On this 15-day trip, Nancy and I traveled with Zegrahm Expeditions, Seattle. Our small cruise ship adventure was aboard the Clipper Odyssey with 77 fellow participants plus 13 guides and lecturers. We had previously traveled with Zegrahm to Turkey and South Georgia Island and highly recommend their itineraries, attention to detail, staff and Zodiac excursions! We also like to give credit and thanks for their post-trip photo-log narration which, with permission, we have excerpted in the following description of our voyage.

Continued on page 3
Dear Fellow Circumnavigators,

I wish you all a happy 2009 as we look forward to the challenging year ahead of us. The economic decline has deepened around the world and the problems facing us are real, but there is hope in the air that competent people are grasping the extent of the crisis and will inspire us to work together to find solutions.

The Club enters its 107th year of existence in a healthy state. Through prudent stewardship, our finances are strong. Membership, which has been declining in recent years, has stabilized and even enjoyed an uptick in January. Your officers and board of governors continue to be committed volunteers. Several members are going off the board after years of loyal service, and new members are joining to provide renewed strength and fresh ideas. (2009 Election Ballot enclosed.)

The planning is well underway for our gala Magellan Award dinner in New York on Friday, April 24, 2009 honoring Michael Palin. I’ve been doing some homework and I strongly recommend watching some of Mr. Palin’s excellent documentaries. You will see, as I have, that he exudes the true spirit of a Circumnavigator, relishing the adventure of travel, enthusiastic about the opportunities to visit distant lands and experience varied cultures, humble and appreciative of the feats he accomplishes or the magnificent sights he is able to see. Most importantly, true Circumnavigator that he is, Michael Palin embraces the common threads that run through all peoples and cultures, which include love of family, happiness, and friendship. I think we are in for a fantastic time during the Magellan Award festivities, and I hope many of you will be able to attend. I look forward to seeing you.

Luck to you,

Bill Holm
International President

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On June 9, 2008, we awoke to a beautiful sunny day refreshed and ready for our exploration of Sapporo, Japan’s fifth largest city. Sapporo sits on Hokkaido, the northernmost of the four major islands of Japan. We began our tour with a drive by the historic Clock Tower on our way to the Nijo Market. Here we had a chance to view the variety of local seafood, particularly crab, as well as perfect cantaloupes on sale for $100 each – typically given as gifts. Making up 20 percent of Japan’s total land mass, but with only six million people (half the population of Tokyo), Hokkaido is known for its greenery and wild spaces. In the greenbelt surrounding Sapporo we visited Moerenuma Park, designed by sculptor Isamu Noguchi. We then headed to the Sapporo Beer Garden where we donned aprons and began cooking vegetables and lamb on small gas grills located on each table. We enjoyed the tasty results of our efforts while sampling refreshing Sapporo beer. We returned to the Sapporo Grand Hotel for an afternoon of either leisure or to explore Sapporo independently. This evening we gathered for our welcome dinner where our Expedition Leader, Mike Messick, introduced us to the expedition staff and lecturers accompanying our voyage and enlightening us along the way.

The next day we headed out of town to the Historical Museum of Hokkaido where the curator took us on a tour that provided background on the history of Hokkaido and set the stage for Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. From the museum we returned to the city for a visit to the Botanical Garden and enjoyed the beauty of protected green space in the midst of urban Sapporo. We then headed to the port of Otaru where, after exploring the canal zone and glass shops of this once thriving herring community, we embarked the Clipper Odyssey, our home on the sea. A local drumming group gave us a spectacular send-off as the lines were released from the dock and the Clipper Odyssey was under way for our Fire and Ice adventure.

On June 11, after making her way through the dense fog, the Clipper Odyssey came alongside at Kutsukata Port on Rishiri Island (population 5,600). Our tour departed for a full circumnavigation of the island, a 34-mile loop. The weather turned favorable and we were lucky to have clear glimpses of the steep slopes of Mount Rishiri, a stratovolcano. Along the drive we spotted the endemic Rishiri poppy; offshore, we watched as local fishermen in small boats harvested sea urchins, the main catch on the island. Rishiri is also known for its kelp, which is gathered and dried and is a staple of Japanese cooking. Our first stop was Ottamori Pond, where we inspected the various flora of the region, including double-petal cherry blossoms still in bloom and ostrich fern, accompanied by the constant hum of cicadas. We stopped along the rugged southern coast of the island, where we were greeted by a local fisherman who offered us a sample of dried kelp – an acquired taste it seems. Our final stop was the Zegrahm Expeditions voyage three years ago, so the locals were all very excited to have us visiting. When we returned to our ship we were greeted by students from Senhoshi Junior High School, who presented each of us with a card they had made themselves, and used the opportunity to practice their English lessons. We set sail during lunch to return to Hokkaido for our final clearance out of Japan in Wakkanai, the northernmost point of the island. During the passage, Tim Baughman gave us a stirring presentation on the rise of Joseph Stalin. After the formalities in Wakkanai, we bid sayonara to Japan and headed north, bound for Russia.

The next morning, we came alongside in the Russian port town of Korsakov on Sakhalin Island. While we waited for entry formalities, we were entertained by a military brass band on the dock. Once cleared, we boarded buses for the drive to Yuzhno Sakhalinsk, where we visited the Cathedral of the Resurrection, a Russian Orthodox Church; the Regional Museum, with displays ranging from the wildlife of the region to relics from the prisons and gulags of Sakhalin, to a collection of articles produced or used by the indigenous peoples of the area; and a stop at a local souvenir shop, where we put our first rubles to use. Next we headed to a local restaurant for a delicious Russian lunch, followed by a performance by a traditional Cossack group singing songs of love, loss, and vodka with beautiful melodies, colorful costumes, and outbursts of dancing. Before returning to the ship, we stopped at Lenin Square and the local fish market. As we sailed out of Korsakov, we listened to a lecture: Let’s Rock and Roll: Life on the Edge of a Plate, as background on the young and active volcanic arc we would be visiting over the course of our trip. Of the 53 volcanoes in the chain, 40 have been active over the past 50 years. This evening, Captain Nick Hope-Inglis welcomed us aboard with a cocktail party and festive dinner.

On June 13, we arrived off Tyuleniy (Sea) Island enveloped in fog. The scouting party went ashore and soon we were making the first of many Zodiac disembarkations and slipping over to the island. We were greeted on the ride by curious Steller’s sea lions in the waters around us. Coming ashore we were amazed to see the sheer numbers of common mures lining the hillside and the roofs of several buildings. We walked along the beach before working our way to the summit ridge of this small island. Biologists have constructed fences to act as blinds for observing the wildlife here and we put them to good use for wonderful, and sometimes close-up, views of the Steller’s sea lions and northern fur seals occupying the beach and cliff tops. Our naturalists explained the life-cycle and breeding biology of the mures, sea lions, and fur seals, and many of us observed the crested auklets popping in and out of the roof of one of the buildings. At the end of the visit, we reluctantly left the beach, our cameras having captured spectacular shots from this incredible island. After lunch we continued our lecture series. Mark Brazil presented, “Beyond Blakiston’s Line: A Natural History of Japan and Northeast Asia.”

The following day the ship anchored off Broutona Island with thousands of northern fulmars bobbing in the surrounding waters. We boarded Zodiaks for a cruise among the basalt sea stacks, host to colonies of thick-billed mures, kittiwakes, and tufted puffins. During lunch we sailed to Chirpoy Island and split into various walking groups, one of which was “the birders.” As the island has no bears, we were also able to head out on our own for exploration, the search for Japanese and Russian fishing floats, the coveted glass balls. We returned to the ship for a quick dinner while we repositioned to Brat Chirpoy Island. We headed out for our second Zodiac cruise of the day, this time to a Steller’s sea lion rookery. We had great views of the sea lions swimming in a group near our Zodiaks as the light faded. On our return to the ship, we were greeted with hot chocolate to warm us up before bed.
The following morning we disembarked at Onokotan Island where we spied a WWII-era Japanese pill box, a concrete bunker, carved into the rocky cliffside. Many of us crossed the river and proceeded up a switchback to the top of the hillside to explore the coastal tundra sprinkled with white rhododendrons in bloom. We also glimpsed a red fox on the horizon. Some explored further upriver while others searched the bank among the vast quantities of flotsam and jetsam for glass ball souvenirs. We again went ashore at Shelakova Bay, an old whaling station, where the two settlement caretakers, along with their dog, greeted us. They will be spending nine months in this remote outpost. They told us that they had seen plenty of evidence of bears, but had not viewed one yet. With safety in numbers, we went with our various groups for walks along the coastal regions of this island and photographed the rusted hulls of old Russian whaling boats. After dinner we gathered in the lounge for some vodka and a talk by Sergey Frolov, our Russian liaison, on his personal background as well as the arduous process of obtaining permits to visit these remote regions. He explained that our permits had been signed by none other than Vladimir Putin.

