

BUILD FORGE INSPIRE

Inspire future generations
through your legacy.

A LIFELONG VOYAGE

by Sharon Cohen

My first encounter with the magic of Mystic Seaport Museum was as a young girl on a family vacation. We spent a wonderful summer day exploring the grounds and historic vessels and participating in the many programs offered to visitors. A request from my father to explore below decks on the *Joseph Conrad* resulted in us learning about the *Conrad* summer sailing program. My father, who had developed an interest in sailing as an undergrad at UCLA, had recently been teaching us to sail on a lake near our New Jersey home. We both knew at that moment, I would return the following summer to attend the *Conrad* sailing program, which enabled me to spend an entire week at the Museum and to live aboard the ship with other teenagers from around the country. Unbeknownst to me at the time, the course of my life was changed forever.

In subsequent years, I returned to the *Conrad* program several times, followed by multiple trips aboard Schooner *Brilliant* and then back again as a *Conrad* program counselor during my first two college summers. Each of these experiences was truly an adventure and instilled in me a deep interest in the maritime heritage of our nation as well as an abiding passion for the magic of Mystic Seaport Museum and the valuable experiences it offers to young people of all ages.

After college and graduate school, I pursued a career in financial services but never forgot the sense of wonder and joy I had felt at Mystic Seaport Museum. I often drove north from my then-home in Wilmington, Delaware, to visit and sail with the friends I'd made during my Museum summers. Years later, after moving to Boston, I was fortunate enough to purchase a historic home in Noank on the Mystic River at the strong urging of those longtime friends, so that I could once again be a part of the



Sharon Cohen and Stephen Johnson



A LIFELONG VOYAGE

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local sailing community and re-engage with Mystic Seaport Museum. Over the years, my interest in and connection to the Museum deepened and I became an active adult member and supporter of the Museum's mission, even as it evolved from the place that I knew as a young girl.

Almost 15 years ago, I met my husband Stephen, a fellow sailing enthusiast, through the Noank sailing community. This year, 2019, will be the 10th anniversary of our wedding. When we got married, we asked that, in lieu of wedding gifts, our friends and family contribute to the restoration of the *Charles W. Morgan*. Not long thereafter, I was thrilled to be invited to join the Board of Trustees of Mystic Seaport Museum. Over the past decade, Stephen and I have been honored to be included in such inspiring initiatives as the 38th Voyage of the *Charles W. Morgan* in 2014 and the construction of the Thompson Exhibition Building in 2015–2016.

The Museum, its multi-faceted programs and its community have become an integral part of our lives. As we recently updated our estate plan, I knew that I wanted to help preserve the Museum and all that it offers for future generations. To that end, I have included Mystic Seaport Museum as a remainder beneficiary of my estate. This decision was an easy one, as it acknowledges the incredible role that the Museum has had in my life and that it can have in the lives of others. Knowledge and understanding of our maritime past, the joy found in the self-reliance learned on the water and respect for the marine environment are all crucially important to the well-being of individuals, communities and the future of our nation.

Please join us in this important philanthropic act to strengthen the Museum so that future generations may experience the same sense of wonderment, adventure, and magic that we have.

HONORING FAMILY

Chris Freeman

Daniel and Alice Cooney became members of Mystic Seaport Museum in 1984 and were loyal supporters for 35 years. As longtime members of the Noroton Yacht Club in Darien, and at their summer home on the Coast of Maine, they shared a passion for spending time on the water. Dan also owned and raced one-design boats, including Lightnings, Sonars, and Ideal 18s.



In addition, the Cooney's shared a mutual interest in antiques and historical artifacts. Dan had a particular interest in nautical antiques, resulting in a collection that embraced everything from marine paintings and decoys to whaling artifacts, scrimshaw, and early rigging and sail making tools. Dan and Alice appreciated these antiques and artifacts as much for their history as for their beauty and craftsmanship.

