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SSHSA to recognize SS Columbia, CAPT Brian McAllister at NY event

SSHSA is heading to the Big Apple next month to celebrate the history of a beloved boat and an iconic family business.

Executive Director Matthew Schulte will join members of the SS Columbia Project and McAllister Towing and Transportation as we formally recognize the SS Columbia as the 2017 Ship of the Year Award, and present the C. Bradford Mitchell Award to Captain Brian McAllister for publishing the recent book chronicling the 150th anniversary of his family's company.

"I think it's appropriate that we recognize the SS Columbia and Captain McAllister together because of the contributions that each has made to our country's maritime heritage," Schulte said. "That's more than 250 years of history that has touched thousands of lives along the way."

The reception will take place on **Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 6-9 p.m.** at India House, 1 Hanover Square, New York, NY. The suggested donation is \$100, with all proceeds benefiting the SS Columbia Project. Please RSVP to rsvp@sscolumbia.org by November 30, 2017.

The SS Columbia was designed by noted marine architect Frank E. Kirby, famed for his excursion steamers and Great Lakes overnight boats, and delivered in 1902. She operated for 90 years on a route just a few miles upriver from where she was built by Detroit Shipbuilding Co. at Wyandotte, Michigan.

Kirby's team produced a state-of-the art steamer specifically for passengers on day and summer trip excursions. The 200-foot vessel boasts a triple-expansion steam engine with indicated horsepower of

The fall issue of *PowerShips* has landed!

Issue #303 of *PowerShips* features articles on the *Empress of Britain*, the *Sagafford*, the *Queen Mary 2*, and Kate McCue's journey to becoming the first American woman to rise to the rank of master. Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

What you're missing on social media!

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Tumblr to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory. Here's a recap of what you missed!

On Veteran's Day, we acknowledged and remembered those who have served our country. We also

2000, driving a single propeller. Inside, Louis O. Keil filled *Columbia* with mahogany paneling, brass fixtures, gilded moldings and leaded glass.

She commenced daily roundtrips on the Detroit River from the foot of Woodward Avenue down 90 minutes to Canada's Bob-Lo Island Amusement Park, and was last certified to carry 2,566 passengers. The 115-year-old *Columbia* is perhaps best known as the elder and larger of the two Bob-Lo boats, the younger running-mate being the *SS Ste. Claire*.

Columbia was recognized in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, was awarded National Historic Landmark status in 1992 and is currently owned by SS Columbia Project, a nonprofit group dedicated to restoring her so that one day she may return to service, this time on the Hudson River.

McAllister was a natural choice for this year's C. Bradford Mitchell Award, which is bestowed upon an individual, institution or agency in recognition of a single achievement, such as an important book, or founding of an institution contributing to the goals, objectives and mission of SSHSA. He provided the vision, dedication, support, enthusiasm and determination to compile and complete a comprehensive history of the marine towing and transportation company founded by his great-grandfather - McAllister Towing: 150 Years of Family Business.

As 4th generation and patriarch of the McAllister business, he presides over an organization of some 800 workers, 75 tugboats in 12 ports of call, and also a vibrant ferry service. His perseverance demonstrated in the successful publication of this book, typifies his company's, and his family's, longstanding attributes of integrity, loyalty and outstanding service.

(Top photo: Pilot house and stack of the *SS Columbia*, a Bob-Lo excursion steamer built in 1902. SSHSA Archives, Edward O. Clark Collection)

Legacy cruise to celebrate history of *SS United States*

America's Flagship may not be able to leave her current berth in Philadelphia at the moment, but a unique partnership will bring the innovation and elegance of the *SS United States* to life on the seas once again.

honored those Merchant Mariners who keep the supplies flowing during peace time and while at war. These images from our archives represent many branches of our military and the vessels that have carried service members over the years. [Click here for the Facebook post.](#)

We announced the Stoltenberg Art Initiative, which was made possible by Rik Rabbett, a longtime friend of Don Stoltenberg and SSHSA member. Participating high school students can enter a contest to win cash prizes. Teachers must register by Jan. 1, 2018 to take part. If you have any questions, please email our Education Coordinator, Aimee Bachari at steam@sshsa.org. We can't wait to see all the great maritime art these students can create! [Click here for the Facebook post.](#)

