What propelled me to become a Mystic Seaport Museum PILOT and, more recently, a benefactor of the Museum? Simply put, it was in my blood to set this course. An oft-spoken adage about us New Englanders is that we have “salt water in our veins.” To me, this phrase is complimentary to our ancestors who pursued dangerous commerce on the high seas, sacrificed much to protect the trade routes from piracy, and developed technologies to enhance productivity and the livelihoods of their countrymen. Their instinctual survival skills were often challenged when Mother Nature displayed her varied and sometimes tempestuous moods, yet they prevailed.

Evidently, my circulatory system has been supplemented with that extra Nacl H²O. It may well have been hereditary from an uncle, when considering his sailing and nautical prowess. A youthful, knowledgeable imagination had him born with the bitter-end of a sheet held taught between his teeth. My fathomless affection for the open waters was initially nurtured through young reader’s novels that transported me on swaying decks and arcing masts to fantastic places, especially those involving 19th-century whaling. One of my favorites was *The Wonderful Voyage* by Ruth Langland Holberg. Other books include *Seabird* by Holling Clancy Holling, *Kon–Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl, and *The Bounty Trilogy* by Charles Nodoff and James Norman Hall.

In my adolescent pursuit of elegance, one specific attraction floated to the surface: the captivating beauty of a square-rigger under full sail. I “weighed anchor” and steered straight into a romance with the sea on a dream to “sail before the mast!” My first attempt was with the U.S. Navy. Sailing aboard modern naval vessels, during my 24-year career in the service didn’t quite fulfill this dream, but did provide this “salty” sailor with ample excitement on the bounty–main: surviving two typhoons; manning the helm through all types of seas crossing both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and living fo’c’s’le style in “sardine can” living quarters. And yes, those moments of romanticism: the moonless ALL starlit nights with only the sound of the bow wave splashing past below me, and the anticipation of arriving at exciting and exotic ports – Hong Kong being my favorite!

An interim pleasure, and excellent step toward realizing my dream, was sailing with the aforementioned uncle on his 45’ ketch *Edelweiss* – she took my breath away – among the Caribbean Islands. It was sublime holding her helm, keeping her pointed into the wind, watching the “tattle–tails” from her stays and floating dreamily at anchor on those turquoise waters.

Continued on next page
Ahoy! At long last, my romantic dream finally came true in the summer of 1998. It happened aboard the HM Bark Endeavour Replica. Now it was my turn to experience the rigors, first hand, of “sailing before the mast.” It was a week’s voyage from Newport, R.I., to my hometown of Boston, MA. Immediately after stepping on deck, I sensed an instant connection with her original crew, officers included, as well as the scientists (supernumeraries) necessary to affect the expectations of Captain Cook’s first expedition. Sailing this replica put me over the horizon of exhilaration. This included: weighing anchor with the capstan; the first snap of the sails catching a breeze; hauling around on the braces and sweating the line; climbing the shrouds (especially the futtock shrouds), then stepping out on the mains’yardarm footropes; reaching the main t’gallant yardarm to furl the sail in foul weather; sleeping 18th-century style in a hammock. And, best of all, being the solo helmsman with sufficient wind to allow a more responsive rudder to her determined hull. Beyond description, this was by far, my ultimate seafaring experience.

With regards to Mystic Seaport Museum, the opening address is rightly applicable, and buoyantly personified in the Museum’s capable staff. They all have salt water in their veins. At the masthead, to my reckoning, are the phenomenally skilled shipwrights. Without their time honored, collective expertise, we wouldn’t have the Charles W. Morgan and all the other heritage vessels on campus. To their credit, they stand beside the likes of ship builder and naval architect Joshua Humphreys, ship designer and builder Donald McKay, and the hillman brothers, who built the Morgan. Indeed, it is the impressive craftsmanship employed by the shipwrights that embraces and assures the visual narrative of the very spirit of American nautical exploration and discovery!

All told, it was an easy decision for me to support Mystic Seaport Museum through my estate plans. It is my fervent wish that future generations of visitors may also set a course to realize their own maritime ambitions because Mystic Seaport Museum is definitely keeping the dream alive. Upon choosing to name the Museum as a beneficiary to my retirement account, I was overjoyed; experiencing once again the lofty emotions I felt at the helm of HM Bark Endeavour.

LOWE R YOUR TAXABLE INCOME IN 2019

Support experiential education, engaging public programs, and curatorial stewardship of our collections by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Mystic Seaport Museum.

If you are aged 70 1/2 or older and will be taking the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA in 2019, you might consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Mystic Seaport Museum.

- Avoid income taxes on transfers up to $100,000
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2019
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts

The process is very straightforward and can typically be completed on line or with one call to your plan administrator.

ENDEAVOR TO DREAM

continued from page 1

A vais duty interceded again with: the tedious, never ending rust removal; “navy showers”; scullery duty; watch standing and the rush to General Quarters when we came under an enemy threat. This and more rounded out the “hardships” known throughout generations of shipboard life, yet adrift from all these experiences, and the beckoning, alluring magnificence of billowing sails.

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RECEIVE LIFETIME INCOME

Chris Freeman

A vexing challenge that many individuals confront as they enter into the retirement phase of life is how to provide a steady stream of income to replace their paycheck and supplement social security.

