



**We currently have space at both of our conferences for this coming August.**

LOAS 1 – August 10 to 17, 2013: The Art of Listening: Where Empathy Meets Creativity and Action, co-chairs Jeila Gueramian and Scott Anderson. Theme Speaker will be Anna Sale, politics reporter for WNYC Public Radio.

LOAS 2 – August 17 to 24, 2013: Leading with Pleasure: How to Change the World, co-chairs Pam & Ross Cole. Theme Speaker will be Dr. John Coveney, professor at the School of Medicine at Flinders University in Australia. This year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LOAS 2. There will be workshops and panel discussions revolving around our Silver Anniversary. There will be a workshop for the Twenty Something's which will be led by the Youth Minister, James Dyer. **NEEDED:** Yoga Instructor for Adults and Children for LOAS 2. Please contact Pam at [LOAS.2.Chairs.2013@gmail.com](mailto:LOAS.2.Chairs.2013@gmail.com)

For more information on both of our conferences, visit our web site at [www.lifeonastar.org](http://www.lifeonastar.org)

**Star Island - My Spirit's Home**

Patti Emmons, Coordinating Committee Chair

Do you remember the very first time you stepped onto Star Island? Take a deep breath, sit back, close your eyes and visualize that memory. Seriously, take 60 seconds out of your busy and hectic life to close your eyes and remember your first memory of Star Island. To help you accomplish this, I will pause here for 60 seconds before continuing.....

I remember my first visit to Star Island 27 years ago. At that time Star had many strange “quirks” which I had never encountered before and to be honest, many of them still exist today. However, all of these quirks are what makes Star Island unique and so well loved by many, many shoalers. Who ever heard of a softball field which contains a cemetery in left field, only being allowed to take three showers in seven days, having a serious “fire and water” speech right after your arrival, being told where the “butt cans” were located (and what they were for) and the fact there are three different types of water on the island?

My first week on Star Island ended as all weeks on Star Island end, with Banquet Night and the Grand March. I have to admit that seeing grown adults jumping and marching in a conga line, holding hands and singing “Star Island is my Spirit's Home .....” intermixed with “woo, woo” was the strangest sight I had ever seen. The finale in the lobby along with the singing of Auld Lang Syne, which in my mind was a song that was reserved for only New Year's Eve, made it seem that much stranger. Today, I can't wait for banquet night and all of the time honored rituals which accompany it.

For a number of years I had no idea why people would call Star Island their Spirit's Home. One rainy evening I decided to pass the time by taking a good look at the photographs which were hanging on the walls in the Writing Room. One frame showcased a poem titled “Passing By” written by Douglas Herrick Brookfield. The poem stirred emotions deep inside which I had not felt in an extremely long time. It was at that very moment when I came to the realization that slowly, but surely, Star Island had become my Spirit's Home. Star embodied the very definition of the word *spirit* - “a nonphysical part of a person that is the seat of emotions and character, the soul”. You may argue the island is definitely something that has many physical parts. However, what I am talking about are the feelings a person experiences when they are on Star Island.

Every year while I am on Star Island I experience a range of emotions, the joy of being on the island once again, connecting with friends and acquaintances, making new friends, the relief I feel being totally commitment free, and the sadness which comes with knowing I will not be back for another year. On the island I become rejuvenated, refreshed and more at peace with myself than at any other time throughout the year. I soak up the sights, the sounds, the smells, the laughter, the music, the fog horn, the chapel bell and yes, even the cry of the seagulls. Each and every one of those memories is stored some place deep inside the recesses of my mind. There are times during the year when I am lonely, overwhelmed, tired, bored, upset, just plain miserable or sitting around with nothing to do. Those times are when I sit back, close my eyes and allow those memories to float to the surface. In less than 60 seconds, a smile begins to form as the emotions, memories and cherished experiences from Star Island come flooding back.

Everyone has their own special memories of the times they have spent on Star Island. Each time we return to our spirit's home, there are experiences we want to feel again after our long awaited return. It may be the morning polar bear dip in the frigid 55 degree Atlantic Ocean or sitting on a bench outside the chapel in the morning sun listening to the sermon. I wonder if there is another chapel where you are able to hear the morning service as you gaze across the shimmering deep blue water towards a small island dominated by a stately lighthouse, while listening to sea gulls and song birds that soar through the bright morning sky which is sprinkled with white fluffy clouds. We watch evening sunsets from the west porch and every sunset seems to be more spectacular than the previous one. I am certain that each of us could compile a very long list of special moments on Star Island that we dearly treasure.

