

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

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ISC Calendar

Ship Visitor Training Saturday, 6-:00-9:00 PM OR Tuesday, 1:30-4:30 PM.	2/24 or 2/27
Southeast Georgia Health System Bridge Run and Pasta Party Volunteers Needed	2/16 PM & 2/17 AM
ISC Yard Sale Save, clean, and pre-price your donations	5/19 8:00 AM
Golden Isles Maritime Club Golf Outing Sea Palms Golf course	5/19

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA TO THE RESCUE

By Robert Randall

When does Christmas-At-Sea become Christmas in June? When gifts from our local community are used by selfless seafarers to aid shipwrecked fellow seafarers half way around the world!

In a text box on page 3 is an amazing letter sent to us on Halloween from the crew of the Undine, a Wallenius Wilhelmsen Ro-Ro. Read it and smile! The back story is that this vessel, composed of 22 crew from Sweden and the Philippines, received Christmas presents via the ISC's Christmas-At-Sea ministry on January 5, 2017. We always give out presents from Thanksgiving Day through Orthodox Christmas (usually January 7th), because some of our seafarer friends celebrate Christmas on that later date. But because the Undine had already enjoyed its 2016 Christmas celebration, the crew decided to hold onto the presents from our community until Christmas 2017. God knew they would be needed for something far more important.

Continued on page 3...



Rescued Seafarers About to Receive Brunswick Surprise: See Page 3!

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

Welcome to a brand-new book (year) ready to be filled with **All** of the wonderments that God has prepared for us. Just as the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new Creation. The old has gone, the new is here." The past does not define who we are! Paul states in Philippians 3:13-14....."Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As we at the ISC fondly remember 2017 with its pitfalls and its blessings, we will stand firm on what is solid and with definite resolve let go of the chains that have held us back. If you remember the anonymous donor from Atlanta I mentioned in our last newsletter, with the possible large donation.....WELL, it happened!!! Thank you, Lord. Also, we received a donation from a corporation that we have never received from before. It was not a lot, BUT we will never despise small beginnings. Our foot is in the door.

The tragic untimely death of one of our volunteers, Lee Lee King, left a hole in our "family". She is sorely missed. Now putting our hand to the plow and ever pressing forward to that which we have been called, Taking Christ to the Nations, we will do this daily with our amazing staff, outstanding Board, and our terrific volunteers continually striving to meet the spiritual, physical, material, and emotional needs of every seafarer coming to our port.

As January 2018 begins to unfold, like a newborn baby seeing for the first time, we are intrigued and amazed at the "new" things and people God has already put in place to insure

our increase. Partnerships with lost friends are coming back around; new friendships are being forged.

One of my goals as Executive Director is to make the International Seafarer's Center a household name. We were being heard on Way Radio 90.7 for 3 months after they chose us to be their volunteer project for the year end. Leadership Glynn came and volunteered for us and we will be in their newsletter. Soon we will no longer be the best kept secret in Glynn County.

I am excited at the possibilities ahead for the ISC. If you have never volunteered, sponsored, or donated to the ISC, what better time to collaborate with us on our new adventures? The best is yet to come!!!!

LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS Blessings, Vicki

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Christmas-At-Sea To the Rescue continued from page 1 ...

On June 14, 2017, the Indonesian container ship KM Avatar was struck by high waves and sank in the Strait of Malacca. The Undine, passing by, rescued 13 of the Avatar's 15 crew members. (The Captain died in the ocean and the cook was rescued the next day by a Malaysian search & rescue team.) The contents of our Christmas-At-Sea gifts, consisting largely of toiletries, underwear, watch caps, and snacks, were perfect for seafarers who had lost everything and been plucked from the ocean.

Letter to the ISC from the crew of the M/V Undine

Dear All,

Please find enclosed pictures and copy of writing from our captain Fredrik Krysén of the M/V UNDINE, Stockholm Sweden.

Thank you very much, even late-sorry, for all your lovely Christmas gifts last year, Christmas 2016. We were saving them for this coming Christmas...

But, instead we were very happy and blessed to give them further to the crew of KM AVATAR whom we rescued from their sunken ship in June this year, please see enclosed pictures and copy of writing.

They really appreciated and were very pleased for getting a bag each from you for their further journey from us on board with the Malaysian coastguard home to reunite with their families and loved ones.

We would also take the opportunity to thank you for always being there for us when coming to Brunswick GA. And even early, wishing you all a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year, even early, God Bless.

Yours sincerely,
Crew of the M/V Undine

It was in June 2017, that Master Fredrik Krysén (pictured below) and the crew onboard M/V UNDINE successfully rescued 13 people in the Malaccan Straits. Following are excerpts from Lloyd's List Global Awards article taken from the Wallenius Marine web site



Wallenius Marine is immensely proud to announce that our Master Fredrik Krysén and the crew of M/V UNDINE wins Seafarer of the Year!

The award was presented on September 27, 2017, at Lloyd's List Global Awards at the National Maritime Museum in London.

