

Circumnavigators Club The Log

Year 2009

Number 1



The Beauty of North Korea MASS GAMES

PRESENTERS

CS. Suzanne Frye & Sue Murphy



It wasn't an easy task to pin down these two Circumnavigators. Dr. Suzanne Frye, a medical doctor, and Sue Murphy, who is retired from the field of human resources, are always traveling to unusual places in the world. When we first tried to contact them, an e-mail was received from Suzanne saying they were somewhere in Chile.

Once they returned from their trip a date was set: Thursday, March 26, at the 3 West Club on Fifth Avenue. Their program was well worth the wait – the narration and photographs were excellent.

Continue the story, with photos, on page 3.

Presenters CS. Sue Murphy and Suzanne Frye are applauded for an outstanding program. President Bill Holm gave each of them our Club scarf.

~ CHARTING THE COURSE ~

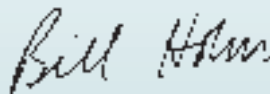
Dear Fellow Circumnavigators,

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the 31st presentation of the Magellan Award at a gala dinner at the Union League Club in New York honoring Michael Palin, actor, writer, television personality, world traveler, and humanitarian. A lot of our members worked very hard to organize the events that took place all weekend, and, as I write this, I am hopeful that the weekend meets everyone's very high expectations. Certainly, if the past is any indication, everything will be splendid and those in attendance will have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Part of our nature as Circumnavigators is to embrace the moment and partake of our surroundings with gusto.

I am looking forward to our annual meeting which will coincide with the Magellan Award Gala, and to the coming year where your board of governors, officers, chapter officers, committee chairs and members, and Foundation officers and board members will continue the work of the Club. I came across a 1960 issue of *The Log* recently, and found the following on the masthead: "A Club designed to extend points of friendly contact among men [and women] who go to the ends of the earth by steamer, train or camel ... in the cause of commerce, research or exploration ... or for the simple pleasure of travel."

I hope you all are looking forward to a relaxing summer, and here's to many future "points of friendly contact."

Luck to you,



William P. Holm
International President

CHAPTERS

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Contact: Henri van Bentum.

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President – Ellen Parke; Vicepresident – Samuel Watson; Secretary – Amanda Hubbard; Treasurer – Lois Billings; Foundation Co-ordinator – Brian Evans

CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB, INC.

FOUNDED 1902

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Magellan Award – William P. Holm,

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Publicity –

Website/Info. Systems –

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Charles O. Blaisdell 1970-1971
Michael M. Watabe 1978-1979
G. Oliver Smart 1980
Howard Matson 1994-1997
Jeffrey P. Kelly 1998-2002
Alfred Morasso, Jr. 2003-2006

The Beauty of North Korea MASS GAMES



President Holm was delighted to welcome new member Jessica Lappin along with her mother, C. Esther Dyer.



Milt Heller is surrounded by the ladies – C. Connie Wingate, his wife, Bernice, Lois Kahan and Shirl Kaslow.



C. Christine and Noel Hewitt chat with member Ted Pitt (R).



A slide of the statue of Kim Il-sung which is found everywhere.



C. Peter Howanitz and his wife, Joan.



Speaker Suzanne Frye showing a slide of the transit terminal.



C. Vicepresident Esther Dyer and member Pallavi Shah.



C. Jim and Sheila Forney enjoy catching up with member Arthur Ruhl.

Suzanne and Sue worked as a team as one showed the slides and the other spoke, and then they switched. They started their program explaining how difficult it was to get into North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) with a group and finally their success. (The group's website is: www.koryogroup.com) They offered some history about North Korea, showed what they were allowed to see (cameras were not allowed in many places but they did a great job sneaking in a few) during their brief visit. The areas they saw were drab and not very modern.

The highlight of their three-day trip was the Mass Games held in Pyongyang, a popular gymnastics and artistic festival. Over 100,000 people danced, sang and marched in celebration of the birthday of the nation's founder Kim Il-sung, who developed the Korean Workers' Party. The current leader is Kim Jong-il. Everything is dedicated to the great founding leader and the current leader.

The Mass Games are held mid-August through October. The most amazing part of their presentation was the explanation of the changing murals. 20,000 children have large books of colored pages. When instructed they turn the page of their book, creating the most wonderful murals as a backdrop to those performing in the arena. Check out the Mass Games on the Internet for more details.

North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), is a state in East Asia, occupying the northern half of the Korean Peninsula. Its capital and largest city is Pyongyang. The buffer area between North Korea and South Korea is called the Korean Demilitarized Zone. The Amnok River is the border between North Korea and People's Republic of China. The Tumen River in the extreme northeast is the border with Russia.

North Korea is a one party state under a united front led by the Korean Workers' Party. The country's government follows the Juche ideology of self-reliance, developed by Kim Il-sung, the country's former leader. The current leader is Kim Jong-il, the late president Kim Il-sung's son.



Chapterpresident Thomas Maher

NAPLES CHAPTER (FLORIDA)

SUBMITTED BY C. BARB ROY

MONTHLY EVENTS HELD:

Dubai, Oman and *The Oceania*

In January, 59 members and guests gathered for a brunch and illustrated program at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Chapterpresident Tom Maher presented slides of his trip to Egypt, Dubai and India with emphasis on Dubai, since that city has a high interest to travelers. On this trip Gloria, Tom's wife, became eligible for membership by completing the last leg of her circumnavigation by crossing the Indian Ocean. Tom reviewed the tour of Egypt to see the Pyramids, the Sphinx and the cruise on the Suez Canal which was a unique experience. They visited King Tut's Tomb in the Valley of the Kings to see his mummified body that is estimated to be over 3,000 years old. Their visit to Dubai was special with views of the tallest building in the world, the only seven-star hotel that includes snow skiing in its department store.

Tom also showed slides of their trip to India including a visit to the beautiful Taj Mahal.



Chaptertreasurer Joan Curley, President Tom and Gloria Maher with Circumcouple Herb and Ann Rowe.



New members are welcomed: Bert Amann, Carl Kuehner, (JoAnne Kuehner not in photo), Yvonne Locker, Chapterpresident Tom Maher, and Joe Donahue.



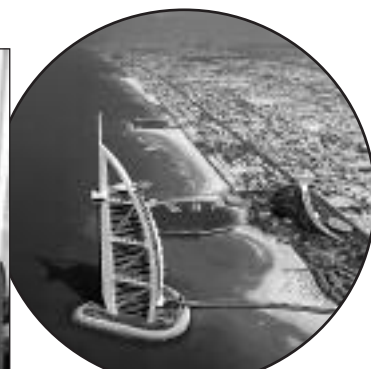
Madge and C. Bert Amann with Lis and C. George Ponte.



(RL): New members who already received their certificates at Getting To Know You Parties. They are: Mary Elizabeth Beadle, Patricia Anderson, Rachel Jacks, and Roberta Patton.



Guests Vinnie and Connie von Zwehl and President Maher.



C.s. Carol Decker and Barb Roy. Barb is the official photographer for the Naples Chapter events and does a terrific job.

Belize Survivor: Darker Side of Paradise **Nancy Koerner, Author**

The Naples Sailing and Yacht Club was once again the setting for this program held on Sunday, February 15, 2009. There were 53 members and guests attending.

After the social and luncheon, Nancy Koerner was introduced. Nancy is the author of the book Belize Survivor: Darker Side of Paradise.

Nancy's story was unique and different from the usual presentations. She told how she went to Belize with her husband and infant son, driving in an old car, settling in the hinterland with no running water, bathroom, electricity, etc. They lived in a simple dwelling and developed a small farm to live off the land. The beauty of the area was breathtaking - beautiful lush forests, huge unexplored caves, rivers cascading through the hills. Nancy lived there for 13 years and had two children in this setting.

There was only one problem. Her husband was abusive. Nancy shared with us the difficulties she had to overcome to finally escape. The law was on her husband's side and being in such a remote area, the route to freedom and to save her life was almost impossible. Finally, dressed as a man taking her youngest child with her, she was able to get away undetected. She had to leave her eldest with her husband...today, she is in contact with her son.

At a later time, she met an investor and they built a business using horses for exploration trips through the beautiful scenery and caves in Belize. Their company is mentioned in the book One Thousand Places to See Before You Die.