On June 18, our intrepid scouting party boarded Zodics to motor down a 15-mile stretch of beach on the western side of the Kamchatka Peninsula in search of Kamchatka brown bears. They did manage to spot one that was foraging among the kelp on the beach, but as soon as the bear caught the scent of the Zodics it ran straight up the hillside and disappeared into the mist. The bears are hunted by poachers and can be very skittish. As we sailed on, we enjoyed a lecture about “Some Like it Hot: Volcanoes and their Eruptions.” We arrived at Atlasova that afternoon but because of thick fog, we were unable to see the Alaid Volcano – the tallest in the Kuril chain. We went ashore on a beautiful black sand beach and broke into groups for a variety of walks, all of which began with a look at the remains of an old fish processing camp.

We began the next day with a passage through the longest fjord in Russia, but with the thick fog, our guide made the decision to bump up our landing at Russkaya Bay. Here we broke into groups walking along the beach or up a bear trail in search of brown bears. We saw fresh bear scat so we knew the bears were near, but they eluded us. The fog began to lift and most of us had excellent views of adult and immature Steller’s sea-eagles flying overhead or perched on tree limbs. After lunch the sun burned through the fog so we tried another pass through the gorgeous fjord with all scouting eyes on deck watching for bears on the hillsides. No luck, but we did have views of nesting sea eagles with chicks. As we came out of the fjord, the Zodics were lowered for the final cruise of the voyage to view the many sea otters floating with pups near the shore, as well as fur seals and sea lions perched on the rocks. A lone Steller’s sea-eagle held its ground at the top of a pinnacle while being dive-bombed by agitated gulls. Once back on board, we made one last pass through the spectacular fjord, complete with champagne, where we saw tiny brown spots on the horizon – a mother bear and cub on the ridge. Our final recap was lively and we enjoyed the evening cocktail party followed by the captain’s farewell dinner.

After days spent exploring the remote, mostly uninhabited islands of the Kuril chain, it came as something of a culture shock to wake this morning in the sheltered harbor of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the largest city in the Russian Far East and capital of the Kamchatka state. With several different options for the day, we divided into smaller groups for a full day’s exploration of P-K (as Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is affectionately known) and its surrounding areas. Among the attractions were the excellent local museum, with its fine collection of natural history and ethnographic artifacts; a traditional Russian Orthodox Church overlooking the city; and the local market, where wolverine fur hats and fresh king salmon were on sale alongside Chinese electronics and cherries imported from Turkey. A short drive out into the rolling countryside outside P-K brought us to the home of “Alexander the Herbalist,” a farmer-musician who has put his musical talent and knowledge of local herbs to good use. After a short in-the-field introduction to the plants which we would soon be sampling first-hand, Alexander ushered us into a large tepee where he entertained us with his unique blend of Russian folk songs and culinary expertise.

Our final morning we bid farewell to the Clipper Odyssey and boarded a bus for Sergey’s Siberian K-9 Center on the outskirts of P-K. Here we were introduced to several of the 60 dogs that are trained for mushing at this kennel, complete with a quaint lodge. The dogs, including several puppies, were happy to greet us, as we were them. Amid much excitement, six of the dogs were harnessed up for a mushing demonstration, and we did our best to snap photos as they sped by. We had time to walk amongst the dachas (summer cottages), dotting the landscape before enjoying a typical Russian lunch. Before we knew it, the time had come to say good-bye to the expedition staff and those who were staying on for the second leg of the voyage, and head to the airport for our charter flight to Anchorage and final overnight. The following day we headed off in many different directions, reflecting on the unforgettable highlights of our journey from Japan to Russia.
Chapter president Rolf Brown said that the Chapter is off to a great start. On October 16 Cs. Nancy and Chuck Bivenour showed slides of their recent trip to “Northern Japan and the Russian Far East” at the Orange Tree Golf Resort. New to the job of President, Rolf said there was no camera to take photos of the event! However, the Bivenours shared their trip “Fire and Ice” as featured on the previous pages.

On November 20 members and their guests were excited to attend the luncheon held at the new state-of-the-art Tempe Center for the Performing Arts. After an Arizona barbecue they were treated to a guided tour of the facility and the art gallery.

The annual Holiday Party was held on December 14 at the Chaparral Suites Resort. “A program wasn’t planned as our members enjoy just chatting and talking about their trips,” says President Rolf. A few photographs were taken.
CHAPTERPRESIDENT JOHN CARROLL STEPS DOWN
President-elect Joe Osentoski Gives Program on Tibet

The venue for the fall gathering of the Michigan Circumnavigators was the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. The event was held on Thursday evening, October 2, 2008. A brief meeting was held during which officers were elected: Joe Osentoski, President; John Carroll, 1st Vicepresident; Kathy Sinclair, 2nd Vicepresident; Charles and Roberta Clemak will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. The Board of Directors elected were: Chester Arnold, Lee Barthel, Mary Carroll, Colonel Marion Matuszewski, Jack Maxwell, Roger McNeill, Mary O’Connor, Tom Peloso, and George Vincent.

John Carroll then introduced four guests from Chonqing, China: Calvin (interpreter and professor of English), Liang, Rick and Yuan (professors of engineering). All men teach at Chonqing Industry Polytechnic College. They were in Dearborn, Michigan, for two weeks observing engineering teaching methods at Henry Ford Community College.

Following a delightful dinner, all present settled back in their chairs for the evening’s presentation: “Tibet, Through the Eyes of Joe Osentoski and Nancy Swieczkowski.” Joe visited Tibet in 1998 and Nancy just recently returned from her trip. They teamed together to show what has changed and what has stayed the same during the time period of 1998-2008. Given the current state of affairs in Tibet, this proved to be a most interesting and colorful presentation which elicited many questions afterward.
UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER

Chapter president Helen Jenkins reports that the Chapter once again had a wonderful holiday luncheon at the historic Oriental Club in London on December 17.

“It is always a privilege to be in the beautiful library in such luxurious and historic surroundings. We had as ever a fascinating conversation around the table on current world economic issues, which are a concern for all,” reported President Jenkins. Unfortunately, a camera was not available.

The next lunch is planned for March 2009. The venue and date are to be confirmed.

HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED!

Forty-Six Circumnavigators family and guests gathered at the Country Club of Detroit on December 4 for their annual festive holiday party which served as a Foundation fundraiser. This black-tie event kicked off the holiday season in style. There weren’t any guest speakers, no formal agenda. It was just an evening to have fun, to wish each other good health, happiness, peace and good fortune in the coming year.

Once again members of the English-Speaking Union were invited to this event. Ten members of this group joined in the celebration. Several members of the Michigan Circumnavigators are also members of the English-Speaking Union. Our Chapter board member Tom Peloso also serves as their chapter president.

The room at the Country Club of Detroit was beautifully decorated, giving it a warm, cozy atmosphere. Soft, festive music throughout the evening was provided by the JC Reynolds Trio. All present listened to and enjoyed holiday tunes through the cocktail hour and during dinner.

C. Mary Carroll, along with other members of her committee, secured items to be raffled off during the evening in order to raise money for the Foundation. Among the top prizes were accommodations at The Grand Hotel, and The Inn at Bay Harbor, both located up north in Michigan. Numerous area restaurants provided gift certificates for dinner, and countless businesses donated products: books to jewelry and clothing accessories. The performing arts in the Detroit area came through with tickets to the theater, opera and the symphony.

To our fellow Circumnavigators – We wish you the best at this holiday time and a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!
The Naples Chapter of the Circumnavigators Club met on Sunday, November 16, for luncheon at the beautiful Club of Pelican Bay. The speaker Bob Perkins gave a Power Point presentation on his travels from Beijing to Tibet by train and on to Nepal by jeep.

Sixty-two members and guests attended the first event of the winter season. Members from as far away as Orlando, Palm Beach and St Petersburg were present.

