

# CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1902

YEAR 2017

NUMBER ONE

# THE LOG



**INSIDE >**

- PEOPLE MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND



## CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB, INC.

FOUNDED 1902

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ESTABLISHED 1964

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# PRESIDENT'S *letter*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators,

"A mark, a yen, a buck, or a pound." In the hit musical *Cabaret* we heard that "money makes the world go round." With all due respect to lyricist Fred Ebb (and scientists everywhere), Circumnavigators know better. It's really people who make the world go round. In our travels we learn a lot about different cultures, cuisines, and customs. But, when you come right down to it, people -- no matter where they live -- are really more alike than they are different. We all have the same basic needs and desires -- shelter, food, clothing, and happiness for ourselves and those we hold dear.

Here I would like to celebrate our members who don't live near a chapter or the New York Metro area. We call them At-Large members and they live in very diverse places -- from Maine to Texas and Alaska and from Panama to Thailand and Switzerland, to name a few. They connect with the Club primarily through The LOG, "Circumbits," and the website. Like all members, they are also encouraged to take advantage of the Club's Goodwill Connection when traveling. All that is necessary is to let the Executive Director know where you are going and she'll tell you whether a member lives there and has agreed to be part of the Goodwill Connection. Attending the annual meeting and our Order of Magellan dinners are another way for At-Large members to get to know the wider Club.

And who is this Executive Director, anyway? Her name is Tracy Sancilio and in many ways she's the person who makes the Club "go round." She was hired in 2010 to succeed her mother, Helen Jost Mulligan, who held the position for 36 years. Tracy works from her home office, dividing her time between work for the Club and the Foundation. She has a degree in marketing and lives in New Jersey with her husband Frank and their three children. Tracy is at the other end of any query you may have about the Club, whether by phone or email.

Luck to You,

*Ellen*

**Margaret Ellen Parke**



Tracy (left) and Helen  
43 years at the helm

## *Thanks to*

Thanks to C. Albert Podell for the cover photo of schoolchildren in central Bhutan.





# 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.*

The 1975 classic from the Stylistics proclaims "People Make the World Go Round" with the words "the ups and downs, the carousel, changing people all around."

For more than 107 years, The LOG has recounted numerous stories of the people of the world whom Circumnavigators met along the way and shared with other members. And what a diverse group it was. C. MacDonald wrote in 1932, "We Visit Cannibals" and C. Cotlow shared "white man's smokes" with Pygmies in his 1938 tale "Through Africa Unarmed." There were countless encounters and relationships with people from every continent, including scientists and explorers on Antarctica. Part of the Club's mission is to make the world better through friendship and understanding of all cultures.



Sharing with Pygmies

And, so it goes on. As our members continue to travel and circumnavigate, they bring back fresh experiences with the People of the World. In this issue, C. Albert Podell, author and adventurer, offers us images of many different people, just a few of the hundreds he has photographed in his 50 years traveling the globe. C. Cynthia Bassett writes about two distinct cultures that are struggling to keep their traditions alive. C. Ann Swinford tells us about Arabs in her visit to the Arab Sheikdoms.

Finally, on the back cover Contributing Editor Roger Weatherburn-Baker gives us tips on how to photograph strangers in foreign lands. One of our favorite photos by Roger is the bearded Indian gentleman in Varanasi. Who would stick a camera in the face of a chap like this? Well, notice the folded rupee bill in his hand. Makes both the subject and the photographer happy.

We love to travel—the beauty of landscape and architecture. But, isn't it really about the people who make the world go round?

Luck to you!

*David*

Chair, Communications Committee

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Old LOG cover celebrates diversity



Close-up in Varanasi

# INTERNATIONAL *Annual Meeting* IN NEW YORK CITY

On May 19, Circumnavigators gathered at the Club's Headquarters, The Yale Club, for the 115th Annual Meeting and luncheon. International President Ellen Parke welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a tap of the historic (1908) William Jennings Bryan whale's tooth gavel. She introduced the members who traveled from across the US for the occasion: Beverly Anderson (Deerfield Beach, FL), Stephan Krasowski (Pacific-Northwest), Alice Lentzen (Chicago), Paulette Cooper Noble (Palm Beach), Ray Olson (Washington, DC), Patricia Oyang (Naples), Ellen Parke (Washington, DC), Dan and Melanie Peterson (Chicago), Henry and Janet Restarick (Louisiana), Troy Trujillo (Colorado) and Ernest Weiss (Washington, DC). President Parke presented new member certificates to Reagan Burkholder, Jack Carlson, Elizabeth Rider, and Laura Schramm, all from New York.

