



The Anchor

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

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

Winter 2017

From the Executive Director

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

DITTY BAG SEASON

It is only my second holiday season here, but I already love our ditty bag time of year. It is something the entire port community can gather around. It is a time when we get to roll up our sleeves and do service with our local parishes and volunteers. It is a gift all the seafarers really appreciate. And it is something that former seafarers never forget.

This year, Philly Shipyard donated 2,000 ditty bags toward our efforts, and Philaport has contributed 700 knit hats for seafarers as part of their rebranding campaign. We thank everyone who has contributed to what I now call "ditty bag season."



As we are all in the comfort of our homes during the holidays, please take a moment to remember those isolated at sea and away from their families all to make our local economy work for us.

IN SEARCH OF A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people interested in visiting ships and providing host transport Monday to Friday, morning to afternoon shifts. If you are interested and have a good bit of time, or even can commit to just one day a month, call 215-940-9900 or email hpierson@sciphiladelphia.org. We will train interested volunteers.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS BRADLEY GOW!

I'd like to acknowledge Bradley Gow, SCI office manager, as he moves on from SCI to become an ordained minister with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Bradley has been a real asset to SCI this past year, so please join me in wishing him well in his new role. Congratulations Bradley and may God bless your new mission. You can read more about Bradley, his contributions to SCI, and his new role inside this newsletter.

From all of us here at SCI, we wish you a wonderful holiday season.

From the heart,

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 35,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at www.sciphiladelphia.org. For gifts of stock, contact Christine Polit at 215-940-9900 x 104 or cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org

Congratulations Bradley Gow!

Last summer, Father Bill Rex brought to SCI a Lutheran Seminary graduate that was going through a multi-year process to become ordained. With a grant from the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) via NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministry Association — SCI's member network), Bradley Gow became SCI's summer intern and then stayed as Office Manager. He has been a significant asset to SCI as we worked our way through new projects, including converting to a new ship visitor system. He has coordinated SCI's ditty bag program, even serving in the crucial role of Santa Claus for the 2016 Ditty Bag Run. Bradley is known for being a kind ear to everyone — the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, staff and volunteers, everyone who works in the building, and anyone who calls on the phone.

This summer, Bradley was approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) to become an ordained minister. All of us at SCI are going to miss Bradley as he undergoes the call and ordination process to a church within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod, which is a synod (diocese) of the ELCA overseeing Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties. Congratulations Bradley and may God bless your new mission!

Fun Facts

In October, SCI's vans drove 5,915 miles! Here are some pictures of our travels:



Pictured (above, l-r): SCI ship visitor took the crew from a Dutch cargo ship shopping to load up on produce and other provisions; A ship captain from Croatia before an SCI van transports him to exchange Euros for U.S. Dollars and to send money to his mother home in Croatia; (right): SCI delivers free WiFi hotspots to seafarers, allowing them instant contact with their families via Skype or social media.



Mission Moment

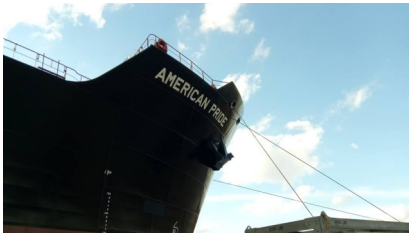
Chief Officer, his wife, and crew members from the tanker Drepanos enjoyed a visit to Best Buy, courtesy of our transport van. They continued to the Constitution Center and Art Museum, where the Chief's wife especially wanted to climb the "Rocky" steps.

During that visit, one of the Indian crew said to Chaplain David Reid, "You are like our family, looking after us."



The Drepanos was loading heavy fuel at Axeon Refinery, destined for the generating station at St. Croix, USVI, which was affected by Hurricane Irma.

Around the Port Community



SCI is grateful to be a part of celebrations and significant events around the port community. Recently, SCI staff attended the christening of the American Pride with the Philly Shipyard, and was honored to be a part of the dedication of a new memorial to submariners who perished in World War II. The memorial is at

the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.



Partner Highlight



In October, SCI was delighted to welcome Nete Egebjerg, General Manager of Operations for Evergas, all the way from Copenhagen, Denmark. Ms. Egebjerg visited our office and chapel along with SCI Board Member Michael Cureton of Norton Lilly. We support the seafarers of the JS Ineos line who come to our port weekly at Sun Marcus Hook.

Left to right in the picture are Mr. Cureton, Ms. Egebjerg, and SCI Executive Director Helene Pierson.

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***The Pilots' Association For The Bay & River
Delaware is proud to sponsor SCI and its
mission to serve seafarers.***