Bob Perkins, a true adventure traveler, shared with us his experiences starting in Beijing when he boarded the 42-hour super train from Beijing to Tibet. This special train travels up to an altitude of 16,000 feet and has oxygen available for those who need it. The train makes it possible for many Chinese to visit Tibet.

Bob showed slides of the Tibetan temples and people. The Chinese soldiers are very visible as they force the Tibetans to live under their rule. The Potala, the magnificent structure built for the Dalai Lamas, goes up the side of a mountain and houses many rooms where previous Dalai Lamas are buried. The present Dalai Lama is not allowed to visit Tibet and the Potala is filled with Chinese. Tibetan culture and religion are slowly being squeezed out.

Taking a very sturdy jeep taxi, Bob and his two friends from Ireland started the very arduous 4-day trip over the mountains into Nepal. In May, you are able to see the narrow dirt road which is the only way to travel. Bob said his Tibetan driver forced any Chinese drivers, even those with trucks, to back down the mountain in order to let his party through. This made for a very harrowing ride as they looked straight down the side of the mountain. This trip is not for the faint-hearted as it can be very cold and snowy, with precipitous drops.

We were shown slides of the base camp and tents which were set up for the mountain climbers. Bob said they stayed in adequate small hotels. There was not always hot water. They arrived at the border where their Tibetan driver had to stop. They then walked across the border and hired another driver to go into Nepal.

Chapter president Tom Maher thanks guest speaker Bob Perkins for a very interesting presentation.
SANTA COMES TO NAPLES

There were 38 members and spouses at the open house held at the home of C. Jim and Kay Lungo on Sunday, December 7. Everyone was invited to bring a special appetizer and drinks were provided. “Santa Claus Lungo” arrived in person and Barb and Bill Roy served as helpers. Instead of giving out gifts, it was decided to donate the $100 collected to the Guadeloupe Center for Children in Naples. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.
JOINT EVENT HELD

The Explorers Club again welcomed the Washington DC Chapter of the Circumnavigators Club and guests for a joint meeting at the Cosmos Club on Embassy Row.

Both clubs held short business meetings, where Chapter Vice president Samuel Watson shared the exciting news that recent Foundation Grantee Grayson Badgley was invited to Seattle to interview for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Chapter members recently had the opportunity at the last Chapter event in September to hear Grayson’s presentation on wind energy projects for small island nations.

The meeting continued with an exciting presentation from Explorer Robert Hyman. Robert’s varied interests include leading expeditions, archaeology, sociology, conservation, and high altitude medicine.

Robert shared with the group a fascinating slide presentation on one of his several exploration and conservation trips to Panama to explore portions of the Darien Gap, one of the world’s most remote and dangerous unexplored regions, in search of rock carvings left by primitive cultures. Robert first learned of the petroglyphs on a similar trip to Panama in 1993. The story of the rock carvings remained a secret for over a decade. During his 2005 trip, he and his team were the first group to document the petroglyphs previously known only to the local native tribe. In his presentation, the first public showing of the photographs of the carvings, he shared his secret with both clubs. The presentation his expedition developed and delivered convinced the Panamanian government to enact legislation to preserve and protect these and similar sites.
HOLIDAY PARTY BRINGS YEAR TO A CLOSE

On December 11, 2008, 42 members and guests celebrated the holidays with a dinner-meeting. Vicepresident of Programs C. Bill Thompson presided, aided by C. Len Fisher, Vicepresident of Publicity, and C. Bob Kronemyer, Vicepresident of Membership. Newly elected Treasurer Catharine Edgerton greeted and registered all the guests at the door.

C. Ralph Velasco returned for a second year to speak about “Capturing the Essence of Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile.” During the year since his 2007 talk, Ralph has been teaching photography at various schools; he participated and placed in the first Circumnavigators Club photo contest, and has traveled extensively.

The slide presentation showed the most remarkably stunning images of his South American trip. He demonstrated the use of light and the advantage of capturing the light of dawn and sunset for dramatic effects. He spoke of the etiquette of not photographing locals without their permission. He demonstrated color and texture in landscapes.

Before closing, everyone received a gift-wrapped Levenger luggage tag embossed with the Club’s ship logo. 2008 was a very successful year for the Pacific Southwest Chapter and many new members and events are anticipated in 2009.
Chapter president Patricia Lodge

OCTOBER MEETING

The Miami Chapter and the Travelers Century Club held a joint meeting in October at the home of Robert Petrick and Dr. Cecilia Rotusek. Following a pool-side brunch, Bob and Cecilia gave an interesting talk about their trip to Saudi Arabia. They are pictured here with Chapter president Patricia Lodge.

NAPLES C. PAT CLASSEN GUEST SPEAKER

The December event was very special for the Miami Chapter. C. Barbara Ball offered to host a holiday luncheon at the La Gorce Country Club in Miami Beach. Naples Chapter president Pat Classen said that she would be delighted to talk about her ballooning experience with fellow C. Buddy Bombard. Buddy heads a company that offers ballooning trips in six countries in Europe. The trip was memorable – one of Pat’s most favorite experiences.

Small world – we understand that guests Sue and Bill Roy happened to be on one of the ballooning trips that Pat was on and Pat had their photo in her album!!!
CHAP TER MEMBERS ENJOY MONTHLY SOCIALS

President Charles Klotsche reports that the season is in full swing with just about everyone back from their travels. “There isn’t always a camera available at our events, but we try,” reports Klotsche.

A luncheon was held on November 4 at the Sailfish Club and 60 members and guests attended. This, of course, being election day made for very active conversation along with updates on members travels.

On December 2 there was an event at one of Palm Beach’s most prestigious clubs. No photographs were allowed.

St. Andrews Golf Club in Del Ray Beach was the venue for their January 11 event. Former New York Battalion Fire Chief Dan Daly was the honored speaker. Chief Daly talked about his experiences on September 11, and the trauma associated with the loss of his personal friends and family members. On a separate topic, Daly gave a slide talk about his two-week trip to Nepal.

A. PARK SHAW, along with three other distinguished military retirees, was inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice. Saint Maurice is the patron saint of the U.S. infantry, the Army’s “Queen of Battle.” The recipients have to have had demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, an outstanding degree of professional competence, and have served the U.S. Army infantry, or the infantry community, with distinction. Park enlisted in 1942 after graduation from Kentucky Military Institute. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant from Infantry Officer Candidate School and sent to the southwest Pacific in 1943, where he served as a combat rifle platoon leader in New Guinea and Luzon, the Philippines, with the 6th Infantry Division until the end of the war.

SCUTTLEBUTT

DAVID BARTLETT has just published a wonderful book entitled Making Your Point: Communicating Effectively with Audiences of One to One Million. “Effective communication is a critical part of our personal and professional lives, but most of us seldom take the time to examine carefully just how we communicate and how we might do it better.”

Take a look at this website: www.making-your-point.com or www.levick.com/resources/books/making_your_point. It may also be of interest to someone you know. (David is Director of Global News Services for WorldSpace.)

c. HENRI VAN BENTUM of Victoria, British Columbia, welcomes new member PAUL LANG. Paul is a military sailor with the Department of National Defense in Victoria.
Over 40 people attended the Chicago Chapter’s annual holiday party on December 4. To usher in the holiday season they chose a new venue for 2008, the historic Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest on the North Shore of Chicago.

The inn is a recognized landmark and a member of the Historic Hotel Association of America. The original inn dates from the 1860s; the current building was completed in 1929 and designed by William C. Stone. It was styled after a manor house dating from 1453 in Chiddingstone-Kent, England in the half-timber-and-stucco Tudor manner.

In a cozy setting, beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, our members and guests enjoyed the ambiance of the evening. It was unanimous to return next year!
Chapter president Thiam Huat Ang reports that the Singapore Chapter held its annual meeting followed by dinner with their wives. This is always a gala event. Elected are: President – Ang Thiam-Huat; First vice president – William Cheng; Second vice president – Quek Tse-Kwang; Secretary – Chew Kei-Jin; Treasurer – Ronald Zung; Admissions and Deletion – Goh Chung Meng; Log Rep – Hervès Aymond; Foundation Co-ordinator – Billy Lee. The Board of Governors to serve another term: Vincent Chen, Loh Kai-Who, Paul Chu, Terence Ng and Auditor, David Keith.

