

# ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

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

**It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

*by Vicki West*

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What a fantastic evening!!!! After a year of "bah humbug", Christmas cheer rang out once again! On December 10, 2021, fantastic food, great fun and fellowship were enjoyed by 62 of our amazing volunteers.

The night began with a welcome from our Board President, Bill Dawson, thanking the board members that were present and the staff for all of their hard work with a well-deserved tribute to all. The night was filled with Christmas merriment and plates full of goodies. Our volunteers are what keep this organization going. Without these wonderful men and women, we could not do what we do. So.... I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** for the wonderful and, at times, sacrificial service that you provide. May you all have a joyous and prosperous New Year!

**ISC Calendar**

<b>International Night Out</b>	<b>2/25/2022</b>
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*Photos Gallery continued on page 4...*

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

We have just gone through the Season of Light (better known as Christmas). Jesus came to bring Light into the darkness. Here at the International Seafarers' Center, that is exactly what we do – especially during these dark days of the “virus”. So many seafarers have not been allowed to step foot on solid ground for way too many months and this is a travesty. America did not fare well in the “lockdown” phase in 2020 when there were some confines but nothing like being in your very small cabin on a ship for 12-18 months. Families are divided and children wonder, will daddy or mommy ever come home? I know I make it sound dire, but it is.

So with that said, I have to say a huge **THANK YOU** once again to our enormously generous community. The churches, civic groups and individuals that contributed to our Christmas-at-Sea program gave all of us here at the ISC warm hearts filled with great joy. Without you, we could never present gifts to all the seafarers that come into our ports from Thanksgiving through Orthodox Christmas. But with your help, we do it every year!!! During the 2021 Christmas season, it was more important than ever to the ISC that we deliver in abundance because of the lockdowns of the seafarers on the ships.

Okay, switching gears ....

Drumroll please...Yes, the *International Night Out* is making its comeback! *When?* you may ask? Well, I will tell you. The International Night out is **February 25, 2022** at the **King & Prince Beach Resort** on beautiful St. Simons Island. Get your dancing shoes on and your pocketbooks/wallets ready. You will not want to miss this! Compete in our Live and Silent Auctions, which are ALWAYS fun! Enjoy cuisine from around the world! Come and dance to the music of Stan Walker and the Coastal Empire Orchestra with Ernie Elam. Keep your eyes open on social media, newspaper, radio, and our Face-book page and website. **WE ARE SO EXCITED!!!!** More details are in this newsletter along with an invitation and response card.

Looking forward to a joyous and prosperous new year.

God bless you all.

**Blessings,**  
**Vicki**

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## Captain Sweden

by Peter Boyton



I had the distinct pleasure and honor of meeting Captain Sweden on December 13, 2021. I have read about and seen pictures of Captain America, but did not even know about Captain Sweden. We met high above the ground and water for just a brief moment, a South African and a Swede, both over a foreign land. No, I was not flying a kite at the time.

Captain Sweden is a truly unique historical figure with progeny from Australia and the USA. The Captain hails from a small Swedish fishing village, Skillinge, which is down on the southeastern tip of Sweden. The Captain travels the world in search of adventure, dream fulfillment, knowledge and remuneration, and has resided temporally in Australia and the US, but always returns home to the solace of Skillinge.

Who is Captain Sweden? Malin Andersson is a captain for the Nordic shipping conglomerate, Wallenius Wilhelmsen (WW) and has been since 2002. Paul Salter visited the Undine and told me there was a female captain aboard; I went out to interview her. The Undine departed at 14:30 and I went aboard at 13:00 asking to see the captain. I rode the elevator to the upper deck where I was lead to the front of the ship. There standing in front of me was Captain Sweden!

Malin loves the sea and plying the waters of the world is fulfillment of a childhood dream. She started sailing in 1985 and rose through the ranks to captain in 2002. Malin has visited Brunswick many times and this was not her 'first historic visit' to the Port of Brunswick, as I erroneously believed. She is the only woman captain at Wallenius, there have been three female chief officers on WW ships. Malin has captained RoRos (Roll on

Roll off - car carrier) and container ships, but prefers being on the front end of the ship looking ahead at the ocean rather than at 230 m of containers.

Malin reads a lot, in English or Swedish, depending on the author's nationality. I asked if she read Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy, she said yes, in Swedish! Her eyesight is deteriorating so audio books are a new passion. Ship bored (pun intended) life could be sedentary, but not Malin. Captain Sweden is in the gym a lot!

Family life? Malin's husband recently left WW after 30 years as an electrical engineer. They have two daughters, one born in New Jersey and the other in Australia while Malin was working ashore for WW. Female reception in the maritime industry? At sea, the crews have been wonderful and there have been no problems, but on the admin side there is still a reluctance to promote female officers to positions of leadership, even among the Vikings!

**Sail on Malin! You are ahead of the pack. Thanks for the interview.**

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year Photo Gallery continued from page 1...



All the wonderful victuals...thanks everyone



Jeff and Wendy



Don and Richard



John and Rick

# 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



christ church  
*frederica*

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# 20th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 25, 2022 6:00 pm  
The King and Prince Beach Resort



Join us for refreshing delights of food and wine from different parts of the world. Dance the night away to the amazing sounds of Stan Walker and the Coastal Empire Orchestra along with Ernie Elaum. Win fabulous and unique items from our silent and live auctions.

Tickets are \$125 per person and limited.

Call (912) 267-0631 for ticket information. See you there!



The ISC is a proud partner of the beautiful Golden Isles Community in Glynn County since 1982.

## Seafarers Reunion

by Victor Peirce

The two seafarers (pictured right & center) were classmates a number of years ago at the Philippine Maritime Academy. They are now working on separate vessels, which just happened to be in the Port of Brunswick at the same time this morning. It was fun to be a party to their reunion. One seafarer is on the Glovis Supreme which came in from Germany, the other is working on the Tugela which came from Korea via the Panama Canal.



