



20 December 2008

Dear Friend,

Happy Holidays to you! We write with a recap of our year and a request that you support us as we move into 2009. These are tough economic times, but rest assured that PortSide is scrappy, frugal and resourceful, that we squeeze the most out of anything we get, and that gifts, no matter what size, are always welcome. You can also donate your time.

PortSide accomplished some harbor firsts this year: PortSide brought the first historic vessel into **Brooklyn Bridge Park** when the *Mary A. Whalen* went there for an event in June. We were invited by the **Brooklyn Navy Yard** Development Corporation to create the first live performance in the Navy Yard aboard the *Whalen*. (We are looking for a performance; please refer performing arts companies to us!) And, we ran the first public event in **Atlantic Basin**, the 70th birthday party for the *Whalen*.

The *Whalen's* 70th attracted some 500 guests from NY, NJ, CT, PA and MD, proving that the old girl is also a regional attraction. We received proclamations from the Brooklyn Borough President's Office and New Jersey State Assembly. Guests came by water in tugs, kayaks and rowing gigs. Several former crew attended, including the only woman we know to have worked aboard tankerman Heidi Benedikt. Mate Bill McGee brought historical photos from the *Whalen*, the desk from the tankerman's cabin, some brass fittings. Engineer Bobby Mowbray donated engine starters and fuel injectors.

The best gift was the public announcement by Venetia Lannon of NYC's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) that they see PortSide as a perfect partner in their new plans for Atlantic Basin. We see ourselves as the fulfillment of one aspect of EDC Maritime Support Services Inventory study released this April: it recommended that each borough have a Maritime Hub, precisely what we have been working towards since our business plan.

Having this publicly accessible, long-term home in Atlantic Basin will enable us to ramp up all we do, to increase extant programming and to start programs that have been waiting for a shoreside space such as the Marine Career Center and several youth programs. We look forward to bringing Atlantic Basin back to life with our mix of activities—from support services to the workboat industry, and a landing for charter, excursion and historic vessels—to cultural, education and workforce development programs for the community.

Please come support us by **attending the January 5** Brooklyn Community Board 6 Economic and Waterfront Development Committee meeting where future plans for Atlantic Basin will be presented and discussed, or write a letter of support. Email Carolina@portsidenewyork.org for details.

Aboard the *Mary Whalen*
P.O. Box 195 Red Hook Station, Brooklyn, NY 11231, 917-414-0565, mail@portsidenewyork.org

The other great development is that we are close to securing most of the **engine parts** missing from the *Whalen*. Stabbert Maritime in Seattle has scrapped another tanker and set aside parts for us, and an anonymous donor has expressed interest in covering the cost to purchase them. K-Sea Transportation, who has generously towed the *Whalen* this year and last, has offered to store the parts in their Seattle yard until we can raise money to ship them. Retired engineers, please call, we could use some advice!

Our Boating Programs are inspiring other boroughs: Our 3rd Annual **Kayak Valet**, where our valets watch boats so paddlers can visit inland, has now attracted attention in Queens and Staten Island where we've been asked to do the same thing. A Staten Island group has adopted our design for an affordable boathouse built out of three containers and is trying to build one over there. PortSide negotiated approval from Brooklyn Parks for a boat storage unit in Valentino Park. We will be sharing this with the Red Hook Boaters. We will create the signage on the outside, with maritime trail information and safe boating info. Parks is still assessing our **Community Sailing** proposal, namely whether moorings will be allowed. Check our website for updates.

Throughout the year, we continued **advocating for sound waterfront planning**. We testified at the City Council Waterfronts Committee, took calls from their legal counsel, and advised the media.

We continue to expand our **volunteer corps**, who not only help with shipwork -- the front of the house and wheelhouse cabin top have been painted, many things have been cleaned, tidied or adjusted -- but also help in the office and during events. The *Whalen* is in better shape than she was a year ago thanks to their hard work. Call if you want to pitch in!

Once again, we will close out the year by running our 5th annual **Operation Christmas Cheer** where we give cookies and newspapers to tugs and barges on Christmas Day.

Please do consider a gift to PortSide New York. See the form on the enclosed page.

Regards,



Carolina Salguero
Director



John Weaver
Programming Associate