Chapterpresident Tom Maher and C. Barb Roy introduce guest speaker and author Nancy Koerner.



C. Gloria Maher with C. Elaine Elwell and Patricia Andersen.



They find these Sunday brunches perfect – Lis Ponte, Madge Amann, and C. George Ponte and Bert Amann.



C. JoAnne Kuehner and Yvonne Locker chat with Cwife Barbara Easton.

PHOTOSHOOT WITH GUEST SPEAKER NANCY KOERNER:



Chaptervicepresident Neil Curley and Chaptertreasurer Joan Curley with author Koerner.



Author Koerner and Bill Roy



C. Carl and JoAnne Kuehner and guest speaker.

THE NAPLES CHAPTER IS CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Chinese New Year – Dual Events Held



The Program Committee, chaired by C. Ken Linsner, arranged for a Saturday afternoon performance of the Chinese New Year Splendor at Radio City Music Hall, followed by a delicious banquet at the Peking Duck House.

On January 24, members and their guests enjoyed an exhilarating celebration of classical Chinese dance and music featuring world-class performers, gorgeous costumes and backdrops, and powerful drum rhythms.

Then out into an extremely cold night to venture crosstown to the Peking Duck House. Everyone warmed up immediately with cocktails and wonderful appetizers, followed by a seven-course dinner – including their signature Peking duck – and dessert.

All in attendance agreed it was a wonderful experience.



C. Mary Brogan and her guest, Marge O'Mara



Members and their guests awaiting the show – Chinese New Year Splendor – at Radio City Music Hall.



Cs. Mimi and Duane Ragsdale



President Bill Holm making a point!



Cs. Jim Forney, Margaret and Mike Nicolais, and Clelia Moraes.

4707 - The Year of the Ox





Guest Richard Harm and C. Marie Miles have their photo taken while C. Lois Kahan and her guest Mira Stulman enjoy a good story.



Cs. everyone George Sanborn, Ted Pitt and Sylvia Carroll



C. Anne Hughes (R) chats with her cousin Maxine Small.



C. Shirl Kaslow with guest Vicki Stuart, and Amy Thant and C. Andrew Grover.



Anne Holm with Cs. Peter and Christine Mosse



The ceremonial
slicing of the
Peking duck.



Milt and C. Bernice Heller



C. Theresa Reilly (R) with her guest and former student Elva Shkreli



The Chinese New Year's Party is
always a favorite.



Chapterpresident James Arimond

CHICAGO CHAPTER

SUBMITTED BY C. CAROL NARUP

FOUNDATION SCHOLAR HARRIS SOCKEL SPEAKS TO CHAPTER

On Friday, February 13, some 40 Chapter members and guests came to Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois, for a reception, dinner, and report from our 2008 around-the-world Scholar, Harris Sockel.

The topic Harris chose to research last summer was "As Others Read Us: American Literature's Global Circulation." During his PowerPoint presentation, Harris discussed how the translation of our literature impacts other cultures' views of the United States. His talk was enthusiastically received.

Among our guests for the evening were Harris' parents, who flew in from Philadelphia, and four other Chicago Chapter Scholars, the most we ever had at a meeting. Joining Harris (2008) were Sarah Graber (2004), Alex Robins (2006), Chris Ahern (2007), and our current Grantee Sam McAleese (2009).

To top off our meeting, a reporter and a photographer from the Chicago Tribune were also in attendance. A month later a wonderful article about the Chicago Chapter appeared in the paper, including a picture of Carol Narup presenting Harris with miniature flags of all the countries he visited during his circumnavigation last summer.



Chapterpresident Jim Arimond is proudly flanked by Foundation Scholars: Alex Robins (2006), Sam McAleese (2009), Sarah Rose Graber (2004), Harris Sockel (2008), and Chris Ahern (2007).



Chaptervicepresident-Foundation Carol Narup is delighted to present token flags to Scholar Harris Sockel. Each flag represented a country Harris visited during his circumnavigation.



C. Bill Narup offers encouragement to new Grantee Sam McAleese.



Cs. Trudy Cassin and Bob Billhorn enjoying the evening.



Cs. Marilyn and Bill Redfield.



C. Francis Lynch and his wife, Mary Jo.

UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER

Chapterpresident Helen Jenkins



Chapterpresident Helen Jenkins reports that a luncheon was held at the Garrick Club on March 4. C. Graham Hill made the arrangements. There was good food and wine, and naturally excellent conversation.

The next event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, at the Oriental Club. The guest speaker will be Dr. Barbara Wilding, Chief Constable for the South Wales Police, one of the very few women to hold such a high position of command.

The historic Garrick Club

CHICAGO CHAPTER (continued)

Insights Into the Beauty and Conflicts of the Southwest Balkans Guest Speakers C. Dave and Kathy Gotaas

For the ninth consecutive year, the Chicago Chapter held its spring meeting at one of its consistently favorite venues – St. Ignatius College Prep, just west of downtown Chicago. Founded by the Jesuits in 1870, this beautifully restored school is now on the National Register of Historic Places as it is one of only five public buildings that pre-dates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

The featured speakers on Thursday, March 19, were Chapter members Dave Gotaas and his daughter Kathy, who shared their story of their visit to the Southwest Balkans, concentrating on Kosovo, Montenegro, and Albania. As the chairman of the Kosovo American Education Fund, Dave has been to the Balkans a dozen times in recent years for volunteer work. A year ago he was in Kosovo when it declared its independence. Katie shared her photographs of the landscape and the people taken during her two visits to the area.

Some 40 Chapter members and guests thoroughly enjoyed Dave's and Katie's description of their experiences in the Southwestern Balkans, which stretch from the intimidating cliffs along the Adriatic coast to lush valleys and snowcapped mountains in the interior. The ancient land of the Illyrians has been ruled by numerous invaders including Greeks, Romans, and Ottomans. In the seventh century Slavs migrated into the region and built numerous monasteries and churches. This region has seen violence throughout the centuries, and recent clashes related to ethnicity, religion, and culture have been severe. Communism's downfall in the 1990s led to the breakup of Yugoslavia. Particularly in Albania, democracy is still in its infancy and economic contrasts abound. The coast is beginning to see the growth of modern tourism, but in the interior one walks back in time to ox carts, tribal costumes, and ancient traditions.

For all of those in attendance, the evening was most informative and enjoyable.



Guest Speakers – C. Kathy and Dave Gotaas.



Carol Narup also serves as the International Second-vicepresident of the Club. Here she holds up a recent article about the Club and Chicago Chapter published in their local paper. Chaptervicepresident-Membership Karen Schlueter and member Bob Bilhorn agree that it was an excellent article.



C. Alex Robins (Scholar-2006) with Chapterpresident Jim Arimond and Foundation Director Eleanor Briggs.



Guests Donna and Nick Padgett. C. Lyn Redfield, Ray Schlueter, and Marilyn Fischel enjoying the spring meeting.



Chaptervicepresident-Foundation Carol Narup with members Trudy Cassin, and Bob Bilhorn.



Chapterpresident Charles Stotts

PACIFIC-NORTHWEST CHAPTER

MONGOLIA — with Lyn Coffin and Bob Ness

Our dinner meeting on Saturday, February 7, was held at the Sheraton Bellevue. There were sixteen members and guests present. **C.** Lyn Coffin and colleague Bob Ness put on a most interesting program about Mongolia. Mr. Ness showed a series of photos taken over a number of trips to that county while Lyn, also a Mongolia traveler (by horseback), read descriptive poetry she wrote to accompany them. Both pictures and poetry eloquently described the poverty and barren vastness of that seldom-visited land.

New officers were also introduced; Martha Sampson is our new Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Jeanne Hoskins, who has faithfully filled that position since the Chapter's inception in 1991, decided to step down. **C.** Steven Sogg is the new Vicepresident, filling the vacancy left by the late Pat Miller.

The evening also brought out our sailing Circumnavigators — a full 25% of those present have sailed around the world on small boats. "Are we a seagoing Chapter or what!" asks Chapterpresident Stotts.



Chapterpresident Charles and **C.**s. Hertha Stotts, Clyde Sies and Virginia Houk all circumnavigated the world under sail on small yachts.



