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Liberty ship *John W. Brown* looking for new home

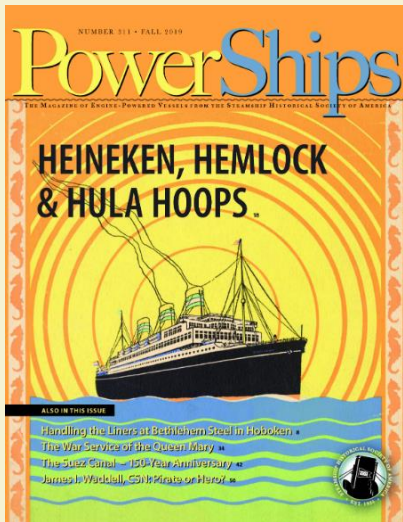
The *Baltimore Sun* is reporting that the Liberty ship *John W. Brown* is facing a January deadline to find a new home as its lease agreement is set to expire at the end of the year. One of only two fully operational Liberty ships left in the country, she has been a part of the Baltimore waterfront since 1988.



The *Brown* is operated by Project Liberty Ship, which is dedicated to educating the public by preserving and operating the ship as a living memorial to the men and women who built the fleet and sailed the vessels across the globe. They were given free mooring by the state for more than two decades until the pier was sold to Rukert Terminals Corp. for \$2 million in 2014. The company extended the free mooring agreement and allowed the ship to be moved to a nearby pier last year to give officials more time to find a permanent home.

Project Liberty Ship officials told the *Baltimore Sun* that they have been looking for a new home in Baltimore for the last few years, but that there aren't a lot of areas large enough to accommodate the ship. They're reaching out to the public now to see if there is anyone who might have waterfront space or connections that could keep them in Baltimore.

The *Brown* was launched at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore in September 1942. She made 13 voyages during World War II, carrying troops and equipment to the Persian Gulf, France, Italy, North Africa and the Mediterranean. Immediately following the war, she carried supplies to help rebuild Europe. In 1946, the government loaned the *Brown* to New York City, where she served as a floating maritime high school until 1982, graduating thousands of students. She spent some time inactive in New York and Virginia before being



The Fall issue of *PowerShips* has landed

Issue #311 of *PowerShips* features articles about the Holland America combination ships, Bethlehem Steel in Hoboken, the war service of the *Queen Mary*, the 150th anniversary of the Suez Canal, and Confederate Captain James Waddell. 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.

acquired by Project Liberty Ship. She is a member of the National Register of Historic Places and operated by an all-volunteer crew.

Photo: Liberty ship *John W. Brown* (Wikipedia).

Q&A with SSHSA's new Director of Development

SSHSA is proud to announce that, thanks to the generous support of the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh, it recently hired Chris Lehrbach as its new Director of Development. We've got a lot of great plans coming up, and Chris will help lead our fundraising efforts so that we can continue to tell the story of steam in the next decade and beyond. Keep reading below to find out more about our newest crewmate, or feel free to email him at clehrbach@sshsa.org to wish him fair winds in his new role!

Tell us a little about yourself and how you ended up here at SSHSA.

My interest in ships dates to when my mother videotaped "A Night to Remember" for me (it aired too late for me to stay up to watch!) Seeing it inspired a passion that still persists. So when I attended Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, I knew I wanted to do something with the SSHSA, just up the road in Warwick. I sent an e-mail expressing my interest, and [Executive Director] Matt set me up to intern with Astrid, our archivist. I so enjoyed my experience that when I learned of the Director of Development opening I quickly applied!



What are some of your hobbies and outside interests?

My foremost interests are architecture, history, the James Bond film series, "Star Trek," and transportation: If it flies or floats, I'm interested! It's pretty appropriate that I worked in the airline industry, majored in cultural and historic preservation, and now am employed by a maritime-oriented historical society. I try to always be reading at least one book focused on my aforementioned interests, as well as a pulpy or potboiler novel. I also enjoy traveling—30 countries on 6 continents (and counting)—and yellow labs (ask me about Bogey). And while it doesn't show (yet), I try to hit the gym most days of the week.