We talked about an article in the latest issue of PowerShips regarding the history-making captain of the Celebrity Summit, Katie McCue - the first American woman and the youngest woman ever to rise to the rank of master. [Click here for the Instagram post.](#)

We posted pictures of the teachers that came and tested STEAMing Into The Future, SSHSA's new beta-educational website! We truly appreciated the feedback. If you're an educator who couldn't make it to the event, don't worry. You can still explore the site at www.shiphistory.org and [give us](#)

The SS United States Conservancy and the Pollin Group are working together to offer a special voyage aboard *Celebrity Summit* featuring SS *United States*-themed events and opportunities to meet others who share a passion for the grand era of transatlantic liners, maritime history, and the nation's iconic flagship.

This seven-night cruise will depart from Cape Liberty in Bayonne, New Jersey, on Sunday, May 6, 2018, and will make port at King's Wharf, Bermuda on May 9 for a three-night stay. The ship will return to New Jersey on Sunday, May 13.

The cruise will include talks spotlighting the SS *United States*' history, design and celebrity passengers, mid-century art and design, and the transatlantic race for the fabled Blue Riband. It will also feature festive social gatherings celebrating the music, dance and fashion of the transatlantic liner era; riveting talks on design, innovation and "the way things work" by award-winning author and illustrator David Macaulay; and a special presentation by Susan Gibbs, Conservancy executive director and granddaughter of the SS *United States*' designer, William Francis Gibbs.

The *Celebrity Summit* is a Millennium Class ship with many award-winning "Solstice Class" features. The ship, which received a grand makeover in March 2016, has the privilege of being captained by the first American woman to command a cruise ship, Captain Kate McCue, who was recently featured in the Fall 2017 PowerShips. [Click here](#) for more information about the cruise.

The SS United States Conservancy's curatorial team is also leading a sold-out, limited-access tour of the ship for Conservancy members in December. The tour is specially designed for former passengers, crew and family members, and attendees will be invited to share their recollections with the staff and contribute to the Conservancy's archives and the oral history of America's Flagship.

(Photo: The SS *United States* sails from New York in 1965 with assistance from a Moran Tug. SSHSA Archives, Braun Brothers collection)

Researchers celebrate discovery of "Chilean *Titanic*"

Missing for 95 years after sinking in a heavy storm, the steamship *Itata*, referred to as the "Chilean *Titanic*," was recently discovered in 650 of water off the coast of northern Chile.

[your feedback by taking the survey](#) or [click here for the Instagram post](#).

Did you know October was American Archives Month? Check out <http://sshhsa.org/research/index.html> to see what we have to offer or call (401) 463-3570 to schedule an appointment to come visit! [Click here for the Instagram post](#).

September 28 was #WorldMaritimeDay. [Check out this Tumblr post](#) on the rise of containerization and how it changed shipping on land and sea, which features primary source documents from our archives.

September was Hispanic Heritage Month. [Learn more about the SS Merida crash](#) on May 12, 1911 in this Tumblr post.

Cruise ships taking advantage of new Panama locks

Princess Cruises was the first cruise line to take guests through the Panama Canal in 1967, one of the world's most coveted engineering marvels. Fifty years later, the cruise line marks another major milestone with the very first mega-cruise ship, *Caribbean Princess*, to traverse the newly expanded locks.

Caribbean Princess is the first post-Panamax cruise ship to take more than 3,000 guests through the newly opened Agua Clara locks on the Atlantic side of the canal that opened in June 2016, as part of the 10-year, \$5.4 billion "Neo-Panamax" expansion.

Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder* was the first cruise ship to transit the expanded canal this past

The ship was found by group of researchers that included the Catholic University of the North and the Chilean chapter of the global marine conservation organization Oceana. They had been searching for nearly seven years before announcing the find.

