



OBYC

Happenings

Lobster Bake photos pg. 3

Poet Millay Lecture pg.5

Living With Boats: Nelson pg. 7

Commodore's Letter

September 2021

Dear Members,

I am honored to have been selected as the new Commodore of the OBYC. I would like to thank my predecessor, Kristin Fletcher, for the wonderful job she did for the past three years, and also thank the board members who have been instrumental in the club's successful operation. I feel fortunate to have such a strong board to work with in the future.

As the end of the boating season approaches it is useful to look back and reflect on all that the club has accomplished this year. First and foremost we were able to negotiate all of the changes in the rules governing the COVID virus, allowing club members continuous access to almost all of the club's facilities.

Thanks to the efforts of Joyce Duda and the rest of the Social

Continued Pg. 2

Floats Out Oct. 5

The Waterfront Committee has announced that floats will be removed from the water on Tuesday Oct. 5. The date is dictated by the availability of the giant crane that lifts the floats ashore and the need for high tide in the morning when winds are low.

All dinghies must be removed from the floats by Sunday Oct. 3 to allow club volunteers to prepare the floats for removal.

The float removal will be done by Redfish & Associates, assisted by a small group of experienced club volunteers. Other club members should stay away from the grounds on Oct. 5.

The club house will also be closed that day.

Annual Meeting Votes

Randy Nelson, vice commodore, was elected commodore by the Club's board of directors. He succeeds Kristin Fletcher who had served for three years.

The vote took place following the virtual annual meeting at which directors were elected. Liz Incze was elected as a new director, filling a vacancy. Other directors, who serve up to two, three-year terms, were re-elected.

Cont. Pg 2

Commodore's Letter

continued from Pg. 1

Committee we had an active schedule of lectures, social hours, the lobster bake, etc., with more events planned for September and October.

Thanks to the work of the Waterfront Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee, we installed three new floats this year, refurbished all of the club's dinghies, and replaced a leaking fuel tank with a new one. Finally, the AFSS Committee and a dedicated group of volunteers and instructors conducted another successful season of the sailing school, enrolling 67 students. None of the above would have been possible without the club members who volunteered their time and effort this summer.

As fall progresses we must unfortunately turn our attention to the end of the boating season. Based on tidal considerations and the availability of the necessary crane the decision has been made to remove the floats on Tuesday, October 5. It is important that all dinghies have been removed from the floats by that date.

Randy Nelson, Commodore



Annual Meeting

In other votes, the board elected Kym Cournoyer as vice commodore. Sue Baker was reelected as Treasurer and Kristin Fletcher was elected assistant treasurer. Dawn Kalmar was elected as secretary.

During the meeting, club committee chairs and officers summarized the state of the club and accomplishments over the past year.

Among significant moves, the club spent \$29,434 this year on three new floats as part of its ongoing planned replacement of aging floats. It also spent an unexpected \$14,089 on a new gas tank when the driver filling the tank noticed a strong gas smell. The leak was contained by the outer wall of the tank with no leakage, avoiding any environmental impact. The tank replacement money came from the club's capital fund reserves which have been established to cover replacement of the club's capital assets as they age. Despite the expenditures, the club currently has total cash and investment assets of \$226,421.

As of the date of the annual meeting, the club had operating income for the year of \$113,938 and expenses of \$94,142. It had a net income for the year to date of \$13,818, before some small add-ons,

Lobster Bake



Clockwise, from above: Amber Skinner and guest Regina Most

Ice-cream servers Janice Adams, Liz Incze, Gail Stevens and Eric Jones.

Joyce Duda emcees

Ned Kitchel, guest Tom Henning and Charlene Post



2021 Social Calendar

Sat, Sept 11 @ 5:00 pm – September Social Hour – Join us at the Club for another BYOFD – “Bring in and Take Out” Social Hour! What a great opportunity to meet and greet with our members before the “snowbirds” begin to head south. Please sign up and join us!

Sat, Sept 25 @ 5:00 pm – September BYOFD Picnic – Meet at 5:00 pm for a "BYOB" social hour before the 6:00 “BYOFD” Picnic Dinner. Our summer season is winding down and **THIS WILL BE THE FINAL EVENT OF 2021!!** We are hoping the status of the pandemic at that time will not affect our final in-person gathering. Please sign up and join us for the final 2021 gathering at OBYC!

Remember to wear a mask inside the building if you're *not* fully vaccinated, both adults and



Poet "Vince" Millay of Ragged Island

By Connie Sage Conner

Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay was one of the most notable women of the early 20th Century. She also was one of the most troubled.

A Maine native, Millay and her husband owned Ragged Island in Harpswell. It was where she could escape the public's eye and attempt to recover from multiple addictions - alcohol, morphine, barbiturates and cigarettes.

"Dealing with addictions were important to her on Ragged Island. It helped her heal," said Gary Lawless, co-owner of Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick. A poet himself, Lawless spoke about Millay last month at the Orr's Bailey Yacht Club.

Millay's "is essentially a sad story," said Lawless. "Sometimes sad stories created beautiful art."

In 1923, Millay became the first woman to win a Pulitzer prize in poetry. Described as beautiful with bright red hair and green eyes, Millay was independent, a free spirit, a feminist and social activist. She had multiple relationships with both men and women.

Born in Rockland, Millay was a 1909 graduate of Camden High School. Known as "Vincent" or "Vince," she was named after St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village where her mother's brother had recovered after being pinned below deck on a ship.

"Renascence," was published in 1912 and won fourth place in a poetry content. Judges claimed, "no little girl could have written that," said Lawless.

