, four in number, who dared not try to land in their boat. The L.S.S. crew took them off and landed them on the island. Crews of both barges were taken to the L.S.S. station where they were supplied with dry clothing, food, etc. The barge was in tow of tug boat "Gettysburg" from Philadelphia for Boston. When off Boston Light, commenced shortening up hawser, and, as there was a gale from S.S.W. nearly abeam [ drifted to leeward on the ledges ] The Capt. of tug boat did not think he was so near the ledges while shortening hawser. Both barges with their cargo will probably be lost. The L.S.S. crew arrived at station about 8:30 AM."

- Joshua James, Keeper

## En Plein Air Fridays Return

Beginning Friday, June 4, 9 am

Here's a wonderful opportunity to plan your summer schedule to include our *en plein air* painting gatherings exploring the beauty of Hull and its surroundings with paintbrush in hand. Our artists are a gently organized group ranging from beginners to professionals. They meet at changing locations around Hull on Friday mornings throughout the summer to paint or draw. For the second year, we are excited to have been invited by Boston Harbor Island Alliance to head out to Spectacle Island to find inspiration in the beauty of the Harbor Islands. Dates are tentatively scheduled for July 23, August 13, and September 17 and ferry passes for regular island boat service will be provided for *free* water transportation to the island. For this and all other *en plein air* art adventures, please bring your own materials, paint, pastels, pencils and canvas. Sign-up information for the island trips will be available in May; all other gatherings are on a drop-in basis. If you would like to add your or a friend's address to the *en plein air* artists' e-mailing list, connecting artists and informing them of that week's gathering place, please send an email to [info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:info@hulllifesavingmuseum.org).

## Teaching with Small Boats

By Lory Newmyer, Executive Director

Seventeen years have passed since Dick Wheeler last convened people and organizations that love and use small craft as educational tools at the organization he founded, Seattle's legendary Center for Wooden Boats. His early 1990s conferences exploring "Maritime Heritage and Foundering Youth" inspired and validated the work that we and others were pursuing, including Joe Youcha, founder of Virginia's lauded Alexandria Seaport Foundation. In addition to running a superb organization, for the past two years, Joe has worked to engage maritime educators in the idea of reviving the collaboration and resource-sharing that stimulated so much growth in the maritime experiential education world nearly two decades ago.

Toward that goal, Joe and his organization hosted a superb three-day conference at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation in mid-March, attracting 60 organizations from all over the U.S. - and two from Canada - and 100 participants. Five staff people from HLM attended, returning home equally exhausted and exhilarated by the friendships we made and deepened, and the ideas we shared and were inspired by. The conference led to the formation of a national organization and a half-dozen working committees that will help carry our goals and dreams forward. HLM is thrilled to be part of this work.

## HLM Staff Profile: Kate Moore

by Beth Howard, Maritime Program Educator

A year and a half ago, philanthropic friends at the Lenny Zakim Fund asked if the Maritime Apprentice Program could use a fantastic social work student, who had just spent two years helping the Fund in myriad ways, but who needed a placement in direct service work to fulfill her graduation requirements. The Lenny Fund people wouldn't stop raving about this young woman, Kate Moore, and the multitude of ways in which she had become essential to their organization. We were cautious, due to the delicate nature of our work in MAP, but agreed to let her come to MAP for a few weeks, on a trial basis. Within days of meeting Kate, we were thoroughly smitten.

From her first few moments with us, Kate instantly and seamlessly became part of the workplace. She is tough, stubborn, kind, compassionate, loyal, determined, hardworking, fun, principled, and forgiving. More importantly (and much more rare), she is all these things at all the right times. When dealing with the apprentices, she effortlessly walks the line between professional and caring, always finding the right tone. She is a fierce advocate, who fights tirelessly for the young men of MAP, as she does for everyone in her life.