## Circumnavigators Club BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dan Peterson, Second Vice President and a member of the Nominating Committee, announced the Board of Governors to serve a three year term:

### Expiring 2018:


Sue Murphy – (2nd term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Kenneth Linsner – (2nd term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Helen Jenkins – (2nd term) – UNITED KINGDOM  
Barbara Hagstrom – (1st term) – NEW YORK  
Dan Peterson – (1st term) – CHICAGO

### Expiring 2019:

Angela McLean – (2nd term) – AT LARGE  
Graham Bell – (1st term) – SINGAPORE  
Jeffrey Peterson – (1st term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Kevin Short – (1st term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Brad Vogel – (1st term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Gordon Whiting – (1st term) – NEW YORK METRO

### Expiring 2020:

Ray Olson – (2nd term) – WASHINGTON DC  
Jim Lungo – (2nd term) – NAPLES  
Howard Matson – (1st term) – NEW YORK METRO  
Tina Nicholson – (1st term) – NAPLES  
Henry Restarick – (1st term) – LOUISIANA  
Ann Swinford – (1st term) – MICHIGAN



Chapter Chairperson Ray Olson, Past President Esther Dyer, Foundation President Greg Rider, Past President and Foundation Honorary President Charlie Blaisdell, Past President Howard Matson, International President Ellen Parke, Foundation Treasurer Jeff Kelly, Club Treasurer George Sanborn, Second Vice President Dan Peterson, Secretary Sue Murphy, Past President Bill Holm, Board Member Brad Vogel, First Vice President David Mink, Board Member Jeff Peterson, Membership Chairperson Barbara Hagstrom, Board Member Henry Restarick.



## Circumnavigators Club Foundation BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Howard Matson, Chair of the Foundation Nominating Committee, announced the Board of Directors to serve a three-year term:

### **Term Expiring 2018:**

Jeffrey P. Kelly – Scholar 1979 – (NEW YORK)  
 Kip Knudson – Scholar 1987 – (WASHINGTON DC)  
 Bruce Magid – Scholar 1972 – (AT LARGE)  
 Barbara Roy – (NAPLES)  
 Debra Taufen – (AT LARGE)  
 Helen Jenkins – (UNITED KINGDOM)

### **Term Expiring 2019:**

William P. Holm – (NEW YORK)  
 Helen Jost-Mulligan – (NEW YORK)  
 Howard Matson – (NEW YORK)  
 Margaret Ellen Parke – (WASHINGTON DC)  
 Gregory A. Rider – Scholar 1971 – (NEW YORK)  
 Matthew Scholder – Scholar 2003 – (AT LARGE)

### **Term Expiring 2020:**

Dan Peterson – (CHICAGO)  
 Brian Evans – Scholar 1974 – (WASHINGTON DC)  
 Troy Trujillo – Scholar 1989 – (AT LARGE)  
 Esther Dyer – (NEW YORK)  
 David Mink – (NEW YORK)  
 Jim Whalen – (WASHINGTON DC)



George Sanborn, our Treasurer for 40 years, was honored for his dedication and service to the Club. Past Presidents Howard Matson, Bill Holm, and Jeff Kelly and former Executive Director Helen Jost-Mulligan shared several humorous anecdotes about George. President Parke presented George with a desk clock that shows the world's 24 time zones as a symbol of the Club's appreciation.

After the meeting and lunch, members and guests were treated to an entertaining and engaging slide talk by Dylan Thurais, founder of Atlas Obscura and one of the authors of "Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders." Dylan presented photos and stories about some of the most astonishing, curious, unusual, and off-the-beaten-path destinations and secret marvels across the globe. His well-reviewed book was available for purchase and quickly sold out.



International President Ellen Parke and guest speaker Dylan Thurais



Ellen Parke presented membership certificates to Elizabeth Rider, Reagan Burkholder and Laura Schramm.



Ellen Parke welcomed Jack Carlson with his membership certificate.

