



May 2020

on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

Letter from the Treasurer

Dear CMM Supporters

I would like to thank all of you who have been supporting us through these difficult times. Your help has made our dream of a maritime museum a reality. Our bricks-and-mortar facility in Bridgeport has generated praise by the many people who have come to see us prior to COVID-19. We were again awed by the attendance at Open House Chicago last fall and with the number of people that showed up to hear the Eastland talk and see our Eastland exhibit.

We are hoping to continue to engage your support as we work on a new date for the Spring Gala. Bill Pinkney has recommitted as keynote speaker for the event, and we are excited about the opportunity to create a Pinkney exhibit at the museum that will appeal to school-age children.

Bill felt strongly that if you wish it and you have commitment, then anything is possible. We hope you agree. Events and new exhibits are possible only with your continued support. We value your past contributions and solicit your ongoing help at whatever level you can give. Minimally, consider becoming a member. As an organization that depends on volunteers as well as staff, your volunteer work would be a great way to help. Long term, we need your help in obtaining financial support to continue to carry out our mission.

Thanks for what you have been able to do so far and please, feel free to step up and do more. Once we reopen, come down to the museum and see what we are doing to engage our patrons in Chicago's rich maritime history.



Gerald H. Thomas, PhD

CMM Treasurer

Kellogg (Ked) Fairbank Retires as CMM Executive Director

After four years of dedicated leadership, CMM executive director, Kellogg (Ked) Fairbank has retired. Under Ked's leadership, CMM has grown dramatically in the museum's outreach programs in both education and online engagement.

Ked spearheaded the museum's educational curriculum for elementary school teachers of Chicago history and oversaw the museum's efforts to draw publicity and engagement, both in attendance and on-line followers.

"By partnering with Open House Chicago for three years, we greatly increased traffic to the museum," says CMM chairman, Doug Walker. "Ked has also upped our virtual visits through both our partnership with Google Ads and our new streamlined website. CMM is grateful for his dedication to the museum."



Ked also brought local and regional attention to the plight of Bubbly Creek (upon which the museum borders) through his organization of a well-attended seminar on restoration efforts for the creek. In addition to the Army Corp of Engineers, Debra Shore, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District presented.

"I enjoy engaging people in Chicago's rich maritime history," says Ked. "That Chicago was once the busiest port in the world is an incredible part of our heritage. Not many people know that we were a booming hub of maritime commerce in the mid 19th century."

As a volunteer, Ked will continue to help raise funds for the museum.

Voyage through History Gala Rescheduling in the Works



No doubt, these are tough times for small non-profits like CMM, especially as we plan our first-ever gala benefit. Originally scheduled for April 30, ***Voyage through History***, aboard Columbia Yacht Club's ***Abby***, will be rescheduled for Fall of 2020. We are monitoring the pandemic to determine a new date.

In the meantime, sponsorship opportunities are still available online on the Gala Page at chicagomaritimemuseum.org. Here is your chance to help unlock the future by shaping the next generation of maritime historians. Consider partnering with us at the Master, Commander, Navigator, Helmsmen or First Mate level.

Bill Pinkney Committed as Gala Keynote Speaker

Chicago-born Bill Pinkney, the first African American, and only the fifth American to sail around the world passing through all five great capes, has graciously agreed to commit to our new gala date to be determined this Fall.

As we learn and teach from home during COVID-19, Bill was ahead of his time when it came to distance learning. During his solo voyage around the world in 1991-92, he established a sea-to-shore system of communicating with 30,000 children in Chicago and Boston. He visited them before he sailed and stayed in touch the entire trip.

Read more about his remarkable career here.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2006-07-06-0607060270-story.html>



Renowned Chicago Boat Builder, Henry C. Grebe, first CMM Stories Online

Enjoy our newest CMM website feature, Stories Online, by curator Dylan Hoffmann. First up, the story of Henry C. Grebe, famous for the style and quality of the boats he designed and built on Chicago's North West Side.

Dylan will present curated slide shows from the museum's archives. Check out Online Stories at <https://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/online-stories.html>

Supreme Court Rejects EPA's Views on Clean Water

The Supreme Court ruled in April that sewage plants and other industries cannot avoid environmental requirements under landmark clean-water protections when they send dirty water on an indirect route to rivers, oceans and other navigable waterways. Read more here:

<https://apnews.com/fcee565b9fed5b001e9b3fce9ed00c24?fbclid=IwAROSDR4Q3e6Exvq6KkGAE0XsjZTLUoCUFNvMeoue9nnG6-fZG10fBNxTwfk>

Teach and Learn from Home about the I&M Canal

Chicago's rapid growth in the 19th Century centered on a simple idea -- build a canal that would connect the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and Chicago would become the transportation hub of the country. Thus began the construction of the I&M Canal, which from



1848 until 1933 provided 96 miles of commercial waterway from Bridgeport to the Illinois River at LaSalle-Peru.

While at sheltering in place, now is a great time to learn more about the I&M Canal. The Illinois and Michigan Canal Teaching Package is part of the Chicago Maritime Museum collection. The objective of this package is to introduce students to local history in a meaningful manner and thereby increase interest in history in general. Taken together, the fifty document reproductions offer a kaleidoscopic picture of the Illinois and Michigan Canal over

the years. Individual documents describe very real historical occurrences, but each leaves unanswered questions, which can be pursued by studying related documents in the packet, Illinois history in particular, and American history in general.

If you would like to use this teaching package at home, please access the following link to the Illinois State Archives website.

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/teaching_packages/I_and_M_canal/home.html#use

Curator's Corner

by Dylan Hoffmann

US Latona Plaque and Anchor

The USS Latona was a Navy stores ship, which stowed supplies and other goods for naval purposes in World War II. She was to carry refrigerated and non-refrigerated items and equipment to other ships in the fleet. Latona was built for U.S. Maritime Commission by Pennsylvania Shipyards Inc., Beaumont, Texas and commissioned February 25th, 1945. Latona loaded and unloaded fleet provisions at Pearl Harbor and Okinawa. This plaque and an anchor from Latona are part of the Chicago Maritime Museum Collection. The anchor is on loan to the Chicago Park District and is currently on display at the Judd Goldman Community Sailing Center.



Lake Michigan Shipwreck Visible from Aircraft



In the early spring, the waters of Lake Michigan are currently so clear that aircraft flying over its surface are able to easily see shipwrecks deep below the surface of the water. Read more here:

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2020/04/15/lake-michigan-shipwrecks/?fbclid=IwAR1Unx-h1IoiXF3Sqn67CHI5XJPlh9tcOoKvO-Ka-80hToupbYIegijVF-i8>



*Making your way to the
Chicago Maritime Museum!*

MARITIME EVENT CALENDAR

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<http://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events/month/>

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area to Mary Ann O'Rourke at
maorourke@ameritech.net.

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

*If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please
forward it to maorourke@ameritech.net.*

