



For Immediate Release

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**“LOOK WHO’S HERE: junior philanthropists, hard hats, democracy students
and muddy crabs”**

Several days of Earth Day activities at PortSide New York with youth and adults

*Activities will occur on the ship MARY A. WHALEN at Pier 11, Atlantic Basin in Red Hook,
Brooklyn, next to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal.*

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

The maritime non-profit PortSide New York is running several days of Earth Day activities.

The variety of groups involved speaks to the power of our waterways as a connector for NYC’s diverse communities and the potential of the BLUEspace as a place for work, education, conservation and more.

Earth Day celebrates the eco-system of the natural world. The endeavors at PortSide this weekend reflect an eco-system of diverse human participants coming together around Earth Day for the benefit of all.

Labor union members from District Council 9; middle school, high school and college students; adult volunteers; and commercial partners are joining PortSide to teach environmental stewardship, train junior philanthropists seeking to better the environment, restore the historic ship MARY A. WHALEN (a 78-year old oil tanker repurposed for public programs), launch the first public inventory of wildlife in, on and around the water in Red Hook and conduct water quality testing, and build a floating dock that will be used for future boating and waterfront environmental programs. The waterfront wildlife inventory will be added to Red Hook WaterStories, PortSide’s e-museum and community guide, at www.redhookwaterstories.org.

PortSide has used the tanker MARY A. WHALEN and waterfront locations to teach via "place based education," using local sites to teach various subjects. The tanker is a great platform to discuss fuel consumption and energy sustainability issues, coastal history, urban studies, marine science, ethnic studies, STEM programs of several types and maritime training. Our Atlantic Basin location has significant marine life (fish, shore birds and waterfowl) and a wild urban habitat where local botany can be studied. Our Red Hook WaterStories project makes the whole peninsula of Red Hook a teaching tool.

**PortSide New York, aboard the tanker MARY A. WHALEN
P.O. Box 195, Red Hook Station, Brooklyn, NY 11231
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SCHEDULE:

Thurs 4/20, 1-2:30pm, Junior Philanthropists, 7th graders from the Rodeph Sholom School will learn about charitable giving and waterfront environmental stewardship.

Sat 4/22, 9am-12pm District Council 9, the union of painters and allied trades, for its statewide day of service will donate labor to preserve the historic vessel MARY A. WHALEN. Local 806, which paints bridges over land and waterways, will be participating. District Council 9 has been using the ship as a training site for their apprentices since 2014.

Sat 4/22, 10am-2pm, “LOOK WHO’S HERE,” a program to inventory wildlife living in, on and near Red Hook’s waterfront, will be launched. Initial work on Saturday will catch and release crab, fish, etc., and install water quality monitoring equipment. The findings of LOOK WHO’S HERE will be added to the e-museum Red Hook WaterStories and used to develop school curricula. Participants include the Stuyvesant High School Environmental Club, whose outreach to PortSide started the effort, social justice interns from St. John’s University Ozanam Scholars program, a Gowanus Canal Conservancy citizen science fellow, and a graduate student from Lehman College. More at <http://portsideneويورك.org/youth-education/>

Mon 4/24, 40 middle school students and 20 adults, some from overseas, have come to New York to study democracy at the “Round Square Regional Conference of the Americas 2017 for Ages 12-14.” This conference and related community service day at PortSide is run by Envoys, an organization created by and for educators that works with innovative schools and teachers to expand the boundaries of possibility for global education programming. Envoys operates in 16+ countries and has partnered with over 30 schools and travelled with 2,500 students. At PortSide, this group will build a floating dock and help restore the MARY A. WHALEN. Matt Perricone of Lehigh Maritime is providing technical advice on dock building, supervising and donating tools and the use of the crane on his ship LOUIS C.

QUOTES

PortSide NewYork Founder and President Carolina Salguero: “The activities this week perfectly illustrate PortSide’s mission to create a living lab for better urban waterways. I am particularly proud of the diversity of our partners during these Earth Day activities. We have Americans, visiting foreigners, multiple races, ethnicities and ages. We have students, adult volunteers and union labor all contributing here. As a whole, their work is growing environmental awareness of the waterways, teaching and inspiring youth, and improving a historic ship used for public programs.

Quote from a 7th grade Rodeph Sholom School student “It’s important to help stabilize the environment as it is our future. We want to give everyone the opportunity to have the life they want. As kids, we don’t want to live in a polluted environment. We are helping ourselves, and we are helping everyone at the same time.”