Here are several photos from that evening:
circumnavigators are always delighted when the annual holiday party is held at the Friars Club, famous for its “roasts” of celebrities. A special thank you to the host C. Shirl Kaslow for sponsoring the event held on December 11. Our members not only enjoyed the large photographs of famous comedians such as Milton Berle, Jack Benny, and Rob Reiner, and the ambiance of the club, but also hearing about some of the funny things that happened to their fellow travelers in the past year, or from years previous.

Here are photos from this event followed by some of the stories shared – we hope you will enjoy them…

JOHN BLANKLEY … Recommendations

Recent travels included a visit to Dresden. Prague is known for its baroque architecture but it is worth pointing out that the other great center of baroque architecture is Dresden. The difference is that Dresden was destroyed in WWII in an Allied bombing raid that resulted in a firestorm. The entire inner city was flattened. It is now rebuilt, reproducing in exact detail the magnificent original, due to the fact that all the architectural drawings were preserved in Berlin! Should you visit Dresden, the centerpiece is the Frauenkirche, one of the finest examples of the baroque style.

The other noteworthy adventure was our car journey across the United States from our home in Connecticut to visit our daughter near Sedona, Arizona. The famous Route 66 is the great attraction for the journey once you reach St Louis and head west but in southern Illinois you should not miss the world’s largest cross (so they said but we learnt subsequently that Texas has a similar claim!) followed very shortly on the same interstate by the world’s largest McDonald’s!

LOIS KAHAN … Finding common ground

Five years ago in a crafts shop in Panama City I met a Kuna Indian from the San Blas Islands. Since I was thinking about going there I wanted to ask his advice. But he knew about six words of English and I about five of Spanish, and after a long struggle with no results, he apologized for knowing only three languages: Kuna, Spanish and Russian. In disbelief, and in Russian, I said “What, you speak Russian?” He responded in like fashion with “Yes, you do too?”

Well, I’d been studying Russian for a few years, and he, at seventeen, was chosen to be in a program that sent indigenous Indian children to study in various parts of the world. He was sent to Kiev University, where he lived and studied for five years.

So the moral of this story: I, an American, am in Panama City having a conversation with a Kuna Indian from the San Blas Islands – in Russian!! Globalization personified!!!
C. BEVERLY ANDERSON ... A lesson learned!

In the early 80’s I had the opportunity to travel to many African countries (Benin, Upper Volta, which is now known as Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, the Congo, and Nigeria). I was disappointed, however, that during my trips to these various African nations, I had never had the opportunity to view much of the African wildlife. I have always wanted to go on a photo safari so in May of last year I decided to start making arrangements. The itinerary “South Africa in Style” included a stay in Cape Town, a tour of the winelands of Stellenbosch, and a safari experience at the Jackalberry Lodge located in the Thornybush Private Game Reserve that borders on Kruger National Park. I convinced my good friend and co-worker, Trish, to join me on this expedition.

In Cape Town we stayed at the Twelve Apostles Resort and Spa, which was recently ranked No. 47 in Traveler Magazine’s top 100 world resorts. The Twelve Apostles lived up to its reputation: impeccable rooms, amenities, food and service. However, the high point of our trip to South Africa was our safari to the veld. We had two four-hour wildlife drives per day. The first drive started around 5:30 a.m. and the second departed about 4 p.m. This gave us the opportunity of observing animals that roamed at dawn, during the day, and at dusk. Our knowledgeable ranger Floris and tracker Lawrence were able to locate “the big five”: lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino. It was fascinating being just a few feet away from these magnificent creatures.

My most memorable part of the safari was watching a cheetah mother and three of her small cubs feasting on a recent impala kill, a brutal necessity for the survival of her cubs. A scary experience at the moment (but now quite laughable) was when our open-air Land Rover was stopped just a few feet away from a large male lion that lay sleeping. I had just run out of film and in order to replace the roll, not thinking, I started to rewind the spent cartridge. Well, needless to say, the lion woke up, looked directly at us, and started roaring continuously at the top of his lungs. My friend Trish and I were both shaking; Trish was quite irate at me for pulling such a stunt and was telling me to “throw the camera out of the Land Rover!” She also tugged at the ranger’s sleeve and pleaded with him “shouldn’t you take the rifle out??” All the while, amidst the deafening roars and the urgent pleas from Trish, I was praying the damn film would finally stop rewinding! Well, things died down after that, but the adrenaline rush remained for some time. This incident has convinced me to get a digital camera…

We had an outstanding time on our South African journey and will have memories to last a lifetime – like the time we were ready to board the old rickety prop plane destined for Hoedspruit but the crew had to turn us back to the airport because there was a “snake on the plane.” No, you can’t make this stuff up!
**BENITA BIRCH ... Thrilling!!!**

My first jump from a plane was in 1993, and I told no one that I would do a static line jump in a Massachusetts outlying field. Didn’t know if reason and fear would conquer desire and guts! After watching all of the others jump, (one fellow did a full loop, luckily not tangling his lines), I was told the two of the three commands - sit in the door, and get out... but no JUMP! Having gotten out, with one hand on the fuselage, one leg on the strut, one hand on the wing, and a leg dangling happily in space, the jump master then said: “We missed your jump space, do you mind hanging out there while we go around?” “No problem, I love this!” was my reply. I felt as though I could wing walk, but reason did prevail, and I just enjoyed the 10 minutes of flying by the tips of my hands and one foot, OUT THERE! The jump was marvelous and landing perfect.

**CAROL LINSNER ... Embarrassing.**

It was my first visit to Paris with my new husband, Ken Linsner. And my first TGV ride. That morning I was thrilled with the upholstery, the cleanliness, the efficiency of the conductors and most of all the SPEED! We were in the Gare de Lyon in a little over three hours. And we were exactly on time.

After a full day in Paris, my feet hurt, but I looked forward to getting back on the TGV. Ken and I found ourselves in a small car with only one other passenger, a tall man who had brought his dinner with him. I was dozing as I watched the conductor go through our car pursuing his duties. The only problem was a door that didn’t respond and open immediately as he approached. He would stop and when the door would stick, he would reach up and pull a lever, a green handle to his right, and voilà, the door would open and off he would go through to the next car.

I must have napped a little and when I awoke, I needed a cup of tea. So I got up and approached the same recalcitrant door. It wouldn’t open! So I reached up and pulled a lever. A RED LEVER to my left! The effect was electric! An alarm went off throughout the train, the kind you hear in movies of the 40’s, and I saw with horror all the people in the next car turn back to look at me. The train was slowing down! I saw the conductor up ahead, his hat askew and he was running forward to find the trouble! I ran after him and spluttered apologies in wretched French. He turned and made signs to show him the place I had pulled the red lever. We ran back while he talked furiously to the engineer. It seemed nothing could be reversed until he got to the source of the alarm. Finally we reached the doorway and he reached up with a tool to turn the red lever. The train began to pick up speed, while I finally took a breath.

I was mortified, but Ken was cool. When the conductor asked him if he was O.K., thinking that perhaps I had pulled the alarm because he was ill, Ken said he was fine.

When the conductor pointed to me, Ken said, “Qui est cette femme?” (Who is this woman?)

I buried my face in my Kleenex and wouldn’t look up for many minutes. In the meantime, our solitary companion in the car told Ken that the fine for stopping the TGV was 750 euros, or $1,000!

We were 10 minutes late into Geneva. I had a pound of shame, but fortunately was not charged for stopping the TGV!
JANET COTTON ... Adventure, excitement, humor, no tragedy except for the ship!

Janet was not able to join us at our Holiday Party as she is 95 years young and prefers not to go out at night. But in her beautiful handwriting, she wanted to share her story:

In 1976, my daughter Sandra graduated from college. Because we had denied her wish to go to college in Alaska, we promised her a good trip there upon her graduation. So she and I flew in mid-July to Alaska to spend a month. After many marvelous sites and many interesting episodes it was time to turn homeward by ferry boat down the Inside Passage.

The Queen of Prince Rupert was a large ferry capable of carrying 100 camper trailers, plus passengers in about 100 staterooms. It took us to the Canadian town of Kelsey Bay, where we transferred to an American ferry for an overnight voyage to Victoria. Next morning I awoke early, had just looked at my watch, 6 a.m., when I heard a low screeching groan, followed by complete silence, and no motion of the ship. I knew we had hit something! I got up and began dressing, trying to persuade my daughter to do the same.

“Mother, go back to bed. The sailors will handle it.” Immediately after, we heard a sailor going down the hall, banging on each door, and yelling, “Everybody Out!” That got her up! She put on moccasins and a trench coat over her nightie, and opened the door. Seeing people streaming by she turned back and got her boots on.

