

# THE PORTHOLE

FEBRUARY 2009

VOL. XXVIII #2



Friday, February 27, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

## 24 YEARS AT SEA WITH CUNARD LINE

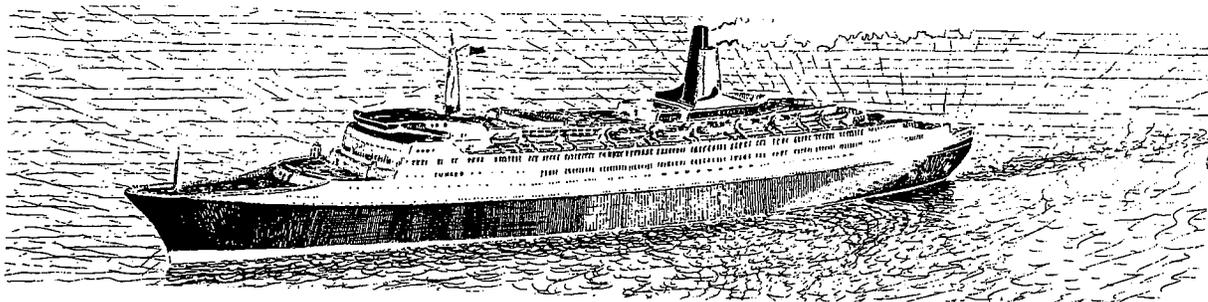
Elaine Baker MacKay with Ted Scull

Community Church of New York  
Assembly Room  
40 East 35th Street  
(Between Madison and Park avenues)

Our featured speaker, Elaine Baker MacKay, was born in Maryland and grew up in Puerto Rico. She graduated from Boston University with a BS in elementary education. After getting married, she returned to Puerto Rico as a U.S. Navy wife and began 18 years of bilingual teaching. She first joined Cunard Line in the summer of 1981 as a temporary instructor of arts and crafts, bridge and backgammon on the CUNARD COUNTESS and CUNARD PRINCESS, also acting as Spanish hostess and cruise hostess. During that time she was invited to join the QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 for the world cruise. On October 11, 1982, she joined QE2 as programme coordinator and has worked as cruise hostess, Spanish translator and cruise sales manager. She also served as social hostess on VISTAFJORD when the QE2 had her 1986/7 refit and re-engining. Ms MacKay left Cunard at the end of the 2005 world cruise to care for her elderly mother, and currently lives in New York. Her son, Robert; daughter-in-law Debbie; and twin grandsons, Mathieu and Christopher have all sailed on QE2.

Join us as Ted Scull interviews Elaine Baker MacKay about a 24-year working life at sea.

A \$3 contribution is requested from non-members



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### WEB SITE:

<http://www.worldshipny.com>

### ON THE HORIZON:

Thursday, March 26

Friday, April 24

Friday, May 29

Friday, June 26

THE PORTHOLE, published by the Port of New York Branch, World Ship Society, welcomes original material for publication. Address to the Editor, Marjorie Dovman. Opinions expressed are those of the author only and not of the PONY Branch or THE PORTHOLE.

SHIP'S LOG

Our January meeting took us to the EURO-DAM's christening and introductory cruises through the magic camera lenses of PONY Brancher Fred Rodriguez, one of only four photographers invited by Holland America to record the event. He was introduced by chairman David Hume with a rundown of Fred's maritime and photographic background. Fred introduced his friend, PONY member Robert O'Brien, who provided technical assistance for the PowerPoint presentation, and acknowledged several charter members, Span Ashdown, Bernie Grandjany and Richard Morse among them, who were among the passengers - er, in the audience.

Fred let his photographs speak for themselves, which they did to perfection, while he offered general comments about the ship but gave a more detailed account of what was happening.

Starting with his flight across the pond to Southampton, Fred showed us all the different aspects of his expedition. There were many shots of the ship, inside and out; HAL's traditional antiques gracing the interior; even the food. The boxy exterior of the vessel benefitted from his imaginative angles. The air horn came in for much photographic attention, and Freddie pronounced it "probably the best air horn that most resembled a steam whistle." Intensive security deprived Fred of one of his favorite pastimes - climbing the mast (for photographic reasons).

The preliminary cruise, from Southampton to Rotterdam, carried only 350 passengers including the press, but as for maritime historians, aside from Fred there were only PONY Brancher Tom Cassidy and Peter Knego. But multitudes of spectators lined the shores in and on the way to Rotterdam to watch the EURO-DAM's arrival. There was time for pictures of the old HAL offices, now the Hotel Amsterdam, from the ship, and pictures of the ship from ashore, including from atop the Euromast (no, he took the elevator).

Then the festivities began. Fred photographed the press conference, with closeups of Mickey Arison and other company officials. He recorded the naming in detail, with views of every item on the program; the people involved

including Queen Beatrix, the ship's godmother; and other dignitaries, from various vantage points. A grandstand seating 2212 had been erected on the pier, and crowds watched from wherever they could. Following the actual christening, there was the unique ceremony of christening the ship's bell by pouring Champagne over it.

At night there was a display of fireworks, which was also the occasion for night shots of the EURODAM. 1500 additional passengers had been aboard for the ceremony and the return to Southampton. And with a surprisingly beautiful picture of condensation on the window of his return plane, Fred concluded this virtual visit to the EURODAM's christening:

He once again thanked Rob O'Brien for his help. And we thanked Fred for his artistry with a gift card from B&H Photo.

THE DRAWING BOARD

The drawing on P. 1 is unmistakably the work of the late Frank Braynard.

E-ALTERATION

There has been a change in the web site e-mail address: It's now:

wsspony@verizon.net

You'll see it in the usual spot on P. 1.

FINISHED WITH ENGINES

We are very sorry to report that our printer of many years, Metro Copy and Duplicating, has closed its New York operations, and our printing has been transferred to another midtown printer, Village Copy. We thank Metro Copy and its staff for their good work, helpfulness and easy-to-work-with people. And we hope they all find new jobs soon.

YOUR DAILY PROGRAMMESEE SOUTH STREET

South Street Seaport has a heartwarming selection of exhibits and activities for these cold winter days.

R = Reservations required

Sunday, February 15, 2 P.M. at 12 Fulton Street \$5

**Treasures of a President: FDR and the Sea** gallery tour and talk

Friday, February 20, 5-8 P.M. at 12 Fulton Street

Free Friday - Extended admission hours 5-9 P.M. Free special program - Presentation on the **War of 1812 brig NIAGARA** by the senior captain of the modern replica of the ship.

Saturday, March 7, 2-4:30 P.M. at 12 Fulton Street, Fourth Floor \$45

**TITANIC NEW YORK: HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS** and Silver Riband Award to TITANIC historians John Eaton and Charles Haas. Program of TITANIC/New York connections. Wine and light refreshments. R

**Exhibits:**

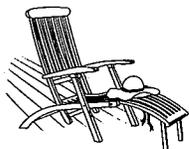
At 12 Fulton Street:  
Treasures of a President:FDR and the Sea  
Ocean Liner Cutaways

At Walter Lord Gallery, 209 Water Street:  
Monarchs of the Sea - Ocean Liner memorabilia

At Melville Gallery, 213 Water Street:  
Keeping Time in Sag Harbor

**The Ship Lore and Model Club of New York** meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Further information from 212-748-8764.

For information, and to make reservations, call 212-748-8786, or go to [reservations@southstseaport.org](mailto:reservations@southstseaport.org) Buy tickets at [www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org](http://www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org)

VANCOUVER VIDEOS

At the next meeting of the Vancouver Branch of WSS, a DVD video will be shown. The topic will be decided by those present. The meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 P.M., at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, 1905 Ogden Avenue, Vancouver, BC.

Remember that, meeting or not, if you are going to be in the Vancouver area, the members there would like to meet you. Just give advance notice to Glenn Smith at 701-1011 Beach Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6E 1T8, Canada. Or 604-684-1240. Or [glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca](mailto:glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca)

JEREMIAH O'BRIEN JAUNTS

The West Coast's restored Liberty ship JEREMIAH O'BRIEN announces its 2009 schedule of day cruises. Except for the October trips, all last about four hours, feature picnic lunches and 40's music, and cost \$100 per passenger, which goes toward support of the vessel. All are on Saturdays.

May 23 - Seamen's Memorial Cruise, dedicated to the memory of American service personnel.

June 20 - San Francisco Bay Cruise, along the city's waterfront.

July 18 - Kaiser Shipyard Cruise - along the old Kaiser Shipyard waterfront in Richmond, with historical narration by the captain.

August 22 - Historic Barbary Coast Waterfront Cruise - along the historic San Francisco waterfront, with narration by the captain about the area pre-1900.

October is different. Cruises take place Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11 - Fleet Week - Six/seven hour cruises featuring airshows by the Navy's Blue Angels along with vintage planes; live band music and barbecue lunch. Fare is \$150 per person.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to [www.ssjeremiahobrien.org](http://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org) or call 415-544-0100.

BRANCH SUPPORT

We acknowledge and thank those members who join or renew at the Patron or Sustaining level, thereby giving the PONY Branch extra support out of sheer Branch patriotism. These members did so in 2008.

Patrons

Helen Anderson  
 Vivian & Janet Butler  
 Curt & Elaine Dreifuss  
 Victor & Nancy Eichorn  
 Richard Faber, Jr.  
 Page Foshee & Robert Bracewell  
 Robert & Mary Gow  
 Judith & Harold Healy  
 Mark Macina  
 Ellen Meshnick & Paul Immerman  
 Thomas Picard  
 John & Eileen Schlichting  
 Charles & Marjorie Zuckerman

Sustaining

F. T. Adams III  
 John Baesch & Evelyn Herzog  
 Mario & Anne Bozzolo  
 Ron Brodie & Richard Granville  
 William Brunner & John Boscarino  
 Nick Burkett  
 George Chandler & Dan Amatuzzo  
 Harlan deBell & Kara deBell  
 Antoinette Denisof  
 David & Margaretha FitzGerald  
 Peter Fleming  
 Susan Frederick  
 Susan Frye, M.D.  
 Norman & Robert Knebel  
 Kenneth MacLeod  
 George Nesmith & Charles Raimonda  
 Robert O'Brien  
 Arthur Peckholdt  
 Croix Picoriello  
 Robert & Phyllis Poda  
 Reinert & Maureen Roaldsen  
 Ian Robertson  
 Herbert Schwarz, Jr.  
 Theodore & Suellen Scull  
 Eileen Wessel

THE USUALLY SUSPECTED REQUEST

You know what it is by now - we want your original stories for The Porthole, and original stories and photos for the web site. We know there's lots of hidden, or not so hidden, talent out there - why not share it with your fellow enthusiasts? See editor Marge Dovman at a meeting, or contact her via the post office box, regarding submissions to the newsletter. You may contact Ted Scull or John McFarlane in the same way for the web site. You may also e-mail John at the address on P. 1. Our thanks.

AN UNQUALIFIED APOLOGY

The editor apologizes for several errors of omission that crept into (or fell out of) the last issue. Some gremlin removed Fred Rodriguez's name from P. 1, along with the meeting date. And then there was the paragraph about "Worthy Causes," which mentioned only one. That missing item appears below.

ANOTHER WORTHY CAUSE

The Tug PEGASUS Preservation Project is restoring and preserving the tug PEGASUS, built in 1907. Working together with the 1887-built tug NEW YORK CENTRAL 13, the PEGASUS will be part of a living museum dedicated to the history and natural habitat of New York Harbor. The project also runs an off-site maritime program for teenagers. Volunteers and contributions are welcome. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by check payable to Tug PEGASUS Preservation Project, 83 Murray Street, New York, NY 10007, or by credit card at [www.tugpegasus.org](http://www.tugpegasus.org)

NOT-THE-YANKEE

Last month we noted the report of an unnamed old ferryboat that to the editor's suspicious mind sounded as if it might have been the YANKEE. It wasn't. The mystery boat has been identified as the SCHAMONCHI, which at one time carried 450 passengers between Vineyard Haven (Martha's Vineyard) and New Bedford. This information comes from Ted Scull, who once traveled aboard her. Only he can pronounce the name.

SHIP NEWSHONORARY MEMBERS OF OUR BAND

The members named below were awarded their position as honorary members because of their efforts or accomplishments on behalf of the PONY Branch and/or maritime history.

Marjorie Dovman  
Brad Hatry  
John Maxtone-Graham  
George McDermott  
William Miller  
Richard Morse

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

**Bill Miller** is off again, this time on the New York-Los Angeles segment of the QUEEN VICTORIA's world cruise.

**Dick Wagner** will soon be heading south to cruise the Caribbean on the NAVIGATOR OF THE SEAS, CELEBRITY SOLSTICE and INDEPENDENCE OF THE SEAS. And PONY Branchers on the World Ocean Cruise Society's December EURODAM cruise, another Caribbean caper, included **Nancy and Roger Allen, Robert Bracewell, Page Foshee, Bill Miller, Phyllis and Robert Poda and Margaret Webster**. Still other visitors to the Caribbean were **Dr. Stephen and Joyanne Schoeman**, who spent 10 days there on the QUEEN MARY 2. Back in August the QUEEN VICTORIA took them through the Mediterranean.

WELCOME ABOARD

We welcome aboard a slew of new crew:

Angela Bass & Annmarie Iatauro  
Billee Bates  
Christopher Bujara  
Alice Hudson  
Ann Lockwood  
Marquis Mathieu & Glenn Davis  
Norman & Tammie Murley  
Robert Riggs

CRUISING

\* Carnival Corporation has sued Rolls-Royce in a Miami court, saying that the Rolls podded propulsion system installed on the QUEEN MARY 2 has never worked properly, and that Rolls-Royce deliberately deceived Carnival about the equipment's problems.

\* On January 6th the SAGA ROSE (ex SAGAFJORD) sailed from Southampton on her 44th and final world cruise, a 104-night voyage calling at 39 ports. According to her owners, with that cruise the vessel will have completed more round-the-world trips than any other ship including the QE2.

\* Two P&O vessels will be leaving Southampton on world cruises in January 2010: the ARCADIA, making her first traditional voyage, and the AURORA, on a more sophisticated one for more experienced cruisers.

\* Tui Cruises, a joint venture of Royal Caribbean and TUI that is geared to the German market, will take delivery of the CELEBRITY GALAXY on Friday, March 13th. She will go to Lloyd Werft at Bremerhaven for a 39-day refit during which the number of cabins will be raised to 974, almost half with private balconies. Some of the public areas will be remodeled and the three-deck-high Blue World Bar will be added. The ship resumes service from Kiel under a new, as yet unchosen, name on May 23rd.

\* Orient Lines' launching of its new operation with MARCO POLO II (ex MAXIM GORKY), scheduled for April, has been put off. The world economic situation was blamed, and the company may want to wait until things improve.

\* The Dutch-based Club Cruise, one of whose subsidiaries has been defaulting on payments, has been forced to sell its ships. The company owns the VAN GOGH (ex CLUB 1, ODESSA SKY, GRUZIA) and charters the ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT (ex WALRUS, NAUTICAN, CROWN MONARCH), ASTORIA (ex ARKONA, ASTOR) and ALBATROS (ex NORWEGIAN STAR, ROYAL ODYSSEY, ROYAL VIKING SEA).

