Faces of the Ernestina

Just a few of the many dedicated individuals who are working hard to get her sailing again.
Mission

The Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc. (SEMA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of raising funds to provide for the maintenance, equipment, manning, programming and operation of the Schooner Ernestina ex Effie M. Morrissey as a sail training vessel, school ship, and educational enterprise.

SEMA
Board of Directors

President
Mary Anne McQuillan

John Buddy Andrade

Capt. Willi Bank

Christopher Davis, Esq.

John Bullard

Vice President/Treasurer
Julius Britto

Marc Pires

Robert Hildreth

Polly Zajac
Dear Members and Friends,

I grew up in Fairhaven, Massachusetts with my father’s tales of a harbor full of schooners. In 1995, I had the opportunity to sail in the Gloucester Schooner Race on Ernestina. It was a chance to bring my Dad’s stories to life. I never dreamed how it would change my life. I went on to bring marine science classes and ninth graders from Westport to sail and learn. I sailed with hundreds of students. I sailed during summer programs for students and for teachers. I saw how the experience of raising the sails together, of the power you feel as you handle the wheel, of the lessons you learn, of the importance of mathematics and science and observing nature, of the histories of the many very different people who sailed on this ship affected young and old.

I became president of the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association because I believed Ernestina’s supporters needed to step up and do everything possible to assure that this historic ship returned to serving the Commonwealth as she had in the past.

Ernestina belongs to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The legislature created the Schooner Ernestina Commission to administer the ship in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. In 2008, a group of Ernestina supporters led by Bob Hildreth decided that the Schooner Ernestina Commission needed a private partner and incorporated the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association. Public-private partnerships have an important place in supporting our cultural and historical treasures.

We need to continue to demonstrate the depth and breadth of support that Ernestina has. The directors of SEMA are committed to partnering with the Ernestina Commission to help provide the support and resources the ship needs to serve the Commonwealth as she has in the past, as a SAILING educational vessel. In 2011, SEMA will be working hard to represent Ernestina and to help raise the necessary money to fund the restoration of this national treasure.

I have seen firsthand how Ernestina can touch the future in an irreplaceable way. This is why I thank you for joining us to say, “This is important,” and I am so grateful for the support you have given to help chart her course for the future — one where she will surely be sailing again.

Fair winds,

Mary Anne McQuillan
President, SEMA
President’s Report

2010 has been a remarkable year for the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association. We have grown in numbers and in resources. What began in 2008 as the idea of a few dedicated volunteers, came to fruition in 2010 as an official charitable organization, with hundreds of individuals convening time and again to show their support for Ernestina and the concept of a public-private partnership that will sustain her into the future. Key political partners – U.S. Congressman Barney Frank, New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang, State Representative Antonio Cabral – have all publicly shown their support for our cause. In 2010, Ernestina was designated one of the 1,000 Greatest Places in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

We launched our charter membership drive, and we’re proud to say that at the close of the year we had over 200 new SEMA members! SEMA has made regular efforts to stay in touch with our new members and friends via our website, an e-mail newsletter and Facebook. It gives us great hope to see what the first official year of SEMA’s incorporation has produced. With this kind of support, just imagine what we can accomplish in the years to come.

SEMA - It’s Official!

In February, we received a letter of determination from the IRS affirming SEMA’s 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization. Being formally recognized as a non-profit enables us to receive tax-deductible donations, apply for private grants and certain government funding – truly giving us the foundation on which to build Ernestina’s future. In June, SEMA elected three new directors: Polly Zajac, Christopher Davis and Captain Willi Bank. In November, we established four new committees:

- Maintenance and Operations Committee
  Chair: Captain Willi Bank

- Financial and Operations Committee
  Chair: Julius Britto

- Membership and Outreach Committee
  Chair: Mary Anne McQuillan

- Fundraising Committee
  Chair: Marc Pires

Ernestina at her present-day berth in New Bedford Harbor - we look forward to the day when she will be sailing out into Buzzards Bay and beyond!
Planning for Her Future

In March, planning began for a fall “forum” to discuss Ernestina’s future, potential uses, obligations and expectations. The planning committee’s vision was to bring together the diverse constituents who have an interest in Ernestina and facilitate lively discussions on her potential future uses. We sought to have the outlines of an organized plan to sustain the ship’s restoration and operation.