Costa announces cruise for chocolate lovers everywhere

There is a themed cruise for pretty much everyone out there these days. Whether you like zombies, rock and roll, or professional wrestling, you can probably find what you're looking for. But Costa Cruises is keeping it simple and going straight for the one thing with near-universal love: chocolate.

The cruise company is teaming with Italy's Eurochocolate – billed as the world's largest international chocolate festival – for an eight-day trip featuring “delicious gifts and chocolate-themed gadgets,” master classes by chocolate artisans, workshops run by expert chocolatiers, tastings featuring “the finest types of chocolate combined with wine, grappas, and spirits,” and

Do you have a favorite ship or line?

It is challenging to choose only one, but probably the *Queen Mary*. How many other liners won the Blue Riband (but still operated profitably), are credited by Winston Churchill for helping shorten the second World War, and, against all odds, continue to survive to this day? And, given her history, record and service, it is fitting she is the sole surviving significant prewar transatlantic ocean liner. By extension, the Cunard Line, while perhaps never the most glamorous, is a favorite of mine for its focus on the most important aspects of transportation: safe, efficient, profitable operations.

What interested you most about the role of Development Director?

My interests are twofold. First, the opportunity to support an organization in whose mission I believe. In order to intern (unpaid) with the SSHSA, I quit a paying position at another historically oriented society, and to accept this position I dropped everything and relocated here from Texas; that is how passionate I am about the SSHSA's mission. Second, the opportunity to learn what connects others to the SSHSA. I know I am passionate about it, but why do others so generously support us? This role is the ideal position to learn what connects our members to the SSHSA, and to then share our mutual maritime interests. I already started—and am continuing—reaching out to our membership to learn what it is that connects them to the SSHSA; don't be surprised if I call you!

Your year-end donation will be twice as nice this year

Looking back on 2019, we certainly have a lot to celebrate here at SSHSA – four spectacular issues of *PowerShips*, another successful Ocean Liner Dinner, and the continued growth of our interactive website and educational program at www.shiphistory.org.



But it's not time to kick back and start sipping eggnog just yet. With only a few weeks to go in the year, we're pleased to announce that **The Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh—longtime SSHSA members, supporters, and friends—have issued a fundraising challenge to our organization.** Between now and December 31, they have generously

an exclusive show with food blogger Sonia Peronaci.

Also aboard the ship will be an original chocolate sculpture made on the spot by a Eurochocolate master. The festival's incredible chocolate sculptures are a signature element that has helped make the Eurochocolate Festival famous with chocolate enthusiasts around the world.

The cruise will take place on the *Costa Pacifica* beginning on April 16, 2020, with stops in Genoa, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Malta and Catania. Some of the excursions offered will also be chocolate-related, such as a trip to Barcelona's Chocolate Museum.

Photo: Work takes place on a chocolate sculpture during Eurochocolate 2018 (www.perugiatoday.it).



Maritime experts debate speed limits on the high seas

With an eye toward cleaning up the environment, shipping experts are considering a number of different proposals that may include a speed reduction on the high seas.

Delegates to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency that regulates shipping, took up the topic this week, debating a French proposal to limit tankers and bulk carriers to a speed limit that is one knot below the

offered to match all new and increased donations up to a total of \$30,000!

What does that mean? **If this is your first time giving, your money will be doubled; if you can give at a higher level this year, your increase will be matched.** There has never been a better time to give to the Steamship Historical Society of America, and all contributions are, of course, tax-deductible. [Click here to donate now!](#)

Members of our board of directors have already pledged more than \$15,000 in gifts, but we need your help to help take us the rest of the way. Your donations directly fund the preservation of our country's maritime heritage and build on our growing momentum. If you enjoy reading PowerShips, visiting the Ship History Center, reminiscing about your favorite liners, or finding out about the ships that brought many of our families here, [this is the best way to make sure that we can continue to sustain and expand these resources.](#)

Photo: A festive holiday gathering circa 1950 (Edward O. Clark Collection, SSHSA Archives).