In his acceptance speech, Fredrik thanked his crew:

"I feel really honoured for this award. There is no greater gift than to save others life, and to help 13 families to reunite! It was an experience of a lifetime. But this award is also for all my crew, they all did a perfect job, and I'm really proud of them. Thanks a lot everybody, and I hope you all have a fantastic evening."

Best regards from South China Sea
Fredrik Krysén
Master mv Undine

2017 Volunteer Christmas Party

by Sherry Conner

On December 14th, 2017, the ISC staff, Board, and volunteers gathered together for a time of feasting, fellowship, and merriment!

Many delicious dishes were prepared and enjoyed by staff and volunteers alike. Our very own volunteer, Dan Battles, acted as our D.J. and regaled us throughout the evening with both traditional and contemporary Christmas songs – including his own amazing singing.

One of the highlights of the event was when *The Debbie Hoffmann Trio*, (Debbie, Cathy Howell, and Vicki West), surprised us with an adaptation to the traditional carol, *I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*, which was rewritten by Debbie. Everyone chuckled throughout the song, but burst into laughter at the end when all three chimed, “...but Robert, don’t call us on Christmas day in the morning!” – to which he replied, “I’ll call you the day before!”

Special thanks go to Linda Haines for the beautifully festive table decorations and to the many volunteers who stayed behind to help put away tables and clean-up after the event.

Needless to say, “A good time was had by all!”

Volunteer Christmas Party Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery continued on page 5

Photo Gallery continued from page 4...



BEYOND EXPECTATIONS goes above and beyond...

We would love to give a huge shout out to **Beyond Expectations** for going above and "beyond" to keep both of our facilities, Newcastle and Colonel's Island, in tip top condition both inside and out. The power washing is a donation that Oscar Patron, owner of this amazing Company, provides for us every year. Thank you Beyond Expectations for your expertise and 'high' calling in all you do.



Labor of Love

By Gardi Wood

In 1976 a Seafarer center in New York was presented with a quilt/wall hanging.

Val Crumpton, former Executive Director of the Brunswick International Seafarers' Center, expressed the wish to ISC Volunteer Barbara Caples to have a similar wall hanging.

After several failed starts and promises, the task was taken on by the Georgia Coastal Quilt Guild. Many members worked on different components for the quilt and their names are listed on the back.

The wall hanging/quilt was presented to the ISC Board of Directors by Christiana Hulsey, President and Gardi Wood, 1st Vice President and Program Chair of the Georgia Coastal Quilt Guild at the meeting.



Bill Dawson, ISC Board Chair, receiving quilt from Christiana Hulsey and Gardi Wood

GRAND DOLPHIN TOUR

By John Samuelson

Jeff Shadrick and I had the pleasure of escorting 6 women from the Chippewa Valley Car Club on a tour of Colonel's Island and the Ro-Ro ship Grand Dolphin. During the planning stage it all seemed to fall into place but the Coast Guard had a slightly different idea. The ship had arrived directly from Korea and was being inspected by the Coast Guard, so we were not allowed access until the inspectors had left.

That gave us time to do a complete tour of the Colonel's Island facility and the ISC store. Once that was completed, we were granted access to the Grand Dolphin. We were given a tour of the ship by the 3rd Officer. Our guests were very impressed with the operation and had a nice chat with the Captain and took advantage of several photo opportunities. The ladies ended their visit by adding a few fashionable ISC T-shirts to their wardrobe.



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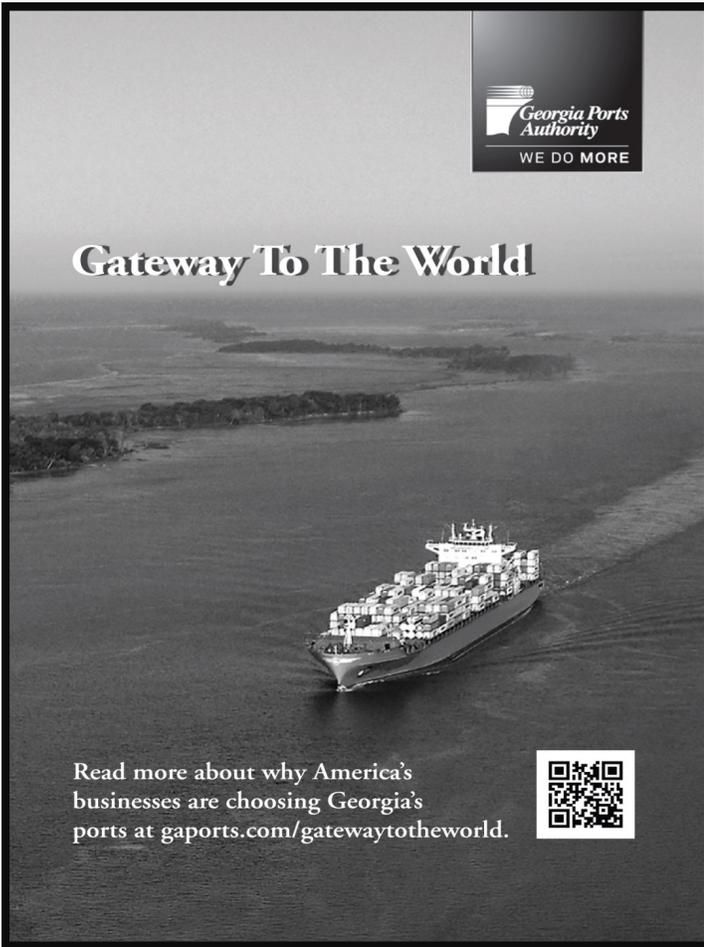


