



# STAR ARTS NEWS

February 2025

## Evening Chapel Service: A Cherished Star Arts Tradition...Volunteers Needed

The bell beckons us with a slow and steady rhythm as lanterns light our path. We walk in silence up the hill to the stone chapel as thousands have done before us. Sitting shoulder to shoulder on the wooden pews we are eager to hear the message prepared for us by our friends both old and new. Within those old stone walls we breathe out all that ties us to our lives on the mainland and for a brief time we accept the invitation to be at peace.

Please consider taking an active part in one of the chapel services. You may plan an entire service or provide a 5-to-7 minute talk as part of one of our Star Soup evenings. Everyone has a story, a passion, or a message. We'd love to hear yours. Assistance and suggestions are available as desired. Please reach out if you have questions and let me know ASAP.

Sally Armstrong ([sjdaab@hotmail.com](mailto:sjdaab@hotmail.com))



People entering the Chapel for the evening. Photo by Sally Armstrong

## Registration is Open!

*Star Arts 2025 is Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>*

We've had a huge turnout for registration and as a result, Arts is almost full! If you plan on coming, you should register soon! [Register Here!](#)

## Bring a Young Adult



Fiona Rollins with Sally Armstrong, 2023. Photo by Karen Schulz

Have you ever thought about bringing a young adult (18+) with you to Star Arts Week? 2025 may be your year to introduce a new generation to Star Island's magic. Here's your opportunity to share with a loved one the joy of creating amid all the island has to offer. You're sure to make a few lasting memories. Don't delay... Arts Week is filling up fast!

"My introverted granddaughter heard me talk about Star Arts for many years. Finally, meeting the age requirement, she was excited to join me on the island. By mid-week, she had found her place in the photography workshop, made connections with other Shoalers, discovered places on the island I'd never seen, and even won a raffle basket during the auction. The memories we made together were priceless." – Sally Armstrong

# Note from the Registrar

*To those who have already registered for June 2025*

Hi Shoalers!

You may be wondering where your Arts Welcome Letters are. (You will have gotten an acknowledgment from Star Island.) Please be assured that they are being prepared and will arrive very soon. And don't be worried; your registrations for Arts 2025 have been recorded. More later.

In Star Spirit,

Barbara

([stararts.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:stararts.registrar@gmail.com))

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## Workshops 2025

*Theater Workshop*

*Greek Chorus with Shadow Puppets*

*with Theodora Skipitares and Andrea Balis*

In Greek Theater the Chorus plays many roles, including illuminating the frailties of government, leadership and society. This will be an interdisciplinary workshop, where the participants will speak as well as create simple two-dimensional shadow figures, ending in a performance of their piece. The chorus can break through all the layers of the performance, warning characters of their doom but also preparing us, the audience of what's to come. The chorus can be beautiful or terrible, or sometimes downright obscene but it occupies a shadowy world of its own, slipped between players and their fate, between the characters and the audience. In this workshop that shadow world will literally exist, between light and dark, and character and observer by using shadow puppets, which the workshop participants will make and with which they will then perform, with puppets and voices and create a special, theatrical space. All materials will be provided.



Theodora Skipitares (left) and Andrea Balis (right).

Please see the Star Arts website for more information about Theodora and Andrea: <https://stararts.org/theater/>

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*Visual Arts II Workshop*

*A Moment in Time and Space: Exploring Star Island Through Textile Arts with Elizabeth Ives*

Colors found in nature vary depending on the location, time of year, and seasonal conditions. They can be further modified by water, pH, and chemical modifiers like tannic acid. Creating colors from a specific time and location preserves a memory of that moment that cannot be replicated even if you return to the same place at the same time another year.

To take advantage of these unique properties of plants we will employ 2 techniques to create a unique patchwork fabric. We will work with solar printing and eco printing on fabric. This is a quick process that creates unique prints in a single session. The last day will be dedicated to bringing it all together to create a patchwork fabric or a string of prayer flags.

The Textile Workshop has a limit of 12 people (sign up on island) and there will be a \$35.00 materials fee for each participant to be paid to the instructor (cash).

More information here: <https://stararts.org/visual-arts-2/>



Elizabeth Ives and examples of her work in Eco and Solar Printing. Photos Submitted by Elizabeth Ives



## Other Workshops 2025

### *Movement Workshop: Let Your Yoga Dance with Megha Nancy Buttenheim and Andrea Cashman*

In these daily classes at Star Island, you will discover the true meaning of the phrase: Where Joy and Fun meet Deep and Sacred. As you dance your yoga through the chakras, you start slowly in meditation with relevant poetry reading, then flows into moving yoga. The class gets faster and more lively as the class progresses through the chakras. As you move to the 6th chakra (ie: the third eye), you enter moving yoga cool down, Moon Salutation, and Dance Prayer. The class ends with relaxation and meditation.

The first half of the week will be lead by Megha Nancy Buttenheim and the second half by Andrea Cashman.



### *Photography Workshop: How You Look at It with Edie Bresler*

In this workshop participants will experiment with new and innovative approaches for making photographs. Whether you are using a smart phone or a DSLR, you will be challenged with specific exercises to enliven how you think about composition, your relationship to space and your subject matter. Topics for the week include portraiture, landscape and found object still-life.



### *Visual Arts I Workshop: Plein Air Landscape with Jeneane Lunn*

This class is a chance to learn or improve your ability to use oils, acrylics, watercolor or pastels for plein air landscape painting. Using the techniques of the impressionist painters, we will work to capture the changing light affects of nature and the stunning landscape of Star Island. When the weather permits, we will paint plein air. On bad weather days we will paint in the studio either from new photos or to finish paintings started outside. The class will include demonstrations and individual critique. Students of all abilities are welcome.

Jeneane has created lists of suggested supplies for [Oils/Acrylics](#), [Gouache](#) and [Pastels](#). If you plan to take this workshop plan to bring your own supplies as there are no Art Stores on the Island. Please contact Jeneane ([jeneane.lunn@gmail.com](mailto:jeneane.lunn@gmail.com)) if you have any questions!



### *Writing Workshop: Mind Spirit Memory: Contemplative Memoir Writing for Everyone with Louise Harrison Lepera*

Let's experiment with writing short memoir fragments and essays together! Life is full of rich experiences and influences on our human spirit—families, friends, ancestors, our education, our spiritual experiences, the natural environment around us, and the cultures we move through. Exploring these legacies creatively in a warm supportive group can help us understand ourselves, and our world, more deeply.

(Please note: For June 2025 there will be no morning music workshop. We will have options for afternoon singing and music gatherings.)



Photos from top to bottom:  
Megha Nancy Buttenheim; Andrea Cashman; Edie Bresler; Jeneane Lunn; Louise Harrison Lepera

See more information about each workshop here: [stararts.org/workshops](https://stararts.org/workshops)

## Minister of the Week

The Minister of the Week (MOW), is asked to lead our morning chapel services during Arts. She will also be there to speak with any Arts attendee who may be in need of guidance. For 2025, our Steering Committee unanimously voted to ask Rev. Sarah Hurley to join us in June. Read more about Sarah [Here](#)



# Polar Bear Corner

psychrolute

Pronunciation: (SY-kroh-loot)

Meaning:

Noun: One who likes to bathe in cold water, especially outdoors in natural bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Etymology:

From Latin psychrolutes (bather in cold water), from Ancient Greek psychroloutein (to bathe in cold water), from psychro- (cold) + louein (to bathe). Earliest documented use: 1872.

(Many thanks to Jim Weddell!)



Arts Polar Bears are out every morning during our week in June. (Photo by Peggy White, 2024)

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## Savings for 2025

### Discounts

The Island has many different discounts this year for those that are new, returning or haven't been to the Island in awhile. (Discounts must be applied for 2 weeks before you attend.) Check them out here: <https://starisland.org/discounts/>

### Financial Aid

Scholarships are intended to make it possible for anyone wanting to attend the Star Arts to be able to do so. Awards cover part of a recipient's room and board, but not the Star Island registration fee, the Arts programming fee, or any other expenses, including parking at the dock. Please note there is less available Financial Aid this year.

Financial Aid Form is due by April 15th: <https://starisland.org/programs/registration/#financial-grants>

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## From Star Island

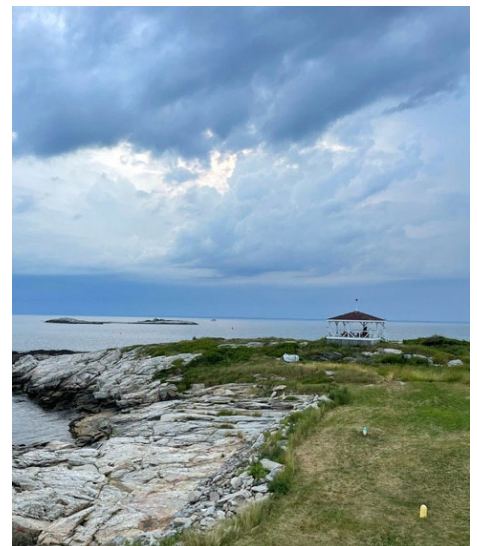
### Annual Fund 2025

It's never too early to donate to the Annual Fund! Star Island is a nonprofit organization. The money guests spend on the island accounts for less than 70% of the annual budget. Star relies on charitable support to make up the remainder. Making donations is not required but Shoalers should expect to hear about it when they're on the island, and may want to be prepared to make a donation should they choose to.

To donate visit: <https://starisland.org/donate>

### Star Island is Hiring for the 2025 Season!

Star Island a seasonal religious and educational conference center, rooted in the UU and UCC faiths, off the New Hampshire coast. They hire approximately 100 people (18 or older) to work from mid-June to mid-September. Working on Star Island offers a unique employment opportunity in a beautiful location. Staff enjoy an enriching learning experience that, in many cases, shapes future careers. The words "best job ever" are often used to describe working on Star Island. To find out more visit the Star Island website: [starisland.org](https://starisland.org).



Star Island's Summer House. Photo by Barbara Reynolds 2024

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## Deadline for Next Newsletter!

The Deadline for the next Newsletter will be March 1<sup>st</sup>!

If you would like to include pictures, art, poetry and/or news please submit items to:

[stararts.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stararts.newsletter@gmail.com)

(Questions about Star Arts you can email Barbara Reynolds at [stararts.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:stararts.registrar@gmail.com))

