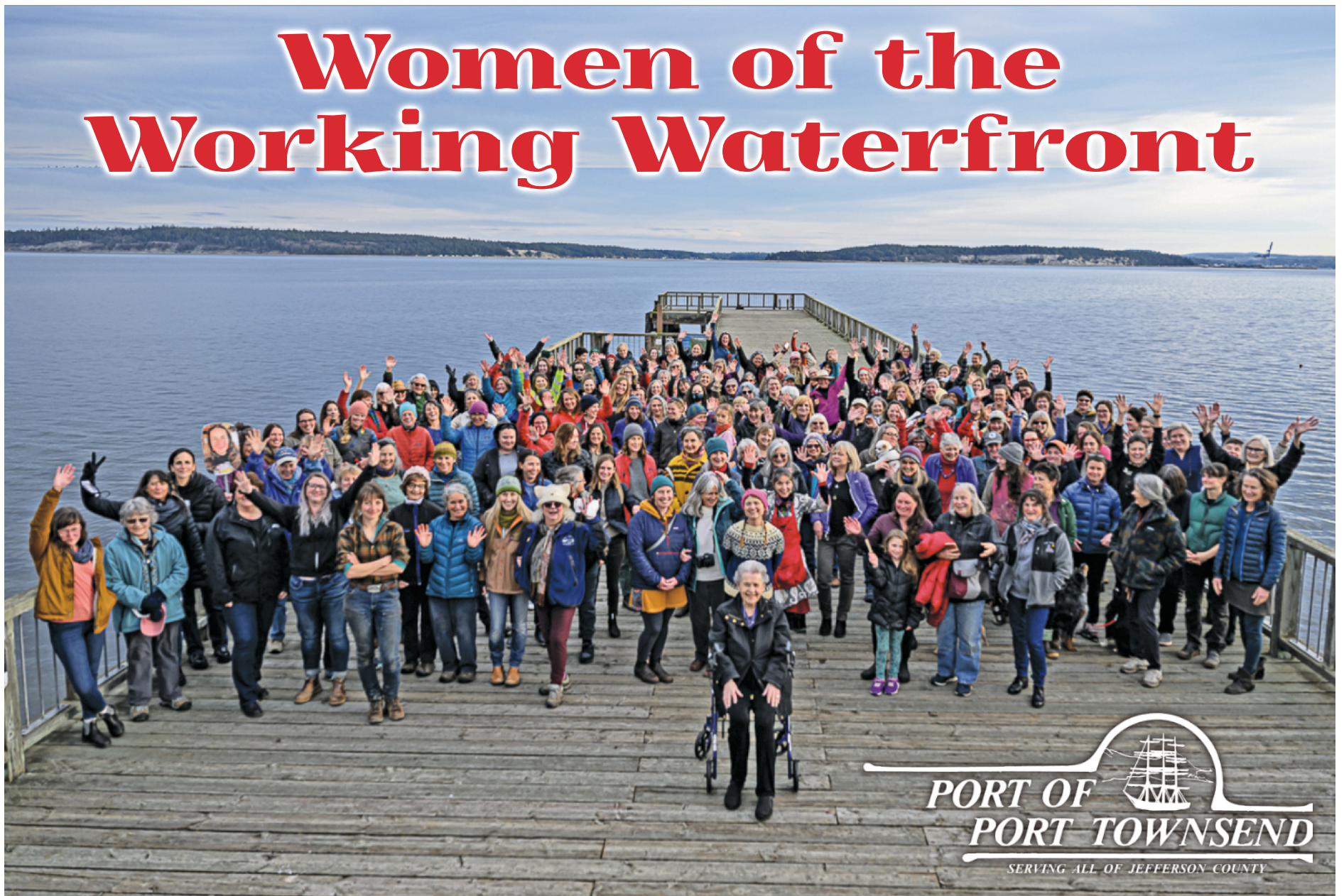


PORT REPORT

ECONOMIC VITALITY ■ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
OPENNESS & ACCOUNTABILITY ■ STEWARDSHIP

Summer 2022 NEWSLETTER *from the* PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND

Women of the Working Waterfront



On March 11, 2022, almost 200 of the local Women of the Working Waterfront gathered to celebrate on City Dock. More on Page 2. Photo by Jeremy Johnson

INSIDE: Abigail Berg: Women, water, wind: 11 Call of the Sea: 4 Generations Conversations: 8 & 9



Diana Talley, the first female shipwright at the Port of Port Townsend, organized the March 11 gathering and has created a database listing the skills and accomplishments of hundreds of Jefferson County women. *Photo by Jan Davis*

ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

“Women of the Working Waterfront” is one part of a celebration of the scores of local women connected to the maritime world and marine trades. It’s probable that no community has a higher per capita rate of women immersed in the maritime world as this one. This magazine was inspired by shipwright Diana Talley’s invitation for women to gather at City Dock on March 11 for a photo and celebration, where boat-related women from ages 6 to 96 came together. The content and the connections for the many women here were guided by Kaci Cronkhite, a global circumnavigator and published author. See her story and photo on Page 3. The cover photo was a collaboration between Jeremy Johnson and Nicolette Kalafatis. Design and production was done by Marian Roh of RohGraphics; copy editing was done by Scott Wilson.

