

St. Nicholas' Bag

The Newsletter of the Baltimore
International Seafarers' Center

Winter 2017



“A Big Thank You to the Whole Community of Baltimore”

So wrote the Captain of the Newlead Granadino via a Thanksgiving email to BISC, followed by personal thanks to Director Mary Davisson at Christmas. Since late September, when engine and financial issues stranded this vessel at anchor, BISC has stayed in communication with International Transport Workers Federation's hard-working inspector Barbara Shipley, the Coast Guard, and Seafarers International Union Port Agent Elizabeth Brown. Much of our work was coordinating donations (kindly stored by SIU) and fielding offers. These included internet provided by Believe, TV's from James Bartlett and from Apostleship of the Sea, rosaries from Emmanuel Episcopal, warm clothes and toiletries collected by BISC's own ecumenical personnel (Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran), phone cards and more warm clothes paid for by Inter Orient (manning agency), and abundant warm clothes and food from generous Marylanders.



Director Mary Davisson (second from right) escorted representatives of the Philippines Embassy (in life vests) via a McAllister tug to visit with crew of the Newlead Granadino. Photo courtesy of Philippines Embassy and published with permission of captain.

Thanks to McAllister Towing, the Maryland Pilots, and Steinweg Terminal, Mary visited the crew six times to listen, pray, deliver necessities and family care packages, and escort a relative on board. McAllister, the Maryland Pilots, and Vane Brothers facilitated numerous other deliveries. Meanwhile, BISC and AOS volunteers continued their long and faithful hours assisting others of the 2,000 crews who dock Baltimore annually.

See page 8 for a late-breaking update!

BISC can only respond to crews in crisis if we maintain relationships with crews and port partners year round. Thank you for supporting our van maintenance and other expenses with your check to Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, 1430 Wallace St., Baltimore MD 21230, or visit Baltseafarers.org to donate via Paypal.



The Sorrows of Ship Visits . . .

BISC Staff

Director:
The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson

Associate Chaplain (volunteer):
Allene Taylor

Treasurer:
John Thompson

Office volunteers:
The Rev. Tony Hollis

Seafarers International House chaplain: Pastor Bob Schmitt

Baltimore Baptist Association chaplain: Pastor Don Bryant

Volunteer ship visitors:
Ted Bedford, Rich Douglas, Capt. Mike Flanagan, Bob Garske, Dick Hires, Carole Hires, The Rev. Linda Hollis, Larry Long, Tim Martin, Jim Ridenour, Capt. Jim Roof, Lee Van Koten

St. Nicholas' Bag Newsletter:
Editor-in-Chief: Mary Davisson
Designer and Production: Ed Davisson

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Martin Reisinger

Facebook Administrator:
Sarah Miranda

BISC's ministry to seafarers in distress, whether an entire crew (p. 1) or individuals, is ecumenical. A Lutheran volunteer offered compassionate listening to a seafarer who had been part of an unsuccessful rescue attempt at sea. A week later, our Baptist pastor prayed with a seafarer whose wife had died suddenly; the next day, a Roman Catholic volunteer brought him a rosary. That same day, a conversation was begun by an Episcopal chaplain and continued by a Presbyterian volunteer, with a seafarer who had lost several former crewmates in a vessel collision.



Our annual retreat, kindly hosted by St. Thomas' Church in Towson, included prayers for seafarers in distress and checking in about lighter topics.

And the Joys!

Sometimes ship visiting is much more light-hearted! Please enjoy the photos below:



Volunteer Larry Long facilitated a trip to D.C. for crew from the Atlantic Cartier.

Baptist Pastor Don Bryant brought two men from the Star Lima to the Locust Point tennis courts.



And More Joys!

Three of our favorite things are helping seafarers worship, bringing music into their lives, and facilitating family reunions. Up to several times a month, we provide free security escort so that foreign seafarers can meet up with family members who have migrated to this area.

