



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1902

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THE LOG

INSIDE >

- IMAGES OF CHINA



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB, INC.
FOUNDED 1902

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PRESIDENT'S *letter*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators,

“Luck to You!” That is the heartfelt greeting exchanged by Circumnavigators from the early days of the Club’s existence. Its use by members dates back to 1907, which C. Richard Harding Davis (Member #9) documented in an article for Colliers magazine. Today it is used to close meetings, letters, and emails, and when parting from a member you may not see for a while. It also appears on our membership certificates. I point this out for the benefit of our newer members who may be unfamiliar with the greeting and its origin.



Last year I wrote to you about a gift I accepted on behalf of the Club from DC Chapter member Christopher Sinclair. He had purchased a dozen vintage issues of The LOG, which I gratefully accepted for our archives. Christopher wasn’t done though! At the Chapter’s September lunch honoring their Foundation Scholar, he presented me with his latest find - four early membership books. These books were initially a kind of prospectus designed to attract new members. They evolved into membership books, with the numbered certificate of membership in the back. The cover is leather and the pages are parchment. This photo shows the certificate of the oldest of these books. It belonged to Maj. George H. Richards (Member #73) who died in 1923. Those of you who have a copy of our Centennial Book published in 2006 can read the text of these books on pp. 4-6. Worth noting is that C. Richards’ certificate was signed by the “Three Immortals” who founded our Club; E. H. Patterson, J. H. Birch, Jr., and J. D. Morrison.

Our Club’s early members could hardly have imagined that one day it would be possible to circle the globe without using any fuel at all. Yet that is the feat accomplished by Swiss pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg in July. Taking turns piloting their solar-powered aircraft, the Solar Impulse 2, they proved that it is possible. Read more about them in my article elsewhere in this issue.



Luck to You,

Ellen

Margaret Ellen Parke

Thanks to

C. Kristen Koontz for the colorful cover photo in the Forbidden City in Beijing.



The LOG

THIS TIME AROUND

BY C. DAVID A. MINK

Published every year since 1910, The LOG is a treasure trove of history and culture. This regular column takes a look at The LOG past and present.

Throughout history China has been a land of wonder and curiosity for westerners, and it continues to be so for Circumnavigators. The vast majority of current Club members have been to China, either on their circumnavigations or on visits for business or pleasure.

Going back through The LOG, more than 100 years of Club history, we find countless references to China, some gripping, like C. Harrison Foreman's 1944 description of four years in bomb-battered China and some poetic, like C. Paul Wiswall's "Christmas on the China Sea" in which he described the star-studded dead-purple black sky on Christmas morning in 1928.

For decades, of course, China was off-limits to Americans, beginning in 1949 until the opening of relations by the Nixon visit in 1972. Even then it was very difficult to get visas to visit. So, it was historic when 20 Club members went on a "Mission to China" for 18 days in 1977, as C. Bill Berchtold related, "to look, listen and learn". They discovered an incredibly friendly and hospitable people and helped open the door for others to follow.

In 1989, the late Bob and Evelyn Peterson were in Beijing on "The Night of the Beijing Massacre" about which they related the first-hand details of the student massacre in Tiananmen Square. Bob, a past president of the Club, told of the trials of getting out of China during that time of unrest.

In this issue, readers will find recent photos of China from our members and stories of visits there. This writer has been to China during the past four decades and writes about the massive changes over this period.

Also in this issue, C. Barbara Hagstrom tells us about a visit to a country that is now off the regular tourist route—Turkey. Many are understandably afraid to visit this tumultuous part of the world. But Barbara found Turkey inviting and peaceful, especially without the crowds of visitors.

Finally, in our Welcome Aboards section, we highlight our new members—another great group of outstanding individuals. We congratulate C. Dan Peterson, Second Vice President, for bringing in two sons and a daughter. These young people are all college students and will be welcomed additions to our ranks. We also congratulate Dan for managing to have three college students at the same time.

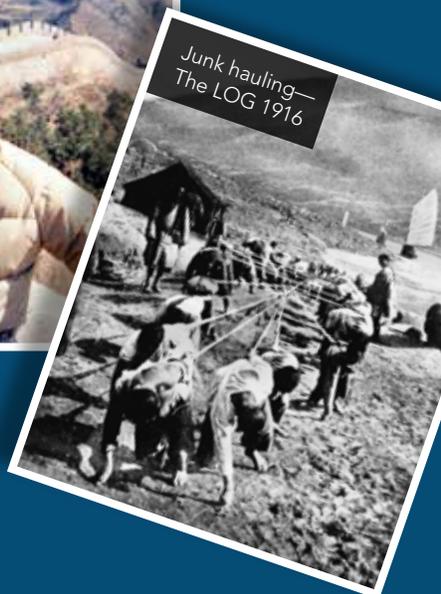
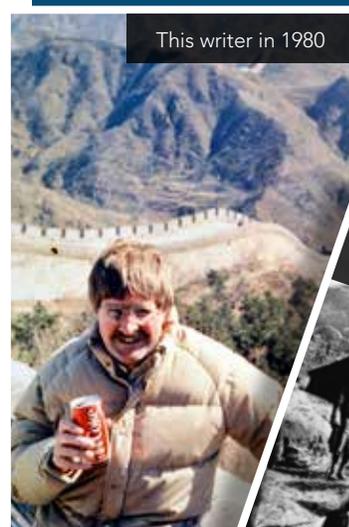
Luck to you!

David

Chair, Communications Committee

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1999 ORDER OF MAGELLAN RECIPIENT JOINS CIRCUMNAVIGATORS AT DINNER IN NEW YORK

BY PRESIDENT MARGARET ELLEN PARKE



From left, top row - Secretary Sue Murphy, C. Gordon Whiting, Past President Esther Dyer, Past President Howard Matson, C. Dottie Mink, First Vice President David Mink, Guest Vincent Colegrave. From left, bottom row - Treasurer George Sanborn, United Kingdom Chapter President Helen Jenkins, Dr. Bertrand Piccard, International President Ellen Parke, C. Kevin Short.

On September 19, 2016, Swiss balloonist and aviator Bertrand Piccard, one of the Club's 1999 Order of Magellan recipients, was honored at a dinner at the Yale Club in New York. He was accompanied by Vincent Colegrave, the head of Digital Media and Marketing for Solar Impulse. Attending were several officers and members of the Board of Governors and UK Chapter Helen Jenkins, a friend of Piccard, who flew to New York for the occasion.

The purpose of Piccard's trip to New York was to give a presentation before the United Nations General Assembly about clean technologies. During dinner, Piccard described the high point of his circumnavigation aboard the Solar Impulse 2. It came in April 2016 over the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California, when he spoke via live video link with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon about the signing that same day of the Paris Agreement to limit the emission of greenhouse gases.





SWISS AVIATOR ANDRE BORSCHBERG TO RECEIVE ORDER OF MAGELLAN



Andre (left) Bertrand (right)

In 1999 the Club presented the Order of Magellan to Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of the United Kingdom for their historic achievement in piloting the first nonstop balloon flight around the world. It took them 20 days and their achievement was hailed in The LOG as “the last great challenge in aviation.”

We were wrong. Within a few years, Piccard had begun to explore the possibility of building an aircraft that would use only the power of the sun to circumnavigate. He teamed with Swiss pilot and mechanical engineer Andre Borschberg and by 2009 they had built the first prototype, Solar Impulse 1. They tested it successfully in Europe, North Africa, and the US over the next several years. Their second prototype, Solar Impulse 2, was tested in 2014.

On March 9, 2015, with Borschberg at the controls, Solar Impulse 2 took off from Abu Dhabi on the first leg of their circumnavigation, which they thought would take 12 legs and about five months. Unfortunately, the solar batteries suffered thermal damage on the five-day flight from Japan to Hawaii, so the completion of the journey had to be put on hold in late June 2015. Once repaired, Solar Impulse 2 was ready to fly again in April 2016. Taking turns piloting the single-seat aircraft, Piccard and

Borschberg made six stops crossing the Continental US. After stops in Spain and Egypt, Solar Impulse 2 arrived safely in Abu Dhabi on July 23, 2016 to complete the first-ever circumnavigation in a solar-powered fixed-wing aircraft.

Piccard and Borschberg flew a total of 17 legs equaling nearly 23,000 miles on their historic trip. They logged 558 hours and seven minutes (or 23.25 days) of flying time, averaging about 40 miles an hour. Flying in an unpressurized cockpit, they stayed below 30,000 feet in altitude.

Piccard and Borschberg have created an NGO called the International Committee of Clean Technologies to promote green energy and sustainable technologies.

The Club is pleased to announce that Andre Borschberg will receive the Order of Magellan at an event later in 2017. We hope that Bertrand Piccard will also be on hand to receive the acclaim of our members.

CIRCUMNAVIGATORS TOUR HISTORIC WAVERTREE SHIP

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - TRACY SANCILIO

Circumnavigators and guests toured the newly restored historic Wavertree Ship at the South Street Seaport in New York City on September 27th. Captain Jonathan Boulware, Executive Director of the Seaport Museum, led a guided tour followed by dinner at the India House. Captain Boulware’s presentation left guests with a newfound appreciation of the life of the ship Wavertree and the importance of the South Street Seaport to modern New York City.





Marilyn on Yangtze

Traveling for three weeks in China, **☉ Marilyn Varcoe**, (Naples), visited eight cities and cruised on the Yangtze River to the Three Gorge Dam. Marilyn also spent two weeks traveling throughout Croatia... **☉ Carol Narup**, (Chicago) and husband Pete Petersen visited Africa with extensive travel in Namibia, including the iconic Red Sand Mountain,



Carol and Pete in Namibia

and Botswana, mostly by small planes to make effective use of time... **☉ Paul and Pat Buescher** (Pacific-Northwest) reported: "After a quiet spring and summer at home, we gave in to the travel bug and embarked on another trip of a lifetime. Starting in Seward, Alaska with a bit of fishing, we then boarded the Silver Discover for a 27-day voyage down the Aleutian Islands, across the Bering Sea to Petropavlovsk, Russia. From there we visited several uninhabited islands in the Kuril chain, then on to Japan where we visited several ports including Hakodate, Sado and Hiroshima. It was another grand adventure..." **☉ Erik Meyer** (Naples) traveled extensively throughout Spain and Portugal, making a fascinating visit to Segovia,



Rare surviving building in Hiroshima

an ancient walled city near Madrid... In the course of an excursion on the Amazon River in Brazil, **☉ Suzanne Frye** (New York Metro), captured some wonderful wildlife photos in the Pantanal Park... Four Circumnavigators, **Dottie and David Mink** (Naples and NY Metro) and **Kristen and Katie Koontz** (New York Metro), cruised with ten family members to Anchorage, Alaska from Vancouver, British Columbia...

☉ Sir Clive E.C. Banfield, KHS and **Lise Banfield** (At Large) sent in a dispatch from a vessel off Civitavecchia, Italy, the port for Rome, in the midst of a multi-stage two-cruise voyage,



Brazilian capybara

which will ultimately include port calls in the Mediterranean, a trans-Atlantic leg via the Canary Islands and island visits in the Caribbean Sea. A scheduled port call at Livorno, Italy was bumped to due to weather to La Spezia, a city located near Cinque Terre

consisting of five villages linked by paths, trains and boats - cars cannot reach the region from the outside... **☉ Sally Cole** (Palm Beach) and husband Larry completed the North Coast 500 - a 516-mile scenic road trip around the north coast of Scotland, starting and ending at Inverness Castle. The NC500 brings together the best of the north Highlands of Scotland in one iconic touring route. Notes Sally: "We weren't disappointed! Single-track roads made it exciting with breathtaking



Coles in Scotland

views around every bend..." **☉ Brad Vogel** (New York Metro) met Consul General of France, Grégor Trumel, at the Fête du Jardin in New Orleans along the banks of Bayou St. John... **☉ Ann Swinford** (Michigan) and her husband Mo Elfouly have embarked on an ambitious circumnavigation, still underway at presstime, called Arab Sheikdoms. The organized tour travels to Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and all seven Emirates. The couple has been enjoying the trip, and in Doha, Ann snapped some fine close-up shots of the Chinese Xian warriors on loan from China. The trip is expected to include a goodwill visit to the Singapore Chapter, and then on to Cambodia and Angkor Wat. This will be Mo's second circumnavigation and we hope to see him in our Club ranks soon... **☉ Heather Wilson** (D.C.) wrote in from Cartagena, Colombia where she is staying with her 14-year-old son, William Wilson, for several months. William is studying abroad this year and while in Cartagena, Heather and William are helping out with Squash Urbano, an outreach program in Cartagena that not only teaches the sport of squash, but also instructs students in English and provides tutoring...