I know that Star Island is the only place where my spirit can be replenished and enriched every year. This allows me to maintain my sanity throughout the remainder of the year, until I am able to return to my Spirit's Home.

If you have not already registered for LOAS 1 or LOAS 2, I do hope that you will decide to come back this coming August to renew your own spirit. I, along with many other conferees, miss seeing our friends and acquaintances who have not returned for a few years, people like Sally, Nancy, Brad, Mary, Bob, Al, Bill, Kathy, Tom, Paul, Andy, Gary and many others.

If the new on-line registration system is a bit confusing, the following is a detailed description describing how to register for our conference. As always, our registrar, treasurer, current chairs or anyone on the coordinating committee are here to assist you with questions you may have. Remember – **You Will Come Back!!!**

The online registration is only for conferees that will be staying the full week. Payment will be for the room and board deposit along with our conference programming fee. The room and board deposit will be credited on your hotel bill at the end of the week. In order to register online, you will need to use a credit card. If you would like to pay by check, then you will should print off a registration form from the SIC website and mail it to the SIC office along with your check. If you will be at our conference for less then 7 days, please contact our registrars Joyce & Jim Pickel at [loasregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:loasregistrar@yahoo.com) for information on how to register.

### **How to Register Online:**

**First** - Go to the SIC website at [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org) You will see the following information. Click on “Summer Programs Registration”

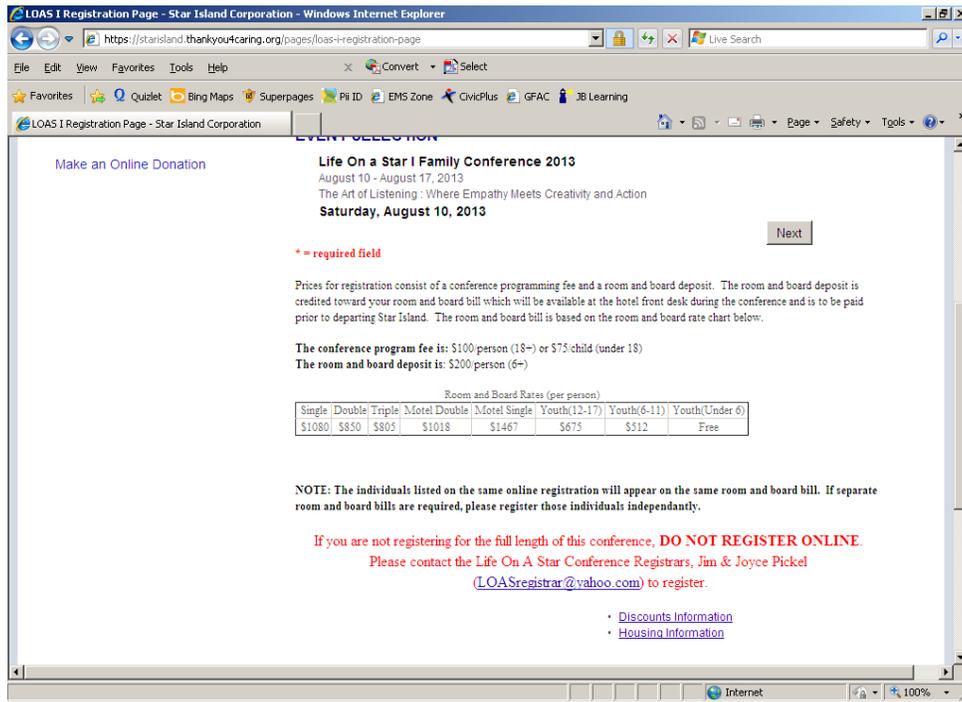
REGISTER ONLINE TODAY !



