

THE CHARLES K. STILLMAN LEGACY SOCIETY

AWAKEN NURTURE ENRICH



**MYSTIC
SEAPORT
MUSEUM**

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REBECCA **A Vessel for Change**

by Maud Bailey

"When you sail into a harbor on a boat like *Rebecca*—beautiful, strong, but not ostentatious—connections happen and relationships are born. She just opens peoples' hearts," reminisces past owner Jesse Smith. *Rebecca*, a 60' auxiliary schooner, designed by Nat Benjamin and built by Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway is a special vessel. Built mostly of tropical hardwoods, such as angelique, and designed with an elegant simplicity, she was considered the most important wooden boat built in the last 50 years when she was launched in 2001. *Rebecca* is a strong and stable schooner built in the tradition of the great designers like Capt. Nat Herreshoff, John G. Alden, and L. Francis Herreshoff.

Jesse's voyage to *Rebecca* began with learning how to sail on the classic six-meter class yacht *Totem*, originally designed and built by Bill Luders and Luders Manufacturing in 1930. He called *Totem* his six-meter "Opti" (Optimist, a small, single-handed sailing dinghy intended for use by children and teenagers up to the age of 15). Jesse says he started sailing because he enjoys learning new skills. Well, he was a fast learner—winning overall in the 2010 Nantucket Opera House Cup Regatta (*Totem* also won the Classic Division that year).

In 2012, Jesse was looking for a larger boat for a family sailing adventure when he and a friend happened upon *Rebecca* in Wickford, Rhode Island. At the time, he wasn't thinking of a wooden boat specifically, although *Totem* is a wooden boat. He was thinking of carbon, maybe a catamaran or a trimaran. At first, he thought *Rebecca* might be too large for his needs, but since she had an engine allowing for ease in docking he decided to take her out for a trial sail. The wind was blowing hard that day, around 20 knots, when Jesse, some friends, and the broker sailed *Rebecca* in Narragansett Bay. Jesse left the deck and the bracing wind and went below, where he found her peaceful and stable, despite the weather. He knew he had found his boat. Since he was new to offshore cruising, Jesse wanted a boat that had inherent wisdom and seafaring capacity so while he was learning how to keep his family safe at sea the vessel itself would not be an issue. *Rebecca* with her beefy rigging and built-in redundancies was that boat. She was safe, built to last, and ready to meet the weather.

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REBECCA CONTINUED

Jesse said schooners in general, and *Rebecca* in particular, are just a pleasure to sail because of the flexible nature of the sail design. As long as you remain focused, Jesse said one can sail *Rebecca* single-handedly as he has done through the Elizabeth Islands. He has also sailed her with only the help of his nephew around Maine and the Maritimes.

Jesse and his family sailed a yearlong voyage on *Rebecca* travelling to Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, and Grenada, then home again. In subsequent years, they sailed *Rebecca* to Maine and Nova Scotia. Sailing into the harbor on Isle de Madeleine, in Quebec north of Nova Scotia, they were quickly befriended by a wooden boat enthusiast who welcomed them and showed them the island, even loaned them his car. People were drawn to *Rebecca* wherever they anchored.

Jesse's goals in purchasing *Rebecca* were to teach his family to sail and maintain the vessel, and he wanted his family to love caring for the boat. All boats need maintenance, so what is it about a wooden boat that creates a labor of love? Jesse appreciates the wooden boat's authentic relationship between structure and beauty. The wood itself is an expression of beauty—*Rebecca* is form and function married to create something exceptional.

In an act of extraordinary philanthropy, Jesse Smith and his wife donated *Rebecca* to the Yachts on Exhibit program at Mystic Seaport Museum in the fall of 2020. Donations to the Yachts on Exhibit program

are an integral part of our comprehensive fundraising program. The program utilizes donated vessels for the purposes of exhibition and underway activities. The intention of this program is to add a variety of vessels and related programs to our waterfront to present a changing and more contemporary view of our ongoing relationship to the sea.

Jesse envisions *Rebecca* being used to further the Museum's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. Informed through his philanthropy at the Prospect Hill Foundation, he wanted to donate the vessel to engage a greater cultural conversation. After speaking with Chris Gasiorsek, Vice President for Watercraft Preservation and Programs, Jesse was excited that Chris shared his vision that *Rebecca* could be used to bridge some of the equity issues with under-resourced populations. Jesse, having experience sail racing in New England, knew firsthand that it is a predominantly white experience. Through *Rebecca*, Jesse is hoping the Museum can broaden the sailing experience to a more diverse audience. In pursuit of our mutual goal, Jesse and his wife have committed \$50,000 towards a matching challenge grant to support equity and access to the world of sailing.

