

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Annual Membership Meeting 2021



A Message from Clearwater's Board President:

Pete Seeger closed his song "Of Time and Rivers Flowing" with these lines"

*And we who would join in
Can stand aside no longer
Now let us all begin*

Clearwater's board election marks a fresh beginning each year as new directors step up to help us lead the organization. This year they will have a new chart to help navigate the decisions to be made in coming months-- a strategic plan developed over the past year.

Please participate in this election, which also asks our members to approve changes in Clearwater's bylaws. Be sure to cast your ballot by our Annual Meeting, scheduled for **Sunday, October 3, 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM.** With COVID still lurking about, the gathering will be held online again this year. Registration information and an agenda will be posted on Clearwater's website and publicized in email newsletters and social media.

Mail in ballots must be received at the Clearwater office in Beacon no later than Saturday, October 2. Electronic voting will end at 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 3.

Mail this Ballot to:

Board of Elections
Clearwater
724 Wolcott Avenue
Beacon, NY 12508



Individual
Membership

1. I am in favor of Proposed Change 1:
Article IV, Section 1: Yes _____ No _____
2. I am in favor of Proposed Change 2:
Article IX, Section 2: Yes _____ No _____
3. You may vote for up to nine candidates:
 - ☐ Sarah Armour
 - ☐ Mitzi Elkes
 - ☐ Allen Gutk
 - ☐ Samantha Hicks
 - ☐ Arthur Jones
 - ☐ Jennifer McMillan
 - ☐ Dan Riesel
 - ☐ Larry Rothbart
 - ☐ Donna Stein

Two write-in candidates may be entered here:

**This is a sample ballot,
for reference only**



Sarah Armour

Born and raised in the Hudson Valley, Sarah has been lucky enough to be part of the Clearwater community since before she was born. She grew up volunteering at the festival, singing with Clearwater's Power of Song Program, and working on the sloop in a number of capacities, including as a volunteer, apprentice, educator, and first mate. Sarah has spent the last ten years working in environmental education, sail training, and experiential learning and she credits Clearwater with sending her along that path. Sarah currently works for Mystic

Seaport Museum as the first mate on the classic Schooner Brilliant and holds a USCG Captain's license. Sarah has a degree in Earth Systems Science from Cornell University where she focused on applied ecology, sustainable agriculture, and environmental education.

Mitzi Elkes - Third Term



Mitzi has been a board member of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater since September 2015.

Additionally, she helped launch and coordinate the annual fundraising event, Chefs for Clearwater (chefsforclearwater.org) since 2016. Mitzi was part of the Executive Committee from 2018 to 2020, and the Finance Committee from 2015 till 2019.

Mitzi resides on other environmental boards and committees including Teatown Lake Reservation Board and their Gala Committee since 2020, Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment Board of Visitors since 2018, Chairperson of the Leadership Committee of the Pocantica River Watershed Alliance since 2015.

Mitzi is involved with numerous nonprofit organizations in Westchester County and New England including the Jacob Burns Film Center where she spearheaded the 100th Birthday Celebration and Tribute to Pete Seeger in May 2019.

For the last 23 years, Mitzi has been the President of an international food, cosmetic and environmental regulations consulting firm, JEMS International, Inc. Prior to consulting, she spearheaded the Flavor Regulatory Department for 10 years at Givaudan, in Clifton, NJ Mitzi earned a chemistry degree from Purchase College, SUNY, and a Master's in international business from Baruch College, CUNY. She and her husband live in Briarcliff Manor, NY and have three children.



Allen Gutkin - Third Term

Allen was born and raised in Brooklyn and married into an activist family at 21 and began to spend summers in a colony at which Pete and other McCarthy victims performed. After Allen's wife passed away, he bought a condo in the Berkshires for the cultural scene. Allen has been a member of Walkabout for about 15 years and was asked to be the liaison to Clearwater. This

will be Allen's third term serving on the board.

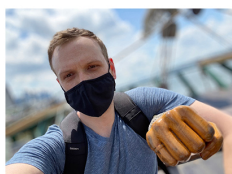
Samantha Hicks - Second Term

Samantha, AKA Captain Sam, started working on the sloop as an apprentice in 1994 at the very beginning of what would be a 17 year career in sail education. She worked her way up through the ranks on numerous vessels including the Schooner Ernestina out of New Bedford sailing at chief mate for the maiden voyage of the brigantine Irving Johnson and sailing to both Europe and Asia aboard the Pride of Baltimore II.



She sailed as captain of the Sloop from 2000 to 2005, she signed on as a chief mate for the Baroque Picton Castle's fourth world voyage, circumnavigating the globe. She resumed Captain's duties on the sloop in 2008 until the birth of her daughter in 2011. After living in Toronto for several years and serving on the board of her daughter's cooperative preschool, she moved back to New York and the Capital Region with her husband, daughters, and dog Betsy.

