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**Office Hours:**

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Weekends 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Items needed:**

Men's Clothes, Foreign Language Books & Magazines, Videos and Financial Contributions.

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Call John Szelagowski, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
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**Senator Arlen Specter to be honored at SCI's 18th Annual Fall Gala**

In 2007 the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted: "Senator Arlen Specter has more clout than some sovereign nations." On October 24, 2008 the Delaware River port community will show its grateful appreciation for its champion's ardent support. SCI will honor Senator Specter for his years of effective maritime advocacy at SCI's 18th Annual Fall Gala to be held at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing.

A leading Senate moderate first elected in 1980, Arlen Specter has brought rugged individualism and fierce independence to Washington. Senator Specter's five terms in office have made him the longest serving U.S. Senator in Pennsylvania's history. A voice of reason, his independence and balance have won him many endorsements from both business and labor organizations among other groups. In 2006 *Time Magazine* listed Arlen Specter among the 10 best senators rating him the second most powerful Senator behind only the then Majority Leader, Bill Frist.



**Heightened Challenges Yield Opportunities for Ministry**

*The Rev. James D. Von Dreele, Executive Director*

This edition of *The Anchor* will focus on some of the heightened challenges facing seafarers today. Building on a rich tradition of hospitality and advocacy, these challenges present SCI with opportunities to better serve the needs of the 21st century seafarer here on the Delaware and around the world.

SCI is serving more and more crews detained by the Department of Justice as material witnesses to environmental violations at sea. In this edition of the *Anchor* we will explore the experience of detention from the seafarers' perspective.

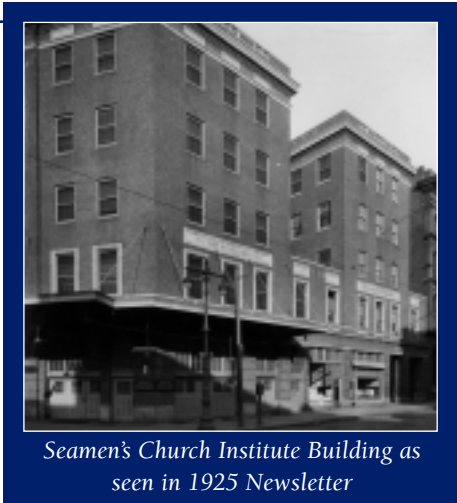
Industry leaders were educated on the current needs of their seafaring labor force when I addressed the American Petroleum Institute at their annual conference this summer.

We revisit our ongoing Ship Visitor Training pilot program with an update from instructor Anne Waterman Klinger. This training has been so successful, at its conclusion, the program will be reproduced in modular format and made available to seafarer missions globally.

Providing a great deal of transportation for electronics shopping, we recognize visiting seafarers with limited shore leave have unique customer service needs. Over the summer, SCI has developed and rolled out a program with BEST BUY specifically designed for seafarers.

As a thriving maritime industry operating along the Delaware River is vital to the health of our local economy, we are very fortunate to have an unyielding champion in Senator Arlen Specter. SCI will honor Senator Specter and his efforts in support of the Delaware River maritime community at our 18th Annual Fall Gala held at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing on October 24, 2008.

Excitement builds as construction nears completion on the new Chapel of the Redeemer inside the SCI center. The Chapel will serve visiting seafarers and the entire Port community providing a sacred space for worship services, reflection, prayer, meditation, celebrations, and performances. SCI is proud to continue and build on its tradition as the gathering place for seafarers and the community. *(continued on page 2)*



# Heightened Challenges Yield Opportunities for Ministry *(cont. from page 1)*



*Seamen's Church Institute Building 2008*

Thanks to a generous grant from the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation, the Archives and Library Department of the Independence Seaport Museum recently completed a large-scale effort to preserve SCI's institutional archives which are housed at the museum, and make them available to the public. The guide to the 165 year old collection and some of the collection's historical documents can be viewed online at [www.phillyseaport.org](http://www.phillyseaport.org).

Many background papers and supporting articles can be found on SCI's website: [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org).