The captain stood at the rail of the next deck up, getting lifeboats lowered to our deck. There having been no lifeboat drills, as a boat was lowered the 80 or so people nearest, boarded. When our turn came I got on and sat quickly on the nearest seat at the side, toward the back. My daughter boarded and headed for the prow. A sailor tried to loosen the rope holding us close, but couldn’t untie it. I watched him leave, walk up the stairs to the captain. I lip read the Captain’s, “Cut it!” We were three decks above the water and the boat rocked wildly!

The boat was finally lowered to the one sailor, and a Chinese cook who spoke no English. The sailor had to organize us so there would be six able-bodied men, we had only four oarlocks!

Just then a lad of twelve or so appeared out of the fog in a small rowboat with an outboard motor yelling, “Can I help you?” “Yes” said the sailor, “Throw us a rope.” So the lad towed us for about half an hour; when a cutter emerged from the fog. A rope ladder was thrown from the deck eight or ten feet above us. Have you ever climbed a rope ladder?!

On board the Coast Guard cutter coffee was ready! They picked up the occupants of three lifeboats, and sailed for a half hour to Alert Bay, an Eskimo town on Cormorant Island. The ship had struck Hadlington Key nearby. On the islands, all the Eskimos with cars were lined up to transport us to a large Eskimo boarding school, closed for the summer. We were taken to a large basement dining room where coffee was ready! This time we also got toast. After a while, Sandra said she needed a bathroom. I said, “Go tell the sailor monitoring the door.” She came back saying, “He won’t let me out!” Then I noticed they were practically touching every back, counting. There weren’t enough people! Soon five or six more people came in. They had persuaded their driver to take them to a diner.

Later we wandered into a sitting room where I decided to call home to my husband, a General Motors executive. I first got his secretary, “I’m sorry, Mrs. Cotton, he’s in a meeting and can’t be disturbed. May I help you?” “Tell him we’ve been shipwrecked, but we’re O.K.” “Wait, he’s across the street at the Recess Club, but I’ll transfer the call.” “Hello, Recess Club, how may I help you? Mr. Cotton! He’s in conference and can’t be disturbed!” “Wait! Wait! I’ll get him!” “Hello, honey, they tell me your ship had a wreck! Are you O.K.?”

We spent an interesting afternoon and evening in the school, but I’ll close with one more incident. At breakfast a young man traveling with his father said to me, “We’ve chartered a pontoon plane to come for us. Would you be interested?” “Yes!” The airline office was in the living room of an Eskimo home. We were directed to a pier across the road. After walking about a city block on the pier, the pontoon was separated by three and one half feet of open water from the pier. Yet another challenge!

Sandra said, “Mother, can you jump it if I carry the bags?” “Yes,” I arrived safely. She arrived safely with one bag, jumped safely back to get the second. Jumping back with the second bag, the bag, her torso and one leg made it. The other trailed in the water. We caught her and pulled her safely up.

If you’re contemplating a shipwreck, I recommend that you choose one like ours: adventure, excitement, humor, no tragedy except for the ship!
Dear CircumBirch:
I enclose, as promised, copy of the poem
I showed you entitled “Some Time At Eve,”
which I would like to re-christen
“A Circumnavigator’s Valedictory.” I can imagine
no more beautiful poem to be read at the funerals
of our Circumnavigators.

Luck to You,
Circumpresident W. E. Peck

N. B. From “The LOG” July 1922.
CircumBirch is one of the Club’s founders.

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SOME TIME AT EVE
By Lizzie Clark Hardy

Some time at eve, when the tide is low,
I shall slip my mooring and sail away,
With no response to the friendly hail
Of kindred craft in the busy bay.

In the silent hush of the twilight pale,
When the night stoops down to embrace the day,
And the voices call in the water’s flow –
Some time at eve, when the tide is low,
I shall slip my mooring and sail away.

Through the purpling shadows that darkly rail
O’er the ebbing tide of the Unknown Sea,
I shall fare me away with a dip of the sail
And a ripple of waters to tell the tale
Of a lonely voyager, sailing away,
To the Mystic Isles where at anchor lay
The crafts of those who have sailed before
O’er the Unknown Sea to the Unseen Shore.

A few who have watched me sail away
Will miss my craft from the busy bay.
Some friendly barks that were anchored near,
Some loving souls that my heart held dear,
In silent sorrow will drop a tear –
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail
In moorings sheltered from storm or gale,
And greeted the friends who have sailed before
O’er the Unknown Sea to the Unseen Shore.

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IN MEMORIAM

Don P. Luther
President, Circumnavigators Club 1992 – 1994;
International Board of Governors 1990 – 1995

Don P. Luther, our dancing President, passed away peacefully in the early morning of December 2, just shy of his 88th birthday.

A life member of the Club, Don Luther was a long-time member of the Michigan Chapter, where he served as its secretary/treasurer for an unprecedented 25 years. In 1992, Don was elected to serve as the Club’s international President which he did for two years, commuting back and forth from Detroit to New York. He also served on the international Board of Governors from 1990-1995.

Don’s career with the Economic Club of Detroit lasted for decades. He served as its Executive Director and met many famous people who spoke at the club’s luncheons. President Bill Clinton, Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Publisher Malcolm Forbes, and many more well-known people addressed the membership.

Always enthusiastic and upbeat, Don enjoyed every aspect of the Circumnavigators Club, where he leaves many friends behind. One favorite story about Don was his first profession as a tap dancer and acrobat. At a gala dinner honoring him in Detroit, Don thanked everyone and then performed three tap dances to the tune of “Tea for Two”, “Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue…”, and “The Sidewalks of New York.” After his performance, he promised with a huge grin that he would give anyone interested dance lessons!

Don leaves his widow, Sandy, and two daughters Darleen Kingsley and Norma Acton, grandchildren and many friends.

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DR. LEE KUM-TATT
Singapore Chapter, Crossed Over the Horizon June 1, 2008

by Circumpresident Ang Thiam-Huat

When you next visit Singapore, coming through Changi International Airport, do look out for the beautiful orchids plated in 24-carat gold. Since its release in 1976, the Risis orchid has been presented to dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Michiko.

Dr. Lee Kum-Tatt, the creator of the Risis orchids, was inspired by a comment that his wife, Engeline, made wishing that orchids would last forever! Little did we know that a casual comment during courtship whilst strolling through the Botanic Gardens in 1955 would spawn such a commercial success and a product that is uniquely Singapore.

Dr. Lee Kum-Tatt was a man of science and education. He graduated from the University of Malaya in 1955 with a Ph.D. in chemistry. He was the founding chairman of the Singapore Science Council, Singapore Standards Council and the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR). He was also credited with establishing the Singapore Polytechnic and Singapore Science Centre. Above all, Kum-Tatt was a family man, a loving husband, father and grandfather.

On Sunday, 1 June 2008 at about 8 am, Dr. Lee Kum-Tatt crossed the Great Horizon. At the Singapore Chapter, we miss our dear friend and fellow Circumnavigator.
Visiting 12 Countries in The Gulf States and Arabian Peninsula in 29 Days … November 20 – December 18, 2007

By C. Wayne Schild

Total cost: $15,670 or $290 per person, per day. Only my wife and I visited the Gulf States, namely Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. We purchased visas when we entered. We were joined by three other travelers for the portion covering the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen. Most of the foreigners in these countries are workers from the Far East, with the most being from southern India. Women are not allowed to work in the hotel bedrooms, but they can work as waitresses.

There are very few foreign tourists in the Gulf States. There isn’t a lot to see in Kuwait City, other than the famous Kuwait Towers, shopping malls and mosques. Of interest is the nearby town of Ahmadi where the British Oil camp was established. The U.S. Armed Forces still have over 8,000 personnel in Kuwait. Many live in the better hotels and rentals. In Bahrain, another oil-rich country, we visited the Al Fatah Grand Mosque, where we were given an hour tour and lecture on Islam. (Every country we visited was Arab and therefore Moslem. We saw only a few Christian churches and these were often inconspicuous.) We also visited the midpoint of the King Fahd causeway that links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, the Al Areeem Wildlife Safari Park, 6000-year old burial mounds and the Bahrain National Museum. In Qatar (pronounced “Cutter”), we had a thrilling experience “coaster-riding” in the desert. This involved driving through deep sand, along and down the slopes of sand dunes, nearly tipping over. We visited the Camel Race Track, the private museum of Sheikh Al-Thani and a souk where they sold falcons and falcon paraphernalia.

