



Friday, April 24, 2015 - 6:00 PM  
Community Church Assembly Room, 40 East 35th Street, Manhattan

## THE LUSITANIA DISASTER: A Look at the Ship and Her People One Hundred Years Later by Jim Kalafus



The R.M.S. LUSITANIA

(Jim Kalafus collection)

This year marks the centennial of one of history's most infamous and controversial maritime disasters, the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania* by the German U-boat U-20 on May 7, 1915.

The *Lusitania* disaster has been a goldmine for historians. Adult survivors composed a large number of long letters home between May 8 and May 9, 1915. What they said then and what they said later were often polar opposites.

Historian and researcher Jim Kalafus is a recognized expert on the *Lusitania* and other ship disasters who had the pleasure of meeting or speaking with some of the last remaining survivors. Their friendship and support motivated Jim and his colleagues to reach out to families of the survivors and document their stories. Jim will examine some of the key components of the *Lusitania* legend as told by survivors in their earliest, least embellished accounts.

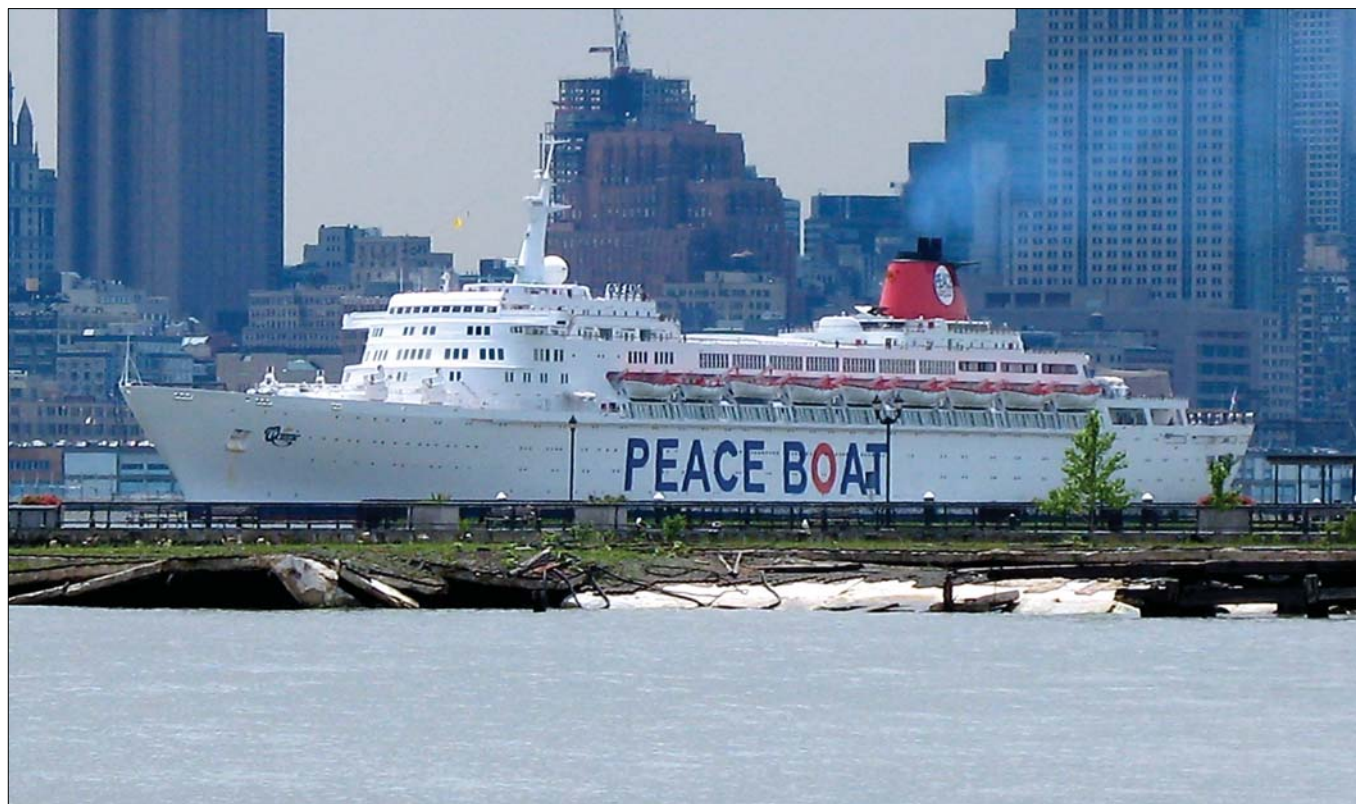
**NEXT EVENTS:** Membership Meetings: May 29, Ship Travel Retrospective by Paul Klee; June 26 Soviet Passenger Liners by Doug Newman