Rare cognac, liqueur recovered from 102-year-old shipwreck

There are plenty of people who have gone to great lengths and expense to procure a valuable bottle of alcohol, but this story might take the cake. Researchers with Ocean X Team and iXplorer spent a week last month recovering cases of booze from the Swedish steamer *Kyros*, which rests in 250 feet of water in the Baltic Sea. The haul was said to be 600 bottles of De Haartman & Co. cognac and 300 bottles of Benedictine liqueur.



The ship was detained by German authorities in May of 1917 while trying to navigate through neutral waters during World War I. Authorities inspected the ship and determined that their cargo was contraband, pulling the crew from the boat and sending it to the bottom of the Baltic.

The shipwreck was discovered in 1999, but it was deemed unsalvageable at the time because of bad visibility and fishing nets covering the entire ship. It was lost again for a time and rediscovered in 2014. Because of all of the complications, researchers with iXplorer said it took several years of preparations to make this recovery using

current average speeds by 2025 – so-called “slow steaming.” Experts say that even if the speeds are reduced by just 20 percent, the actual greenhouse gas emissions will be cut by close to one-third.

Overall, the shipping industry is said to be responsible for 2-3 percent of the emissions expended globally each year, and there is a self-imposed goal among these companies to cut emissions by 50 percent in the next three decades.

Opponents of the proposal say that speed isn't the only way to judge who is complying with environmental edicts, and that it unfairly penalizes companies and ships that are already using energy-efficient technologies. In fact, the IMO was also set to discuss proposals from Japan and Norway that would allow companies to decide how to meet greenhouse guidelines through energy efficient vessels and cleaner fuels. But those who back the French proposal argue that slow steaming is an easy way to reduce emissions immediately until some of these technologies become cheaper and more widely available.

Photo: A Delmas container ship unloading at the Zanzibar port in Tanzania
(www.wikipedia.org).

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divers and submersible robots. Other artifacts recovered from the wreck will go on display in museums around Europe.

The *Kyros* was on its way to St. Petersburg, Russia, when it was captured, and some speculate that the cargo was meant for Russian nobles; perhaps even Czar Nicholas II himself.

The recovery teams are not sure if the bottles are drinkable yet, and they are working with Bacardi – which now owns Benedictine liqueur – to determine how much the cargo may be worth. Making it even more difficult is the fact that the cognac brand, De Haartman & Co., is largely unknown.

“We certainly don't want to open a bottle if the value is tens of thousands of dollars. We are trying to find info but it's not easy,” Peter Lindberg of Ocean X Team told CNN.

Photo: Items recovered from the World War I-era *Kyros* (iXplorer).

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 19

Maritime Mingle
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
\$35
Florida Maritime Museum
Cortez, FL
www.floridamaritimemuseum.org

November 20

Six Decades of *Know Your Ships*
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Free for members, \$11 for nonmembers
National Museum of the Great Lakes
Toledo, OH
www.inlandseas.org

November 23 to December 22

Lantern Light Tours
Various times; see website for details
\$28 for adult members and \$23 for youth members; \$33 for adult nonmembers and \$28 for youth nonmembers; free for children younger than 3
Mystic Seaport Museum
Mystic, CT
www.mysticseaport.org

December 7

Salute to Sunset and Pickwick's Lanternlight Parade

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5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
\$60
Texas Seaport Museum
Galveston, TX
www.galvestonhistory.org

December 8 and 15

Annual Parade of Lights Dinner
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
\$60 for adults, \$25 for children age 3-12, and free for children age 2 and younger
Maritime Museum of San Diego
San Diego, CA
www.sdmaritime.org

December 13

6th annual Belle Isle Holiday Stroll
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Free
Dossin Great Lakes Museum
Detroit, MI
www.detroithistorical.org

December 14

Jolly Family Jamboree
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
\$13 for members, \$14 for nonmembers, and free for children younger than 3
Maine Maritime Museum
Bath, ME
www.mainemaritimemuseum.org

December 20

Civil War Round Table: Last Days of the USS *Monitor*
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
\$1
The Mariners' Museum and Park
Newport News, VA
www.marinersmuseum.org



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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Renew Your Membership Today

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