Terracotta warriors on loan

☉ Kevin Short (New York Metro) ventured to Iceland for an excursion with family - after traveling to a goodly number of other points on the globe thus far in 2016, including but not limited to Edinburgh, Jakarta, Taipei, Copenhagen, Berlin, Prague, Durban, and, by way of bus through Swaziland, Maputo.

Following Incan Trails in Peru

BY **☉ BEVERLY ANDERSON (MIAMI)**



So many of my fellow Circumnavigators have shared their wonderful stories about their visits to the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, Peru that I decided to finally make the journey to one of the "new seven wonders of the world" myself. I decided to take my adventure in the dry shoulder season at the end of September. I boarded my flight in Miami onward to Bogota,

Columbia, changing planes and landing in the old Incan capital of Cuzco, Peru. I spent my first night in the Sacred Valley near the Urumbamba River. What a spot of magical beauty!

The view from my hotel revealed the breathtaking peaks of the Andes Mountains. At sunrise the next morning, I boarded the Inca rail train in Ollantaytambo for the fantastic ride through the Andes and then a short bus trip to the entrance of Machu Picchu (ahh... in my younger years I would have surely hiked the Inca trail!). The ruins were as spectacular as everybody has told me. I was awestruck with every step. I have heard the word sublime often used to describe Machu Picchu. It fits.

After this amazing experience, I returned to the city of Cuzco where I spent a couple of days exploring the streets, museums, and churches of this colonial town. An added special moment to round out this adventure was the sunset view of the mighty meandering Amazon River from the window seat on my Avianca flight home. Machu Picchu - what a wonderful trip!

Reveling in the Musical Side of Paris

BY C. MARY HOUSTON
(CHICAGO)

Some think of the Eiffel Tower when planning a trip to Paris, but my husband and I think of the varied and wonderful classical music available in the city to any visitor. Seeing performances in a different country provides a unique perspective on the style of operatic and symphonic performances that arise from the history and tradition of that country.



A recent trip to Paris made us feel as though we had scored the jackpot. During our seven days in Paris we experienced two operas, two symphonies, and a concert. The first opera, *Rigoletto* by Verdi at the Opera Bastille, offered a slightly different perspective on the jester Rigoletto and the demise of his daughter. The staging incorporated projections, dancers and a mime who portrayed Rigoletto in a future. Reinman's *Lear* at the Opera Garnier dates to 1938 and incorporates some atonal, as well as musical, interludes. The storm dramatized with words in Shakespeare's play *King Lear* really comes to life in the music.

The Philharmonie de Paris is a relatively new auditorium in the 19th Arrondissement – it has the most outstanding acoustics I have ever heard. We heard Murray Perahia, playing and conducting from the piano with the Academy of St. Martin in the Field Orchestra one night, then the Orchestre de Paris with Paavo Järvi, conductor, and Leonidas Kavakos, violin, another night. Architecturally, the building is very interesting and the Grand Salle is beautiful. Finally, we attended Theatre des Champs Elysees for a concert version of the opera *Lucia di Lammermoor* with world-renowned soprano, Diana Demaru. The characters came to life through the power of the music. Paris is a virtual treasure-trove of music to please everyone.

A Return to Ukraine

BY C. HALYNA TRAVERSA (NAPLES)

I was born in Ukraine, and I had the pleasure of spending a week recently in October in L'viv, a historic city in western Ukraine. Going there is like entering a time warp: most of the buildings are more than 150 years old, and the buildings on the main square (called Market Square) date from the late 16th and 17th centuries. L'viv has been described as a city with a very European sensibility and splendid architecture, albeit a little rundown, but that is part of its charm. It has a kind of faded elegance about it, and is full of wonderful coffeehouses (the residents there take their coffee very seriously) with delicious Viennese-style pastries. And the city abounds with delightful restaurants. Because of the devaluation of the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia, dinner out is less than \$5, and tickets to the opera (the L'viv Opera House is beautiful) are less than \$10. I can't wait to go back!



A Different Way to See Cuba

BY C. PAULETTE COOPER NOBLE
(PALM BEACH)

With all of the recent changes in U.S. policy toward our neighbor to the south, the cruise ship *Fathom* that has been sailing to Cuba from Fort Lauderdale has received a lot of publicity. But there's actually one ship that few people know about that sails within Cuban waters along the various Cuban ports, and it's a unique way to see the island. C. Paulette Cooper Noble, President of the Palm Beach chapter, sailed with her husband Paul Noble, on Variety Cruise Lines last May. Variety flies passengers from Miami to Cuba and the passengers then board a 20-passenger two-masted mega yacht for a one-week people-to-people tour of three cities in Cuba. A highly-recommended way to see Cuba.



Through the Danube's Iron Gates

REPORTED BY C. ROGER BAKER (NAPLES)

Naples Chapter members Roger and Paula Weatherburn-Baker and Cindy and Ed Stegemann took a Tauck river cruise together this summer that took them east from Budapest, Hungary to Constanta on the Black Sea.

But first Roger and Paula toured Slovakia, flying into Bratislava via Brussels soon after the terrorist bombing there. They reported they had to pass through five separate security checks, beginning with one outside the airport and the last being at the door of the plane.

“Slovakia has much to see and do; ancient towns, fabulous folk art and traditions, and beautiful landscapes,” Roger reports. “ We traveled from the old royal city of Bratislava on the western edge of the country, through the center, to the spectacular Tatras Mountains in the north. Surrounded by Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and Hungary, it may not be surprising to learn how varied and spectacular the scenery is in this relatively little-visited corner of Central Europe.”

After Slovakia, the couple joined the Stegemanns in Budapest for the start of their 10-day Eastern Danube cruise, which took them through Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria.



One of the scenic highlights of the Eastern Danube is passing through the 83-mile-long gorge that separates Romania and Serbia known as the Iron Gates. Here, Roger shows the Miraconia Monastery on the banks of the river where it starts to narrow near the entrance to the gorge, and the massive monument to the second century Dacian King Decebalus, which is Europe's tallest rock sculpture.



“Perhaps understandably,” Roger reported, “the lower end of the river is far less busy than that passing through the elegant cities and picturesque towns of Western Europe. We were told only one cruise ship in seven travels as far as the Black Sea.”

“Although there are still many stark differences between west and east in Europe, of course, the history of these countries has much to offer,” Roger said. “The glorious churches, monasteries and stately city streets of past eras on the one hand, to signs of recent conflict, hardship and repression on the other. Some places we visited were clearly struggling to recapture their glory days, but what still remains and is being renovated and reclaimed reflects a proud and fabulous history.”



A Different Kind of Trip For an Old Traveler

BY C. ALBERT PODELL (NEW YORK METRO)

After having visited every one of the world's 196 independent countries, I wanted to travel somewhere safe, simple, and relaxing. After decades of dodging minefields, saw-toothed vipers, bandits, jihadists, child soldiers, Cape buffalo, and malarial mosquitoes, I sought to voyage to some place where the likelihood of being killed, robbed, or ransomed was lower than the chance of being struck by lightning on my local golf course.

Consequently, in mid-July, immediately after the publication party for the paperback edition on my best-seller, *Around the World in 50 Years*, I took off on a form of what the aristocratic Victorians and Edwards of yore called "The Grand Tour" of Europe.

In a rare departure from my independent travels, tenting, and trekking, I booked an all-inclusive month-long guided tour with Cosmos, where I would leave the driving, the hotel bookings, the choice of restaurants, the site selection, and all the rest of those pesky details to them, while I sat back, relaxed, and enjoyed the ride.

I was not disappointed. I had so much free time that I was able to polish off eight books along the way, including the monumental 900-page novel of Paris by Edward Rutherford. I encountered no adventures, no muggings, and no disasters. But there were also almost no places I had not seen before, nothing new for me except for the charming town of Innsbruck, which I had somehow managed to miss in five previous trips across the Continent. The jaunt was so mellow that I just let myself go with the flow and even enjoyed watching a nostalgic re-run of "The Sound of Music" on the bus screens as we headed toward Salzburg, where it had been filmed 51 years before, and where nothing had changed but the prices.

The only arduous part of the trip was getting these old bones to wake up at 6 a.m., which our group did on most days, but that enabled us to traverse a whopping 9,000 kilometers by land, plus a two-night cruise from Italy to Greece and back.

I was able to visit a remarkable 14 countries in 27 days on the road, including Britain, France, Spain, Monaco, Italy, Vatican City (yes, it is a country), Greece, San Marino, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. It was a cross between a highlights reel of familiar old favorites – Paris, Barcelona, Capri, Florence, Venice – and an intense, fast-forwarded version of "If This is Tuesday it Must Be Belgium."

The only discordant note on the trip was that we arrived in Nice just four days after a suicidal terrorist, a self-professed "soldier of Islam," had murdered 84 and maimed 434 Bastille Day celebrants with his 19-ton cargo truck. The authorities had cleaned up the blood and gore, and all we saw was the lovely seaside Promenade des Anglais strewn with a thousand bouquets of flowers in remembrance of loved ones.

Other than that, I detected surprisingly few changes since I had last been on the continent in depth some 20 years before. I saw only five women wearing Muslim dress during my entire month, although I admit that the tour did not go through any of the out-of-the-way, rundown enclaves where most recent migrants are living. And I saw no hordes of refugees trudging along the roads north to Germany and Scandinavia in the hope of finding peace and prosperity.

The main change I noticed was the decline of Greece caused by its financial crisis. There were hundreds of abandoned stores and apartments everywhere, even in pretty seaside resorts, crumbling infrastructure, lots of uncollected garbage and litter, and a strong aroma of poverty.

One other change, and a blessing it was to those of us who never learned how to smoke: In many of the restaurants of Amsterdam, they now serve a delicious marijuana-laced "space cake" that will keep you flying high until your plane lands back in the States.

**The accompanying photos were taken by, Amanda Geiling, a young friend who I treated to her first visit to Europe. She loved it, and I expect her be applying for Club membership within ten years.*



Capri shoreline



Colorful Island Borano

Corner

BY C. KATIE KOONTZ (NEW YORK METRO)

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL COLLECTION



“Not a great idea to go into that kind of collection right now,” said C. Marilyn Fischel about starting a hotel key collection. Luckily, Marilyn, a member of the Chicago Chapter, who has been to over 150 countries, started collecting key tags when she did. She now has keys from 350 different hotels around the world. Real keys too, not the plastic rectangular ones used by most hotels today. “Over the years, the most desirable keys have been replaced with plastic, magnetic or security devices or have been depleted by attrition,” she said. “I still attempt to purchase any antique keys stored in a hotel vault.”

Each key tag in her collection is one of a kind. “They’re every shape imaginable- I mean great big wooden keys from Africa with elephants on them; they’re every shape, they’re brass, silver, they’re string keys,” described Marilyn. Some particular ones include a mermaid, a miniature mask, a seahorse and a giraffe, just to name a few. Many are made of metal, some are made of wood or leather as well. They represent an extensive amount of unique and opulent hotels from around the world. “I don’t even know where to begin,” said Marilyn about the number of hotels in which she has stayed. The Galapagos, Taj Mahal, Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi, and Palais Jamai in Fès are a small sample of some of her exotic locales.

Sometimes key collecting comes with its challenges. “I’ve had a number of incidents where they come after us,” said Marilyn. “On one memorable occasion, we were followed all the way to the airport by the local gendarme in an effort to retrieve the valued key. Fortunately, we were not confined, but missed our flight!” Marilyn has found a way to circumvent this potential issue. “The last ten years I’ve been paying for the keys, so there’s no issue.”

Although most hotel keys today are not as individual as those of the past, Marilyn still tries to add to her extensive collection. “As recently as last week, my hotel fob in Siena, Italy, was one of the most decorative I have encountered in many years and could not be obtained at any cost! A great disappointment, as it would have held a prominent place on my wall!” she said.

Marilyn’s unique collection is displayed on a library wall in her apartment. Each individual key tag holds invaluable memories from a past travel experience. Marilyn has been a member of the Circumnavigators Club for many years, having circumnavigated three times before becoming a member. Over the years she has visited all seven continents and over 150 countries. Her collection is a product of these “epic travels”.

With hundreds of key tags in her possession she cannot choose just one as her favorite. Marilyn treasures all of her “autobiographical memorabilia,” she says.

