

September 2023



on the Move

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

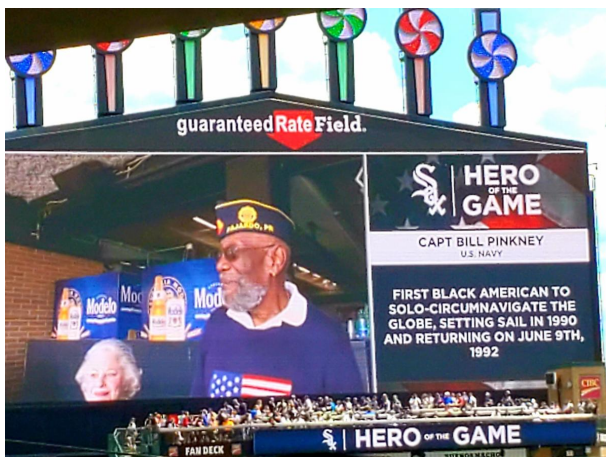
Rest in Peace Captain Bill Pinkney

Captain Bill Pinkney, sailor, explorer, educator and friend of the Chicago Maritime Museum, died at the age of 87 on Thursday, August 31.

With his inspirational story of solo-circumnavigating the world, the South Side native leaves a legacy of commitment and curiosity for young people everywhere, especially those in underserved communities. His accomplishments demonstrate what it takes to be great and his message was consistent: there are no boundaries to what you can do, so dream big.



For months prior to the news of his death, the museum had been working with Capt. Bill to create an exhibit demonstrating these themes, with recent videos of him related to his adventures. It is fitting that we dedicate the exhibit to his legacy of inspiring young people to follow their dreams.



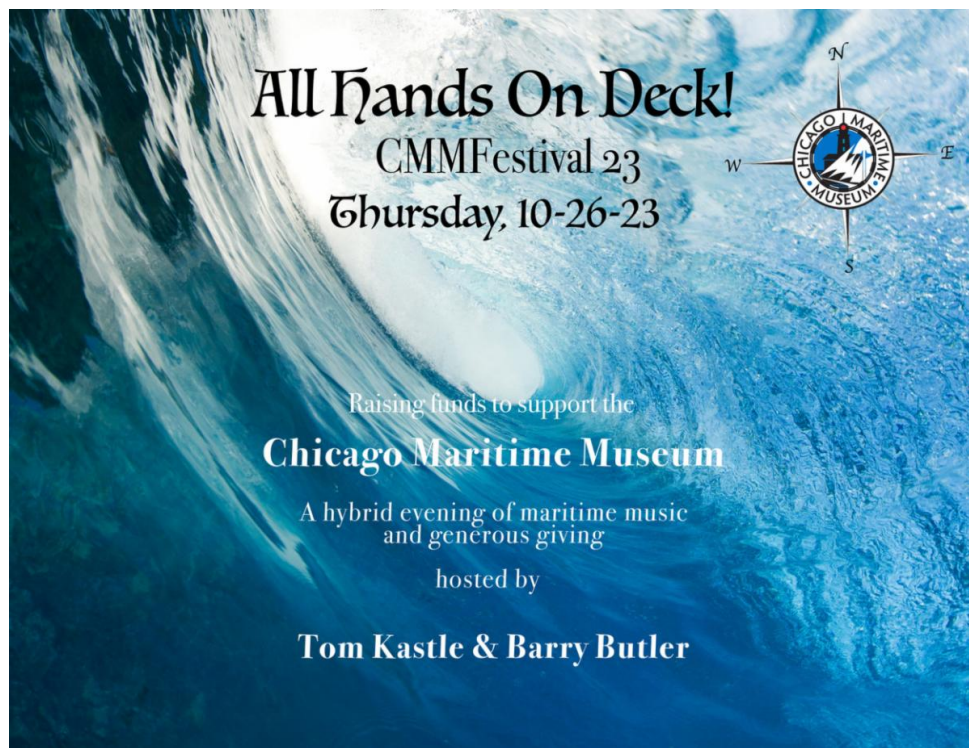
"The Chicago Maritime Museum has lost a great friend and supporter," says CMM vice chair, Jerry Thomas. "There was no better spokesperson to voice the mission of the Chicago Maritime Museum than Captain Bill Pinkney. While he could have enjoyed a more relaxing retirement on the shores of his beautiful home in Puerto Rico, Bill spent much of his later life engaging and

inspiring young people with his adventures."

