

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

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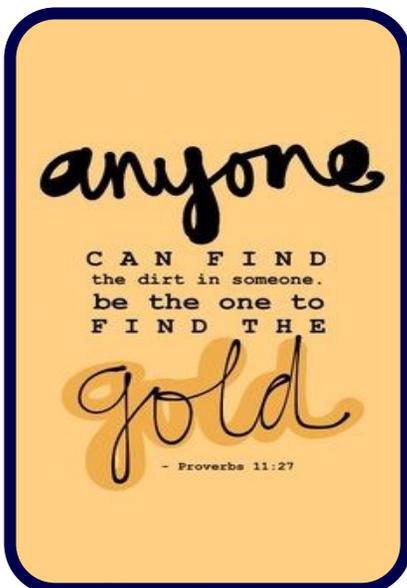
COVID CONCIERGE

Doughnuts to Basketballs

By Sherry Conner

As COVID 19 began to move throughout the United States, businesses and industries were forced to change their modes of operation; the shipping industry was no exception. Even though seafarers are thoroughly screened by the Coast Guard before entering the port, there were concerns that the virus might be contracted by the seafarers while in port and spread throughout the crew, paralyzing the essential service shipping merchants provide. So, seafarers who were once allowed to leave their ships to visit our centers and go into town to shop, now found themselves unable to leave their vessels.

At the Seafarers' Center, we found ourselves facing challenges of our own. Due to the quarantine and concerns about the transmissibility of the virus, our volunteers dwindled from about 90 to less than 20. Under ordinary circumstances, our volunteers would conduct crew visits, staff our hospitality centers and provide transportation services, but few of these resources were useful to seafarers as long as they were locked-down. Yet, their need for phone cards, personal care items, snacks, vitamins and healthcare products remained. The question became, how do we still provide for the needs of seafarers when we have little to no access to them?



ISC Volunteers Jeanine and Don Gehringer

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Vicki West



“Like snow in summer and rain in harvest.....”
Proverbs 26:1

As the scripture states, sometimes things of nature are untimely and not welcomed. So it is with the COVID-19 intrusion. This “virus” has changed life, as we know it, forever. BUT we at the ISC have determined to carry on with our mandate to **LIVE LOCAL - REACH NATIONS** by continuing to care for the material, spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our seafaring friends.

I am so very proud of my staff and the volunteers who have stayed the course during this “pandemic”. For our volunteers who, being part of the “most vulnerable,” have kept us in your prayers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. So many of the crews on board these ships, because of different country’s rules, have extended their contracts because they cannot go home. Peter, our Director of Volunteers, came across a young man named Mark who has been on board for 14 months. Not only have they not seen their families, but they are not even permitted off the vessels while in port.

The ISC continues our concierge service, supplying the ship’s crews with hygiene, snack and essential items to help bring some comfort to them. This service, primarily, is to be a blessing to our seafaring friends, and it has been a great asset in helping to maintain revenue for the ISC. At this time, we are not providing transportation, and as a result have lost that revenue source.

We continue on a day-to-day basis to serve ALL seafarers even though the ship traffic is down and fundraising is at a minimum. We are doing ALL we can to help sustain us so we can continue our service, in tragedy (Golden Ray and Covid) as well as during good times.

If you are a regular donor, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you are not BUT would like to help this organization continue on its mission, PLEASE go to our website www.seafarerscenter.org and hit the donate button. Thank you in advance. Just know that no gift is too small and we appreciate your kindness and know that you have been vital in helping us to **LIVE LOCAL - REACH NATIONS**. God Bless everyone!!

Love in Christ,
 Vicki

**Proclamations the
 ISC was awarded
 by the City of
 Brunswick and
 Glynn County
 (see Page 3)**



Board of Directors	
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Dan Battles	Store Manager
Michael Larson	Finance Administrator
Joan Samuelson	Newsletter Editor

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COVID CONCIERGE continued from page 1...

Enter, the concierge service! The brainchild of our executive director, the concierge service provided a way to get needed supplies to the seafarers without risking exposure to the virus. A catalog of items was created complete with pictures and prices, along with an order form which was delivered to each vessel's security desk upon arrival. Once an order was received, which sometimes included requests for unusual items like donuts, fast-food burgers and basketballs, our wonderful volunteers and their director, shopped, gathered and packed the products for delivery. It is difficult to describe the appreciation with which the packages were received. After many, many days aboard ship without needed personal items, the seafarers were both relieved and grateful.