Although Jesse misses *Rebecca*, he knows she could be the seed of a new shared commitment to improving people's lives through the lens of sailing knowledge and understanding. Jesse is excited about sharing *Rebecca* with others. His family would joke how everything was better in *Rebecca*, coffee, lunch, evening...they would often laugh, "Sunsets are better with varnish."



Rebecca under sail



INAUGURAL CHARLES K. STILLMAN LEGACY SOCIETY LECTURE AND LUNCHEON



On a chilly but cloudless and beautiful fall afternoon, Stillman Legacy society members and other important supporters of the Museum gathered at the inaugural Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society Lecture and Luncheon in the River Room of Latitude 41 Restaurant. Chris Gasiorek, Vice President for Watercraft Preservation and Programs, gave an engaging talk on the Museum's Yachts on Exhibit program. Attendees learned about the different aspects of the program including how vessels are chosen, used, and maintained. Additionally, they learned about the dispossession of the vessels once their time in the program has ended. Several of the boats currently part of the program, such as *Rebecca*, a 60-foot

Gannon and Benjamin auxillary schooner, and *Half Moon*, a 1926 Alden-designed schooner, have been successful charter vessels generating revenue for the Museum. *Rebecca*, through her program and staffing, has furthered our diversity and equity goals. Chris shared behind the scenes stories of his experiences with vessel donations, both at the Museum and at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point where he also directed the vessel donation program. Following Chris, Peter Armstrong spoke about new initiatives at the Museum and answered questions. The luncheon will become an annual event expressing our deep gratitude to those dedicated donors who included Mystic Seaport Museum in their long-term plans.



ACTIONS DO SPEAK LOUDER

JOHN AND JANICE SIEBURTH EXPRESS VALUES THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

by Maud Bailey

“He was the only boy who would talk science with me”

is how Janice and John Sieburth’s relationship began 50 years ago. Both grew up on the West Coast, Janice salmon fishing with her father and John sailing the waters around Vancouver Island. The ocean was always a part of their lives.

John started his career studying poultry but he pivoted to study “drugs of the sea” when he became captivated by old claims that penguins have no intestinal bacteria. He travelled to Antarctica on an Argentinian icebreaker to investigate. He found the claims to be true because krill, a major food source for penguins, contain high levels of acrylic acid which kills off the penguin’s gut bacteria. Dr. Sieburth was part of the first generation of ocean scientists to introduce new technologies to vastly expand our knowledge of ocean life. John’s work led to a 30-year career of research and teaching at the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island.

Janice, once finished with raising their five children, also found a career at the University of Rhode Island. Upon completion of her second master’s degree in



Library Science she secured the position of Chief Librarian of the Pell Marine Sciences Library. Janice was an early leader in the creation and use of electronic databases. In 1988 she wrote a book titled *Online Search Services in the Academic Library: Planning, Management, and Operation*. She was active in library organizations and was elected President of the New England Library Association. She pushed for recognition of librarians as academicians, co-authoring a 1985 publication with her colleague Sylvia Krausse, “Patterns of Authorship in Library Journals by Academic Librarians,” that demonstrated the equivalence of faculty and librarian scholarship in academics.

John maintained his lifelong love of watercraft and being on the water. His son Scott remembers his father building a mahogany and fiberglass canoe and extensively researching and planning to build a larger vessel. Once John decided on the perfect boat, he had it built in Oregon and driven cross-country to Rhode Island. *Melanitta* was a 22’ Surf Scoter designed by Sam Devlin and built by Devlin Design Boatbuilders in Olympia, Washington. After John retired, he continued to conduct experiments from his boat on the Narrow River in Rhode Island. His love of boats also led him to be a long time member of the Museum; he even took blacksmith classes here.





After the crash of 1987, John researched and found an innovative investment company that reaped large returns based on their investment strategy of scientific market timing. Their portfolio manager connected the Sieburths with an estate and trusts attorney to help them create an estate plan to preserve their wealth and create a legacy. As part of this planning process in 1999, they created a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. A Charitable Remainder Unitrust (also called a CRUT) is an estate-planning tool that provides income to one or more named beneficiaries during the grantor's life and then the remainder of the trust is distributed to charitable cause(s). The Sieburth's CRUT was structured so that the named beneficiary was the surviving spouse (in this case Janice). When Janice passed in 2019 the remainder was distributed to the CRUT's designated charities.

