



## Working Harbor Committee

For the heritage and future of the harbor of New York and New Jersey

### ON THE HIP\*

E-Newsletter of the Working Harbor Committee

December 2011

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#### Season's Greetings from the Working Harbor Committee

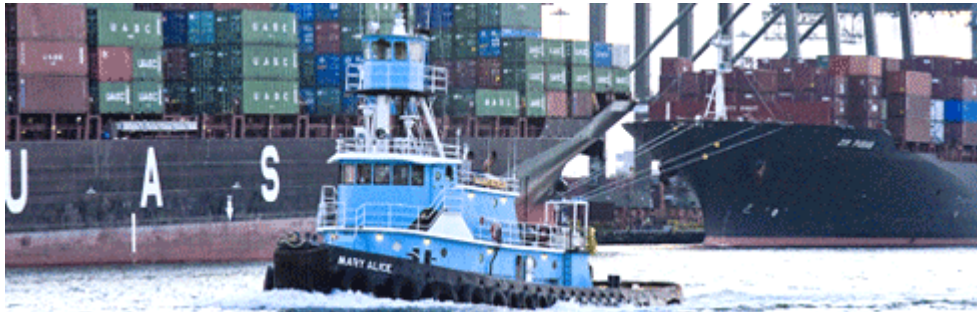


Image thanks to and (c) Mitch Waxman

#### **We've had a banner year with much to brag about.**

We took over **4,000** people out on educational Hidden Harbor Tours® between our regular and special tours, two sold-out lighthouse tours with the National Lighthouse Museum, a series of Newtown Creek tours with the Newtown Creek Alliance and the NYCEF Newtown Creek Fund of the Hudson River Foundation, over 200 high school students thanks to City Council Speaker Chris Quinn and the Marine Society of the City of New York , and over 800 seniors from senior centers throughout Manhattan thanks to Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

We produced our highly successful Winter Film Program, "Shipping Out" – a film & panel about women at sea and our 2011 Gala honored Beverly Fedorko, Director of External Affairs, New York Shipping Association, Inc. And we produced the 19th Annual NYC Tugboat Challenge at Pier 84 on the Sunday before Labor Day. And we added a new part time staff member, Mai Armstrong - read about her below.

All this was possible due to the support of many friends such as you, and we do hope

you'll consider a year end gift of any amount by visiting [www.workingharbor.org](http://www.workingharbor.org) or by [Clicking Here](#)

**2012 will be our 10th Anniversary Year**, with more Hidden Harbor Tours, an "All About Tugs" panel & film, the 20th anniversary running of the Tug Race - and something special for OpSail 2012 in May. With your help it will be our **best year ever**.

Happy Holidays and a Great New Year

Capt John Doswell,  
Executive Director, Working Harbor Committee

### Annual WHC Gala To Honor Clay Maitland

***Dr. Roberta Weisbrod, Chair of the Working Harbor Committee, cordially invites you to join us in honoring Clay Maitland on Thursday, 29 March 2012 at India House Club in Manhattan.***

*Clay is the Managing Partner, International Registries, Inc. and the Founding Chairman, NAMEPA (North American Marine Environment Protection Association).*



Clay Maitland

*We will be honoring Clay for his extraordinary leadership forging alliances for sustainable maritime transport and trade and its future through the promotion of training and education; his commitment to the development and education of youth; his advocacy for environmental sustainability; and his outstanding contribution to a multitude of maritime organizations.*

***For more information or tickets go to [www.workingharbor.org](http://www.workingharbor.org)***

### Olga Bloom, Founder of Bargemusic, Dies at 92

In 1977, Olga Bloom bought an old coffee barge, paneled it in cherry wood from Staten Island ferry boats, brought it to a falling-apart fireboat pier at the foot of Fulton Street in Brooklyn, and began offering chamber music concerts performed by Juilliard students. Bargemusic has not only withstood time and tides ever since, but flourished as a fabulous marriage of chamber music with harbor life.

Only Olga Bloom could have done this. It took her discipline as a violinist who practiced Bach every morning and Zen throughout the day, her passion for beauty, her marvel at natural wonders, her poetic manner, and her stubborn



Olga Bloom on receiving our 2005 Gala Distinguished Service Award presented by WHC founding Chair, Peter Stanford  
(c) 2005 Bernie Ente

strength.

Olga is among the one-of-a-kind people who came to New York Harbor and changed it forever, making connections no others could see, having a vision and an uncanny ability to bring it to living, growing reality. She gave Fulton Ferry Landing its history-recalling name, confounded government agencies that had no regulations for floating concert halls, attracted thousands of people to the waterfront with the unlikely lure of chamber music, and redirected the course of many lives.

Olga Bloom died Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24, at the age of 92. Bargemusic will continue under its president and artistic director Mark Peskanov, who came to the Barge as a performing violinist and became like a son to Olga, the godsend who would carry on after her. Olga will be missed, but also rejoiced.

