

Schooner

ERNESTINA-MORRISSEY

One Ship, Many Lives

The official Vessel of Massachusetts



2017 Annual Report

Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association (SEMA)

MISSION

The Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc. (SEMA) is a 501c(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-Morrissey* as a sail training vessel, school ship, and educational enterprise.

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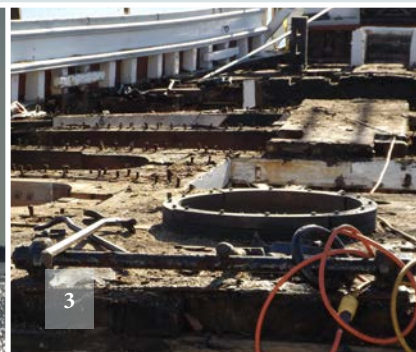
Derek Stevens

Polly Zajac

“We had been tacking upwind for a long time. Now the winds have shifted. It's become a **broad reach to the finish.**”

— MARY ANNE MCQUILLAN,
SEMA SECRETARY

Photos below: 1) **From 2005** — Ernestina was restricted to dockside uses by the Coast Guard; 2) **2015** — Leaving New Bedford harbor; 3) **2015** — disassembly begins; 4) **2016** — reconstruction of stern; 5) **2017** — framing done. How she will schoon!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am honored to have the privilege to write this year's President's Letter. 2017 has been a benchmark year for SEMA, as forward progress on the reconstruction phase of the historic *Ernestina-Morrissey* is now well underway. Even after 40 years of being involved with *Ernestina-Morrissey*, I continue to be awed and invigorated by what can be accomplished by a crew of dedicated individuals in an all-out effort to return this vessel to her homeport — New Bedford, Massachusetts.

It is true that with her historic record and survival over the test of time, the *Ernestina-Morrissey* is an icon worth celebrating on her own. However, I am emboldened to say that it is *PEOPLE* who have ensured her survival. Crews of dedicated and committed *PEOPLE* who work selflessly to keep her alive, and that is what we continue to have today! At a recent grant application presentation, I was moved by the presence and the heartfelt words spoken by so many who passionately love the schooner, and who collectively are unyielding in their vision to see her sail the waters of Buzzards Bay again soon.

It is noteworthy that SEMA and our supporters are not alone in our efforts to preserve and honor an irreplaceable vessel. The rejuvenated *Charles W. Morgan* grandly plowed the waters off our coast just a few summers ago, and presently the great *Mayflower* is being given rebirth in Mystic, CT. There is a collective awareness of the value these vessels have to our maritime and cultural histories. They offer access to the sea and educational opportunities to all who visit them. Our aim is to have the *Ernestina-Morrissey*, in all of her reconstructed glory, sail in company with the *Mayflower* during the summer of 2020 when she returns to her home port. We hope to see you there!

On behalf of myself and our crew of *Ernestina-Morrissey* advocates, I thank you for your support and commitment to our shared goals. We could not complete this project without the fiscal support of a wider community. Please spread the word! While great progress is being made, we still have the last leg of the voyage to navigate to see the majestic *Ernestina-Morrissey* rebuilt to completion and back serving the Commonwealth as educator and ambassador.

With much gratitude,

Julius Britto
SEMA President



“ It is true that with her historic record and survival over the test of time, the *Ernestina-Morrissey* is an icon worth celebrating... ”

— JULIUS BRITTO, SEMA PRESIDENT



TREASURER REPORT

LOUISE CROTEAU

SEMA TREASURER

The year 2017 got off to a rousing start with the announcement of a \$375,000 Matching Grant from the Manton Foundation which will match all gifts dollar for dollar up to that total. This applies to donations from any of SEMA's fundraising components and will be a significant help in completing SEMA's commitment to rise \$1 million dollars towards the vessels \$6.3 million rehabilitation. In 2017 donations of \$135,600 qualified and were matched. The Manton match and a year end \$10,000 challenge grant from Robert Hildreth helped our Annual Appeal have its most successful year to date!

Donations came from: individuals, sponsors and attendees of our most enjoyable and successful June Gala hosted by The New Bedford Whaling Museum, the five foundations listed on our donor page, and donations received through our website, www.ernestina.org. The website, which is well worth visiting, provides updates and on-going photos of the exciting work and progress occurring in the shipyard.

We are grateful to all our donors for their support. Together, as the exciting images dramatically show, we are assuring the "Phoenix of the Seas" indeed rises again.