Many people use a popular strategy that can provide lifetime income, manage risk, and generate tax advantage by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity. A Charitable Gift Annuity is created through a gift of assets to a charity in exchange for a contract committing to a specific annual payout to one or more annuitants for their lifetime.

In addition to the annual income provided through the Charitable Gift Annuity, there may also be tax advantages such as capital gains avoidance and a charitable gift deduction. Depending on the age of the donor, the annual payout rate can be higher than the returns on stocks, CD’s, Money Market accounts and other traditional investment options. The chart below is provided by the American Council of Gift Annuities for illustration purposes.

Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about Charitable Gift Annuities and would like to receive a personal illustration of a potential Gift Annuity.

Annuity Rate Examples

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<th>Age of Annuitant</th>
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*Single life annuity illustration

Immediate payout

These rates are for illustration purposes only.

Call to receive your personal illustration.
Many of my friends may find it strange that someone of my age would be writing an article for a legacy society. After all, that is something you do at a latter stage in life or after some unexpected news. I can assure my friends that for me something like this is not out of character. Legacy is something I have been thinking about for as long as I can remember and my support of Mystic Seaport Museum is a natural extension of that.

I started my career at the Museum in May 2012 and have never looked back or regretted my decision. At that time, I was a high school history teacher and was fortunate enough to stumble on a job posting in the Collections Research Center and applied on a whim. I wasn’t sure what to expect, I was not in need of a job at that time, but something told me to go for it. After all, what did I have to lose from an interview?

Since that day, I have had the opportunity to work in three of the Museum’s departments: Collections, Education, and Interpretation. In these years at the Museum, I have seen so many positive steps, which I have been able to play a small part in helping the institution to achieve. These included bringing tours of both school groups and members to the Charles W. Morgan while she was undergoing her restoration in the Shipyard, sailing with the Morgan on her 38th Voyage, participating in every new exhibition in our Era of Exhibitions, working on our overnight programming on the Joseph Conrad, and so much more that it would take a book to recount.

For all of these reasons Mystic Seaport Museum is, for me, not just an employer, for that is at the most basic level, but a home and a family. A family that I feel privileged to be a part of and one that I try to do everything I can to make just a little bit better every day. That is why I have decided to include Mystic Seaport Museum in my estate planning, and I encourage anyone who feels that special connection to the Museum to consider doing the same. Future generations deserve to have Mystic Seaport Museum as a strong and vibrant resource that connects us to our past while helping every generation engage with our past and help shape our nation’s future.
THE OFFICIAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE FOR MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM IS:

"I, (name) of (city, state, ZIP), give, devise and bequeath to Mystic Seaport Museum at 75 Greenmanville Avenue Mystic, CT 06355 a 501 (c) 3 Organization, tax identification #06-0653120 (written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you have decided to include Mystic Seaport Museum in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may have the opportunity to properly thank you and welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. If you have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office at 860.572.5356.

5-MINUTE LEGACY: BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

Throughout our lives, we leave our imprint on those we love and the institutions like Mystic Seaport Museum about which we care so deeply. The legacy we bequeath conveys the story of our lives and accomplishments. Let your legacy support our work for generations to come by naming Mystic Seaport Museum as your beneficiary.

One of the most straightforward gifts you can make to Mystic Seaport Museum is to designate the Museum as a beneficiary of one of your assets such as an insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account. It is a very popular way to establish a legacy gift because you can do it yourself. Typically, there are four simple steps:

1. Contact the administrator of your insurance policy, retirement plan, or brokerage account and request a change of beneficiary form. In many cases you may be able to download the form directly from their website.

2. Decide what percentage or amount of the account you wish to donate to Mystic Seaport Museum and name us along with the percentage or amount on the form.

3. Sign and return the form to the administrator.

4. Tell us about your gift! It would be our honor to thank you for your support and to welcome you into the Charles K. Stillman Legacy Society. With your permission, we will share your story with others to inspire them to follow your good example.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT US?

If you plan to visit Mystic Seaport Museum, please let us know. We would be pleased to meet you and to organize a special tour of the Museum. We deeply appreciate your commitment to Mystic Seaport Museum, your support is vital to our success.

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ABOUT THE CHARLES K. STILLMAN LEGACY SOCIETY

Dr. Charles K. Stillman was one of the original three founders of the Museum. He was a practicing physician in New York from 1907 to 1911. In 1911, he left New York for his home in Mystic for a period of rest intended to be temporary, however he never returned to the city. While in Mystic, he engaged in yachting and fishing activities and became one of the founders of the Block Island Tuna Club. He was an active participant in programs against the pollution of the Connecticut River. His grandfather was Clark Greenman, who along with his two brothers Thomas and George ran the Greenman Brothers Shipyard on the site we know today as Lighthouse Point at Mystic Seaport Museum. It was on Christmas Day in 1929 that Charles Stillman, Carl Cutler, and Edward Bradley met to form the Marine Historical Association, which ultimately became Mystic Seaport Museum. Just one decade later, Charles Stillman passed away, a tremendous loss to his friends and family and also to the Museum. However, he had planned ahead and made provisions for a large portion of his estate to be gifted to the Museum. This first bequest helped to establish an endowment for the programs and future operations of the Museum, and began what has become a tradition of legacy giving among members and friends of Mystic Seaport Museum. To learn more about including Mystic Seaport Museum in your plans contact the Advancement office at 860.572.5365 or go to https://www.mysticseaport.org/support/legacy-giving/