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## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



OCEANIC at New York on June 25, 2009. April 24, 2015 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OCEANIC's maiden cruise departure from New York. (Bob Allen)

### MUSEUMS, LECTURES AND HARBOR CRUISES

**CONTACT THESE INSTITUTIONS BY EMAIL OR PHONE FOR CURRENT EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM** [www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org](http://www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org) or 917-492-3379. **MYSTIC SEAPORT** [www.mysticseaport.org](http://www.mysticseaport.org) or 860-572-0711.

**VANCOUVER WSS & VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM** [www.worldshipsocietyvan.ca](http://www.worldshipsocietyvan.ca) for information or if you visit, contact Glenn Smith: 604-684-1240, email [glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca](mailto:glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca).

**NEW SOUTH WALES WSS:** Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Complex in Lord Street, Roseville. Contact the branch at PO Box 215, Strathfield, New South Wales 2135, Australia for additional information.

**THE NATIONAL LIBERTY SHIP MEMORIAL, INC.** [www.ssjeremiahobrien.org](http://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org) or [liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org](mailto:liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org) or 415-544-0100. 1275 Columbus Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133-1315.

**PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP** [www.liberty-ship.com](http://www.liberty-ship.com) or 410-558-0164

**NEW YORK WATER TAXI**, [www.nywatertaxi.com](http://www.nywatertaxi.com) or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises departing from both South Street Seaport Pier 17 and Pier 84 at West 44 Street. Hop on – hop off service throughout New York Harbor is offered as well. Contact via website or telephone for departure times and prices.

**CIRCLE LINE DOWNTOWN**, [www.circlelinedowntown.com](http://www.circlelinedowntown.com) or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises on the ZEPHYR from April to December, and aboard New York Water Taxi from January to March, departing from Pier 17, South Street Seaport.

**CIRCLE LINE**, [www.circleline42.com](http://www.circleline42.com) or 877-731-0064. Circle Manhattan and other harbor cruises, departing from pier 84 at West 44 Street.

**NEW YORK WATERWAY**, [www.nywaterway.com](http://www.nywaterway.com) or 800-533-3779. Trans-Hudson ferry service and special-event cruises.

**THE NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM** [www.lighthousemuseum.org](http://www.lighthousemuseum.org) or 855-656-7469. Contact for upcoming schedule of cruises and events.

**THE WORKING HARBOR COMMITTEE** [www.workingharbor.com](http://www.workingharbor.com) or 212-757-1600. Cruises to both remote and well-travelled parts of New York Harbor, such as the Hudson River to view tugboat races, Gowanus Bay and Erie Basin in Brooklyn, and a circumnavigation of Staten Island.