The Sieburths funded their CRUT with stocks from their portfolio and decided to name as beneficiaries the local charities they had a passion for. They lived the mantra "Think globally, act locally." Mystic Seaport Museum, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Rhode Island Foundation, the South Kingstown Land Trust, and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island were among the charities they chose to support.

The Sieburths' estate plan reflected their values of science, education, history, and nature. They were passionate, curious people who left the world a better place.

What will your legacy be?

RECEIVE LIFETIME INCOME

by Chris Freeman

A vexing challenge that many individuals confront as they enter into the retirement phase of life is how to provide a steady stream of income to replace their paycheck and supplement social security.

Many people use a popular strategy that can provide lifetime income, manage risk, and generate tax advantage by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity. A Charitable Gift Annuity is created through a gift of assets to a charity in exchange for a contract committing to a specific annual payout to one or more annuitants for their lifetime.

In addition to the annual income provided through the Charitable Gift Annuity, there may also be tax advantages such as capital gains avoidance and a charitable gift deduction. Depending on the age of the donor, the annual payout rate can be higher than the returns on stocks, CDs, money market accounts and other traditional investment options. The chart below is provided by the American Council of Gift Annuities for illustration purposes.

Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about charitable gift annuities and would like to receive a personal illustration of a potential Gift Annuity.

Annuity Rate Examples

Age of Annuitant	Interest Rate*
75	5.4
76	5.6
77	5.8
78	6
79	6.2
80	6.5
81	6.7
82	7
83	7.2
84	7.4
85	7.6

*Single-life annuity illustration; immediate payout

These rates are for illustration purposes only.

Call to receive your personal illustration.



**ENRICH
FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

5-MINUTE LEGACY: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

Throughout our lives, we leave our imprint on those we love and the institutions like Mystic Seaport Museum about which we care so deeply. The legacy we bequeath conveys the story of our lives and accomplishments. Let your legacy support our work for generations to come by naming Mystic Seaport Museum as your beneficiary.

One of the most straightforward gifts you can make to Mystic Seaport Museum is to designate the Museum as a beneficiary of one of your assets such as an insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account. It is a very popular way to establish a legacy gift because you can do it yourself. Typically, there are four simple steps:

1. Contact the administrator of your insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account and request a change of beneficiary form. In many cases you may be able to download the form directly from their website.
2. Decide what percentage or amount of the account you wish to donate to Mystic Seaport Museum and name us along with the percentage or amount on the form.
3. Sign and return the form to the administrator.
4. **Tell us about your gift!** It would be our honor to thank you for your support and to welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. With your permission, we will share your story with others to inspire them to follow your good example.

MAKE AN IRA QCD GIFT AND LOWER YOUR TAXABLE INCOME

Support experiential education, engaging public programs, and curatorial stewardship of our collections by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA directly to Mystic Seaport Museum.

If you are aged 70 1/2 or older, you are eligible to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Mystic Seaport Museum from your IRA.

- Avoid income taxes on transfers up to \$100,000.
- If you are 72 1/2, or turned 70 1/2 before January 1, 2020, you can satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2022 and avoid income tax on your RMD of up to \$100,000 by making a QCD prior to other distributions.
- An IRA QCD gift is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.

The process can be completed through your plan's website or through the Mystic Seaport Museum website under Support and Ways to Give in the Menu tab.

THE OFFICIAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE FOR MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM IS:

"I, (name) of (city, state, ZIP), give, devise and bequeath to Mystic Seaport Museum at 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT, 06355 a 501(c)(3) Organization, tax identification #06-0653120, (written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you have decided to include Mystic Seaport Museum in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may have the opportunity to properly thank you and welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. If you have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office at 860.572.5365.

FREEWILL PARTNERSHIP-A SUCCESS!

Since starting our partnership with FreeWill in April, more than 60 supporters have used the free resource to write their wills and 19 of those supporters have made bequests to Mystic Seaport Museum. These legacy gifts total more than \$85,000 in primary bequests and \$375,000 in tertiary bequests. Donors have also used the IRA QCD tool to direct IRA QCDs to the Museum from their IRA administrator.

