



**For Immediate Release**

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**PortSide NewYork contact:** Carolina Salguero, 917-414-0565, [portsidenewyork@gmail.com](mailto:portsidenewyork@gmail.com)

**Union contact:** Thomas Meara, Email: [tmeara@kivvit.com](mailto:tmeara@kivvit.com), Phone: (718)-309-3506

**PortSide NewYork to benefit from a “COMMUNITY DAY OF ACTION” ON APRIL 16. Historic ship MARY A. WHALEN to receive TLC from union labor!**

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES AND LOCAL NEW YORK UNIONS  
THROUGHOUT THE STATE PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY DAY OF ACTION ON APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>**

**HUNDREDS OF WORKERS WILL BE DEDICATING THEIR WEEKEND TOWARD REPAINTING FACILITIES  
OWNED BY NEW YORK NOT FOR PROFITS – SAVING CRITICAL RESOURCES TO HELP THE COMMUNITY**

**THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE WORK BEING EXECUTED IN NEW YORK SURPASSES \$80,000**

Work on ship MARY A. WHALEN runs from 7am-1pm, Saturday, 4/16. Location is Pier 11,  
Atlantic Basin, Red Hook, next to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal.

<http://portsidenewyork.org/visitor-info/>

PortSide NewYork is participating in this Community Day of Action thanks to our relationship to District Council 9, IUPAT Painters and Allied Trades (DC9). PortSide has been working with DC9 since 2014. DC9’s work is a major contribution to restoring an important artifact of local and national history, our ambassador, the tanker MARY A. WHALEN. Our relationship with DC9 is also part of PortSide’s workforce programs which include working with the CTE school Williamsburg HS for Architecture and Design. This restoration project is also supported by International Paint who donated the paint.

### **The importance of the MARY A. WHALEN**

The MARY is the the last of her kind in the USA and is the only oil tanker cultural center in the world. She is on the National Register of Historic Places. She is famous in maritime law for a 1975 Supreme Court decision U.S. vs Reliable Transfer.

The MARY is a symbol of NYC resiliency and powerful platform to teach about hurricane preparedness because the PortSide crew rode out the storm on the ship with our office aboard, and then brought that office ashore and set up and ran a hurricane Sandy pop-up aid station. That work won PortSide a White House award and honors from the New York State Senate. The MARY A. WHALEN is also a major artifact of Red Hook history and thus figures prominently in PortSide’s Red Hook WaterStories project.

**PortSide NewYork, aboard the tanker MARY A. WHALEN  
P.O. Box 195, Red Hook Station, Brooklyn, NY 11231  
917-414-0565, [portsidenewyork@gmail.com](mailto:portsidenewyork@gmail.com), [www.portsidenewyork.org](http://www.portsidenewyork.org)**

## **The campaign for Red Hook WaterStories**

PortSide has just launched a campaign to raise \$20,000 by the end of June to support Red Hook WaterStories that tells the history of Red Hook, Brooklyn via a water theme. In microcosm, Red Hook WaterStories tells New York City's maritime story. Another goal of the project is resiliency, to help Red Hook prepare better for future hurricanes and floods. The project is creating a multimedia map with contemporary and historic images, texts, video, oral history files, and links to art and literature inspired by Red Hook's waterfront; a hard copy visitor guide, and signs with QR codes around the neighborhood alerting people to the existence of that website. PortSide is also taping oral histories for this project. More at <http://bit.ly/RHWSdonate>

### **Quotes:**

“Offering job training programs for youth and adults is a key part of PortSide’s mission, so we very pleased the DC9 can use the tanker MARY A. WHALEN as a training site. PortSide, the MARY A. WHALEN and the community benefit from having this historic ship restored thanks to DC9’s their efforts,” **said PortSide NewYork Founder and President Carolina Salguero.**

**Council Member Menchaca** “Brooklyn needs a healthy working waterfront and maritime community. The Community Day of Action conducted by local New York unions will support businesses and unique cultural resources like Brooklyn’s Mary Whalen. Through practical action, these workers dedicating their weekend to public service will demonstrate that communities thrive when labor, businesses, and community based organizations support each other.”

**SBIDC:** “SBIDC has served the industrial and manufacturing businesses along Southwest Brooklyn’s waterfront for close to 40 years, and we know firsthand the benefits of having an advocate for our working waterfront like PortSide NewYork.” **said David Meade, SBIDC Executive Director.** “Through its care and maintenance of the historic Mary A. Whalen Tanker, PortSide NewYork provides an invaluable educational experience for the Red Hook and larger New York City community to learn about Red Hook’s industrial and maritime waterfront.”

**Burchenal Green, President, National Maritime Historical Society:** “Historic ships tell the important stories of that development and enrich the port, and the community, with the opportunity for hands-on experiences and programs. I have met many young people who say they fashioned their career after a visit to a historic ship that visited their port. Here, Atlantic Basin now has its own historic tanker whose story and programs and message, led by Carolina Salguero, will reach and ennoble thousands of Brooklyn’s citizens and guests.”

**Rick Spilman, noted maritime author and blogger of The Old Salt Blog:** “The tanker Mary A. Whalen is a vital bridge between our past and future. She is an important reminder of our maritime heritage -- of the rough and boisterous years when tugs, steam ships and tankers, like the Mary A. Whalen, plied the harbor and our coastal waters. Now, as the last of her kind, the historic ship provides a glimpse of a sustainable future through the varied programs of PortSide NewYork, which help draw the citizens of this great port city back to the water's edge.”

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**Chiclet:** The ship cat aboard the Mary A. Whalen Chiclet expressed her pleasure at the restoration work by rolling around on her back with her paws in the air. “Being the Official Greeter will be a more exciting job once the MARY is nicely painted and looking the way she used to. Thank you DC9!” said shipcat Chiclet.

**About PortSide NewYork** [www.portsidenewyork.org](http://www.portsidenewyork.org)

PortSide NewYork is a living lab for better urban waterways. PortSide shows how to combine the working waterfront, public access and community development. We bring the communities afloat (maritime) and ashore closer together to the benefit of both. PortSide NewYork delivers water, waterfront and maritime-themed programs, services and advocacy, working both on and off a historic ship, the tanker MARY A. WHALEN.

Since superstorm Sandy, PortSide NewYork has been a key player in recovery and resiliency work. Our Sandy recovery work in Red Hook won us a White House “Champions of Change” award and honors from the New York State Senate. Our President Carolina Salguero was on the Red Hook committee of the NY Rising Program and contributed many elements to its Red Hook’s resiliency plan. PortSide is also still working on our own Sandy recovery (we protected the ship; but all else was damaged).

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