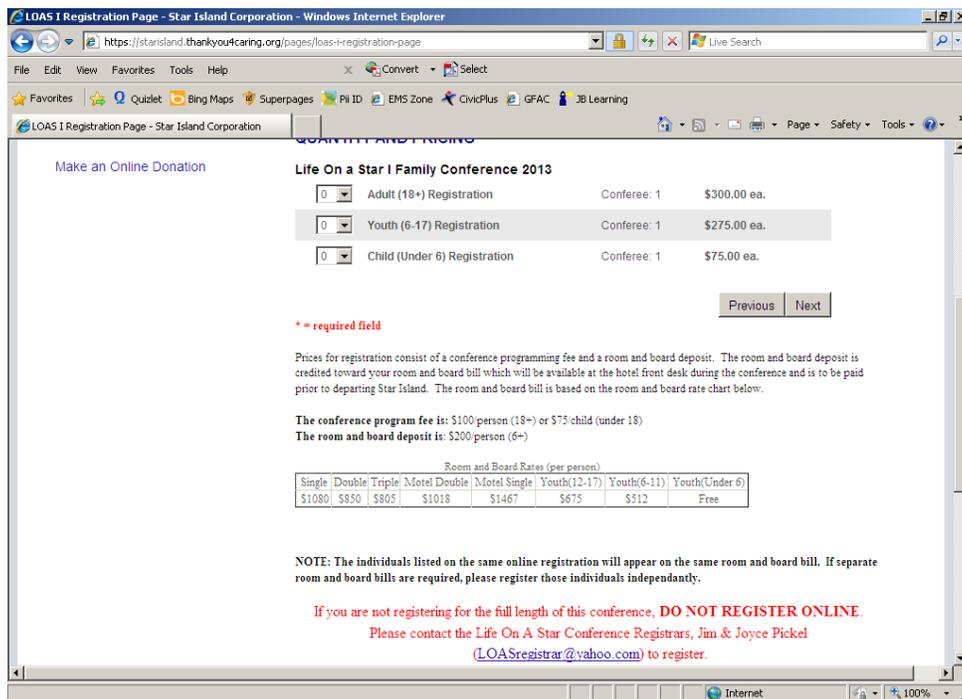
**Next** - You will see a list of conferences, scroll down until you find ours and click on either LOAS 1 or LOAS 2:

[Life On A Star I Conference](#)  
[Life On A Star I Conference](#)

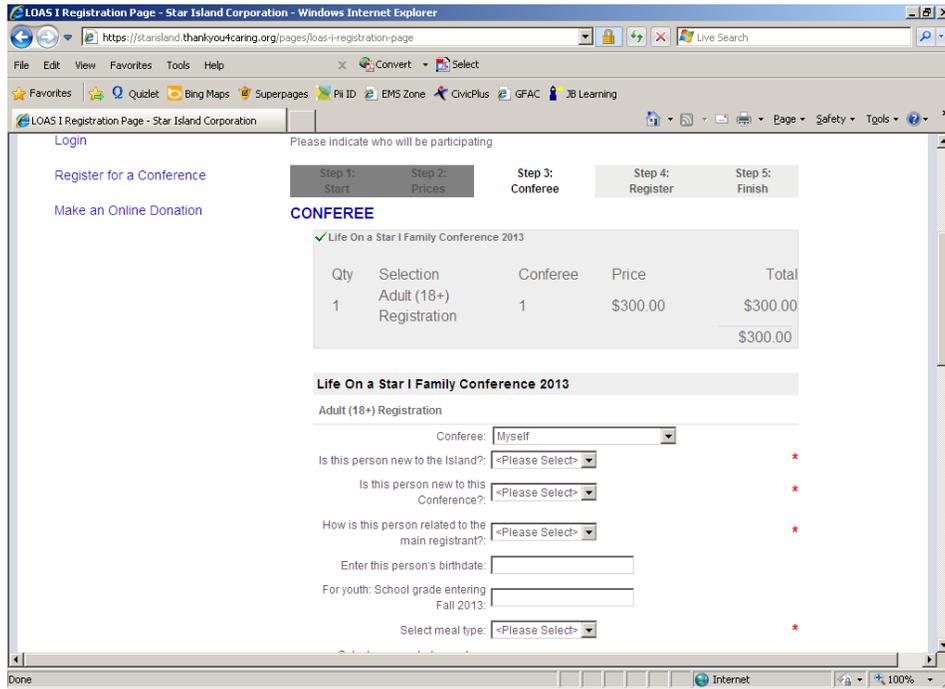
**Start - Registration Step 1:** Once you click on our conference, you will be taken to the following page which contains the name of our conference, the dates and the room and board rates. Click on “Next”.