**THE NOBLE MARITIME COLLECTION**, [www.noblemaritime.org](http://www.noblemaritime.org) or 718-447-6490. Maritime lectures and art exhibits at the Sailor's Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island, NY

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SHIP	FROM	TO	VOYAGE	PASSENGER(S)	DATE
VOYAGER	Tenerife	Portsmouth	Canary Islands & The Azores	Anthony Cooke	02/15
SEABOURN SPIRIT	St. Maarten	Barcelona	Transatlantic	Anthony Cooke	03/15

## SHIP'S LOG - MARCH

With March coming in, staying around and going out like the proverbial lion, we did our bit to ignore its behavior with a program about Miami. But first we had some words from Ted Scull about two of our members who had very recently left our midst on their final cruises: Susan Banker and Cecil Spanton "Span" Ashdown. Ted described Susan as a vivacious woman who loved cruising and his (Ted's) walking tours, particularly with her husband along. Span, a plank owner, Ted spoke of as "a kind and wonderful man."

Our speaker of the evening, ship historian Alan Jordan, was introduced by Doug Newman with the start of Allan's interest in cruising and cruise history, as well as remarks on the cruise scene of 50 years ago compared with that of the last 15, as ships grew in size and the "center of gravity" shifted from New York to Miami.

Allan began his presentation with an overview of the cruising situation of the early 1960's: Miami piers rather nondescript and Dodge Island nonexistent, and some small, pretty basic ships cruising from the port while larger vessels hung out at Fort Lauderdale, and major ships such as the INDEPENDENCE, LEONARDO DA VINCI and QUEEN MARY cruised out of New York. Miami was restarting its cruise port business after the interruption by World War II.

The first modern cruise ship to call at Miami, in 1964, was an Israeli car ferry, the BILU. Other Israeli vessels played their part – another ferry, the NILI; the JERUSALEM – as did other famous names from long ago, such as the EVANGELINE, the YARMOUTH CASTLE (and its fire) and the BAHAMA STAR.

As Allan took us through the progress of cruising, both in Miami and elsewhere, he referred several times to the atmosphere as the "Wild West," as various entrepreneurs decided that running a cruise line was as good a way as any to make money. This did not always work out.

Among the entrepreneurs was Ted Arison, who had sold his business in Israel and come to Miami. Invited to see the NILI, he became its operator. When the NILI was impounded, Arison chartered the SUNWARD as a replacement. He joined forces with Knut Kloster, eventually to be kicked out by Kloster. But Arison was jettisoned with the money. In the continuing soap opera, Arison joined up with one Meshulam Riklis to buy the EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, which became the MARDI GRAS. After further episodes, Arison bought Riklis out for \$1.

We saw further development in photos and brochures: the first use of the phrase "Fun Ship," to describe the BILU; the end of the car deck (a ferry leftover) with the arrival of the SKYWARD. Ships were getting more modern and comfortable, and cruises were getting longer. New lines were appearing, such as Royal Viking and NCL, which brought the first out island as well as other innovations.

Allan closed with a picture of the modern port of Miami, with nine ships docked at the modern piers, and his commenting on the rapidity of change, and the growth in the number of passengers.

We very much enjoyed Allan's informative and interesting history, as well as the work and provisions of the galley crew.

Marge Dovman



Zim Line's JERUSALEM was one of the first cruise ships to sail from the Port of Miami in the mid-1960's (Bob Allen collection)

## PHOTO CONTEST!



Have you entered our Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Contest? Send us full-length, color photos of passenger ships that you have taken between 1965 and 2015. Members are entitled to 3 entries: one photo per entry. Contest rules can be found in the February issue of *The Porthole* or on our website: [worldshipny.com](http://worldshipny.com).

**Winning entries will be featured in a 2016 calendar distributed by the PONY Branch. Winning photographers will receive a free calendar.**

Deadline for entry is May 31, 2015. Review your photos and send us your best today: [wsspony50@gmail.com](mailto:wsspony50@gmail.com)

## WORLD SHIP IS CRUISING AGAIN!

Join members of PONY World Ship Society on their annual cruise. We sail October 10, 2015 on the REGAL PRINCESS for 7 days to New England and Canada, round-trip from New York. For more information, contact Brad Hatry at Pisa Brothers Travel. Call 212-265-8420 x 222, or 800-729-7472 x 222. Email [brad@pisabrotherstravel.com](mailto:brad@pisabrotherstravel.com). Hurry before it's too late!