“This vessel tells so many stories that are not only important to the maritime history of our nation, but also to industry, scientific exploration, wartime service and immigration.”

— **MEGAN KISH**, NEW BEDFORD
WHALING NATIONAL PARK



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Balance Sheet

Cash	\$100,174
Pledges & Receivable	<u>\$122,074</u>
Net Assets	\$222,248

Income Statement

Revenue

Special Event	\$22,215
Foundations and Grants	\$130,449
Public Support	\$69,836
Investments	<u>\$499</u>
	\$222,999

Expense

Operating	\$5,019
Fundraising	\$36,514
Special Event	<u>\$9,724</u>
	\$51,257

Donations to Ernestina-Morrissey Trust \$123,500

\$174,757

Net Income **\$48,242**

STANDING WATCH: VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

GENE MONTEIRO

I have been involved in the Ernestina-Morrissey since her arrival to New Bedford when she was greeted, in August 1982 by a throng of citizens as a gift, from the nation of Cabo Verde. While she has celebrated many lives since 1894, I was particularly



intrigued by her connection to this new island nation. As a superior court probation officer at that time I was able to offer volunteer labor from my caseload to help maintain the ship. Captain Daniel Moreland was receptive to the idea and the initiative provided an important service to her. In fact, one of my probationers was so effective as a volunteer, that Captain Moreland hired him as a deckhand, and he sailed aboard Ernestina-Morrissey for several years.

In 2011 I was appointed by Governor Patrick to serve on the Schooner Ernestina Commission, a position I held until 2017. During that time I was involved in a number of activities designed to support and showcase the vessel. I represented her and the Commission while marching in several parades celebrating Cape Verde Recognition, and met regularly as a Commission member to plan and discuss her future. The culmination of my service as a Commissioner was when I was chairman of a fund raising committee whose goal was to have an event for the public to attend to celebrate the past, embrace the present and look to the future. The event, held on June 9, 2017, had a Cape Verdean flavor to it in terms of food, music and culture, was well attended, and reasonably profitable. It took place in a magnificent setting at the New Bedford Whaling Museum which was donated free of charge. I am happy to have offered my services over the years in various capacities and call upon others to support this living legend called Ernestina-Morrissey as we look forward to her rebirth in the coming years.



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2017 GALA

HONORING THE PAST, CELEBRATING THE FUTURE

On June 9th The Harbor View Gallery at the New Bedford Whaling Museum was the setting for a most successful Gala; raising funds to support the vessel and celebrating the 35th anniversary of the return of Ernestina to the United States as a gift from the Republic of Cape Verde. **SEMA is most grateful for the Whaling Museum's generosity and support. Not only did they donate the use of the Harbor View Gallery, they also helped promote the event and were supportive in every way.**

The festive crowd enjoyed an evening full of comradery, great food, music and dancing, a raffle drawing, and a special ceremony recognizing five people who played important roles in the vessel's return and survival.

Introductory remarks by Gunga Tavares (Community and Cultural Affairs Coordinator for the Consulate General of Cabo Verde), Representative Antonio Cabral, Schooner Ernestina Commission Chair Licy DoCanto, and representatives of Senator Mark Montigny and Mayor Jon Mitchell set the tone.

This was followed by the centerpiece of the evening; the presentation of awards incorporating wood from 1980's reconstruction in Cape Verde to individuals in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the vessel. They were:

Representative Thomas D. Lopes (posthumously) who sponsored the legislation establishing the Schooner Ernestina Commission in 1978 and was an active advocate for the vessel until his death.

Julius Britto, a charter member of the National Friends of Ernestina-Morrissey and current president of the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Julius has held multiple leadership positions since the beginning of efforts to save the vessel.

Margaret D. Xifaras, a Senior Advisor to Governor Dukakis, MarDee was assigned to work with the new Schooner Ernestina Commission and has continued to be a most valuable liaison with the state, federal, and Cape Verdean governments as well as an active advocate.

Michael K.H. Platzer, as an official of the United Nations Office of Technical Assistance, Michael was involved with the concept of repatriation before Cape Verdean independence. In 1982, to celebrate the repatriation, he co-authored a commemorative edition history of the vessel with the then Laura Pires-Houston (now Laura Pires-Hester) and has continued to be an advocate and resource for the vessel.

