Capt Cevan LeSieur
APPOINTED NEW PORT CAPTAIN

The Jeremiah O’Brien is pleased to announce the appointment of Captain Cevan LeSieur as Port Captain. We asked Captain LeSieur to tell us about his training and seagoing career:

I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. I attended the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point and graduated in 1991. I immediately started my seagoing career. I was employed by OMI Corporation and sailed as a Third and Second Mate on the petrochemical tanker OMI Hudson. In 1996, I received my first Chief Mate’s job aboard the OMI Courier. Later that year, I started working for Hvide Marine. My first Master’s job was aboard the tanker HMI Diamond Shoals (Seabulk Mariner) in 2000. I spent the remaining portion of my career sailing as Master for Seabulk Tankers (Hvide Marine). I have been Master of the HMI Diamond Shoals (Seabulk Mariner), HMI Brenton Reef, Seabulk Pride, and Seabulk Trader. The most challenging

Capt Amanda Wallace
NEW CAPTAIN OF THE SS Jeremiah O’Brien

“Captain Amanda Wallace was briefly introduced in the last newsletter because she had just been appointed a day before going to print. Since then we’ve gotten to know her better and would like to share with our readers a bit more info about her. Be sure to come up to the flying bridge and meet her yourself on one of the 2016 cruises.”

Q: Tell us about where you grew up and how you became interested in sailing.

A: I grew up in El Cerrito, CA - Right next to Berkeley. In High School, I joined the Sea Scout Odyssey group to hang out with some friends. Turns out, I really liked climbing rope, tying knots, and all other nautical things. From there I applied to Cal Maritime and got accepted out of High School in 2002.
She Still Sails – But Why?

Not many World War II museum ships still sail – but why? Jeremiah O’Brien is unique for her class because she is still registered with ABS (American Bureau of Shipping) and inspected by the US Coast Guard. Our volunteer officers, engineers, and deck crew who operate the ship during each cruise are trained, licensed crew personnel – several are WWII veterans, some are retired from the shipping industry after WWII, and a few, like Captain Amanda Wallace, are active mariners, sailing other ships today and volunteering their off time on the O’Brien.

Keeping a WWII vessel in class with ABS, and fully inspected and operable under US Coast Guard regulations, is no small feat – every year hundreds of hours go into the maintenance and repair of the O’Brien, most of it by knowledgeable volunteers. Every five years the O’Brien is required to go into dry dock for more thorough USCG and ABS inspections of the hull and internal workings, and to complete required maintenance and repair beyond the scope of the volunteers.

And that is why we sail – to raise funds to keep the ship in full operation. It’s a badge of honor and labor of love to keep a 73-year-old vessel in full working condition. It’s our mission to show future generations “this is what your grandfather experienced, this is what it was like during World War II.” We think that’s better than any history book – the O’Brien is living history.

So the cruises are two-fold: first, to offer a unique opportunity to you and others to feel firsthand the history of the Merchant Marine, but also to pay for the maintenance and repairs required to keep her sailing. Most nonprofit organizations have a big gala dinner once a year to raise funds; we have three to five cruises each year to raise that necessary funding.

About $75 of each ticket pays for the operations of the cruise; the rest of the ticket price is your donation to keep SS Jeremiah O’Brien in class, still sailing for future generations to experience history firsthand. Without the cruises The National Liberty Ship Memorial would not be able to continue maintaining SS Jeremiah O’Brien.

We have Early Bird Specials this year, so buy your tickets before April 1st and save. Pricing and details for each cruise is on page xx.

We thank all of our guests who joined us for a fundraiser cruise in 2015, and we hope you will join us in 2016 for another fun sail on the SF Bay – bring your friends, help us get the word out.

See you on board, Eliz
Have you Seen Memorial Benches on SS Jeremiah O’Brien

Several of our supporters have memorialized their loved one with a plaque on one of the benches located on the main deck of SS Jeremiah O’Brien. Five of the 30 benches on board have received memorial plaques from families of generous contributors, and we will soon have one more. Mr. Bert Bohannon has recently requested a plaque for his wife of 63 years, Rosina Imelda “Mel” Bohannon, in her memory.

Several members of Mel’s family had ties to the Navy and Air Force, and for many years the Bohannon family has joined the annual San Francisco Fleet cruise to enjoy the cruise and the aerial show of the US Navy Blue Angels. Because of their many years of enjoyment on the Fleet Week cruise, Bert Bohannon decided to honor his wife with a memorial bench on SS Jeremiah O’Brien, and his daughter is working on just the right sentiment to capture her mother’s energy and optimism. We will have Mel’s plaque in place by the first cruise in May.

