

FEBRUARY, 2016 VOLUME XXXIII, # 2

Friday, February 26, 2016 – 6:00 PM
At the Community Church Assembly Room, 40 East 35th Street, Manhattan

CUNARD 175, PART II: QUEEN MARY 2's 175th Anniversary Commemorative Crossing from Liverpool By Bill Miller

Last September, Bill Miller gave a talk on Cunard Line's 175-year history and the gala celebrations at Liverpool in May 2015 to commemorate that history: "The Day of the Three Queens," as the entire modern fleet of the line gathered for a three-day celebration in Cunard's spiritual home. Bill was aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* for that grand event. But six weeks later, he joined the flagship *Queen Mary 2* for her historic re-enactment of Cunard's very first crossing in July 1840, from Liverpool to New York. Departing on July 4, 2015 -- 175 years to the day after *Britannia* departed the same port in 1840 -- *QM2* proceeded to make calls at Halifax and Boston -- the same cities *Britannia* had visited on that voyage. There were grand celebrations in both cities, and a finale in New York, where Cunard has made its American home for most of their history. Festivities, flag waving, fireworks...all concluding with a colorful laser and light show in New York's Upper Bay...Bill will take us along every part of this momentous crossing and share the magic and excitement that only Cunard can create!

Bill, a former WSSPONY chairman, is well known as "Mr. Ocean Liner," and his maritime history lectures aboard ships have shared the story of passenger shipping with tens of thousands. Bill is the author of nearly 100 books about passenger ships.



QUEEN MARY 2

(Bill Miller)

NEXT EVENTS: Membership Meetings: Friday 3/18; Thursday, 4/21; Friday 5/20; Friday, 6/24; - Programs TBD
PONY group cruise on the QUEEN MARY 2, July 1-6

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WEBSITE: www.worldshipny.com

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



SAGA RUBY at Flam, Norway, July 9, 2013.

(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 or 917-492-3379.

MYSTIC SEAPORT www.mysticseaport.org or 860-572-0711.

VANCOUVER WSS & VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM www.worldshipsocietyvan.ca for information or if you visit, contact Glenn Smith: 604-684-1240, email glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca Per their website, monthly meetings have been eliminated for the foreseeable future.

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 or liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org or 415-544-0100. 1275 Columbus Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133-1315.

PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP www.liberty-ship.com or 410-558-0164.

NEW YORK WATER TAXI, 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 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 or 877-731-0064. Circle Manhattan and other harbor cruises, departing from pier 84 at West 44 Street.

NEW YORK WATERWAY, www.nywaterway.com or 800-533-3779. Trans-Hudson ferry service and special-event cruises.

THE NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM www.lighthousemuseum.org or 855-656-7469. Contact for schedule of cruises and events.

THE WORKING HARBOR COMMITTEE www.workingharbor.com or 212-757-1600. Cruises to both remote and well-travelled parts of New York Harbor - 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 or 718-447-6490. Maritime lectures and art exhibits at the Sailor's Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island, NY.

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER www.lsc.org or 201-200-1000. The center, located in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ, has just opened a new exhibit, "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition," which will run until May 30, 2016. The exhibit focuses on the dramatic stories of the TITANIC's passengers.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SHIP	FROM	TO	VOYAGE	PASSENGER(S)	DATE
NORWEGIAN BREAKAWAY	New York	New York	"Nowhere"	Tim & Lisa Dacey	12/15
QUEEN MARY 2	Southampton	New York	Transatlantic	Ted & Suellen Scull	01/16

SHIP'S LOG – JANUARY

Ship's Log will return in the February issue.

2016 PONY BRANCH CRUISE – JULY 4TH WEEKEND ON THE NEWLY RENOVATED QUEEN MARY 2

Join us on Friday, July 1st for a five-night holiday weekend cruise to Halifax and Boston aboard Cunard Line's flagship QUEEN MARY 2. The QUEEN MARY 2 is the largest transatlantic liner ever to sail and many regard her as the grandest of all time. Cunard's service and cuisine are legendary. This will be the first voyage from New York following the extensive refit of the ship's Deck 7 dining venues and lounges, the replacement of the Todd English restaurant with the Verandah, the addition of new balcony cabins on Deck 13, and new single occupancy cabins on Decks 2 and 3.

Halifax is a favorite port of call for maritime historians and enthusiasts. Samuel Cunard was born here and Cunard Line has always been an integral part of the city. You can explore the city on your own, visit the acclaimed Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, or join one of several shore excursions to places such as Peggy's Cove and Grand Pre National Historic Site. Boston's Freedom Trail, Public Gardens, and nearby Revolutionary War sites beckon and we'll be in port for the spectacular July 4th fireworks display. There will be a party for members on board. Watch for news about a special program.