SEMA received its first grant from the Island Foundation to offset the expenses of this free event. The New Bedford Whaling Museum, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) were also instrumental in providing resources to make the Forum a success.

On October 30, nearly 200 people attended the Ernestina Forum at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Seven morning and afternoon break-out sessions were held, led by skilled facilitators on topics ranging from “Ernestina as a Tourist Attraction” to “Restoration as a Public Project.” Congressman Barney Frank delivered a luncheon keynote address, expressing his support for the ship. The Forum closed with an emotional plea from Maria Mendes, granddaughter of Captain Henrique Mendes, to help keep Ernestina sailing, resulting in a spontaneous audience donation of over $700.

The information gathered in the break-out sessions at the Forum was compiled and distributed to attendees, and a follow-up meeting was held to plot out next steps.

2010 Ernestina Activities

June 12
The Buzzards Bay Rowing Club, organizer of the Buzzards Bay Open Water Rowing Challenge, welcomed Ernestina’s dories to their race. Two of Ernestina’s dories were rowed from their berth, out of the harbor and to Fort Taber, for eight miles round trip. The Buzzards Bay Rowing Club dedicated a portion of the event’s net proceeds to SEMA.

July
SEMA participated in several events during New Bedford’s Cape Verdean Recognition week, including Cape Verde 35/350 and the 38th Annual Parade. SEMA volunteers marched with our National Park Service partners, and Ernestina supporters visited the SEMA booth, set up near the reviewing stand.

August 7
The Salem Maritime Festival was a wonderful opportunity for our volunteers to share Ernestina’s story.

August 14
SEMA had an informational booth at the Onset Cape Verdean Festival, where hundreds of visitors showed tremendous support for the Ernestina and SEMA’s efforts to help get her sailing again.

September 5
The Gloucester Schooner Festival was a great success, where schooner aficionados from around the world heard Ernestina’s story from our dedicated volunteers.
September 25 & 26  
SEMA partnered with DCR to tell Ernestina’s story to over 3,000 visitors during the Working Waterfront Festival, which showcases New Bedford’s waterfront and celebrates all the people who work to make the vibrant waterfront successful.

October 30  
The Ernestina Forum, the purpose of which was to bring together Ernestina’s diverse constituents and map out a plan for her future, drew nearly 200 attendees at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The event succeeded in setting forth plausible plans for the future of the ship.

December  
SEMA publicized the posting of DCR’s Rig Maintenance Project. An earlier posting had resulted in a single unacceptable bid. With our promotion several qualified bidders responded to the posting.

Growing Our Membership  
The first phase of the SEMA charter membership drive began with an Internet campaign in July. Supporters of the ship come from across the U.S. and the world, in fact, 30% of SEMA’s charter members came to us through the Internet campaign, allowing us to use our resources more effectively.

In late November, a team of volunteers spent two nights at the Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford preparing letters for mailing. The result was that we met the 2010 matching challenge set forth by Bob Hildreth – $10,000 – and gained over 200 charter members.

Staying Connected  
In addition to the many events SEMA and our volunteers participate in throughout the year, we have made a concerted effort to reach out to our constituents through the Internet, email and social media, all which are at minimal to no cost.

Ernestina.org  
Our new site, including access to the pre-2005 archive site, was launched in early November. The new site allows us to make regular updates on our own, add photos and event information.

E-mail newsletter  
We created an e-mail newsletter in March that is sent to several hundred recipients monthly with updates on Ernestina events, volunteer opportunities, and online donation links. Anyone can sign up to receive the e-newsletter at ernestina.org.