FreeWill's online tool allows anyone to write a legal will for free, and if they wish, include the necessary language to create a legacy gift in their estate plans. Recently, a longtime staff member created their will using FreeWill and left a bequest to the J. Todd Wilkins Scholarship Fund. Since 2003, the J. Todd Wilkins Scholarship Fund has provided financial aid for children enrolling in the Museum's sailing programs. This bequest honors Todd's memory and furthers his passion for sailing to the next generation of sailors.

FreeWill also has tools to assist with making gifts of securities and IRA QCDs.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT US?

If you plan to visit Mystic Seaport Museum, please let us know. We would be pleased to meet you and to organize a special tour of the Museum. We deeply appreciate your commitment to Mystic Seaport Museum. Your support is vital to our success.

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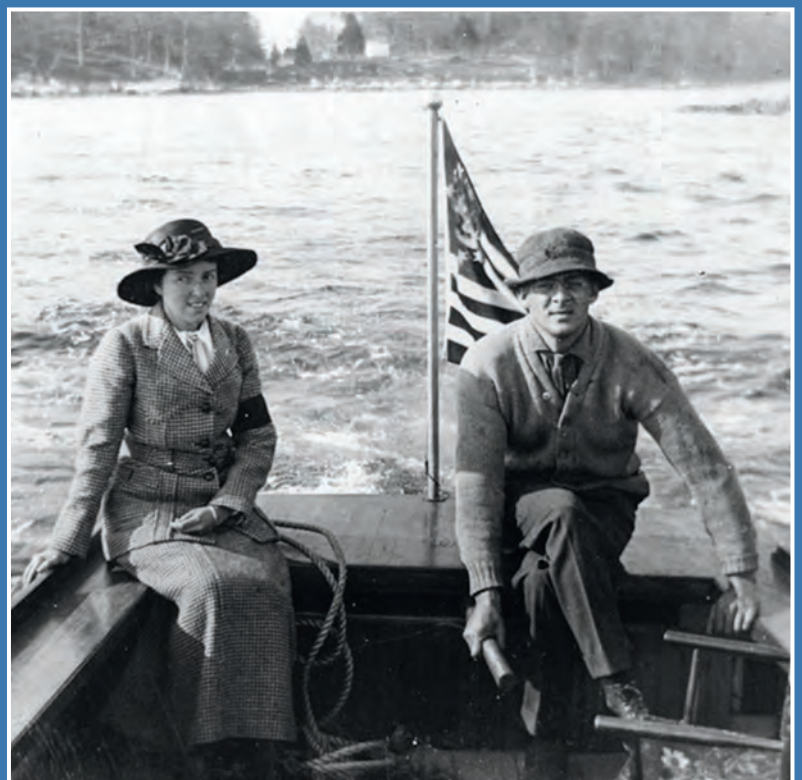
Your incredible generosity has enabled the growth of the Museum, ensuring its continued relevance and impact.

We celebrate all that you have made possible!

**Thank you for choosing to support
Mystic Seaport Museum!**

ABOUT THE CHARLES K. STILLMAN LEGACY SOCIETY

Dr. Charles K. Stillman was one of the original three founders of the Museum. He was a practicing physician in New York from 1907 to 1911. In 1911, he left New York for his home in Mystic for a period of rest intended to be temporary; however, he never returned to the city. While in Mystic, he engaged in yachting and fishing activities and became one of the founders of the Block Island Tuna Club. He was an active participant in programs against the pollution of the Connecticut River. His grandfather was Clark Greenman, who along with his two brothers Thomas and George ran the Greenman Brothers Shipyard on the site known today as Siegel Point at Mystic Seaport Museum.



It was on Christmas Day in 1929 that Charles Stillman, Carl Cutler, and Edward Bradley met to form the Marine Historical Association, which ultimately became Mystic Seaport Museum. Just one decade later, Charles Stillman passed away, a tremendous loss to his friends and family and also to the Museum. However, he had planned ahead and made provisions for a large portion of his estate to be gifted to the Museum. This first bequest helped to establish an endowment for the programs and future operations of the Museum, and began what has become a tradition of legacy giving among members and friends of Mystic Seaport Museum.

To learn more about including Mystic Seaport Museum in your plans contact the Advancement office at 860.572.5365 or go to www.mysticseaport.org/support/legacy-giving.