

# ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

**"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"**

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**International Night Out - A Glorious Fun-Filled Success!**

*Anne B. Hurley*

Described by one attendee as a “jam-packed fun-filled evening,” our 18<sup>th</sup> International Night Out was an overwhelming success. Volunteers, guests, board members, and staff enjoyed multi-cultural cuisine, live music, and beverages from throughout the globe.

Delighted bidders roamed freely among silent auction tables, seizing the opportunity to purchase a wide array of offerings. Kayak tours, food tours, fishing tours and theatre tickets were just a few generating high interest. The most unusual was a pilot boat trip for six to and from a car carrier. As final minutes ticked by, fierce bidding occurred.

Newlywed Rev. Becky Rowell had her eye on a stay at the Jekyll Island Club, a possible birthday gift from her new husband. “I was thrilled when I heard ‘Step away from the table’ and knew we had won it,” voiced Becky.

For Richard Cowan, the most enjoyable aspect was “being with our fellow guests” and the ensuing camaraderie. Maggie Glennon echoed his words, impressed with “the willingness of everybody to mix and mingle.” Susan Irwin and Jim Else praised the buffets with the prime rib being the favorite.

“This was our first International Night Out,” said volunteer Jo Scott, accompanied by her husband Davis. “The foods, especially the desserts, were delicious.” *Continued on page 5...*

**ISC Calendar**

Volunteer Training 10:30 am-1:00 PM	11/27
Board Christmas Party 11:30 am-1:00 PM	12/7
ISC Christmas Party First United Methodist Church 5:30-7:30 PM	12/14
Stewbilee	1/26



**A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...***Vicki West*

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)



Welcome to “Fall” in Southeastern Georgia. The seasons may change but the Bible says that our Lord never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. It may be time to set the “earthly” clock to “fall” back, BUT the “time” here at the International Seafarer’s Center is always on “spring” forward. The mandate of the ISC “taking Christ to the Nations” is always moving onward and upward for His glory.

During these last 4 months our volunteer pool has been very limited due to our snowbirds migrating North to escape the hot and humid temperatures in our area. But, as always, the needs of our seafaring friends take precedence and our fantastic “local” volunteers stepped up and went above and beyond as always to handle all the needs. Thank you volunteer family, **YOU ARE ALL AMAZING!!** Now as the snowbirds begin to return, it is with heavy heart that we must say good-bye to Rolf Bueken who has been a mainstay with the ISC for 13 years. He retired from our ranks in August of this year. You will be greatly missed, Rolf.

As you all may be aware, Robert Randall will be retiring as our Director of Volunteer Services October 31, 2018 after 11 years of service. **THANK YOU ROBERT** for helping to make the International Seafarers’ Center what it is today. As Robert leaves, we welcome Clay Hoffman as our new Director of Volunteer Services. Clay has been onboard with us for a little over 1 year, first as a volunteer and then as assistant to our Store Manager, Linda Haines. Clay has been learning the “ropes” from Robert all Summer thanks to NAMMA and their Intern program.

WOW is all I can say of our gracious Lord. Just as all our renovations are complete, The Coastal Foundation of the Greater Atlanta once again has asked what projects we may need help with from yet **ANOTHER** anonymous donor. He never fails us!! We will be sending our requests shortly to see what God will do this time. The beautiful outside landscaping won us the prestigious “Clean Sweep” award for last quarter. Our goal of ISC being a household name is truly taking shape.

Now, last but certainly not least, is our event of the year, the International Night Out. Once again thank you to the management and event staff of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel for working with us to make this fundraiser a success. To my Staff and Board **YOU ARE ALL AMAZING!!!** To Linda Haines for all her work on the silent auction and Georgia Barron for her work on the live auction, I applaud you!!!! Thank you to Anne Hurley for being our “local” reporter and Jim Patrick for taking wonderful pictures to document this event.

Moving forward to **LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS** we are ready to begin implementing a volunteer Chaplaincy program. Thank you to Tom Scott and Joe Carter for coming on board to join our program.