Laura Pires-Hester, Ph.D. in 1974 became involved with the idea of repatriation and has held various leadership roles including as a Commission member from 2007 and Commission Chair from 2010 to 2017. (See page 10 for more on Laura).

A festive spirit of celebration resonated throughout a memorable and joyous evening for all attending.

“Ernestina-Morrissey is so much more than just the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' official sailing ship. She is a fully functional reminder of our rich common maritime heritage- a link with the sea, without which New Bedford and Massachusetts would not have flourished.”

— **TIMOTHY D. WALKER**, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UMASS DARTMOUTH

Photos on opposite page: **1)** Candida Rose and SGA Trio; **2)** Charlie Mitchell, Tom Grace, Joyce Spooner, Dan Moreland, Harold Burnham; **3)** Sandra Britto and our photographer Ramon Tarini; **4)** Ms. Abra Degbor, Scott W Lang, Marguerite “Gig” Lang; **5)** Paul and Louise Anthony, Dr. Vic Mailey, Carl Cruz; **6)** Representative Antonio Cabral; **7)** The room was filled with people enjoying the festive celebration and comradery; **8)** Jonathan DePina and Marilyn Halter; **9)** Awardees and representatives: Dana Ribeiro for MarDee Xifaras, Rep. Thomas Lopes' sisters, Julius Britto, Michael Platzer, Laura Pires-Hester; **10)** Present and former Commissioners toasting Ernestina-Morrissey's future: Fred Sterner, Julius Britto, Laura Pires-Hester, Jon Carvalho, Karl Pastore, Brian Rothschild, Dagny Ashley, Licy DoCanto, Gene Monteiro, Bettina Borders, Carl Cruz; **11)** Cultural Attaché Gunga Tavares





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Manton Foundation
Mary Morley Crapo Hyde Eccles Fund
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Upstream Foundation

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Major Funding for the project has been received from:
Robert Hildreth, H.F. Lenfest, and the State of Massachusetts

MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

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Mr. Licy DoCanto
Mr. John Dolan
Mr. George Dow
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Mr. John Zakian

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

STANDING WATCH: VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

PAUL ANTHONY

I started as a volunteer instructor for Ernestina-Morrissey in 1998. My background with the Massachusetts Technology/Engineering Advisory Council and as a secondary and college level physics teacher was a fit for the “Working on Water” fifth-grade shipboard program. During my volunteer days, I saw the students’ excitement in learning and I quickly became attached to the vessel.

Over the years, I was able to include the Ernestina-Morrissey as part of my laboratory program for college students. From the use of pulleys to using models to determine the weight of the ship, the ship brought topics to life. My volunteer activities have included ship maintenance, volunteer crew, open ship days, educator, singer, and carver of models.





ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

LAURA PIRES-HESTER, PHD; Leader, Historian, Advocate, and Inspiration

Laura became involved with the idea of the repatriation of *Ernestina* in 1974. She was founder and first chair of the National Friends of *Ernestina/Morrissey* organizing and fundraising for the effort, and she became president of Ernestina Morrissey Historical Association when it was formed. Laura and Michael Platzer wrote a commemorative edition of a history, "*Ernestina — Effie M. Morrissey*", in 1982 to celebrate the repatriation. Appointed to the revived Schooner Ernestina Commission 2007, at a time when the *Ernestina* had lost her Coast Guard certification and had not sailed since 2004, she organized a celebration of the 25th anniversary of repatriation. In 2010, as chair of the Commission, she organized a Forum to gather all *Ernestina's* constituencies. This gathering brought attention to *Ernestina's* plight and crystalized the vessel's value to many diverse groups as an unmatched example of Massachusetts' maritime culture and history. Laura ceaselessly advocated for *Ernestina-Morrissey* and shepherded the plans to a complete rehabilitation begun in 2015. Laura retired from the Commission in April 2017. SEMA could not have had a better partner as we all work to see *Ernestina-Morrissey* sail again. Thank you, Laura!

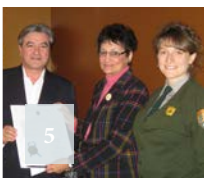
P.S.

I wish to add my personal thanks to Laura. I began working with Laura and Michael Platzer in 1976. From the inception I have been so very proud to work with her. Her dedication to *Ernestina* and the *Ernestina* community has been immeasurable. I cannot imagine *Ernestina-Morrissey* today without Laura's body of work.

With much gratitude!