## NEWS ITEM

### BEST BUY Addresses Visiting Seafarers' Unique Needs with New Program

Seafarers are dream customers for electronics retailers. They know what they want. They often arrive with a long shopping list for an entire village, and they pay in cash. Lap top computers, cell phones, and other modern electronic devices keep

seafarers connected to their families at home. These devices are often less expensive in the U.S. than anywhere else in the world, making them accessible to seamen and their families

who otherwise would not be able to afford these communication life lines.

As electronics consumers in the U.S. visiting seafarers have very particular customer service needs beginning with their personal safety. Unfortunately, thieves also recognize seafarers with little shore leave are carrying cash before shopping or valuable electronics after shopping. Seafarers have been violently robbed just outside many shopping centers.

This summer SCI met with executives from BEST BUY's corporate headquarters, as well as, local management to discuss the needs of visiting seamen. BEST BUY, recognizing seafarers as an important customer segment, recently rolled out a new program to better serve them. SCI ship visitors distribute special BEST BUY ID cards with computer codes that alert BEST BUY staff this customer is a seafarer. This ID card entitles seamen to the following:

- ✓ **A safe comfortable area inside the store to wait for transportation even after hours**
- ✓ **Language Translation Services**
- ✓ **International Product Service**
- ✓ **Expedited Customer Service**

SCI is pleased to work with BEST BUY to identify and better serve the needs of visiting seafarers.



# Detained as a Material Witness - A Seafarer's Perspective

by Regina M. Donovan

In past issues of *The Anchor* much has been written about how caring for crews of seafarers detained for 6-10 months has challenged SCI. In this issue we share with you what we learned about the experience of being detained from the perspective of seafarers. Ronnie Barlow and I sat down with 2 different crews in August; one crew nearing the end of their stay with us, and one crew slated to go home in a few months. We asked them to tell us their stories. After our discussions, we are even more inspired by their sacrifice on behalf of the marine environment.

All of the men we interviewed for this article have worked at sea between 5-20 years, and work contracts ranging from 6-12 months at a time. The general consensus was they work whenever they are offered a contract. One man described a year when he came home to his family after a 9 month tour only to be asked to go back to sea 18 days later for another 9 month contract. Leaving his wife crying at the dock, he felt he had no choice. If he refused the contract, there would be no telling if and when he would be hired again. Seafaring is all he knows. As difficult as these separations are, they are finite.

When detained by the Department of Justice as material witnesses, they have absolutely no idea how long they will be required to stay. Unanimously, the men agreed this uncertainty caused the greatest anxiety. Their second greatest fear is being blacklisted and unable to work again. One gentleman told us between his contract and the detention, he had not seen his wife or children in more than 16 months.

U.S. visas can be very difficult to obtain on short notice. We heard anecdotes about how it is easier to get a shore pass in Russia than in the post 9/11 United States. Less than half of our detained crew members have visas. Without a visa one is required to jump through a dizzying array of administrative hurdles just to obtain permission to come into SCI.

Imagine for a moment after losing your freedom trying to negotiate the Federal legal system after being placed in a hotel with only the clothes on your back. Then imagine while you are away, your father dies and you are unable to attend the funeral as happened to one of the crewmen interviewed.

All of the men described this experience as the worst thing that had ever happen to them and expressed a profound appreciation for the caring and support they received at SCI.

We asked the veteran crew what advice they had for the newly detained seafarers. Their responses were encouraging. They said the first month is the scariest because you don't know what to expect. You wait in a hotel room for a call from your attorney. You work with SCI to get expedited shore passes from Customs Border Protection.