The QUEEN MARY 2 "Remastered" will feature a renovated King's Court Restaurant (above left) and the Carinthia Lounge (above right), which will replace the current Winter Garden. (Cunard Line)

To reserve your cabin or for more information, please contact
Brad Hatry at Pisa Brothers Travel at 212.265.8420 ext. 222; 800.729.7472 ext. 222; fax 212.265.8753,
or email: brad@pisabrothers.com

VENTURING INTO OUR FIFTIETH YEAR

By J. Fred Rodriguez Jr. WSS PONY BRANCH Plank owner/Maritime Historian

In 1965, a young man with a strong interest in ships and the shipping industry had the foresight and the will power to create the Port of New York Branch of the World Ship Society. Well known by some of the local ship enthusiasts, John C. Hastings Jr. contacted a friend at the Norwegian America Lines offices of 29 Broadway, here in New York. He had a plan to find out if there were enough enthusiasts in the local area to form a Branch. The parent organization of the World Ship Society had been started in England some 20 years earlier, back in 1946. With a green light from the ship company, John then wrote a press release and submitted it to the New York Times. They in turn published the invitation at the bottom of the first column of page 92, right above the daily SHIPPING --- MAILS weekly shipping schedule. The date was Wednesday, December 1st 1965. The event took place two days later. Since then we've become a success and have carried the distinction of being the largest overseas Branch.

On Friday, December 3rd a healthy number of shipping enthusiasts gathered at the old pier 45, foot of West 10th Street in the Village. The plan seemed simple enough. After paying a precious fifty cents, the future Branch Members would be allowed to board the Norwegian America Liner SAGAFJORD at 7:00 P.M. (19:00) for a well-organized tour of the new Norwegian beauty. At 8:00 P.M. everyone was invited to be (off the vessel) at a meeting room at the Academy Hall, located at 853 Broadway, corner of 14th Street for the first program of color slides. Well, the plan sounded great, but according to 2 senior members, once the ship visit was in full swing, no one wanted to leave the sheering and cambered decks of the SAGAFJORD, hence no one showed up at the shoreside event.

It was rescheduled for January 4th 1966 and on that date, the WSS of England had a brand new Branch formed. Since then its members, generally averaging about 300-350 per year, have been known to have visited a ship or two. We've also cruised a bit here and a bit there, crewed the ships around the world, and have enjoyed an endless selection of slide and special presentations as armchair cruisers. For the most part, like the ships around the world, we've also weathered the good, the bad and the ugly.

Now as we are about to enter our fiftieth year, let us not forget our Great Maritime Historians and those countless other members of yesteryear who have made the Port of New York Branch what it is today.

Happy Fiftieth WORLD SHIP SOCIETY (NY), and may those steam whistles and air horns never stop sounding!

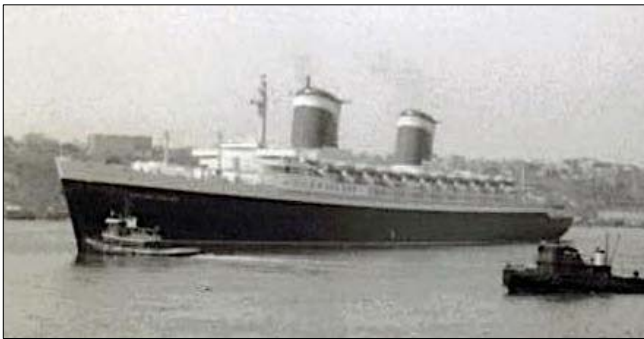
OCEAN LINER VIDEOS NEED A NEW HOME

A PONY Branch member would like to donate 12-15 videocassettes on various ocean liners and liner-related matters to any member who has a working video cassette player. These videocassettes are in VHS format. They have some age, but have had very little use.

If you are interested in obtaining these videocassettes, please send an email message to the PONY email address: wsspony@gmail.com. We shall notify the donor and arrange a transfer at a location in New York City.