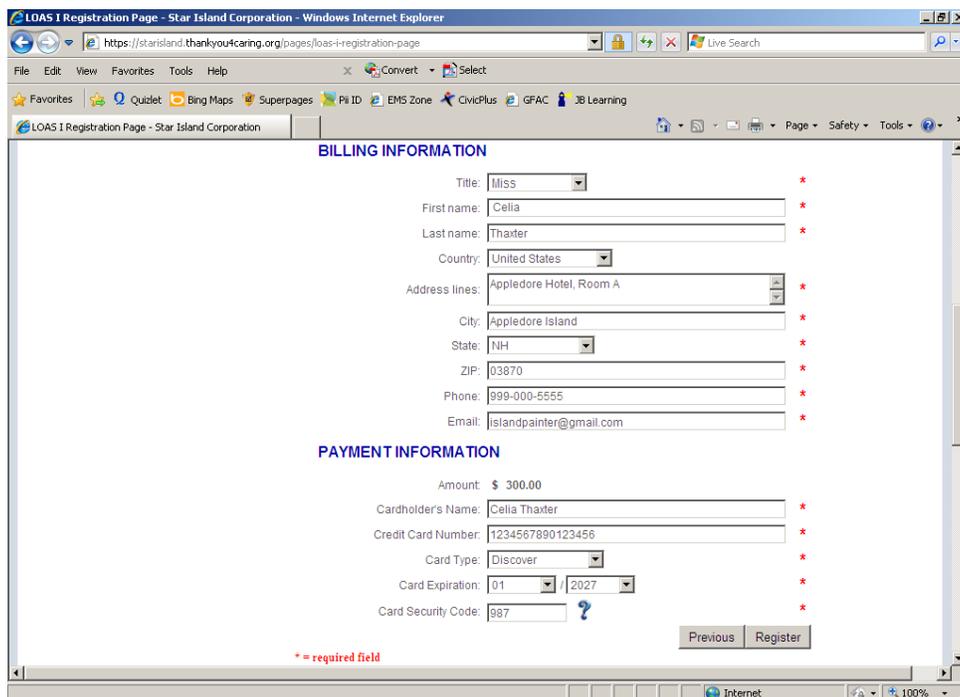
**Prices - Registration Step 2:** Select the number of adults, youths (ages 6 to 17) and child (under 6 years) you would like to register and when you are finished, click on “Next”.



**Conferee - Registration Step 3:** Complete the questions under the conferee heading. You will need to complete a form for each person which you registered. Questions which are mandatory to answer have a red \* next to the question. When you are finished, click on “Next”.



**Register - Registration Step 4:** Under the billing information you will fill in the information for your credit card. When you are finished, click on “Register”.



**Finish - Registration Step 5:** When you have entered all of your information and your credit card was processed, you will see a confirmation screen stating your registration has been processed. You will also receive a confirmation e-mail.

That's it – you are now registered for our conference!!!

**Dates to remember:**

June 1, 2013 is the deadline for Star Island Corporation Scholarship applications. See the SIC website for details – [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org)

Scholarships for LOAS will be awarded at the end of June 2013. For details go to – [www.lifeonastar.org](http://www.lifeonastar.org)

Former Pels who have not attended since 2010 can attend for 50% - that includes children of long-standing LOAS conferees!

**The contacts and members for various LOAS positions and LOAS committees are as follows:**

Treasurer for 2014– John Pustell – [jpustell@verizon.net](mailto:jpustell@verizon.net)

Registrars for 2014 – Joyce and Jim Pickel – [loasregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:loasregistrar@yahoo.com)

Provisioners for 2013– LOAS I - Tom Kennedy and LOAS II - Matthew King

Coordinating Committee: Patti Emmons, Chair – (off in 2014), Martha Pereli (off in 2013), Randall Grometstein (off in 2015), standing members: Treasurer – John Pustell and Registrar – Joyce & Jim Pickel.

Marketing Committee: Co-Chairs are Judy Samuelson & Cindy Wollman. Members are Aaron Hamburger and Irene Bush.

2013 Delegates to the Council of Conferences – LOAS I delegates are – Jill Brody & Marie Dupree with Bill Licea-Kane as alternate. LOAS II delegates are Phil Sears & Darren Grebe with Irene Bush as alternate.

Scholarship Committee: Will Emmons, Chair (off in 2013), Michelle Kunz (off in 2014) and Diane Taraz Shriver (off in 2015).

Child Abuse Committee: Nancy Witherell, (Chair), Mary Heafy, John Hoffman, Tom Kennedy and Deb Nygren.

**LOAS website:** [www.lifeonastar.org](http://www.lifeonastar.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Patti Emmons - [patti@emmons.org](mailto:patti@emmons.org)