This publication is funded by the Port of Port Townsend.



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Commissioner's Corner PT unique in diversity, quality, skills

March is Women’s History Month, and Port Townsend’s maritime women and girls have celebrated and contributed in a truly seaworthy way.



By Carol Hasse
Commissioner
District 2

Included in the history making was the 9th annual She Tells Sea Tales event, where a handful of women shared a remarkable, inspiring story from their professional or re“creational” experience on the water. Proceeds benefit the Girl’s Boat Project, a collaboration between girls, public middle schools and the NWMC/Wooden Boat Foundation. Do not miss the 10th!

The photo that graces this Port Report’s cover of our community’s marine trades women and mariners was taken at an event conceived and sponsored by retired shipwright Diana Talley. The event was to honor (in her words) “how deep our connections and how great our accomplishments” are in the maritime world. The joyful, proud gathering of women and girls of all ages stood for a snapshot on Pope Marine Park’s City Dock. Historic, and profoundly us.

Among those women were circumnavigators, marine biologists and environmental consultants, merchant mariners, fishermen, divers, boat owners, kayakers, paddle boarders, surfers, riggers, sailmakers, canvas workers, boatbuilders, marine electricians and

mechanics, bright workers and finishers, foundry workers, live-aboards, maritime skill educators, yacht brokers, port commissioners, boat school graduates, tall ship captains, maritime authors, navigators, chandlers, and those skilled in business who keep books, manage workflow,

communication and sales with the knowledge of craft necessary to keep a maritime enterprise afloat.

Jefferson County’s working waterfront is an economic engine and the authenticity of our Victorian Seaport. It is unique in North America in diversity, quality and skill set, and in its devotion to craft, the trades, maritime education and inclusion of all who feel the inspiration to become a part of it. I do not believe there is a greater concentration of maritime talent or of women working in the marine trades anywhere in the world.

We women are proud to be a part of the marine trades that are important to our well being - not just for the economic contribution and essential services they provide. Helping youth of all ages get out on the water safely is a vitally important, satisfying part of a marine trades person’s mission and self worth. We know it is the equally humbling and empowering experience that occurs at sea that makes us fall in love with the water and want to take care of it.

Indeed, time spent afloat working or adventuring is what inspired most of us to put tools in our hands and make our way in the traditionally male maritime trades: To apply our creativity and intelligence in centuries-old skills and modern adaptations to create beauty in the world. That force joined the cultural revolution of women’s rights that transformed the opportunities and possibilities for women and girls in the last 50 years.

In 1975 I “dropped the hook” in Port Townsend, got involved heart and soul with our first Wooden Boat Festival and, with encouragement from my family and community, started the sail loft at Point Hudson in 1978. I made a “corporate decision” to train and employ only women, at least for the first 10 years. It’s not that I didn’t enjoy working with men, but wanted to ensure that anyone who came up the stairs to inquire about sails would have to talk to us “girls”. In the 80’s and 90’s I was a mate on the nation’s first women’s trips on sail training vessels such as schooner *Adventuress* and the longboat *Townshend* in the San Juan Islands, and in the South Pacific on Orange Coast College’s *Alaska Eagle* and *Mahina* expeditions. Accomplishments of women in the trades and on the water are now legion and light the way for all who dream of working in the maritime industry.

Prepare to be inspired by the stories in this Port Report of some of the remarkable women whom we are blessed to have in our community and our port. We look forward to hearing more!

CAN-DO, CHARACTER, COMPETENCE: Women of the Working Waterfront

By Kaci Cronkhite

Every month is women's history month in Port Townsend. The working waterfront is proof. Pick an enterprise, occupation, a skill, a role. I'd bet my boat there's a woman who's done it, is doing it, or is on a training path to do so.

Photographs and county historical records show this has been true for centuries. If you haven't done so in awhile, look who's weaving, clamming, smoking salmon, and loading Salish coastal canoes on the beaches of pre-Point Hudson and the bay - mostly indigenous women. Look up at the iconic buildings downtown and listen during the historical society's walking tour. Lucinda Hasting's greatest achievement wasn't just stepping ashore in 1852. She was the first of several pioneer women to build buildings, inspiring others to create, own, and operate businesses to anchor the local seaport economy.

In 2002, National Women's Sailing Association based in Boston needed "40 boats, captains, and sailing instructors" for the on-the-water portion of their first Women Take the Helm event here. When I sent them a list of names a week later, they were gobsmacked. Never, in all the decades and cities where they'd held the event - San Francisco, Miami, Annapolis, New York, and Seattle - had all the roles been filled by women. "Never and nowhere has every boat owner, every captain, every instructor been women," said the East Coast coordinator.

My surprise at her surprise was followed by profound

realization. Port Townsend was home to the highest concentration of woman captains and boat owners per capita in America, maybe the world. Twenty years later, this is still true and has been corroborated with informal surveys (74 captains and 187 boat owners in this edition's cover photo) and interviews in other port towns. The number of women in the trades, in maritime education, in political leadership, in activism - in everything that makes this town work - is exceptional, too.