Volunteer Larry Long transported eleven seafarers from the M/V Rockies Highway to New Light Lutheran Church on Christmas Day. The photo, courtesy of New Light, shows their Advent wreath just before Christmas.



Seafarers International House Chaplain Bob Schmitt transported a crew member from the M/V Tamerlane to buy a drum set.

BISC facilitated several family get-togethers for a crew member of the Jaeger, docked at Canton 11.



So please consider becoming a part of the BISC team, to welcome the invisible servants of our global economy. If you are in reasonably good health, are willing to respect seafarers from all over the world, have a good driving record, and can commit to one shift a week, please call 410-685-1240 or write baltseafarers@aol.com for more information.

Ship Visitors Around Maryland, Around the World!

During the second half of 2016, Director Mary Davisson preached at the following Episcopal churches: Christ the King (Woodlawn), Ascension Scarboro (Harford County), Messiah (Baltimore), and St. Mark's (Highland). Jim Ridenour and Linda Hollis represented BISC at the ministry fairs of the Episcopal Cathedral and Catonsville Presbyterian respectively. We thank all these churches for their support!



Chaplains Maggie Whittingham-Lamont (Halifax), Allene Taylor (Baltimore), Marge Lindstrom (Newark, retired), and Mary Davisson at the summer 2016 North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference in Portsmouth VA.



Jason Zuidema, Executive Director of the North American Maritime Ministry Association, with Don and Chris Bryant at the summer 2016 Port Ministries International conference. Pastor Don expanded his ministry at BISC via a full-time 12-week internship this summer, administered by NAMMA and funded by the International Transport Workers Federation Seafarers Trust.



Director Mary Davisson (fourth from left) with Mission to Seafarers-Manila staff, clergy of the Philippines Independent Church's Cathedral in Manila, and fellow "ICMA Ahoy" students this September. "ICMA Ahoy" was an intensive one-week training about Filipino seafarers' culture offered by the International Christian Maritime Association. Mary was privileged to join Cathedral clergy at the altar!

Happy to support the important work of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center



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Check out

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/mit-ags-helps-84-year-old-achieve-bucket-list-dream>

for Allene Taylor's adventures with a crane operation simulator, and

watch **Port of Baltimore Magazine** for an article about Mary Davisson's training in Manila!

Baltimore International Seafarers Center invites you to

Join us!

for a waterside tour of the
Port of Baltimore

Wednesday April 26, 2017



- Park:** Discount coupons available on board for the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Garage (the hotel is at 550 Light St. near Lee St.; enter the garage from Lee St.)
- Board:** 4:45 pm (PROMPTLY) at the Baltimore Finger Piers on Light St. between the Visitors' Center and the Science Center (GPS = 555 Light St.) returning by 7:00 pm
- Enjoy:** Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, soda, beer, wine (cash bar for spirits), and of course - great company!

Reservations

(Past cruises have sold out!)

Send your check by April 5 for \$60 per guest to

*Baltimore International Seafarers' Center
1430 Wallace St.
Baltimore, MD 21230*

Please mark it "cruise" and include names of all guests, if possible, for nametag purposes.
Enclose your e-address or S.A.S.E. if you require confirmation.

Prefer PayPal? Visit BaltSeafarers.org

Sponsorship Levels Available

Cruise:	\$1,500 (8 passengers)
Admiral:	\$1,000 (6 passengers)
Captain:	\$500 (3 passengers)
Ensign:	\$250 (2 passengers)
Seaman:	\$100 (1 passenger)

*Please consider a sponsorship to
increase your support of the Seafarers' Center*



Additional Information: 410.685.1240 or MaryHTDavisson@aol.com

Sixty-seven Crews Thank You

Thank you to all who helped us gift crews in Sparrows Point, Dundalk, Canton, Locust Point, Fairfield, and Curtis Bay!

