



# The Anchor

*A window into the ministry to seafarers who keep global commerce flowing*

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

Spring 2017

## Compassion in Action

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

As I write today, we have just wrapped up our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit of the Port Award Luncheon. It was a wonderful event at the Penn's Landing Hilton where we honored the very deserving Eugene (Gene) Mattioni. Gene's dedication to the port community over many years, and especially as President of the MACHS—the Maritime Academy Charter School—made him a very worthy choice for the honor that he calls the premier honor of the Port community. Gene's message to the crowd of 300 was a message of kindness. Even when life is giving you struggles, if you can remember to continue step by step in a spirit of kindness, all will be well. Thank you Gene for inspiring us, and for a wonderful partnership leading up to the event! And thank you to all that attended as well.



L-R, Eugene Mattioni, Honorable Ronald R. Donatucci, Register of Wills, District I Councilman Mark Squilla, Captain David K. Cuff, and Helene Pierson

Also, as I write, our community gallery exhibit that has been on display in partnership with the Independence Seaport Museum, *Compassion in Action*, is in its last weekend. The exhibit will be moved to our offices and center for a while. Please call us for a visit if you missed the exhibit at ISM. We will continue to with the theme of Compassion in Action at SCI in the future as it captures so well our daily service to the seafarers. Inside, there are opportunities to join us with your time and talent in our mission.

And finally, as I write, we thank you for continuing to support our work of supporting the invisible seafarer. Our work is perhaps highlighted the most when there is a seafarer in need of medical attention far away from home. One such instance happened recently when a Filipino seafarer, Nestor Padasas, had to leave his ship and be taken to Lady of Lourdes hospital in Camden in what turned out to be a need for surgery for appendicitis. We are able to visit, bring the gift of communication to loved ones, and today, with skype, assure loved ones face to face a world away that their family member is in good hands.

With the policy of our country changing to be more restrictive to some of the seafarers that do so much for our local economy, please say a prayer for the seafarer to be treated with the high level of human dignity they deserve while in our local ports. We will continue to do our best to provide emotional, spiritual, and physical support, and we thank you for your help along the way.

With kindness,

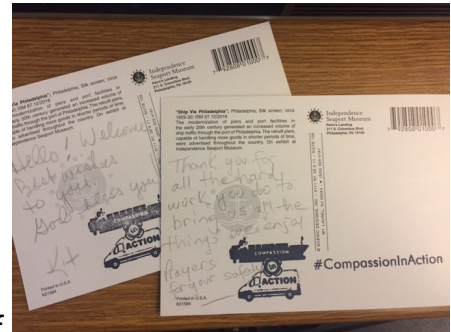
Helene Pierson, Executive Director

Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 30,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org). For gifts of stock, contact Christine Polit at 215-940-9900 x 104 or [cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org](mailto:cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org)

## Compassion in Action

SCI's exhibit, Compassion in Action, at the Independent Seaport Museum has come to a close. Thanks to all who visited and to the staff and volunteers at SCI and the museum who made the exhibit a success!

Visitors to the exhibit had the opportunity to learn about life at sea and the mission of SCI to serve seafarers, and were able to write postcards, like the one pictured here, to seafarers visiting the ports of the Delaware River.



## Continued Service to Seafarers



SCI continues to provide valuable services to seafarers, and we are grateful for all who support our work. There are many ways to be involved in supporting the mission of SCI:

### How You Can Help

For more information on SCI - Visit our website at [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org)

Like our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/sciphiladelphia](http://www.facebook.com/sciphiladelphia)

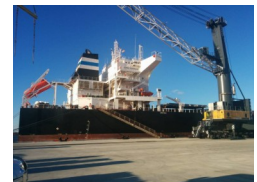
Please consider a donation via our website or by mail to:

Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey  
475 N. 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

For Volunteer Opportunities including our Ditty Bag program, call 215-940-9900

## Opening of a New Port

In March, SCI staff attended the dedication of the new port (the first in 50 years!) in Paulsboro, New Jersey. After the ceremony, SCI staff visited, provided communication services and host transported the seafarers of the first steel ship, the Doric Warrior.



## Thank You!

Thank you to all of the SCI Board Members for their continued dedication to SCI and their hard work to make the Spirit of the Port Luncheon a success.

SCI is grateful for the lead sponsors of the Spirit of the Port Luncheon, including **Brandywine Realty Trust, The Mattioni Family, The Maritime Academy Charter School, Holt Logistics, Mattioni, Ltd., and Delaware River Stevedores, Inc.**

Thank you to the Ports of Delaware River Marine Trade Association for once again being the lead sponsor for SCI's upcoming Golf Classic on May 1, 2017. See back page for more information on the event.





## 2017 Spirit of the Port Luncheon Honoring Eugene Mattioni



*I knew about Eugene's philanthropic support before I came to SCI, and indeed, he was one of the first people to come and meet me and offer his support of our work serving the seafarer community.*

Helene Pierson  
Executive Director, SCI



*Eugene Mattioni you are a true gentlemen and a man for all seasons! With appreciation and thanks from The Chapel of Four Chaplains Board of Directors and staff.*



**Seamen's Church Institute of  
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**Monday, May 1, 2017**  
**For more information**  
**Call 215-940-9900 x 106**

