



METEOR

The Club for Women Engaged in the Sale and/or Promotion of Passenger Travel

January, 2004

www.4174.org

Happy Birthday!

Christmas Luncheon Is Huge Success

Once again the 41°-74° Club's Annual Christmas Charity Luncheon is hailed as the "event of the season" in the New York travel industry.

Some 260 people attended this year's event, which was once again held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre. The theme of *A Storybook Christmas* captured the spirit of the day and the imagination of attendees.

The festivities could not have taken place without the continued support of our generous co-hosts, to whom President Sharon Ullrick paid special homage in an Ode to our Co-Hosts. (Reprinted on page 3.)

Most importantly, the members and guests opened their hearts and wallets to the LAM Foundation, an organization dedicated to finding a cure to a rare, incurable lung disease affecting only women, usually in their 20's and 30's. Attendees donated \$3,580 to LAM. In addition, hundreds of toys were donated for needy children. The toys were distributed by The Christmas Project of Leonia, New Jersey. And nearly 100 attendees left with books donated by a literary agent.

(Continued on page 3)

Everyone's a winner!

Co-hosts Melissa Cain (Canadian Tourism), Gerard Quirk (Avis) President Sharon Ullrick and Rob Franklin (Visit Britain) celebrate Melissa and Gerard winning prizes at this year's Christmas Luncheon



Kudos and thanks to the Christmas Committee (left to right); Ramona Manzi, Patti Buffolano, Sharon Ullrick, Fiona Monaghan, Maire Caverley.

President's Message, January 2004

Dear Members,

I will treasure warm memories of our Storybook Christmas at the Pierre for years to come. Maire, Fiona, Patti, Ramona and Sue led the way with excellent planning and attention to all the important details. Our Co-Hosts were gracious and generous, and Sven Lindblad brought a focus to our philanthropy with his Grand Prizes. We did indeed struggle to fit everyone in and some had to be turned away. This is a shame as so much depends on making our guarantee and in setting a price that will be supported by the membership. Too many have gotten in a last minute habit that can bring chaos to events.

Still, I had so many happy attendees call and email and shout their delight that everything else pales. I am glad we were able to support LAM and The Christmas Toy Project. It was great to have their representatives on hand to provide more information. I salute Linda Getter and the Philanthropic Committee, and I am eager to see where they will point us in the May event.

(Continued on page 4)



And the winner is....!

Sven Olaf Lindblad offers congratulations and a grand prize certificate to the lucky winner, new Club member, Lisa Conway of CSA Travel Protection.

Christmas Luncheon (from Page 1)

The raffle sales bought chances to win wonderful gifts donated by Ferragamo and Missoni (courtesy of RDM Hotels and AFI Travel), The Kimberly Hotel and two fabulous grand prizes, generously donated by Lindblad Expeditions.

It is poetic justice perhaps that some of our co-hosts, past and present, were winners this year. Gerard Quirk of Avis, one of the Club's perennial Platinum Level co-hosts, won one of the grand prizes, with air courtesy of American Airlines. Melissa Cain of the Canadian Tourism Commission, a Silver co-host, won a weekend at the Kimberly Hotel. And perennial Club supporter, Dennis Pinto of Micato Safaris won two prizes!

So congratulations to all involved and thank you to all who attended and supported the event. We all look forward to next year's event!

Ode to the Co-Hosts, December 2003

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through New York
The leaders in travel stepped back from their work.
The season was pleasing, the stock market rare,
So they joined 41-74 Club at the Pierre.

But just when they thought they had time to relax
Their cell-phones lit up and in came a fax:
A man from the North Pole seeks a warm getaway,
And could there be beaches with room for a sleigh?
He's really been slaving and feeling the stress.
Could somebody help him? He's got American Express!

Valerie Wilson got right on the line
'Cause The Leading Hotels of the World would be fine.
But Liliane Nash was all ready to book him
On a Crystal Cruise that she knew would hook him.
Now wait just a minute, before Santa got smitten
Bill Fischer revived the Concord with the plan "Visit Britain".

The little old client gave out with a sigh
And decided to give Tourism Ireland a try.
His wife missed her family and home, don't you see.
(Before they were married she was called Caverley.)

Meanwhile, Canada wouldn't hear No;
Melissa Cain put a torch to the snow.
She'd make a new coastline, if that's what it took.
But Santa just laughed till his whole belly shook.
With so many options to put to the test
He'd have lots of fun and plenty of rest.

He even decided to forgo the sleigh
And let Avis Rent A Car show him the way.
And giving a wink ere he drove out of view
He called, "Happy Travels to each one of you!"



We couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to (left to right) Club member Pat Gray of American Express, Heather Lundberg of American Airlines and Club Prospective Kathy Civecchi of Crystal Cruises for their support!



Club Leadership
Board of Directors (left to right): Sue Schiff, Heike Estey, Maire Caverley, Judi Stern, Sharon Ullrick, Joan Novack, Sylvia Berg, Iris Salazar, Cheryl Bennett, Gilda Braveman, Valerie Martin.



Pressing the Flesh!

Corresponding Secretary/Publicity Chair Judi Stern, Arnie Weissmann, Editor-in-Chief of Travel Weekly and President Sharon Ullrick smile for the camera!

Thanks to all who contributed to the Making Strides walk October 19, 2003. The Club raised a total of \$1,065 to help in the fight against Breast Cancer.



Living History

The Club's Past Presidents (left to right) are Sue Schiff, Ramona Manzi, Heike Estey, Lori Cole, Alycia Oliphant, current President Sharon Ullrick, Rena Udell, Frances Gaddipati, Lorraine Leonard, Maire Caverley, Liliane Nash, Patti Buffolano, Lyn Fox.

President's Message (from Page 1)

In many ways it seems our Board is just getting started. Our new members are enthusiastic and they have moved quickly to assume their roles. None of us can predict the pressures we may face, but I urge you to consider the nominations for next year's Board wisely. It is a thrill to be part of an organization that celebrates it's 66th year and produces such marvelous events, but too much responsibility falls to too few when there are gaps in the Board. Our reputation is too great to falter now.

I have asked Heike Estey to chair the Nominating Committee and she has consented. Heike was Club President twenty years ago and she has keen good sense that I have valued highly this year as she served as Parliamentarian. So let's all give some thought to what we ask from our Board and who best to carry on.

Together we travel well,

Sharon

November Closed Meeting Brings New Board Members

The November 13, 2003, Board Meeting brought attendees together for fabulous views and wonderful fare. Club members were treated to delicious appetizers and enjoyed good conversation, as well as spectacular scenes of midtown Manhattan from high atop the RIGHA Royal Hotel on West 54th Street.

Members in attendance also voted to fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors. Cheryl Bennett is now the Second Vice President, Membership; Judi Stern is Corresponding Secretary, Meteor Editor, and Brenda Homick replaces Cheryl as Member-at-Large. Brenda joined Relais and Chateaux in 1992, after a successful career in Public Relations and Research and Development. Brenda says she first took her administrative position with the hotel company :”to pursue my passion for travel.” In 1999 Brenda became the Manager for the North America delegation, and in 2003 she was promoted to Director of Marketing. Brenda is a graduate of Ohio State University with a BS in Economics and a minor in English.

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The Club mourns the loss of two vital and well-respected members. A. Gerry McDonnell passed away in December. Gerry was an active and important Club member.

Sheryle Gross passed away recently. Sheryle worked hard for the Club and she served as Club president in 1981/1982.

Both women had many friends among Club members and will be missed.