Editor’s note: Marilyn also describes her other impressive collection: “My Buddha and artifact collection is primarily housed in an illuminated etagere in my living room. It contains approximately 150 small items that are essentially representative of the countries I have visited over my lifetime. A favorite item is an antique stone vessel acquired in the Bamyán valley of Afghanistan where the great Buddha was destroyed by the Taliban. Two other items of particular interest are a Buddha head from Burma and an enamel Buddha from Bhutan.”

Do you have a travel-related collection? Contact Katie Koontz at katherinekoontz@aol.com.



VISIT TO AN AWAKENING GIANT IN 1974

BY C. MELANIE CABOT
(PALM BEACH CHAPTER)

My family was invited to visit China by the Ministry of Culture in June of 1974. China was emerging from its decades of isolation and Western xenophobia after President Nixon's historic visit began to open the door to westerners.

Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution had closed China to outsiders. This inward-looking movement along with the Communist party's rule damaged the foundations of Chinese culture and destroyed many important aspects of their cultural, artistic, architectural and social traditions.

I was only 15 years old, and along with my two younger brothers, we were informed by the Chinese that we were unofficially the first American children to visit China since the Nixon visit.

Our first stop was Peking, as Beijing was named back then.

The official guides assigned to us kept us on a restricted itinerary. We saw the major attractions: The Great Wall, The Forbidden City and Imperial Palace, Tiananmen Square. There were very few foreigners and Westerners were not a common sight. People would stop and stare at us, particularly my mother who stood out as a tall blond blue-eyed American.

In between visits to the sights we were entertained with many banquets hosted by cultural officials. The cuisine was quite exotic to us - nothing like the "Chinese" food we'd had at home at the time. A special dinner with Peking Duck was fascinating. Of course today it is a well-known specialty. Every bit of the duck was consumed: we were served a milky soup made from the bones, something with the feet in it, congealed hard boiled eggs with the fanciful name of "100-year-old eggs", and of course the piece de resistance: the crispy skinned dark meat with pancakes. None of the other meals were identifiable or memorable.

Transportation for the masses of humanity was by bike, and everyone had the same style of bike. There were very few cars on the roads and the ones we saw were reserved for officials and visitors - mostly old Mercedes sedans with curtained windows. We flew from Peking to Shanghai and at the airport there was only one plane.

Shanghai was grittier and more populated than Peking, and felt less repressive. Other than that, I don't recall much about the city.

This family trip had been the beginning of a very long negotiation to introduce western culture back to China.

While we were in China, my mother Maryellen Cabot had been having "informal" talks with cultural officials. We saw this overture as an attempt to cautiously bring back the arts which had been brutally repressed during the Cultural Revolution. In 1979 my mother, who was Chairman of the Board of The Boston Ballet, received a formal invitation from the Ministry of Culture to bring the group to China. The Boston Ballet company was the first American dance company to visit and perform in China since 1949. I traveled back to China in 1980 with my mother and the Boston Ballet for this historic visit furthering cultural relationships between the two countries.

Cabot family,
note curious
Chinese onlookers

THE LOG 10

TIPS FOR GETTING A CHINESE VISA

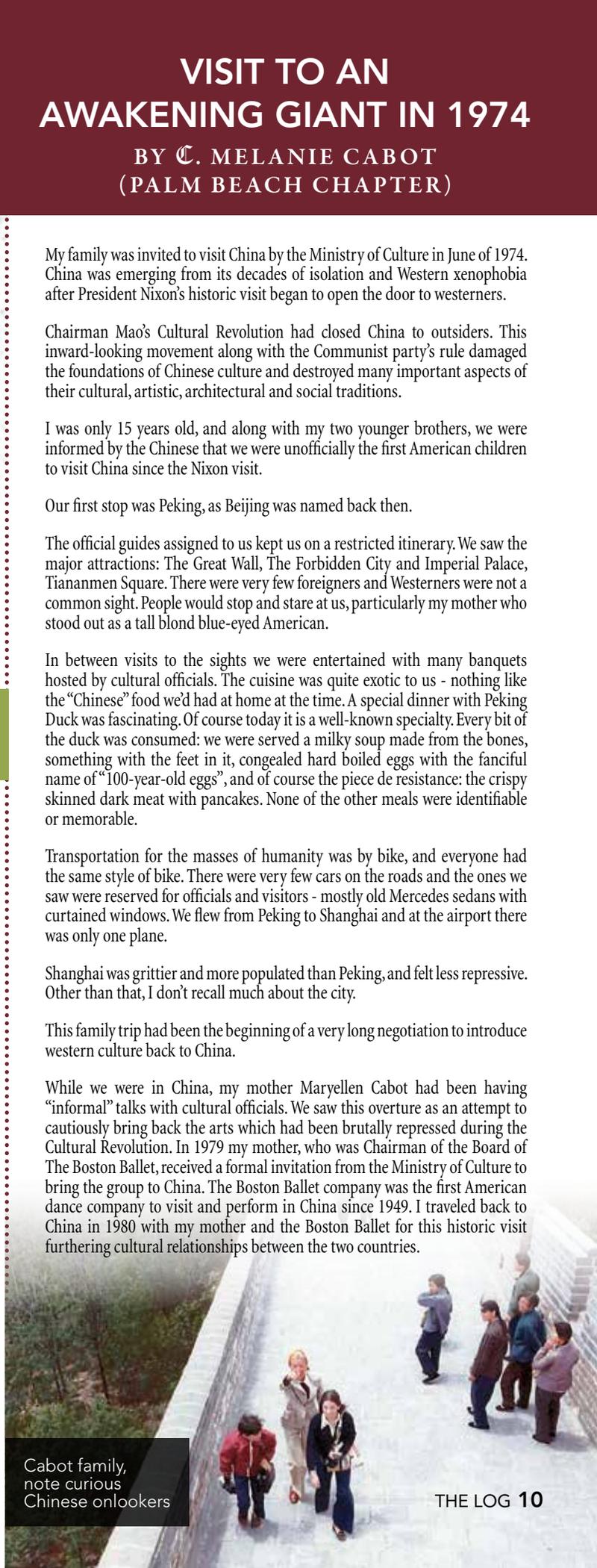
BY C. RAY OLSON,
(WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER)

Last year I needed a new Chinese visa, so I went in person to the Chinese Consulate in Washington to apply. The application offered several choices: short-term or one year and single or multiple entries. All cost the same, \$140. I applied for a one-year multiple entry visa, so was surprised and delighted to be issued a visa valid for 10 years and multiple entries. The processing was relatively quick -- I picked up my visa just six days after I applied.

What the Chinese authorities didn't tell me, however, was that my 10-year visa would be canceled if I entered Tibet from any country other than China. C. Del Petry and I had traveled to Nepal allowing extra time there to apply for a "group visa" for Tibet. Only then were we told that our 10-year Chinese visas would be canceled, with no refund of any portion of the \$140 we had paid. The lesson is: if you are planning to visit Tibet fly there from within China.

To travel to Tibet from China all you need is a regular Chinese tourist visa which can be obtained from the Chinese Consulate nearest you. If you do travel to Tibet from Nepal you need a "group" visa which can be obtained at the Chinese Consulate in Kathmandu. Note that if you are a student or you are planning to work in China or Tibet, other regulations apply.

Here's another tip, what I call "the transit trick." A Chinese transit visa is now valid for 144 hours (six days). You must be an actual transit passenger, however. For example, you can fly into Shanghai from Dallas and fly onward from Shanghai to Tokyo. You may not return directly to the country from which you came. Upon arrival in China you apply at the Customs/Immigration office in the airport for this free transit visa by showing documentation of onward travel and hotel reservation.





FOUR DECADES IN CHINA

BY C. DAVID A. MINK (NEW YORK METRO)

When I landed in 1980, it was Peking as it had long been named. When I last departed in 2015, it was Beijing, as it had been named for many years. In the four decades that I traveled to China, a lot more has changed than the name of its capital city.

On my first visit, the sheer excitement of being there was overwhelming. The sights, the smells, the people—everything seemed so exotic. On the other hand, the accommodations were less than desirable. The few “decent” hotels lacked central heat and the basic necessities—like toilet paper. Also, the food didn’t hold a candle to the best New York Chinese restaurants, except for the incredible Peking Duck.

The streets were jammed with bicycles which over the years became motorbikes and finally autos, leading to the thick air pollution that chokes the major cities.

In the 80s, the people, many of whom still wore the traditional “Red Chinese” uniform did not approach westerners. They were friendly and curious, but apparently were not allowed to interact with the visitors on a casual basis. In one incident, our party of five Americans was assigned “chaperones” to watch out for us. Mine was very outgoing and interested in talking about business and culture. We dubbed him “The Young Businessman” but his colleagues were clearly not amused. One night at an important “lazy-susan” banquet with ranking government officials in full military regalia, the “young business man” reached with his chop sticks to serve me a liver. On the way to my plate, it plunked into my beer to horrified gasps of the Chinese. The next day the “young business man” did not arrive, and we never found out his fate.

It has all changed today. Now westerners are approached on the street by Chinese who ask if they can practice their English or ask questions about



David and John with industrious workers



Katie poses with locals who weren't shy

Here is one final story that epitomizes the change in China. As many know, the toilet facilities can be less than adequate. One day after a long hard work session in a remote part of the countryside, I needed to use the bathroom. Taken to the facility, I found about a dozen men squatting over an open trench. I quickly departed but the factory manager sensed my concern. He called me back about twenty minutes later, where I found the facility had been power washed and sprinkled with sawdust. Standing outside were the dozen obviously unhappy “customers”.

The story gets better. My friend John Gooch, an Englishman who has traveled to China since the mid-1960s, told the factory manager sternly, “The next time we come here we want a proper toilet.” The next day we returned for our orders, and, lo and behold, there was a brand new bathroom, toilet, sink, shower and all. They had built it overnight! John explained to the manager that “next time” meant “next year” not the next day. Never underestimate Chinese industriousness.

After more than 35 years of visiting China, I don't think I will ever get there again. My business days are over and there is a lot of the world to see. But the memories of those incredible decades will stay with me forever.



Not just bikes anymore

America. I traveled with my granddaughter Katie Koontz, 18 years old and tall and blond. She was treated like a Hollywood celebrity. Everyone wanted a photo with her and weren't afraid to ask. No one cared about me.

Four decades in China produced many adventures and misadventures, the good, the bad and the ugly plus many hilarious moments. In the late 1980s when computer technology was lacking, a friend and I waited for a flight to Inner Mongolia. No information was available about the departure. Then an official rushed over and told us the flight was leaving. Not just leaving, but on the runway. The airport staff rushed us around the tarmac in a golf cart but to no avail. We had to wait for a much later flight.

Getting to Inner Mongolia was well worth the wait. We went to the breathtaking Grasslands, to a yurt village. During a delicious leg of lamb lunch, we were serenaded by the waitresses. Only catch was that to show appreciation, we had to down a full beer after every song. After lunch, the locals asked if I would sing the American National Anthem. Now, even without “gan bei-ing” (bottoms up) a few beers I don't think I could have managed the Star Spangled Banner. So I dug deep and gave them my version of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat. My audience of Chinese and Mongolians sat enraptured and applauded when I finished. “Mr. Mink has a beautiful voice,” one commented.

Speaking of beer (a much better alternative to the foul mao tai liquor), I have spent a lot of time in Quindao (formerly Tsingtao). Tsingtao was a German colony until World War I, and what do Germans do best?—make beer. Tsingtao has its beer headquarters here, complete with its unique “Drunken Room”, a room that simulates being drunk for sober, unsuspecting tourists. While the visitors stagger around in this tipsy room, the Chinese watch with hilarity through a one-way mirror.



DISCOVERING CHINA'S WILD SIDE

BY C. ANN SWINFORD (MICHIGAN CHAPTER)

In May of 2016 I toured “The Wild Side of China” with Natural Habitat Adventures followed by a private tailor-made itinerary created for my husband and me by Audley Travel. On the Natural Habitat trip we had a U.S. photographer leader, Justin Gibson, and a local Tibetan leader. They were excellent. Our tour visited three of the panda reserves, which are really panda specialized zoos. One reserve did have a larger enclosure to acclimate the pandas to the wild in anticipation of release, but we were not lucky enough to see any pandas in this wilder area. Each reserve had about 20 pandas in enclosures. At one reserve there were about a dozen seven-month old pandas who played “who owns the top of the tree!?” and “who owns the best bamboo!?” Watching them play was a delight and the photographic opportunities were wonderful. There were no tiny babies, as they are born in the fall. On the last day of the natural habitat trip, we went to Dujiangyan Panda reserve where we spent a volunteer day, cleaning cages and having a chance to feed the pandas. I paid an additional fee (\$300) for my two minutes sitting with a panda. Some people hugged the panda but I felt that it was too personal for a panda I didn't really know yet. I settled for looking into his eyes and chatting with him. I really just wanted to remember his eyes. The panda, of course, only cared about his bamboo.