Guest speakers Bob Ness and **C.** Lyn Coffin



New member Clyde Sies and his wife, Cherie, guest Grady James, Edna and Chapterpastpresident Melvin Kelso.



Chapterpresident Charles Stotts with newly elected Vicepresident Steven Sogg and Secretary/Treasurer Martha Sampson.



A typical yurt in Mongolia



Pastsecretary/treasurer Jeanne Hoskins with Ayleen Erickson.



New member Virginia Houk receives her membership certificate from President Stotts.

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Chapterpresident Margaret Ellen Parke



Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebrated January 31, 2009

Breaking with the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration of past years, the Washington, DC Chapter instead celebrated a Vietnamese Lunar New Year at Minh's Restaurant in Arlington, Virginia. Other parts of the restaurant were filled with laughter and conversation from the many Vietnamese-Americans celebrating with families and friends.

Though many Americans associate Tet with the North Vietnamese attacks in early February 1968, in Vietnam Tet or formally "Tet Nguyen Dan" is the Feast of the First Morning, and is the most important and popular holiday. About one-fourth of the Chapter members and guests at lunch had been to Vietnam, some having lived or served there for several years.

Noting similar cultural traditions that exist in many parts of the world, Chapterpresident Ellen Parke told the group about the Tet holiday and some of the traditions. One tradition common to Vietnam, Scotland, and the American South is to have a guest, who has good family, financial or business success, to enter their home first. That will bring luck to the homeowner throughout the year. Some other traditions drew laughter and some just sighs, such as having a clean house, paying off all debts, and completing all work were the most popular.

President Ellen Parke introduced the many guests present, including four family members brought by Chapterpastpresident Al Olsen. One wag noted that the Olsens would soon be able to form a chapter of their own. We were pleased to welcome Circumnavigators Sheila and Jim Forney (a member of the International Board of Governors) from Brick, New Jersey. The Forneys have joined the DC Chapter for several events in recent years. Jim and Sheila told of activities at International Headquarters, including plans for the exciting International Weekend and Magellan Award dinner in April. Chapterpastpresidents Jack Bluestein, Jim Whalen, Marsh Damerell, and Ray Olson were also present for the luncheon.

President Parke informed those present that in December the Chapter's Foundation Committee interviewed the finalists for the 2009 Raymond M. Dinsmore study grant. The committee selected Ms. Sabala Baskar of Ellicott City, Maryland, a junior at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Her circumnavigation this summer will focus on the question: "Is Ethnic Conflict Generational? The Impact of Memory on Ethnic Conflicts." Foundation Co-ordinator Brian Evans, Ellen Parke, Ramya Sivasubramanian (the Chapter's 2000 Foundation Scholar), and Chapter-vicepresident Samuel Watson comprised the committee. The Chapter will honor Ms. Baskar at a luncheon in October.

Former Chaptervicepresident Mark Detweiler brought a large world map showing the many circumnavigations he and his wife, Shirley, have completed. Several members talked over the many places they have visited. One member described their circumnavigation around the South Pole by air.



Chapterpresident Ellen Parke makes a few announcements before lunch.



Cs. De Petry, Betsey Ruderfer, guest Ray Pennell, and Chapterpastpresident Ray Olson.



Sheila and C. Mark Detweiler, Laura and Fran Olsen – granddaughter and daughter of Chapterpastpresident Al Olsen.



We wonder what is next on Chapterpastpresident Marshall and Fran Damerell's agenda!

Chapterpastpresident Jack and Millie Bluestein – always a delight at any affair.



Cs. Margaret Parke and Al Olsen have been friends for more than 60 years.



Cs. Sheila and Jim Forney visiting from Brick, New Jersey. They have attended a number of DC's events.

SUBMITTED BY CHAPTERVICEPRESIDENT
SAMUEL WATSON



Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche

PALM BEACH CHAPTER



Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche (R) and **C.** John Ahern.

A luncheon event was held in warm, sunny Palm Beach in January at the Sailfish Club of Florida. 55 members and their guests attended. The program was "some thoughts on unique travels". Guest Wayne Diller talked about his recent trip to the dead center of the North Pole, leaving from Iceland by plane, and arriving by helicopter for the event. **C.** John Ahern talked about his recent trip to China. The thrust of the talk was how he continually was taken advantage of financially, related with great humor. Jack Veasy and **C.** Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche talked about the fabulous yacht that was docked at the club, visible to those at the gathering, and recently launched at a cost of \$85 million. They boarded the ship the night before for a farewell cocktail party.



Annette Ahern with Chaptertreasurer John Morris.



Guests John Thomson and Carol Disses – hamming it up!



Loyal Palm Beach goers **Cs.** Evelyn Peterson with son Bill.

Cs. Ty Philit and Madeleine Calder with Gail Warfield.



Rainforest Outing

Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche arranged an excursion to the exotic Gamboa Rainforest Resort in Panama for several members of the Palm Beach Chapter. The resort is located halfway between the Atlantic and Pacific ports – 25 miles from Panama City. The group went on daily sight-seeing trips to Indian villages, to wildlife refuges, to orchid gardens, to islands filled with monkeys, on boat trips through the jungles, and to old Panama City. A special tramway ride was arranged that took them to 9,000 feet above sea level, where both coasts could be seen.



Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche (3rd from left) with members from the Palm Beach Chapter.



Cs. John Thomson and Charles Klotsche scoot around the resort.

The canal boat ride was enjoyed by everyone.



DESERT CHAPTER (ARIZONA)

Chapterpresident Rolf Brown



BUSY SEASON FOR THE DESERT...



2008 Foundation Grantee Ke Wu presented her research study that included visits to Mongolia, India, Tanzania and Romania. Chapterpresident Rolf Brown offered a token gift of appreciation.

FEBRUARY EVENT:

Following in February the president of Crustcrawler Robotics, Alex Dirks, talked about his business and the current applications of robots. His sales of robots are divided between hobbyists, schools and industry. Mechanical engineering programs at schools like MIT assign students the task of building the robot and then programming it to perform various functions. Industry is primarily interested in his robotic arms which Alex can sell for a fraction of what other models sell for. Based on the number of questions asked, the group found the subject quite interesting.



Alex Dirks, owner of Crustcrawler Robotics, spoke to the Desert members about his company and the field of robotics.



Chapterpresident Rolf Brown welcomes new member Gene Cox.

JANUARY EVENT:

The first event of 2009 was highlighted by our 2008 Foundation Grantee Ke Wu, who gave a presentation on her global research study. Her topic was the provision of education to minorities and disenfranchised populations in various countries. She looked at the railway station schools in India, orphans in Tanzania and Mongolia, and the Gypsies in Romania. With the exception of Romania, which is making a considerable effort due to the desire to integrate with Europe, her findings showed considerable further investment and faculty training were required in most schools she visited.



Chaptersecretary Jimmie Valentine, Chaptertreasurer Frank Nageotte and member Don Hughes.

MARCH EVENT:

In March, the local speaker was Dwight Galda – economist, college professor and investment professional. Dwight discussed in fairly non-technical terms the origins of the world's current economic problems and the possible and probable outcome. Although he pointed to a number of painful structural changes his overall outlook was positive with significant recovery in the next year.



Speaker Dwight Galda spoke about the current financial crisis. Chapterpresident Rolf Brown presents him with a gift.

SUBMITTED BY CHAPTERPRESIDENT ROLF BROWN



Chapterpresident Patricia Lodge

MIAMI CHAPTER (FLORIDA)

INDIA DISCUSSED

On Sunday, March 15, 2009, the Miami Chapter members and their guests met at Bertolini's Restaurant in The Towers of Key Biscayne condominium overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Following a cocktail hour and Italian buffet luncheon, guest speaker Hashu Gidoomol gave an exciting talk about a three-month trip in India with his charming wife, Leguita.

A lively and lengthy discussion followed Hashu's talk on his experiences and impressions of India, and the similar feelings and impressions of the Circumnavigators who visited India both before and after Hashu's trip.



Guest speaker
C. Hashu
Gidoomol
and his wife,
Leguita.



C. Laurie Kaufman and guest Bill Mitchell.



Prior to the talk, C. Gary Padakis, Alecia San Pedro and Jack Budrew get acquainted.

