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TheSailingChannel Hosts 2nd Annual Middle East Sail for Peace



The 2nd Annual *New Story Leadership for the Middle East* sail took place Saturday 23 July 2011 on one of the hottest days of the summer. That did not detour two crews of five Palestinian and five Israeli college students, their program staff, and their Skipper and Mate for a sail aboard "Sparkle Plenty" a 1980 Mariner (NH) 36 sloop on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. Now in its second year, NSL brings Israeli and Palestinian college students to Washington, DC for 6 weeks of leadership training and internships on Capitol Hill, the World Bank, and other prestigious venues. This year's team hails from Gaza, the West Bank, the Palestinian Territory, and Israel. Several are attending college

in the U.S. New Story Leadership is a narrative based program specifically designed for young adults. It offers participants the tools to leave their old story of conflict behind and construct a new story of understanding, reconciliation, and partnership for the future. "Last year's sailing experience was just so terrific, we had to do it again," noted Tory Salvia, President of TheSailingChannel and Skipper of the host boat. "Watching these young people smile, laugh, and work together to sail gives one hope there will be a solution to the terrible problems confronting the Mid East region."

The NSL group was welcomed aboard at Leatherbury Point Marina in Shady Side, MD. Tory's long time sailing friend, Nelson Pacheco acted as First Mate and gave a safety briefing for the voyage from West River to Annapolis, MD and back. The plan called for seven of the group to sail to Annapolis while the remainder drove for a tour of the historic city and then a return sail. "With light winds, we had to motor the ten miles north but just outside Annapolis, we found 8 to 10 knots of NE wind and were able to sail just outside the harbor," reported the Skipper. "Several of our new crewmembers took the wheel including novices and a couple with sailing experience in the Med."



Sparkle Plenty docked at Annapolis Yacht Basin to take on diesel fuel and exchange crews for the return sail to the West River. "We motored out of Annapolis Harbor with the wind on our nose out of the East, North East" noted the Skipper. "Once we cleared the Severn and entered the Bay, the wind died and we motored south. We had some serious conversation about the Middle East, but also a lot of talk about sailing. Two of our Palestinian crew entertained us with Arab folk songs. At Thomas Point Lighthouse, First Mate Nelson spied a 'wind line' out in the Bay, so we turned Sparkle Plenty East finding 8 to 10 Knots of wind on flat water."

After snuffing the diesel and unfurling the sails, the crew got a chance to sail several miles across the Bay. As a southbound tug with a large barge in tow appeared, Sparkle Plenty tacked West back towards its homeport on the West River. With the wind dying again, the vote was to turn on the engine and motor to a cove for a swim. After entering the West River Sparkle Plenty motored a short distance up the Rhodes River to a small cove and dropped the hook. The crew donned swimsuits and enjoyed the 83-degree water. Fortunately, stinging jellyfish were not present due to low salinity and relative low water temperature.



Following the swim break, Sparkle Plenty pulled up anchor for the 20-minute motor out of the Rhodes and across the West River into Parish Creek and Leatherbury Point Marina. Program Director, Paul Costello was on the dock with the first crew to welcome the boat and help with the lines. Slip mates Wayne and Donna Steeves graciously



provided plenty of food and cold drinks for a post-sail gathering dockside. Sailing stories were told.

“If these young people can sail together, swim together, and keep each other afloat, that’s real hope for positive change in the Mid East,” said Mate Nelson Pacheco. “We need to include more boats next year, perhaps hold a regatta,” added the Skipper. “Sailing is our passion and a great tool to bring people together.”

For more photos of the NSL Sail, visit ...

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Video of Swim at Anchor on the Rhodes River

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150238909941290>

If you are interested in participating in next year’s NSL Sail, please email ...

sailing@thesailingchannel.tv, subject NSL SAIL.

[Check out this article in USA TODAY about New Story Leadership.](#)

About [NewStoryLeadership.org](http://www.newstoryleadership.org)

New Story Leadership is a conflict resolution program for young adults headquartered in Washington, DC. NSL has evolved from two sister programs developed by its Director, Paul Costello, bringing young people together from zones of conflict: The Washington Ireland Program and The South Africa Washington Ireland Program. With the help of WIP and SAWIP alumni, NSL is developing New Story Leadership for the Middle East, a program to foster peace, justice, and understanding between college-age Palestinians and Israelis.

Website: www.newstoryleadership.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewStoryLeadership

To watch videos of NSL team members addressing members of Congress and VIPs, visit

www.youtube.com/user/newstoryleadership.

About TheSailingChannel.TV

TheSailingChannel is an Annapolis, MD company and a popular web based video & social networking service for cruising sailors. Its videos cover the gear, the people, the boats, the skills, and the places that interest cruisers. TheSailingChannel also co-produces the Public TV series, “*Adventures in Sailing*” with WPBT2 Miami. TSC is seeking sponsors for AIS and more quality sailing videos for distribution. For information e-mail Sailing@TheSailingChannel.TV.

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