

FRONT STREET SHIPYARD



THE BULLETIN

AUTUMN 2020



Launch!

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Maine Seacoast Mission

seacoastmission.org

OUR MISSION

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, the Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health.

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DESIGN BY Z STUDIO

From the President



"It's a marathon, not a sprint." With these words I launched the first virtual Mission staff meeting of the COVID-19 era on March 16, 2020. Since then, Mission staff have run like that Athenian day-runner, Philippides, himself. They have run to support our communities, bringing Mission love to share. We have had launches and celebrations to refresh us along the way. But no moment

during our shared marathon has been more significant than the relaunch of the *Sunbeam* after her major refit.

In fall of a normal year, participants in the Mount Desert Marathon, receive their own *Sunbeam* refreshment around mile fifteen. They see the *Sunbeam* anchored in Somes Sound. They hear the crew cheering, the *Sunbeam's* horn blaring, and the theme from *Rocky* or *Chariots of Fire* skipping across the water. That's how we are feeling now. Seeing the *Sunbeam* back in service is a welcome, refreshing moment in this COVID-19 marathon. Island residents will receive that mid-marathon boost soon when they see the beloved *Sunbeam* returning after too many months. It must feel like family cheering from the edge of the course: "You can do it! We love you! A few more miles to go!"

COVID-19 has become a marathon and it's hard to know how long the course will be. But relaunching our *Sunbeam*, having an abundant Downeast harvest, and watching our resilient students thrive as they re-enter school is like a series of fully stocked refreshment stations along the course. I'll bet poor Philippides would have been grateful for such refreshment along his route. Just imagine if he could have seen the *Sunbeam* and crew just offshore and ready to help. We are very fortunate, indeed.

For the Mission!



John Zavodny, President

P.S. I would like to end with a shout-out to Stacey Smith, whose term as the chair of the Mission board ended in June. Stacey was chair when I joined the Mission, and I cannot imagine a better partner as I began my Mission journey. Stacey, thanks for all you did to help me find my Mission sea legs, both aboard the *Sunbeam* and on land.

Cover: The 93-ton Sunbeam, cradled in a wheeled lift, moments before its return to the water

Sunbeam Relaunch

On Monday morning, August 17, the Belfast harbor air was cool, with bright sun and a few clouds. Cradling the *Sunbeam* in four slings, an enormous wheeled crane lowered the boat gently into the water. After 445 days at the Front Street Shipyard, the *Sunbeam* was back in the water, its refit nearing completion. Afloat once again, the engine, generators, and other mechanical systems could be tested while interior carpentry and electrical work was finished.

This project began in 2017 when an inspection discovered blooming rust on the interior surface of the *Sunbeam's* hull. Blooming rust advances quickly, so a fast decision was required. This *Sunbeam*, the fifth Mission boat bearing that name, was launched in 1995 and had been in continuous service for 22 years. The Mission had two options: build a new boat or refit this one. Further studies showed the hull to be fundamentally sound, so the Mission board chose to undertake a refit at about half the cost of a new boat. Bryan Colket and *Sunbeam* Captain Mike Johnson led a campaign

to raise funds for the refit. Begun in the summer of 2017, the campaign reached its goal by the end of the following year. Front Street Shipyard in Belfast won the bid for the work, and on January 18, 2019, the *Sunbeam* was lifted out of the water and moved under cover.

The refit's planned work list was:

- Address the interior hull rust
- Replace the generators
- Replace the furnace boiler
- Redesign the crew quarters
- Refresh the galley and salon
- Upgrade the navigational equipment

Three months into the project, things changed. Superficial rust was discovered on the interior surfaces of the superstructure throughout the boat. This unexpected news changed the scale and timing of the project. Graham Fitch, Front Street Shipyard's project manager for the *Sunbeam* refit, explained what this discovery meant.



Refit Sunbeam in Belfast

Photo by Billie Black. Used with permission.

“The good news was that the rust had not compromised the integrity of the steel. However, the interior needed to be torn out down to the steel superstructure and that steel had to be sandblasted and painted. This required tenting the entire boat to contain the sand. The work then proceeded bit by bit. Sandblasting took place from early morning until noon. Then all the sand was swept and vacuumed up. To adhere properly, the primer had to be applied within twelve hours of the sandblasting. Day after day, this rhythm repeated. Sandblast, clean, paint. Sandblast, clean, paint. The shipyard crew gradually made its way around the boat until every bit of the superstructure was rust free and primed.”