When you ask Kate why she decided to be a social worker, she replies, with a shrug, "I just *am* one." If you dig deeper, you will learn that humanitarianism as a lifestyle runs deeply throughout her family and upbringing. Her mother is a special education teacher, and her father is an eye doctor who transports his practice (and his family) to Nicaragua for one week each year in order to bring free, U.S.-quality eye care to over 3,000 people living in the extreme outskirts of rural poverty. In fact, Kate's direct social service work began at age twelve, when she first joined her parents and older siblings in Nicaragua (she's returned twelve times since then). She helped the three doctors fit patients for glasses, and learned Spanish in order to act as a translator, but most importantly, she helped make sure that these people were treated with dignity and humanity.

Although thriving as a social work prodigy in Nicaragua, Kate began to struggle back home in Brookline. She was never interested in academics, and self-identified as a poor student. Bored with school, she and her friends began to find less-productive ways to pass the time. In high school, she watched many of her classmates get into the same kinds of trouble that MAP apprentices find today. She saw a lot of bad things happen to good people, and even lost a few close friends to street violence.

After high school, Kate decided to do the CityYear program because she believed that she wouldn't have gotten into college, and needed to figure out what she

wanted to do with her life. She was placed in an elementary school in Dorchester, working as a teacher's assistant, and although her entire life's experiences seemed to be pushing her towards a job helping people, it was one small girl in that school in Dorchester who made Kate realize that she wanted to be a social worker.

As part of a class assignment, this child had to write a letter to the mayor, asking him for something she wanted. When Kate read the letter, her heart fell: the girl had written that what she wanted more than anything was for her aunt to stop beating her. Alarmed, Kate brought the letter to the teacher's attention. The teacher replied wearily, "Well, everyone has problems...." That was the moment when Kate knew that, for the rest of her life, she couldn't see these problems and not try to fix them.



*Kate Moore, fourth from left. Author, Beth Howard, second from right, with MAP apprentices and fellow staff.*

When Kate told her CityYear mentor about this revelation, she set Kate up for an interview with Wheelock's School of Social Work. The interviewers overlooked Kate's lackluster academic record, focusing instead on her experiences in Nicaragua, at home, and through CityYear. As Kate says, "they gave me a big chance, and I took it!"

Kate not only took that chance, but ran with it: she graduated last spring with a double major in Social Work and Juvenile Justice & Youth Advocacy from Wheelock. One of their best and most diligent undergraduate students, Kate now is finishing up Wheelock's accelerated MSW program with advanced standing, and will get her MS in Social Work, with a certificate in Organizational Leadership, this spring.

As with everyone who is lucky enough to have Kate in their lives, Wheelock would like to hold onto her. They've asked her to be the student liaison on the faculty hiring committee, and have offered her a two-year position helping with one of the school's many programs.

But we want her, too! With any luck, if funding allows, you will be reading about Kate joining our full-time staff this fall. Anyone want to contribute to the "Keep Kate at HLM!" fund?

## 111 Boats! 324 Competitors! Snow Row 2010 ROCKED!

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, a day of glowing sunshine, warmth, and caressing breezes, would have been a gift in any year. In 2010, landing, as it did, smack in the middle of the stormiest, snottiest late winter in recent memory, it felt like a benediction. *Thank you, Mother Nature!!!*



Awaiting the start. 2010  
Snow Row

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Snow Row will stand alone. Yes, there were mishaps: boats collided (naturally), boats, driven off course by the tide, missed the finish line, coxswains lost their voices, we ran out of commemorative hats. One rower seriously sprained her ankle tumbling into her coxed-four at the Le-Mans start, and another, in an Alden, began the race by sprinting across the finish line into oncoming vessels – and was promptly capsized. But, everyone ended the day beaming. What more could we ask?

Due to the huge turn-out, we made an impromptu change to the race start, setting boats off the beach in four waves instead of the traditional three. This not only minimized the number of pinwheel entanglements during the race's first few minutes (an annual highlight), but also made for a very tight pack across the whole race course. Thanks to this tweak, and the magnificent conditions, all 111 boats finished the race in under an hour, and all but 8 boats crossed the line within 20 minutes of one another - quite a challenge for our timing crew. All of this was witnessed by hundreds of spectators lining the beach at Windmill Point and following the course aboard the Boston's Best Cruises ferry that, for the fourth year, gave fans an intimate view of the race – with none of the pain of competition.