Facebook page  
We created an Ernestina Facebook fan page in March, which is updated at least monthly, including the latest photos and happenings involving SEMA. It has been an excellent tool for communicating with Ernestina friends around the world, many of whom frequently post comments on the page.
Letter from the Vice President and Treasurer

As a young man I had the privilege of attending the first Independence celebration of Cape Verde in Praia, Santiago on July 5, 1975. I pledged to myself and freedom fighters that I had met in Cape Verde that I would find a way to keep Cape Verde’s aspirations in the hearts and minds of people in the United States and around the world. In my view as a social scientist, I truly believe that the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey is one of the most powerful vehicles to tell the story of how people of many cultures and backgrounds can come together to teach tolerance, cultural understanding and environmental education.

As SEMA’s Vice President and now Acting Treasurer and a long-time Ernestina volunteer, the support that I have witnessed in 2010 - from the October 30th Forum to the new memberships of over 200 people - has been invigorating for my family, myself and many other individuals who have cared about the Ernestina-Morrissey.

I view the year 2010 as a new beginning for Ernestina — a beginning that will promote even greater participation in shaping future programming and possibilities for the ship. With continued financial and volunteer support, I have no doubt that this public/private partnership between the Massachusetts Schooner Ernestina Commission and SEMA will chart a vigorous and robust future for the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey one where her stories, cultures and lessons will live on.

Warm regards,

Julius Britto
Vice President/Treasurer

Many Thanks!

The support of the community and the following organizations has made an enormous difference in SEMA’s inaugural year.

- Arthur Moniz Gallery
- Baker Books
- Buzzards Bay Rowing Club
- Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Global Learning Charter Public School
- Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center
- The Island Foundation
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus
- New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- The New Bedford Whaling Museum
- The Ocean Explorium
- Onset Cape Verdean Festival Association
- Reynolds DeWalt
- Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL)
- Statewide Software & Systems

Treasurer’s Report

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Second Century Club Members
Gifts of $1,000 and above
Pamela M. Colgate
Jay & Lisa Hanson
Robert Hildreth
H. F. (Gerry) Lenfest
Anne Wilson

Captain Members
Gifts of $500 to $999
Robert H. Ackerman
Thomas L. Bird
Bettina Borders & Dr. Victor Mailey
Julius & Sandra Britto
David & Judy Brownell
Stephen Hopkins
Jane Johnson Kent*
Marcia & Steven Lerner
Florence F. Locke
Mary Anne McQuillan
Finley Perry
Dr. Laura Pires-Hester
Dmitry Sagalovskiy
Gary & Elisabeth Schwartzman
William & Alice Smith
Mardee Xifaras, Esq.

Navigator Members
Gifts of $250 to $499
Al & Phyllis Bezanson
Melissa Bradley
John & Laurie Bullard
Terry & John Garfield, Jr.
Kenneth & Judy Gregg
Dan Hellin
Clem Littleton
Rod McLelister
Margaret Gartner-Merrill
Mina Ellis Otis
Paul Sydowski
Hank & Betty Tiska

Explorer Members
Gifts of $125 to $249
Thomas Barrett
Lee Bordas
Richard Bow
Philip Cronan
Paula Daddio
David Eatough
Gwen & Rob Hancock
Robert Hansen
Edward Jackson
Cyrus Kano
Mark Lambert
Lloyd MacDonald
Stephen McAfee
Rod McCollister
George Morrissey
Tony & Dorothy Morse
Douglas Nemeth
Jennifer Nersesian
Susan Orsato
Leo & Eve Pierce
Hertha Platzner
Chuck Smiler
Marjorie Waite
Neal Weiss
Amanda Woods

Shipmate Members
Gifts of $60 to $124
Liz & Ken Ackerman
Paul & Louise Anthony
Steve Baker
Benjamin B. Baker
Willi Bank
William T. Bennett
Albert Berwick
Kathleen Billings
John & Ann Bocon
Stephen H. Brown*
Barbara Burgo
Kathryn Burt
Dianne Cavaleri
Cynthia Collins
Lawrence & Alice Comeau
Robert Coyne
John Cruz, III*
Judith A. Curby
Catherine Dempsey
Toni DePina-Teixeira
Christine Dostal
Christine Dzioba
Muriel Fortes
Laurel Furumoto