These are challenging times. Thankfully, we have been able to remain open and have found new ways to provide for the needs of those whom we serve. Needless to say, without the income generated by our transportation services and to a lesser degree, our hospitality centers, we depend more than ever upon the generosity of our loyal supporters. To those of you who love this ministry as much as we do, "Thank You!" To those of you who would like to help support our work, please visit our website at www.seafarerscenter.org and click on *Donate*. Every little bit helps!

ISC Volunteer Kim Antic



WELL DONE!!!

By Vicki West

This has been a year of great recognition for the International Seafarers' Center. As the Executive Director, I just want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work of my staff, volunteers and board for stepping up and going above what any of my expectations would have been!! **THANK YOU ALL!!**

The recognition started on January 9, 2020 with a House of Representatives Resolution brought forth by Representative Buddy Carter. This was for our unprecedented care for the crew of the Golden Ray that capsized in the St. Simon's Sound on September 8, 2019.

Then on May 22, 2020, Mayor Harvey Cornell and Commissioner Mike Browning each presented a proclamation from the City of Brunswick and Glynn County. These were for the ISC's outstanding service during the Golden Ray tragedy.

Again, thank you all for your service. These awards were well deserved. **JOB WELL DONE.**



Photo Gallery continued on page 4...

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WELL DONE Photo Gallery continued...



Mayor Harvey and Vicki West...



Commissioner Browning and Vicki West...

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION
Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, Thursday, January 9, 2020 No. 5

Recognizing the International Seafarers' Center

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Seafarers' Center in Brunswick, Georgia, for all of their work throughout the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Operating in coastal Georgia for the last 38 years, the International Seafarers' Center strives to provide spiritual, emotional, physical, and material support to mariners passing through our area. Currently, the Port of Brunswick, alone, receives 16,000 seafarers annually who have very little access to the conveniences of home while they are at sea.

The International Seafarers' Center is guided by its Christian faith, and with their two hospitality centers, they have done an exceptional job of serving those mariners from all walks of life, different religions, countless languages, and diverse races.

One of the most notable examples of their work includes their effort to provide clothing and food to 20 crew members of the Golden Ray cargo ship that had capsized off the coast of St. Simon's Island in September of 2019.

I cannot thank everyone involved with the International Seafarers' Center enough for making the First Congressional District of Georgia such a welcoming place for seafarers to pass through during their time at sea.

Keep up the good work!

Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time. *Earl L. "Buddy" Carter*
GA 01

ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE

Letter from the Chief Mate of the M/V Toreador

This is what makes it all worthwhile. Peter went shopping at Walmart for the crew of this vessel. After two hours and over \$500 later, everyone was happy!!! Thank you Peter for a JOB WELL DONE!!

(Originally from Peter to Abraham: THANK YOU very much for your generous contribution to our Center; most kind of you. Glad to help you fellows, sorry I did not get everything, I was running out of time.)

To: Peter Boyton <directorofvolunteers@seafarerscenter.org>

Subject: Re: Toreador Crew Requests

Hello Peter,

For all the trouble you went through to get us our things the least we can do is make a contribution towards your good cause! Wish we could leave the vessel though, Brunswick has always been a shore leave destination for all of us.

I wish you could see the happiness on crew's faces and the bright smiles when they got their packages. I am sure it made their day.

These are difficult times and keeping the crew motivated is a task unto itself. I am trying to do small things like this to bring whatever small joy I can to them. And it was wonderful meeting a like minded person!

Best Regards,
Abraham Sam
M.V.Toreador



M/V Toreador

NEW STRATEGIES FOR A NEW SEASON

By Sherry Conner

We love what we do! Providing services to seafarers and giving them something to look forward to when they visit us is what drives our organization. Our volunteers are the backbone of the ISC and we could not do what we do without them. Likewise, our sponsors and donors are the lifeblood of our organization and we could not do what we do without them either!

Having to cancel our two largest fundraisers of the year was an unexpected blow and has forced us to look for creative new ways to provide the resources we need to keep our doors open.