With the interior gutted, it made sense to do work that was beyond the original refit scope. From the start, it was planned to replace the old boiler with one larger and more efficient. But now it was decided to replumb the hot-water heat and divide it into zones. The original system had been one large loop, and sections of the boat never properly warmed up.

From bow to stern, the *Sunbeam* is now like a new boat. Advanced electronics will improve navigation and add a margin of safety. Crew quarters are more comfortable. All the boat’s systems are either new or as good as new. What hasn’t changed is the *Sunbeam*’s steel hull. As the interior rust was removed, the integrity of the original hull built by Washburn and Doughty became clear. “I was awed when I was able to see the quality of the steel in the hull,” said Mike Johnson. “It made me confident in the incredible strength the *Sunbeam* has.”

Mike continued, “Central to our mission is the hospitality the *Sunbeam* offers islanders on our trips. And that’s where the refit has brought important improvements to our ability to do our jobs. The original galley was not much different from an ordinary kitchen in a house. It was inefficient. Its equipment was not up to the demands of being at sea. All that

has changed with the refit. Food storage space has been relocated and enlarged, making it much more efficient. The coffee and cookie nook has been tripled in capacity. And if you know Jillian’s baking, you know that everyone’s first act upon boarding is to head for the cookies. The *Sunbeam* creates a place where people feel at home, where they can reconnect and regain perspective. Jillian’s new galley is central to that work.”



The refit engine room ready for many more years of service

Mike has strong praise for the work of Front Street Shipyard. “They are the most professional, talented group of people I have had the pleasure to work with. They were helpful, cheerful, and full of suggestions that added to the quality of the refit. Their level of craftsmanship is truly an artistic expression.”

The admiration is mutual. Graham Fitch considers Mike one of the best captains he’s worked with. Front Street President JB Turner calls the *Sunbeam* “a good project for us. It used all the talents of the yard, and everyone in the company had a connection to the project. We appreciated how well organized and planned the project was on the Mission’s end. Mike was great to work with. This project didn’t have delays while we waited for someone to make a decision, and that can happen on complex refits. Much of our work is on pleasure boats, and it was satisfying to do a refit on a working boat, especially one that’s part of the great work the Mission does.” 🌟

The Mission's Family Food Center



Left: Farmer Mike from Mission partner Folklore Farm helps EdGE students select fresh vegetables to take home to their families. Carrots, what Mission staff call the gateway vegetable, are predictably popular, but the farm stand offers a variety of traditional and fun items. Kids select what they want, but commonly pick particular items telling Mission staff, "My mom loves these," or "My sister likes those." Right: Boxes of groceries ready for delivery to Downeast families

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed much about *how* the Mission works, but not the core of *what* the Mission does. The spring *Bulletin* reported on the inventive ways the Downeast Campus food pantry responded to the increased need as jobs ended and the economy slowed. Usage is still high. As the challenges of the pandemic become the new normal, the Mission continues to innovate. The need to respond effectively spurred quick headway on two goals in the Downeast Campus's strategic plan: consolidate services into a Family Food Center where food security is the starting point for services, and increase collaboration with community organizations.

The Mission's new Family Food Center puts food security at the center of its work. It serves as the gateway to other support and referrals that people may need, such as healthcare or housing. The center helps the Mission integrate its services and work holistically.

When demand for the food pantry mushroomed in March, Scott Shaw, Housing Rehab Manager, and Megan

Smith, Community Resource Coordinator, pitched in. "Everybody stepped up and worked together," said Wendy Harrington, Director of Service Programs. "It was exciting to see the coordination between programs develop naturally in response to the pandemic. Programs that had been somewhat siloed were working together in new ways, as we had hoped they would."

The Mission also deepened its collaboration with other organizations. The food center expanded its work with Mano en Mano, a Milbridge organization supporting Latinx and farmworker communities Downeast. We also increased our work with Downeast Community Partners, which began offering gift cards to our food pantry clients, enabling them to purchase groceries and household supplies not available at the pantry.

