

PRESS RELEASE CRONKITE AWARD FOR OCEAN CHAMPIONS 2024

(NEW YORK, September 12, 2024) – The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is proud to announce its Cronkite Award for Ocean Champions 2024, which celebrates the memory of its Honorary Chairperson, Walter Cronkite. The award ceremony will be held on Friday, September 27, hosted by [Classic Harbor Line](#) at Pier 62, Chelsea Piers, and includes the official christening of their newest Schooner, the 90-foot Adirondack IV.

The award ceremony is timed to Climate Week NYC and ahead of the U.N.'s General Assembly to spotlight The U.N. Goal #14 • [Life Below Water](#) and the [U.N. Ocean Decade](#) - *The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want*. (2021-2030) and all the ocean champions who fought for the historic [High Seas Treaty](#) that aims to protect marine life in the ocean's high seas, ratified by 60 nations, which goes into effect in 2025.

This year's recipient Henk Rogers was selected for his visionary leadership and philanthropy with the [Blue Planet Alliance](#), the Global Ambassadors Program and the [Blue Planet Climate Agreements](#) with islands around the world. The other ocean champions featured in the book *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life Changing Stories of Young Heroes* are Hawaii's Nainoa Thompson and the *Hokule'a*; Jasper Ralph, Plastic Free MV of Martha's Vineyard; Daniela Fernandez, of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance; Perry Raso, of Matunouk Oyster Farm in Rhode Island; Angelique Pouponneau, of SYAH-Seychelles; Gary Benchehib, of Bali; Cruz Erdman, New Zealand; James Ellsmoor, of Island Innovation; and François van den Abeele, of Sea2See.

At the Cronkite Awards for Ocean Champions, the Institute is announcing its Oceans Initiative to scale its educational tools and trainings with the *Stone Soup Climate Education Platform* so that educators on these islands and then around the world will have FREE access, so they can in turn prepare *all* young people to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. Learn more here: [link](#).

As a leader in sustainability practices within the hospitality and sailing industry, [Classic Harbor Line](#) (CHL) has a unique connection to these awards. "We were honored that Walter Cronkite christened our yacht MANHATTAN in 2006, and hosting this year's ceremony at our New York location is an honor and a testament to his legacy as a life-long environmentalist," said Classic Harbor Line's Managing Director Capt. Sarah Pennington. "Creating meaningful sustainability practices and growing our programming dedicated to climate change and the environment have been major company priorities over the last decade."

The Cronkite Award for Ocean Champions 2024 award ceremony will be dockside, open to the public and viewable from the south side of Pier 62 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, closing with the christening of ADIRONDACK IV. This intergenerational awards event will also feature youth ocean and harbor leaders from New York City schools and organizations aligned with the Institute's mission of training the next generation to become leaders of a sustainable world. A sail with award recipients, invitees and the media in New York Harbor will directly follow and public tickets will be available for Classic Harbor Line vessels (<https://sail-nyc.com>).

About the Cronkite Awards for Ocean Champions

Widely recognized as "the most trusted man in America," Walter Cronkite felt a personal responsibility to use his platform as anchor of CBS Nightly News to educate ordinary people so they could make wise decisions about their future. An avid sailor and life-long environmentalist, he boldly covered the first Earth Day in 1971 with the same passion he had for covering the moon landing, rallying more than 20 million Americans to join the emerging green movement. For Earth Day 2023, we presented the Cronkite Awards for Climate Education to government champions at state capitol events in Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. In this way, honoring those who honor the earth, we continue to honor and uphold the work of Mr. Cronkite, creating a future the next generation will be proud to inherit.

About Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard. The Institute has collaborated with business, government, education and community leaders to develop strategic initiatives, public-private partnerships and build sustainable communities with the coastal communities of Boston,

Newport RI, Oakland, CA to the islands of Hawaii, Vieques, Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands and the Philippines. Walter Cronkite served as The Institute's honorary chairperson for over a decade. It is his wisdom, leadership, and vision of engaging people to join together that led to the Institute's [Cronkite Awards](#) in 2010. "We hope to engage all ocean lovers to join with us to invest in their communities and in our world," said Marianne Larned, Author, Founding Director, Stone Soup Leadership Institute. In honor of the Cronkite Awards for Ocean Champions 2024, The Institute is announcing our new Ocean Initiative. Learn more here: [link](#).

About Classic Harbor Line and ADIRONDACK IV

Classic Harbor Line (CHL) operates a fleet of 14 classically inspired yachts designed by [Scarano Boat Building](#) in the New York City, Boston, Newport, R.I. and Key West harbors. The newest, ADIRONDACK IV, is an 1890s-style all-wooden gaff-rigged sailing yacht certified for 85 passengers and destined to offer the finest and most sustainable sightseeing by sail power. This year marks the 30th year since the construction of the original ADIRONDACK (built in 1994). Based in Albany, NY, Scarano Boat Building specializes in innovative *and* historic-looking boats that are built for accommodating guests in comfort and style. Dedicated to helping locals and visitors alike enjoy the unique wonders of New York City, Classic Harbor Line offers a variety of relaxing, inspiring, and breathtaking cruises and sailing experiences through the surrounding waters. Their classic motorized yachts, including Yacht MANHATTAN, MANHATTAN II, and KINGSTON, as well as the Schooner ADIRONDACK and the Schooner AMERICA 2.0 (sailboats) are reminiscent of the classic boats that cruised the NYC waters over the past two centuries. Visit <http://sail-nyc.com> and follow @classicharborline on IG/Twitter/FB/TikTok.

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For press access to the event, more details, photos and video, please contact: kassandra@stonesoupleadership.org