To that end, in June, we took our maiden voyage into the realm of online auctions. We started small with only 20 gently-used items and invited our volunteers and local, loyal supporters to participate. Though the turn-out was small, the auction was a success and we raised \$406!

Now that we have strengthened our sea legs, our next auction will be even bigger and better, so stay tuned!

A special thank you to those who donated items for our first-ever online auction and to those who participated and helped us raise some needed funds for the International Seafarers' Center. We are truly grateful for your support!

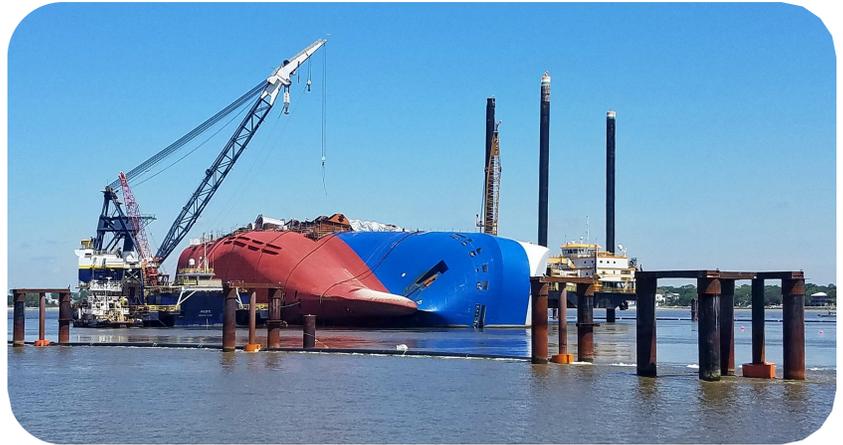
*I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy because of your partnership... (Philippians 1: 3-5a NIV)*

TOUR OF THE GOLDEN RAY

By Peter Boyton

Weeks Marine, the company responsible for installing the EPB (Environment Protection Barrier), took me on a tour of the Golden Ray wreck site on 5 May 2020. We travelled to the site on a fast boat we boarded under the Lanier Bridge, that has room for about five people inside and is powered by twin 300 hp Yamaha outboards. The boat is metal and has a flat deck to transport material or personnel, on this day it was going out to the wreck to deliver lunch to the workers.

We stopped at the large Weeks crane, 526, to deliver food and waited there while the fast boat took lunch to all the other locations. The piles for the EPB were all in the



seabed as was most of the surface piping going between the anchored poles. EPB has three containment sections: under the water is the net, on the surface are the 3' diameter 3" thick plastic pipes anchored by chains floating between the pilings and then outside of that will be the floating oil barrier.

The Pacific Horizon, a very large heavy lift ring crane mounted on a barge, was at the Golden Ray facilitating the installation of the 16 lugs that will be used to hold and lift each section once the cutting begins. This crane can lift 1600 tons if mounted on the right surface. All the chains that will be used to cut the ship up were al-

ready under the ship. We made two circuits of the wreck inside the EPB, close to the ship and close to the barrier itself.

Outside the EPB on the way back, we stopped to look at some lugs on barges that had recently come in from Germany. Each piece is custom made for a specific location. Same is true of all the pilings, the net and the surface pipes, each piece uniquely sized for its location. A wonderful exclusive opportunity to see the wreck up close. The photos tell the rest of the story; a camera on a kite string took the aerial shot on 16 May 2020.

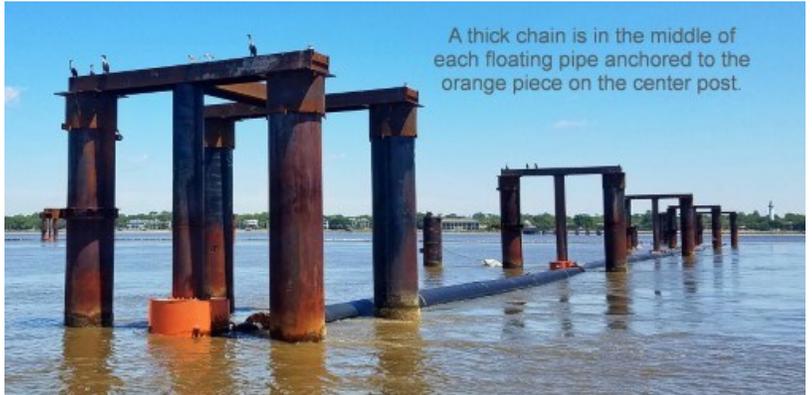
Complete Photo Gallery can be Found on pages 7 and 9...