SUBMITTED BY CHAPTERPRESIDENT PATRICIA LODGE

C. Artist Henri van Bentum's work "Organiverse" featured in exhibit celebrating International Year of Astronomy 2009 and 400th Anniversary of Galileo Galilei

By C. van Bentum

Recently I had the honour of having my paintings included in a special exhibit, "From Earth to the Universe," to mark the International Year of Astronomy 2009 ("IYA 09"), a project of the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO.

2009 celebrates the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei taking the newly-created telescope and pointing it to the heavens, thus sharing his discoveries with the "human family". One of the goals of IYA '09, which runs until December worldwide, is to take astronomy out of the "ivory tower". Here in Victoria, the venue for the exhibit was a large, downtown mall called the Bay Centre, where thousands of people from all walks of life got to experience the interactive exhibit.

Another goal of IYA '09 is to collaborate with other disciplines, and that's why I was asked to be part of the exhibition. "Organiverse" is my *magnum opus*, a series of one hundred paintings, all done in pointillism, atom by atom, dot by dot. Evocative of both micro and macrocosmic images, "Organiverse" features not only the original 100 paintings, but now a "Starry Night" edition, made possible by the latest scanning technology, bringing the total number of works shown in the exhibit to 200.



C. Artist Henri van Bentum
and new member J. Paul Lang
pose in front of "Organiverse".

This evolutionary series was created in 1972 (long before space images we know today were available), while my wife, Natasha, and I lived in Morocco, and was completed on the island of Madeira.

Breathtaking and dazzling cosmic images of Jupiter, Red Dwarfs, nebulae, black holes, supernovas, the Milky Way made the exhibit a stunning show. Images came from NASA, Hubble, European and the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope amongst others as well as the Mars Voyager and Rover cameras, and photos from amateur astrophotographers. Sony provided several state-of-the-art, large TVs, including PlayStation. It was truly a 21st Century show, with all the images presented digitally and some in 3D. Another monitor featured universe-inspired paintings by schoolchildren, as well as images by First Nations artists.

Having glorified the galaxies, let us not forget we are zooming through space ("Where did all that 'Space' come from?") at a mere 650,000 miles per hour, and dancing too, in this Universe. So let's not lose sight of a high priority, and that is the healing and preserving of our home planet Ocean/Earth.

IRAN ... A PERSIAN ODYSSEY

Guest Speakers – Robert and Jill Augustine

☪ Yvonne Locker hosted the Chapter's March 15 event in her lovely condominium. The theme was Iranian to commemorate the trip and the program that was given by Jill and Bob Augustine. Barb Roy and Marjorie Campbell also joined them on this trip. Iranian food was catered by a nearby restaurant – it was the first taste of this ethnic food for many.

After a delicious meal, the group adjourned to another room where chairs were set up theatre-style. ☪ Jill Augustine showed the slides and gave the talk. Bob Augustine answered the many questions that were asked. (The Augustines' article – "1977 Iran – 2008 Iran – Fond Memories Recalled" appears on page 16.



Chapterpresident Tom Maher presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Jill and Robert Augustine for their wonderful program.



Membership certificates were presented to Katie and Steve Gregory by President Maher.



Having a wonderful afternoon – ☪s. Roberta Patton, Marjorie Campbell, Gloria Maher and Jan Abrams.



☪ Barb Roy helps serve the Iranian lunch to guests.



Bob Perkins, ☪ Carolyn Riordan with Bob Augustine.



Chapterpastpresident Pat Classen, Ann Rowe and Bill Roy.

ON Friday, March 20, a "Getting To Know You" group gathered at the Bha Bha restaurant for the Iranian New Year. Special decorations, great food and belly dancers were entertaining the customers that evening. Our "Getting To Know You" activities are in addition to our regular meetings with speakers. During the summer, the small groups have a lot of fun with more casual settings. 22 members attended. – CHAPTERPRESIDENT TOM MAHER

1977 Iran / 2008 Iran — Fond Memories Recalled

By C. Jill Augustine

Our lives have been filled with many adventures, but none topped the time we lived in Iran. Robert's company, AT&T, was hired by the Shah's government to advise and upgrade Iranian telecommunications systems, and Robert was assigned to work with the Iranian Military. He arrived in Tehran in early fall of 1977. Our two teenaged children and I joined him in late December. By that time we had traveled internationally and were thrilled by the opportunity of living and working in Iran. The children quickly adjusted to school, and we were well pleased with our spacious north Tehran apartment. It was in an Iranian neighborhood, and what better way to interact with the people?

I taught English classes at the Tehran Language Institute. In doing so I learned more about the culture, history, and religion of the land than if I had read dozens of books. The after-class discussions were where I was really educated. One student, Mohammed Ali, loved Malcolm X's books and confessed to being a Communist. Two other businessmen were engineers. One discussed Persian literature and poetry; the other enlightened me about religion, Iran's Shi'ite Muslim religion. I also had two families of Baha'i as students, seven in all. The religion of Baha'i originated in Iran in the 1840's and forms the largest religious minority in Iran.

In 1978 over 50,000 Americans lived in Iran. It was a much more liberal country than its Muslim neighbors. Women were more empowered thanks to an equal educational system that was introduced in 1936. Women weren't required to wear a veil, could divorce their husbands, had rights of inheritance, and were encouraged to work outside the home. The marriageable age for women was raised to 18. (According to Islamic Sharia law the marriageable age for girls is 9!) By 1961 women could vote.

Bob enjoyed his job. He and his staff had offices in the Iranian Military building near Tehran University. He also toured various military bases to evaluate and recommend improvements for military telecommuni-

"In 1978 over 50,000 Americans lived in Iran. It was a much more liberal country than its Muslim neighbors."



The marvelous Shahyad Tower, Iran's national monument.

cations systems. One such excursion took him to Shiraz in southern Iran. And on the home front we were happily becoming accustomed to our exotic new lifestyle.

We loved living in Iran and planned to extend our stay if possible. During each holiday we traveled to exotic places. During summer home leave we circumnavigated the world. Life was great! We traveled to the

Caspian Sea, dined on Beluga caviar, and toured Esfahan. While in Tehran we immersed ourselves in the history and culture of the land. It was fascinating and we loved the people! We enjoyed going to the races. Bob's boss and a friend

bought a part interest in a Turkmen race horse. He never won but just sitting in the third floor lounge of the elegant club house watching the races while dignitaries feasted on caviar and vodka was quite an experience. We attended our landlord's daughter's wedding and were the only Westerners there. It was wonderful! However, as time passed things began to change. In Tehran more women were wearing chadors (a cape like garment that covers one from head to ankle) in silent opposition to the Shah and civil unrest in outlying areas was becoming more prevalent.

In early November Bob was asked to provide a briefing to high ranking visiting officers just as demonstrators were marching through the streets below. One high-ranking general said if he was in charge he would quickly "crush" the demonstrators. He was one of the first general executed in early January!

Our eighteenth anniversary was on November 5. Friends invited us to their apartment and when we strolled out onto their rooftop terrace we toasted the occasion with champagne. Then we saw the smoke. Smoke was rising from south Tehran! As Iran was struggling with civil unrest here we were watching it all from a safe distance. The incongruity of it all! We'd been bolstered by US Ambassador Sullivan's statements that "the Shah would prevail." We desperately wanted to believe it but now south Tehran was burning!



The Fotouhi family with C. Barb Roy, Margie Campbell and Jill Augustine. (Bob Augustine was behind the camera.)



Imam Mosque/Shrine in Shiraz

By mid-November Iran was churning with demonstrations and riots and the Shah's government had ratcheted up its military response to social unrest. Martial law was declared and a curfew imposed. The English classes I taught at the language institute were canceled. Westerners were told to keep a low profile, stay out of south Tehran, and to remove our names from our mail-boxes. The kids' school bus was stoned by young Iranian students. Robert's office building was vandalized. The Intercontinental Hotel had its windows smashed in when a city bus plowed through the entrance and ended up at the registration desk.

Is it any wonder then that we decided to spend Thanksgiving in Cairo and Giza? It was a brief but wonderful interlude. However, our return flight on Air Iran was canceled so Japan Air flew us back to Tehran but it was very late, well after the curfew was in effect. Menacing armed soldiers stopped our cab and checked our passports. Things were getting worse.