Julius Britto, SEMA President

Photos below: **1)** Laura, in Mindelo in 1981, greeting Ambassador Jose Luis Nascimento Lopes on *Ernestina*; **2)** Friends of *Ernestina-Morrissey* meeting at UN with US Ambassador Andrew Young, late 1970's; **3)** Carl Cruz, Richard Ward, Laura Pires-Hester, and Oling Jackson at the reception to welcome the trans-Atlantic crossing crew in 1982; **4)** Laura welcoming *Ernestina* returning from bow work in 2009; **5)** Representative Tony Cabral presents a citation to Laura with NPS Supt. Jen Nersesian; **6)** Laura and Mary Anne McQuillan at Whaling Museum presentation, 2015; **7)** 2016 Schooner *Ernestina* Commission, Karl Pastore, Dagny Ashley, Joh Carvalho, Gene Monteiro, Licy DoCanto, Laura Pires-Hester, Ed DePina.



SUPPORT SEMA

THE TIME IS NOW! DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT BY MAKING A DONATION TO OUR ANNUAL APPEAL TODAY!

The Manton Foundation's generous \$375,000 dollar for dollar match is still ongoing for all donations made.

We are within reach of meeting our \$1 million-dollar pledge toward the vessel's \$6 million-dollar hull reconstruction. Planking is being laid daily and she truly is being given rebirth like "*The Phoenix of the Sea*" that she is!

Please support SEMA's efforts to return the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey to her hometown - New Bedford! With your help she will soon proudly plow our coastal waters as the majestic, State Vessel of the Commonwealth. The *Ernestina-Morrissey* will proudly serve as Ambassador of Massachusetts, and, she will once again offer access to cultural and educational opportunities to all who visit her.

DONATE

Please make a tax-deductible donation using a major credit card or Paypal account through our website today. Spread the word and encourage others to support SEMA's mission as well!

<http://www.ernestina.org/support/donate/>

NEWSLETTER

Keep up-to-date on all things *Ernestina-Morrissey* through our free e-newsletter. Follow the link below to sign up!

<http://bit.ly/sema-news>

AMAZONSMILE

You can support *Ernestina-Morrissey* with every purchase you make on Amazon by using our AmazonSmile link. It's a simple way to support the vessel while you do your normal shopping. Follow the link below for more details.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3290355>

Thank you!



“As an educator, father of four, (and great grandson of Captain Henrique Mendes) I am presented with the challenge of educating today's youth daily. A restored and seaworthy *Ernestina-Morrissey* has the ability **to inspire our children** and **provide hands-on relevant learning opportunities**, while instilling **a greater sense of pride in themselves and the city.**”

— DEREK STEVENS, EDUCATOR

Schooner

ERNESTINA-MORRISSEY
One Ship, Many Lives

www.ernestina.org

Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 2995
New Bedford, MA, 02741

2017 OUTREACH ACTIVITY

During 2017 SEMA volunteers brought *Ernestina-Morrissey's* story to events across the Commonwealth. A highlight was joining other Essex schooners at the **SailBoston 2017** Tall Ships festival. Other events included the **Tall Ships America Annual Meeting** in Boston, several presentations at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, and various performances by **New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus** from New Bedford to Salem. **Ropefest** at R&W Rope, **Gloucester Schooner Festival**, and the **Working Waterfront Festival** reached maritime enthusiasts while Cape Verdean heritage was celebrated at the **Recognition Parade, Onset and Harwich Festivals** and **We Are Cabo Verde Gala**. Media exposure continues in maritime magazines, (Sea History, Marlinspike), and newspapers (Boston Globe and New Bedford Standard Times) and social media outlets. Our website www.ernestina.org shares on-going images and information on the progress of the work on the schooner, provides links to other accounts on the project, and posts notices and minutes of Commission meetings and notices of SEMA sponsored events. In addition, in 2017 15 Newsletters were sent and hundreds of brochures and rack cards were distributed.

2017 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AHA! | Boothbay Harbor Shipyard | Brewer Banner | Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford | Cape Verdean Recognition Committee, Inc. | Community Foundation of SE Massachusetts | Essex Shipbuilding Museum | Gloucester Maritime/Gloucester Schooner Festival | Harwich Cape Verdean Association | Massachusetts Maritime Academy | New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center | New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus | New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park | New Bedford Whaling Museum | Onset Cape Verdean Festival Association | SailBoston-2017 | Umbrella Works Design Studio