## NAME THAT SHIP

Here are the answers to last month's name that ship quiz:

1. Named after the sculptor of Moses

**MICHELANGELO**

2. Largest liner in the world for 33 years

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

3. Called "Ralph" by her crew

**RAFFAELLO**

4. Had a subsequent life as the DORIC

**SHALOM**

5. Fugazy painted eyes on this ship

**INDEPENDENCE**

6. Became the BIG RED BOAT

**OCEANIC**

7. Later sailed for Saga

**SAGAFJORD**

8. Had a subsequent career as MONA LISA

**KUNGSHOLM**

9. Won the Hales Trophy on her maiden voyage

**UNITED STATES**

10. Dubbed "Flounder" on her maiden arrival in NY

**FLANDRE**

11. Fastest twin-screw liner ever built

**QE2**

12. Had a second career as AUSTRALIS

**AMERICA**

13. Called "Aunt Tillie" by her crew

**ANTILLES**

14. Grace Kelly sailed in her

**CONSTITUTION**

15. Had a second life as the REMBRANDT

**ROTTERDAM**

16. Once lost the Blue Riband to NORMANDIE

**QUEEN MARY**

17. Found new life as MARCO POLO

**ALEKSANDR PUSHKIN**

18. Longest liner in the world until QM2

**FRANCE**

19. Fondly called the "Green Goddess"

**CARONIA**

20. Replacement for the ANDREA DORIA

**LEONARDO DA VINCI**



The sleek LEONARDO DA VINCI replaced the ill-fated ANDREA DORIA in 1960.

(Italia / Bob Allen Collection)

## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Every twelve and a half hours at high tide, bay tides force the flow of water to reverse against the prevailing river current at this location. As water rushes in from the bay, an underwater ledge approximately 36 feet beneath the river surface churns the water to form whirlpools.

Where are these reversing falls? For more information, see page 6.



Topiaries on the front lawn of this oceanfront mansion are a reminder that camels wandered freely there. For more information, see page 6.



## SHIP NEWS

**A VIKING HAS ARRIVED:** Viking Ocean Cruises entered the luxury cruise market with the maiden voyage of their first ship, the 47,800-ton, 928-passenger VIKING STAR on April 11. The new cruise line is the sister company of Viking River Cruises, with a huge and growing fleet of 64 river cruise ships from which they expect to entice passengers to the line. Viking Ocean promotes their ships as a return to traditional cruising, without casinos, water parks or rock climbing walls. According to Viking Cruises chairman Torstein Hagen, the line will “be renowned for one thing: enrichment.” Passengers will also enjoy fares that include a shore excursion in each port, wine and beer with lunch and dinner, alternative restaurants, Wi-Fi and more. When the new liner arrives in Bergen at the end of her first series of cruises on May 17 (Norwegian Constitution Day), she will be christened by Mayor Trude Drevland in front of 20,000 invited guests. Bookings for Viking Star and her two sister ships currently under construction have been very strong, and Hagen has hinted at building Viking Ocean into a 10-ship fleet.

**NINE OR MORE FOR CARNIVAL CORP:** Carnival Corporation has announced a huge 9-ship building program, adding two or three ships per year between 2019 and 2022. Five of the new vessels will be built at Fincantieri in Italy, while four will be awarded to Meyer Werft in Germany; options for additional vessels will most likely be negotiated before construction contracts are signed. A prototype platform is being developed for the vessels, which will be divided among Carnival’s brands, but no more details have been released. However, it was announced that some of the ships would be tailored for the Chinese market. In related deployment news, Royal Caribbean has announced that OVATION OF THE SEAS (still under construction) will, like QUANTUM OF THE SEAS, be based in China.