Tour of the Golden Ray Photo Gallery continued...



MV Brazos -
Offshore
Construction
Jack Up



A thick chain is in the middle of
each floating pipe anchored to the
orange piece on the center post.



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Drowning or Drugging

By Peter Boyton

MV Oberon, a Wallenius Wilhelmsen RoRo, contacted ISC at the end of May via their local agent requesting help in filling a prescription. Martin Wiberg, a crewman on board, was not able to return home to Sweden at the designated time due to the Covid 19 pandemic and as a result needed a refill on some critical medications. Many seafarers on many different ships are in the same boat, their contracts are being extended because of the pandemic. Customs and Border Patrol have not been allowing crews off their ships, and the Oberon was to be no exception.

ISC contacted the Southeast Georgia Health system's local facility, the hospital in Brunswick, requesting help. Brendan Hunt did his magic and arranged for Dr. Martin Artman to visit Martin Wiberg on board the Oberon. Peter Boyton met Dr. Artman at the gate and transported him to the ship. They went aboard and the crewman came down to talk to the doctor at the ship's security desk. Martin met Martin and their drug discussion was a success. The doctor wrote out the prescription and we left the ship.

Peter gave Dr. Artman a quick tour of the port, which he really enjoyed and appreciated, then dropped him off at his car. The hospital gave the doctor the rest of the day off, a fair reward for dealing with strangers in his own land. ISC picked up the prescription and delivered the medications to the ship. Cash changed hands, but no breach of federal law transpired. ISC to the rescue once again, drowning or drugging, we do not discriminate, we rescue all!



Tour of the Golden Ray...final photo

St. William Catholic Church

*2300 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island
is proud to sponsor our local Seafarers' Center!*

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky, And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by, And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking, And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied; And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying, And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life, To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's like a whetted knife; And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover, And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over. - John Mansfield



THE BALLAD OF THE GOLDEN RAY*By Pam Harness*

June 13, 2020

Vicki West
Executive director
International seafarers' Center
307 Newcastle
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Dear Ms. West:

I started writing this poem a few months ago. Originally, I was thinking of lyrics for a song to be sung and played by the golden Isle strummers, a ukulele group that I belong to. The words developed but the music hasn't so far.

At any rate, I've read it to a few close friends and obliging relatives, but when I saw the article about the Seafarers' Center in the Brunswick News on May 23 and found that you are the Executive Director, I wanted to pass this along to you in hopes that you will enjoy reading it.

Thank you for the good work you are doing at the center.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Harness

The Ballad of the Golden Ray

***The Golden Ray sailed out one day for the waters of the Sound,
She listed right, dropped out of sight, and since been water-bound.***

***The men they were a salty crew that came from Asian lands,
There was a gallant rescue then, but missing were fourhands!***

***Four men were deep within the bowels of the crippled Golden Ray,
A tapping sound with many howls, and they were freed that day!***

***It took a load of engineers and politicians too,
Lots of money passing hands to know just what to do.***

***The Golden Ray still there lies, drawing lots of "oohs" and "ayes",
Never more will she stand, buried in a foreign land,
Destined to be ripped apart from her soul and from her heart!***

***This ode is sung for you, oh mistress of the seas,
Your memory will be with us in our eternities.***

***Pam Harness
St. Simons Island, GA.***

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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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frederica

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International Night Out

CANCELED

Due to the intrusion of an invisible “enemy” (covid-19) and circumstances beyond our control (venue canceling all events until spring 2021) INO canceled!!

That’s right, after 19 years of spectacular specialties from around the world, a silent auction that always “wowed” the crowd, fantastic music and awesome “party goers,” **DONE!**

At this point who knows what tomorrow will hold but I am believing that this GREAT NATION will be back soon and better than ever.

SOOO..... with all that being said, we are putting the pedal to the metal and letting the rubber meet the road and seeing where the next “road trip” will take us. STAY TUNED!

VROOM VROOM!!!!!!

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.