She is now at the completion of a Masters in Public Administration degree at UAlbany and as an elected board member is eager to continue the strategic, development, and rebuilding work at Clearwater in which she has been engaged since being appointed in 2019.



Arthur Jones - Second Term

A lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, Arthur has been a Clearwater member and perennial sloop volunteer for 25 years. Arthur is a dedicated environmentalist, an avid sailor, and an award-winning filmmaker who has made short films in support of Clearwater, The New York Democracy Project, and other local non-profits.

Arthur is running for his second term as a board member but has been involved with Clearwater most of his life. He currently lives in Jersey City and works in New York as a full-time television professional. He offers a unique blend of digital media expertise, love of the Hudson River, and a passionate commitment to Social and Environmental Justice.

Jennifer McMillan

Jennifer is a lifelong, passionate advocate for environmental issues, and has lived in Wappingers Falls for more than 20 years. She is an adjunct English professor at Marist College and Dutchess Community College, works as a freelance editor including for Clearwater, has volunteered in the Clearwater office, and with her two children, volunteers at Revivals and other Clearwater events. She is an artist, herbalist, teaches herbalism and art classes, meditation and Reiki, and has led meditation classes and held Reiki sessions for Clearwater employees. As a current board member with East Fishkill Historical Society, she helps organize and in events, fundraisers, and holds classes as specifically directed to public education and as fundraisers for the organization.



Dan Riesel

Dan was a member of Clearwater's Board for 15 years and also acted as its counsel until his expanding practice and growing family drew him away. He has had a long and abiding interest in the Hudson Valley and our great river having grown up in Croton on Hudson and been on the Hudson for his entire life. That interest led Dan into practice of environmental law. He has now been practicing environmental litigation and teaching that subject in law schools and to other lawyers since 1970. Along the way, he has represented clients ranging from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to his hometown, Cortland. Clearwater is facing new environmental challenges at a time of fiscal stress. Dan believes that his experience will assist Clearwater in meeting those challenges and being able to maintain its traditional educational functions.

Larry Rothbart



Larry has lived in Brooklyn, NY for 40 years. He is a lawyer, a mediator, a collaborative professional who believes in the importance of bringing people together. This is what brought Larry to Clearwater as a child and remains his guiding light to this day. Larry and his entire family have been active Clearwater members for decades, volunteering on the sloop and at Revival. The estuary is a lot healthier now than when Larry first saw the Clearwater sail into South Street Seaport. "But the goals of connecting with the River, bringing people together over common issues and concerns, and focusing attention on cleaning up our waterways remain."



Donna Stein - Third Term

Donna is seeking a third term on the Clearwater board. Donna is President of the NYC Friends of Clearwater Sloop Club and its event producer. She is co-producer and co-host of Eco-Logic, WBAI radio's environmental program. "I'm a long time environmental and social activist. My vision is to realize a safer, fairer, and sustainable world."

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

Proposed Change One: Article V, Section 1:

Section 1. The government of the Corporation shall consist of a body known as the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~up to~~ **no fewer than fifteen and no more than** twenty-five elected members of the Corporation and any member appointed as Secretary or Treasurer pursuant to Article V, Section 2. **The number constituting the entire Board may be changed from time to time by a majority of the Board of Directors on a duly adopted resolution.** In the event that any member of the Board of Directors ceases to serve, a member of the Corporation ~~shall~~ may be appointed by the Board to fulfill the unexpired term.

Background regarding proposed change: The current bylaws contain ambiguities in regard to board size and requirements for filling vacant seats. The proposed bylaw change has two goals. The first is to remove the ambiguity. The second is to specify a minimum Board size. These changes allow flexibility so that the size of the Board can vary with the organization's needs. The proposed update does not compel a change in the size of the Board, but clarifies the framework for making a change it after a period of years an optimum size should become apparent.

Proposed Change Two: Article IX, Section 1:

Section 1. The election of the Directors shall take place at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Such election shall be held no earlier than the second Sunday in September, nor later than the third Sunday in October. The voting shall be by secret ballot. A plurality of votes shall elect, **with a minimum of 50 votes required for a candidate to be elected.** Individual members shall each cast one ballot; each adult member of the family covered by a family membership shall cast one ballot. Ties shall be broken immediately after tabulation by a vote taken among members present. Official ballots which are completed and returned to the office of the Corporation by United States Postal Service mail (US Mail) or in such a manner as may be specified in instructions distributed with the ballots will be accepted if they are received no later than the day before the election.

Background regarding proposed change: This change would add a minimum threshold of votes to be elected to the Board. The proposed threshold was set at 50. While there is a precedent for choosing 30 (see Art. VIII, Nomination of Directors, Sec. 2), it was felt that making the threshold higher would encourage members to use the petition route (nomination by 30 members) in running for the board rather than the write-in option. The petition process is preferable. It puts the candidate's name on the ballot, allowing the entire membership to evaluate the person's qualifications and motivations for seeking a seat on the Board, which is not the case with write-in candidates.