Now in closing let me just say....**THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!!**

Numbers 6:24-26: “May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you and give you peace.”

Love in Christ,  
Vicki

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**THE ISC Board and Management would like to express our heartiest thanks and gratitude to the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who contributed to the overall success of our 18th Annual International Night Out:**

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George Yarborough

#### **Sponsorships**

Bill Dawson  
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Bob Miller

#### **Live Auction Coordinator**

Georgia Barron

#### **Silent Auction Coordinator**

Linda Haines

#### **Silent Auction Team Members**

Muriel Christin  
Gail Cowan  
Jack McConnell  
Iris Shadrick

#### **Wall of Wine Coordinators**

Jack & Jeanne Earle McConnell

#### **Live Auctioneer**

Ron Wilcox

#### **Event Volunteers**

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Kim Antic  
Kern Baker  
Stephen Barron  
Van Black  
Angus Campbell  
Gail Cowan  
Barbara Dukes  
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Anne Hurley  
Susan Irwin  
Nancy Langwig  
Dan & Diane Lawton  
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Jo Scott  
Jeff Shadrick  
ISC Board and Staff

Our special thanks also go to Stan Walker and the Coastal Empire Orchestra and Ernie Elam for sharing their gift of music and to the staff and management of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel for their unwavering support and wonderful cooperation that made the evening memorable and most delectable.

## INO 2018 SILENT AUCTION/LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Academy Sports + Outdoors	Frederica House	Nalley
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Catch 228 Oyster Bar & Grill	Jack McConnell	Simply Mac
Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen	Jekyll Island Authority	Skippers Fish Camp
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Coastal Georgia Inshore	Jekyll Island Club Hotel	Southern Soul Barbecue
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Rentals	Club & Golf Resort	The Half Shell at the Pier
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Driftwood Bistro	Millhouse Steakhouse	Zachry's Seafood &
Fancy Q Sushi Bar & Grill	Myles Kilby & Associates, Inc.	Steak Restaurant

**TO OUR SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS, ABOVE**

**THANK YOU**

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

International Night Out ...continued from page 1

The highlight of the event was an upscale live auction, which included destination vacations. When a Dolphin Tour for 49 people came up, Rev. Tom Purdy of Christ Church snatched it. "It's for the kids," he explained, while planning the adventurous Sunday School outing.

According to Executive Director Vicki West, the entertaining event has an important mission. "The International Seafarers' Center is a non-profit and is dependent on donations. This is our main funding source for the year. Our centers in Brunswick and on Colonel's Island provide a respite for seafarers from all over the world, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. We offer hospitality, ministry, and transportation for shopping and medical care. ISC volunteers and staff visit ships to assess the crew's needs and assure them they have support and a safe harbor, though far from home."

One of the most popular efforts of the Center is the distribution of Christmas shoeboxes and bags for visiting seafarers during the holidays. The gifts are filled with useful items such as pocket calendars, pens, notepads, socks, watch caps, toiletry items, toothpaste and brushes and other essentials.

Approximately 12,000 seafarers visit our Seafarers' Centers each year. The Brunswick Port is gaining increasing importance in Georgia as one of the main car and wood pellet distribution centers in the United States and its impact on Georgia's economy is growing. If you wish to donate or volunteer your services, please contact Clay Hoffman or Sherry Connor at the International Seafarers' Center at 912-267-0631.

INO 2018  
Photo Gallery



INO Photo Gallery continued from page 5...



## My Internship with the North American Maritime Ministry Association Clay Hoffman

Being provided an internship from the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA) has been an honor. While it has not been a normal internship, it has been one that seems to have come at precisely the right time. I was in training to take over for Robert as volunteer coordinator, and we received the grant from NAMMA that allowed me to start a few months early. There is grace in that grant because when I began, I was not sure that I could complete a full day, and now I go home in the evening knowing that I can not only complete a full day, but I usually have energy to spare. I am so very thankful for the opportunity to serve our Seafarers, all of our volunteers, and most importantly Christ.