That year, while working at the Whitehall Inn in Camden, Millay read "Renascence" to a group, including

Caroline B. Dow, head of the YWCA Training School in New York. Dow was so impressed she helped raise funds for Millay to attend Vassar the next year.

As her poems and plays were published, Millay gained celebratory status. In 1923 she married Dutch businessman Eugen Jan Boissevain. They lived in New York but she had always wanted to return to Maine. A decade after their marriage, they were visiting friend Tess Root Adams on Bailey Island. Early one July morning she spotted Ragged Island four miles out to sea.

To Millay, it was the most beautiful island she'd ever seen. Two weeks later her husband bought the island for \$750.

She was "a girl who all her life loved the tideline of the sea," said Lawless.

The Harpswell cottage, with no running water or electricity, became their haven. She was "part mermaid," said Lawless, and everyone on the island swam in the nude. She wrote: "We think bathing dress of any sort is indecent, and so do the waves and so do the seagulls and so does the wind."

"The way she describes Ragged Island is her interior," said Lawless. "Her inner world was troubled a lot of the time but she wrote beautifully about it."

Millay never recovered from an auto accident in 1936 and became addicted to morphine. Her husband died of lung cancer in 1949. A year later, Millay tumbled down steep stairs in her nightclothes at their Austerlitz, N.Y. home. Her body was found the next morning; she was 58.



Gary Lawless of Gulf of Maine Books, lectures on Edna St. Vincent Millay, the poet who once owned Ragged Island.

Millay's poem, "Ragged Island," was published posthumously in 1954. Its last stanza reads:

*Oh, to be there, under the silent spruces
Where the wide, quiet evening darkens
without haste
Over a sea with death acquainted, yet
forever chaste.*

*Chewonki Foundation of
Wiscasset brought owls into the
OBYC clubhouse for a lecture
during August.*

Lecture photos by Joyce Duda



Living With Boats: Sandy Nelson

by Bill Bulkeley

There is probably no one in the OBYC who has overseen more sea-going tonnage than Sandy Nelson.

As a port captain and later director of tanker control for Gulf Oil Corp. Sandy chartered and operated as many as 150 oil and refined-product tankers at a time, moving petroleum all around the world in the 1970's and 80's.

In a career that started as a second mate on a U.S. flagged tanker sailing mostly coastal routes, Sandy traveled to most of the ports in the world from which oil is shipped or where it is delivered. He says he once fought off pirates in the Strait of Malacca by shooting them with scalding water from the hoses used for cleaning out oil tanks.

But he says one of the most nerve-racking passages he recalls was coming into Portland harbor. His tanker with an 85-foot beam had to slide through an 89-foot-wide bridge opening with only two feet to spare on either side.

Sandy, who is now OBYC's membership committee chair, joined Gulf in 1960, straight out of New York Maritime Academy. He had acquired a love of the sea as a boy growing up on Jamaica Bay on Long Island where his grandfather taught him to sail in a jerry-rigged boat. When he started as a second mate, "There was no GPS. Navigation was done by star sights."

Sandy says he had unusually broad travels for a mate on an American-flagged vessel. His ship travelled around the Pacific and Indian Oceans carrying jet fuel to far-flung Air Force bases. "Late 1967 Gulf took me off the ship and transferred me to Naples, Italy. I got the title of captain -- port captain." His role was to oversee the comings and goings of Gulf chartered ships that usually provisioned in Naples on their way to and from the Suez Canal.

But with the Suez Canal closed by Egypt in the aftermath of the 1967 war, Gulf eventually moved him to Philadelphia as Port Captain and then to headquarters in Pittsburgh where he oversaw all ship-based transport. In 1984, after Chevron acquired Gulf in what was then the biggest acquisition in history, Sandy moved on to a Houston-based oil trader.

Later he worked as a consultant on oil-patch logistics and a real estate agent in Austin, Texas. In 1999 he started coming to Maine to visit his son, Doug (former OBYC Commodore) who works at Bath Iron Works. The visits got longer and eventually Sandy moved to Bath permanently to be near his son and daughter-in-law Jen and his grandchildren Hannah and Tadd.

Although Sandy once raced Lightnings for the New York Maritime sailing team, and enjoyed sailing with Doug when he first came to Maine, he says two knee replacements keep him land-locked now.

Membership Update

The Club currently has 261 members.

The current waiting list count is 28 which includes four Junior Associates who have requested to convert to Regular Membership. They are at the top of the waiting list awaiting openings to move into Regular Membership, as per our Bylaws.

Our newest member is Joe Press. Joe and Tess Shiras were married on July 4th and per our Bylaws, Joe applied for membership the next week. (This is why our membership is 261).

Joe is a lawyer for the postal regulatory commission in Washington, DC. He went to Colgate University and Georgetown Law School, and he enjoys reading and playing soccer.



photo by Kym Cournoyer

Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

Officers

Commodore — Randy Nelson
 Vice Commodore — Kym Cournoyer
 Secretary — Dawn Kalmar
 Treasurer — Sue Baker
 Asst. Treasurer — Kristin Fletcher

Directors

Bill Bulkeley
 Jennifer Gates
 Nick Nichols
 Ellen Shillinglaw
 Bob Seaman
 Bunny Siegel
 Liz Incze

Newsletter

OBYC Happenings usually is published monthly from May to October. The editor is Bill Bulkeley,

The Newsletter is always looking for volunteers to take photos at Club events or write up lectures. It is also eager to publish photos of club members in their boats. Photos of dogs (or cats) in boats are especially welcome.