



St. Nicholas' Bag

Winter 2006

Come aboard an evening harbor cruise on the Duchess of Pintail



How much do you really know about the Port of Baltimore? Did you know that the Port of Baltimore is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year? (www.portofbaltimore300.org.) Learn more from those who have spent their lives working in our Port. Enjoy lively speakers, complimentary refreshments, good company and an early evening tour of the harbor. The cabin is enclosed and climate-controlled.

Departure Date: **Thursday, March 30, 2006.**

Boarding: **Inner Harbor Pier 5 at 5:15 pm SHARP.**
Returning about 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$50 per person

Space is limited, so please make your reservations in advance, using the form on page 3. Thanks are offered to Dave Stambaugh of the Baltimore Maritime Exchange who has agreed to coordinate the reservations on behalf of the Seafarers' Center. Reservations may be made by email, (manager@balmx.org), by fax 410.327.4847 or by phone 410.342.6610. Your reservation will be confirmed on receipt of your check that must be received by March 17th 2006. Checks should be made payable to "The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center" and mailed to 1430 Wallace Street, Baltimore MD 21230. If you would like to receive a written confirmation of your reservation, please provide an e-mail address or stamped self-addressed envelope with your remittance.

Proceeds from this cruise will benefit the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, a non-profit corporation serving merchant seafarers who call at the Port of Baltimore. We are most grateful to Nautical Destinations for donating their services to help us hire this beautiful yacht.

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Director's Log—Where in the world is our Director?

Since our last issue, Mary has preached and/or spoken at six Maryland Episcopal churches as well as St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Aberdeen. While all sermon preparation and preaching are in addition to Mary's full-time work week at the Center, all proceeds go directly into the Center budget. Mary participates in a variety of Port meetings, and has of-



Mary (on left) at the reflagging of the M/V Alliance New York on 10 November, 2005.

ferred non-sectarian invocations at

several events, including one in conjunction with The Rev. Msgr. John Fitzgerald. In October, Mary and Allene Taylor attended a meeting of the North American Maritime Ministry Association in Montreal.

Bringing Christmas to seafarers

Some seafarers go 8 to 10 years without the opportunity to spend December 25 at home. In 2005, we had the joy of distributing 777 Christmas boxes to 32 crews. Thank you to Christmas at Sea donors Augsburg Lutheran Village, Luther Memorial Church, Ascension Church, Reformation Church, Church of the Redemption, Shrine of the Little Flower, Church of Our Redeemer, St. John's in Linthicum, Old St. Paul's Church, Sherwood Church, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran, Ms. Debbie Krause, the Catholic Daughters, Westminster area churches, and Salem Evangelical Lutheran. Note: while we receive many boxes from Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and others, the majority of our gifts come from the Women of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Some of their gifts are delivered in one batch from several parishes; we apologize for any church names

we may have omitted.

Christmas boxes consist of men's items wrapped in **medium-sized shoeboxes.** (Please! **Nothing larger! We don't have the personnel to carry large boxes across dangerous terminals and up steep**

gangways.) Items are non-perishable, so why not get started on Christmas 2006 this summer? Please contact the Center at 410-685-1240 or MaryHTDavisson@aol.com.



Captain and crew of the Star Languanger with Director Mary Dvisson, who received Christmas Boxes thanks to our many friends and churches who prepare these gifts all summer.

What does it feel like to be a seafarer?

While we don't pressure seafarers to confide more than they wish, many have volunteered striking descriptions of their lives.

"I feel like I'm on duty 24/7 when I'm on board ship. When I finally get home I feel like a tourist. My 2-year-old doesn't remember me."

"I like this crew and how everyone works together."

"The saddest day is when we board the ship, and the happiest day is when we come home."

"I like seeing different places."

"I feel like a prisoner" (from one of

the many seafarers prevented by ever-tighter work schedules and ever-stricter security rules from going ashore, even to a phone booth 200 yards away).

"We need seafarers' centers, because usually there's no one else taking care of our needs."

Individuals and Churches are key to our work

Our work depends on the donations of individuals and groups. Since the last issue of this newsletter, we are particularly grateful for:

Substantial gift of stock from Miss Margaret Tyson.

\$2,500 grant from the Propeller Club Charitable Trust, Inc.

Substantial checks from Holy Trinity, Bowie; Holy Comforter, Lutherville; Ed and Barbara Munro; and Inchcape Marine.

