

# St. Nicholas' Bag

The Newsletter of the Baltimore  
International Seafarers' Center

Summer 2017



## BISC Ministry: A Photomontage

BISC volunteer Edward Jiminez shared homemade Filipino food and conversation in Tagalog with the crew of the Newlead Granadino on numerous occasions. Six of the original eighteen crew members were stuck on board from September, when the vessel anchored in Baltimore with mechanical and financial problems, to May, when relievers arrived at their Canton dock to replace them. See page 8!



BISC facilitates about two family reunions a week by providing free security escort to seafarers and their "landside" relatives. Crewmember Ananias Mercado, from the Star Life docked at Domino Sugar, met his cousin for the first time in years and enjoyed sightseeing around D.C.



Pastor Don Bryant, who has recently expanded his ministry in the port, helped two crews during the same week buy treadmills to stay fit. The crew of the Occitan Sky (shown) was docked in nearby Locust Point, and the crew of the Maina was docked in distant Sparrows Point.



Bob Garske spent over an hour this spring helping a crew member pick out a guitar. Music is important to seafarers' mental health.

See our photos in color at

<https://www.facebook.com/BaltSeafarers>

—and then "like" us!



# BISC Ministry: Going Deeper

We hope you enjoyed our front-page photographs. But many of our deepest experiences can't be photographed. This spring, these moments included:

--Extended conversations with seafarers of several faith traditions, about the meaning of sufferings, the light shed by various religions, and other topics they chose to bring up.

--Requests to report safety issues confidentially to authorities.

--Heartfelt notes in our center's prayer log about wives, children, and children yet unborn, far away.

And sometimes, pastoral ministry can be photographed. Recently, Pastor Bob Schmitt, whose ministry in collaboration with BISC is funded by Seafarers International House of New York, led worship on board the Kambos, docked at Domino Sugar Pier.



The Captain of the Kambos read a Scriptural passage in Tagalog.



The crew of the Kambos posed for a photo after worship.

## BISC Staff

**Director:**  
The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson

**Associate Chaplain (volunteer):**  
Allene Taylor

**Baltimore Baptist Association Chaplain:** Pastor Don Bryant

**Seafarers International House Chaplain:** Pastor Bob Schmitt

**Treasurer:**  
John Thompson

**Office volunteers:**  
The Rev. Tony Hollis

**Volunteer ship visitors:**  
Fred Craig, Rich Douglas, Capt. Mike Flanagan, Bob Garske, Carole Hires, Dick Hires, Edward Jiminez, The Rev. Linda Hollis, Larry Long, Tim Martin, Jon Musser, Jim Ridenour, Lee Van Koten

**St. Nicholas' Bag Newsletter:**  
Editor-in-Chief: Mary Davisson  
Designer and Production: Ed Davisson

**Webmaster:**  
Martin Reisinger

**Facebook Administrator:**  
Sarah Miranda

Help us be present to seafarers from around the globe. If you are in reasonably good health, are willing to respect seafarers from all over the world, have a good driving record, and can commit to one shift a week, please call 410-685-1240 or write [baltseafarers@aol.com](mailto:baltseafarers@aol.com) for more information.

# Spreading the Word about BISC

During the first half of 2017, Director Mary Davisson spoke or preached at the Church of the Redemption Baltimore, St. John's Ellicott City, Good Shepherd Towson, St. James Monkton, and Church of the Messiah Baltimore.

Mary also gave invocations at the dinner honoring Kathleen Broadwaters' retirement from the Maryland Port Administration and the Propeller Club luncheon honoring Capt. Michael Reagoso as Port Person of the Year.

And BISC Board member and volunteer Lee Van Koten represented BISC during the National Maritime Day at Canton Pier 13.



Capt. Mike Reagoso of McAllister Towing, this year's Port Person of the Year, is a BISC Board member!