We flew from Doha, Qatar, to the Emirate of Dubai. Dubai airport has become the air-hub for the Middle East. We arrived at 1:35 a.m. It was chaotic going through passport control. We did not need a visa. Dubai, with 1.5 million people, has become a major business and tourist center. The tallest building in the world is being built there (now finished). Dubai has landmark buildings like the Burj al Arab hotel-complex that looks like a traditional Arab dhow. Also, there are artificial islands in the shape of palm fronds, along with a man-made archipelago of 300 islands. The Mall of the Emirates contains Ski Dubai. After Dubai we drove to some of other Emirates: Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Quaitwain and Ras al-Khaimah. On the last day of our trip we drove to Fujairah, our 7th Emirate, which is often a cruise-port.

We flew from Dubai to Muscat, Oman, the only country that still has a Sultan. We did not need a visa since we came from the UAE. We visited the National Museum, Old Muscat, the Muttrah souk, and the corniche waterfront. After touring the Grand Mosque, we left Muscat for Sur. We stopped at Wadi Bani Khalid before arriving at the Wahiba Sands (a sand sea). Here we had another exciting ride through the undulating sand dunes to experience the thrill of dune driving. We arrived in Nizwa that night and the following day visited the local souk, the Nizwa and Bahla (a UNESCO site) forts and the castle in the Jabrin fort. We crossed back into the UAE at Al Ain, into Abu Dhabi, the largest of the seven Emirates. Here we toured the National Museum, the Al Ain Palace Museum (this was the house of the founder of the UAE). We continued to the city of Abu Dhabi, with its 1.6 million people. This is the capital of the UAE and of the Emirate Abu Dhabi.

Lastly we visited Yemen. We flew directly from Dubai to Sana’a, the capital, which was founded by Shem, a son of Noah. Upon arrival we had to buy a $30 tourist visa. Houses in Yemen usually have distinctive white (stone) window frames. All men wear daggers around their waists, stuck inside a wide belt in front. Many of them chew qat (kat), a shrub cultivated for the narcotic qualities of its leaves. Most of the people are very poor, as Yemen only has a small amount of oil production and little to export. The country is very mountainous; often farming is done within ancient and beautifully-made hillside terraces. We drove through many small villages; they were filthy, being littered mostly with plastic shopping bags. Our first visit was to Wadi Daar to see the famous Rock House that is featured on many postcards. The highlight of our Yemen visit was a 3-day trip from Sana’a-Manakha-al Hajjrah-Hodeidah (along the Red Sea cost and a port-stop for cruise liners) –Zabid-Taiz-Jiblah-Ibb-Sana’a. Our worst hotel, supposedly the best available, was in Hodeidah. We flew from Sana’a to Dubai and then returned home. We used Original World, Mill Valley, CA 94942 for the trip; for our air we used a consolidator, Himalayan Treasures & Travels, Pinole, CA 94564.

Note: Several months after we returned from Sana’a, the U.S. Embassy was attacked, with the loss of several lives and many wounded. Also, prior to that a few hotels with foreigner guests were attacked.

C. WAYNE SCHILD OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, IS RETIRED FROM MOBIL OIL CO. AND ENJOYS GEOLOGY.
Crossing the Silk Road Desert from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan

By C. Ted Pitt

Traveling overland from Ashgabat to Almaty by train and bus, following the Silk Road, lends itself to some unexpected incidents along the way. Our group of 75 adventurers would remember this crossing for quite a while.

Our exhausting entry into Ashgabat in the early hours of the morning had been uneventful. It was long and tedious because of the bureaucracy and its inability to deal with an influx of tourists. We were expecting similar inefficient treatment at our exit from Turkmenistan and entry into Uzbekistan, both procedures being done by officials with guns and a military appearance.

After traveling overnight using a Russian-built train through the shifting sands of the Kara Kum desert, which was extremely slow, due to the uneven tracks without sufficient bedrock, we arrived in desolate Dasoguz. We then transferred to a comfortable bus which would transport us through the heavily guarded border and on to the magical walled city of Khiva.

We arrived at the long-awaited border mid-morning and the air was still crisp from the cool evening in the desert; the sky was blue and crystal clear as there is very little human-made interference to pollute it. We were told to unload our luggage and wait our turn to enter the bunker house for processing. It felt as though we were entering a Communist country in the fifties. There were several locals trying to navigate the crossing. The men were dressed in rumpled sports jackets and the women wearing ankle to wrist multicolored dresses with bandanas on their heads with their full sets of gold teeth glistening in the morning sun. They seemed patient and not concerned with the tedious waits in store.

Our travel-weary group sat around our piled up luggage as our guide Igor negotiated with the border guards. Igor was a bright young travel guide, with gelled hair and fashionable clothes, probably bought in the chaos of the bazaar in Ashgabat, but still looking like he hung out on the streets of New York. He was very efficient but his dialogues spouting the party line of the dictator running Turkmenistan, sometimes bordered on the hilarious or absurd about the glories of the wonderful management of the country. I gave him a GQ magazine as we parted, as I thought he would be amused and it would not be available in Ashgabat. He had been for one year in America and spoke correct English but somewhat lacked easygoing humor.

Igor did his job well and we were ushered through the bunker and processed for our exit. We had to wait in a barbed wire enclosure to be escorted to the next barbed wire enclosure, about a kilometer away to await processing for entry. By this time nature was calling and we were motioned by the young border guards to use the latrine located in mud encrusted buildings reached by jumping a ditch. A German shepherd dog was tied to a stake and considered our intrusion unfriendly and was showing his teeth and barking like mad. The smell of the toilet knocked you down, and it consisted of stalls with no doors, and a hole in the ground with a myriad of multicolored flies enjoying the open contents. It was hard to hold your breath and get out of there as fast as possible.

The young guards became friendly, and spoke a little English. They were conscripted at sixteen and would do two years military service. They were keen to practice their limited English and Alice, who works in the UN and speaks Russian, was enlisted to get more of their stories. They enjoyed listening to Madonna on my iPod. It was time to be literally piled into a minivan to be transported to the Uzbekistan checkpoint.

We were stuffed into the van to hasten the time between the checkpoints with at least 10 people on top of each other in the back, but it did not last too long. It was there that we were to notice the furious carpet smuggling going on across the heavily guarded border. We were forbidden to take pictures, which we thought was for military reasons, but we then concluded that it was to preclude evidence of the illegal border activities.

There was a lot of bustling local traffic with a business of transporting the carpets, folded in a square, carried on the backs of local people across the two checkpoints. Each time a carpet, usually accompanied by an older woman, would be transported there were negotiations before the tall gate to the barbed wired compound that we were huddled in was opened. It took hours in the hot sun for us all to be brought towards the trailer for our passports to be stamped and processed. We were all getting hot, edgy and impatient as we had traveled all night, and it was past lunch time with no end in sight.

TRIVIA FACT: The first person who used the term "Silk Road", was the German geographer named Ferdinand von Richthofen in 1877. The Silk Road earns its name from the extensive Chinese silk trade, the main reason for which it was created.
On the other side of the constricting compound our trusty bus was waiting and we had a lot of time before all of us were processed and our luggage brought to the bus. The scenery changed completely. Now there were cotton fields, one of their main exports that were developed during the Russian period. There were fieldworkers picking the cotton with an ominous looking high unused guard tower casting its shadow across the field. On the other side of the bus there were workers in the hot noon sun laboriously harvesting wheat by hand. There was also a lot of drama and fun going on with the local urchins looking to carry on their backs and in wheelbarrows the carpets and goods across the check points. It was intriguing to watch the drama of the locals negotiating their cargo with the teenagers and border guards in what seemed like an endless stream of activity.

Suddenly, the border guards started to shout and overturn a cart and create havoc! One of the young boys tried to divert his load on his wagon away from the line to the border and push it down a side track, but lost control and all the contents spilled all over the parched earth. He panicked and ran like the wind into the nearby field and did not return for some time. We were now really afraid to take pictures of the activities.

Finally, our entire group was processed and our luggage loaded and we were off to our hotel in Khiva, where a delayed lunch and refreshing showers were greatly appreciated.

Traveling in developing countries requires a spirit of adventure with an ability to deal with the unexpected and enjoy the unfolding dramas of unfamiliar everyday life in other countries. Needless to say, I qualify!

