



## ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

OrleansHistoricalSociety.org  
3 River Road, P.O. Box 353, Orleans, MA 02653  
508-240-1329

*By bringing history and culture to life, the Orleans Historical Society will inspire a shared sense of community and pride in the rich heritage of the Town of Orleans.*

AUTUMN 2016

### NANCY WRIGHT JOINS OHS STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Office and Operations Manager Nancy Wright to our staff. Nancy joined us in July and is responsible for the daily operation of the Meetinghouse Museum, along with other administrative work. You are likely to be greeted by her smiling face if you visit the museum, or by her cheery voice if you give us a call.

Nancy came to the Cape 31 years ago after marrying her “partner in crime,” Kevin, who holds the position of Administration and Operations Assistant at the Atwood House Museum in Chatham. Nancy has also served as a volunteer there, and the partnership has already benefitted both organizations as we work to promote each other’s museums and events.

“Nancy’s people skills, her passion for knowledge and sharing new ideas, plus her willingness to do everything from welcoming visitors to data entry to watering the garden, has already made her an invaluable member of the OHS family,” said OHS Executive Director Gail Nessell Colglazier. “I am delighted to have Nancy as a co-worker.”

Both Nancy and Kevin have found new lives in the field of history and museums, a completely different direction from where they started (Nancy’s background is in the medical field).

Always craving to learn, and very open to different opinions and approaches to life, Nancy is embracing her new role at OHS, hoping to become involved in any and all opportunities that arise in the future. At the same time, she is absorbing as much Orleans history as time allows. She hopes to grow professionally as OHS plans for its own expansion.



Nancy's proudest accomplishments were as a homeschooling educator. Her daughter, Audrey, recently accepted a position as violinist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at age 26. Nancy finds great enjoyment in continuing her own studies in flute and classical guitar, playing regularly with local “fluties.” She has been a member of the Chatham Chorale, The New Horizons Band, and The Sound Dunes Swing Ensemble. She also enjoys knitting, hand sewing and quilting, and spending time in Harwich Community Garden, as well as her own backyard gardening. Love of the outdoors and nature led her to the Cape originally, and she calls this her lifetime home!

### Your Daddy Saved My Daddy

With those words, a friendship instantly began among two daughters – one of the rescuer, the other of a man saved – who met recently at Rock Harbor in Orleans nearly 65 years after fate brought their fathers together in what is still known today as “the greatest small-boat rescue in Coast Guard history.”

Patricia (Pattie) Hamilton is an Eastham resident and the daughter of Bernard (Bernie) Webber, Coast Guardsman and coxswain of the CG36500 during the February, 1952 rescue of 32 men from the broken tanker *Pendleton* in a ferocious winter storm. Renee Pellegrino, from Maryville, Illinois, is the

daughter of Raymond Steele, who was an Able-Bodied Seaman aboard the *Pendleton* and one of the men saved by Webber and his crew. When the Pellegrinos made a “bucket list” trip to Chatham this past June, one contact led to another and the two women were brought together in a surprise, once-in-a-lifetime meeting.

Pattie and Renee went aboard the 36500, and Renee got to sit where her father had sat after being rescued. It was a very emotional moment for both women, Pattie recounted. And the shared experience sealed their friendship forever. They have kept in touch frequently ever since. (continued on p. 4)

# ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Board of Directors 2016

## Letter from the Executive Director

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*Executive Director*  
Gail Nessell Colglazier

*Immediate Past President*  
Hank Ritchie

Autumn 2016

Summer is winding down and, by the time you read this, Labor Day will have passed, there will be fewer people around, and it will be my favorite month of the year on the Cape.

We have had a busy summer, with lots of visitors from as close as Orleans and as far as Great Britain, visiting our museum, attending our programs, and checking in on the CG36500 at Rock Harbor. Some were first-time visitors while others told us "We come to see you every summer when we are here."

While we love to have out-of-town visitors, we don't ever want to forget the local residents and property owners who support us. In that spirit, we sent out a survey to our members earlier this year, asking them what they liked (or didn't) about OHS, and what they might like to see us do in the future. We got about 100 responses and, thanks to Board member Kathleen McNeil who summarized them, we got some great feedback.