"We can be sure that, for Chile, the *Itata* find is the most important in terms of underwater heritage," said Carlos Cortes, a filmmaker and marine biologist at UCN. "It is a great achievement to have completed this work."

The ship sank in 1922 with more than 400 passengers on board during a trip between the United States and Chile. While it was a passenger ship at that time, its history also includes a stint as a warship, where it served in the Chilean Revolution of 1891. During that conflict, the ship sparked an international incident and was briefly detained by the U.S. Navy for supplying weapons purchased in San Diego to insurgents in Chile. The ship was escorted back to the United States, where a court ruled the detention was unlawful and ordered the ship returned to Chile.

"In Oceana, we have made several scientific expeditions off the coast of La Higuera due to the environmental importance of this place," said Matthias Gorny, science director of Oceana Chile. "Therefore, we wanted to collaborate in the search for *Itata*, taking advantage of the technology we have, and thanks to the images of our underwater robot, we were able to find the boat."

The group realizes that there is still much work to be done now that the ship has been found, but they hope that it provides some great opportunities for the students at UCN. Javier Sellanes, research secretary for the Faculty of Marine Sciences at the college, said students studying archeology, anthropology, history, chemistry or marine biology may be able to take advantage of the discovery, while also respecting it as a sacred site.

"All this will continue to be done with the corresponding permits and due respect for those who lost their lives in this tragic event and their families," Sellanes said.

(Photo: *Itata* wreckage. Oceana)

Canadian Coast Guard ship looking for a new home

April, but that vessel would have fit through the original canal, which could only handle a maximum width of 106 feet. *Caribbean Princess*, with a width of 118 feet and 112,894 tons, needed the extra room created in the new canal.

The Panama Canal expects to receive approximately 236 cruise ships through the Panamax and Neopanamax Locks during the 2017-2018 cruise season, which officially began on October 2. That includes the *Disney Wonder*, which will transit the canal again along with the *Caribbean Princess*, *Carnival Freedom*, *Carnival Splendor* and *Norwegian Bliss*. Together, the five ships will make a total of 20 transits, while 11 new cruise ships will navigate either the Canal's Panamax or Neopanamax Locks for the first time from the following lines: Princess Cruise, Norwegian Cruise, Carnival Cruises, Silversea Cruises, Viking Ocean Cruises, Lindblad Special Expedition and CMA CGM.

Cruise line courts millennials with unique amenities

With an increasing number of businesses reaching for the millennial market, it should come as no surprise that the cruise lines are also trying to get in on the action.

Uniworld River Cruises has launched a new brand, U by Uniworld, specifically catered to the 21-45 set. Highlighted by their first two ships, *The A* and *The B*, the company is working to give millennials everything they could want on their vacation.

The ships won't officially launch until next year, but a preview event was

How low will it go? That's the question in the minds of Canadian Coast Guard officials after the former CCGS *Matthew* failed to draw a single bid last month – the fifth time it has been up for sale since January 2016.

Retired in 2012 after 22 years of service, the ship initially went up for sale for a minimum \$2.25 million bid. At its most recent auction, that minimum was down to just \$1 million. Named for the explorer John Cabot's boat, the *Matthew* is 50 meters long, with two survey launches and a helicopter deck that was not often used, as it made her top-heavy.

During its service, the ship was dedicated to hydrographic service - producing underwater charts - and the midshore vessel specialized in coastal regions using high-tech multiscan equipment. It was taken out of service because the government changed its approach to mapping and is using more cost-effective survey methods to cover more areas. The Coast Guard has installed hydrographic equipment on one of its other vessels, and plans to extend that to four more ships by 2020.

In addition to providing updated sea floor charts for the coast of Canada, the *Matthew* also aided in several emergency operations. When Swissair flight 111 from New York to Geneva crashed nose first into the ocean off Peggy's Cove, N.S., in 1998, the *Matthew* sailed immediately out of Halifax, reaching the scene just after the local fishing boats.