## BISC in the News

Check out two recent Port of Baltimore issues for articles about Mary Davisson's training in Manila and Allene Taylor's ship visiting ministry:

[http://www.mpa.maryland.gov/\\_media/client/POB%20magazine/POB-Jan-Feb-2017-web.pdf](http://www.mpa.maryland.gov/_media/client/POB%20magazine/POB-Jan-Feb-2017-web.pdf)  
and

[http://www.mpa.maryland.gov/\\_media/client/POB%20magazine/POB-March-April-2017-Web.pdf](http://www.mpa.maryland.gov/_media/client/POB%20magazine/POB-March-April-2017-Web.pdf).

And listen to Allene as well as the Rev. (Deacon) Linda Hollis interviewed on BBS'c "Chaplains of the Sea" at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0525g9j>

### Help BISC Serve 1200 Crews a Year!

BISC can only respond to crews in crisis if we maintain relationships with crews and port partners year round. Thank you for supporting our van maintenance and other expenses with your check to **Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, 1430 Wallace St., Baltimore MD 21230**, or visit **Baltseafarers.org** to donate via Paypal.

For our work with the stranded crew of the Newlead Granadino, BISC was honored to be a finalist nominee for Lloyds List Americas' 2017 Seafarer Advocate of the Year Award. Congratulations to the winner, Mesfin Ghebrewoldi at Seamens Church Institute in Philadelphia!

# Welcome, New Volunteers!

BISC has been blessed with several new ship visitors in 2017. Jon Musser began spending one day a week in Baltimore during his final semester at Virginia Theological Seminary. Jon lived for six months in China and is BISC's go-to guy for Chinese crews.



Jon Musser, having completed his Masters in Divinity, continues to volunteer at BISC.

Another new volunteer, Edward Jiminez (p. 1), has become our go-to guy for Filipino crews.



Tom Taylor, a whiz at data analysis, not only serves crews but also studies BISC's transportation statistics.

Tom Taylor, whose day job is at nearby Under Armour, serves crews one evening a week.

And Fred Craig became a BISC volunteer after learning about mariners' lives during several weeks as a passenger on the cargo ship Grande Cameroon.



Fred Craig (in vest) and Director Mary Davisson relax with crew of the Wisdom Ace after some complicated errands.

**Register Now!**  
**Baltimore International Seafarers' Center**  
**Golf Outing**



Oct. 5, 2017 • 9 am tee time • 8 am breakfast,  
driving range, check-in.

The Elkridge Club • Play one of the area's most storied  
courses.

All proceeds support the cen-  
ter's ministry to those who  
bring the world to our shores.

Captain's Choice Tournament

Register Foursomes

Sponsorships Available

Breakfast and Lunch Included

Visit [BaltSeafarers.org](http://BaltSeafarers.org) for  
registration and course history.



# With Grateful Hearts, We Salute Our Supporters

BISC is deeply grateful for a \$25,000.00 legacy from Donald Carroll, a longtime Board member. Don also bequeathed us his collection of maritime art.

2017 leadership donors by press time included: Capt. C.S. Yearwood, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Highland, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, The Rev. Mary Davisson, Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Mr. George "Bud" Nixon.

We also thank The Rev. Meki and Ms. JoAnn Toalepai, C.V. International Inc. on behalf of Capes Shipping, Mr. Craig Merson, Ms. Anne Turner Kiefer in honor of volunteer Lee Van Koten, Ms. Jane M. Clark, Ms. Judith B. Barrett in memory of Mike Wheeler, Ms. Mary Warfield, Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Susan Whitman, Ms. Peta Richkus, Mr. Claiborn Carr III, The Rev. Matthew Rogers, Capt. George Miller, Mr. Garry Yachechko, Mr. Timothy Martin, Operations LLC, Ms. Brenda Kovacs, Traffic Club of Baltimore (as directed by Mark Schmidt), Ms. Joann Toalapei, Ms. Alice Bockman, Ms. Jan Prenger, Mr. Tom Lamm, Vessel Operations, Ms. Helen Waugh, Ms. Helen Wheeler, The Munro Family Trust, The Rev. Herbert Lodder, Ms. Martha Yeager, Mr. Lee Carpenter, Mr. Ted Bedford, Ocean Ship.



St. David's Episcopal Church supports BISC in a number of ways. The mugs collected by parishioners welcome seafarers into port after stormy Atlantic crossings. And the newsletter you are reading was printed at the St. David's office. Many thanks to this generous parish!