Women's contributions don't end at the waterfront. There's another layer of roles and responsibilities: partner, mother, mentor, boss. Add these 24/7 contributions over years and decades and it's easier to see how we survive storms and life transitions. The waves of women's contributions buoy families, nurture organizations, prioritize love, spur entrepreneurship and imbue our culture.

"Women show up, show up, and show up again," said Shelly Leavens, daughter of a boatbuilder. Leavens moved to Port Townsend from Seattle to become executive director of the Jefferson County Historical Museum. "And there are more kick-ass mothers here than anywhere I've ever lived. Leaders shaping our culture."

Motherhood extends to more than just childbearing. Plenty of women with no children of their own help raise and mentor, protect and defend, feed and nurture people of all ages. Some call that fierce commitment and



Kaci Cronkhite, left, consults with sailmaker Carol Hasse as part of the restoration of Cronkhite's 1936 boat Pax.

Photo by Jan Davis

spirited generosity "community." It's a culture that's embracing and honest, brave and tough, forgiving and kind.

Men treasure it, too. Local rigging legend Brion Toss introduced himself to me as a feminist. Words matter. He was Christian's "hersband" and taught rigging without gender bias - challenging us to build the kinder world we seek. Blaise Holly of Haven Boatworks is mentor to several women shipwrights at Haven. "Good hires—all hard working and smart. A pleasure to work with. Committed, like everyone here, to being known for the good work we do." Sandy Goodall, a Danish-Canadian sail designer warned me not to take our community's uniqueness for

granted. "Of 120 sail lofts I consult with all over the world, (Carol) Hasse is the only woman owner," he said.

Women business and boat ownership may seem ordinary in Port Townsend, but what's been achieved here hasn't come easy. It's taken hard, tireless, attentive efforts over decades. It's taken ingenuity, courage, and resilience. It's taken women who led early and subsequent generations of women and men with heart making it happen.

This first-ever Women of the Working Waterfront photo on the cover, taken March 11, is a perfect example. Diana Talley (the first woman shipwright in the Port and still mentor to many) reached out to more than 350 women, aged 6-96, and organized a photo representing every aspect of what

makes a working waterfront work. "Everyone who loves this place and has contributed, you belong here standing together, recognizing our deep connections, our accomplishments, and to be seen."

It takes us all to keep the invisible visible - for women, for all.

Kaci Cronkhite is an author, circumnavigator, captain/owner of Pax, former director of Wooden Boat Festival, founding staff of NWMC, and a life-long advocate for empowering girls and women worldwide. She also serves as a volunteer and consulting advisor to the Port.

THE CALL OF THE SEA

These women were asked:
What brought you to the Port Townsend waterfront and what keeps you inspired to be on it?



Zia Plumb Magill

15 year old sailor, student, and fan of everything boat-related

I grew up on the Port Townsend waterfront, so there was never a time when it wasn't part of my life. I just love being out on the water in any way, so I have taken every opportunity, of which there are many, to make that happen. I'm on the Sailing Team, I crew on Schooner Martha, and I have been involved in the Girls Boat Project and Puget Sound Voyaging. The maritime community is very friendly and welcoming, especially since there have always been many knowledgeable females to look up to, and this has helped keep me inspired.



Patti Hoyecki

Raised in six ports on three seas

The last decade of my healthcare career moved us to Port Townsend per childhood goals: Make yourself a better person, make the world a better place, retire by the sea. Why here? Intertwining cultures that understand we need to actively protect this paradise and have fun doing it. Our days overflow with open water swimming, forest hikes, gardening and sailing our good old boat year-round. Diverse volunteering options provide an enlarging circle of spicy friends. As my childhood hero, the Water Rat said to the Mole, "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."



Nancy Eifert

A wandering woman who keeps returning to Port Townsend

I arrived here on my own boat, a classic Monk tri-cabin named Rumpuckorori. In the 1990s, this was truly a special place. Sure, the town had issues, but it was affordable and fun, a great climate you wouldn't wash away in, and a high quality-of-life. It still is most of those things, but I doubt we could afford to move here today. We came here when wood boats were affordable. I ran the chandlery at Wooden Boat and felt an emotional part of this place. I still enjoy being here in this small, rural community of caring women who work at working hard.



Len Maranan-Goldstein

Non-profit fund/fundraiser, foodie, author, first mate of Quickbeam

I visited Port Townsend in 2002. I remember standing in front of the Swan Hotel looking out at the empty lot across the street. "That looks like a wasteland." Six years and unconnected events later, I joined the Northwest Maritime Center. Fourteen years on, I am still here, because I see firsthand the difference that powerful maritime experiences make in the lives of the students we serve, especially the young women who discover their inner strength through hands-on, experiential learning under the mentorship of the incredibly smart, capable, and compassionate women instructors I am proud to call my colleagues.