# GSA

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## Crazy, Wonderful Time of Year

by Doris Wadd

Yes, the birthday of our Savior is behind us. We all enjoyed seeing family and friends, and sending gifts to the ones we love. Our dilemma - what do we give the person who has all they need or want?

I come from a crazy family of four sisters. If you have ever talked to me about my sisters, you know we are very close - not in miles, but in love. We discussed what to do for Christmas. We are all over 65 and do not really need anything, so we came up with the idea to give gifts where they are needed.

My sisters know how I feel about ISC. One sister even supports Christmas-at-Sea annually. We decided to use my resale shopping talent to restock the clothes closet at ISC. Girl! What fun! We donated a number of items in the Dierstein Sisters' name. Some seafarers now have the warm clothing they need and the sisters definitely have warm hearts, knowing that sharing is the best gift. Two of the sisters also sent a monetary gift to help Christmas-at-Sea.

Our seafaring friends not only need these items at Christmas but all year long. God bless you and may the New Year be joyful and prosperous.



## JEKYLL ISLAND ROTARY (with a view)

by Vicki West

On September 8, 2021 it was my privilege to speak to the Jekyll Island Rotary Club. A diverse group of about 22 men and women were my “captive” audience. These wonderful men and women have been a strong support to the International Seafarers’ Center for many years. They are always more than generous with their gifts to our Christmas-at-Sea program.

Oh, and what a view...the early morning sunrise over the golf course was glorious! Thank you Franklin Duncan and Bill Hill for the invitation.



## GOLDEN ISLES SAILING CLUB

by Vicki West

A group from the Golden Isles Sailing Club came loaded with everything needed to fill 26 bags to deliver to the *Star Isjford* early in the summer of 2021. The seafarers had not been able to get off the ship for many, many months. The items included everything from hygiene items to games and snacks and clothing. What a blessing and a surprise for the crew!!!



When we took the bags aboard, the smiles from the crew melted our hearts. The GI Sailing Club provided a letter of encouragement and their own club’s flag for the crew to fly onboard their ship - which they did for 24 hours. Thank you so much David London and the GI Sailing Club for your generosity. (I apologize for not getting this into the last newsletter.)

August 3, 2021



St. Simons

# Rotary Spray



Volume 22, Number 4

## July 27 Meeting



**Vicki West, Executive Director of INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS' CENTER**, gave an update on the Center. She was overcome when Kern Baker presented her with a check for \$10,000

Left: Kern Baker, Club Director with Vicki West, Exec Director International Seafarers' Center.

## THE BEAUTY OF SWEAT EQUITY

by Vicki West

In the extreme heat of August, these two ladies, Linda Ritch and Judy Wolfe, came to do the front flower bed at the center. They do this as a ministry of volunteering for the ISC. At the peak of the day's heat, these resilient women forged ahead cutting away dead plants, trimming overgrown flowers, weeding and eventually planting new flowers able to thrive in coming cooler temperatures. They labored under this excruciating heat for nearly 2.5 hours with only a couple water breaks. Thank you ladies for your dedication and love for the Seafarers' Center.

*Linda and Judy tending the flower beds...*





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### 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.

Volunteer or Donate, we need your support. Please call 912-267-0631 today!



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To learn more about our career opportunities, visit [sghs.org/Careers](http://sghs.org/Careers)

## Marie – A Swedish Seafarress by John Samuelson

I recently had the pleasure of visiting with 23 men and one woman on board the *Nabucca*, a WW ship on its first voyage to the US. I was fortunate to get a few moments to talk to the lone female on board. Here is a synopsis of my conversation with Marie, a 37 year old from Northern Sweden (close to the Arctic Circle).



Marie has a degree in Public health and Education, but she wanted to make some extra money and learned the shipping industry was hiring and paying quite well. Starting in 2012, she worked mostly on shuttles between Finland & Sweden on weekends and holidays, doing so part-time until 2017 when she started working closer to full time on larger ships

This is her first Trans-Atlantic voyage. Her job on the ship is as a messman (woman). She really enjoys life aboard, and gets a lot of respect from her fellow crewmembers. Marie indicated that men are much easier to work with than women (certainly understandable). When I asked her about the cook, she said she prefers to make her own food because she does not like Asian food.

She said she is now considering a career as an officer but did not specify if it was to be on a Ro-Ro ship. She asked me to mail two postcards to Sweden for her. I wished her a pleasant voyage, Merry Christmas and good luck in her future.

The *Nabucco* is a new class of ship from WW featuring several developments in fuel savings, carrying capacity, and loading and unloading features. The *Nabucco* departed Brunswick for the West Coast to pick up 4,000 Teslas bound for Europe.





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## 2021 Christmas-at-Sea Stats

(at time of press)

We delivered 1288 gifts to seafarers on 62 ships from 25 different countries.

<b>Philippians</b>	727	<b>Sweden</b>	27	<b>Malaysia</b>	3	<b>Panama</b>	1
<b>India</b>	138	<b>Myanmar</b>	21	<b>Latvia</b>	2	<b>Poland</b>	1
<b>Korea</b>	108	<b>Japan</b>	10	<b>Bahamas</b>	1	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	1
<b>USA</b>	76	<b>Italy</b>	7	<b>Bangladesh</b>	1	<b>Turkey</b>	1
<b>Bulgaria</b>	65	<b>Britain</b>	6	<b>Croatia</b>	1		
<b>Ukraine</b>	46	<b>Thailand</b>	4	<b>Georgia</b>	1		
<b>Russia</b>	36	<b>Holland</b>	3	<b>Lithuania</b>	1		

### 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.