



The Blue Books containing information for the 2011 conferences were mailed the beginning of February. If you did not receive one, or would like one to give to a friend, contact the SIC office at office@starisland.org or 603-430-6272. There is a slight mistake on the registration form which you will find inside the Blue Book. It asks for the grade that your child will be in 2010, when it should actually be the fall of 2011. LOAS assigns youth groups based on the grade the youth will be going into after the LOAS conference.



The LOAS Coordinating Committee would like to announce that for the LOAS I & LOAS II, 2011 conferences there will be an incentive for conferees to register on or before March 10, 2011. There will be six incentives awarded: \$500, \$250, and \$250 for LOAS I and \$500, \$250, and \$250 for LOAS II. After they arrive on Star Island, the winners of the incentives will be given a check for the corresponding amount, made payable to the Star Island Corporation, which they can apply towards their hotel bill.

To insure that all envelopes with a postmark of March 10th, or earlier, have been received by our conference registrar, the drawings will be held on April 1, 2011. Winners will be notified and announced on the LOAS website and in the next edition of Life Off A Star newsletter.

Life On A Star II August 20–27, 2011 The World in Your Pocket

Stepping Back in Time to Face the Future

This year at LOAS II we will explore the brave new digital world that surrounds us ever more each day. Ironically, we will do it on our old, old island in the midst of the ageless sea, a place of retreat from that world. At Star we can, indeed, see the stars, and hear the ancient song of the wind. We marvel at the sight of children having a blast doing what kids used to do before they became riveted to a screen – flying kites, exploring the rocks, avoiding baths, and running in the sun. Star is the perfect place to shine a light on the intersection of media and culture and explore its effect on our lives.

Our theme is “The World in Your Pocket.” Our guide will be Old Shoaler and former LOAS chair **Peter Phipps**, who teaches a course on media and culture at the University of Rhode Island. Peter is

Managing Editor for New Media at *The Providence Journal*, one of those endangered, old-fashioned things called a newspaper.

Peter points out that we live at a time when media and culture blend into an almost irresistible force. Media connects us to friends, family and the world, and the mix of media and culture defines how we connect to each other and therefore who we are. With mobile devices and YouTube, you’ve got a printing press and the power to speak to the world in your pocket. Details about Peter’s presentation are available on the LOAS II web site (www.lifeonastar.org).

Our minister of the week is Rev. Diane Teichert, who began her ministerial journey at our church (First Parish in Arlington) and is now minister of the Paint Branch UU Church in Adelphi, Maryland. We’re looking forward to hearing her preach in the stone chapel each day.



Of course, we'll still have plenty of time for relaxation and fellowship. Our workshops are taking shape, and so far include both old favorites and new wrinkles. Keep an eye on the LOAS website to see what's in store. So prepare to rock on the porch, sippin' a rickey, in between stimulating activities, hearty meals, gorgeous sunsets, fun, and fellowship.

For the children, Mary Heafy and her staff of fabulous leaders will once again work their magic, leading the kiddos through a week of safe, kind, and above all fun activities. John and I hope that you will come back, and that you will bring others

with you. The future of our little "time machine" island depends on New Shoalers discovering its unique glories and returning again and again.

Many thanks to the numerous people who filled out feedback and volunteer forms before they left the island last August. We have a wealth of offers and ideas to sift through; but there's always room for more inspiration. Feel free to send us an e-mail or give us a call if you've got an idea for the 2011 conference.

Diane and John Shriver, Chairs, LOAS II 2011
shriver1@comcast.net, 781-648-3719



Life On A Star I August 13-20, 2011

Bowling Alone and Praying Together, Our Evolving Social Ties

Please join us this summer for LOAS I where we will explore the changing role of American social institutions and America's evolving religious landscape. **Robert Putnam**, Harvard Professor and former Dean of the Kennedy School, will lead us in this theme discussion. Professor Putnam is the author of a dozen books, among them the highly acclaimed national bestseller *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* and his most recent book *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. More information on *American Grace* is available at: www.americangrace.org. Updates on the Minister of the Week, workshops and youth programming will be posted on the LOAS website. Contact information for LOAS I Chairs: **Julie Mabey**, jmabey@nyc.rr.com, 212-316-9292 or **Karen Gray & Tom Kane**, kgray66@yahoo.com, 617-244-0566



Star Island in winter....burrrrr



Star Island in summer.....yeah – can't wait!!!