Sarah Hanke

**Lover of wildlife,
land and sea animals**

What brought me to the sea and keeps me on it? My family! As a family business here in Port Townsend (Puget Sound Express) I grew up riding the boats with my dad as a toddler and then began crewing in high school, and also, while in college, naturalizing about the local wildlife. Before settling here and after college, I went and worked for other companies. But that only lasted a couple years because I kept getting back involved with the family business (like my brother Christopher, shown here) and my co-workers. Many of those I work with are long time family friends who have now become extended family. The people I work with keep me here working on the water.



Ricki-Ellen Brooke

**Long-distance rower, fair-weather
sailor, foul-weather knitter**

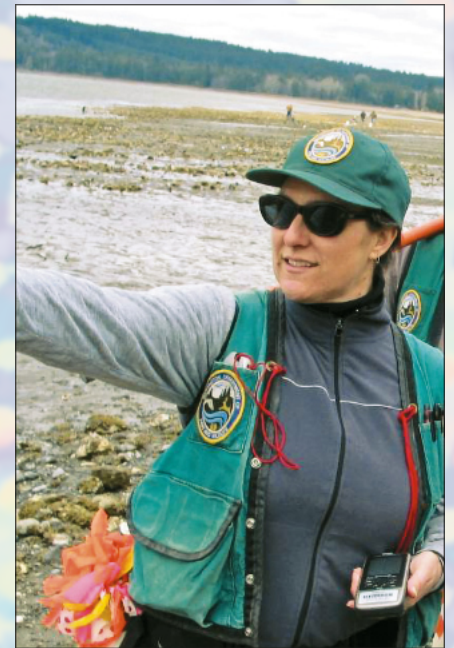
I had long felt drawn to Port Townsend, its small-town feel and the amazing maritime community. But my work and family were in San Francisco. I finally moved here when I retired. I bought a house within walking distance to Point Hudson, and a small sailboat docked at Boat Haven. I also got an "Expedition" rowing boat for exercise and adventure. I'm rowing the Seventy48, again, this summer! I feel lucky to have found my tribes here: the Port Townsend Pocket Yachters (sailors and builders of traditional small boats); the Rat Island Rowing Club (an adventurous group of racers and just-for-fun rowers); and also Bazaar Girls (a cozy waterfront knitting community when winter chills the blustery sea).



Ann Welch

**Sailor, crabber, kayaker,
Captain of the Queen**

I was born here and got my first small boat at 11 and had wonderful mentors who taught me the ways of the bay. Port Townsend Bay was our neighborhood hangout. Sailing was mobility and that was freedom. Being as close as possible to the water has always been my happy place. After a series of larger boats, I built a kayak and it took me everywhere. Then, I got the Queen, a 1959 aluminum runabout. Spending time with friends, and being out on the bay every day crabbing, sharing what I know, keeps me connected to water. Those are the lessons I learned as a kid and hope to pass on to others.



Camille Speck

**From waterfront boat baby
to your friendly Clamzilla**

I arrived in Port Townsend as a high school freshman in 1983, brought north from living aboard a converted Navy buoy tender on the Sausalito waterfront to start a new life on land. My dad had been offered a sabbatical (which turned into a teaching job) at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding. Despite spending much of high school figuring out how to leave PT, as soon as I did I started angling for ways to return. My now 27-year career with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife brought me home in 1999. I now manage intertidal fisheries on all public lands of Puget Sound.

ANSWERING THE CALL

These women were asked:
What do you love most about working on the waterfront?
What makes this Port unique?



Ginny Wilson

Shipwright and adventure seeker living in Port Townsend

I've been working on a waterfront in some capacity for eight years now. Between the people you meet and the views, I can't imagine working anywhere else. Over the past five years, the Port Townsend boatyard has become my second home! It is a place that is very special to me - a place that accepts me as I am, where I have grown a community, where I work and play. It is the true embodiment of community where folks look out for and take care of each other. There is a collective knowledge here that I feel is unique and unmatched.



Ashlyn Brown

Sailor, small business owner, visual artist & writer, PTMTA volunteer

I love the immediate and hands-on nature of sailing and the intense beauty out on the water. I also love the people - the sailors and boat builders who are incredibly capable, resourceful, and independent thinkers. I love the depth of experience and knowledge, the humor and kindness, the friendships. There is no computer or AI that can ever replace this community at making life good. Co-owning a business that produces a dinghy we developed introduced me to dinghy sailing. It brings out the kid in me. Pure joy!



Akeyla Behrenfeld

15-year-old happiest with a sailboat, a dog, and enough wind

There is so much to do on the Port Townsend's waterfront. I love moving on the water the "old way" - using the force of the wind to sail my boat around the bay and race for the sailing team, or moving under my own power in row boats - challenging the wind, waves, and currents on one of my rowing adventures. I like working with my hands to make something useful and have truly appreciated all of the people who have helped me learn new skills - splicing ropes, making ditty bags, building row boats. Also, helping Nahja Chimenti make sails and participating in voyaging have been such rewarding experiences these past two years - I can't thank her enough. One of my favorite places is The Artful Sailor. Spending time talking to Emiliano and Salty Sue about all things maritime while being surrounded by the smell of pine tar, rope, and canvas has been the starting point to many of my maritime adventures.