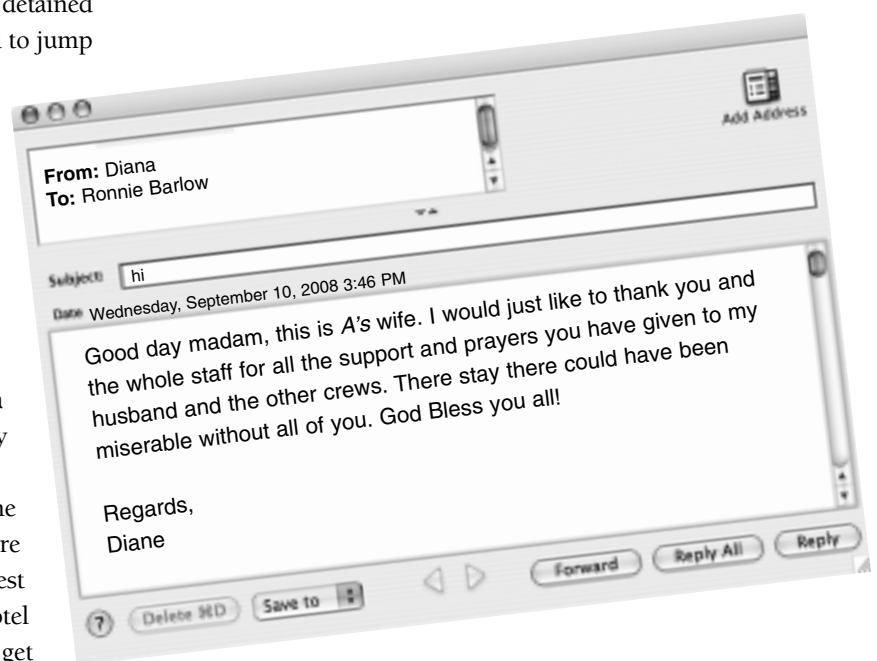


Members of 2 Detained Crews BBQ for SCI Staff and Volunteers

Then you can leave your room and SCI ship visitors will pick you up to take you food shopping and into the Seafarer Center. You comfort your family and assure them you will not be jailed. By the second month you will be able to eat and sleep again.

They further counseled their brethren that idleness brings sickness. Spend as much time as possible volunteering at SCI and walking for exercise. Ship Visitor, John Szlagowski will come up with interesting day trips for you to look forward to. Get involved in the local church community.

When asked what more SCI could do to assist them, to paraphrase their reply: they were so very grateful for the safe haven and caring support of SCI. We pressed for more and learned they would appreciate a web cam in the center so they could SEE their loved ones. SCI installed 2 web cams for the seafarer center's Internet kiosk. The men who have not SEEN their families in many months could not have been more appreciative. ⚓



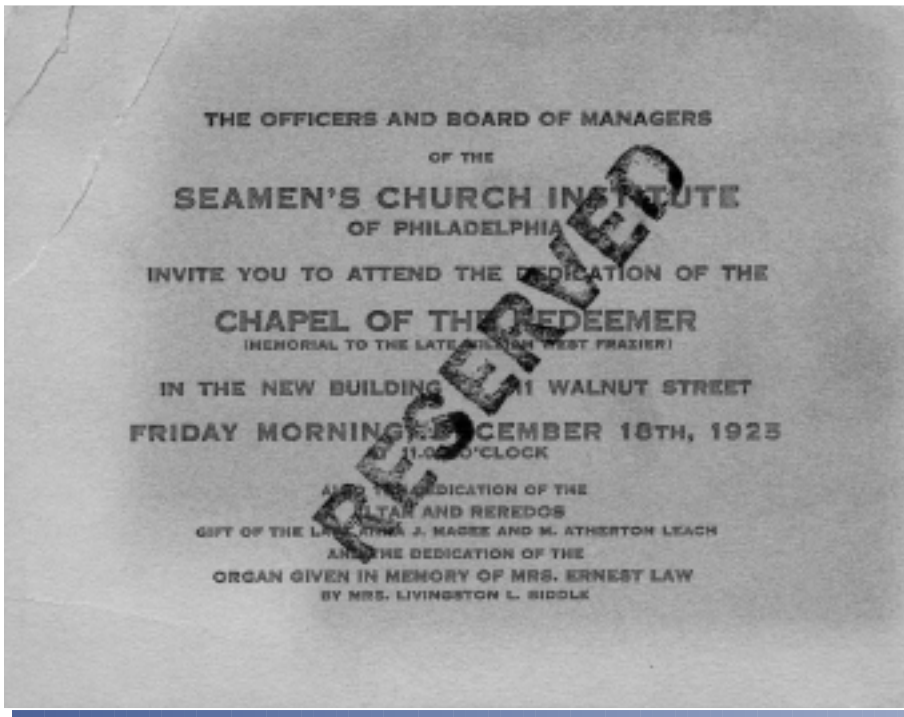
# The Chapel of the Redeemer



Artist's Rendering of the Floating Chapel circa 1849



Architect's Rendering of SCI's new Chapel of the Redeemer 2008



Invitation to Dedication of SCI's Original Chapel of the Redeemer held December 18th, 1925