As often happens, a crisis like the pandemic brings with it an unexpected opportunity. The Mission's creative response to the pandemic helped us pivot toward new and better ways of serving our communities. 🌱

FOOD SUPPORT IN AUGUST BY THE NUMBERS



Seniors received a 30-lb. box of food



Children received meals from the Backpack Program

Homes received food delivered by staff and volunteers

120



1,000

Mainers and seasonal workers were provided food by the Mission and its partner Mano en Mano

EdGE Camp 2020

EdGE offered its summer day camp again this year, a version heavily modified to be safe for campers, their families, and staff. Careful planning and consultation with



Campers learned to take and print photographs.

the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention allowed EdGE staff to redesign camp activities and have safety protocols in place. Four one-week sessions of camp were held. The kids were highly compliant with the rules and didn't let them interfere with all the fun.

Physical activities that naturally kept kids separated were emphasized. Four-square was popular. Books to read and keep are always an EdGE camp favorite and that was true again this year. Campers learned about nutrition and food preparation with activities based on the Cooking Matters curriculum from Good Shepherd Food Bank and activities from Family to Family Pantry in New York. "One of the best aspects about summer camp was the much-needed social interaction it gave the kids," said Isaac Marnik, interim director of EdGE. "It also meant a lot to EdGE staff to hear the laughter of kids again on campus." 🌻

Tristram Colket, Mission Friend and Leader, 1938–2020



“Tris Colket was intensely loyal to his friends and the organizations he supported,” says Sheldon Goldthwait, describing his friend of more than 65 years. “I saw that unwavering loyalty throughout his life.” According to Tris’s son Bryan, “My dad was very hands-on when he was involved with an organization. He loved sailing on the *Sunbeam* to the islands at Christmas and being there to help. One of my earliest memories is being with him on a trip to an island where the *Sunbeam* docked and islanders came aboard for a Christmas service.”

Tristram C. Colket, Jr., passed away July 6, 2020. He was born in Bryn Mawr, Pa., in 1938, attended Trinity College, and in 1967 married Ruth Marie Mueller, who survives him. Tris was an entrepreneur who enjoyed a long and successful career that included the acquisition and founding of several companies in metal manufacturing, software development, robotics, high-tech manufacturing equipment, and the airline industry.

Tris and Ruth began their long association with the Maine Seacoast Mission in 1972. Learning that the Mission was looking for additional space, Ruth and Tris gave the Mission their beautiful home at 127 West St., Bar Harbor. They also donated an endowment that provided for the large house’s upkeep and expenses. Ruth joined the Mission’s board in 1975 and remains

a board member. “Tris valued the Maine Seacoast Mission because it gave us a way to help isolated people on the islands that we couldn’t reach any other way,” said Ruth about their long association with the Mission.

“Understanding people’s difficulties and finding ways to help filled him with joy,” Sheldon added. “He listened more than he talked.”

Scott Planting, Maine Seacoast Mission president from 2010 to 2019, recalled the evening in 2014 when Ruth and Tris were honored for their extraordinarily generous support of a new research center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the Colket Translational Research Building.

“Ruth wheeled Tris in his wheelchair to the dais and stood at his side. Tris, who had suffered a stroke the previous year, had written and rehearsed his remarks. His speech was halting and difficult, but everyone saw how important this occasion was to him. Frustrated, Tris threw his papers to the floor. He then looked at the crowd and began to speak in a clear, smooth, and strong voice. He told of his sister, diagnosed with leukemia when they were children. He described her struggle, and the impact her death had on him. He pledged to help find a cure, and a cure was found years later by researchers at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Tris talked about the number of children whose lives have been saved; he spoke with gratitude about the honor he felt in supporting the work, and his hope for more cures that would come from the work of the Translational Research Building. It was an incredibly moving experience.”

Tris excelled in his many roles—philanthropist, entrepreneur, friend, husband, father—and his loss is felt by many. In Bryan’s words, “He cared about others. He was passionate about helping people.” 🌟

Pathways Portraits

Director of Student Pathways Christina Griffith and her staff are meeting the challenges of a school year made complex by COVID-19. “Students are grateful, excited, and anxious as they return to their school lives,” says Christina. “I am so proud of their adaptability and courage. Some students are living on campuses and attending classes in-person, while others are learning entirely remotely. Through it all, they continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience as they make their way through changed and changing times.

“These four pathway profiles exemplify the heart and perseverance our students possess. It is an honor to witness and support their journeys. Today and through the months ahead, we are beside them as they work toward the futures they seek.” 🌟



JOURNEY

Mentoring students through middle and high school

Name: Spencer Bickford

Hometown: Milbridge

School: Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School

Grade: 9

My favorite place: My favorite place is on my dirt bike, the wind blowing in my face. I don't have to worry about anything and am stress free.