Alison Wood

Sailor. Rigger. Sailmaker. Outside rain or shine. Biker. Gardener

As liveaboards we were drawn to Port Townsend as a place to meet all our needs. The willingness of people to support us in doing much of the work ourselves was a major part of me joining the work force of the marine trades. I love getting on boats to look at sails which connect to the whole vessel and the people who pilot them. To collaborate with my peers in ALL fields of the trades and contribute to the knowledge that fuels the self-sufficiency of fellow cruisers is one of the most rewarding parts of practicing my craft.



Sandy Bakken

Wife, mother, artist, avid boater, business owner, yacht broker

I love the view from my desk overlooking the Point Hudson Marina, watching the fog lift on a chilly fall morning, observing the magnitude of a King tide and the leveling of the boat ramps and helping boaters dock on a windy day. I love photographing clients after sunny sea trials on boats they may buy, catching technicians with full carts heading down the ramp, our faithful shop dog Bear greeting customers at the door, crew camaraderie, a friendly work environment and the return of Waterfront Pizza birthday celebrations. I love finding the right boat for a client, providing a supportive role to a growing marine trades business, selling a boat and passing the keys to the next generation, the Maritime Center and the abundance of learning opportunities available, and community support for rebuilding the Point Hudson breakwater. I love the privilege of working with so many incredibly talented craftspeople and believe in the preservation of the magnificent, historic Point Hudson waterfront.



Diane Salguero

Marine refinishing allowed craftsmanship; time for raising sons

I came to my career and my business in marine refinishing as a means for an income while single handedly raising my two sons. I built a niche and a business working on the waterfront while remaining available to be a hands-on Mom. What I love about this work is the freedom and flexibility to schedule my job around my life. Equally rewarding is the outcome of working with and maintaining the beautiful craftsmanship of my fellow trades people as well as the many relationships and friendships created with the boat owners I have and do work with.



Lou Geraghty

Boat School alum, apprentice shipwright, non-binary tradesperson

The attraction of the boatyard has a certain glimmer – that which can never be possessed, no matter how much a person may desire. It's all of ours for the sharing, only with the promise of borrowing pieces and returning them later, better and brighter. What I love most about the boatyard is the diversity of the multitude of people, and how the craft is being passed down to the next generation, however seemingly different we show up. Something I can't quite put a finger on happens once you cross into the yard. Everything becomes possible as you stroll down the rows of all the sorts of boats and see the devoted folks working hard and pouring themselves into each project. I have joined in and want also to become just like you someday. But first, let's go get a muffin and have a laugh!



Pami-Sue Alvarado

Homemaker, caregiver turned nautical business owner, rock 'n' roll musician

As a business owner in the old Armory building at Point Hudson, I love being part of this maritime community. I can't imagine a better home for The Artful Sailor! This town and its working waterfront give my partner, Emiliano Marino and me the perfect location to teach traditional hand-sewing skills, provide sailors with resources and tools to be self-reliant and to give back to the community with a used sail program. My favorite part of the Port is my own backyard at Point Hudson. There is history at every turn, wonderful people, festivals and always a boat project underway.

GENERATIONS CONVERSATIONS:

Two captains' routes to the sea

Amber Heasley and Nancy Erley

Nancy Erley, 71, is a blue water captain who has circumnavigated the globe twice with all-women crew. She holds a USCG 100-ton Ocean Masters license and received a Leadership in Women's Sailing Award from the National Women's Sailing Association and BoatUS. Amber Heasley, 34, is an experienced regional and Caribbean sailor/captain who owns the Boat Haven-based "Sail Port Townsend" charters. They met for the first time to share experiences in an interview hosted by Diana Talley. (This transcript has been edited for length.)

Amber: Almost all of my mariner mentors are women. I feel I'm part of the next wave of women mariners with female role models.

Nancy: When I was young there weren't women out doing what I was doing. I have a boat, *Tethys*, hand-built in Port Townsend, that took me around the world twice in 10 years. In some of the more trying moments out there, my appreciation for the boat was so strong, and I thought of all the hands, especially in Port Townsend, that had built the boat: The sails, the foundry, the rigging, the hull, installing the engine, all done by workers here and few in Seattle. Thank you to everyone who had their hands in building *Tethys* or fixing her since I've been back. The boat and I have taught a lot of



Amber Heasley, left, and Nancy Erley talked over their unique routes to becoming captains here and around the world. Photo by Diana Talley

females sailing on women-only trips from 1989 to 2001. I would just say to anyone who doesn't know this: You don't want to go to your grave without having some adventure in your life!

Amber: I grew up in Kansas. Some of us are drawn to what we do not have. So I studied marine biology! That brought me to Port Townsend's Marine Science Center. I wanted to be on the water, so first started sailing with friends. Then worked at the Maritime Center doing summer camps, school programs, on the water stuff.