Stephen R. Gaun
Richard A. Gifford
David Gilbertson
Kurt Hasselbalch
Judith Havens
Bob & Linda Henry
Peggy Huckel
Dan Kahn
Karen Kobela
Eric Korn
Fred Littleton, Jr.
Brittany Logan
Lorraine H. Louanis
Harold Low
Ned & Judy Lund
Carlton D. Macomber
Peter Marshall
Garrison & Polly McClure
Rick & Annie McDowell
Mary Meehan
Sophia Morse
Don Pinkerton
Naomi Rappaport
Marian Rose
John Rowse
Kristen, Reza, Zakary & Kira Sarkarati
Richard & Nina Schumann
Phil & Jane Shute
Gilbert C. Simpkins
Frederick Sterner
Robert & Judith Sterns
Charles Sullivan
Stephen M. Swift
Ramon Tarini
Andrew & Marian Torchia
Chris Tschaaler
Gerhard & Elizabeth Wagner
David & June Wallace
Susan Way
Dean Williams
Fred Zinger

*Gift given in memory of a loved one. Please see “in memoriam” section.

Thank you!
Over 200 new members – individuals connected with Ernestina’s past, present and future – joined us in 2010. We are so grateful for their vision and support.
Dormyate Members (continued)

Janice Baptist
Susan S. Barnet
Lisa Bergson
David Blatt
Annette Bloom
Paul Bradley
Larry & Sarah Brownell
Melissa Burgo
Stephen Burrell
Ann Campbell
Carolina Internal Medicine Associates*
Ray Cartier
June Chapin
Cordelia Clement*
Lynn M. Connor
Ken Court
Charles Cox
Patricia Cronin & Family
Laurence & Martha Curtis
Maryfrances Davis
Suzanne Delesdernier
Robert Demanche
Jonathan DePina*
Mary Dewar
William, Patricia, Sarah & Michael Donelan
Renee Dufort
Richard & Jane Dunphy
Harold W. Eckert, Jr
Raymond E. Ellison, Jr.
Annemarie Espindola
Carol Almeida Fortes
Pam Franklin
Polly R. Gardner
Chip & Gay Gillespie
Vernon Gomes
Wanita Gomes
Lee Gruzen
Sue Haley
Judith Herlihy
Carl Herzog
Carol Hill
Frederic Hoppin
Marcia Kaplan-Mann
David Kaye
Robert & Beth Kelley
Kathryn Kirk
Martin A. Koski*
Paul Lapointe
Stan Leavitt
Edward Lee
William & Christina Maloney
John McCoy
Irene Medeiros
David Monk
Matthew & Kristin Morrissey
Joan C. Muller
Douglas Nemeth
Robert Pacheco
Anna Pax
Pat Peebles
Pauline Perkins
Patricia RJ Perry
Nancy Phillips
Bill & Judy Pittman
Stephan & Linda Platzer
Jody Reeves
Patricia Regan
Irene Rex
Justin Reynolds
Frances Ricketson
Alison Robb
Laurie Robertson-Lorant
John Rolli
Albert L. Roper II
M.C. Rosenfield
Melissa Bowen Rubin
Michael Rudy
Dena Santos
Kristen Sharpless
Louise S. Silva
Jan Slocum
Mark Sydloiski
Neil Tangri
Katherine Tardiff
Viola Taylor
Pierre & Gisela Tillier
Susan Todd
Bruce W. Tripp
Jeremy, Kari & Weslee Tyler
John Veale
Wendy Ward
Jean A. Warters
Loring & Joanna Weeks
Angela Whiteway
Colin & Janet Williams
Mimi Wind
John Zakian

In Memoriam
The following individuals made gifts to honor the memory of a loved one.

Stephen H. Brown
In memory of his mother,
Elsa Parshley Brown

Carolina Internal Medicine Associates
In memory of Fred Littleton

Cordelia Clement
In memory of Fred Littleton

John Cruz, III
In memory of Raymond Almeida

Jonathan DePina
In memory of Raymond Almeida

Ron & Marie Havens
In memory of Gene Bissing

Jane Johnson Kent
In memory of Warner W. Kent, Jr.,
“who loved his three summers
with Captain Bob.”