Jiuzhaigou National Park, known for its waterfalls, is the busiest park in China and there were Disney-like lines. Our guides were wonderful and found ways to get us off to photograph waterfalls without crowds. One secret for dealing with this park is to pay for a private bus which will keep



Mickey is everywhere



Traditional dancers

you away from the crowds. We went to a wild panda reserve where we only ran across four other tourists in the entire park. We had a 200-room hotel all to our little group of ten. We saw takin, hog badger, golden pheasant and real live panda poo (but no panda). The poo was testament to their presence.

We visited a smaller town which had beautiful hand carved traditional architecture, but Mickey Mouse and bright balloons are found everywhere in the world. I found the contrast of cultures disconcerting.

On the private trip organized by Audley, my husband and I visited Beijing, the untouristed Jinshaling portion of the great wall, Xian, the Li River and the Longji Rice Fields. Our Audley guides always were able to keep us out of the crowds and I never felt overwhelmed by people.

In Beijing I really enjoyed the Temple of Heaven where people would get together in the morning and dance or do Tai Chi. I was invited by a tai chi master to join in. I was pitiful. As I photographed the ballroom dancers, a Chinese photographer wanted to photograph me so we both have pictures of photographers staring into cameras. The morning dance was so energizing, it put a spring in my step and a song in my heart for the rest of the day. We need this in the US.

The Longji rice fields are beautiful and worth the long hike up. In the spring, the fields are full of water resulting in wonderful reflections. Shifting clouds and fog gave a feeling of mystery. If you go in the fall, the rice has grown and while you will have clear skies, the tall rice limits the reflections.

We recommend “Wild Side” tour for Circumnavigators who want to get a “different” view of often-crowded China.



AROUND THE WORLD



IN 180 DAYS

BY C. JACKIE SIMENAUER
(NAPLES CHAPTER)

Does your brain really need a vacation – and if so, for how long? We know that travel broadens the mind, but can it alter the brain permanently? After reviewing a number of studies on what happens to the brain in people who travel a great deal, I found that in recent years psychologists and neuroscientists have begun examining more closely what many people have already learned anecdotally, that spending time abroad may have the potential to affect mental changes. They call it neuroplasticity, or how the brain is wired, and leisure travel can help in rewiring the brain to see the world in new ways.

I decided to find out what would really happen to us by sailing half a year at sea around the world. Working with fellow Naples Chapter member Carol Green and colleague Mary Lescoe-Long whose PhD is in health psychology, I had Dr. Long design a study for us to determine if a six-month voyage around the world differentially impacts a traveler's sense of health and well-being over the course of the trip. As a coauthor of six books and hundreds of psychological articles, I figured there would be a story or book somewhere. Along with another Naples Chapter member Sandra Dee, we booked a 180-day cruise around the world. According to Oceania Cruise Lines this was going to be a historical one, because this was going to be the first time that a cruise of this length had ever been attempted, and truly sail all the way around the world, which included 44 countries. Leaving from Miami in January of this year, we came back in July.

There were 684 passengers aboard Oceania's small cruise ship *Insignia*, but only 200 of us were destined to take the six month voyage, the rest were segment people who came and left. They called us the ATWs (aka "around the world"). So what happened to us? Did some of us become stir crazy since there were 75 days at sea, with limited programs that weren't terribly exciting? Well, we had one couple that came on for the entire cruise but the wife left early with his ashes after he died. Though both knew of his heart

trouble, they had hopes of making it. Another couple decided they couldn't get along in their tiny cabin, and the husband left after two weeks, rejoining her almost at the end of the line. There was also the 38 year old who booked this cruise as a bachelor, met a woman later on, and determined that this would be their honeymoon. An older couple, she in her late seventies, he in his eighties, decided to become engaged. Friendships were made and broken, husbands and wives started to duel, and gossip ran amuck. There were all sorts of injuries, from the woman who broke her leg the second day, to two women who suffered trauma to the head and leg when a hired tender hit some rough seas trying to make it back to the ship. There were two muggings in Brazil, one was a passenger, the other a crewmember.

There were excursions that turned out to have elements of danger attached to them. In Myanmar our bus was hit by a car. No injuries, but the car suffered, and we were delayed several hours. One couple was left at the dock when the ship sailed without them because they got back too late. Another incident sent some passengers to the hospital when the wrong chemicals meant for the pool got into the a/c system.

Our trip to the Great Wall in China nearly became an international incident when Sandra was almost taken into custody by Chinese soldiers when she couldn't find her passport. She had decided to stay on the ship because she had visited there on a previous trip. The Chinese wanted to see not only the passports of the people who left the ship for excursions, but those who were still on board. It seems they were not too trusting of foreigners because they were the only country to also scan our eyes. When she couldn't find it and produced only a copy, they told the General Manager of the *Insignia* that if she didn't come up with it, the ship would have to remain in Shanghai. Then after much discussion they decided that the ship could leave, after having to pay a huge fine, but without her. Four people searched our cabin, even holding up the beds, while I was on that long 4-hour bus ride to the Great Wall, but finally a more thorough search of the safe revealed the passport



Sandra (above) with koala



Jackie (below)



was under a small pile of American money. She was lucky because three Chinese soldiers were outside the cabin door, wanting to take her into custody.

We missed several ports because of bad weather, and most were not made up. The segment people complained that the ATW passengers got invited to more parties, and the ATW people had a love/hate relationship with the ship. Many cabins it seemed were in bad shape. I was told that 30% of the complaints to the front desk were about cabin problems and that many were not addressed. In our cabin alone we had the TV, VCR, the phone and the hair dryer replaced. There was a big dip in the floor on Sandra's side of the bed and mold was found in two places in the bathroom. The air-conditioning system sickened Sandra and me so much we made several doctor visits because of it. A/C filters were then changed every week instead of once a year in our cabin.

Many of the excursions were so overpriced that small groups began to form hiring their own cars and people to take them around. Customer service was for the most part terrible. The food was a bit above average, and I came home with mercury poisoning after sampling the fish of the world. There were a few times in rough waters that I gave thought to the idea that I might not return, and there were many terribly lonely moments.

The most exciting excursions for me were an overnight in Vietnam and a land tour riding the sand dunes in a jeep in Namibia. The most disappointing ones were the game parks in Africa; lots of driving, little game, though a rare white lion was found sleeping with the pride.

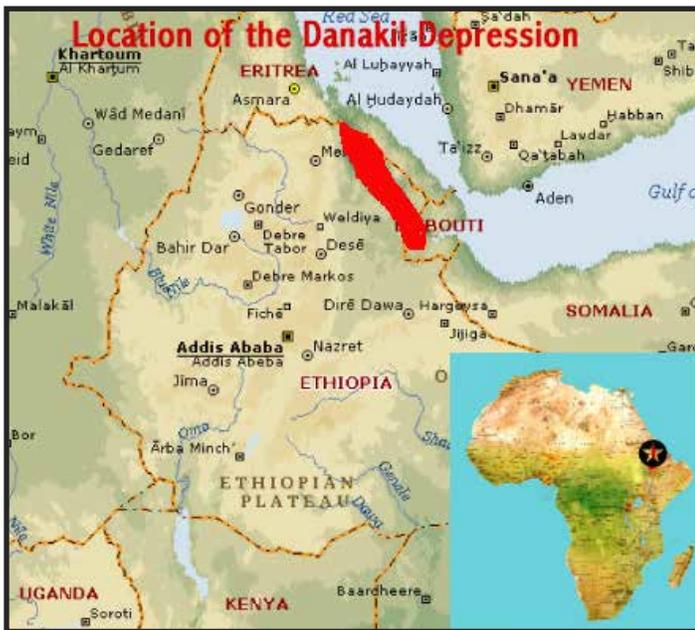
The poorest countries were in West Africa and I was also struck by the poverty of Cambodia. Where would I live if I had to leave the the U.S.? Wellington, New Zealand, a charming city in a small country surrounded by water, with just over four million people and 80 million sheep. The world was all wired, even the poorest seemed to have their cell phones, and every time I visited a new country, I repeated over and over 'so glad to be an American'.

Was the trip worth it in terms of what I experienced? Yes and no. On the plus side, I believe it put me in touch with my own spirituality. Whether it was the constant exposure to the oceans or my contact with the diverse cultures of the world, I felt more in touch with God and humanity. On the negative side, in addition to the tribulations I already mentioned, the ship lacked both the glamour and luxury that one would expect from a trip of this magnitude. Also many of the excursions were far more physically demanding then one would have been led to believe given the descriptions from the promotional material.

Did the trip change the brains of the ATWs? That remains to be seen from the data analysis in progress. Please feel free to email me at (jsliteraryagent@gmail.com) about the results which may surprise all of us.

When we docked in Miami I was very eager to be free of the world of the ship and the regimentation one had to live by. I so wanted to return to the life I had. 'Home Sweet Home' was an understatement to me at that point. America is truly the most amazing country of them all.

ETHIOPIA'S DANAKIL DEPRESSION



BY C. JUDY SCHRAFFT
(PALM BEACH CHAPTER)

If I had never read *A Life of My Choice* by Wilfred Thesiger, I would never have known of the existence of the Danakil Depression, or known that I would someday have to be there.

Thesiger, the son of the minister in charge of the British Legation in Addis Ababa, was stranded there during World War I where he honed his hunting skills and devotion to the land. He eventually returned to England to attend Eton and Oxford as did all proper British boys. His family was invited by Haile Selassie to his coronation where fantastically painted tribes wearing animal skins leaped and roared, giving Thesiger further impetus to return to the Africa he loved.

At the age of 23 in 1939, he spent a month hunting in the hostile Danakil Desert of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) where two Italian expeditions had been massacred by Danakil tribesmen, whose bracelets signified how many men they had killed.

By the time of our visit, the Danakil tribe, now known as Afar from their homeland of the Afar Triangle, bordered by Djibouti and the Red Sea, had traded their animal skins for shorts and t-shirts, but they retained their roles as camel, sheep and goat herders.

The Danakil area, situated in the northeastern corner of Ethiopia, is a cruel and barren scrubland as harsh and remote as an alien planet. Our departure point was Mekele, a thriving market town with an airport, university, and cattle market for the impressive horned Zebu cattle.

After an overnight stay in a modern Japanese hotel, our two Toyota land cruisers were ready the next morning, roof tops and rear compartments packed with tents, mattresses, pots and pans, desert-proof food and our duffel bags. The largest space was occupied by coolers stuffed with cans of soda, water bottles and hundreds of little juice boxes: a virtual sea of cold drinks which everyone constantly guzzled.

Our roadside lunches were usually pasta salad and fresh fruit, served from the vehicles' open backs while we squatted or flopped in the shade of the one tree known to the drivers. Our group consisted of three lawyers, two policewomen, me, a guide, two drivers and a cook.



I had laughed to myself at the prospect of air conditioning for this hearty gang, but soon realized how essential it was, as the Danakil area is 300 feet below sea level and always over 100 degrees (F) in a relentless sun.

I always sat in the middle of the back seat, a spot no one else wanted, with my feet on the console and an unimpeded view of what lay ahead. Five in each vehicle was a comfortable arrangement and we stopped often for a stretch or some particular point of interest. Facilities were behind a rock or bush, and it has always amused and amazed me on this kind of trek how visceral things become fairly quickly.

We bumped along on barely-there roads and passed or saw an occasional walker to whom we always gave a bottle of water or some food. We passed through few settlements on our drive along the top of Africa's Great Rift Valley to our first camp at Hamed Ela.

A lean-to gathering place with cooking shed, a long wooden table, a few thatched huts with rope beds and a host of curious Danakils of all ages completed our camp. Two Portolets, empty except for a bucket of water and cup to "shower" with stood nearby. One deep well in the settlement supplied fresh water as there is no above-ground supply. Meals were served under the thatch, bedtime was after dinner as there is no electricity, and we shared our space with tribesmen on their own rope beds under the stars. All arose at dawn. The heavens above us were sequined with a billion tiny worlds, winking in the humidity-free crystalline air.

Each day we rolled out of camp early to take advantage of the morning "cool." Our destination was the salt flats across the scrubby desert, with



Towers, hills, and small bubbling pots fill the air with fumes strong enough to bring tears to the eyes. Little fragile cones of sulphur with mini-geysers underfoot need to be stepped around to protect them. Nearby, a small volcanic lake of pure hydrochloric acid glitters.