Continued support of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland including \$12,000 this year, and use of its photocopier and mailing lists.

The Lutheran Association of Maritime Ministry contributed in a generous response to our participation in the Lutheran Global Ministry Event. An October 23 benefit concert by Mr. Greg Szczeszek and Ms. Megan Amoss at Sherwood Church (Episcopal) netted over \$600, includ-

ing donations from William and Jean Bonta, Laurence and Susan Boucher, Noreen Honeycutt, Laura Pindell, Linda and Michael Roberts, Louisa Schaffer, The Rev. Joanna White, Ralph and Anne Wismer, and anonymous donors to the open plate offering.

Donations in kind have been too many to list, but we especially appreciate clothes and magazines collected by St. Paul's Church, Baltimore; St. Paul's School for Girls; Holy Trinity, Bowie; and Mr. Bob Miller in conjunction with Salem Lutheran and other Catonsville area churches.

We are also very grateful to members of the Port business community who support us financially: Atlantic Container Lines, Bill Lukowski, Evergreen, Hoegh, John S. Connor, Norton Lilly, T. Parker Host, Terminal, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines .

Individual donors since our last newsletter include Ms. Carolyn Workman, The Rev. Sarah Standiford, William and Mary Benedict (in honor of Roger White and Gene Doan), Vicki Willard, Hugh Stierhoff, Robert and Allene Taylor, Jacki Murphy, Capt. Bertil Haney, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tom and Jane Johnson, The Rev. Mary Davisson, Steuart Thomsen, Joan Bolton, Randi Donselar, The Rev. Mariann Babnis, Capt. George Miller, Pam and Pat Arey, Louise and Fredrik Bockman (in honor of Stuart and Alice Bockman), Brenda Kovacs, Helen and John Thomsen, and Anne and Sheldon Slater.

We are also grateful for a very generous anonymous donation in honor of the ministries of Bro. Ed Munro, Ms. Barbara Munro, Ms. Allene Taylor, and The Rev. Mary Davisson.

If we have omitted or misspelled your name, please contact us.

Meet Our Board Members on our March cruise

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is blessed with a dedicated and creative board, most of whom will be on our first cruise. **President Bud Nixon** shared his commitment in the last issue. **Allene Taylor**, our Vice President is a long-time volunteer who works three days each week visiting ship crews.

Don Carroll, of T. Parker Host, and **Nora Garman**, of the Women of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recently joined the Board. **Doug Stevenson**, an attorney with the Center for Seafarers' Rights, shares with us the experience he has gained at the Seamen's Church Institute, New York. Members from the Baltimore port community include **Rupert Denney** (C. Steinweg Baltimore), **Mike Derby** (Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines), Capt. **George Miller** (Association of Maryland Pilots), **Bill Settle** (John S. Connor, Inc.), and Capt. **Robert Stegman** (Association of Maryland Pilots). The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is represented by **The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff**, Bishop, and **The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool**.

WELCOME ABOARD THE BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS' CENTER PORT CRUISE!

Please reserve a berth for the following passengers:

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ [\$50 per person].

We are unable to sail with you, but please accept our \$_____ contribution to the Center's work for the seafarers of our Port.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred means of contact: Phone Mail Email

Please mail your check to:

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, 1430 Wallace Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

Question may be directed to the Baltimore Maritime Exchange via e-mail: manager@balmx.org, fax:

410.327.4847 or phone: 410.342.6610.

**Baltimore International
Seafarers' Center**

1430 Wallace Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone: 410-685-1240
Fax: 410-685-1241

E-mail: Baltseafarers@aol.com

www.baltseafarers.Ang-MD.org



**Serving those who go down
to the sea in ships.**

How You Can Help

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is an independent non-profit corporation which depends upon contributions and other donations to fulfill its mission. The Center is recognized by the IRS as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions are deductible in accordance with law. The Center files IRS form 990, which is available for inspection at the Center or at www.guidestar.org. Your contribution will help us to serve seafarers visiting the Port of Baltimore.

We can also use donations of men's clothing; Sports Illustrated, recent newsmagazines, National Geographic, Reader's Digest, and Russian and Chinese newspapers and magazines. All deliveries of donations are by appointment only. Please call 410-685-1240.

Please make checks payable to the "Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, Inc."

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred means of contact: Phone Mail Email

Please mail your contribution to:

**Baltimore International Seafarers' Center
1430 Wallace Street
Baltimore, MD 21230**

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