Peterson family



☪. **Bradford Gary** (Palm Beach Chapter) and his wife Susan are getting set for a 32-day cruise through the Northwest Passage in August. They will cruise from Anchorage to New York on a ship with a helicopter and kayaks onboard. ☪s. **Jeffrey & Eda**

**Peterson** (New York Metro), visited Chamonix, France this past winter with their daughter Melanie and son Randy. The views were spectacular although the 13,000 altitude at Aiguille du Midi posed a challenge for some.

International **President Margaret Ellen Parke** enjoyed a 12-day Caribbean cruise in March aboard the new Holland America ship *Koningsdam*. A bucket list destination was achieved recently by **First Vice President David Mink** and ☪. **Dottie Mink** (Naples Chapter), when they explored the dramatic

Ellen on cruise



Iquazu Falls in Argentina. The Minks, along with daughter ☪. **Kristen Koontz** (New York Metro) head off shortly for Japan with grandson & son Bryan Koontz. ☪. **Roger Weatherburn-Baker** picked out a birthday dinner for two for his wife ☪. **Paula** and son at Bistrot Caraibes in Grand Case, Saint Martin. ☪.

Minks in Iguazu



**Brad Vogel** (New York Metro) traveled to Kulusuk (formerly Kap Dan) in eastern Greenland - with Circumnavigators hat in tow. The small settlement of a few hundred people who speak West Greenlandic



clings to the barren rock on a fjord off the Davis Straight, and flights run from Reykjavik, Iceland to a gravel air strip. Greenland, still a part of Denmark, is home to only 56,000 people.

Vogel's visit, which included a motorboat voyage through the pack ice with local hunters, was inspired in part by books like "An African in Greenland" and "Arctic Dreams"...but chiefly by ☪. **Lois Kahan** who, after a Circumnavigators meeting, told Vogel that she had been to Greenland in a wheelchair. Long story short, Vogel took the tale as a gauntlet thrown: "I figured if my friend Lois could make it to Greenland in a wheelchair, I could make it too." Brad continued his trip on to Iceland.

☪. **Ann Swinford** (Michigan Chapter) and husband, new Club member **Mo El-Fouly** just returned from a delightful trip to the Balkans with

Roger picks dinner



Brad in Greenland



Mir Travel. They met Patricia Schultz who wrote the best seller *1000 Places To See Before You Die* who was on the trip. Ann reports, "She is a complete delight." Ann added, "We had excellent guides throughout Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Monte Negro, Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia. These countries and peoples are phoenixes arising from the ashes of the 90's." ☪. **Marilyn Varcoe** (Naples Chapter) enjoyed a safari to Tanzania where she met Masai tribesmen, took a hot-air balloon ride



Marilyn meets Masai

over the Serengeti, and saw countless exotic and endangered animals. ☪. **Don Parrish** (Chicago Chapter) recently returned from a three-week trip to the Pacific with revisits to Fiji, Tonga, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. He visited some of the out islands on the *thebesttravelled.com* list and two

World Heritage Sites including East Rennell Island, which is very difficult to reach. Don was told that he was the first overseas visitor to Lake Tegano in 2017. Widely considered the world's most traveled person, Don had visited all of these countries before. This trip



was aimed at visiting islands that were new to him. The trip, which included landing on grass strips in small planes, was both enjoyable and educational, according to Don. He breathed a sigh of relief that all of his flights not only flew but were on time. A highlight was

visiting the island where Chief Roi Mata is buried and the nearby island where he died in a large one-room cave. Roi Mata's Domain is a World Heritage Site in Vanuatu. He was the great chief who died 400 years ago. Don found the site to be an amazing experience (which is quite a tribute coming from him!).



Don on Vanuata

## Our Marathon Man

BY ☪. **STEVE FULLER** a Kansas City attorney who has run more than 200 marathons on every continent, keeps on running. He ran two unique marathons in the past few months-- the Polar Circle Marathon in Greenland, and the Serra Negera Volcano Marathon on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos.