There were lots of female captains and mentors. Then I started teaching other people how to sail and went to cruise the Caribbean in winter. I crewed there for a captain named Margaret on an all-girls schooner for a few years. In the U.S Virgin Islands, I started working in the charter industry. I sought out a woman skipper, Maxine. She weighed about 93 pounds, was 73 years old, and had been running her own boat for over 20 years. She started in the 70s in New York on the first sailing charter out of New York City - the first woman to captain any

vessel in New York Harbor. There were lots of lessons learned from Max, especially how you have to find your own way of doing something. I saw it was a reasonable career path.

Nancy: Often we say on the *Tethys*, "There are many paths to the Buddha, many routes to get to the goal." You don't have to always do it this way because you did it that way before. Good old Maxine - I like her!

Amber: One customer in the Caribbean, Jayleen, contacted

me and offered me a job in Alaska captaining a whale watching boat. She was younger than me and had started her own expanding charter business. So of course I wanted to go work for her, and I did. I learned a lot from Jayleen about running the business. She kind of showed me I could do it, too. I knew I wanted to make a charter business here in Port Townsend - my home for 10 years now. So after some years I thought "Now's the time! You wanted to do this thing!" It was created to help people get out on the water here in Port Townsend in an easy, fun, safe way. It's what sailing is all about: A sense of place, an appreciation of this area and the beauty and simplicity of it. Talk about mindfulness, I get really present when I'm out there sailing.

Nancy: The sea called to me when I was very young. I was 12 and in Cincinnati, in Girl Scouts and at a camp with rowboats with masts on a lake. The next year my troop bought an old wooden Lightning sailboat on a trailer. We took it to a lake. It instantly filled with water. But we got back to the trailer just before it sank. Then I learned about programs for kids at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut, and my troop got to be on the *Joseph Conrad* one year and the *Brilliant* the next. I enjoy boats more than anything in the world. They're like the magic carpet that lets

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GENERATIONS CONVERSATIONS: Women and the Coast Guard option

Tallulah Sebastian & Anna Waters

Anna Waters is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who now finds sponsors to help the Northwest Maritime Center put on events like the Race2Alaska. Recently she met with Tallulah Sebastian, a Port Townsend High School student, to share perspectives of life on or near the water across the generations. The interview was conducted by Diana Talley. (This transcript has been edited for length.)

Anna: From a young age I thought I wanted to be a doctor. But I couldn't finance medical school. So I was drawn to the Coast Guard, where I could rescue people with medical needs, and save money for college. I had four years on active duty in search and rescue and two as a reserve. After that, I got a mechanical engineering degree and became an engineer. In both settings I was often the only female. I've done a lot of path-paving. I was an unintentional path-paver. My path was from following my heart, even though there were different outer forms. It's like looking at the top of the mountain from the bottom, and you see a peak. It's not until you get to the top that you see a million different paths that come to the same place.

Tallulah: My grandfather was a commercial fisherman. My dad did that a couple years as a teenager. He came back to Port Townsend and started working in the Boat Yard operating a Travelift. When I was younger he would bring me and I would sit in the basket with him while he moved giant boats around. He

taught me how to do that as well. Later he started his own boat transport company then added a crane. He has been teaching me how to operate this heavy machinery since I was three. Last week I started with the Port Townsend High School sailing team. When I learn more, it's going to be really fun, to be able to go wherever you want on the water with a boat. Dad has been encouraging me to do the Coast Guard the last three or four years. Once he said, "You're going to be a helicopter pilot."

Anna: I have a son in the Coast Guard who flies helicopters. He started flying in a booster seat when he was 10. He did not end up going to Academy, or pursuing helicopters in the Coast Guard. He's a coxswain on the Columbia River bar at Cape Disappointment. Tallulah, are you considering the Coast Guard Academy?

Tallulah: At the Coast Guard Academy do you get the same degrees as in a regular university?

Anna: You get the same degree. It can be in engineering or some other kind of degree. It's highly competitive, but I can tell you would be right in there with all the best competitors. You come out as an officer, and it's from there that you generally can choose the path to go to flight school.

Tallulah: I have other interests too, but Coast Guard is a prominent one. I did club swimming from when I was 12, and did my first season with the



Tallulah Sebastian, 14 talked over her possible interest in the U.S. Coast Guard with Coast Guard veteran Anna Waters, 58. Photo by Diana Talley

high school swim team last year.

Anna: You're seeing the first real wave of female rescue swimmers now coming out of school. They're in the helicopters but rescue swimmers. You're flying all the time.

Diana: Anna, did you choose your Coast Guard station?

Anna: We were given choices, and chose in the order of our rank in class. I graduated top, so I chose Boston. I could have moved after three years to a ship, but I didn't want to be on a ship then. I was one of the first women in the country in an active duty situation with men. There were no sexual harassment policies, no awareness, no rules. It was a little bit of a free-for-all. My duty work

was powerful. When you save a vessel from sinking, or put out a fire or drag someone out of the water who otherwise would have died, it was really rewarding. But then socially, back at the station, there were challenges because of the lack of rules, of awareness, of women having not been integrated into the Coast Guard at that time. It would be also true on a ship,

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FROM CANOES TO CONTAINERSHIPS

*Canoes to Containerships and a lady's life within
Canoes to Containerships – where to begin?*

Daddy built a little blue sailboat.
Wonder of a child to see it float.
In the pond, he launched her on community land.
I was the skinny blonde, tiller in her hand.
He coached me to sail, then overboard he swam
Big-eyed, watched him and wondered where I'd land.
Then swimming from a distance I heard him say:
"Sail her to the dock. You can make your way."
A little gal triumphed,
tacking along, alone that day.
Those achievements, one can never, ever take away.