In addition to the wonderful athletes who travel from all over New England, New York City, and as far away as Virginia, to be at the race, dozens of friends help HLM make this event an annual joy. *Thank you all!* (And, please see them listed in our Thank Yous.) Exciting pictures and all race results can be found on our website: [hulllifesavingmuseum.org](http://hulllifesavingmuseum.org).

## Spring Wish List

- Acoustic guitar (any condition)
- Art easels
- Boat/Ship toys
- Boatbuilding manuals
- Book ends – heavyweight
- Camping equipment (in good repair)
- Camping lanterns
- Coffee maker – 12 cup size
- Digital camera
- Flip chart easel
- Garden cart
- Garden tools
- Hand tools & power tools
- Loam and Mulch
- Office chairs
- Outboard motors (any condition)
- Slide scanner
- Smart Board
- Social Investment Funders
- Stackable chairs (lightweight preferred)
- Surplus building materials: dry wall, wiring, switches, dimension lumber, shingles, etc.
- Suzuki 110 HP-plus 4-stroke outboard engine
- Video camera

## Volunteers Needed & Appreciated!

**In the garden:** Clean-up, planting, mulching, and maintaining the beds

**In the office:** Assisting with myriad clerical projects and handyman jobs

**In the world:** Graphic designer for marketing assistance  
Think you may be the perfect match for one of these jobs? Please contact Corinne Leung, Museum Director, at [corinne@hulllifesavingmuseum.org](mailto:corinne@hulllifesavingmuseum.org) or 781-925-5433.

## Remembering Susan McVeigh

For many years, we would mark our Tuesdays at the museum with Susan's measured footfall on the stairs heralding her arrival to volunteer for the morning. Before beginning her work in our collections, we often spent a few moments catching up, discussing whereabouts and milestones of kids and grandkids, Mindy, her long-hair dachshund, and the passing scene and seasons on Whale Meadow from her beachside terrace. Then, she would join Barbie researching and accessioning items in the collection while sharing memories of their days at Windsor School and swapping tales of their mutual love of sailing. We relied on Susan as one of our most ardent volunteers, always in good humor, with a saucy opinion as well. As years passed and fragile health issues evolved, the drive to Point Allerton became too challenging, and eventually Susan stopped coming by, but the memory of her steady footfalls as she climbed the stairs remains.



Hull Lifesaving Museum  
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## Thank You!

Tatsy Guild - binoculars  
Bobbi Kalb - lecture maven  
Gen Sartell - a dozen stackable chairs  
2010 Snow Row:  
Barefoot Bob's - clam chowder  
Boston's Best Cruises - spectator boat  
Tom Doran - boat hauling and towing  
Ann & Bob Howard - food service gurus  
Hull Fire Department & Hull Police Department - public safety (much appreciated)  
Dave & Stan Lisowski - Plexiglas for awards  
Al Mahegan - beach prep and chase boat (man about town)  
Kevin Morris - marketing (as never before!)  
Norm Reynolds - chase boat  
USCG Pt. Allerton Station - chase boat

Start of the  
2010 Snow Row



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**May 6** - Lecture: A City So Grand  
**May 22** - Garden Clean-Up  
**June 3** - Lecture: Nantasket Beach Railroad  
**June 4** - En Plein Air Painting begins  
**June 19-20** - Brewster Raid Island Campout  
**July 6-8** - Summer Adventure - Sea Dogs  
**July 13-15** - Summer Adventure - Lighthouse Legends  
**July 20-22** - Summer Adventure - Seaside Arts  
**July 27-29** - Summer Adventure - Pond Yachts  
**August 3-5** - Summer Adventure - Tide Pools  
**August 6** - Lecture: Great Shipwrecks of the Revolution  
**August 10-12** - Summer Adventure - Shipwrecks & Lifesavers

## 5th Annual Brewster Raid!

Harbor Island Camping Trip

June 19-20, \$10 per person

HLM rowers are invited to participate in one of our favorite events of the year, the Brewster Raid Island Campout, which involves lots of rowing, great camaraderie, and, of course, fantastic food! Whether you are a current South Shore Youth Rower, and alum, or one of our great adult crewmates, come on out for a delightful adventure.

Registration deadline: Friday, June 4