\* Regent Seven Seas Cruises has been upgrading its fleet at Grand Bahama Shipyard in Freeport. SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER and SEVEN SEAS MARINER both received

(Cont. on P. 6)

SHIP NEWS (Cont.)

new carpeting and soft furnishings as well as a new no-extra-charge dining room. SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR gets her turn early in 2010.

\* The PAUL GAUGUIN went into a Brisbane drydock last month for an upgrade that will add balconies to 23 state-rooms, provide new carpets and soft goods and make improvements to the underwater hull.

\* DISNEY MAGIC will be casting her spell in the Mediterranean in 2010. A 14-night April Port Canaveral-Barcelona crossing brings her to Europe. 12-night Baltic cruises from Dover in June and July will be followed by alternating 10- and 11-night cruises through September.

\* This winter Dubai is hosting COSTA VICTORIA, COSTA CLASSICA and AIDAdiva. Next year BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS will be homeported there for 13 seven-day cruises.

\* The DELTA QUEEN is becoming a floating hotel and lounge in Chattanooga while her owner, Ambassadors International Inc., looks for a buyer to operate the vessel on overnight cruises.

HOME PORT

\* A US Airways Airbus jetliner landed on the Hudson River January 15th after its engines were crippled by a flock of birds they had sucked in. All 155 people aboard survived and were rescued by nearby ferries, tugs and other small craft.

GENERAL CARGO

\* The Saga of the Somali Pirates continues. The pirates released both the SIRIUS STAR, the Saudi-owned supertanker, and the FAINA, the Ukrainian freighter carrying a cargo of arms, after their respective owners had paid ransom. Five of the tanker's hijackers drowned after receiving their share of the loot when their boat capsized. One body was washed ashore. Three others survived,

but their money didn't. A U. S.-led international force from Asian and Pacific nations is now patrolling the area, and Japan and China have sent ships to escort their own vessels.

\* A group of explorers looking for shipwrecks under the English Channel believe they have found the wreck of the H. M. S. VICTORY, which sank in a severe storm in 1744 after rescuing a convoy from a French blockade at Lisbon and escorting it as far as Gibraltar. More than 900 men and four tons of gold coins now worth billions of dollars went to the bottom with her. With 110 bronze cannons, the VICTORY was one of the deadliest warships of her time.

\* With job creation, attraction of tourists and development of interest in maritime history in mind, a non-profit Rhode Island group has bought a 207-foot-long steel hull from a Canadian group that tried but could not afford to finish a replica of an 1812 ship. The Rhode Islanders plan to turn the hull into a reproduction of a square-rigged, three-masted warship to be named for Oliver Hazard Perry, who was born in Rhode Island. The vessel will be the nation's largest sailing ship after the EAGLE.

\* Australian fliers rescued two Burmese fishermen found floating in a large icebox. The two said their fishing boat sank in a storm and that they had been afloat for 25 days.

\* This past year has been the centennial of the round-the-world voyage of the Great White Fleet.

\* Japanese and Chinese shipyards have been suffering from the worldwide economic slump, with the number of orders from Japanese yards plunging and many cancellations afflicting the Chinese.

OFFICERS

Chairman: David Hume  
Vice Chairman: Marjorie Dovman  
Membership Sec'y: Tom Rinaldi  
Branch Secretary: Roxanne Almond\*  
Treasurer:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Richard Faber  
Doug Friedlander\*  
Carol Miles  
Richard Morse  
David Powers\*  
J. Fred Rodriguez\*  
David Sykes\*

\* = Past Chairman

COMMITTEE HEADS

Finance:  
House:  
Membership:  
Newsletter:  
Nomination/Recruitment  
Program:  
Special Events:  
Web Site

Tom Rinaldi  
Marjorie Dovman  
George McDermott\*  
Ted Scull\*  
Ted Scull\*