

Grandfather and Grandson train for Swim for Life

One lives in Rhode Island, the other in California. One is seventy-one, the other is thirteen. Arthur Richter resides in Barrington Rhode Island and Provincetown, his grandson Max Richter is from San Diego. They will stand together at Long Point on September 11 and swim across the harbor together. Both for the first time.

Everyday for the three weeks he was in town, Max and his grandfather religiously trained in the East End of Provincetown Harbor, after a winter of discussing books, swimming and family on Skype. Max will return from the West Coast for the September event with special frequent flyer miles awarded him by Southwest Air.

Focused and unnerved, Max presently trains year round on a swim team in San Diego while maintaining top grades in school. His brother Tyler, the creative one who also visited Provincetown this summer, also loves the water – as a surfer, both in the water and online.

Arthur has maintained a summer residence in town since 1992, helping transport swimmers to Long Point at numerous Swims for Life. Now at seventy-one, inspired by perennially swimmer Harry Arnini who is 89, he has decided it is time to take the plunge and share the challenge with his grandson by his side.

Celebrating its 23rd year, the Provincetown Swim for Life & Paddler Flotilla will welcome swimmers and kayakers from across the country on Saturday, September 11 for this weekend benefit for AIDS, women's health services and the community. The 2009 event raised \$200,000 from 363 swimmers and dozens of kayakers. Beneficiaries include the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Helping Our Women, Outer Cape Health Services, Provincetown Rescue Squad, Lower Cape Ambulance, Soup Kitchen in Provincetown and the Academy at Provincetown High School. Business sponsors for 2010 to date include: Provincetown Banner, Paul Mitchell, Boatslip Resort, Far Land Provisions, White Porch Inn, Seamen's Bank, Lobster Pot Restaurant and Fanizzi's Restaurant. The event is also sponsored in part by the Provincetown Tourism Fund.

This popular post-Labor Day celebration and quintessential community event will be held at the Boatslip Resort, 161 Commercial Street, and includes the Mermaid Brunch, entertainment and the awards ceremony. The Celebration of Life Concert will be held at the Meeting House on Friday evening, produced by John Thomas. Local community radio station WOMR 92.1 FM (www.womr.org) will once again broadcast the event live and online from the Boatslip Resort and from the starting line at Long Point.

For registration forms for swimmers, paddlers, security boaters, volunteers and sponsorship opportunities, or to make a donation, contact: Swim for Life, P.O. Box 819, Provincetown, MA 02657, 508-487-1930, email, thecomact@comcast.net, and at its website, www.swim4life.org.