Both marathons were run in challenging climatic conditions. The Greenland race had temperatures of zero degrees Fahrenheit with 18-mile per hour winds at the starting line. Participants ran the first six miles over the one-and-a-half mile Russel glacier with extreme hills and valleys. Runners were forbidden to leave the marked route because of the danger of falling into the many crevasses. Once off the glacier, participants ran the remaining 20 miles on a snow-covered gravel road to the town of Kangerlussuaq. They ran past large glacier tongues, moraine plains, through tundra and arctic desert.



Steve (right) in Galapagos





Marathon in Greenland

For the Serra Negera Volcano Marathon, temperatures were in the 80's with extreme humidity. The course ran to the top of the volcano, circling the caldera then proceeding along an interesting route down the volcano. Race organizers took extra measures to create a unique experience such as a two-mile run through a dense rain forest, and a detour through a 150-yard lava tunnel.

Both runs are operated by private tour agencies. The Polar Circle run is sponsored by Albatros Tours of Copenhagen, Denmark and the Galapagos marathon is sponsored by Andes Adventures of Los Angeles, California.

Steve was featured in the Volume 1 LOG in 2016, which can be read on our web site.

## Cuba Libre



Downtown Havana

Cuba, with its improving relations with the United States, continues to be a "go-to" destination for American Club members. Many Circumnavigators have visited in the past years and months.

A group from the Naples Chapter visited recently, "led" by Chapter President **Barb Roy** who had been there many times. Traveling were **Cs. Ann & Morrie Doyle** (who just missed going there 55 years ago on their honeymoon), Barb's friend Bob Greene, **C. Lee Abrons** and her friend Gray McRimmon.

Barb reports, "Today, everyone is rushing to visit Cuba before it changes after almost 60 years under Communist rule. As an American you can visit Cuba if you check one of twelve reasons why you want to visit the country.

"Once there, our immediate reaction was how friendly the people are, soon you find out that almost all children go to school and hospital care is available for everyone. Whoa...Castro must have done a great job with his people! BUT, after spending a few days you begin to see what is really going on. Until recently, no one was taught English so they were tied to Cuba. Very few fish dinners, because no one could own a boat. We talked with a doctor who makes \$20 a month and hustles people to buy tickets to a nightclub to get extra dinners. Downtown looks like a third-world country with the facades faded, windows out or broken, really old cars kept going with ingenuity and homemade parts. There is no Wi-Fi and few cell phones and computers so people are kept in the dark about their neighbors. Cubans are not allowed in tourist hotels except to work.



Naples Circumnavigators

Our group went to Cuba for six days and thoroughly enjoyed the Tropicana and National Shows and a trip to Viñuales where tobacco is grown. We enjoyed walking the streets and meeting friendly Cuban nationals."

Morrie adds, "All in all, it was a wonderful experience. We came to Cuba because we wanted to get a feel for what's been going on the last 55 years. We wanted to see the architecture, meet and visit with the people, see the art, enjoy the meals and learn about the culture. One of the biggest pluses was seeing so many of the cars that both Ann and I used to drive during the '50's. Both of us saw cars similar to those we used to own and they looked as good to us now as they did then. More than half of the cars were ones we recognized from the 'good old days'."

**C. Michael Puldy** (Pacific-Southwest Chapter) recently returned from Cuba after "eight fantastic days" during which he visited Havana, Cayo Levisa, Viñuales, Bay of Pigs, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, and Trinidad. Michael reports that traveling to Cuba has never been easier and found it "very safe, inexpensive, and the people are extremely friendly." He thanks **C. Thomas Ambrose** (Palm Beach Chapter) for his many suggestions and historical perspective. Tom is a veteran traveler to Cuba having been there in the early Castro days. **C. Kevin Short**, Club Governor, also enjoyed a recent visit to Havana and the country's serene epicenter of tobacco cultivation—Viñuales. He trekked into Cuevas de Santo Tomas (second largest cave system in the Americas), slept on a mango farm, and rode in a 1958 Buick to a white-sand beach.

## On the Road to Kathmandu

☪. **HELEN JENKINS**, President of the UK Chapter, took a road trip, not your quiet drive in Wales. She went from Delhi to Kathmandu. The road trip (some by rail) took her from Delhi to Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Lumbini, Chitwan, Pokhara and finally Kathmandu in Nepal. It was a once-in-lifetime “holiday” with many highlights. Here are just a few of them in no particular order.

