The Star of India

- The Star of India is a sailing ship, meaning she uses sails to catch the wind, which drives her forward.
- She was completed more than 150 years ago on November 14, 1863, on the Isle of Man, which is near the United Kingdom.
- She was originally named the Euterpe, after the Greek muse of music and poetry.
- She was built with an iron “hull,” or body, even though at that time most ships were made with wooden hulls.
- She is 205 feet long and 35 feet wide.
- Originally, her main job was sailing to India to transport cargo.
- At that time sailing was dangerous and the Euterpe met with plenty of obstacles.
- On her first voyage, there was a collision and a mutiny (a mutiny is when the sailors refuse to obey their captain)
- On her second voyage, she was hit by a cyclone, which is a very dangerous type of storm, and barely made it to a port. Shortly after that, her first captain died and was buried at sea.
- In 1871, she started transporting immigrants to New Zealand. She made 21 trips and circumnavigated (went around) the world 21 times.
- In 1906 she was sold to the Alaskan Packers Association and renamed The Star of India.
- She made 22 Alaskan voyages and then stopped transporting cargo in 1923.
- In 1926 she was sold to the San Diego Zoological Society.
- There were plans to restore the ship but the Great Depression of the late 1920s-early 30s delayed the restoration.
- The restoration finally began in the late 1950s.
- On July 4, 1976 she finally sailed again in celebration of the United States’ bicentennial (200-year anniversary).
- The Star of India is now a part of the San Diego Maritime Museum on the Embarcadero on San Diego Bay.
- She is the fourth oldest ship still afloat and the oldest ship in the world that still regularly sails.
The Star of India

Photo by Gerald W. Shonkwiler, AIA Emeritus
The Berkeley

- The Berkeley was built over 120 years ago, in 1898
- The Berkeley is 279 feet long and 64 feet wide
- She has a unique architectural style that showcases the look of the Victorian era: detailed and ornate decorations
- She is a ferry boat, meaning she was designed to transport passengers back and forth for short distances
- She was originally built to run on steam, meaning her engines burned coal to boil water which made steam, and this provided power to drive her forward
- The Berkeley operated on the San Francisco Bay, traveling back and forth between the Oakland Pier and the San Francisco Ferry Building; this was a very important job because there were no bridges there at that time, so traveling by boat was the shortest and fastest way to travel to different parts of the bay
- In 1906, San Francisco was hit with a terrible earthquake which destroyed many buildings and cause fires all over the city. After the earthquake, the Berkeley’s captain and crew worked day and night, rescuing thousands of people from the burning city and bringing them to safety.
- She continued to operate on the San Francisco Bay for 60 years, before retiring from service in 1958
- In 1973 she was sold to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. She was towed by tug boat from San Francisco, arriving in San Diego 3 days later, where she was then restored.
- Because of the Berkeley’s unique design and special history, she is a California State Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark
- She is now a part of the San Diego Maritime Museum on the Embarcadero on San Diego Bay
The Berkeley

Photo by Anne Militante