People said they most enjoy visiting the Meetinghouse Museum and the CG36500, followed closely by our antiques show, lectures, concerts, and walking tours. Many suggested things they would like us to do in the future. Some we have done in the past and hope to do again. Others are things we are doing now but could do better. Some are brand new ideas. We are a small organization and can't do them all, but here are some ideas (*and my comments*) we hope to achieve in the next months and in 2017:

- Establish a historical book club or offer talks by local authors – *We have had some authors speak this summer and hope to do more next year.*
- Offer genealogy seminars and research workshops – *Great idea! If you know someone who could teach one, let us know.*
- Host more concerts; more music! – *We hear you. We have several concerts on the schedule this fall so check the listing of events on p. 5 for details.*
- Schedule historic house tours – *Great idea! If you have a historic home you would consider opening for a tour, let me know.*
- Present more local history lectures – *This already is a major part of our programming effort, and I hope you heard some of our summer speakers.*
- Sponsor group trips to other museums on the Cape or nearby – *Another great idea and we hope we can offer one or two next year.*
- Expand the website – *Excellent idea, and one we are working on right now.*

I appreciate everyone's suggestions and, if you haven't had a chance to offer yours, I would like to hear from you. Please send suggestions to me at [Orleanshs@verizon.net](mailto:Orleanshs@verizon.net), drop me a line, or give me a call. Thanks very much, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Gail Nessell Colglazier

## Wish List

We would like to thank **Nancy Fairchild**, and **Jerome & Joan Karter**, for donating digital cameras – one of the items on our previous Wish List. Our current needs:

- Laminating machine so we can make signs more easily
- Tabletop mat cutter and a dry-mount press for exhibit labels and graphics
- Toaster oven for our staff/volunteer kitchen
- Volunteer willing to distribute flyers for OHS programs to various locations around Orleans (post offices, shopping centers, etc.). We will make the flyers and give you a list of locations. During the fall, this may be about once a month.

Please contact Gail or Nancy at 508 240-1329 or [orleanshs@verizon.net](mailto:orleanshs@verizon.net) if you can donate or help buy these items.

**HONOR ROLL OF OUR ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS (Addendum)**

More OHS members, friends and neighbors have responded to our Annual Appeal letter, in addition to some 250 names listed in the Summer, 2016 Newsletter. Also, memorial gifts have been received for two of our long-time supporters. Contributions may be made online at [OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://OrleansHistoricalSociety.org) or by check mailed to P.O. Box 353, Orleans, MA, 02653. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed, including:

Annual Appeal

Robert and Robin Bardwell	Gary and Katherine Larkin
Barbara Carpenter & Michael Miller	James Long
Susan Christie	The Elizabeth Garner Martin Fund
David & Virginia Clarendon (correction)	John McCormack
Coastal Engineering Co., Inc.	John and Barbara Natale
Phillip Fair	Terry Robert
James George	Paul and Mary Beth Sandman
Karen and Gary Gregg	Sidney Snow, H.H. Snow & Sons
Ann and Thomas Hafer	Charles and Susan Souza
Karen Hurwitz	Judith Spellacy
David Kraft	Richard and Barbara Tarkiainen
Peter Kuhn	

<u>In Memory of Robert S. Bolin</u>	<u>In Memory of John R. Mayo, Jr.</u>
Anonymous	David Grainger
Stephen Ivas	Francois Hugon
Elaine Keating	Tim and Barbara O'Connor
Barbara LaBonte	Stanley Rockwell and Family
Loraine Lalli and Laura Bermingham	Susan Russo
John and Frances Manchini	Bonnie Snow
William and Maryann Ring	Trudi and W.H. Walter
Steven Sarcione	Deborah Webb
Edward Wedlock	
<u>In Memory of Mieke and Christina Vos</u>	
The Arend W.D. Vos Charitable Fund	

**“THE CHATHAM PIRATES” AND A SHIP’S CLOCK**

“Within a few days of the wreck of the *Pendleton* in 1952, as soon as the seas subsided, some of the local seafaring folk, known affectionately to me as ‘The Chatham Pirates,’ clambered aboard the remains of the broken stern section. Rumor had it of items found aboard and the stories ran high about the finds. Although close mouthed secrecy prevailed as the order of the day, for fear there might be some government or salvage claim, certain items stood out as cherished souvenirs and were talked about in hushed voices.”  
– Bernard Webber, June, 1982.