As a NAMMA intern, I have had the opportunity to learn the finer points of ship visiting and about the distinctive needs of the seafarer first hand. In a world of constant communication and perceived connection, the seafarers are a more isolated group of people, sometimes for long periods. They have unique spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges due to their unique circumstances. Many have accepted positions on ships because they are told they will get a chance to see the world, only to find that they rarely see much more than the ramp being raised and lowered on the back of the ship. If they complain, there is great fear that they will be black balled by the industry and not allowed to work on any ship. I learned that while they may get 2 months a year off to spend with their families, they are increasingly asked to complete new training for at least a month of that time.

At the NAMMA conference in Baltimore, I learned more about the difficulties of the seafarers when I asked NAMMA's executive director, Jason Zuidema, about the retirement benefits that the seafarers have. His answer was alarming. There are none! Even though most of them are working for some of the largest shipping companies in the world, because of their 10 month contracts, they have no retirement benefits at all. This is further complicated by the fact that most of them come from countries that are far from stable and light years away from any form of social security.

On the brighter side of things, I have learned about the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) and made contact with them to help with the seafarer complaints that we receive. I believe that their attorneys may even be able to shed some light on the retirement benefit problem, and hopefully lobby for solutions going forward.

Overall, my internship has been eye opening. I am forever grateful for the opportunity, and although saddened by what I have learned, I am also encouraged because I know no matter the situation or circumstances, the Lord is the answer.



2018 NAMMA interns and their sponsors. ISC Executive Director Vicki West and new Coordinator of Volunteer Services Clay Hoffman are at far right in the front row.

## Welcome Aboard Nancy



Nancy Langwig is the newest staff member in the ISC family. She began her employment as Assistant Storekeeper on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, but had been in training with Linda Haines and Clay Hoffman for weeks prior. Welcome, Nancy.

Nancy is originally from Syracuse, NY. Her education is in Special Education, Psychology, and Gerontology. Nancy has recently located to Brunswick from Oklahoma. In her “down” time, Nancy likes to take a stroll along the beach. Nancy has been a volunteer with the International Seafarers’ Center for approximately 1 year. Nancy states that the ISC is her new cause.

We are glad you have come aboard, Nancy!!

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!



Have a passion for the maritime life? Enjoy learning about world cultures? Like making new friends?

Call us at 912-267-0631 to find out how you can be involved in our mission.

Amazon Smile

Don't forget to select the International Seafarers' Center as your supported charity when you shop at:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

## Christ Church, Frederica is proud to sponsor the International Seafarers' Center!

*Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.*

*Psalm 107:23-25, 28-30*



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912/652.0599

### Clean Sweep Award Presented to the ISC



**Clean Sweep Award presented to Jack McConnell by Lea King-Badnya, Executive Director of Keep Golden Isles Beautiful**

Seven (7) esteemed members of the community scour the city for those Profit and Non-Profit businesses that take pride in keeping their properties clean and beautiful. The Clean Sweep Award was presented to us by Keep Golden Isles Beautiful for the second quarter of 2018.

Thank you Judy Wolfe for all of your hard work in the amazing landscaping and to Fendig Signs for our new sign. Jack McConnell thank you so very much for accepting this wonderful award on behalf of the ISC.

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## WANTED!!

### GOOD WINTER CLOTHING

Our clothes closets for the seafarers are in need of warm winter clothing, particularly heavy coats for men.

Bring your donations to our main Center at 307 Newcastle Street in Brunswick.

The seafarers will thank you.

## SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM New Hope for Patients With Severe Asthma

The number of people living with asthma has nearly doubled over the last 40 years, according to the National Health Interview Survey, and Southeast Georgia is no exception. But, thanks to recent scientific breakthroughs, there's a new procedure that has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of life for people who have trouble controlling their asthma.

