



THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of the Overfalls Foundation

Volume 10 - February/March 2021

From The Crows Nest

Michael Safina, President

Title	Page #
From the Crows Nest	1
Awards & Recognitions	2
The Dirty Hands Gang	3
Watch Qtr. & Station Bill	4
Upcoming Events	5
Editorial	6

It's that time of year when we start setting our sights on wrapping up our off-season programs and prepare to open the ship and museum store for our next season. I'm very excited about our summer programs. Our events are still in the planning stages, but we are well underway to having a busy season. Don't forget to check the Overfalls website and Facebook page for details.



We've had an active off-season with great presentations from Mr. Jack Clemons on Space, Ms. Jill Ferris of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and Ms. "Maddie" Overturn from WRDE; along with a celebration of International Lego Day in conjunction with the Lewes Public Library and the establishment of our virtual happy hours on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Board of Directors

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 Dave Beck, Director
 Bob Gibson, Director
 Al Klineburger, Director
 Tom Rew, Director
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On March 12th we'll have a virtual presentation by Mr. Bill Cogar, Executive Director of the Naval Ships Association and then on April 10th, to wrap up our off-season, we'll be having a virtual Breakfast with Lewes' own, Mayor Ted Becker.

Along with opening up the ship and museum store comes the need to activate and recruit volunteers to help maintain the ship, operate the museum store and conduct tours. We're going to kick this off with an April 20th virtual Volunteer Orientation program at 7 pm. This will be an opportunity to shake off any winter rust from our souls and to prepare for the upcoming season. For newbies, you can expect an overview of the Overfalls Foundation and ship, general volunteer operations and what to expect as we plan to operate with pandemic protocols in place. We're always looking for new volunteers, so BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY who may be interested in working with us.

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to getting outdoors and enjoying our summer season. The opening of Overfalls to tourists is a big part of that and I hope to see everyone at our Opening Ceremonies and events planned for the weekend of May 21st at the ship.

Awards & Recognitions

Michael Safina, President

It is with great pleasure that I announce awards for 2 people who have had a profound impact on the Overfalls Foundation this past year. Both are well deserving of these awards and I hope you will take the time to congratulate them.

President's Award

Al Klineburger

A member of the Foundation for many years and as a volunteer in a variety of roles, Al joined the Board of Directors in 2019 and quickly began making recommendations to improve the quality of our membership. Al took on the challenge of preparing for and holding an Opening and Memorial Ceremony for the ship. The COVID pandemic made the Opening aspect a non-practical event, but his persistence in holding the Memorial Ceremony out of respect to our departed members from the previous year, not only made sense, it was the right thing to do. So, Al put together a scaled down Memorial Ceremony that was not only thoughtful, but respectful. He also took the initiative to reinstitute our newsletter, the Overfalls Beacon. We've received so much positive feedback on the newsletter – a result of his personal interaction with contributors and his ability to put a well-organized and worthwhile product together. It's hard to imagine why we hadn't done one for so long. The icing on the cake was his idea to hold a virtual silent auction in the Fall. In close coordination with our webmaster, Tom Wrubel, Al designed an online auction format, solicited for donated items and services to auction and ran it from start to finish. It was a considerable success! 52 online bidders helped him raise



over \$1600 – and at a shockingly low overhead cost of under \$32. This was quite an achievement for the Foundation. For these reasons, Al Klineburger is the recipient of the Overfalls 2020 President's Award.

Behind the Scenes

Judy Battista

Judy has led our committee for the Opening Gala for a number of years and has done so with great spirit and motivation. The COVID pandemic eventually made this party impossible to hold, but Judy kept up her motivation throughout the year as we sought out a new venue, postponed it, restructured the format, and then eventually cancelled it. For her, I know this must have been frustrating as each change required re-negotiating with the venue and vendors. Judy also manages our Facebook page, which has become a major source of how we communicate with our members, admirers and the community at large. Given our need to be more virtual in our on-line presence, Judy was always responsive and thoughtful in how we moved forward. But as you know, this type of work frequently goes unnoticed because much of the work is out of the public eye and is truly done, behind the scenes. For these reasons, Judy Battista is the recipient of the Overfalls 2020 Behind the Scenes Award.



The Dirty Hands Gang

Don Gansauer, DHG

Bill Reader, the founder and leader of the Dirty Hands Gang (DHG) formulated the plan for saving the ship. While the plan and the approach were adjusted

from time to time the objective never changed. It started and finished as "Save the Ship" and make her sustainable indefinitely. The members of the DHG who worked tirelessly throughout this period were instrumental in making this hap-



Engine Room

Before



After



Crew's Head

pen. These "before" and "after" photos show the amount of work performed to bring the ship back to "ship shape."