My hero: My hero is my dad. He is always there when I'm stuck with something or need help.

My superpower: My superpower is that I can do math problems in my head easily.

My present passions: I like riding dirt bikes and hanging out with friends.

My future hopes: My future hopes are to go to Maine Maritime Academy and become a merchant marine.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Providing tuition support and guidance for post-secondary education

Name: Silas Bates

Hometown: Brooksville

School: Deer Isle-Stonington High School

College: University of Maine, Orono, Class of 2022

My favorite place: My favorite place in the world is on the baseball diamond.

My hero: My hero is my girlfriend, especially since she had our baby.

My superpower: My ability to handle difficult situations

My present passions: Barbecue. I am obsessed with trying to cook ribs, brisket, and pork shoulders. And Mechanical Engineering—I love my major so far.

My future hopes: I want to be the best dad that I can be for my daughter.



COLLEGE EXPLORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Preparing students for college

Name: Ana Rosa Valencia Jungo

Hometown: Sullivan

School: Sumner Memorial High School

Grade: 11

My favorite place: Outside my grandmother’s house in Santa Ana Maya in Michoacán, Mexico. We hang out on rocks by her flowers and talk and the sun hits you perfectly.

My hero: My mom is my hero. She started a business to clean houses and she is continuing school even though she couldn’t when she was younger. She works really hard to provide for us. She wants us to have our best life and education. She is inspiring.

My superpower: I am bilingual in English and Spanish. I love English, especially writing, grammar, and spelling!

My present passions: I am passionate about being aware. I know my own beliefs, but I also I take in people’s opinions. I don’t want to disregard others’ beliefs. I watch the news and know what is happening in the world. I like raising awareness in some way.

My future hopes: I will go to college and law school. I will earn enough money to help my mom and dad buy a house in Mexico. I also want to help bring my grandparents here to Maine to visit.



ISLAND MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAM

Helping island students prepare for mainland high schools

Name: Gaby Teague

Hometown: Isle au Haut

School: Isle au Haut School (K–8 one-room school)

Grade: 7

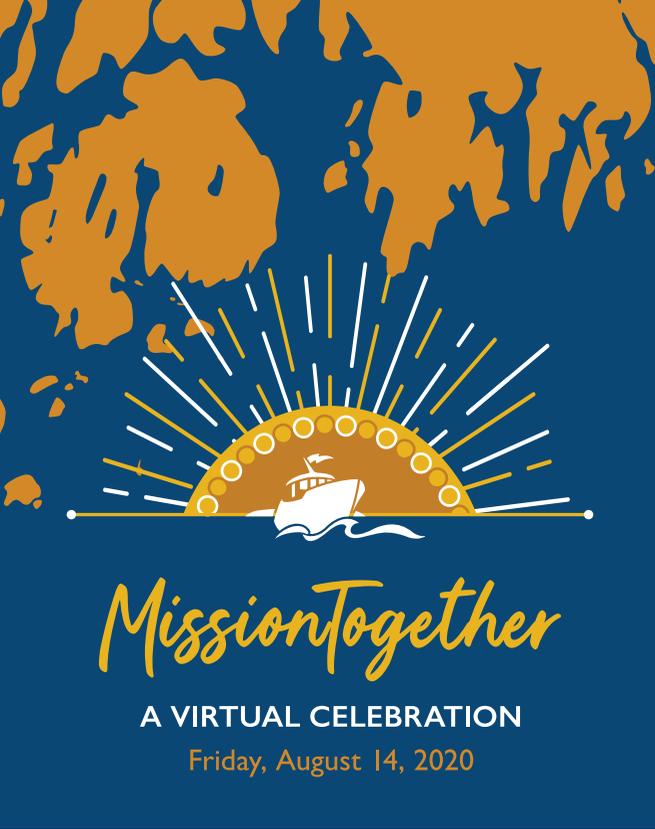
My favorite place: My favorite place is a little clearing in the woods near my house. My sister and I call it “The Club House.” It’s where we keep the sea glass and pottery we find when we explore the beaches around the island.

My hero: My hero is Gustave Eiffel, the architect who designed and built the Eiffel Tower. I want to be an architect when I am older. The Eiffel Tower is the most amazing example of architecture that I know.