Dating back to the days in 1849-1859 when our floating chapel was moored on the Delaware River, SCI has provided a sacred spiritual space for visiting seafarers. Since relocating to our current building on North 5th Street five years ago, we have been without a chapel. SCI's Board has addressed this need with the construction of a new non-denominational chapel inside the SCI center for the visiting seafarers we serve. SCI's new Chapel of the Redeemer is named after the original built and dedicated by SCI in 1925.

In addition to providing for the spiritual needs of visiting seafarers, SCI now provides a home for worship services held by a local congregation, All Souls' Church for the Deaf, which has worshipped at SCI for over 25 years. The congregation now holds services on Sundays in SCI's meeting rooms, and is excitedly looking forward to a proper chapel to call their home.

A festive ground breaking ceremony was held on July 31st. SCI board members wielded

# Becomes a Reality



Board Members at Groundbreaking Ceremony

gold sledge hammers and one by one took a mighty swing at the back lobby wall. Contractors began chapel construction in earnest August 1st. At their current rate of progress, we anticipate dedicating the chapel in December with a joyful reception.

Our capital campaign to raise funds for the chapel has moved into its final phase, “Get Us Over the Top.” Naming opportunities remain for:

- Stained Glass Windows (2)
- The Kitchen
- The Sacristy
- The Altar
- The Communion Silver
- Chairs

SCI's new chapel has been made possible through the exceptional generosity of many dedicated and faithful donors. We look forward to recognizing and celebrating the many gracious people whose contributions are responsible for the gift of the new Chapel of the Redeemer at a special event to be held early in the New Year. 📍



Rendering of the Original Chapel of the Redeemer published in SCI's Newsletter from October 1925

# Senator Arlen Specter to be honored at **SCI's 18th Annual Fall Gala**


SCI will hold its 18th Annual Fall Gala, Treasures of the Sea, on October 24, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing. This black tie evening will begin with a cocktail reception, and then it is on to dinner, dancing, and a short program honoring one of the maritime community's most influential and impassioned advocates, Senator Arlen Specter.

During this year's festivities, we will auction off some exciting items:

- A one week stay in a beautiful beachfront Cayman Island Condo donated by board member, Uwe Schulz
- A yacht cruise for 25 on the Delaware River donated by board member, John Reynolds
- A weekend suite at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing donated by the hotel.

For a more immediate treat and in keeping with our sparkling theme, Treasures of the Sea, guests may purchase \$50 chances to win a piece of jewelry valued at \$1,500 donated by Jack Kellmer Jewelers.

As the Fall Gala is SCI's most important fundraiser of the year, we would like to recognize and thank Uwe Schulz, John Reynolds, The Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing, and Jack Kellmer Jewelers for their distinctive donations.

For sponsorship opportunities and tickets please contact Ronnie Barlow at 215-940-9900 x 106. 



## The Rev. James D. Von Dreele addressed the **American Petroleum Institute**

at their national conference in San Diego, California in June. A link to his full presentation, *The Human Elements in Shipping: A Maritime Chaplain's Perspective*, excerpted below, can be found on SCI's website at [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org).

And we wonder why we have recruitment and retention issues in this industry. Given the base line of seafaring working and living conditions on the majority of ships, why would anyone want to go to sea.....

There are enough horror stories of prosecutors jailing seafarers for months at time, denying them due process and using their incarceration as leverage against the ship owners.....

The dirty little secret is that the technology is not there on most ships to deal with the disposal of oily water sludge on board. Seafarers are caught in the middle of these prosecutions.....

We need to see seafarers as our partners in protecting the environment. They can no longer be placed in the middle of owner negligence and governmental prosecution....