Currently, the DHG is "captained" by Don Gansauer who leads a dozen volunteers in maintaining the Ship, the Monomoy Lifeboat and ensures the upkeep of property structures that include the

Before



After



Monomoy shed, the Ships Store, and the maintenance shed as well as being the Foundation's groundskeepers.

Although Ship tours were canceled during 2020, Mother Nature was a constant visitor and exacted her annual toll. As a result, and in order to prepare for a potential COVID-19 enforced safety rules 2021 season, the DHG will perform the routine tasks of power washing the decks, wiping down the interior, painting the interior decks, and uncovering and cleaning the Monomoy. Additionally, targeted maintenance projects have been identified as a complete scrape down, preparation, and painting of the radio room, exterior painting of the deck houses, repairing

one of the rusted away deck radar mount supports and having "riprap" placed at the canal edge of our western bulkhead.

The DHG will also ensure security cameras are operational, grounds are trimmed and free of debris, and if approved by the BOD install a weather camera, weather station, and their ancillary gear.

All this requires volunteers who can contribute several hours of their time each week on Tuesdays as well as needed at other times. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer contact Don Gansauer at dhgoverfalls@gmail.com.



Watch Quarter & Station Bill

Ray Glick, Curator

A "Watch Quarter & Station Bill" is a comprehensive table containing the entire ships company. It sets out every seaman's place of work, their mess, and where their duties are in case of a ship board emergency such as fire and collision and arranged in tabular form.

We are fortunate to have the ships original "Watch Quarter & Station Bill" for the ships company just prior to decommissioning in 1972. It hangs in the passage way between the day room and ships mess.



Upcoming Events

- **March 12, Friday, 7-8:30 pm. Overfalls Guest Speaker Program**
Mr. William B. Cogar, Executive Director of the Historic Naval Ships Association.
Zoom Link: [CLICK HERE](#), Meeting ID: 823 5856 5786 Passcode: 625082
- **March 19, Friday, 5-6pm ish.... Overfalls Virtual Happy Hour**
Zoom Happy Hour Link: [CLICK HERE](#), Meeting ID: 882 1032 1127 Passcode: 229447
- **April 10, Saturday 9am. Breakfast with the Mayor**
Mr. Ted Becker. Zoom Link: [CLICK HERE](#), Meeting ID: 823 5856 5786 Passcode: 625082
- **April 16, Friday, 5-6pm ish.... Overfalls Virtual Happy Hour**
Zoom Link: [CLICK HERE](#), Meeting ID: 882 1032 1127 Passcode: 229447
- **April 20 , Tuesday, 7-8:30 pm. Overfalls Volunteer Orientation Program**
Zoom Link: [CLICK HERE](#), Meeting ID: 897 4950 1584. Passcode: 807952

Editorial

COVID-19. Coronavirus. Pandemic. Words known in February 2020 but whose meaning was not truly felt for months yet to come, and when it came confusion and anger were felt worldwide as scientist and politician grappled with trying to restore order.

The coronavirus impact to our society has been significant. HOA's have closed their clubhouses, social and religious gatherings have been severely restricted, many provider based services have become sporadic, and availability of manufactured goods unknown as a result of supply chain disruptions. To help alleviate feelings of social and community loss The Foundation has initiated monthly Zoom based events run by Foundation President Mike Safina. Participation is free and a wonderful and stress free way to become part of our community. We offer a "Virtual Happy Hour" (bring your own libations) and various guest speakers (coffee, tea or popcorn optional).

As with all non-profit organizations The Overfalls Foundation is caught in a squeeze between declining revenues and constant, if not increasing, expenses. We were very fortunate to receive additional grants, have memberships renewed and receive cash contributions, all of which helped partially offset our revenue shortfall.

We held our first ever in-house developed on-line silent auction. As a first ever event it was a bit of a best guess how to run it. We defaulted to receiving bids via email then manually posting them on our website; time consuming. If the Board of Directors approves a second on-line auction an updated format allows bids to be processed "real time". Submit your bid on our website and it's sent to our database and posted back on our website immediately. Now, how much fun can that be!

So, here we are in 2021. Be cautious in group gatherings, wear your masks and get your vaccinations when available. We hope to see you at the Ship when restrictions are lifted.

Tom Wrubel

Co-Editor