**SEASIDE IN MIAMI:** MSC Cruises has announced that their 154,000-ton, 1,059-foot MSC SEASIDE will be based year-round in Miami upon completion in December 2017. The largest ship yet built by Fincantieri, SEASIDE will be christened by MSC Godmother Sophia Loren in Miami, and will have accommodations for 4,140 passengers based on two in a room; maximum passenger capacity will be 5,300. Conceptually approaching an innovative hotel-on-a-barge design, she will feature an expanded MSC Yacht Club (First Class) with a private pool and solarium, a wide waterfront promenade, panoramic elevators, and a vast interactive Aquapark. A sister ship will be introduced in 2018, and there is an option for a third vessel of the class for delivery in 2021.



The stern view of MSC SEASIDE reveals panoramic elevators, a pool set close to the ocean, and a superstructure resembling a land hotel (left). SEASIDE's Aquapark features slides that extend far beyond the ship's side (right). (MSC Cruises)

**HOW MUCH FOR ROOM SERVICE?** Some of the larger cruise lines continue to “unbundle” services: Norwegian Cruise Line has announced that they will be charging a \$7.95 fee for room service in a test program on the BREAKAWAY and GETAWAY. Carnival Cruise Line will be charging for certain items on the room service menus, while other items will be free. Starting on April 12, there will be charges from \$4 to \$7 for sushi, chicken wings, fried shrimp and pizza on Carnival “test” ships IMAGINATION, CONQUEST and PRIDE.

**TRAGEDY IN TUNIS:** The March 18 terrorist attacks at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis, Tunisia claimed 20 lives, 17 of which were cruise ship passengers; an additional 21 passengers were injured. 12 of the dead were traveling on MSC SPLENDIDA, while the other 5 were passengers on COSTA FASCINOSA. Both ships were docked at the nearby La Goulette, a popular North African port known as the gateway to Tunis and the ancient ruins of Carthage. Within a few days, all major cruise lines cancelled future port calls in Tunisia, until such time that the security and political situations improve.

**WHERE IN THE WORLD – ANSWERS!**

The **Reversing Rapids** are located on the St. John River in **Saint John, New Brunswick**, Canada. The St. John River runs for 450 miles through New Brunswick and traverses a narrow gorge before emptying into the Bay of Fundy. You can view the rapids from either Bridge Road or Fallsview Park—about a 35-minute walk from where the *Regal Princess* will dock.

**Camels named “Baby” and “Princess”** summered at Rough Point, the **Newport, R.I.** home of Doris Duke. An avid traveler and collector, Duke furnished her mansion with European and Islamic art, French furniture and Chinese porcelains. With its exquisite art, sweeping ocean view and expansive grounds originally designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Rough Point is a Newport treasure not to be missed.

Join us on the **7-night, round-trip New York sailing of the *Regal Princess* to New England and Canada (Oct. 10-17, 2015)**. For reservations, please call Brad Hatry at Pisa Brothers Travel: 212-265-8420 ext. 222 or 800-729-7472 ext. 222, or email Brad: [brad@pisabrothers.com](mailto:brad@pisabrothers.com).

**SUSAN BANKER**

PONY member Susan Banker passed away on March 25 in Morristown, NJ from Lymphoma. Less than a year ago, Susan participated in a program about the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of QM2, during which she fondly recalled both her 2004 Maiden Voyage, and her recent 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary crossing. She and her husband Lewis S. Goodfriend were able to share one last cruise on QM2 this past Christmas. She was also very enthusiastic about Ted Scull's long walking tours.

**CECIL SPANTON ASHDOWN**

Another longtime PONY member, Span Ashdown, passed away on March 23 due to heart disease. Span was born in Manhattan on May 14, 1923 and was a trained engineer who served as a naval officer in World War II. A steamship historian, he was a member of the Naval Reserve Association, the Navy League, the Naval Order of the United States, the Steamship Historical Society of America, the Maritime Industry Museum at Fort Schuyler and the Bermuda Maritime Museum, in addition to the World Ship Society. A detailed obituary can be found on the New York Times website at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?n=cecil-ashdown&pid=17448580>

**SHIP OF THE MONTH**

Ship of the Month will return in an upcoming issue of The Porthole.

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