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The Golden Isles Maritime Club is the only community organization dedicated to supporting Brunswick's local maritime community. It is a principal supporter of the International Seafarers' Center, the Golden Isles Maritime Day, Port-as-Classroom project and other educational and historical initiatives.

Interested in joining the club...check out our website at www.maritimeclub.org




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November 22, 2017: Jekyll Island Lions Club members Pamela Mueller (right in photo above) and Howard Sculthorpe delivered gifts for the Christmas-At-Sea program to ISC volunteer Jean Choate (left) and Director of Volunteer Services Robert Randall (center).

Introducing Sherry Conner

By Vicki West

Sherry is the newest member of the ISC family. She joined the staff on November 8, 2017 as the part-time office administrator. Sherry's role is to provide administrative support which includes clerical and secretarial duties. She is originally from Savannah, Georgia but came to Brunswick at an early age when her family was transferred here. She attended local schools and even returned after college to teach in the Glynn County School System. She and her niece, Hannah, like to travel and spend time with their three dogs - Jasper, Emmy, and Cody. Being an office administrator is a new adventure for her but one she is embracing with open arms. She is looking forward to getting to know the many wonderful people associated with the International Seafarers' Center.



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.



Community Involvement By Vicki West

On December 9, 2017 WAY Radio (90.7) had a sponsored community involvement volunteer day at the International Seafarers' Center. It was a cold rainy day but the spirit of the volunteers was not dampened. They pressed on through the wind and the rain to do major trimming of trees, power washing (can you believe that?), other various yard work, cleaning gutters, organization of our library and clothes closets, and, of course, ditty bag stuffing. Thank you WAY Radio for sponsoring the ISC! (Jennifer and Michael Krouse; David Lane; Patrick Cawley; Cathy Williamson and Jakob Schott; Bart, Angel, and Seth Wagner, Greg Sorrow, Cecile Settles, Jo Lyn Pariseau and Shawn Adams).





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ANOTHER SEASON OF GIFT-GIVING

By Robert Randall

Every seafarer who came through the Port of Brunswick from Thanksgiving Day through Orthodox Christmas (Jan 7) 2017-18 received a Christmas gift from our community, delivered to 57 ships by the volunteers and ship visitors of the International Seafarers' Center. The gifts were provided by 23 different churches and church groups from as far away as the north Georgia mountains, 20 community organizations and local businesses, and another 42 individuals and families.

In total, 1293 presents were delivered to seafarers from countries spanning the globe. The gifts were both symbolic of God's gift of Jesus Christ to us and real expressions of our care for our seafarer friends, who spend Christmas far from their families while delivering to us the things which we need in our own lives. Every gift is cherished and celebrated by the seafarers who receive them.

Again this year special thanks go to the ladies of First Baptist Church in Blackshear, GA, who year after year bring 1000 sewn ditty bags, hundreds of crocheted and knit watchcaps and scarves, and a busload of things for ditty bags, which they then stuff into about 250 of those bags. Wow!

There are so many other churches and community groups and individuals (see numbers above) who give so generously to this ministry that we cannot list them all in this short article. But we do especially appreciate the hard work of volunteers Jo Lyn Pariseau and Cecile Settles and Jo Lyn's son Sean Adams (see photo at right) in organizing all the incoming supplies so that groups can come in and stuff the ditty bags and in keeping the operation neat and orderly for us (see photo below). Also, I'd like to add thanks to Cecile's sister, Janet Pigeon, from Montreal, who put in a lot of time on C-A-S while visiting. It wouldn't happen so well without them.



Christmas Around the World Display
in the ISC Chapel,
provided by
Mary Jane and Norman Haft



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Leadership in Volunteerism *By Vicki West*

On December 8, 2017 Leadership Glynn class members and leaders took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at the International Seafarers' Center. Thirty members of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Glynn stuffed ditty bags for our Christmas-at-Sea program and learned more about the ministry of "Taking Christ to the Nations": how we here in Brunswick, GA can LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS without ever leaving the comfort of our beautiful Golden Isles paradise. Thank you to all the business leaders who made such a difference to the over 1500 seafarers who received these ditty bags during the Christmas Season. Thank you from the bottom of our heart!!



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.