- Learning about Hindu and Indian history.
- Seeing peacocks in the wild.
- The variety of wildlife, including Indian Rhino and the elusive, nocturnal, sloth bear.
- The long journeys and ever-changing scenery.
- The pool at Varanasi. And the gardens full of colourful dahlias.
- The evening boat trip at Varanasi on the Ganges and lighting wishing candles.
- The sunsets and sunrises.
- The village school and giving away pencils for “Pack for a Purpose”
- The scenery. Rising mountains to Nepal.
- The border crossing from India to Nepal.
- Jaipur’s Amber Fort with elephants.
- Agra’s Taj Mahal- and the stories behind it.
- Saffron monk with selfie stick at Lumbini- birthplace of Buddha.
- Monkeys, birds and butterflies. Black robin and vibrant Kingfisher.
- Dugout canoe trip and crocodiles close up.
- Riding in an oxcart to the village at Chitwan.
- The tranquillity in amongst the hustle and bustle.
- The flowers everywhere. So colourful.
- The vibrancy of colours.
- Suspension bridge over the river on the way to Kathmandu. Such a high road to get there.
- Kathmandu. Walked through the back streets of Thamel and markets. Then terrific hailstones, thunder and lightning-- Got soaked but it didn’t matter.
- Flight over Everest at sunrise.
- Namaste.



Helen goes to school



Ganges sunrise

## The Magellan Project

☪. **James Foster**, who lives in Anchorage, Alaska, has just returned from Guam where he furthered his work on the Magellan Project. He is the founder and project manager for this endeavor.

The 500- year anniversary of the world’s first documented circumnavigation is rapidly approaching. While many circumnavigations have occurred since, no one has ever retraced the complete route of Magellan. The Magellan Project will do just that, producing a documentary of the retracing while conducting public outreach and educational programs along the way. A

primary goal is to enhance geographic knowledge of the world. Please see [www.MagellanProject.org](http://www.MagellanProject.org) for additional information.

Jim reports, “The Magellan Project research and development have been 20 years in the making. As project manager, I have travelled to Magellan’s port of departure, the site of Magellan’s death in the Philippines, Malacca (Magellan came here with the conquering Portuguese in 1511), and Guam where Magellan and crew made the first contact between people of the Pacific Ocean and Europe.

“The project’s 501(c)3 was approved last July and we are currently in fundraising mode for the start goal of September 2018. For questions or interest in project participation please contact me at [magellanadventure@gmail.com](mailto:magellanadventure@gmail.com)”.





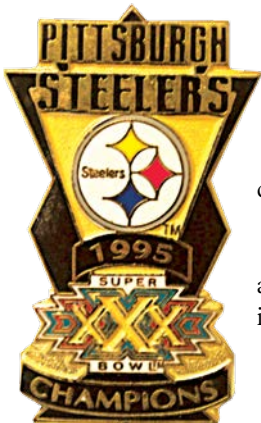
# Collector's Corner

BY C. KATIE KOONTZ (NEW YORK METRO)

## A MEDLEY OF PINS AND PLATES



**Cs.** Bill and Mary Klug, of the Naples Chapter, have traveled extensively during their 52 years of marriage. They have been to more than 100 countries and have many more trips planned. Bill and Mary love being a part of the Circumnavigators Club and are excited to share with us two of their interesting collections.



Steelers really lost

**Pins:** Bill Klug began to accumulate promotional pins through his membership in The Industrial Development Research Council (IDRC) at their national meetings. After attending the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Bill and Mary caught "pin trading fever" and their collection took off. They now have about 750 pins representing travel locations, sporting events, and historical places and events. "The entire collection represents a multitude of memorable experiences Mary and I, through our travels literally all over the world, have been fortunate enough to share and enjoy," says Bill. "Some have been gifts, others promotional items as well as direct purchases. I have obtained a lot through pin trading at two Olympics (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000)." Each pin has meaning behind it.

Some special pieces from their collection represent events like the World Series and the Indy 500 and some represent exciting memories like climbing the Sydney harbor bridge and riding the Goodyear blimp. "One of my favorites is a Pittsburgh Steelers Super Bowl XXX Championship pin that was obviously cast before the game--the Cowboys beat the Steelers 27-17," says Bill. The hundreds of pins are proudly displayed on three large corkboards in the Klugs' home and the collection continues to grow. Recently, Bill has purchased pins over the internet from three notable Olympics games: Berlin (1936), Munich (1972) and Moscow (1980).