Bill recently connected with young sailors from Jackson Park Yacht Club and Indiana Youth Empowered in a CMM Zoom seminar in which he told his young audience, "Never stop sailing, even if you get hit by the boom."

Thank you Captain Bill for your friendship and support for the Chicago Maritime Museum.

Tom Kastle and Barry Butler to Host CMMFestival Fundraiser "All Hands on Deck" Scheduled for Thursday, October 26



The CMM fundraiser committee is busy planning for the annual museum fundraiser. Themed "All Hands on Deck" the fundraiser date is set for Thursday, October 26. The hybrid event will be hosted live at the museum by shanty singer Tom Kastle and Chicago lakefront photographer Barry Butler. Last year, nearly 100 patrons, both online and in-person, raised \$100,000 for the museum.

"This year, we are truly hoping for all hands on deck to support and grow our museum," says Vice Chair Jerry Thomas. "CMM wishes to thank all who participated and donated last year. We hope to carry your momentum into this year as you continue to support exciting new plans for the museum."

This year's theme, *All Hands on Deck*, invites the diverse and extensive maritime vessels—from tug boats to tour boats -- that ply Chicago's lakes and rivers to become a part of CMM's mission to explore and celebrate the city's rich maritime history.

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Education Facilitator Sari Breslin is on a Mission to Engage CPS Students with the Importance of Chicago's Maritime History and Economy

Two things Sari Breslin knew for certain as a child -- she had a knack for drawing and she loved sailboats.

As an art teacher for Chicago Public Schools, Sari spent 20 years sharing her talent and passion for art at high schools on the South Side.

However, in her free time during the summers, Sari could often be found down at Burnham Harbor aboard the Charlotte Annschooner, scrubbing the deck or training new staff on the historic Tall Ship charter boat. From the moment she saw the tall masts while driving north on Lake Shore Drive, she knew she wanted to be a part of the crew.



It's no wonder then, that Sari so aptly fits the part of Chicago Maritime Museum's education director, using her many contacts in education and sailing to engage students with Chicago's rich maritime history.

"I absolutely love working with the Chicago Maritime Museum," says Sari. "I relish the opportunity to introduce young people from disadvantaged areas in the city to local maritime history. And even more importantly, to the many maritime career opportunities the waterways provide for older students, from commercial shipping to water reclamation."

Sari's expertise in curriculum planning complements the Chicago Maritime Museum's evolving mission, as the organization extends its outreach to maritime education for students in and around the Chicago area.

"Whether it's Tiger Scouts working on their Floats and Boats badges or teen sailors Zooming with Captain Bill Pinkney, Sari's educational events at the museum bring youth closer to our waterway's rich history and inspiring potential," says Jerry Thomas, vice chair of the Chicago Maritime Museum. "We are lucky



to have her energy and expertise.” Sariraised her three children in the Beverly neighborhood on Chicago’s far South Side. She and her husband, urban planner/architect Georg Kisiel, enjoy restoring and sailing their classic wooden sailboat, **Tara Ceilidh**, on Lake Michigan.

Rest in Peace Wendella Founder, Captain Bob Borgstom



Photo Credits: Zbigniew Bzdak/Chicago Tribune

Robert Borgstrom spent most of his life on the Chicago River as owner and one of the captains of the Wendella sightseeing boats. Captain Bob died early Aug. 24 in home hospice care in Glenview.

[Learn More Here](#)

113-year-old Port of Chicago Could be Threat to Environment



Photo Credits: E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune)

For 15 years, Chicago has tried and failed to win a federal grant to rebuild the principal dock at its main Lake Michigan port. During this time, the 113-year-old dock has never stopped crumbling.

[Learn More Here](#)

Jackson Park Yacht Club Expands to 31st Street Harbor



Photo Credits: Marc C. Monaghan

The Jackson Park Yacht Club, a century-old club that boasts the largest

community of Black sailors in the country, is expanding its operations to Bronzeville's 31st Street Harbor. In doing so, yacht club leaders say they hope to connect with a new, younger generation of sailors.

[Learn More Here](#)

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page](#).

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at communications@chicagomaritimemuseum.org.

Ready to join or renew your membership?

Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#). If you need further membership support please email us at cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org

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