The procedure, called bronchial thermoplasty, uses a tiny heating element to destroy some of the muscle tissue in the airway that contracts during an asthma attack. With less muscle to close the airway, attacks are less frequent and less severe. In fact, a recent study has shown that those who undergo bronchial thermoplasty experience an average of 32 percent fewer severe attacks, 84 percent fewer emergency room visits, and 66 percent less time lost from work, school or other daily activities due to asthma symptoms.



Kevin M. Fussell, M.D., medical director, Pulmonary Care at Southeast Georgia Health System, along with Rafael Alba Yunen, M.D., offer the procedure at the Health System's Brunswick Campus. Dr. Fussell stresses that the results will be different for everyone and it may take three to five months to see the full benefits, but that for many, the procedure can be life-changing, especially when medications aren't working.

Because bronchial thermoplasty is a relatively new treatment, one of the biggest obstacles can be getting insurance companies to cover it. But the Health System is committed to making sure that patients get the care they need, and Boston Scientific, the company that makes the equipment used in the procedure, has also stepped up to help ensure patients get approved.

Drs. Fussell and Alba Yunen are board-certified internal and pulmonary medicine physicians. To schedule an appointment, contact Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Pulmonary Medicine at 912-466-5504.

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**Seafarers...It is a JOY to help them**  
Sue Spencer

I love volunteering at the International Seafarers' Center. When I was doing hospitality at Colonel's Island, a young seaman asked me if we had any Danielle Steele/romance novels he could take to his mother. Not surprisingly, we did not but I found three novels I thought might work. He wanted to know the plots. The first one I was unfamiliar with, the second one was "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and the third was "Anne of Green Gables". I made the mistake of mentioning that it was a series and that was the only volume available. He refused to take it because his mother would want the entire series and he would not lie to his mother that it was a single novel. I'm sure most of our mother volunteers assume our children conveniently "forget" such information!

I love how appreciative the seafarers are over the selection in our closet. I'm sure many of them get special permission just to run over to check out the closet. One day, we received about 50 small size tops and between three ships, after 3 hours only 2 of the tops remained! The seafarers are all so polite, it is a joy to help them.



307 Newcastle Street  
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# CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA

## Give a Gift to a Seafarer this Christmas!

Collect any 15 items from the list below and place them in a ditty bag or wrapped shoe box.  
Drop your gifts off at 307 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, GA 31520  
or call (912) 267-0631 for more information  
[www.seafarerscenter.org](http://www.seafarerscenter.org)




Clothing	Toiletries	Medical / Health	Stationary	Food	Other
<i>(size S to L)</i>	Shampoo / conditioner	Tylenol / aspirin	Pencils / Pens	<i>(non-perishable in sealed packages)</i>	Bibles (English)
Socks	Soap / Body wash	Chap stick	Phone cards (\$5 at ISC)	Crackers / Pretzels /	Novels – all languages
Handkerchiefs	Toothbrush	Baby oil	Note pads / envelopes	Nuts	Flash/Thumb Drives
Gloves	Toothpaste	Band-Aids	Pencil sharpener	Gum / Candy	CDs, DVDs (new or used)
Knit caps	Shaving cream	Antibiotic ointment	Post cards	Raisins	Playing cards
Baseball caps	Razors	Deodorant	Address book	Dried Fruit	Sudoku puzzle books
T-shirts	After-shave lotion	Bath Soap (bar or liquid)	Highlighters	Canned meat (pop-top)	Key chains
Scarves	Combs	Hand Lotion	Book marks	Juice	Sewing kit
underwear (size M)	Manicure kit	Kleenex	Calendars <i>(upcoming year)</i>	Mints	Flashlight with batteries
undershirts (size M)	Small scissors	Vaseline		Popcorn	
Long Johns (size M)	Lotion	Q-tips			
Jackets (size M-L)	Hair Gel	Toothbrush			
Sweaters (size M-L)		Toothpaste			

**ISC MISSION STATEMENT**

The ISC mission is to provide seafarers with a safe harbor that they can call home. The ISC provides services that meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick.