



STAR ARTS NEWS

February 2025

Note from the Co-Chair

Dear Star Arts folks –

I'm going to go out on a limb here and assume that practically everyone who is in our Star Arts community is in a deep freeze today (January 28). Even Toni Menk, down in Kentucky, and Jo Paoletti in Maryland, and Mary Frances Comer in South Carolina, and Helen Wolfson and Eric Thomas in North Carolina are in the path of this winter storm. My hope is that everyone has heat and hot food and community to help keep you safe. My partner Judy is on her fourth day of snow-blowing and her body is pretty sore. And in four days, we are predicted to have a repeat northeaster!

My friends, if that doesn't make us long for a week on Star in June, I'm not sure what will.

So now is the time to register for Star Arts 2026. We have a wonderfully fun and inviting array of workshops where we can explore a new art or push deeper into an art we already love. The rocking chairs will be waiting, too, for those who prefer a quiet and contemplative week simply soaking in the inspiration of the Isles of Shoals.

Our financial aid pot was restocked by the donors and buyers at last year's auctions (thank you!), so please don't let finances prevent you from registering now and applying for aid if you need it. We want to be sure that all our community, as well as newcomers, can gather together in four short months to board the Thomas Lughton and run away to the ocean islands off Portsmouth.

Please register soon! And invite friends, church colleagues, the folks in your knitting/mah jong/studio groups – any one you think would enjoy the peace and beauty of Star – to register, too! Remember, if you bring a new person, you both receive a 10% discount... If you bring 10 new people, each of them gets 10% off, and you get ten 10% discounts (you come for free!)

Can't wait to see you all on the dock! This snow and cold will pass. Here's to summer!
Elenita Muñiz, co-chair, Star Arts '26

(Information about Discounts can be found here: <https://starisland.org/discounts/>)



Reminders of the Star Island Summer sun. Lazing after chapel, photo by Anne Nowselski. Towel lines from swimming, photo by Sandy Damashek; Sunshine at the Labyrinth, photo by Lotus Do.

Star Arts 2026
Sunday June 21st to Sunday June 28th
Registration is Open!

Register Here!



Workshops 2026

Visual Arts: Layered Painting Exploration with Judy Klima

Come and explore the inroads of self- discovery and unbridled joy, as you learn to combine a variety of media to create an abstract, highly textured, colorful and layered painting. Participants will experiment freely with different layers of mark making using watercolor, paint pens, paint sticks, collage, crayon, etc. Used in combination these media form semi-transparent layers in unique and exciting ways. The paintings can stand alone, or attendees can cut them into smaller shapes to create the pages of a fantastic, beautiful origami style exploding book. All levels of experience and talent are welcome.

This workshop will have a limit of 20 people, sign up will be on island. Also, \$15 for supplies fee to be paid to the instructor cash or check. List of suggested supplies the conferee needs to bring:

- Watercolors
- Paint Pens
- Tempera Paint Sticks
- Crayon
- Fine point black markers
- Old picture books that you are willing to cut up

Read more about Judy and this Workshop here:

<https://stararts.org/visual-arts/>



From Left: Judy Klima, Examples of origami style exploding books. Photos submitted by Judy Klima.

Other 2026 Workshops

- *Movement: African-Rooted Dance: Movement, Rhythm, and Cultural Connection* with Noel Staples-Freeman
- *Photography: Photographic Storytelling* with Amy Lovera
- *Theater: Pat Your Head & Rub Your Tummy: Theater Improv for All* with Richard Kuhlman
- *Writing: Deepening the Writing Life* with Barbara O'Neil

Read about these workshops here:

<https://stararts.org/workshops/>

Music: Veins of Rock: Singing Classic Rock in Harmony on Star Island with Danielle Grace

Join Encore Creativity's ROCKS program Director and Grace Note Studies Owner/Educator Danielle Grace for an energizing, joy-filled vocal workshop celebrating classic ROCK music in rich choral arrangements. Over the course of the week, participants will learn, refine, and bring to life three iconic songs—culminating in a shared performance for the Star Arts community. No formal vocal training required: this workshop is about connection, collaboration, and the pure pleasure of singing together. Come rediscover the music that shaped us, use your voice in a supportive and spirited environment, and experience the thrill of making great music—together—on Star Island.

Read more about Danielle here: <https://stararts.org/music/>



Danielle is a pianist, singer, alto saxophonist, director, and music educator. Photo submitted by Danielle Grace.

Passing

A note from Julian Hill

It's with a profound sadness I share the news that my father, Jeremy Hill, passed away in January after a lengthy period of declining health that began with COVID.

Star Island held deep meaning for my father throughout his life. He often spoke of his love for the calling of the gulls and the island's timeless rusticity. The quiet lantern-lit procession to the chapel, the music, and the sense of community were experiences he treasured. While on Star, he found a mental freedom that allowed him to make thoughtful plans and conceive fresh ideas. No matter how full his conference schedule, he always made time to go to the rocks beyond the perimeter road and immerse himself in the island's natural beauty.

It was through my father that I was first introduced to Star Island as a young boy, when we attended a family conference together in the late 1970s. In later years, both of my parents became regular Shoalers, and I joined them consistently for conferences in more recent seasons. My father became engaged in all aspects of Star, serving on various committees over the years. He was a strong believer in the principles and ideals that define the Star community.

I will forever miss him, but I'll continue to feel the presence of both my parents whenever I'm on-island, remembering with fondness and gratitude the many moments of laughter and closeness we shared at Star.

There will be a celebration of life for Jeremy in the Spring.

Julian (julian.hill@gmail.com)



Alexandra and Jeremy Hill on the boat to Star Island, Photo submitted by Julian Hill



Top: Chapel Lanterns are used to light evening chapel. The Chapel Path is a winding path up to the Stone Chapel. Photos by Sally Armstrong.



Evening Chapel

Be Part of the Tradition...Volunteers Needed

During these uncertain times, how does art sustain and ground you? Why not share your experience...what works for you...in an evening chapel service?

There are lots of ways to be involved. We need folks willing to provide an entire service and/or folks willing to share briefly for 5-7 minutes in a Star Soup Evening. Can you play a musical instrument...solo or accompaniment? Sing, read a poem...perhaps one you've written...ring the bell? Think about how you might help and let me know. You don't need to know exactly what you'd share at this point...just a commitment to do something...whatever it might be.

Sally Armstrong, Evening Chapel Coordinator
sjdaab@hotmail.com

Looking Ahead to 2027!

In the Summer of 2027, Arts will celebrate its 50th Anniversary! We are gathering information to fill our new [History Page](#) on the website. We're looking for pictures and stories of Star Arts. To the right is an article from the Star Island Newsletter in the Autumn of 1977. Please send interesting and noteworthy historic news to stararts.newsletter@gmail.com



A NEW APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS

Leaving behind the world of crime and destruction 106 adults came to Star Island long- ing to experience and to create works of beauty and grace.

Lectures and studio sessions devoted to Art, Music, and Literature satisfied their desires and brought to success the new Star Island Conference of the Arts held June 18 - 25.

Among the features that made the conference outstanding were the morning chapel services led by Dr. Dorothy Spoeri, who reminded us that living a life of service and integrity is the greatest of the arts; the informative lectures; the opportunities to create one's own works of art; the outstanding exhibit of studio work; the concert presented by the Strawberry Banke Chamber Music Festival; and the friendships formed among the conferees and their leaders.

Some of the conference statistics are interesting: 40% were new Shoalers.

Religious affiliations included 76 UU's, 4 UCC's, and members of the Jewish, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Christian, Swedenborgian, Methodist, and Quaker fellowships.

The states represented included:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Oregon | 1 |
| California | 2 |
| Michigan | 8 |
| Illinois | 2 |
| Ohio | 5 |
| North Carolina | 1 |
| Virginia | 1 |
| Maryland | 2 |
| Delaware | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | 8 |
| New Jersey | 9 |
| New York | 12 |
| Connecticut | 6 |
| Rhode Island | 7 |
| Massachusetts | 26 |
| Vermont | 5 |
| New Hampshire | 11 |
| Maine | 2 |
| | 106 |

Volunteer on Star

Hello, all! Your friendly, neighborhood Shops on Star Volunteer Co-ordinator here. Have you considered returning to the island over the season after our wonderful Star Arts week has drawn its curtains this year? Why not help out in the Gift Shop! To view a full description of the role, please click here: [Shops on Star Volunteer Job Description](#). There have been some amendments so even if you have volunteered before, please have a look to familiarize yourself with any changes. Here is a summary which addresses most FAQs:

The Shops on Star are staffed by the Manager, the Sales Associate, and typically 2 volunteers per week. It is important to remember that while volunteering, you are not a conferee. Meals are taken with the Pels & other staff in the Underworld. The weekly schedule will be set by the Shops Manager but, typically, volunteers work 7 days/week for a total of 35-38 hours. Apart from the first Sunday, evenings will be free. Volunteers will depart from and return to Rye Harbor. (A voucher for parking your car at Rye is available for shops volunteers.)

As was successfully introduced last year, all volunteers on the island fill out this [Volunteer Application Form](#). Once again, *even* if you have filled out forms before, we all must re-apply (like sunscreen!) every time. Feel free to contact me if you have any difficulty accessing any of the links, or if you have any questions.

Nancy Gair (nrgair@gmail.com)



The Shops on Star consist of the Gift Shop, Bookstore and Lobby Shop, photo from the Shops on Star website.

Deadline for Next Newsletter!

The Deadline for the next Newsletter will be March 1st!

If you would like to include pictures, art, poetry and/or news please submit items to: stararts.newsletter@gmail.com

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