“Volcanic” is the key here and the major reason for this rugged trip through the Depression. Our next destination is the active volcanos at Erta Ale. The desert gradually changes as we approach the cones that we can see far away, outlined on the sky. Chunky black volcanic rock becomes our roadbed and the view in all directions in unrelieved black. We jerk and jolt past abandoned rock shelters and huts with not even a bird to share the scenery. Around a bend we see the tiny village of Kursevad, populated by Afars and camels. Our porters were our companions for the four-hour climb up Mount Erta Ale. The late afternoon departure guarantees a dusk arrival in time to then descend another few hundred feet onto the lip of Erta Ale’s crater, a bubbling cauldron of crimson magma fumaroles puffing steam. The nighttime view reminds us why we have come on this week-long trip with few amenities whose rewards have far exceeded the discomforts. This adventure is for those who can adapt, travel light, and accept all necessary privations.

We are grateful for everyone’s continuing good humor and interest in the forces that have shaped our earth. For me, I’m grateful to have lost five pounds!

only tire tracks, salt pans, shallow lakes and endless vistas of hard white salt. This surreal moonscape gave employment to some 750 officially registered salt miners who chop with axes into the top layer of salt crust, which is several thousand feet deep. Square slabs are cut, stacked and then loaded onto nearly a thousand camels and donkeys, and their three-day trek to unload at a central point gave an age-old panorama of pack animals silhouetted against the horizon.

Our next destination, Dallol, is a dramatic reminder of the forces responsible for shaping this ancient region. An hour-long walk across more salt in the form of ankle-breaking flat-petalled “flowers” leads across a ridge. The startling Dallol landscape opens up into a thousand vivid shades of orange, yellow and red, determined by its one component—sulphur.



TURKEY- OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

BY **☉. BARBARA HAGSTROM**
(NEW YORK METRO)



Lycian house tombs



Istanbul tulips

A vacation in Turkey isn't on many people's list these days. However, I decided to take a four-week trip earlier this year, despite my concerned friends who were worried about the rash of suicide bombings and terrorist threats.

My timing was good because the trip took place before the July coup attempt which prompted a U.S. State Department advisory, warning Americans not to visit many parts of Turkey. Many of the spots I visited are on this severe warning list.

As it turned out, I practically had the place to myself. The tour, meant for 14 travelers, was just a guide and me for the first week. The "group" swelled to four for the second and third weeks and then shrank to just two for the final week. As a result, there were no lines for the museums and we easily maneuvered throughout the historic sites and ruins of the country. The hotels were basically empty.

In Istanbul we viewed the famous attractions--the Aya Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Basilica Cistern. The parks were brimming with flowers, particularly tulips which originated in Turkey. The Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world with over 4,000 shops and 61 streets, was filled with vegetables, fish, sweets, leather goods, and historic items.

Istanbul is a sprawling city of 14 million people, partly in Europe and partly in Asia, with its geography defined by three famous waterways: the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus Strait, and the Golden Horn. One needs to spend at least a week to absorb its history, exotica and beauty. I particularly enjoyed seeing the famous Orient Express building and the elegant furnishings of the Pera Palace Hotel frequented by Agatha Christie. I had an exceptional Turkish Spa treatment at the Hurrem Sultan Hamami near the Aya Sophia which dates back to 1556. The beautiful white marble room, steam baths and intense scrub were heavenly.

The second week I flew southeast to the city of Kayseri to visit the region of Cappadocia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The bewitching landscape is decorated with spectacularly eroded "tufas", hardened volcanic ash conicals, called "fairy chimneys." The best way to see this extraordinary vast landscape is by awakening at 5AM and riding in a hot air balloon watching the sun rise while silently hovering over thousands of tufas - quite surreal. I then hiked through the Goreme open-air museum, a group of ancient chapels carved from the rock and decorated with 13th century colorful Byzantine frescoes.



Balloons over Cappadocia

The next visit was to the underground city of Uchisar. During the Hittite era when successive armies swept across Asia Minor, underground cities were built as uniquely defensible communities. These cities were as deep as eight stories with hundreds of rooms housing several thousand people. We spent a few hours exploring this labyrinth of winding, narrow steep passages to living spaces, storage rooms, granaries, stables, water cisterns, and kitchens, all with well-ventilated air shafts.

Next we visited the Mevlana Museum in Konya, the mystical Sufi order of the Mevlevi, founded by the 13th-century lyrical poet, Rumi, who preached tolerance, forgiveness and enlightenment. We visited the marble tombs of Rumi and several Dervish abbots, covered with rich, colorful brocades. That evening, entertainment was the Whirling Dervishes whose twirling dance is believed to be a spiritual ascent to divine love.

The third week, we left Antalya, traveling overland along the Taurus Mountains to Myra to visit an ancient Roman theater and Lycian house-tombs carved into the cliffs of Myra. Our next stop was the Church of St. Nicholas in Demre. In the 4th century AD, St. Nicholas was the bishop and known as the protector of children and showering them with gifts. He was later declared a saint and known as

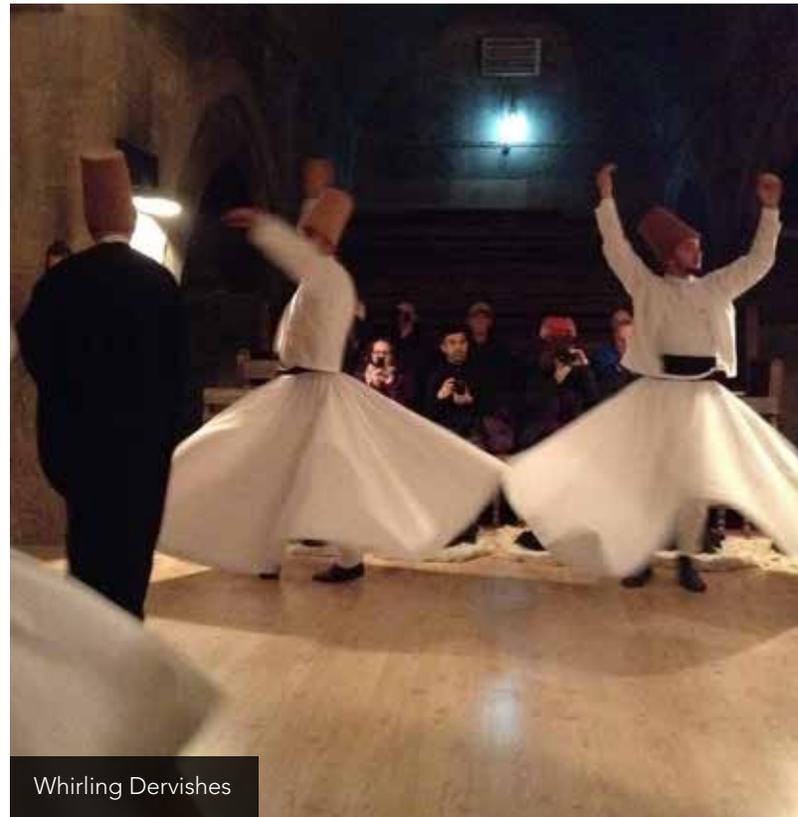


the model for Santa Claus or Father Christmas. We then drove to Fethiye, a fishing village on the Mediterranean and boarded a 90-foot Turkish "gulet"-style yacht made of teak and oak. For the next five days we cruised to the Greek "ghost town" of Kayakoy, hiked to Soguk Su, sailed to Gamier Island (also called St. Nicholas Island) to see the ruins of a 6th century Byzantine monastery, and visited the sunken baths of Cleopatra, built for her by Mark Antony. Legend says that Antony gave Cleopatra the entire Turquoise Coast as a wedding gift. We further sailed on to Ekinik Cove, and took a small river boat up the Dalyan River to visit the ancient Lycian ruins of Caunus. On the fifth day we disembarked our gulet at Marmaris and drove north, parallel to the Aegean Coast to Kusadasi to visit the 6th century Basilica of St. John. The following day took us to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ephesus, visiting the Library of Celsus and the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World which is no longer standing. It was said to be the most colossal temple ever built.

The final week we flew from Istanbul to Mardin visiting the new Neolithic museum and Mosaic museum. We then toured the village of Harran, where Abraham is said to have lived 4,000 years ago returning to Urfa to explore its Arab Quarter and Old Town. We stopped to visit the controversial Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates, then climbed and explored Mount Nemrut, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the Armenian king Antiochus I ordered huge statues built in honor of himself and the gods. The massive stone heads on the hillside are all that remain of his once-magnificent tribute to Hercules, Zeus and others. These stone heads have become one of the most recognized symbols of Eastern Turkey. We then drove overland to Gaziantep near the Syrian border where German Chancellor Merkel had just visited the day before to review the conditions of the Syrian camps. We drove to the camps but were told not to stop or get too near as to avoid being stopped or shot at. We visited the Mosaic Museum and Old City and took a boat ride on the Euphrates River, including a cruise around the Roman fortress of Rumkale, where St. John the Apostle is said to have written his Gospel.

After my trip, the tour agency, Overseas Adventure Travel, canceled all further trips to Turkey, because there were additional suicide bombings and the coup. While I was there, I felt safe with my guide. Also, I wanted to make a statement on terrorism. I felt that if I didn't go to Turkey, ISIS had won.

I was fortunate to have gotten a close-hand look at this spectacular, historic world without the hordes of tourists beating down the tracks.



Whirling Dervishes

SWIMMING WITH THE GREAT WHITE SHARKS IN SOUTH AFRICA



BY C. HENRY RESTARICK
(MANDEVILLE, LA)

Janet and I were driving along the southern coast road east of Cape Town on the tip of South Africa, when we came upon a truck carrying a large steel cage in the back. It had four long orange floats attached to the top end on each side.

Janet and I looked at each other and said, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" So we followed it to a place called False Bay. It was a beautiful bay area with several small seaside bars. From here we could see Table Mountain to the north. We booked a trip for early the next morning. Our boat was about 30 feet with two huge outboard engines on the stern. Along with the shark cage the boat had diving equipment including wet suits.

The next morning, on the way out, we passed a small island with thousands of seals. They were all sunning themselves on the island or playing in the shallow waters around the island. Then, from here, still within sight of land, we anchored and started chumming the water with buckets of blood and pieces of fish to attract the Great White Sharks. Our crew also had a silhouette of a seal which was attached to a line and they threw it out like a Frisbee about 50 feet from the boat, then let it continue to float and drift away from us. This was a seal decoy for the sharks and it worked very well. The 16 to 18 foot Great White Sharks would attack straight up from below, hit it, and launch themselves completely out of the water. While they were in the air they seemed to dance on the water with their tails while they violently shook their heads back and forth attempting to drive their seven rows of 3,000 razor sharp serrated teeth into the decoy. It was an awesome show of incredible power.

While standing on a four-foot pirate's plank that ran out between the engines, one crew member would throw out a large chunk of fish bait on a line and let it sink. If he saw a shark approaching it, he would start pulling it in. Sometimes the shark would follow the bait in all the way to the boat. If it did, the guy would pull the bait out and let it dangle just above the water. Now with the bait still hanging there, the shark would come up and out of the water snapping his huge jaws open and closed. Sometimes the guy would actually reach out and put his hand on top of the shark's nose forcing the shark to open its jaws even wider. It was a fearsome and terrifying sight to look into the jaws of a Great White.

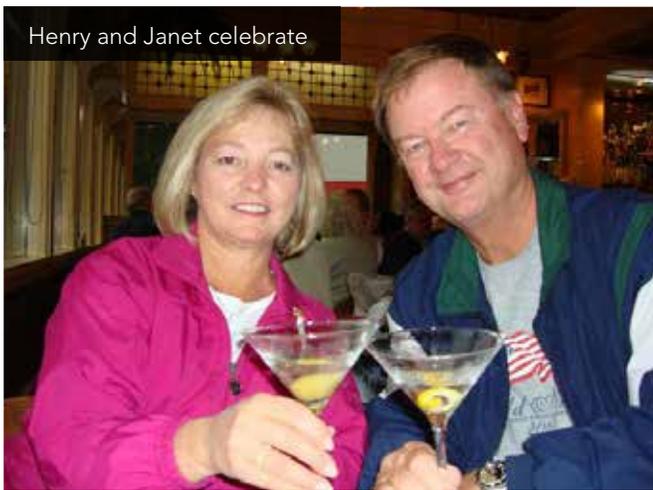
Then a bizarre thing happened when we were putting the shark cage in the water so we could tie it to the side of the boat: a Great White suddenly came up and bit into one of the orange floats. In his attempt to take it down, he tried to twist his head back into the water, thus forcing his tail to come up and over the stern of the boat. Now the shark's tail was laid out across the back of our boat violently thrashing about. Our boat was now in peril, but the danger only lasted a second, the shark released his bite from the float, then fish-wiggled-thrashed back into the water. One of the crew was hit by the tail, but amazingly no one was seriously hurt. The crew had never seen or heard of anything like this ever happening before.