If you are interested to find out more about our Memorial Plaque program, please contact Eliz Anderson at 415-544-0100 or eliz@ssjeremiahobrien.org.

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Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
    Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place
    The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have cross the bar.

Lord Alfred Tennyson

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Ed Blanchette,
former volunteer docent of many years on the O’Brien

“Mel” Bohannon,
long-time supporter and benefactor of the O’Brien

Jeffrey Mathias,
Chief Engineer of El Faro and former volunteer on the O’Brien

Orville Sova,
WWII Merchant Marine veteran and supporter of veteran rights legislation for Merchant mariners of WWII.
Spectacular 12th Annual Brews on the Bay

The 12th annual Brews on the Bay aboard the O’Brien was once again a huge success this fall!

Guests sampled more than 60 different beers-- IPAs, farmhouse ales, session beers, barrel-aged sours, imperial stouts, and many others--from San Francisco brewers who were on hand to serve beer and answer questions. Everyone enjoyed soaking up the salty air, sunshine, live music, food, and spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and San Francisco.

Many thanks to everyone who made this sold-out event possible: the SF Brewers Guild, the deck department, our docents, Capt. Amanda Wallace and the other crew who came in to assist. A big thanks to Kyle Day, Asst. Shipkeeper for doing a great job coordinating the event and keeping everything flowing seamlessly. And many thanks to the brewers for donating a portion of festival proceeds to the National Liberty Ship Memorial.

Capt Amanda Wallace . . . from page 1

Q: When did you get your Captain’s license and what was your first job?
A: I graduated Cal Maritime in 2006 with my Third Mate’s license. Out of college I worked on the Dredge Essayons with the Army Corps of Engineers and on my vacation I worked on Harbor Tugs for Bay Delta in San Francisco. I did that for about a year and decided that I wanted to work on big ships. That is when I joined Chevron Shipping as an Able Seaman and worked my way up to Chief Mate.

Through Sea Days and testing, I received my 1600 ton Master’s license at the same time that I received my Second Mates license. From there, it was a matter of sailing Chief Mate in order to get my Unlimited Tonnage Master’s license.

Q: How did you find out about the O’Brien?
A: I have always known about the Jeremiah O’Brien, I just didn’t realize that I could be an officer on board.

Q: How did you become the ship’s new Captain?
A: The previous Captain, Jake Crawford, told me about the ship and said he needed a Chief Mate. I came down for a cruise and had such a great time that I agreed to accept the position. When Captain Crawford left for a job in Los Angeles, I gladly applied for the position as Captain of the Jeremiah O’Brien.

Q: What have you discovered that you didn’t know previously about the ship?
A: I am constantly learning new things about the ship and I am excited to learn as much as I can. I am surprised and impressed at the dedication and care that all of the crew members have for the Jeremiah O’Brien.

Q: Tell us about your first cruise as Captain during Fleet Week
A: I had a healthy fear during my first cruise as Captain on board the Jeremiah. The safety of our passengers and crew are very important to me. Everything ended up going well during the cruises and really made me realize how special the ship is. I am looking forward to the 2016 cruises.
Welcome NEW Volunteers

Corey Abelove
Kamal Abuhan
Sam Antell
Pricilla Castro
Ross Dykes

Ryan Hoeger
Ben Maya
Darrell Palmer
Jennifer Schmid

Nancy Schwalen
Cheryl Silkotch
Steve Silkotch
?
NLSM teams up with UC Berkeley to Develop High School History Curriculum

The National Liberty Ship Memorial is working with UC Berkeley’s History-Social Science Project (UCBHSSP) to develop a curriculum for 11th grade high school students in the San Francisco Bay Area. The curriculum will coincide with students’ World War II studies during the spring 2016 semester. The project, led by UCBHSSP’s Director Dr. Rachel Reinhard, will focus on the 2710 Liberty Ships that were built during the war; the economic and societal impact the Bay Area shipyards had on the local area; and the role the Merchant Marine played in winning the war, a subject that is rarely discussed. The curriculum will be available online to any history teacher who chooses to include it. For classes that adopt the course, it will culminate with a guided tour of the SS Jeremiah O’Brien where students will be able to see first-hand a fully operational Liberty ship. The NSLM is seeking funding for this program from local charitable foundations that have an interest in history and education.

