

## Lilac Preservation Project Leadership

**Joseph Casey** has been a waterman since his days as a lifeguard and water safety instructor. After attending Northwestern Connecticut State University, Joe started Main Stream Canoe & Kayaks, which has served many Boy Scouts and inner city youth in Southern New England. He earned his United States Coast Guard (USCG) Master of Steam or Motor Vessels License with Towing Endorsement in 1992 and worked barges along the Connecticut and Thames Rivers. Joe entered the Corporate Safety arena in 1996 and has overseen and directed complex projects, including the refurbishment of the Intel chip plant in Hudson, Massachusetts and construction of the Yale Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven. As the Safety Director for Tishman Construction at Citigroup's world headquarters in Tribeca, New York, Joe had a bird's eye view of *Lilac* and Pier 25, rekindling his passion for old objects. He considers it an adventure to be part of getting *Lilac* operating.

**Natalie K. Edwards, President**, is a Managing Director and General Counsel of Apis & Heritage Capital Partners, an impact investment fund attacking the racial wealth gap. She was previously a Managing Director at Citigroup Inc. and the Head of the Corporate M&A Legal team where she managed global strategic proprietary M&A for the Global Consumer Bank and the Institutional Clients Group. She has over 20 years' experience advising major corporations and businesses on complex acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, and strategic alliances. Prior to her role at Citi, Natalie was a senior M&A lawyer at Linklaters LLP in its offices in New York and London and counsel in its office in Shanghai. She started her career at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. She is a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School.

**Brian Flanagan** is a maritime attorney and former Coast Guard officer. Brian has been involved in the practice of maritime law in Boston and throughout the United States since 1985. He was Adjunct Professor of Maritime and Admiralty Law at Suffolk University Law School from 1989 through 2013. While in the Coast Guard, he was a deck officer on the Cutter *Bibb*, worked as a staff officer involved with law enforcement matters, and served as an advisor to the U.S. Department of State on treaty matters. He also served on assignment to the Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State (1982-1984) for the Case Concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in The Gulf of Maine Area [International Court of Justice 1984]. His J.D. is from Catholic University and his bachelor's degree is from Tufts University. His post-graduate education has included Studies in Strategy and Policy at the U.S. Naval War College Center for Continuing Education.

**John Gallagher, Secretary**, is an active volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including serving as a relief cook on active-duty cutters. His day job is Director for Technology: Administrative Organization and Business Effectiveness at Borough of Manhattan Community College, right across West Street from Pier 25. He is a lifelong educator with a deep commitment to public higher education, especially in film and the media arts. John introduced digital media production to both the City College of New York and Borough of Manhattan Community College where he built new post-production facilities around non-linear editing systems, shared storage, media asset management and HDTV.

**Mary Habstritt, Museum Director**, has been *Lilac's* chief executive since 2009. Previously, she was a freelance historical consultant researching and interpreting industrial sites and maritime topics. She is founder of the Historic Ships Coalition and a past president of the North River Historic Ship Society. Mary has served as President of the Society for Industrial Archeology and was, for several years, that organization's Events Coordinator. She has held several positions with the SIA's local Roebling Chapter, including Preservation Chair advocating for industrial heritage sites in New York and New Jersey. Her devotion to history and preservation follows a career as an academic librarian, working at such institutions as the University of Minnesota and Pace University. She has a master's degree from Columbia University's School of Library Service.

**Tom Knotts** is serving *Lilac* for the second time. Tom enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1965 and, after attending the Machinist Mate Apprentice course at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, was assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter *Lilac*. He served the ship until 1969 where his duties included maintenance and repair of engine room and deck machinery. Tom joined the Philadelphia Police Department after leaving the Coast Guard. His duties there included uniform patrol and undercover investigations and he obtained an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. He later went to work for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a State Park Ranger. He was an inspector and investigator with the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, working to assure that licensed businesses complied with state regulations and looking into complaints. Tom has volunteered continuously for 15 years at events that benefit Shriners Hospital for Children.

**John Sheffield, Treasurer**, is a self-employed yacht delivery captain with experience as captain or crew conveying boats through Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean waters. He was previously Executive Director for the not-for-profit 501(c)4 US Tennis Association, South Carolina district, Managing 200+ volunteers, 10 staff, \$1M annual budget, personally preparing financial reports for the Board of Directors. He also served as Director of Community Development and the Schools Program US Tennis Association, Southern Section, conducting teacher workshops, school assemblies to promote youth tennis and starting/supporting local, volunteer-run community tennis associations. He was a tennis instructor and camp director at various facilities in the Atlanta, Georgia area. He lives in Manhattan with his wife Bunny with whom he has two daughters. He visited *Lilac* during Open House New York Weekend in 2021 and quickly joined our volunteer crew doing restoration and maintenance on the ship.