In August 2011, it took part in the rescue of two lost kayakers from Montreal, a man and a woman, off the coast of southern Labrador. Another time off Yarmouth, N.S., the crew saw a fire on the horizon, investigated, and two crew members discovered a fisherman who had been blown off his boat by an explosion. They performed CPR until they got him to shore, but he died.

Mainly, though, *Matthew* was used for mapping the coastal sea floor, showing routes into harbors, and enabling smaller vessels to hug the coast on their journeys, rather than travel far offshore with the big ships.

It also surveyed all around Newfoundland and the Bay of Fundy, sometimes updating charts for the first time since the days of the British Admiralty and Capt. James Cook. It also investigated sinkholes in Bras d'Or Lake of Cape Breton, an inlet from the sea despite its name.

held last month in Paris to show off some of the amenities that will be included. The inaugural events included a drum circle creating a spiritual energy onboard, sabering champagne on the top deck, a dance party and a renaming ceremony where biodegradable lanterns were released to symbolize letting go of *The B's* previous incarnation as Uniworld's *River Baroness*. The ceremony was led by the ship's 'Guardian Angel' Petra Nemcova, supermodel and philanthropist.

During the remainder of the journey, passengers experienced yoga, a silent disco, impressionist painting and wine classes, a treasure hunt at the Louvre, a secret tour of Versailles and a Paris City Roofs tour.

The B sports an all-matte black exterior and has two rooftop venues, a spa, mixologists, international DJs, communal tables for dining, farm-to-table cuisine, and organic BeeKind amenities in all rooms. The ship uses WhatsApp and email for internal communication with passengers, instead of the traditional paper daily itineraries on cruise ships. The first bookable European cruises will be along the Rhine, Main, Danube and Seine Rivers.

"We're thrilled to make history with the launch of U by Uniworld and introduce a whole new generation to river cruising," said Bettridge. "It's very exciting to see this vision come to life and to have such influential, well-travelled young people onboard to experience it for the first time."

Up to 120 guests can be accommodated in redesigned accommodations including four suites, 26 balcony bedrooms, 29 studio bedrooms and two studio bedrooms with triple occupancy. All staterooms feature waterfront vistas and built-in Bluetooth speakers.

(Photo: CCGS Matthew. www.shipspotting.com)

What's Happening in Ship History?

This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.

November 24 to December 23

Lantern Light Tours: A Christmas Ghost Story

Select days and times; see website for details

Adults \$33 (\$27 for members); Children \$26 (\$20 for members)

Mystic Seaport

Mystic, CT

www.mysticseaport.org

December 2

Family Day: Battleship Anniversary

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Free

Houston Maritime Museum

Houston, TX

www.houstonmaritime.org

December 2

Christmas Tree Ship

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Attendance free with museum admission; Christmas trees are \$45 (must pre-order tree by November 28)

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

www.inlandseas.org

December 2

Crystal Coast Christmas Flotilla

5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Free

North Carolina Maritime Museums Beaufort

Beaufort, NC

www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com

December 9

Jolly Family Jamboree

10 AM to 3 PM

Members \$13, Nonmembers \$14, free for children age 3 and younger

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME

www.mainemaritimemuseum.org

December 10 and 17

Parade of Lights Holiday Dinner

5:00 PM

In April 2018, two ships will begin regularly sailing for the new U by Uniworld brand as *The A* will join *The B* with fares starting at \$200 per person per day.

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Find us on:

Adults \$50, Children ages 3-12 \$25
Maritime Museum of San Diego
San Diego, CA
www.sdmaritime.org

December 13

Lecture: Lighthouses of the Florida Keys
3:00 PM
Free
Florida Maritime Museum
Cortez, FL
www.floridamaritimemuseum.org

December 31

New Year's Eve Fireworks
10:00AM to 6:30PM
Adults \$16, Children ages 3-12 \$12, registration requested
Independence Seaport Museum
Philadelphia, PA
www.phillyseaport.org

February 10

Frostbite Bash
6:30 PM to 11 PM
General admission \$85, Under 30 \$70 (early bird prices available until January 15)
Herreshoff Marine Museum
Bristol, RI
www.frostbitebash.com

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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Renew Your Membership Today

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