There was one last bright spot in our social life. Bob's colleague had been befriended by the Assistant Abbot of the Tehran Theological School. The cleric invited us all to go on a picnic with him and meet some of his cousins. A ride in the country would be a welcome change. As I sat under the tree drinking my tea and listening to this fascinating cleric I felt we were lucky to be there.

Westerners were told to keep a low profile, stay out of south Tehran, and to remove our names from our mail-boxes.

As a result of that innocent country picnic I suffered greatly. A short time later I became ill with a very high fever but not so sick that I neglected to send a homemade cake to my husband's office for his office mates to enjoy. Just hours after they had eaten it I was diagnosed with hepatitis! The timeline supported our suspicions. The tea had done me in! The company doctor insisted everyone in my husband's office who had eaten the cake needed an injection to ward off the possibility of their sharing my illness. However, the crowning blow was when my husband told me his boss who was 6' 7" tall would need a "doubler," one in each bun!

Days later the kids and I left Iran. "An early Christmas holiday break," they called it. However, at the airport it definitely was an evacuation. The place was packed with anxious, tearful people saying their good-byes to loved ones before boarding planes headed for home.

Bob stayed in Iran as conditions worsened. Christmastime was spent gathering up our possessions in anticipation of leaving. He drove to the American School to collect our kids' report cards and to return a band uniform. The affable vice principal was in charge and would become one of the US hostages on November 4, 1979.

Power outages were now commonplace. People were told to store water in anticipation of possible sabotage. When Robert met with one of the generals he noticed he had his civilian clothes carefully hung by the door! In January the Shah left for the US and a provisional government was named. The airport was closed to commercial traffic most of January. Robert's last official duty in Iran was to visit an immense clandestine manufacturing factory. He was flown there on military transport and was met by a SAVAK (secret police) agent who would be his translator. After making recommendations on what was needed to improve telecommunications Bob asked what they manufactured at the plant. The SAVAK agent said she couldn't ask the General that question! However, the General wanted to know what Bob said and she reluctantly relayed his question. No one moved or said a word. Then the General smiled and responded,



Time out! Member of the tour group Sue Fox with Cs. Jill Augustine, Margie Campbell, and Barb Roy.

1977 Iran / 2008 Iran — Fond Memories Recalled (continued)

“Tell Mr. Augustine that we don’t make baby buggies!” The general laughed and everyone joined in.

On January 28, 1979, Bob left Iran. Pan Am, staffed by an all-volunteer crew, flew in to evacuate those seeking to leave Iran, and leaving Iran was challenging. Bob arrived at the airport with his overweight luggage plus our kenneled dog, and carrying two Persian carpets, and our leashed cat who by this time had clawed her way out of her improvised cardboard cage. The scene at the airport was chaotic. There were long lines, people shoving and pushing, police and army guards trying to control the crowds. It was pandemonium! With much effort Bob reached the check-in clerk and was handed a ticket. Before entering the passageway to board the plane plainclothesmen stopped people to check their passports. Upon entering the plane Bob stowed the carpets and sat down, holding onto the cat and praying they would soon be airborne. But now there was commotion in the rear of the plane as the plainclothesmen entered to recheck passports. People were being removed from the plane! As they worked their way to the front of the plane and stopped in front of his seat, Bob held his breath as one of the plainclothesmen tapped the shoulder of the man sitting next to him. The man showed him his passport and he was taken off the plane. Shortly afterwards the plane taxied off and when it entered Turkish airspace everyone cheered. Four days later Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran and within weeks Islamic clerics ruled Iran.

“Today’s Iran is certainly different than it was 30 years ago. The population has mushroomed to 70 million.”

Thirty years have passed since we left Iran and despite the tensions between our countries, we decided to visit Iran. Having lived and worked there we had fond memories of all the friendly people we met. We hoped to find and visit our friends, our landlord and his family, and discover what the new Islamic Republic of Iran was all about. We signed on with GAP, a Canadian tour company, for a 14-day 8-city tour and were joined by our Circumnavigator friends Barb Roy and Margie Campbell.

Robert’s and my arrival at Tehran’s International airport was not without incident. Customs officials took our passports and the two of us were taken aside and told to wait while others passed through. Forty-five minutes passed before security guards ushered us down to the fingerprinting room where we were fingerprinted. And it wasn’t until much later that we learned that Iranians traveling to our country are put through the same drill. So perhaps turnabout is fair play.

Today’s Iran is certainly different than it was 30 years ago. The population has mushroomed to 70 million. The cities and roadways are cleaner; no more garbage bags littering the streets and alleyways. However, Iran is more barren today, less green as a result of deforestation, desertification, drought, and pollution. Fortunately, the government is striving to address these environmental issues and has also signed on to many



Hafez mausoleum in Shiraz

international environmental agreements all aimed at improving the environment.

Since 1979 Iran’s legal system has been based on Qoranic Sharia law. One of the requirements mandates a strict dress code for women; this includes foreign women traveling to Iran as well. Our heads (hair) needed to be covered and no bare feet or ankles should be seen. We needed to be covered from the neck to below the ankles, and arms were to be covered to below the wrist. However in some cities dress codes were often stretched to the limits.

Tehran had grown from 4 million to about 15 million today! It now has wonderful expressways, high-speed drivers and traffic jams. We saw the enormous Shrine of Imam Khomeini, father of the Iranian revolution, who is entombed there. He died in 1989 and they’ve been working on his shrine complex for over 17 years. Closer to our hotel we saw a mural of our flag painted on the side of an office building. The flag hung vertically and the stars had morphed into human skulls and the red stripes dissolved into bombs plummeting downward. The caption read: “Down with the USA” and below in Farsi it said “Death to the USA.” At the former US Embassy the surrounding wall is painted with anti-American and anti-Western slogans! However, contrary to governmental propaganda Persian hospitality still prevails! That’s the duality of Iran today. The people are friendly and welcome foreign travelers.

We were pleased to meet the rest of our tour group, nine other intrepid travelers plus two guides, 15 of us in all. Together we represented six countries and four continents. Our ages ranged from 24 to 76 and all had trav-



Bazaar hawker and C. Jill Augustine.

"We were told polo is Persia's gift to the world as is chess, the pomegranate, and of course the Shiraz grape."

eled extensively and by the end of our tour everyone agreed that Iran has some of the friendliest people we've ever met!

With the help of our 30-year-old map, we found our old apartment and were lucky. Our landlords were still living in their 1st floor apartment, and we had four wonderful visits with the family before leaving Iran. It was one of the high points of our trip!

We flew to Mashhad, Mashhad means "place of martyrdom" and is Iran's holiest city. The eighth Imam, Ali Reza, was entombed there some-time after his death in 817. Only Muslims are allowed to enter his shrine. However, the large shrine complex not only encompasses his mausoleum, it also has vast open courtyards, mosques and shrines, even two museums, all of which are opened to tourists. The Islamic architecture was stunning and the use of colored glass mirrors in some shrines was spectacular!

We noticed how young the population was. The median age is 26! Iran is about the size of Alaska and has a population of 70 million. It's mostly an arid or semiarid land with vast deserts and the highest mountain in the Middle East, Mt. Damavand at 5,671 m. Less than 10% of the land is arable. Petroleum is Iran's main export. It has the second largest oil reserves in the world. Inflation is high at 26% and the unemployment rate is high at 12.5%. Illicit drugs are a major problem. "Iran remains one of the primary transshipment routes for Southwest Asian heroin to Europe, [and] suffers one of the highest opiate addiction rates in the world." (CIA World Fact book Iran, updated 2008.)

Upon returning to Tehran we boarded our bus, and headed south to Abyaneh, passing the controversial uranium enrichment plant on the way. Taking photos of it was guaranteed to land us in jail. The enormous desert complex was ringed with high barbed wire fences, armed look-out towers, and surface-to-air missiles.

Abyaneh is an ancient hill village that's been occupied for over 1500 years. It's known for its quaint two-and-three storied dwellings made of mud-brick with wooden balconies and lovely wooden doors. Some Iranian doors have two different knockers, one for women and one for men. The sound identifies who's at your door. This is very handy in a country that has strict dress codes and a society that often sequesters women.

We visited the local school and were surprised. It was coed! The photos on the wall were of Ayatollah Khomeini and the Supreme Leader Khomeini. Both wore black turbans. That means they are *sayyed*, and trace their ancestry back to the Prophet. That's important for Shi'ites.