Once the cage was secured to the side of the boat, it was time to get in, but before we did, we had to put on a dive suit. The waters here were extremely cold. We entered the cage through the top, leaving our dive tanks on board, but we were still connected to them by a long hose. No one had to tell us to keep our hands inside the cage. Some of the largest Great White Sharks can go over 20 feet and weigh up to 5,000 pounds. A record White caught measured 23 feet and weighed over 7,000 pounds.





Henry and Janet celebrate



Now, down in the cage, a Great White came out of nowhere. One moment we were straining to see something, the next moment there was the ocean's most fearsome predator silently gliding around the cage only inches from us. A sudden reflex of fear hit me. The shark must have been 16 to 18 feet long, nearly two tons in weight and I thought it was fully capable of ripping our cage apart. We could see its deadly smile, like a grin, and its razor sharp teeth and its huge, black, blank eye staring right at us. The only thing between us and the White were the steel bars of the cage. We could have reached out and touched him, but I could not bring myself to do it. It circled us once in slow effortless grace. Then it was gone. Vanished.

That night, Janet and I had several martinis "straight up" in one of the small seaside bars in False Bay. Another wonderful adventure.



Awareness ribbon statue in Durban



WORKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN DURBAN WITH A DETOUR TO MAPUTO

BY C. KEVIN SHORT
(NEW YORK METRO)

World leaders, scientists, advocates, sex workers, donors, gays, journalists, artists, drug users, celebrities – some 18,000 of them in total – convened in Durban, South Africa in July for the International AIDS Conference. The largest conference on any global health or development issue, AIDS 2016 marked the tremendous progress in combatting HIV/AIDS over recent decades while strategizing on how to best mobilize resources and research to advance HIV prevention, treatment, care and support around the world.

Since the last time the conference was hosted in South Africa in 2000 – back when then-president Thabo Mbeki was infamously denying the link between HIV and AIDS and international actors were largely neglecting the plight of those living with HIV outside of highly-developed countries – the global AIDS response has been transformed. Nearly 16 million people are on HIV treatment and many new infections have been averted through improved science and advocacy. However, as the conference opened, a sobering new analysis from UNAIDS showed that the decline in new HIV infections among adults has stalled, and more than 60% of people living with HIV around the world remain without life-saving antiretroviral therapy.

I was privileged to be among this diverse coalition in Durban, accompanying the HIV experts from the international health nonprofit I work for, Population Council. Our staff delivered presentations and speeches on a wide range of topics related to HIV, from how to decrease HIV risk among adolescent girls, to how to improve the reproductive health and rights of those most at-risk for HIV, to how to maximize the efficiency, effectiveness, scale, and quality of HIV treatment programs. My role as a communications and media specialist was to connect our staff with journalists, assist senior leaders with their speeches and interviews, and provide social media and events support.

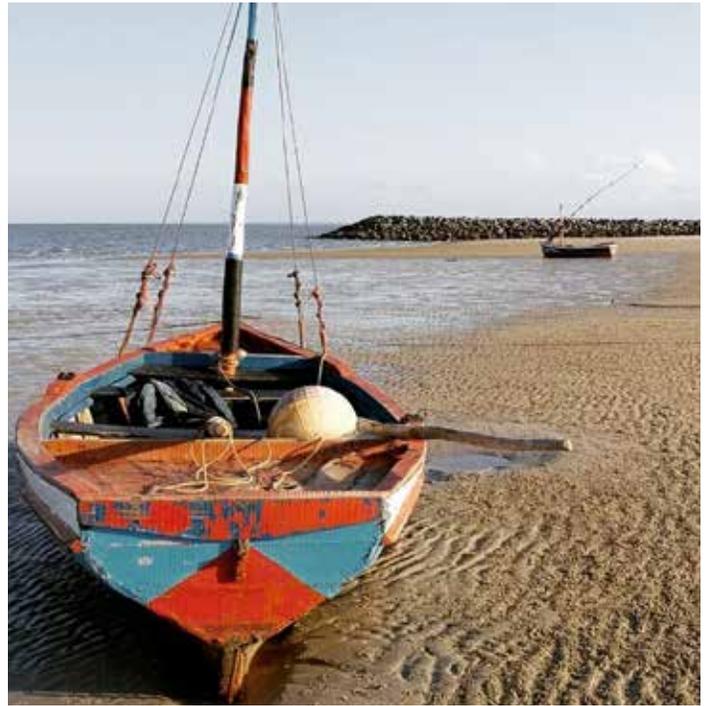
Even aside from the amazing opportunity to participate in the conference, I was thrilled to be returning to South Africa, the country outside of the US where I've spent the most time. Before beginning my 2012 Circumnavigators Foundation Research Grant from the Chicago Chapter/Northwestern University, I spent three months in Johannesburg as a journalism resident at a leading newspaper. South Africa continues to fascinate and engage me, and it was a joy to return in this new capacity and revisit some old pleasures – endless hospitality, bright former colleagues, picturesque coastlines, and Nando's peri-peri chicken, among them.

As the conference came to a close, I weighed how to make the most of my three days of holiday before returning to New York: revisit familiar places in South Africa or take the more audacious path of a solo trip to Maputo, Mozambique. In 2015 I had spent time working and traveling in the neighboring southern African nations of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, and while there heard rave reviews about traveling in Mozambique. Durban to Maputo flights carried exorbitant price-tags though, so the next thing I knew I was queuing for the biweekly, 12-hour bus ride from Durban, through Swaziland and into Mozambique.



Kevin's ride in Maputo

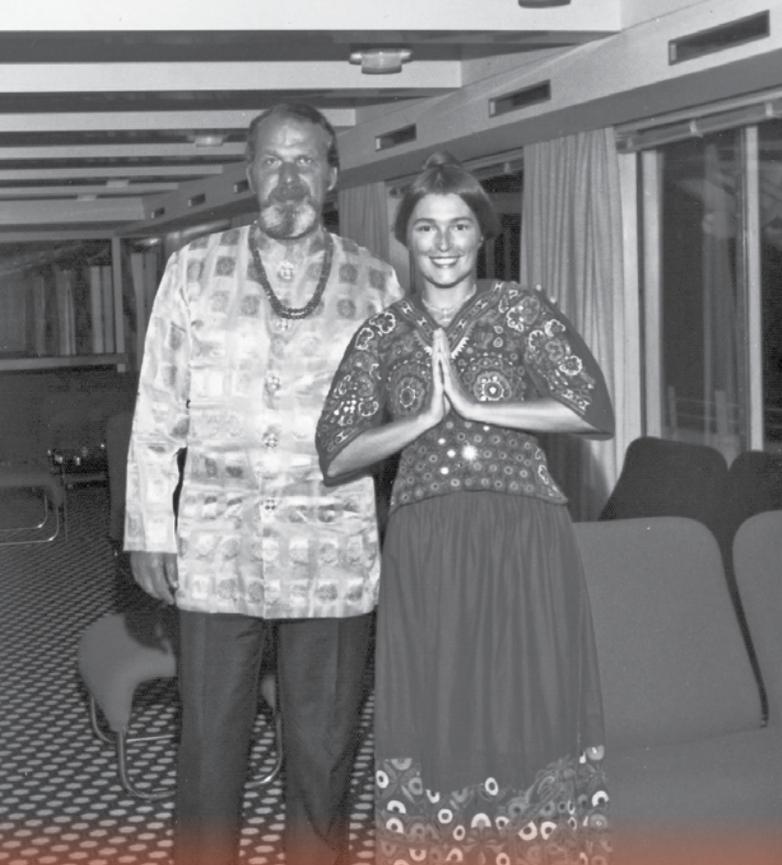
Scenes of Maputo



The long bus ride was eventful, to put it lightly. A mix-up with my entry/exit passport stamps at the Swaziland border prevented me – and the bus full of some 75 passengers – from crossing the border into Mozambique for nearly two hours. To top it off, as I walked down the aisle of the bus somewhere in rural Swaziland, I heard something I least expected: “KEVIN SHORT?!?!?” To my astonishment, the speaker was a woman who had lived in the dorm room next to my own during freshman year of college at Northwestern. After the shock subsided, I learned that she was making the same Durban-to-Maputo trek to visit another one of our former dorm-mates who has lived in Mozambique for several years, working as a Peace Corps volunteer. Before I knew it, our mutual friend was giving us a tour of this dynamic capital city. His fluent Portuguese and network made for a much more immersive time than I likely would have had alone, stumbling around and hardly able to pronounce “obrigado” (“thank you”).

Many international visitors to Mozambique jet straight to its pristine beaches and postcard-worthy islands, but those who skip Maputo miss out. It’s a bustling, cosmopolitan capital, filled with stylish people, excellent arts traditions, and delicious meals of fresh prawns and Afro-Portuguese fare. Despite the city’s progress and hospitality to visitors, the country is still scarred by the legacy of Portuguese occupation and the slave trade, poor governance and corruption, and high levels of poverty.

After the week of 14-hour work days during the conference, cracking open a chilled bottle of “2M” (Mozambican national beer) with unexpected former classmates and admiring the glistening Maputo Bay was a great privilege. Though I only had 72 hours in Maputo, it was a fantastic memory and I hope to return to Mozambique in the future. The lengthy return (Maputo to Johannesburg to Amsterdam to Newark to Brooklyn) took some 36 hours of planes and terminals, but it was a cheap price to pay for such an inspiring week at the AIDS conference and a spontaneous weekend in Mozambique.



HOW I BECAME A MEMBER

BY C. HENRI VAN BENTUM
(CANADA)

In 1975 I was Guest Artist aboard the “*Royal Viking Sea*,” as I had been the previous year aboard sister ship “*Royal Viking Sky*.” Both were inaugural around-the-world cruises. Teaching art on board ships was unheard of in those days. Now, under the banner of Enrichment Programs, most cruise lines have incorporated it. I literally dreamed the whole thing up.

On a cold and miserable November day in Toronto I had a vision of us aboard a ship in the tropics where I was teaching art in a floating art studio. As soon as I told Natasha about my vision she put together an impressive package with my CV and photos of artwork, which we mailed to all the major cruise lines. The first to respond was the Italian Line, offering a 30-day Mediterranean cruise over Christmas. But that meant we’d be back in Toronto mid-winter. So we turned it down. We didn’t hear from any of the others. Then one Sunday afternoon Natasha’s American-born father, who every weekend bought the Sunday *New York Times*, telephoned. He’d just seen an ad for a company called Royal Viking Line, announcing a world cruise. “*Did you send them a package?*” he asked. The next day we express mailed a package to their head office in San Francisco. And the rest is history.

It was a dream come true. Best of all, they agreed to my proposal: the time-honored barter system, i.e. in exchange for my expertise Natasha and I received full, first-class passenger status. *Royal Viking Line* also agreed to provide all the art supplies for a 4 ½ month voyage which involved creative exploration in five different media. Toward the end of the cruise, we held an exhibition of the passengers’ artwork. Many of the passengers had never painted before, yet did some excellent work. The Norwegian captain proclaimed it a magnificent show.

Fast-forward to the second around-the-world cruise in 1975 aboard sister ship “*Royal Viking Sea*.” Aboard that ship were several members of the Circumnavigators Club, amongst them the Past-President. Three days before arriving in New York at the very end of the cruise, we were approached by these Club members. They said I qualified for membership (at that time there were no lady members so Natasha couldn’t join), now that we’d done a complete circumnavigation, crossing every meridian of longitude in one direction. (They didn’t know about our circumnavigation the year before, so by this time I was “doubly-qualified.”) We hadn’t heard of







IMAGES OF CHINA



chapter highlights

CHICAGO



Guest Marc Adams, speaker Bill Helmuth, Chapter President Karen Schlueter, Chapter Vice President Jim Franch and Publicity Director Deanna Pagett.

On September 14, 2016, the Chicago Chapter had an enjoyable and educational event at one of their favorite venues, the Chicago Yacht Club. Guest speaker Bill Helmut entertained his audience with fun stories about his travels in Central Asia.