This past fall, their daughters Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen and Rebecca Cooney contacted Mystic Seaport Museum to give two works from their parents' collection in memory and honor of their parents' longstanding affection for Mystic Seaport Museum. Two wonderful artifacts were accessioned into the Museum's permanent collections. The first is a large oil painting of New York Harbor by the American artist Edmund C. Coates (1816-1871). This is the first painting by Coates to enter the Museum's collection - it is an important addition to the growing paintings collection. The other object is a lovely pillar and scroll shelf clock with a reverse painting on glass of two ships, dating to about 1825 and manufactured and labeled by renowned Connecticut clockmaker Eli Terry (1772-1852). Terry is widely recognized for having introduced concepts of mass production into the clock-making industry in Connecticut.

It is quite fitting that this painting and clock given in memory of Daniel and Alice Cooney should come to the Museum, as they will enable other enthusiasts, collectors, and lifelong learners to experience their beauty and discover their stories.

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

BY CHRIS FREEMAN



Angela Thompson and Amanda Thompson-Riegel

Wade F. B. Thompson emigrated to the United States in the 1960s. The son of a whaling family from New Zealand, Wade settled in New York, started a family and founded a company. A chance encounter with Mystic Seaport Museum trustee Clifford Mallory and his wife Pauline, who was also a New Zealander, first turned Wade's attention toward the Museum. In 1972, Wade and his wife Angela became life members of Mystic Seaport Museum. They would frequently bring their young children here to enjoy a break from city life.

Wade went on to serve as a trustee of the Museum for 27 years, from 1982 until his death in 2009. He was a strong advocate for many Museum initiatives, including the sail training program aboard *Brilliant* and the Mallory Fellowship – an international exchange program that he founded for Museum staff and which he named in honor of Clifford and Pauline Mallory.

Wade's greatest legacy, however, was his role as the key visionary to instigate the Museum's current transformation. In 2007, Wade issued a challenge to the Board of Trustees to reimagine the future of Mystic Seaport Museum. He asked them to envision the north end of the Museum grounds as an all-season, all-weather facility that would enable the Mystic Seaport Museum to set a new standard for exhibitions, presentations, and visitor experience.

Wade set forth an ambitious fundraising challenge for his fellow trustees and offered to match their philanthropy, dollar for dollar, to achieve this goal. As a result, he spurred his fellow trustees to commit \$5.6 million that he matched thus jump starting the campaign to envision, design, and build a new exhibition building at Mystic Seaport Museum.



On September 23, 2016, the Thompson Exhibition Building was dedicated and opened to the public. Wade's wife Angela and their daughter, Amanda, were here for the celebration and were overjoyed to see the manifestation of his vision fulfilled.

Throughout our lives we leave our imprint on those we love and the institutions, like Mystic Seaport Museum, about which we care deeply. Our personal legacy conveys our life story, purpose and accomplishments, and offers each of us a chance to perpetuate the places and activities that filled our life with meaning. Loyal members like you have demonstrated a clear belief in the mission of the Museum and our continued success. Mystic Seaport Museum is an enduring organization and by planning a legacy gift now your dedication will live on to support our work for generations to come.

LEGACY GIVING DELIVERS POWERFUL IMPACT

Legacy Giving over the past 90 years has built a solid financial foundation for the continued growth and transformation of Mystic Seaport Museum. It has become a tradition for longstanding supporters to safeguard the Museum for future generations by including Mystic Seaport Museum in their will or estate plans.

Over the past decade, we have received an average of nine bequests each year yielding \$1.5 million in annual support for education programs, facilities and grounds, exhibitions, curatorial stewardship of our collections, vessel restoration, and support for our professional staff.

Taken in total over the past decade, the average bequest gift has been in the range of \$150,000–\$200,000 with the most frequent gift amounts in the range of \$25,000–\$50,000.

We have been especially fortunate to have received five seven-figure gifts of \$1 million or more during this same period.

Please consider including Mystic Seaport Museum in your long-term plans in one of the following ways.