According to the company’s blog, Chelsea has a long and storied history aboard U.S. Navy ships, one that dates back to the early 1900s when the U.S. government began ordering marine clocks. The company made sure its clocks were built to Navy standards – tough enough to withstand moisture, dropping, shaking, and the rigors of life at sea.

Among the “certain items” referred to by Webber in his 1985 book, *Chatham “The Lifeboatmen,”* was the ship’s clock – the heartbeat of any vessel. It was presented to Webber in 1966 upon his return to the Cape after retiring from the Coast Guard. Sixteen years later, he donated it to the Orleans Historical Society (OHS) in commemoration of the completed restoration of the CG36500, the lifeboat he piloted during the famed rescue of 32 *Pendleton* crew members.

By tracing the serial number etched on the back of the *Pendleton* clock, Chelsea confirmed that they had made it and sold it to the U.S. Navy on May 17, 1944. It likely was original equipment on the *Pendleton*, which was built that same year by Kaiser Company in Portland, Oregon, for the War Shipping Administration.

Early this year OHS was contacted by the Chelsea (Mass.) Clock Company, which had just heard that the *Pendleton* clock might still exist. Was it actually one of their own?

In his presentation of the ship’s clock to OHS in 1982, Webber said, “It rightfully belongs on Cape Cod and in the possession of Cape Codders who traditionally rise to the occasion of humans in need.” And true to the lifesaving heritage of “never giving in,” the Chelsea clock can still keep perfect time. It is on display at the OHS Meetinghouse Museum.

[To read more about Chelsea Clock Company and the story of the *Pendleton* clock, go to: <http://www.chelseaclock.com/blog/the-finest-hours-captain-leaves-a-lasting-legacy>]

**Your Daddy Saved My Daddy (continued)**

Renee told Pattie in later correspondence that her father left East St. Louis after WWII to follow an older brother into the Merchant Marines. By 1952, Ray Steele was a seasoned hand with seven years' experience from dozens of round-trips to South and Central America in the banana trade. He loved jazz music and visited the top clubs in New York City whenever he could between voyages. His favorite musician was renowned saxophonist Coleman Hawkins, whom he loved so much that he vowed to name a son after him – if he ever had a son.

Ray was 25 years old when he shipped out on the *Pendleton* from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on February 12, 1952. Six days later he was in peril off the shores of Cape Cod and, as he later recounted to his family, there were times on the drifting stern of the ship when he thought a rescue would be impossible. Then, out of the darkness came the CG36500.

After that terrible experience, Renee said her father never went back to sea. Instead, he returned to southern Illinois with his wife, Marie, and young Renee, and began a successful career in sales.

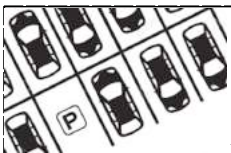
Just a few weeks after the *Pendleton* rescue, Renee said her parents learned they were having another child. Sure enough, in December they had a baby boy and named him Coleman. Renee fondly remembers growing up with her brother and other siblings in a happy home surrounded by many family members and lots of music – especially jazz.



*Pattie Hamilton (left) and Renee Pellegrino  
aboard the CG36500 in June 2016.*

Renee's father died in 2006, one week after his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. Having heard stories from him about the Coast Guard and *Pendleton* rescue, she was determined to travel to Chatham one day to see where it all happened.

Pattie and Renee talked for a long time that day they met, exchanging memories of the rescue and their fathers. They were keenly aware during their time together that things could have turned out very differently that stormy night in 1952. Bernie Webber and his 36500 crew felt they were just doing their duty. But for Ray Steele, the rescue meant much more. It was the night that his dreams were saved, and he realized he would share his love of music with Renee and his family for generations to come.