At Lincoln taught a piloting course, I went with him.
Youngest to pass
that charting Power Squadron system.
Then in an accident we lost him, forever gone.
How to keep his sea love?
Without him, how to carry on?
College partner helped me find the perfect boat,
Time on the water – the healing antidote.

In '79 came to Point Hudson dock
Nestled in wooden home with gentle tidal rock.
Then embarked northward along coastal stretch
Aboard Khoya, my classic Herreshoff ketch
Emerald, inland waters; then 'round Vancouver isle
At 19 was immersed in a maritime lifestyle.

With charts and dead reckoning, we found our way,
'Twas anchor at night and compass by day.
Thru swirling currents; clam fires on the beach
Native wilds beyond civilization's reach.
Sails pulling in the wind, splashed with spray
Connects one to an ancient canoe way.

School became a passion to record the fine grace
Lines of cedar dugouts,
old growth carved from this place.
Native elders shared their stories of way-back-when.
Archival photographs pulled out to see once again.
Listened to hear their great losses
and their great need,
Together planted a canoe revival, to birth that seed.
Some people make babies; others birth dreams.
This canoe revival – most regenerative it seems.

Aboard Khoya, traveled with the elders,
Lillian of La Push,
She sang strength across the water,
drumbeat for paddle's swoosh.
Evening fires on Native landing sites,
circles with crew
Passed the sacred feather –
honoring each is what to do.

And onward, ever onward – always on the sea
Moving towards more strength of ocean tranquility.
Cruising life, boating work and friends
Sewed marine covers to make and mend
Prepared for offshore into parts unknown,
Poured forth energy outfitting another home.
Though independent
while out in the middle of the sea
I studied Ham radio to keep connectivity.
And to stay close with Mama in her PT abode
Endeavored to learn electronics, even Morse code.
Once remotely cruising through Radio phone patch
Way across the air waves, Mama's voice I could catch.
Thus became a licensed Ham Radio Officer too.
Could that be a job one such as I, could really do?
To secure finances at age 40 – a shift supreme...
Yet still a life afloat, another adventurous scheme.

So under the cranes,
up the gangway onto steel decks,
Entered the maze of a ship's huge industrial complex.
Up to the bridge with radars and gyro navigation,
Aimed to learn and then fix electronic integration.
Communications first with many satellites to view
Reporting to the Captain daily,
and Chief Engineer too
Grateful for my Union, keeping our jobs strong
Allows for safe work, and this special lifetime song.
It's a meritocracy – how you win them in the end,
By the merit of your work, even a ship full 'a men.
Twenty-three years of shipping,
such a wide horizon view.
Best with cooperation from a skilled top-notch crew.

Canoes to Containerships, a lifetime roaming –
Maritime
Khoya, still a lady's ship,
and with PT home, 'tis mighty fine!

By Leslie Lincoln



Leslie Lincoln assisted and supported the revival of Native American canoe journeys.



Leslie Lincoln is now a communications and navigation officer aboard the containerships that cross the oceans. Also a poet, she described her journey in rhyme.



Leslie Lincoln turned her love of the sea into a job as a communications officer for cargo ships that travel the globe.

From the Finance Director

Women, water, wind: The constants

Women, water, wind. All powerful, all resilient, patient and constant. Women of the waterfront here in Port Townsend are all of those things, keeping our maritime village vibrant with activity on the shores of the Salish Sea.



By Abigail Berg
*Port of
PT Director
of Finances*

I came to this port for very pragmatic reasons, primarily for a non-traveling job as a means to support my family. Over the last seven years here, I've come to a deep appreciation, wonder and awe of the waters surrounding this Quimper Peninsula. I'm reminded of my introduction to sailing as a child, learning from my father how to read the winds on the water, feeling the exhilaration of catching a strong gust and adjusting my sails to run with it as I hiked out, holding tight to the lines, and watching what lay ahead. Sailing taught me many lessons of life: Patience, perseverance and the peaks and lulls brought by whatever winds are blowing.

Throughout millennia women were not found in the everyday business or workings of the maritime world, but were always present as a vessel, referred to as "she," or as a storm named after a woman, or as the prow of a ship leading the way on a journey that could be days, weeks or months-long. Female energy was called up for mariners in these ways...

was it to remind them of home, of the strength of the women left behind to provide for and raise the children? Was it to remind them of their own mothers, who protected them as children? It's as if the great waters of the world are akin to the waters of the womb and vessels are cradled and dependent on her.