(by Cindy Goulder)

## Newtown Creek Tours Article by Mai Armstrong



(c) Mai Armstrong

### Newtown Creek Tours By Mai Armstrong

On 23 October, 2011, the Working Harbor Committee and the Newtown Creek Alliance co-hosted two boat tours, made possible by a grant from the NYCEF Newtown Creek Fund of the Hudson River Foundation, of Newtown Creek. Thanks to the grant, members of the communities which surround the Creek were able to view the troubled waterway for a ticket price of only \$10.

Captain John Doswell of the Working Harbor Committee organized a group of expert narrators for the trip. WHC's Mitch Waxman, the blogger and historian behind [newtownpentacle.com](http://newtownpentacle.com), joined with Kate Zidar and Katie Schmidt of the Newtown Creek Alliance in painting a comprehensive picture of the little-known industrial waterway which forms the border of Brooklyn and Queens and lies less than a mile from midtown Manhattan. Beginning with its Dutch and English colonial history, the narrators presented its role in the industrial revolution of the 19th century, the creek's present occupation as part of the working harbor, and the opportunities which Newtown Creek offers to the future. The NCA's expert speakers discussed the coming Superfund era, and the various legal issues surrounding the Greenpoint Oil spill as well as the many other environmental issues which the communities that dot the Newtown Creek watershed are dealing with.

Both sold-out tours set out on a gorgeous fall-weather day aboard a modern and

comfortable New York Water Taxi, under brilliant blue skies and sunshine. 300 knowledge-seekers (some from as far as Massachusetts), photographers, and local residents caught glimpses of varied wildlife living amongst the remnants of defunct industrial giants, eco-remediation sites, and witnessed the modern facilities which form the backbone of our shining city. Upon debarkation at South Street Seaport's Pier 16, many of the attendees voiced a desire to have more boat tours of the Newtown Creek in the future. The feedback was unanimously positive.

With part of the funding received from the NYCEF grant, a tour for educators was also conducted 18 October, 2011. Leaving from the Hunters Point dock in Long Island City, 65 educators from Brooklyn and Queens were gathered to tour the creek. Additionally in the Spring of 2012, we will conduct a fourth creek tour for local elected officials in the Newtown Creek watershed, also funded by the NYCEF grant.

### **Profile: Mai Armstrong**

Mai grew up in Singapore, where as a child she would visit her cargo ship grandparents when they would come into port. Early memories of climbing "the ladder" in the darkness over the churning waters of the Straits of Singapore coupled with her own tiny hard hat for going on deck, sparked her love of the working harbor.



She migrated to NY after some years in the UK and San Francisco and became a NYC advertising creative, designing branding and marketing services for mid- to large corporations. In addition to her branding work for corporations including Kodak, Ford and Sprint, she has volunteered her expertise to non-profit organizations including NY/NJ ALS Association and the MDA, helping to raise over \$2 million for ALS research.

In recent years, Mai has been volunteering with the Newtown Creek Alliance, working to reveal, revitalize and renew the polluted waterway, having been introduced to its magnificence and significance by her good friends, Bernie Ente and Mitch Waxman. She is also a steering committee member of The Working Harbor Committee and has recently joined the staff as the New Communications & Development Associate and will be working to build WHC's programs and presence with Capt. John Doswell and Meg Black.

When Mai isn't handing out brochures at the dock and greeting WHC tour passengers at the gangplank, she usually can be found on the stern with her camera, squinting at the sun setting behind the container cranes.

### **South Street Seaport Museum Reborn**



As many of you know, the founder of the Working Harbor Committee is Peter

Stanford who was also the founder of the South Street Seaport Museum. In addition, many Working Harbor Committee Board and Steering Committee members are or were also closely associated with the Museum. For four years the WHC worked with the museum on a project called the Young Sailor's Program and two years ago we ran Hidden Harbor Tours on the museum's historic tug *W. O. Decker*.

In the Spring of this year, it was announced that the museum was in deep financial trouble and all who loved the museum were concerned beyond words. A new group called Save Our Seaport evolved and, among other things, obtained over 6,000 signatures of support.

Now, a new day has emerged as the museum is being managed by an agreement with the Museum of the City of New York under the leadership of Susan Henshaw Jones.

The schooners are being readied for the summer, the galleries set to re-open in January, volunteers are back at work on the boats, and much more is happening.

We have high hopes - but the museum will need all the help it can get. Please consider joining the re-born museum by clicking here. South Street Seaport Museum members get the same discounts as Working Harbor Committee members.

### Visit us on Facebook & Twitter

We are now on [facebook](#) (become a fan) & [twitter](#) (follow us)

\*For definition of "ON THE HIP" [click here](#)

**To join or donate, go to [www.WorkingHarbor.Org](http://www.WorkingHarbor.Org)**

We are now using PatronMail to manage our email list and communications. If you wish to be removed or change your email preferences, click below (at the bottom). On the other hand, if you wish to forward this to others, feel free to add new recipients (also at the bottom)

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on a Hidden Harbor Tour® soon!

Capt. John Doswell - Executive Director - Working Harbor Committee - [John@WorkingHarbor.Org](mailto:John@WorkingHarbor.Org)