NAPLES



♣s. Tom and Gloria Maher (center) with friends Sharon and Andy Cumming.

Naples Chapter members celebrated long time member, Tom Maher's 97th birthday. Tom was one of the five original founders of the chapter and served for sixteen years as Chapter President and Vice President. (Tom passed away on November 3, 2016)

PACIFIC-NORTHWEST



President Charles Stotts and Chapter Vice President Steve Sogg presented Harley Anders (left) with his membership certificate.

Pacific-Northwest members and guests enjoyed an exceptionally nice lunch at Marianna's Ristorante in Renton, WA.

PALM BEACH



Elizabeth Leonetti, ♣. Frank Leonetti, Pandora Crippen and ♣. Bob Crippen

Palm Beach members and guests enjoyed dinner at Malakor Thai Restaurant in West Palm Beach, FL.

chapter highlights

SINGAPORE



The Singapore Chapter held its annual mid-year dinner at the fabulous Sentosa Golf Club. A delicious dinner and excellent band accompanied by members singing their hearts out.

PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST



Arthur Hammons giving toys to the children of the Masai tribe.

Pacific-Southwest Chapter President Virginia Foster and her husband Arthur Hammons visited the Masai tribe in Narok, Kenya.

WASHINGTON DC



Members of the Washington DC Chapter's Foundation Selection Committee with 2016 Scholar Ryan Sudo. Left to right: Past President Samuel Watson, Foundation Coordinator Jim Whalen, Ryan Sudo, and International President Ellen Parke.

On September 24, the Washington DC Chapter held their Foundation lunch at the Rosslyn Holiday Inn in Arlington, VA.

DESERT

On November 13, the Desert Chapter held its Foundation lunch at the Orange Tree Gold Resort in Scottsdale, AZ.



Mother-Daughter Duo: Arizona State University Foundation Scholar Carlyn Harris and new member Denise Harris.

Goodwill Connection....

Around the World



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, Tracy Sancilio at (201) 612-9100 or e-mail: club@circumnavigators.org to sign up to serve on the Connection. Should you be planning a trip to a city where there is a member, please contact Tracy with your arrival and departure dates and the hotel where you will be staying. She will be happy to contact the member for you.

AUSTRALIA -Queensland, Brisbane

GREECE - Athens, Kiffissia

CANADA - British Columbia/Vancouver

SINGAPORE - Singapore

THAILAND - Bangkok

UNITED KINGDOM- London

U.S.A.

ARIZONA - Scottsdale, Sedona

CALIFORNIA - La Jolla, San Francisco

FLORIDA - Palm Beach, Miami, Naples

ILLINOIS - Chicago, Northbrook, Winnetka

MICHIGAN - Detroit

NEW MEXICO - Albuquerque, El Prado

NEW YORK - New York

PENNSYLVANIA - Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA - Hilton Head

WASHINGTON DC

WASHINGTON- Seattle

On October 19th, Singapore Chapter President Graham Bell attended our Board of Governors meeting in New York City followed by dinner at O'Reilly's with fellow officers and board members.

☉ Barbara Hagstrom, ►
☉ Kevin Short,
Singapore Chapter
President Graham
Bell, International
President Ellen Parke
and ☉ Brad Vogel.



On November 7th, Singapore Chapter President Graham Bell hosted a lunch for ☉ Ann Swinford and her husband Mo El-Fouly who were visiting from Michigan Chapter.



(Standing from left) Past President Mr. Ronald Zung, Treasurer Mr. Gerald Low, Secretary Dr. Ralph Stanley, Past President Mr. T.K. Quek, ☉ Mr. Richard Hoon

(Seated from left) ☉ Ann Swinford, President Graham Bell and Ann's husband Mo El-Fouly.



☉ Terry Ng welcoming ☉ Ann Swinford and her husband Mo El-Fouly to Singapore.



WELCOME *aboard*s

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

Harley Anders



After a long, distinguished career with the FBI, Harley is now retired, living in Bothell, Washington with his wife, Sandra. Prior to the FBI, Harley served as a pilot in the Air Force, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross after his tour of duty in Vietnam. He has now traded in his airplane piloting for riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He is interested in geography, having set foot on all seven continents.

Marie Carr



A resident of Washington DC, author and archivist Marie Carr circumnavigated earlier this year when she was invited to visit Beijing by Ambassador Max Baucus. Marie has worked for several U.S. Senators, most recently Senator Bill Nelson of Florida. Her late husband Richard Carr was one of the handful of people who helped save the historic Willard Hotel from the wrecking ball. Marie has written numerous books and articles, and has volunteered in many civic and charitable organizations. She has visited all seven continents and 65 countries.

Norman Dailey



Norman lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife, Susan, also a new Circumnavigator. Retired as a high level official for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Norman has been an active traveler and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua and Macedonia. He circumnavigated this year and readers can find more about his travels at www.toursbynorm.com.

Susan Dailey



Susan is retired after a distinguished career in government, primarily with the Department of Transportation where she served as Assistant Inspector General. An avid traveler, she is also a member of the Traveler's Century Club. She circumnavigated with her husband Norman earlier this year, visiting a number of locations in Africa and Asia.

Gareth Evans



Gareth lives in the United Kingdom where he graduated from the University of Liverpool with a degree in Politics. He was a Circumnavigators Foundation scholar in 2015, crediting the Circumnavigators for giving him the desire to make the world a better place. He is a violin player who plays in a band with a group of close friends. He resides in Liverpool with plans to eventually move to London.

Denise Harris



Originally from Detroit, Denise decided to branch out and see the world at a young age. She turned a passion for travel into a vocation, having worked in the aviation industry and the field of education where she teaches others the importance of understanding the world. Denise lives in Anthem, Arizona.

Roy Hurst



A native of the Chicago area, Roy graduated from Northwestern University. He is now retired after a career in dentistry and lives in Bonita Springs, Florida with his wife Nancy Comstock. Among his many hobbies are fly fishing and show dogs.

Josephine McNiff



A native New Yorker, Josephine now lives in Bonita Springs, Florida, where she is involved with many organizations including the Italian Cultural Society, the Bonita Springs Bicycle Club and the Encore Club. She enjoys hiking, especially in the National Parks.



WELCOME *aboard*s

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

Andrew Peterson



Andrew is the son of Second Vice President Dan Peterson and he is one of three Peterson siblings joining the Circumnavigators Club. He is a student at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. Like other members of the Peterson family, he lived in Tokyo for a number of years. He is an Eagle Scout who enjoys playing ice hockey and rugby.

Charlotte Peterson



Charlotte is a student at George Washington University in Washington DC where she is working toward a career in law. At her young age, she has visited 36 countries and circumnavigated three times. She is conversant in Japanese and French, and she is involved in a variety of charitable organizations such as Make a Wish and Women's Cardiac Care.

Matthew Peterson



Matthew is the youngest Peterson to join the Circumnavigators Club, and he now dethrones Katie Koontz as the youngest current member of the Club. He is a student at University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he studies for a planned career in journalism and sports broadcasting. He is an Eagle Scout and an avid sports fan and athlete. He has visited all seven continents without his parents, the only member of the family to do so.

Albert Podell



Adventurer and author, Albert addressed the Circumnavigators at the Annual Meeting in May. His travel career is voluminous and we suggest you "google" him to find out more. He has written a fascinating book *Around the World in 50 years*. A graduate of Cornell University, Albert lives in New York City. He has visited every country on earth!

Janet Samaras



A native of Chicago, Janet graduated from Northern Illinois University with a fine arts degree in painting and drawing. Painting brought Janet to Palm Beach in 1988. She specializes in water colors and has exhibited at galleries and art fairs. She is an active member of the Palm Beach Forum Club.

Serena Stewart



Serena's circumnavigation was a sail around the world that took more than three years with visits to 39 countries. Born and raised in Manhattan, she lived in Sun Valley, Idaho for 30 years, where she had a busy architectural practice. She later moved back to New York where she now lives and works as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge.

Welcome to our Club



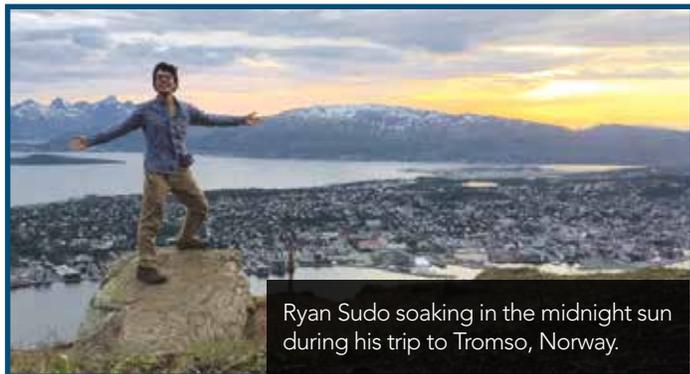


SCHOLARS REFLECT ON THEIR ADVENTURE

Our Foundation scholars tell us what they discovered on their amazing circumnavigations. We asked them about the countries they visited, highlights, favorite places, lowlights/surprises, dining experiences, and, most importantly, about friendship and what they learned about themselves.



Carlyn Harris jumping (and screaming) off the Auckland Bridge in New Zealand.



Ryan Sudo soaking in the midnight sun during his trip to Tromso, Norway.

Carlyn Harris

Arizona State University

Scholar Topic: Sociocultural influences on antibiotic consumption and resistance

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

Guatemala, Spain, the Netherlands, India, South Africa, New Zealand

Was there a highlight on the trip?

Getting to go on rounds with an infectious disease doctor and his residents in Cape Town. I was able to go to their microbiology lab, look at chest x-rays of patients with possible tuberculosis infections, and listen while the doctors reviewed different patient cases. In terms of tourist things-- I bungee jumped off the Auckland Bridge!

Was there a favorite country or place?

Cape Town, South Africa! Hands down.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

The extreme humidity in New Delhi was definitely hard to adjust to. I only brought a carry-on suitcase and relied on re-wearing clothes a lot. In India, I re-wore some rather sweaty clothes.

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

Guatemalan food is my favorite! Platanos fritos (fried plantains) definitely top the list. I had the most amazing dessert in Amsterdam--Stroopwafel. I also tried Bitterballen there but wasn't the biggest fan. Luckily, I didn't get sick at all (even after eating street food in India).

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

Most definitely. I stayed at a lot of hostels with other travelers my age and now we are all Facebook friends or follow each others adventures on Instagram. Not to mention, I got to meet the other two amazing Circumnavigator Scholars. I met Tara in Cape Town and Ryan in Auckland :) I'm so happy I met them, their projects were incredible.

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned that I am so much more capable of tackling challenges than I ever thought. After traveling the world alone, navigating new cities, and surveying hundreds of strangers, I feel like I am pretty much capable of handling anything life throws my way!

Ryan Sudo

Georgetown University

Scholar Topic: Challenges and Triumphs in Indigenous Education: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

Ecuador, Peru, Norway, Taiwan, Australia, and New Zealand

Was there a highlight on the trip?

I was wandering around some hills near the town of Otavalo, Ecuador, when I found myself incredibly lost. Luckily, I stumbled across a farmhouse, where a Quechua-speaking family lived. There was a substantial language barrier in place, but with some frantic hand gestures I was able to convey my message and they helped me find the road. It was such an amazing feeling to know that even though I was thousands of miles from home, I could still rely on the kindness of strangers to help me through the day.

Was there a favorite country or place?

I loved traveling to Taiwan, mostly because of the food! The city of Taipei is famous for its night markets, which are open until the wee hours of the morning, and I didn't hold back when it came to trying as many dishes as I could find!

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

On my last day in Australia, while trying to catch a train home, my credit card stopped working and I was 40 cents short of the 4 dollar fare! That's when I spotted a nickel on the floor of the train station, and I for some reason decided the smartest thing to do was to search the rest of the building for more loose change. Thirty minutes later, I had a handful of coins and I was able to make it back to my hostel!

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

My favorite dining experience happened in Taiwan at a restaurant called Din Tai Fung. The dumplings were handmade and incredibly well cooked. I will definitely be going back to that restaurant if I'm ever lucky enough to travel to Taiwan again.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

I was able to meet so many interesting people over my summer, many of whom are now my friends on Facebook! They include a filmmaker for the National Geographic Channel, a university English professor, a tour guide in the Australian outback, an indigenous rights advocate, and many backpackers. One of my favorite parts of the summer was meeting so many different kinds of people, and I hope to keep in touch with some of them as the years go on.

What did you learn about yourself?