The winds of change have brought many women into the everyday workings of our maritime world. Here on the Port Townsend waterfront, we are pioneering, master sailmakers; we are captains, sailors, and kayakers; we are maritime welders, finishers, electricians, riggers and more; we feed hungry port workers, and keep them awake with our custom-roasted coffee or help them relax at the end of a day with a cold, custom brew; we watch and review monetary activity and advise when to trim the sails or agree that full steam ahead is a wise decision.

Powerful, resilient, patient and constant, all the many ways women add to the flavor of our waterfront port, and are essential to its health and vitality. This is the Port of Port Townsend: Where working, playing, and building together, the power of women meets the power of the sea.

Coast Guard

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possibly even worse because of the tight quarters. That's different now. The fact that it's being remedied is really a gift.

Tallulah: I just want to gain a lot of experience and knowledge all over, and then decide what I have the most fun doing. Recently I just wanted to try lots of things that are going to help me in the future.

Anna: In the Coast Guard you meet so many internal and external challenges at an accelerated pace. Doing those things in civilian life, you may have the same experience but it may take longer. These days in Port Townsend I work at the Maritime Center as a grant and sponsor specialist. My favorite part of working there is the extraordinary people I work with, their humanity, their drive, their creativity, the ability to work so freely and to be so creative with the team. There's nothing like ending the day with some salt baked into your skin. What does it feel like to you?

Tallulah: I think I'll figure it out after I sail some more. Right now it's, "Oh, I've got to pull in the jib sail." Once I get the hang of it and I can recall what I'm supposed to be doing, I'll be good.

Tallulah (to Anna): What was the best thing about being in the Coast Guard?

Anna: One is knowing that I really can do anything. If someone hasn't shown me how or I couldn't find it in a book, I'll figure it out. I learned that if I don't know the first step, just take it, right or wrong. Just go. I learned I'm stronger than I could have ever imagined, physically

and mentally. And also, extraordinarily powerful, is I learned gratitude at the deepest level. All of those situations took me so close to the edge, not knowing if I would ever come back. When you're in those moments, then later you're so grateful for the opportunity to just get in bed again, the opportunity to open up a cupboard and get a piece of food out, or the opportunity to say hello to someone you love.

Tallulah (to Anna): Is there a certain mindset or skill or mantra to help you get through basic training?

Anna: I was completely clueless. I got off the bus in Cape May and a frightening man starts

screaming at me. I thought, "Gosh I just got off the bus!" I was terrified. Now we know, of course why they are screaming. They are going to break you into bits and build you back up the way they want you. I think the thing to keep in mind is they go home to their wives or husbands and families and children, too. They went to a special training school. Keep in mind that they are doing their job because they want to be sure that when you get out that they can put you in any situation and you're not going to fall to bits. They're just pushing you to your absolute limit. They want to be sure that if you're put into a life and death situation that you're going to be able to live. They don't want you to fail.



Shipwright Esther Whitmore of Haven Boatworks restores the deck of Pax in the Port of Port Townsend boatyard. Photo by Kaci Cronkhite

MORE WOMEN OF THE WORKING WATERFRONT



The March 11 gathering of maritime-connected women on City Dock was part of a celebration of accomplishments, mutual gratitude, and a clarion call to support one another. *Photo by Jeremy Johnson*



Among those gathered March 11 was Maude Richards and the next generation of women of the working waterfront. Richards is an educator, sailmaker, sailor and mom. *Photo by Jeremy Johnson*

Routes

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you have experiences that you otherwise wouldn't have. It calls things from you to adjust and relate and cope with some situation. You have a much bigger safety net on land. The other part, psychologically, is if you're willing to take a risk, you realize you can cope and take another direction if that one wasn't right, and try something else.

Amber: Boats give you that space. There's no one out there to be able to do it for you, or tell you what to do. You have to figure it out.

Nancy: With my teaching, I tell and show and all that. Then if the person has a moment to do this thing without me looking over their shoulder or taking it out of their hands, they either sort it out or ask me. Sometimes men want to take it out of your hands and do it for you if you're struggling with it. That's really not that helpful.

Amber: Around here, for me, it was the tides. A good low tide? I'm there. And I loved to take people along. My first foray on the ocean was from shore. Then from there I just wanted to be out on the water whenever I could. Kayaks, dinghies, rowboats, sailing dinghy, my own little boat, the feel of sailing. It was the most fun you could ever have, to be out on a boat, and now I get to share that with people, too.

Nancy: I had a passion for the sea and boats. At 30, I set a goal to sail around the world before 40. Then I realized there's a whole bunch of stuff I didn't have to think about anymore: a car, a house, new education. I was able to say no to so much. The path was clear. And still, at the end, just before leaving, I was really scared. I'd never been on an ocean passage. It was unknown to me. I visualized being on a roller coaster ride. It's going down the hill and it's going to get launched no matter what. I think one of the hardest things is to untie the last line from the dock. But it worked, and it was so fulfilling, especially teaching other women how to do it. I remember getting off the boat in Australia one time, on a dock, and a Aussie guy said, "Ah, you girls traveling alone?" I looked at him and I said, "No, we're traveling together!"