Jeremiah O’Brien to be featured in forthcoming Hollywood Film

The SS Jeremiah O’Brien will be featured in a major motion picture due out in the summer of 2016. The film, Birth of a Dragon, is about the beginning of martial artist Bruce Lee’s long career as a martial arts film star and pop culture icon. The film is about a legendary private match between Lee and Wong Jack Man, a famous martial arts expert from San Francisco, that occurred in the 1960’s. The O’Brien will be portrayed as a passenger ship arriving in San Francisco from China. According to the film’s director George Nolfi, who has worked on other films including Ocean’s Eleven and The Bourne Ultimatum, Wong Jack Man actually did arrive in San Francisco on a converted Liberty ship. Filming will begin in early January 2016 and the film’s director is interested in having a few of the O’Brien’s fine volunteers serve as extras.

Capt Cevan LeSieur . . . from page 1

portion of my career was sailing on the Drift River, Nikiski, and Valdez, Alaska shuttle. I retired in August 2012 after 21 years at sea and 12 years as Master. I started training with the San Francisco Bar Pilots in April of 2013. I was sworn into the Pilots on September 24th, 2014.

Outside of the maritime industry, I have a passionate interest in history and historic preservation. I have had two books published that I authored on the history of Salt Lake City’s Avenues neighborhood. I am an avid sports fan and enjoy outdoor activities including skiing, biking, and hiking.

My love of history and the maritime industry came together with the opportunity to volunteer on the Jeremiah O’Brien. I hope to have a positive impact on the historic vessel that will help its long-term continued preservation.
Come Sail with us on SS Jeremiah O’Brien

All of our cruises leave from Pier 45 in Fisherman’s Wharf and return again to Pier 45. Under the command of Captain Amanda Wallace, the O’Brien sails out under the Golden Gate and then back inside the bay continuing along the San Francisco waterfront for a spectacular view of the city.

We have doughnuts, coffee and juice waiting for you when you first board. Annie’s Hot Dog carts, a San Francisco icon, are situated fore and aft to serve delicious hot dogs fixed just the way you like. Try Annie’s famous Red Onion Sauce, it’s a big hit with our guests. For dessert we serve a San Francisco treat, Its It ice cream – but you can help yourself anytime during the cruise from the ice cream cart and eat whenever you want. Of course all food is included as part of the ticket price, as well as water and soft drinks.

And we have several local bands lined up for next year – our perennial favorite, The Natural Gas Jazz Band, will entertain us with traditional jazz and old favorites; the Las Galinas Sanitary District Sit Down Marching Band will also join us again this year as well.

Give us a call at 415-544-0100 to order tickets, or online to order www.ssjeremiahobrien.org.

MAY 21, 2016 – SALUTE TO VETERANS - 10am to 2pm
The annual tradition for SS Jeremiah O’Brien - join us as we pay tribute to the Merchant Marines and US Navy Armed Guard who sailed and protected Liberty ships during WWII. And, of course we are honoring National Maritime Day, May 22.

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World War II and Korean War veterans sail free. Registration for the cruise is still required, so please contact us at (415) 544-0100 to reserve space for a veteran of World War II or the Korean War.

JULY 16, 2016 – GOOD MORNING VIETNAM VETERANS – 10am to 2pm
Join us as we pay tribute to the Vietnam veterans, long overdue recognition for the men and women who served our country during this controversial and unpopular war. Harold Day and The Experience, a tribute band of Jimi Hendricks, will bring back oldies of the era.

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Vietnam veterans sail free. Registration for the cruise is still required, so please contact us at (415) 544-0100 to reserve space for a veteran of the Vietnam War.

OCTOBER 8, 2016 – SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK – 10am to 4pm
We’ll take a grand tour under the Golden Gate Bridge and back to sail by the visiting ships at their respective harbors, then take our position for the Air Show, where you’ll get a front row seat for the spectacular performances put on by this year’s participants.

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OCTOBER 9, 2016 – SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK – 10am to 4pm
We’ll take a grand tour under the Golden Gate Bridge and back to sail by the visiting ships at their respective harbors, then take our position for the Air Show, where you’ll get a front row seat for the spectacular performances put on by this year’s participants.

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AND DON’T FORGET OUR 2016 DOCKSIDE EVENTS AT PIER 45 -
Celebrate Independence Day aboard the SS JEREMIAH O’BRIEN Enjoy the Bay Area’s finest fireworks showcase from Pier 45 Monday, July 4, 2016, 7:30pm - 10pm - Watch our website for pricing and when the tickets are available.

Gate opens 7:30pm - Fireworks at approximately 9:30pm Complimentary Hot Dogs, Chips, Soft drinks, hot cocoa & coffee.