Rodeph Sholom School, a reform Jewish day school on the Upper West Side, has a service learning program that stretches across its middle school. Each year, its 7th graders work together

to learn about charitable giving. The kids look into social problems they've identified as being important to them and find organizations working to solve those problems. They then research those organizations' efficacy and select several to visit. One of those groups has focused on environmental protection and selected PortSide New York. The group's goal is to visit and talk to staff about the realities of nonprofit work. The kids make a donation from a fund created by their families in honor of their bar and bat mitzvahs. While on site, they also contribute hands-on service work.

Quote from District Council 9 (DC9): “This 2nd Annual Community Day of Action is an opportunity for DC 9 to give back to the communities our members live and work in every day,” said District Council 9 Business Manager Secretary Treasurer Joseph Azzopardi. “The time and work donated by DC 9 members today can help to alleviate the financial burden on these organizations delivering critical services to New Yorkers. We’re proud to be a partner and lend our skills to help out where we can.”

PortSide has been working with DC9 since 2014. The union uses the ship as a training site. Our relationship with DC9 is part of PortSide’s workforce programs which include CTE internships for high school students.

Quote from Emma Garrison, Gowanus Canal Conservancy citizen science fellow: "It's always a pleasure to get a good look at what's living in our local waterways. As a kid growing up in Brooklyn, I didn't know that anything lived in the harbor, so it is a special opportunity to explore this subject with a new generation of New Yorkers."

Hannah Stinson, social justice Ozanam Scholar intern from St. John’s University: “I am excited to partner with the Stuyvesant Environmental Club on this project! It will benefit the whole community to be familiar with the wildlife right here, and hopefully inspire efforts to protect and enjoy the local environment. “

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 New York, which help draw the citizens of this great port city back to the water's edge.”

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! I’m also looking forward to the muddy crabs and other critters the kids fish out of the water,” said shipcat Chiclet.

COMMERCIAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS:

Quote from Captain and Engineer Matt Perricone: “It’s been great working with PortSide since 2010 to get the public on workboats and train youth and adults for maritime careers. I strongly believe that the marine industry needs to be better known and I use diverse ways to do that.”

Lehigh Maritime has a vessel, the LOUIS C, based at PortSide NewYork and tied up alongside the MARY A. WHALEN. Lehigh is a maritime company with diverse endeavors in tugboat operations, marine construction and repair, maritime education and free public programs. Lehigh’s principal Captain and Engineer Matt Perricone is also a principal in the Brooklyn Barge, a waterfront bar and restaurant that hosts boating programs and Diamond Marine Services, the only firm in the country offering training to get a towing endorsement. Perricone and PortSide have been working together since 2010. Perricone is noteworthy for using his vessels for commercial maritime service AND public programming. He has offered tours of his tug CORNELL at Mystic Seaport and events in NYC, Long Island and the Hudson Valley. He strongly believes that the marine industry needs to be better known and uses diverse ways to do that.

Lowe’s has generously discounted materials used to build the floating dock.

Fuji Film has generously donated a camera which will be used by the “Look Who’s Here” environmental program and other programs at PortSide NewYork.

International Paint is donating all the paint to coat the MARY A. WHALEN exterior. This is International Paint’s second year working with PortSide. International Paint is a division of AkzoNobel. AkzoNobel creates everyday essentials to make people’s lives more liveable and inspiring. As a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals, we supply essential ingredients, essential protection and essential color to industries and consumers worldwide. Backed by a pioneering heritage, our innovative products and sustainable technologies are designed to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing planet, while making life easier. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we have approximately 45,000 people in around 80 countries, while our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International, Interpon and Eka. Consistently ranked as a leader in sustainability, we are dedicated to energizing cities and communities while creating a protected, colorful world where life is improved by what we do

About PortSide NewYork www.portsidenewyork.org

PortSide NewYork is a living lab for better urban waterways. PortSide brings WaterStories to life. PortSide shows how to combine the working waterfront, public access and community development. We bring the communities ashore and afloat closer together for the benefit of both! PortSide is creating a maritime facility with programs and services for the general public and the working waterfront.

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PortSide produces and hosts WaterStories programs for youth, adults and families in arts, education, preservation, resiliency, job training, and harbor advocacy on and off our flagship, the historic tanker MARY A. WHALEN. PortSide created a digital maritime museum and community guide called Red Hook WaterStories at www.redhookwaterstories.org

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. PortSide is also still working on our own Sandy recovery (we protected the ship; but everything else was damaged).

The importance of the ship 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 significant in US 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 figures in Red Hook WaterStories.

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