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**SCUTTLEBUTT**

**BARBARA ROY** reports from Iran…

I am sitting in Kernen, Iran, this morning and just about to leave for Yazd and then on to Tehran and home.

This has been an amazing trip and the people are wonderful. So many come up to us and ask us where we are from and when we say America, some of them say, “Were you not afraid to come to Iran?” Many asked how we liked the country and the people. We found many speaking English.

The accommodations have been very adequate and we are in a big bus with only 14 people so we can spread out. We have covered much of the country and there has never been a time when questions we asked were not answered.

We do not feel that we are being watched. It is interesting that one of the group is the travel writer for the USA Today newspaper and she has had free rein. They definitely know she is here and the leader also knows she is writing an article. Our leader said she is on the list along with the Augustine’s because he worked here at one time.

I must go now as others are waiting for the computer. Hugs, Barb

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**The Log Wants Your Story…**

“The purpose of The LOG is to record the sayings and doings of Circumnavigators and those who ought to be.”

This quotation is taken from the first issue of The LOG published in March 1910. Your Editorial Committee invites members to submit their stories (two pages, single space) about travel adventures they feel would be of interest to fellow Circumnavigators. Photos to accompany the article are welcome.

Send your story to: LOG Editorial Committee, c/o Circumnavigators Club, 24 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016.
The purpose of the Goodwill Connection is to bring together Circumnavigators as they globe-trot. Please consider adding your name to the list of greeters – those who will welcome members to their city. Contact Headquarters, Helen Jost at (201) 612-9100 or e-mail: CircumClub@optonline.net to sign up to serve on the Connection. Should you be planning a trip to a city where there is a member, please contact Helen with your arrival and departure dates and the hotel where you will be staying. She will be happy to contact the member for you.

U.S.A.  
- ARIZONA . . . . . . . . . . Scottsdale, Sedona  
- CALIFORNIA . . . . . . La Jolla, San Francisco  
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
- FLORIDA . . . . Miami, Naples, Palm Beach  
- GEORGIA . . . . . . . . . . . Conyers  
- ILLINOIS . . . . Chicago, Northbrook, Winnetka  
- MICHIGAN . . . . . . . . . . Detroit, Lansing  
- MINNESOTA . . . . . . . . Minneapolis  
- NEW JERSEY . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Columbia  
- NEW MEXICO . . . . . . . . . . Albuquerque, El Prado  
- NEW YORK . . . . . . . . . . . New York  
- PENNSYLVANIA . . . . Philadelphia  
- SOUTH CAROLINA . . . . Hilton Head  
- WASHINGTON . . . . . . . . . Seattle  

AUSTRALIA . . . . . . . . . . Queensland, Brisbane  
CANADA  
- MANITOBA Winnipeg  
- BRITISH COLUMBIA . . . . . . . . Victoria  
GREECE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Athens, Kifissia  
NEVIS (W.I.) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Charlestown  
TAIWAN . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Taipei  
THAILAND . . . . . . . . . . . . . Bangkok  
UNITED KINGDOM . . . . . . . London  

**Goodwill in Action!**

Chapterpresident Patricia Lodge (second from left) and C. Barbara Ball, who spends a few months in Miami, welcome visitors C.S. Sheila and Jim Forney of Brick, New Jersey. They enjoyed lunch at the Bella Luna Restaurant. Jim is the Editor of “CircumBits” and is a member of the International Board.

**Foundation Alumni News:**

It came as a wonderful surprise to hear from JOANNE MUNISTERI, our 1974 Foundation Scholar. She found the Club/Foundation website on the internet which jogged her memory to get in touch. And, so she did – by e-mail. Here is what she writes:

“I thought I would update you since the experience of my grant research and travel back in 1974 still resonates in my work today. Currently I am working with the Center for International Education Development (CID) a joint program through the US Department of State and Georgetown University. I teach at Yerevan State Medical University and live in Yerevan, Armenia. My specialty in medical and clinical practice, teaching English and preparing doctors and residents to participate in international seminars and conferences in the medical field.”

**Club Merchandise**

Contact Headquarters at (201) 612-9100 or CircumClub@optonline.net for orders and inquiries. All items are made with impeccable quality and distinguished detailing.

**Items Available:**

**LADY’S CLUB SCARF** – The 36 x 36 scarf is 100% pure silk in red, blue and gold and compliments the men’s tie. Price: $60.

**MEN’S CLUB TIE** – New design; 100% silk Club Jacquard-woven tie is now available in blue and red. Price: $50.

**LAPEL PIN** – The pin is crafted with a hand-polished globe, matte gold background and centered in the middle two CCs. Price: $12.50.

**THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS** – is a compilation of ten decades of history – the Club’s early years; 425-pages. Price: $85.
The following people were elected to our “Great Circle” by the Board of Governors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert V. Lijewski</td>
<td>Pacific-Southwest Chapter</td>
<td>L4882 Millwright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Ann Lijewski</td>
<td>Pacific-Southwest Chapter</td>
<td>L4883 Manager/Owner – apartments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Y. Chen</td>
<td>Minnesota Chapter</td>
<td>C4884 Business Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Kuehner K4885</td>
<td>Naples Chapter</td>
<td>Real Estate Investor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JoAnne Kuehner</td>
<td>Naples Chapter</td>
<td>K4886 Philanthropist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JoAnna DeArmon</td>
<td>Oklahoma-Naples Chapter</td>
<td>D4887 CEO of Cleveland County Abstract Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Joseph Donahue</td>
<td>Naples Chapter</td>
<td>D4888 Scientist – Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Yansick Y4889</td>
<td>Pacific-Southwest Chapter</td>
<td>Educational Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Adsit A4890</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter</td>
<td>Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham M. Bell</td>
<td>Singapore Chapter</td>
<td>B4891 Chairman, Amanda Group Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley F. Besse</td>
<td>Toms River, New Jersey</td>
<td>B4892 Ship’s Master – Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth M. Hagman</td>
<td>Denver, Colorado</td>
<td>H4893 Financial Analyst – teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Houk H4894</td>
<td>Pacific-Northwest Chapter</td>
<td>Nurse Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liok Wan Thye L4895</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Importer/Exporter Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael J. Oliver</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>O4896 Senior Banker – Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Redfield</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter</td>
<td>R4897 Learning Disability Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William H. Redfield</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter</td>
<td>R4898 Engineer – Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Repland R4899</td>
<td>Brooklyn Heights, New York</td>
<td>R4899 Travel Executive-Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Watson W4900</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter</td>
<td>W4900 Research Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Watson W4901</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter</td>
<td>W4901 Portfolio Analyst</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Members Only: Information**

**CC Website:** www.circumnavigatorsclub.org. There is a lot of information about the Club and your Foundation on our site including the history, current events, chapter activities, and most of all – a MEMBERS ONLY section. This has private access only. Our members who receive our LOG are informed how to enter this section by typing in: navigator for the username and pass-word. You then have access to our membership roster, which is updated monthly. This is a great way to contact fellow members if you find you will be visiting their city. (See our Goodwill Connection listed on this page).

**Williams Club Facilities:** All members in good standing may use the facilities at the Williams Club, 24 East 39th Street, NYC – centrally located between Park and Madison Avenues in the heart of Manhattan. The Williams Club has overnight accommodations (price includes continental breakfast) and dining facilities during the week. Our members are exempt from the “guest fee charge.” Rates change periodically so please call for current rates at our Club office (201) 612-9100. Reservations are made for you with no deposit necessary. Upon arrival, payment is required by credit card.

Circumnavigators are eligible for introduction by the Williams Club to its Reciprocal Clubs: This is a wonderful opportunity for all members of the CC in good standing to be introduced to other reciprocal clubs. The Williams Club will send a letter of introduction to the reciprocal club requesting the use of its facilities for the Circumnavigator. There will be a minimum charge of $50 for usage up to two weeks. This usage fee applies to all forms of club access (dining, hotel accommodations, fitness facilities, programming, etc.). All accounts must be settled at the host club upon departure.

Here is what you need to do:
- Go to the Internet and type in www.williamsclub.org. Click on the Reciprocal Club tab. There you will see a list of national and international clubs by geographical area and in alphabetical order. Decide on the club where you would like to stay or have dinner, etc.
- Contact the host club directly and make your reservation.
- Contact Helen Jost at CC headquarters and advise her of the reciprocal club’s name and requested dates for club visit/use. At that time you will be charged $50 – check is payable to the Circumnavigators Club. The Williams Club will then write a letter of introduction on your behalf.