What is available to help me pay for my week at LOAS?

1. Bring a friend and be eligible for the Star Island Corporation 10/10 Bring a Friend.
2. Apply before March 10th to be eligible for the LOAS early registration incentives.
3. Volunteer to be a youth or workshop leader for LOAS I or II.
4. Apply for a LOAS Lee Reid scholarship.
5. Apply for a Star Island scholarship.

10/10 Bring a Friend – a “new Shoaler” who is recruited by a returning shoaler can fill out a discount request form from SIC to receive a 10% discount on room and board fees for one member of both the new shoaler family and for one member of the returning shoaler family who recruited them... i.e. there will be 2 – 10% discounts given, one to the new shoaler and one to the returning shoaler. Returning shoalers can recruit up to 5 new families and receive up to 50% off their SIC room and board fees. You can find more details on the SIC web site at www.starisland.org.

LOAS early registration incentives – see the second article in this newsletter. Additional information can be found on the LOAS website – www.lifeonastar.org.

LOAS Youth or workshop leader – a LOAS youth leader will have 100% of the conferee fee and room & board paid for by the conference and a workshop leader will have 50% paid for by the conference.

LOAS Lee Reid Scholarship – every year scholarships are available from the LOAS Lee Reid Scholarship Fund for people who register for LOAS I or LOAS II. Additional information can be found on the LOAS website or you can contact Randall Grometstein, the scholarship chair, at r.grometstein@comcast.net. Please note that awards are always partial and depend on the number of applications received.

Star Island Corporation Scholarship – SIC has a financial aid program and has set aside \$20,000 for scholarships. This confidential program is available to individuals and families that are registered for a conference and have not received a conference scholarship. Please note that awards are always partial and depend on the number of applications received. You may not receive a scholarship from both LOAS and the Star Island Corporation.



Needed – Star Island Ambassadors. Would you be willing to be an ambassador to let people know about Star Island? If so, contact Priscilla Hodglins at the Star Island office (phodglins@starisland.org or ambassadors@starisland.org) and you will be sent an Ambassador Kit.

LOAS Coordinating Committee: Irene Bush (Chair), David Whitford, Kay Snowden, Shelley Lauer-Bader (Registrar) and John Pustell (Treasurer).

Council of Conference Representatives: *LOAS I* – Becky Friedkin & Michael Hardiman with Marie Dupree as Alternate. *LOAS II* – Gary Kunz and Phil Sears with Darren Grebe as Alternate.



If you have not been to the LOAS website in a few weeks, please go to www.lifeonastar.org and see the wonderful changes which our webmaster, Darren Grebe, has made to our website. Specifically, you should check-out: Registration (forms & policies), Helping to pay for Star Island, LOAS Leadership, and Star & LOAS News.

A portion of each newsletter will be reserved for occasions or milestones within our LOAS community. Send an e-mail to our editor if your family has a birth, graduation from high school or college, engagement, marriage, death or other important event. If you know of anyone who would like to receive *Life Off A Star* newsletters or if you do not want to receive any further newsletters, send your request to our editor. Hard copies will be mailed to any person who does not have an e-mail address.

LOAS Family News

Births:

A son, **Noah Patrick Emmons**, was born to Jesse Emmons and Shannon Yeager, on January 25, 2011. The proud grandparents are Patti and Will Emmons.

Engagements:

Juliet Christian-Smith (daughter of Glynda Christian) became engaged to **Jon Bodnar** this past October and is planning a May 2011 wedding on the Russian River in Northern California. Her fiancé first attend LOAS II in 2009 with Juliet and her family. Juliet has agreed to be a theme speaker for the International Affairs conference this coming summer where she will discuss water and water resources.

Other News:

Lynn and John Kelly would like everyone to know that neither they nor John's family were directly affected by the severe flooding that occurred recently in Australia. The flood waters came to within a foot of their home, but they put on their wellington boots and took a shovel to trudge into the mud and clear the drain that keeps their backyard from flooding. North of where Lynn & John live, the flooding had been of a longer duration, and covered an area bigger than France and Germany combined.

Glynda Christian and Rich Painter have completed building their home in Bodega Bay, California, and have made the move from Napa. They welcome hearing from, and seeing, friends from Star.