They differ from Sunni Muslims in their belief that after the Prophet's death future leaders must be blood relatives of the Prophet. Shi'ites make up about 10% of the world's Muslim population and Iran is the only country that has a Shi'ite majority.

Esfahan is Iran's Renaissance city and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Shah Abbas moved his capitol here in the 1590s and it quickly became known for its magnificent carpets, other fine arts and its gorgeous Islamic buildings. The Imam Mosque is the zenith of Persian Islamic architecture. Esfahan is also known for its immense Imam Square, which is the second largest square in the world and is believed to have been the site of Shah Abbas' royal polo field. We were told polo is Persia's gift to the world as is chess, the pomegranate, and of course the Shiraz grape.

Credit cards can't be used in Iran due to international sanctions and embargos. However, we noticed several signs saying VISA and MASTER CARD were accepted when buying high priced items such as carpets, fine arts, etc. How? They bill you by way of Dubai or Oman, and all evidence of their Iranian connection is erased. Is it any wonder that sanctions aren't effective?

We visited the Armenian Cathedral in Esfahan, which dates from the 1600s, when Shah Abbas invited Armenian craftsmen to move to Esfahan to perfect the carpet-making process. Because they are Christian they live apart from the Muslims and have had a presence in Iran for centuries. What about other religions? The



School girls greet us with smiles



Persepolis panorama. Bob Augustine, Brooke Duley, **CS**, Margie Campbell, Jill Augustine and Rex Visser.

Jewish community in Iran continues to be the second largest in the Middle East after Israel. We were told synagogues and churches weren't destroyed during the revolution. We found the church we had attended. It was

1977 Iran / 2008 Iran — Fond Memories Recalled (continued)

opened and the parish priest was there too. He was pleasant but hesitant to speak with us in the presence of our Muslim driver. Our conclusion: When in the presence of Muslims, non-Muslim clerics are careful of what they say.

Shiraz is the city of roses and known today as Iran's cultural capital. It's the hometown of Hafez and Sa'di, two of Persia's most famous poets, who lived in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. We visited their mausoleums, located in lovely garden settings. At the bazaar we enjoyed watching Iran's famous miniaturist paint exotic scenes on camel bone. We knew his work was expensive when we saw the VISA sign! Wandering into a book shop Barb, Margie and I were entertained by the proprietor, who recited the poetry of Hafez from memory.

Cyrus the Great (559-533 BC) launched the greatest empire the world had known. He expanded Persian rule to all of Iran, and defeated the Babylonians. The empire reached its zenith under the rule of Darius I the Great (522-486 BC) who expanded the empire from the Danube to the Indus River, down through the Arabian Peninsula, through the Caucasus and beyond. Today the empire would encompass over 30 countries!

Magnificent Persepolis, a highlight of our tour, was built "to serve as the ceremonial and religious hub of an empire whose primary god was Ahura Mazda, also the subject of Zoroastrian worship." (*Lonely Planet Guide to Iran*, 2008) It was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC.

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's first monotheistic religions. It was Persia's primary religion from 800 BC until 700 AD. Zoroastrians believe in heaven and hell, the last judgment, and salvation through good thought, word, and deed. They also believe creation is manifested in the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire. In ancient times they didn't bury their dead since that would defile the earth. They built towers opened to the sky with a central pit into which they placed their dead. Vultures would then pick the bodies clean. Today Iranians and Zoroastrians around the world celebrate the Zoroastrian holiday of New Year, No Ruz celebrated on the spring equinox.



Soldiers share a smoke on a water-pipe.

We stopped at a caravansary, a wayside inn with an enclosed courtyard for sheltering caravans. This reconstructed caravansary was outfitted with modern conveniences, dining facilities, and showers plus exotically furnished sleeping quarters for guests. Barb Roy and three other travel mates spent an enjoyable night there.

Yazd was our last stop before returning to Tehran and home. This desert town was fascinating. It has a large Zoroastrian population and a wonderful museum that explains the principles of their religion. We toured the town and a death tower and marveled at their ancient solution for cooling homes. Wind towers built like tall chimneys with narrow vertical openings channeled air downward into their dwellings.

Our tour of Iran far exceeded everyone's expectations. The history and culture of the country are amazing and the people are hospitable and curious about foreigners. Hopefully our positive experiences will be shared with future travelers and Iran will be seen as a safe and worthwhile tourist destination. ■

Iran – Geographical Data:

Location:

Middle East, bordering the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea, between Iraq and Pakistan

Population:

66,429,284 (July 2009 est.)

Government type:

theocratic republic

Capital:

Tehran

Geographic Coordinates:

32 00 N, 53 00 E

Area:

total: 1.648 million sq km
land: 1.636 million sq km
water: 12,000 sq km

Area - Comparative:

Slightly larger than Alaska

Land Boundaries:

Total: 5,440 km

Border Countries:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan-proper, Azerbaijan-Naxcivan exclave, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan

Coastline:

2,440 km; note – Iran also borders the Caspian Sea

Climate:

Mostly arid or semiarid, subtropical along Caspian coast

Terrain:

Rugged, mountainous rim; high, central basin with deserts, mountains; small, discontinuous plains along both coasts

Elevation Extremes:

Lowest point: Caspian Sea -28 m
Highest point: Kuh-e Damavand 5,671 m

Natural Resources:

Petroleum, natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc, sulfur

Total Renewable Water Resources:

137.5 cu km (1997)

Natural Hazards:

Periodic droughts, floods; dust storms, sandstorms; earthquakes

Environment / Current Issues:

Air pollution, especially in urban areas, from vehicle emissions, refinery operations, and industrial effluents; deforestation; overgrazing; desertification; oil pollution in the Persian Gulf; wetland losses from drought; soil degradation (salination); inadequate supplies of potable water; water pollution from raw sewage and industrial waste; urbanization

Environment / International Agreements:

Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands signed, but not ratified: Environmental Modification, Law of the Sea, Marine Life Conservation

Geography – Note:

Strategic location on the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, which are vital maritime pathways for crude oil transport

Scuba Diving in Iran

by C. Karen Sinniger

I headed to Kish Island, Iran, as part of my quest to set a world record for diving in the most countries in the world. I flew to Kish from Dubai (a 45-minute flight costing about \$130 round trip) during the busy NoRuz, or Iranian New Year holiday period. I hadn't planned this and it created lots of headaches to book a hotel room, but it turned out to be worthwhile since diving is normally forbidden for women, but this restriction is relaxed during the month of NoRuz.

Kish means "pearl" in Persian. When Marco Polo admired the pearls worn by the Chinese court, he was told they came from Kish. Today there are few oysters and the diving is fairly lackluster: clumps of reefs, lots of sand. However, diving provided me with a wonderful glimpse into Iranian society.

Kish Island used to be the Shah's summer home and he built a casino there. Khomeini promptly shut it down during the Islamic Revolution in 1979 but twenty years later decided to emulate Dubai and create a free trading zone there. Iranians now flock there to shop and let their hair down – literally. Women can walk around with their scarves pulled low over their heads without getting hassled by the police, so the young and liberal flock to Kish.

But there are limits to Kish's liberalism. There are separate swimming beaches for men and women. And I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw women jet skiing in custom made light blue and purple burkas and hijabs (head scarves).

Diving too is segregated: two days ago a lady who was watching her husband dive from a boat was stopped by the police! The dive center even hires older men to drive its boats to have less hassle with the police.

I did two dives with some other ladies. The instructor had to do her dive training in Thailand because it was impossible for her to become a qualified diver in Iran. We were all issued thin cotton trousers and coats with a hood to wear over our wetsuits. Once we got to the dive site, we peeled off our outfits but the requirement for women to be hooded in Iran extends underwater, so we were all given snoods or overgrown swim caps to wear.

On the flight from Dubai, I was lucky to be befriended by a woman named Shabman, who invited me for an evening out with her family. We went to a traditional Iranian restaurant with live music playing until 2:00 a.m. – no alcohol. Dancing is forbidden in Iran so people swayed in their seats and clapped to the music. Men and women can't sing together so one of the band members sang falsetto

and the women in the audience sang softly in their seats.