I have always considered myself an introverted person who was completely fine doing his own thing. What I realized after spending so much time alone is that I really do rely a lot on my personal relationships to get me through the day. This year I've made a conscious effort to take more time out of my hectic schedule and spend it with the people I really care about.



Tara Mittelberg's hosts in Ghana had a cooking contest for their guests. Tara represented American cuisine by baking brownies - they were a hit!

Tara Mittelberg

Northwestern University

Scholar Topic: GMOs: Progressing the Conversation

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Ghana, Malaysia and the Philippines with multi-day layovers in Santiago, Chile and Dubai, UAE

Was there a highlight on the trip?

In Ghana I stayed with Kojo and Pobby, a local couple that I found through AirBnB. They were two of the kindest, most selfless individuals I've ever met. Pobby cooked me delicious and spicy fufu, goat stew, Red Red and other local dishes for almost every meal. This opportunity to engage with Ghanaians and try homemade delicious food made my homestay a highlight of the trip!

Another highlight was meeting Dr. Jennifer Thomson, a microbiologist at the University of Cape Town who is both a renowned researcher of biotechnology and advocate for women in the sciences. Her work showed me that a biologist with proper understanding of a place's social context can make a huge difference through technology.

Was there a favorite country or place?

Choosing a favorite is tough! I enjoyed the markets of Tamale, Ghana because they were unlike anything I had ever seen - the women wore beautiful colors head to toe, the stalls were filled with everything from dried fish to Nescafé, and the seemingly endless narrow pathways between the stalls were an adventure to navigate. I also had a lot of fun riding local transit in the Philippines, especially the "tricycles" (motorcycle taxis with a side car) and Jeepneys (colorful military Jeep-style buses).

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

I'm afraid of flying, so I was nervous every time I stepped on a plane (18 total!). Towards the middle of the trip I was on a small plane in Ghana taking off and touching down in a turbulent thunderstorm - getting through that was a huge relief.

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

In Brazil, some friends made me escondidinho and sagu - a casserole made out of mashed cassava and pulled beef, and a dessert made of tapioca pearls, grape juice and spices. In return, I made a salad my family serves every Thanksgiving and chocolate chip cookies. The ensuing dinner party was a lovely exchange of traditions, stories, and laughs.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

Yes! I met a lot of wonderful travelers in the hostels and graduate students at the institutes that I check in with occasionally. I'm Skyping a friend from Brazil next week.

What did you learn about yourself?

As a solo traveler, I learned to depend on myself to problem solve and get around new cities. I also became much more outgoing and self-confident as I befriended locals and other travelers. Overall this trip made me the best version of myself - independent, friendly, intellectually engaged, and adventurous - and I've tried to bring this mindset back to my everyday life.

IMAGES OF CHINA

(CAPTIONS) STARTING WITH TOP LEFT:



Tiananmen Square vendor by ©. Katie Koontz



"Beach Boy" in Qingdao by the sea, by ©. David Mink



Cattle Crossing in Guilin by ©. Erik Meyer



Swashbuckling Khampas in Sichuan by ©. Cynthia Bassett

"Selfie" at the Longji Rice Fields by ©. Ann Swinford



Class trip to the Summer Palace by ©. Patricia Buescher



Great Wall in the snow by ©. Henry Restarick



"Contentment" in a sliver of a village on the Tea Horse Road by ©. Roger Baker





FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*

As the inveterate globetrotters that we all are, I hope that you will find the observations by our newly minted 2016 Foundation Scholars on their summer's circumnavigations as interesting as I did. No matter how long or how far we have traveled, it is always refreshing to get new perspectives on the world, especially those of the energetic, upbeat, intelligent, and resourceful students whose enthusiasm for their global research projects, and gratitude to our membership for making them possible, are unbridled.

There's no stronger testament to the importance of the Foundation's grant program to our participating universities than its appeal to prospective students in the recruitment process. 2016 Foundation Scholar Ryan Sudo told a recent gathering of members of the D.C. Chapter that the Foundation's around-the-world travel-study grant was one of the factors motivating him to apply to Georgetown's School of Foreign Service – although he never dreamed he'd be the one to receive it!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming Winter Appeal, which, in an effort to make giving more convenient, will include provisions to funding your donation via PayPal (including the use of major credit cards).

Happy Holidays, and Luck to You!

Greg Rider, President

Naples Chapter to Select First Grantee from Florida Gulf Coast University

The Naples Chapter is coordinating its first Foundation around-the-world travel-study grant this year. After careful consideration, it has selected Florida Gulf Coast University of neighboring Ft. Myers as the university participant in the grant program. Naples Chapter President Barbara Roy notes that all involved are excited about the inaugural program with FGCU. FGCU has shown a keen interest in the program from the initial contact made to the university's president by Chapter members in the autumn of 2015, to its agreement to the Foundation's co-funding requirements with the Foundation's president early in 2016, to the assignment of responsibility for the program's implementation to the university's vice president and executive director of university advancement, with the participation of the directors of the school's honors program, international studies program, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines, and the university's institute of entrepreneurship. This impressive team is



working closely with the Naples Chapter coordination committee headed by chairman Joe Donahue and including members Jim Lungo, Phyllis Mueller, and Nancy Wyckoff, to winnow down an impressive number of nearly three dozen initial applicants to three finalists, who will be interviewed in December and one of whom will be awarded the grant.

FGCU, a member of the State University System of Florida, offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs of strategic importance to Southwest Florida and beyond, seeking academic excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, health professions, business, and marine and environmental sciences. Its nearly 15,000 students are enrolled in 53 undergraduate, 23 graduate, three doctoral, and 10 certificate programs.

SCUTTLEBUTT



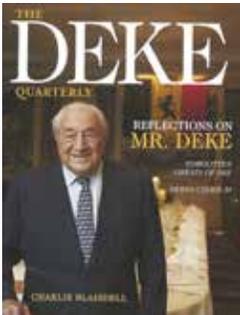
Where is the geographic center of Asia? The cities of Kyzyl in Tuva and Urumqi in China are rivals for this dubious distinction. Either way **☪. Lois Kahan** has it covered. Her visit to Kyzyl was chronicled in The LOG, 2014 issue #1 and now she has made it to Urumqi during a recent tour of China. Lois reported that

getting to Urumqi was no easy task but she was determined to make sure she has been to the geographic center of Asia.



☪. Brad Vogel was elected Vice Chairman of the New York Preservation Archive Project, a non-profit organization focused on historic preservation of New York City.

A resident of New York and a governor of the Circumnavigators Club, Brad was also appointed to the Board of Advisors for the S.S. Columbia Project, an effort dedicated to revitalizing a 1902 steamship to run on the Hudson River.



Our illustrious Past President **☪. Charles Blaisdell** was featured on the cover of the national fraternity Delta Kappa Epsilon magazine. Charlie was honored as “Mr. DEKE” for his service and dedication to the fraternity. Now 100 years old, members can expect to see Charlie at the Annual Meeting in May. Read the whole story by “googling” the fraternity and searching for Charles

Blaisdell. A 1937 graduate of Yale, Charlie served in the FBI and is still a practicing lawyer.

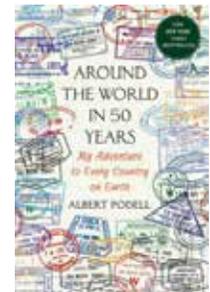
International President **Ellen Parke** is featured in an article in the current issue of the alumnae magazine of her alma mater, Hollins University. Together with another alumna, Ellen has spearheaded a program to identify quality internship opportunities in Washington, DC during the four-week January term. Last January, 29 young women gained experience working at such places as the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, the Peace Corps, the White House Historical Association, and the International Spy Museum. It was in part due to this work that Hollins honored Ellen with an award last June.

UK Chapter President **☪. Helen Jenkins** had her Welsh wildlife garden featured by Wales Online. Her garden is a wildlife haven for wildflowers, birds, butterflies and a resident hedgehog, a rare sight these days. Her garden is in competition for an award.



☪. Roger Baker, Naples Chapter, was elected Bailli of the Bailliage of Naples of the Chaine des Rotisseurs. The organization is the oldest and largest food and wine society in the world, dating back to 1248 with a global presence. Roger now heads the Naples (FL) Chapter which is the second largest chapter in the United States.

The fascinating and well-received book by **☪. Albert Podell** is now available in paperback or hard cover at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It is also available as a Kindle book or a Nook book. The book is *Around the World in 50 Years: My adventure to Every Country on Earth*. Counter punch called it “Amazing...the most original travel narrative ever written.”



☪. Neil Mandt has produced many movies and TV shows involving travel. The Californian now has a new company MANDTVR that is producing virtual reality videos about travel all around the world. You can view these videos on mandtvr on YouTube or Facebook.

Some 25 historic photos taken in Cuba from 1956-60 (before and during the Castro revolution) by **☪. Tom Ambrose**, Palm Beach Chapter, are presented in a recently published paperback *Cuban Sketchbook* by Anne Conover. This memoir tells the story of living on the island during the tumultuous years as an American expatriate (Tom) with his family. This book is available for \$14.95 plus postage by emailing: jwoolen@politics-prose.com or calling the bookstore at (202) 349-1182.



OVER THE HORIZON

Diana Amendolara,
New York, NY
July 8, 2016

Cynthia Haas,
Naples, FL
May 11, 2016

Jeannine Merrien,
West Palm Beach, FL

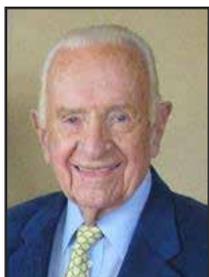
Mathew Gormly,
Pinehurst, NC
March 27, 2016

Hildegard Jones,
Palm Beach, FL
July 20, 2016

Esther Sprenkel-Segel,
Wilmette, IL
September 29, 2016

Angus Green
Naples, FL
October 13, 2016

Marion J. Matuszewski,
Dearborn Heights, MI
September 11, 2016



Thomas P. Maher

Tom Maher passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on November 3, 2016. He served as a member of the Board of Governors, was the Co-Founder of the Naples Chapter and served as a former Naples Chapter President. Tom had a very productive and active life; six children, executive with IBM, and was a volunteer for many civic activities in Naples. Tom and his wife Gloria loved to travel and were active right up until the last couple of years. They also enjoyed the golf and social activities at the Pelican Bay and Moorings Country Clubs in Naples.



A. Park Shaw

Desert Chapter member A. Park Shaw passed away on July 29, 2016. Park was an active member for 40 years and served on the Board of Governors, was a Past President of the Desert Chapter and served on the Board of Directors of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation. Park was a retired Army Colonel and an active Rotarian and Past President of the Scottsdale Club. Park personally knew our 1979 Magellan Award Recipient, Carlos P. Romulo who once told him, "A foreigner is a friend I have yet to meet." This quote was an important part of Park's travels and a great motto for Circumnavigators everywhere.



John P. Veasy

The Palm Beach Chapter lost its president emeritus John P. ("Captain Jack") Veasy on September 19, 2016 at the age of 79. Jack's generosity of spirit, warmth, and leadership contributed to every organization of which he was a part. That included the Circumnavigators Club, the Men of Bethesda, the Navy League, the English-Speaking Union, the Palm Beach Pundits and the Palm Beach Round Tables. Jack will be greatly missed and his compassion and dedication will always be fondly remembered.

SOMETIMES, LESS IS MORE

THROUGH MY LENS

Tips from a travel photographer

By **©. Roger Weatherburn-Baker**
(Naples Chapter)

Most of us will admit we often overlook detail when we're busy focusing all our skill concentrating on getting the perfect big-picture shot. An intriguing detail is easy to miss, but if you spot it, it can make for a creative, unusual, even provocative shot.

Many photographs are taken at a normal scale; that is, with a middle ground and background, and from a single point of view, often head on. That's OK, but however good these photos may be, when you show them to family and friends in a sequence, your audience may quickly nod off. It doesn't matter how fascinating the shots may be, the repetition of the same type of shot tires the eye.

The eye needs stimulation and relief from repetition. That's achieved with variety. Mix things up by interspersing your usual photos with close-ups or artfully cropped images. Try it and you may find focal emphasis on a detail can result in a photo that is not only unexpectedly refreshing but one that showcases another side of your creativity.

It's best to see a detail and shoot it at the time using a zoom lens to get the close-up. But alternatively, try cropping a detail within a photo you've already taken. My long shot of a roadside vendor on the Chinese border with Tibet, for example, has been cropped to yield two more interesting photos. The close up of her weathered hands near the raw vegetables speaks volumes, as does the close up of the expression on her face. Sometimes, less is more.