Lutherans: Salem Catonsville, Christ Millersville, Thrivent Financial, Christ Inner Harbor, Prince of Peace Rosedale, Holy Trinity Laurel, Zion downtown, Zion in Hummelstown PA (!), St. John Parkville, St. Michael Perry Hall, St. Andrew's Parkville, St. Paul Lutherville, St. John Linthicum, St. Martin's Annapolis, St. John Westminster, Epiphany, St. John's Pimlico, Grace Westminster, St. Luke's Harford Rd., New Light Dundalk, Rejoice Fellowship Glen Burnie, Ascension Towson, St. John's Brooklyn, St. Luke's Dundalk, Jane Johnson.

Episcopal: Holy Trinity Essex, Middleham and St. Peter's Lusby, St. Paul's Mt. Airy, St. Matthias, Redemption, Allene Taylor, Lisa and Bruce Laire, St. James Lothian, St. David's, Christ Columbia, St. Mark's Highland, Holy Cross Rocks, The Rev. Lance Gifford and Margie Campbell.

Other: Nativity-Holy Comforter "Lutherpalians," St. Ignatius Loyola in cooperation with the Maryland Pilots, employees of Maryland Port Administration, Catonsville Presbyterian, Anne Clasing and Catholic Daughters, employees of Rukert Terminals, Lauren Turnblacer, employees of Amports East, Maritime Industries Academy, Erhard Kohler and friends of N.S. Savannah, employees of US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.



Students from St. Ignatius Academy assembled 50 gifts with the help of the Association of Maryland Pilots, who provided this photo.

Heartfelt Thanks

BISC salutes the following leadership donors from the second half of 2016: St. Mark's Highland, The George and Ruth Babylon Foundation, Friendly Inn, Propeller Club of Baltimore, The Marion L. and Henry J. Knott Foundation, The Rev. Mary Davisson, Operations LLC, Old St. Paul's, The Rev. Scott Bellows, Capt. Michael Flanagan, Catonsville Presbyterian Church, The Stewart B. Eckers Charitable Trust, The Glennan Family Charitable Fund, Michael and Jan Prenger, The Vane Brothers Company, Nativity Cedarcroft, APS East Coast, Mr. Steuart H. Thomsen, Mr. John and Ms. Ashby Thompson, Ms. Alice Bockman, Vessel Ops Inc., Ms. Louise Y. Meledin.



The Rev. Taylor Smith, Abby Mudd, Trevor Romaine, and The Rev. Mary Davisson at St. Mark's Highland.

We also thank: Ms. Aurora Bautista, St. Hilda's, Mr. Wayne Dornbirer II, Ms. Anne Turner Keifer, Pete and Ellie Randrup, Capt. Richard Shea, Ms. Mary Spilman Davisson (in honor of the Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson), The Revs. Linda and Tony Hollis, Baltimore maritime law firms, Mr. Walter and Ms. Barbara Clifford in honor of BISC volunteer Bob Garske, The Rev. Timothy Grayson, Ms. Tania DuBeau, Emmanuel Episcopal Church (The Rev. Joseph Wood's Discretionary Fund), Ms. Lesley Radius, Mr. Edwin S. Davisson, Ms. Linda Deponai, Mr. Ingrid Kleinsorg, Mr. Joseph Knepper, Ms. Helen Wheeler, Ms. Christine Cleary, The Munro Family Trust, Mr. Thomas Lamm, Ms. Grace Crowder, Hugh and Katharine Stierhoff Charitable Fund—a Donor Advised Fund of the U.S. Charitable Gift Trust, Mr. Thomas Lamm, Ms. Elizabeth Bowers, Christ Lutheran Millersville, Mr. Robert and Ms. Shirley Noll, Ocean Ship, Ms. Nancy Ihloff, Mr. David and Ms. Teresa Thomas, Mr. Keith and