**Goodwill Connection:** The Goodwill Connection was organized in 1991 as a way of bringing Circumnavigators together as they traveled. Please look at the list of cities where we have members who will be delighted to give you a warm welcome. Contact the Club office to make arrangements for your visit. Please have available the hotel where you’re staying and the dates that you are available. See page 24 for a list of participating cities.

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**CircumBits@optonline.net**

Three issues of CircumnBits have been e-mailed to all of our members who have e-mails on file with the Club. If you did not receive your copy, please contact Headquarters with your e-mail address.

Everyone is invited to share travel information that may be helpful to fellow Circumnavigators. You might be looking for a roommate to share room expenses on an upcoming trip; you might like to recommend a trip you experienced and found terrific!; perhaps you had an experience at an airport that you’d like to alert others to; or you know of a great restaurant off the beaten path…

Send this information to CircumBits@optonline.net and look for it in the next issue of this little information tool that comes to you once a month.

— Master of CircumnBits – CC. Jim Forney

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**Club Card Available Free to Members!**

Any member in good standing can now have a personal Club Card sent to him/her at no additional cost. It will be mailed on a sheet of 10 with your name and your home phone, business phone, fax or e-mail address (select two forms of contact). E-mail this information to CircumClub@optonline.net along with your mailing address. That is all there is to it. (Allow four weeks for delivery.)

*When you meet someone who is eligible for membership, just give them a Club Card.*

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**Notice to Members:**

The Circumnavigators Club is a private organization. It is the strict policy that our Membership Roster may not be used for any commercial or charitable solicitation purpose. Thank you…

Contact headquarters for assistance or to answer questions: Phone: 201-612-9100 • email: CircumClub@optonline.net
Dear Fellow Circumnavigators: As we enter the new year, we look forward to the planning and execution of around-the-world travel-study projects by four young Foundation grantees of exceptional capability whose research topics are most timely (see below). Fortunately, the generosity of the Club’s members during the past year, despite the market turbulence, has been steadfast. We hope that such support will continue in the future, for the Foundation’s mission is now perhaps more relevant than ever. As a complement to current giving, estate planning affords an excellent means of supporting the Foundation’s activities and counts towards membership in the Foundation’s Leadership Council, described in greater detail below. — Luck to You! Greg Rider, President

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Foundation’s Leadership Council affords all Club members (any other donors) an opportunity to attain special recognition for substantial gifts to the Foundation.

The Circumnavigators Club Foundation’s Leadership Council was established in the Club’s Centennial year of 2002 as a means of building the Foundation’s financial resources through recognizing those Club members who provide an exceptional level of financial support. Donors of $10,000 or more to the Foundation are eligible for membership in the Leadership Council. To-date, the Leadership Council’s membership numbers six, including two Foundation Scholars. The Leadership Council’s current membership includes: Chuck and Nancy Bivenour, Past Foundation Presidents Gordon T. Dale, John E. Johannessen (also the Foundation’s current Honorary President), and the late Cortland D. Linder; and Foundation Scholars Brian Evans and Richard Stephan.

Attaining membership in the Leadership Council is easier than you might think! Qualifying gifts include both by prior and future donation activity. Specifically, in order to qualify for membership, donors must have given a total of at least $10,000 to the Foundation during the preceding ten-year period (commencing no earlier than 2002), or pledge that amount and fully fund the pledge in proportional (or greater) annual installments over a maximum five-year period from the date of the pledge. Matching gifts count toward the required minimum. Gifts directed to the Foundation’s operating fund, endowment fund, or a combination of both, qualify.

Bequests by living members and from the estates of deceased members also qualify and are most welcomed.

The Leadership Council is solely honorary and participation does not obligate members in any way to become involved in the Foundation’s governance, administration, or fundraising activities. Members are recognized in The LOG as well as in the Foundation’s periodic appeals. Membership is open to all – including non-Club member donors. Please consider becoming a member!

2009 GRANTEES SELECTED

In 2009, four around-the-world travel-study grants were awarded to the following: Chicago Chapter (Northwestern University), Michigan Chapter (Michigan State University), and Washington DC Chapter (Georgetown University). The New York Metro (Princeton University) was also awarded a grant. Each school chose two or three students to be interviewed by the respective selection committees. This process is taken very seriously by the students as well as the Foundation. The winners of the $9,000 grants will now work closely with their Foundation co-ordinators and the school in planning the details of their trip which begins after finals of their junior year.


SINGAPORE HOSTS 2008 GRANTEE KE WU

Foundation Co-ordinator TSE-KWANG QUEK hosted a reception for our Desert Chapter’s KE WU, who was attending a semester of study at the Nanyang Technological University. After wonderful food and good conversation they visited the Singapore Art Museum.

Ke wrote to us saying that her final paper would also be her thesis. The Comparative and International Education Society 2009 Conference in Charleston, South Carolina have invited her to be a presenter at this conference. “I am excited to interact with academics in the field and get their feedback on my paper and discuss the result.” Ke’s topic of study – “An Investigation into the Ways Educational Organizations Approach Severely Underprivileged Children.” Ke continues, “I never imagined that this is what I would be doing my undergraduate years, especially because I am a biochemistry major who was on a pre-med track! My outlook has changed since the circumnavigation experience which provided me with more impetus to pursue international education development. I thank the Club’s members who gave me this opportunity and supported me along the way!”

Group photos of Circumnavigators and friends. Ke was not able to identify the friends in attendance, but the Circumnavigators are: (Third from left) – Co-ordinator T. K. Quek next to Grantee Ke Wu. (Sixth from left) C. Tony Liook and his wife, Serene. (Front row center) Diana Quek.

EXPAND OUR FOUNDATION GRANTEE PROGRAM – CONTINUE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY.
NA PLES (Florida)
February 15 (Sunday): A team from the Florida Institute of Technology will present their research on using nanotechnology to improve the efficiency of solar energy. Location: Florida Institute of Technology. Contact: Chapter President Joel Smith (joelsmith@fit.edu)

Palm Beach (Florida)
May 12 (Tuesday): “The Power of Positive Thinking” by Dr. John Demartini. Location: The Breakers Resort. Contact: Chapter President Mark Chen (markchen@thebreakers.com)

DESSERT (Arizona)
February 15 (Sunday): Alfred Baca will present his latest research on the effects of climate change on desert ecosystems. Location: Arizona State University. Contact: Chapter President Robert Smith (robertsmith@asu.edu)

MICHIGAN
To be advised...
Contact: Chapter President Joe Osentoski (kwidjob@hotmail.com)

MINNESOTA (Twin Cities)
To be advised...
Contact: Ken Doyle (KenDoyle@umn.edu)

NAPLES (Florida)
February 15 (Sunday): Nancy Koerner, author of Darker Side of Paradise, will present her life story and how she survived against all odds living in the jungle.

All Chapters welcome visiting Circumnavigators. Please refer to the Contact Person listed under each Chapter to make your reservation.

March 15 (Sunday): Jill and Bob Augustine, Marjorie Campbell and Barb Roy will host a program on their trip to Iran.
April 26 (Sunday): Marv Eastman will speak about a recent trip to Israel and the political impact in that sector.
May – October: “Getting To Know You” gatherings.
Contact: Program Chairman Barb Roy (Broy55@comcast.net)

NEW YORK
Late February-Early March: Suzanne Frye and Sue Murphy will give a presentation on their trip to North Korea. Venue and date to be advised.
April 23-26 (Thursday-Sunday): International weekend and Magellan Award Dinner honoring Michael Palin, English actor, world traveler, television presenter and writer.
Contact: Executive Director Helen Jost (CircumClub@optonline.net)

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST (San Diego, California)
Contact: Program Chairman Bill Thompson, 858-454-7290

PALM BEACH (Florida)
February 2 (Tuesday): Luncheon at the Sailfish Club
March 20 (Friday): Black-tie dinner dance at the Sailfish Club
Contact: Chapter President Charles Klotsche (charlesklotsche@gmail.com)

UNITED KINGDOM
March 4 (Wednesday): The Garrick Club – Host Graham Hill.
June 30 (Tuesday): Venue TBA.
September 15 (Tuesday): Venue TBA.
Contact: Chapter President Helen Jenkins (Helen@inspirewm.co.uk)

2009 Election Ballot Enclosed