After dinner, we decided to go to the beach. On the bus, a man flouted strictures and bopped to the music in the aisle and on the beach, safe from prying eyes since it was so early in the morning. The women and men finally joined in song accompanied by a guitar. It was a magical moment.

KARIN SINNIGER IS A MEMBER OF OUR UK CHAPTER CURRENTLY LIVING IN ANGOLA. SHE IS AN ATTORNEY. ONE OF HER PASSIONS IS DIVING...ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.



C. Karin Sinniger (C) and buddies ready to dive.



A mother taking photos of daughters on jet ski.



Burka clad mother in waves with son.

Greetings From the Bottom of the World!

By C. Steven Barnett

CIRCUMNAVIGATOR STEVEN BARNETT E-MAILED THE CLUB ON JANUARY 30, 2009, TO TELL US ABOUT HIS LATEST VENTURE. SO HERE IT IS, BY STEVE:

Greetings from Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina . . . the bottom of the world. The end of the road (literally).

After 4-1/2 months, six countries, and 18,000 km, yesterday I crossed the Straits of Magellan (by ferry), crossed two borders (Argentina/Chile, then Chile/Argentina), rode 600 km (123 km were dirt and gravel), crossed one mountain range, fought constant 50 - 80 km winds, and arrived at 10 pm in Ushuaia, tired but happy. I am now 3100 km south of Buenos Aires in the most southern city in the world. It's the middle of summer, but there is still snow on the mountains.

Since I began planning this trip four years ago this has been my objective: South America, from the top to bottom. I have to tell you that I had a few emotional moments yesterday as I actually approached my goal. It doesn't feel too bad for an old guy!

But wait! There's more! I actually hadn't planned on being here for another two weeks. I came down the Carretera Austral in Chile and was planning on going to El Calafate, Torre de Paines, and Puerto Natales in Southern Chile. However, one of the things that I had also hoped for was that when I arrived in Ushuaia I would be able to get a last-minute deal on a cruise to Antarctica. Aside from wanting to see the glaciers and wildlife, it's the only continent I haven't been to. I needed to check it off the list!

A fellow biker wrote me from Ushuaia at the beginning of the week and told me that he had no luck at all getting a last-minute cruise. Everything was either sold out, or there was a long waiting list for last-minute spots. Fortunately I had met a couple a few weeks ago who raved about a travel agent here that they had used to get a good deal on a last-minute spot. So off to the telephones I went, and was able to get a great deal on a 13-day cruise through Antarctica, to south of the Antarctic Circle.

I leave on February 3 on the Polar Explorer, a ship of only 100 passengers, to make friends with the penguins and seals. When I get back I'll head back to southern Chile to see the parts I missed, then on to Buenos Aires to end the trip (or at least this stage of it).

So friends, greetings from the bottom of the world. And may your bottoms not be like this one: cold and wet.

*Abrazos,
Steve*



C. Steven Barnett – A Pastpresident of the Pacific-Northwest Chapter; has traveled and lived all over the world with his wife, Karen.



SCUTTLEBUTT



Captain Alfred Olsen

Congratulations! to **ALFRED OLSEN**, who was recently recognized by the National Symposium of the Surface Navy Association, an organization of over 6,000 members. He received this special recognition as he was an original member of the SNA, and served as its treasurer for a number of years.

C. **MIMI RAGSDALE** mailed in a note and photograph saying that she had seen a photograph of members **TOM and GLORIA MAHER** sitting on the same bench in front of the Taj Mahal that she and her husband, Duane, did years prior. It made her wonder how many Circumnavigators sat on that very same bench. If you did and have a photo, send it in or e-mail to me, Helen Jost, at CircumClub@optonline.net. We'll publish it in *The LOG*!



The First Hundred Years

CLUB OPENS DOORS TO WOMEN

Until the advent of "women's lib", our Circumnavigators Club was a male bastion. Men's clubs were popular and in those days, no one seemed to question the fact that our Club was restricted to men, and that our constitution stated explicitly in "Article III, Sec. 1. Eligibility. Membership in the Club shall be restricted to men who have made a complete circumnavigation of the globe in one direction crossing every meridian. . . ."

But in the last dozen years voices began asking why, in this enlightened age when women are competing on an equal footing, the Club maintained its discriminatory policy. Discussions on the subject took place in our various chapter offices as well as at International Headquarters.

All the usual arguments were aired. Some said they felt it would be a transgression of the founders' beliefs to amend the constitution so as to admit women. Others said they had joined the Club largely for the pleasure it afforded in providing hearty male companionship. Others felt the character and camaraderie of the organization would be largely altered if the rules were changed.

Early last spring, President Tom Flynn wrote then President Bill Archibald pointing out that the major reason for limiting our membership to men no longer existed. He believed the Club did itself a disservice by restricting its membership to men only. He had conferred with a number of younger members who unanimously favored admitting women. He also pointed out the selfish nature of the policy in denying member-

ship in our exalted ranks to the rising cadre of modern women who are every bit as well-traveled, knowledgeable and perceptive as men.

Bill promptly appointed Tom to head an Ad Hoc Committee to study the question of admitting women to our Club. A committee, comprised of members known to hold opposing views on the question, was selected to serve with Tom.

After carefully considering the question the committee recommended, and the Board of Governors unanimously agreed, to put the matter to a vote of the entire membership. A rousing 78% of the voting membership approved a change in the constitution to admit women to our organization.



Mrs. Jean MacArthur

After 81 years, the Circumnavigators Club welcomes women into membership. If only Nellie Bly were still alive! First woman admitted is Mrs. Jean MacArthur, widow of the beloved and respected General of the Army, who was an active member of our Club for many years.

The Log, New Year 1983.

©. Patricia L. Collins makes history as first woman elected as President, Circumnavigators Club.

The Log, New Year 1989.



President Pro-Tem Cortland Linder presents the whale's-tooth gavel to President-Elect Patricia Collins during the Circumnavigators Club 88th International Annual Meeting.

WELCOME ABOARDS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kathryn Gotaas G4902
Chicago Chapter



Marketing Consultant

Clive E. C. Banfield B4903
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands



Civil Aviation Executive

Marilu Ramirez R4904
New York, New York



Educator

Michele Keith K4905
New York, New York



Copywriter

J. Paul Lang L4906
Victoria, British Columbia



Military – Sailor

Lillian S. Kenney K4907
Palm Beach Chapter



Ret'd President of construction business

Gene Cox C4908
Desert Chapter



Ret'd General Contractor/Broker/Developer

Natalie Jane Clark C4909
Teton Village, Wyoming



Artist

Barbara Hagstrom H4910
New York, New York



Senior Psychiatric Nurse

Nicholas Moss M4911
Miami Chapter



2006 Foundation Scholar Investor

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Washington DC Chapter



Photojournalist

Tom Gregory G4914
Naples Chapter



Ret'd Photographer

Katie Gregory G4915
Naples Chapter



Ret'd Nurse

Susan R. Geery G4916
Palm Beach Chapter



Travel Executive and Business Consultant

David A. Mink M4917
Saint Davids, Pennsylvania



Executive for family rug business

Jessica Lappin L4918
New York, New York



Member of NY City Council

Joshua Brian Datko D4919
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Engineer ~ Naval Officer

Dan Peterson P4920
Chicago Chapter



Management Consultant

Steven D. Smith S4921
Washington DC Chapter



Aviation Safety

Cynthia Bassett B4922
Shaker Heights, Ohio



Senior Vice President of Investments

OVER THE HORIZON

Henry W. Lucken L2394

Teaneck, New Jersey

January 3, 2009

GOODWILL CONNECTION

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

Where... in the World...?

Have fun trying to figure out "Where in the World" these photos were taken!



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 complements 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.



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 password. 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 long 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.

CircumBits@optonline.net

CircumBits, the Club's new monthly e-mailed newsletter has been getting rave reviews. Why? Because CircumBits taps what is surely the Club's most unique and valuable secret asset: the accumulated travel knowledge of our members around the world. It has timely – and sometimes critical travel information that has come to our members attention or from situations they have recently encountered that might impact on upcoming travel plans of other members to affected areas. These might include such things as changes in visa requirements, inoculation requirements, signs of political unrest, changes in baggage limits, etc. – some things even your travel agent may not know- (and might not tell you even if he or she did). And then there is news about strange, exotic and exciting places to go and things to do that our members have discovered enough to tickle the imagination of even the most jaded travel. And, CircumBits is free!