Ms. Cynthia Bart, Dr. N. F. Adkinson, The Rev. John S. Cassell, Capt. John C. Traut, Mr. Richard Shea, Mr. Roy Parsons, Ms. Pamela Cady, Ms. Fay Willey, Mr. James Ridenour, The Rev. Charles Cloughen, Mr. Wayne Dornbirer, Ms. Karen and Mr. Edward Stokes, Holy Trinity Lutheran (Laurel), Mr. Ray Scurr, Ms. Cary Lee Barton, St. John Lutheran Women (Linthicum), Capt. George Miller, Ms. Carolyn Boyle, Ms. Molly

Heartfelt Thanks (continued)

Weems, Ms. Laura Gilliam, The Rev. Herbert Lodder, Ms. Margaret Kamp, Ms. Eileen Shelley Menton, Ms. Brenda Kovacs, The Rev. Ellie Thober, The Rev. Lance Gifford, Mr. Charles E. Partridge, Ms. Gloria Jeanne Petit-Clair, Mr. Mark Tilyou, Ms. Sidney Turner (in honor of Lee Van Koten), Ms. Mary R. Warfield, Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Susan Whitman, Sherwood Episcopal Church, Ms. Rebecca Doris, Mr. Bob and Ms. Randi Donselar, Mr. Gislin Dagnelie, Mr. Craig Merson.

BISC Supporters Go for the Green

The historic Elkridge Club golf course and outstanding food scored a hole in one at our October 2016 golf outing!

Many thanks to the following leadership sponsors of this event: McAllister Towing, Ports America Chesapeake, Atlantic Container Lines, Steamship Trade Association, Rukert Terminals, Propeller Club of Baltimore

Thank you also to our hole sponsors: Mary Davisson, E.O. Davisson, St. Mark's Highland, John and Ashby Thompson, Council of American Master Mariners, Baltimore Maritime Exchange, Allene Taylor, St. David's Church, Rick Buck and Keller Stonebraker Insurance, The Claggett Center, Ober Kaler, T. Parker Host, Tri Gas and Oil, Environmental Recovery Corporation, Terminal Shipping, Church of the Redeemer, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Bob and Marie Garske, General Ship.



And the winners were: port leaders Rob Herb, Sunil Ahluwalia, Noel Mouritzen, and Mike Lynch took first place at our October 2016 golf outing. Come join us October 5, 2017, at the beautiful Elkridge Club!

In Memoriam

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center deeply regrets to announce the death in summer 2016 of The Rev. George Ward, an Episcopal deacon who served on BISC's Board until 2004.

We will also sorely miss Donald Carroll, who served faithfully on the Board from 2005 until his death in fall 2016. Don had retired from T. Parker Host's Baltimore office, which he opened in 1986.

BISC thanks those who donated in memory of Don Carroll: Propeller Club of Baltimore, St. David's Church, T. Parker Host Ship Agents, Ms. Amy Ailinger, Mr. Brian and Ms. Pamela Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. James Stone, Ms. Grace Crowder, Ms. Maureen Nicholson, Mr. Charles E. Partridge.

BISC

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

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The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

1430 Wallace Street | Baltimore, MD 21230

410.685.1240 | baltseafarers@aol.com | www.baltseafarers.org

BISC

Baltimore
International
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Center



BISC provided a dozen rides to the crew of the Lady Serra while they were docked at Domino for over a week.



The Basic Brave was docked at Steinweg Terminal, our nearest neighbor. During several visits to our center, they relaxed, used wi-fi, visited the chapel, and picked up free rosaries. Able-Bodied Seaman Mark Canera (standing, right) showed us his phone with a photo of our center from a 2012 visit!



The M/V Talisman sent us this photo of their celebration with BISC gifts.

Just before press time, the Newlead Granadino was moved safely to a dock. BISC was able to run an errand for six more crew members preparing to fly home, and to bid them farewell. More at [Facebook.com/BaltSeafarers!](https://www.facebook.com/BaltSeafarers/)

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center