- Name Mystic Seaport Museum as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), or taxable brokerage account.
- Designate Mystic Seaport Museum to receive a specified gift through your will as either a defined cash amount, a percentage of your residual estate or specific tangible property.
- Name Mystic Seaport Museum as a beneficiary of a Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Lead Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, or Charitable Remainder Uni-Trust.

To learn more about including the Museum in your plans, please contact Chris Freeman at chris.freeman@mysticseaport.org or call at 860.912.3121.

If we are already in your plans and you make your intentions known to us, we will be pleased to welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. Thank you for your consideration and your interest in supporting our mission.



5 MINUTE LEGACY: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

Throughout our lives we leave our imprint on those we love and the institutions like Mystic Seaport Museum about which we care so deeply. The legacy we bequeath conveys the story or our lives and accomplishments. Let your legacy support our work for generations to come by naming Mystic Seaport Museum as your beneficiary.

One of the most straightforward gifts you can make to Mystic Seaport Museum is to name the Museum as a beneficiary of one of your assets such as an insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account. It is a very popular way to establish a legacy gift because you can do it yourself. Typically, there are four simple steps:

1. Contact the administrator of your insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account and request a change of beneficiary form or in many cases you can download the form from their website.
2. Decide what percentage of the account you wish to donate to Mystic Seaport Museum and name us along with the percentage on the form.
3. Sign and return the form to the administrator.
4. Tell us about your gift! It would be our honor to thank you for your support and to welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. With your permission, we will share your story with others to inspire them to follow your good example.

LOWER YOUR TAXABLE INCOME IN 2019

Support experiential education, engaging public programs, and curatorial stewardship of our collections by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Mystic Seaport Museum.

If you are aged 70 1/2 or older and will be taking the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA in 2019, you might consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Mystic Seaport Museum.

- Avoid income taxes on transfers up to \$100,000
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2019
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts

The process is very straightforward and can typically be completed on line or with one call to your plan administrator.

THE OFFICIAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE FOR MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM IS:

“I, (name) of (city, state, ZIP), give, devise and bequeath to Mystic Seaport Museum at 75 Greenmanville Avenue Mystic, CT 06355 a 501 (c) 3 Organization, tax identification #06-0653120 (written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

If you have decided to include Mystic Seaport Museum in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may have the opportunity to properly thank you and welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. If you have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office at 860.572.5356.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT US?

If you plan to visit Mystic Seaport Museum, please let us know. We would be pleased to meet you and to organize a special tour of the Museum. We deeply appreciate your commitment to Mystic Seaport Museum, your support is vital to our success.

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ABOUT THE *CHARLES K. STILLMAN* LEGACY SOCIETY



Dr. Charles K. Stillman was one of the original three founders of the Museum. He was a practicing physician in New York from 1907 to 1911. In 1911, he left New York for his home in Mystic for a period of rest intended to be temporary, however he never returned to the city. While in Mystic, he engaged in yachting and fishing activities and became one of the founders of the Block Island Tuna Club. He was an active participant in programs against the pollution of the Connecticut River. His grandfather was Clark Greenman, who along with his two brothers Thomas and George ran the Greenman Brothers Shipyard on the site we know today as Lighthouse Point at Mystic Seaport Museum. It was on Christmas Day in 1929 that Charles Stillman, Carl Cutler, and Edward Bradley met to form the Mystic Historical Association, which ultimately became Mystic Seaport Museum. Just one decade later, Charles Stillman passed away, a tremendous loss to his friends and family and also to the Museum. However, he had planned ahead and made provisions for a large portion of his estate to be gifted to the Museum. This first bequest helped to establish an endowment for the programs and future operations of the Museum, and began what has become a tradition of legacy giving among members and friends of Mystic Seaport Museum. To learn more about including Mystic Seaport Museum in your plans contact the advancement office at 860.572.5365 or go to www.mysticseaport.org/legacygiving

**MYSTIC
SEAPORT
MUSEUM**

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