## Our 2017 Harbor Tour Set a New Record!

Our April 2017 cruise netted over \$10,000, thanks to all our guests, and especially: Event Sponsor Ports America Chesapeake; Admiral Sponsors The Revs Tony and Linda Hollis, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics ASA, Propeller Club of Baltimore, McAllister Towing of Baltimore, Inc.; Captain Sponsors The Rev. Scott Bellows, Steamship Trade Association, Mr. Douglas Stevenson, Association of Maryland Pilots,

Balterm, LLP, Greg Waidlich, Rukert Terminals Corporation, ILA Local 953; Ensign Sponsors Jim and Doris Ridenour, The Vane Brothers Company, Baltimore Maritime Exchange, John S. Connor, Inc., Church of the Redeemer, Ms. Allene Taylor, Terminal Shipping; Seaman Sponsor Mr. Robert Garske.



photo credit: Sharon Tillman

# Comfort and Joy: From Donors to Volunteers to Crews

--"I haven't spent Christmas at home for eight years. I try to get vacation then, but the company can't find a reliever for me."

--"Thank you for bringing us Christmas boxes. No one on our vessel had time to buy anything for Christmas."

--"I can't call home now [a few days after Christmas]. It's one A.M. in the Philippines. We have two little children, and my wife will be sound asleep. But I have two hours free to go online at your center and see my family's Christmas pictures on Facebook."

Christmas is the hardest time of year for seafarers. A thousand thanks to those who provided over 1600 Christmas gifts for us to distribute in the port in 2016.



Christmas is also the hardest time of year for BISC's hard-working volunteers! How to keep gifts moving from your car to our storeroom to our vans to vessel gangways—and keep enough

energy for homesick seafarers who need us to be at our best?

TWO thousand thanks to those who keep their boxes under 3 ½ pounds, so we can carry bags of 5 gifts each. Please omit hardback books, buy shampoos etc. in small sizes only, and focus on the following:

>Paperback New Testament in easy English. (If your workplace won't permit Bibles, an uplifting calendar is encouraged.)

>A warm hat.

>And some of the following (you choose!): post cards of Baltimore or D.C., warm socks, warm gloves, playing cards, pen and pad, flash drive, small sealed toiletries (gender-neutral or men's), such as quality lip balm, hand cream, etc. No food, please.



The Rev. Tony Hollis, left, holds a box too large for easy storage and delivery. The Rev. Linda Hollis, right, holds five boxes which are "just right."

Please wrap shoeboxes (not oversized) securely, with no bulky decorations. You can also line dollar-store boxes with red or green tissue (so contents will be a surprise); secure lids with tape. Ditty bags are a third option, if they can be closed tight.

Please call 410-685-1240 to make sure someone will be in the office to receive your generous deliveries. And know that seafarers around the world will bless you!

## BISC

### Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Current Board officers and members:

Bud Nixon, President

Allene Taylor, Vice-President  
Volunteer Associate Chaplain,  
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

The Rev. Scott Bellows  
St. David's Church, Baltimore

Michael Derby  
Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics

Capt. Michael Flanagan  
Association of Maryland Pilots

The Rev. Lois Nehmer-Schiff  
New Light Lutheran Church

Capt. Michael Reagoso  
McAllister Towing of Baltimore, Inc.

Mark Schmidt  
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Douglas Stevenson Esq.  
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Sharon Tillman  
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Leland Van Koten Esq.  
Volunteer ship visitor,  
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Gregory Waidlich  
Operations Manager,  
Atlantic Container Line

Non-voting officers:

The Rev. Mary Davisson,  
Secretary  
John Thompson, Treasurer

# The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

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# BISC

Baltimore  
International  
Seafarers'  
Center



Barbara Shipley (third from left, International Transport Workers Federation) and Mary Davisson (third from right, BISC director) pose with the last of the original Newlead Granadino crew. The six men, who flew back to the Philippines May 31, expressed heartfelt thanks to the Baltimore community. The vessel now has a new name (Asphalt Tanker), owner, and crew, and repairs are in progress.

*Happy to support the  
important work of the  
Baltimore International  
Seafarers' Center*

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