

# Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

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## January Newsletter

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### 2014 Christmas-at-Sea Success

WOW! The number and variety of donated gifts were truly wonderful. This year, we gratefully exceeded our average of 300 distributed gifts, and we were able to bring smiles to the growing number of seafarers who visit the Capital District during the Christmas season. Your efforts were truly appreciated.

The 2014 Christmas-at-Sea program was a tremendous success throughout North America. More than 73,000 gifts were distributed this year, up from 68,965 in 2013. Forty-five seafarer centers in 65 North America distributed an average of 1254 gifts.



*One of our Intrepid volunteers, Shalyn, delivering gifts Aboard the MV Century Royal on January 2, 2015.*

### Record Breaking Year for Capital District Terminals

The Port of Albany and other Capital District terminals had a record-breaking year in 2014. Through the end of November, overall year-to-date activity surpassed 2013 by 51%. The Capital District served an average of eight vessels each month, and exceeded tonnage for heavy-lift projects by 633%. As a result, longshore work hours through November has nearly doubled since 2013.

Final figures are not yet available for December, but an additional 15 vessels called at Albany that month, so the 2014 total is likely to be remarkable.

### We Need More Volunteers

The growth of port activity has quickly translated into an increased need for volunteers to welcome and serve our visitors from around the world. Anyone interested in being part of this growing, expanding world is asked to contact our chaplain, Rev. William Hempel, at:

[chaplain@AlbanyMM.us](mailto:chaplain@AlbanyMM.us).

To hear about the volunteer experience, listen to the YouTube video, *Albany Maritime Ministry - Serving a Small Port with a Big Heart* at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaajb57j7sM&feature=youtu.be>

### **New! ISWAN Directory Listing**

Albany Maritime Ministry is now listed in the new edition of the Seafarers' Centre Directory. ISWAN (International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network) has shipped a box of 52 paper copies to our center, free of charge. An updated online version with geo-map of locations is available at: <http://www.seafarerswelfare.org/seafarers-centre-directory>.

Sixty-thousand copies of the new edition were published through a generous grant from the ITF Seafarers' Trust. The directory contains updated information on 429 *bona fide* seafarer centers. Copies are being distributed to the centers and welfare workers. Thanks to the help of Wrist Ship Supply, they will also be distributed on a number of ships. It is estimated that over 250,000 seafarers will have a free copy available to them.

### **New! AMM Newsletter**

We hope you enjoyed our inaugural newsletter. If you know anyone who would like to receive an email subscription, or to change your email preferences, contact our chaplain or email our webmaster at: [webmaster@AlbanyMM.us](mailto:webmaster@AlbanyMM.us).

*May you be blessed with a healthy and happy New Year!*

### **AN OLD BRETON FISHERMAN'S PRAYER**

Dear God, be good to me.

Your sea is so great,

And my boat is so small.

AMEN.