**IT MAY GET A LITTLE CROWDED**

Parking in the lot adjacent to the OHS Meetinghouse could get crowded at times starting in October when the Orleans Police Department moves into its temporary office trailers there. Also, periodic disruptions prior to October are likely as the site is prepared and the trailers are delivered. If necessary, additional parking for OHS activities can be found on School Street across from Town Hall. (From there, a lighted walkway leads to the upper parking area and the Meetinghouse.)

Because the Police Department, as well as the Department of Public Works, will be using the parking lot, spaces for OHS will be available but more limited over the next 18 months or so. However, the police trailers will be located on the grassy strip on the west side of the property, leaving the entire paved area for shared parking. The Police Department anticipates vacating the trailers and occupying their new facility at the corner of Eldredge Park Way and South Orleans Road (Route 28) during the first quarter of 2018.

## Music at the Museum: Autumn 2016

**Thursday, Sept 29 at 7:30 p.m.**

*Music for Violin and Piano*

**Philippe Quint**, violin, and **Alon Goldstein**, piano, magnificent solo and ensemble musicians, appear together with a beautiful program of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Ysaye.

Sponsored by the Russell-Davidson Foundation.

**Tickets: \$18 members**  
**(\$20 non-members)**



**Sunday, Oct 23 at 4 p.m.**

*A Big Splash of Jazz*

**Miro Sprague**, international jazz pianist and composer, is known for his brilliant creativity and dynamic performance style. Miro has studied with the greats like Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter at the prestigious Thelonius Monk Institute. Come listen to a dazzling mixture of standards, originals and free improvisations.

**Tickets: \$18 members**  
**(\$20 non-members)**



## Other Upcoming Events

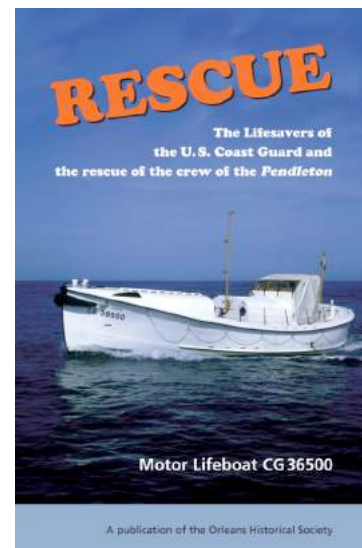
- September 16 **Historic Main Street Walk with historian Bonnie Snow.** 10 a.m. Meet at the OHS Meetinghouse.
- Through Sept 25 **“Talk & Tours” Aboard the CG36500.** Saturdays and Sundays, 1-3 p.m. at Rock Harbor.
- Sept – Oct 10 **Orleans Historical Society Museum** open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - Noon, and 1 – 4 p.m. After Oct 10, winter hours will be Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or by appointment.

### CG36500 Souvenirs

Sales of CG36500-related items have been very strong over the summer, both at the Souvenir booth at Rock Harbor and at the Meetinghouse Museum Shop. One of the newest is an updated and redesigned booklet, *Rescue*, recounting in words and photos the *Pendleton* disaster and subsequent restoration by the Orleans Historical Society of the 36-foot lifeboat that saved 32 of the ship’s crew members.

Other items for sale include autographed copies of *The Finest Hours* book, DVDs of the movie, T- and Polo shirts, zip-front hoodies, tote bags, mugs, postcards, pins, plastic model kits, burgees, and more.

The Rock Harbor booth will be open Saturdays and Sundays in September, and Columbus Day weekend in October, from Noon to 4 p.m.; the Museum Store is open during museum hours (see above). Payments can be made in cash, check or credit card, and all proceeds go to the ongoing restoration and preservation of the 36500.





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### Scenes from summer!



*OHS Board member Cris Harter and husband, John, officially opened the CG36500 souvenir booth at Rock Harbor in May. Pattie Hamilton (see p. 4) staffed the booth during the summer.*



*This sand sculpture of the CG36500 was part of the 2016 Yarmouth Summer Celebration.*



*Orleans' fourth graders learn about the Jonathan Young Windmill during "History Day" in June, hosted by OHS. (Photo courtesy of Dianne Greaney)*



*Guest speaker and author Bill Russo talks about his new book, **Ghosts of Cape Cod** at the OHS Meetinghouse Museum.*