Martin A. Koski
In memory of Raymond Almeida

Brittany Logan
In memory of Fred Littleton

Marian Payson
In memory of Amanda Lake

In-Kind Donors
Thank you to our supporters who helped us with in-kind donations.

Penny Brewer
Celtic Coffee House
Ted Hugger
Stephan & Linda Platzer

*Gift given in memory of a loved one. Please see “in memoriam” section.
2009 Donors

We thank the following individuals who gave donations to support SEMA in 2009.

Gifts of $1,000 and above
The Carney Foundation
Robert Hildreth
Stephen Hopkins
Chuck & Ruth Smiler

Gifts of $500 to $999
Bettina Borders & Dr. Victor Mailey
Julius & Sandra Britto
John & Laurie Bullard
Jane Johnson Kent
Fred Littleton (deceased)
Florence F. Locke
Mary Anne McQuillan & Fred Sterner
Dr. Laura Pires-Hester

Gifts of $250 to $499
Dr. Robert H. Ackerman
Peter DeWalt
Mr. & Mrs. John Garfield, Jr.
Marian Payson*
William J. Pontes
Hank & Betty Tiska

Gifts of $60 to $124
Paul & Louise Anthony
Melissa Bradley
Drs. Vanessa & Galen Britto-Henderson
Joseph & Shirley Cabral
John Drake
Gregg Fitzgerald & Melinda Tveit
John W. Harrer
Ron & Marie Havens*
David & Lynda Langdon
Dr. & Mrs. Ned Lund
Lloyd MacDonald
Garrison & Polly McClure
Douglas Nemeth
Mina Ellis Otis
Leo & Eve Pierce
Phil & Jane Shute
Wendy Sinton
Charles Sullivan
Larry & Charlene Tingley
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Tschalaer
Mary Walsh
Neal Weiss
William & Veronica Wilcox

Gifts under $60
Kendal Breeto
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Britto
Sarah Browneull
Nancy Free
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Macfarlane
Putnam McDowell
Mrs. Irene Rex & Ms. Inette Rex
Dr. John G. Santos
Peter & Libby Turowski

Volunteers

SEMA would be nothing if not for the many, many volunteers who give of their time and lively spirits to wholeheartedly support Ernestina.

Buddy Andrade
Edith Andrews
Louise Anthony
Paul Anthony
Andrew Awad
Willi Bank
Jim Bean
Cindy Bean
Sean Bercaw
Paul Brawley
Julius Britto
Sandra Britto
John Bullard
Laurie Bullard
Barbara (Monteiro) Burgo
Paula Cabral
Debbie Cardoza
William Carmo
Marty Casey
Casey Crawford
Don Cuddy
Jeremy Dagold
Christopher Davis
Melanie Demoranville
Annemarie Espindola
George Fonseca
Jennifer Gady
Tally Garfield
Stephen Gaun
Donald Gomes
Guillermo Gonzalez
Claudia Grace
Thomas Grace
Joshua Harding
Carl Herzog
Bob Hildreth
Jonathan Howard
Leah Jeffries
Greg Jones
Suzie Kowal
Paul Lapointe
Anthony Lessa
Joe Lopes
Lorraine Louanis
Stuart Malone
Annie McDowell
Tom Nixon
Jeanne E. Pacheco
Marc Pires
Laura Pires-Hester
Candida Rose
Kristen Sarkarati
Chuck Smiler
Fred Sterner
Steve Sullwold
Steve Swift
Bill Sydlowski
Paula Sydlowski
Vi Taylor
Jim Verni
Gerald Vinci
Mary Walsh
Laurie Weitzen
Catherine E. White
Bill Wurm
Polly Zajac
Fred Zinger

*Gift given in memory of a loved one. Please see “in memoriam” section.
“We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch - we are going back from whence we came.”

- John F. Kennedy