We cannot get this information to you if the Club doesn't have a current e-mail address on file. If you haven't been receiving CircumBits – May Vol. 2 will be our seventh issue – send your current e-mail address to Circumbits@optonline.net to see what you've been missing!

Luck to You!

☪. Jim Forney, Editor

☪. Karin Sinniger, Contributing Editor

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.

Full Name
Title
24 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016-2588
(201) 612-9100
Fax: (201) 612-9595
Email: circumclub@optonline.net
www.circumnavigatorsclub.org
(optional personal/business phone)
(optional home phone)

*Through friendship,
To leave this world a little better
than we found it: Luck to You!*

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: We have dedicated the Foundation page in this edition of *The LOG* to providing you with information about our current year's grant recipients and the around-the-world travel-study projects that they will embark upon soon. Again this year, our grantees are a talented and motivated group of individuals and we look forward, as we hope you do, to following their progress *en route* via their web blogs. We know from past experience that they will appreciate any comments or tips which you might post to assist them in their journeys. — Luck to You! Greg Rider, President

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YOUR FOUNDATION, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT TO YOU THE 2009 GRANTEES:

These are your Grantees for 2009. Feel free to contact them by e-mail or through their blog sites as they circumnavigate the world this summer.



SABALA SIVA BASKER

Washington DC Chapter

Georgetown University-School of Foreign Service
— Graduate: 2010

Major: International Politics concentration on Security Studies

Project: "Is Communal Conflict Generational? The Impact of Memory on Communal Conflicts"

Why this topic? After taking a seminar on ethnic conflict last fall, I realized that I wanted to learn more about this field, especially the human side of it. Specifically, I wondered if young people around the world were less likely to hold on to old grudges than their parents and grandparents and, if so, why? I hope to learn how perceptions of ethnic conflict are formed by education and/or family upbringing.

Itinerary: Hat Yai, Thailand; Amritsar, India; Johannesburg, South Africa; Kigali, Rwanda; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Belfast, Northern Ireland

e/m: ssb39@georgetown.edu

blog: <http://sabalabas.blogspot.com>



SAM McALEESE

Chicago Chapter

Northwestern University — Graduate: 2010

Major: Philosophy with a Minor: Political Science and Environmental Policy and Culture

Project: "Sustainable Conservation: Local Engagement in National Parks Around the World"

Why this topic? Having always pictured national parks as pristine places, I learned this was not the case. After working in Wrangell St. Elias National Park in Alaska, I found that national parks will fail or succeed depending on their success in reaching out to local communities and engaging them in conservation efforts. Having visited a number of parks throughout the United States, I found it startling how varied the responses of parks to dealing with local communities, even within the American Park System. The foundation of my project is to see how national parks are dealt with in third-world countries.

Itinerary: Lima, Peru; Santiago and Puerto Montt, Chile, Brisbane, Cairns, Alice Springs, and Darwin, Australia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

e/m: s-mcaleese@northwestern.edu

blog: <http://nucircumnavigator.wordpress.com>



GABRIELLE KLEBER

Michigan Chapter

Michigan State University College of Engineering —
Graduate: 2011

Major: Environmental-based Chemical Engineering (5-year plan)

Project: "Our Oceans as a Dumping Ground"

Why this topic? I was shocked when I learned that there is an estimated 100 million tons of trash floating in our oceans. Having decided to devote my graduate studies to environmental issues, I began to seriously consider focusing my research on marine debris. I could not think of a more appropriate topic to study given the opportunity to travel around the world. My goal is not only to assess the magnitude and the impacts of coastal litter, but to also raise awareness on a global scale.

Itinerary: Honolulu and Big Island, Hawaii; Adelaide, Darwin, and remote parts of Northern Territory, Australia; Male, Maldives; Cape Town and the Southeastern Coast of South Africa; Plymouth and the Jurassic Coast of Southern England, Reykjavik and Skaftafell, Iceland

e/m: kleberga@msu.edu

blog: <http://gkleber.blogspot.com>



JEFFERSON (MAC) STEELE

New York Metro

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School —
Graduate: 2010

Major: Public and International Affairs

Project: "A Race to the Top or Bottom? An Analysis of the Impact of Service Offshoring on the Development of Host Countries"

Why this topic? I decided on this project because of my interest in international development and public policy. After taking a class called "Entrepreneurial Ventures to Solve Global Challenges" I became fascinated with the notion of the private sector driving development and combating poverty. Aid was cyclical, but if a country could become a prominent offshoring power, they could ideally sustain development on their own. Globalization has begun to level the playing field and brought billions of new workers into the folds of the global economy. While the progress of the past few decades has been remarkable, I could not help but wonder if these people would fall back into poverty after another market opened with a lower-cost offering. With this project, I hope to look at the lasting impact of offshoring on emerging markets.

Itinerary: Prague, Budapest, Cairo, Mumbai, Bangalore, Goa, Chennai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Dalian, Hong Kong, and Shenzhen.

e/m: jmac@princeton.edu

blog: <http://aroundtheworldin80ishdays.blogspot.com>

EXPAND OUR FOUNDATION GRANTEE PROGRAM — CONTINUE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • 2009

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

CHICAGO (Illinois)

May 19 (Tuesday): "Wild Times with Crocodiles, Snakes, and Spears: aka 25 years with the Sepik Iwan People in Papua New Guinea" – Presenter: Marilyn Laszlo; Maggiano's Restaurant

July (Date TBA): Circumnavigators Club Foundation fundraising luncheon hosted by Eleanor Briggs

September 17 (Thursday): Chicago Yacht Club – topic tba.

December 10 (Thursday): Holiday Party – Deerpath Inn in Lake Forest

Contacts: Marilyn Fischel (773) 477-1270 or David Gotaas (847) 441-7091.

DESERT (Arziona)

Contact: Chapterpresident Rolf Brown (RBrown1@cox.net)

MIAMI (Florida)

April 26 (Sunday): Luncheon/meeting. Tower's of Key Biscayne Restaurant

June 28 (Sunday): TBA

Contact: Chapterpresident Patricia Lodge (phototravel@aol.com)

MICHIGAN

May 5 (Tuesday): "Hidden Gems of Asia" by Barney and Florence Lucas. Place: Belmont Club House, Novi

August 16 (Sunday): The annual "Summer Safari: Thailand" hosted by Lee and Floy Barthel at their home.

October 8 (Thursday): "Oceans as Dumping Grounds" presented by Foundation Grantee Gabrielle Kleber. Place: Bayview Yacht Club.

December 3 (Thursday): Holiday Party – Country Club of Detroit.

Contact: Chapterpresident Joe Osentoski, e/m: kwidjbo@hotmail.com

MINNESOTA (Twin Cities)

To be advised...

Contact: Ken Doyle (KenDoyle@umn.edu)

NAPLES (Florida)

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

April 23 – 26 (Thursday-Sunday): International Weekend and Magellan Award Dinner honoring Michael Palin. (If you didn't reserve, you're too late!)

July 18 (Saturday): Family outing (great for all ages): Tour the recently refurbished USS aircraft carrier *Intrepid* and museum. Luncheon to follow.

September 16 (Wednesday): Naples Chapter members Jill and Bob Augustine and Barbara Roy will give an illustrated program on their recent trip to Iran.

Contact: Executive Director Helen Jost (CircumClub@optonline.net)

PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST (San Diego, California)

Mark your calendar – venues to be advised: June 18, September 3.

Contact: Program Chairman Bill Thompson, 858-459-0601

PALM BEACH (Florida)

Contact: Chapterpresident Charles Klotsche (charlesklotsche@gmail.com)

SINGAPORE

Monthly luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month.

Contact: Chapterpresident Thiam-Huat Ang (65)6766-3966 or e/m: ath8289@yahoo.com.sg

WASHINGTON DC

Contact: Chapterpresident Ellen Parke (703) 205-2449 or e/m MEParke@earthlink.net

UNITED KINGDOM

June 30 (Tuesday): Venue TBA.

September 15 (Tuesday): Venue TBA.

Contact: Chapterpresident Helen Jenkins (Helen@inspirewm.co.uk)

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