My superpower: I can read a 300-page book in three days!

My present passions: I have three. The first is reading—definitely! The second is playing with my two Teacup Chihuahuas, Dusty and Flower. The third is playing my guitar.

My future hopes: I hope to become an architect when I am older. And, I want my own room. Sometimes it’s annoying to share a room with my younger sister!



MissionTogether

A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Friday, August 14, 2020

Every August since 2004, the Mission has held its Sunbeam Award Gala to honor individuals and organizations whose accomplishments have improved and inspired our communities. We decided to postpone our 17th Gala until we can gather in person. But we couldn't face summer without having a fun event of some sort.

Voila! MissionTogether was created so we could celebrate community virtually. With Zoom and YouTube Live, we whisked our online attendees from Cherryfield (Downeast Campus programs) to Bar Harbor (a final fling at our headquarters for the past 40-plus years) to Northeast Harbor (our new home and headquarters) to Belfast

New Board Members



Joanne Harris

"When I was invited to join the board of the Seacoast Mission, I was deeply honored," says Joanne Harris, an accomplished human resources professional living in Bass Harbor. Joanne was Director of Human Resources at The Jackson Laboratory for nearly thirty years before moving to the same position at Mount Desert Island Hospital. She served on the Maine State Workforce Development Council for more than two decades, helping shape job opportunities for Maine citizens. Though she retired in December 2017, Joanne still serves as an HR consultant to small businesses. "The Mission's long history and outstanding reputation for doing great work seems like a good fit with my own philosophy," she says. "I look forward to contributing to the Mission's continued success."



Diehl Snyder, MD

Dr. Diehl Snyder recently retired as the director of the MDI Behavioral Health Center at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor. He helped found the Center in 2003, after he and his wife Susan moved permanently to MDI. During his years of practice, Diehl assisted the *Sunbeam* crew with telemedicine psychiatric services and community education, sometimes accompanying Director of Island Health Sharon Daley on multi-day trips to the islands. "I was always so impressed with the *Sunbeam* crew during the 17 years I was with Behavioral Health at the MDI Hospital," Diehl recalls, "so I was delighted to be asked to join the board. It's a wonderful mission, and I'm pleased to be able to help any way that I can."

(where the *Sunbeam* was soon to return to the water after a 15-month refit).

We were inspired by Pathways students wearing their tie-dyed T-shirts and celebrating the “graduations-in-a-box” they received from the Student Pathways team, and we enjoyed a musical performance from the *Sunbeam’s* deck. We created a new event, adapted to the times, just as all Mission staff have reinvented their work to continue providing essential services. We are so grateful to the many donors, sponsors, staff, and community members who made the event a financial success and a warm celebration of the strength we share in community. 🌍



Rachel Colby, Gouldsboro, is a junior at Sumner Memorial High School. She is one of the Mission’s College Exploration and Engagement students.

See the video online at youtu.be/RkmLpvBFSv0

ADD YOUR VOICE OF HOPE.

Join the Maine Seacoast Mission Hope Society and provide a legacy of hope for generations to come.



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Be a Christmas Elf for the Mission

Spreading Christmas cheer is one of the Mission's oldest traditions. Our presents, wrapped in white paper and tied with red string, are iconic. We invite you to join the Mission as we put presents under trees for families not able to do it alone. The pandemic has stretched budgets tighter and made shopping more difficult. Here is how you can help.



Director of Island Outreach Douglas Cornman hands a Christmas present to a young island girl.

- **Order items from the Mission's Amazon Christmas list.** Items you purchase will be shipped directly to the Mission for distribution. Go to seacoastmission.org, hover your cursor over WHAT WE DO, and click on CHRISTMAS PROGRAM from the drop-down list. Then click on 2020 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST.
- **Purchase a gift card** from a national store (e.g., Walmart or Target) and mail it to: *Maine Seacoast Mission, Attn: Christmas Program, P.O. Box 428, Cherryfield, ME 04622*. Cards will be given to families or used by the Mission to buy presents to distribute.
- **Donate online** by clicking DONATE NOW on our website, and select CHRISTMAS as the program you wish to support.
- **Mail your check** to: *Maine Seacoast Mission, P.O. Box 600, Northeast Harbor, ME 04662*. Indicate you want your gift to go the Christmas program.

Thank you so very much.