# Update on Ship Visitor Training

by Anne Waterman Klinger

Approximately one year ago, when Father Jim Von Dreele made a request to the Samaritan Counseling Center to develop and teach a pastoral care training program for the chaplains and ship visitors of Seamen's Church Institute, I was intrigued. Although I had experience teaching pastoral care to clergy and lay persons in congregational settings, I quickly realized that the care needed for seafarers is specific and unique. I agreed to take the challenge!

Pastoral care for visiting seamen is essential. Life aboard ship is very difficult. It is a life of long hours of intense physical labor and extensive periods of separation from family, home, and culture. These circumstances may result in loneliness, exhaustion, anxiety, spiritual depravity, and even depression. This life may also be contentious and exploitive.

Historically, the mission of the Seamen's Church Institute has been to provide a haven and hospitable sanctuary for these seafarers to address their needs and to find care, support, and advocacy. However, because of the heightened vigilance against terrorism and the more intense maritime schedules of the shipping industry, port calls are very brief. Many of the seamen do not leave the ship at all when in port. Hence, immediate, appropriate, and efficient delivery of care is critical. Ship visitors' skills must be honed to be more accurate in assessment of need and more skillful in delivery of care.

The goals for this pilot pastoral care training program for chaplains and ship visitors are focused upon heightening the ship visitor's awareness and sensitivity to these needs in order to effectively respond. The ship visitors' skills require empathic listening, compassion, an understanding of cultural diversity, trustworthiness, crisis and conflict management, boundary setting, bereavement care, and social, emotional and spiritual support. Knowledge of appropriate resource referral is also important. Unlike more traditional care-giving in which there are no time restraints, the ship visitor must be very adept at recognizing and responding to seamen's needs expeditiously and accurately.

An evaluation of the Chaplains and ship visitors' responses to the training program has been completed, both individually

and collectively. With an overwhelmingly positive response, the participating chaplains and ship visitors report an increase in their care-giving skills, a heightened consciousness of their role as care-givers, more confidence, and greater competence in their overall experience with the visiting seafarers. Because of this better clarity of their role as care-givers, they report that they actually spend more time engaged with the individual seaman. They also report that they are enjoying sharing with one another their personal experiences of their interactions with their care-receivers. This sharing has resulted in increased morale.

It is important that I report how much I have enjoyed working with this dedicated group of men, SCI's chaplains and ship visitors. Their commitment and passion for their work is impressive and inspiring. They bring a maturity, a strong base of interpersonal skills, and affection for the seamen. They truly love what they do! They have patiently shared their experiences and their intuitions with me to enhance this program and to tailor it specifically to meet the seamen's needs. Our collaboration is working well creating and strengthening this pastoral care training program.

*Anne Waterman Klinger, MS, LPC, NCC  
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Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215-247-6077, x3*



*Anne Waterman Klinger of Samaritan Counseling Center  
conducts SCI ship visitor training.*

## Independence Seaport Museum completes work on SCI's Historic Archives

The Archives and Library Department of the Independence Seaport Museum recently completed a large-scale effort to preserve SCI's institutional archives which are housed there, and make them available to the public. The Guide to the Collection and some of its historical documents can be viewed online at [www.phillyseaport.org](http://www.phillyseaport.org).

These archives detail SCI's rich 165 year history, and thus also chronicle the history of the Delaware River maritime community, and its relationship to the city of Philadelphia dating back to the mid 19th century. We are so very grateful to the Independence Seaport Museum for their efforts and to the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation for funding this project



*The Ladies of SCI circa 1940*

### Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey

475 North 5th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123



## MISSION STATEMENT

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF PHILADELPHIA & SOUTH JERSEY (SCI) HAS A MISSION OF HOSPITALITY, SERVING PROACTIVELY, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, THE HUMAN NEEDS OF SEAFARERS IN THE PORTS OF THE DELAWARE RIVER.

SCI provides practical, cross-cultural and appropriate spiritual assistance to seafarers, including: ship visits, land transport, international telecommunications, social and recreational programs, and counseling, both work-related and personal.

This ecumenical mission is accomplished in collaboration with area religious and ethnic communities, and also within a worldwide network of international seafarer agencies.

In addition, the mission includes pastoral support for local land-based marine interests when appropriate, facilitating the well being of the Ports and serving as ambassadors of goodwill for the region served by the ports through SCI's staff and volunteers.

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