SHIP NEWS

UNITED STATES OF CRYSTAL: Those who may have been visiting another planet in early February might have missed Crystal Cruises' announcement that they have signed a purchase option for the S.S. UNITED STATES. The option will be exercised if Crystal receives a positive report following an investigation of the condition of the 65-year-old vessel. Possible roadblocks include potential environmental hazards involved in renovating the gutted vessel, which has been tied to a Philadelphia, PA pier since 1996. Should Crystal move forward with the acquisition, they plan to renovate the 53,329-ton former transatlantic liner into an 800-passenger luxury cruise ship, consistent with the standards of the Crystal fleet. Transatlantic crossings from New York are likely to be part of her worldwide deployment. Preliminary cost estimates for the renovation are between \$700 and \$800 million, and include a new propulsion system for the vessel. Crystal intends to retain the ship's historic character by restoring her iconic red, white and blue funnels, black hull, and some of her 1950's interiors, including the First Class Navajo Bar and the glass-enclosed promenade decks. During the estimated nine-month investigation period, Crystal will pay for the UNITED STATES' upkeep and dockage fees, which are estimated at \$60,000 per month. For Crystal's corporate parent company, Genting Hong Kong, this process will be a repeat endeavor. In 2003, Norwegian Cruise Line, then a subsidiary of Genting, purchased the UNITED STATES. Subsequently, Genting determined that resurrecting the UNITED STATES was not feasible, and sold the vessel to the S.S. UNITED STATES Conservancy. Hopefully, they will reach the opposite conclusion this time.



Above left, the UNITED STATES in 1965 (Bob Allen), and above right, a preliminary rendering of her as a luxury cruise ship (Crystal Cruises).

A NEW LOOK FOR COSTA: For more than 15 years, Costa Cruises' newbuilds have had interior design by Carnival Corporation architect Joe Farcus, in a style similar to that of the Carnival brand. Costa recently announced that they will pursue a different design direction for their two new 180,000-ton LNG (liquefied natural gas)-powered ships, to be built at Meyer Turku in Finland. New York hospitality architect Adam Tihany will be creative director for the new ships design efforts. Tihany first became identified with cruise ship design with his work on the CELEBRITY SOLSTICE-class vessels, and is currently creating interiors for the SEABOURN ENCORE, Tihany's first commission where he has responsibility for the entire ship. He is also in the process of completing portions of Holland America's new KONINGSDDAM. The still unnamed 6,600-passenger Costa ships are due to enter service in 2019 and 2020.



Costa, Holland America, Celebrity and Seabourn have all looked to New York-based hospitality architect Adam Tihany to create bold new interiors for their latest vessels. Seen here are renderings of Tihany's dining room designs on Holland America's KONINGSDDAM (above left) and Seabourn's SEABOURN ENCORE (above right) (Holland America Line and Seabourn Cruises)

ROUGH RIDE FOR ANTHEM: Royal Caribbean's newest vessel, the ANTHEM OF THE SEAS, encountered extremely rough waters after departing Cape Liberty (Bayonne), NJ on her February 6 sailing. During the second afternoon at sea (which was Super bowl Sunday), the ship was battling 30-foot seas and winds in excess of 100 mph off the South Carolina coast. Passengers were restricted to their cabins as the 168,000-ton ANTHEM, her 4,529 passengers and 1,616 crew shuddered violently in the churning ocean. Furniture was tossed about, glassware and windows shattered, and part of a ceiling on deck 14 collapsed. Water reportedly reached the promenade on Deck 5, penetrating exterior doors and soaking carpets in many locations; watertight doors were closed as a precaution. Remarkably, the Super bowl continued to stream live into the ship's TV system during the height of the storm! Although the damage to the ship was not structural, the captain decided to cancel the cruise, and the ANTHEM headed back to Bayonne once the seas began to calm down early Monday morning. Royal Caribbean attributed the situation to an unexpectedly strong winter storm, but NOAA issued an alert for hurricane-force winds in the Atlantic the afternoon before the ANTHEM left Bayonne, followed by a hurricane winds forecast on sailing day. As compensation to the passengers, Royal Caribbean will refund the entire price of the aborted cruise, and offer a 50% discount on a future cruise.



Royal Caribbean's ANTHEM OF THE SEAS in the sheltered waters of Upper New York Bay.

(Royal Caribbean Cruise Line)

FIERY DAYS FOR AIDA: Three fires broke out in the month of January on AIDA Cruises' AIDAPrima, currently under construction at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Shipyard in Nagasaki, Japan. The fires were quickly extinguished, and there were no injuries; arson is strongly suspected. The maiden voyage of the 125,000-ton ship, AIDA's largest, is scheduled to depart Hamburg on April 30, 2016. The new liner's first voyage has been postponed due to numerous construction delays. She was to have sailed a maiden cruise from Japan to Germany in 2015.



AIDAPrima is an innovative vessel with a knife-like bow, built on an entirely new platform. She is scheduled for weekly Northern European cruises from Hamburg during her first season.

(AIDA Cruises)



An early 1950's brochure cover shows the UNITED STATES (1952) heading up the Hudson River towards her berth at West 46th Street. Her Europe-bound running mate AMERICA (1940), in the foreground, is sailing downstream. Should Crystal Cruises' renovation plan for the UNITED STATES be successful, she may once again sail past the New York City skyline. (Bob Allen collection)

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