Just one cork board

collection, it has spread from a display in their kitchen to their dining room and living room too. Although they have never broken a plate in transit, the Klugs do say that the plates can be difficult to transport around the world. Like their pin collection, the beautiful plates all hold special meaning. "Because the plates are prominently displayed in our Naples and Marco Island residences, we often take a moment to remember and retrace in our minds where we bought them," says Mary. "It brings back wonderful and vivid travel memories."



Mary & Bill

**Plates:** The Klugs have no shortage of decorative plates. This collection started on trips to Mexico City to visit their daughter, who used to live there. They would go to markets around the city and buy hand signed pieces. One of their favorite stops was Uriarte Talavera, where they learned about Talavera ceramics. The collection really began to grow after their daughter and son-in-law bought them a Deruta plate in Italy. "Well, then we were 'off to the races!'" says Mary. "On each subsequent travel trip, we began consciously looking for decorative plates that were handmade, hand painted, and had to be hand signed on the back. That is our defining criteria." Their plates come from all over the world, including Greece, Morocco, Norway, India, and Australia. One of their favorites comes from Budapest: it is three-dimensional with a raised cherub face in the middle and on the edges. As Bill and Mary keep adding to their



Olympics pin

*Do you have a travel-related collection? Contact Katie Koontz at [katherinekoontz@aol.com](mailto:katherinekoontz@aol.com).*





# ADVENTURE IN KOMODO NATIONAL PARK

BY C. MICHAEL L. PULDY  
PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Decades ago, I saw a National Geographic special on the Komodo dragon and Komodo Island. The remoteness of the location combined with the incredible power and strength of the largest lizard on earth has always attracted me. Of course, traveling to Komodo National Park and Komodo Island from North America is a logistical challenge involving multiple days of traveling across more than twelve time zones.



However, traveling to Komodo Island from Singapore is another story. After a quick 90-minute flight to Bali I caught another 60 minute flight to the town of Labuan Bajo on the island of Flores, Indonesia. From Labuan Bajo, it's a two-and-a-half hour boat ride to Komodo National Park and the second largest island in the park, Rinca Island.

The trip to see the Komodo Dragon really starts at the town

of Labuan Bajo. A relatively small village, it is composed of farmers and fisherman, combined with a newly sprouted tourist community offering dive trips, tourist hotels, restaurants, and of course, boat tours to visit Komodo Island. Many beautiful hotels and restaurants line the center of town and the harbor area with lots of construction promising new hotels and new tourist areas. The harbor also contained many anchored tall ships, and combined with the colorful rooftops, the view gave one the impression that this is how the world looked a hundred years ago.

To visit Komodo National Park, it's easy to find a boat and a tour guide among the many local shops offering to escort people to see the dragons.

The boat trip to Rinca Island is relatively short (about two hours) while the trip from Labuan Bajo to Komodo Island is over four hours. You can travel to Rinca Island from Labuan Bajo and back in a single day; however, to truly experience Komodo National Park, it's best to spend at least one night on a boat where you can patiently view the park, the dragons, and the unspoiled nature.

After a lot of research, emailing strangers, and reading reviews from TripAdvisor, I chose a tour company in advance. Upon my arrival at Labuan Bajo airport, the guide took me to our boat only 15 minutes away. While the boat accommodations were very basic, my cabin was quite comfortable. Accompanying me were my guide, the captain, the cook, and one crew.

Although there are multiple islands within Komodo National Park, the two major islands housing the majority of the dragons are Rinca Island and the larger, Komodo Island. Each island has approximately 2,400 dragons. We heard many stories about people who traveled to both islands and saw no dragons. Fortunately, I saw dragons on each island.

To tour the island, one must be accompanied by a ranger. Each ranger carries a wooden stick about two meters in length for protection. Although these sticks appear lacking, the dragons respect the sticks and the rangers who use them.

On each island you have the option of a short, a medium, or a long trek taking approximately 30 minutes, 60 minutes and 2 hours respectively. The trekking is moderately straightforward with hills, rocks and sandy trails. While hiking boots would have been best, hiking in sandals wasn't a problem.

Since the dragons are reptiles, they are cold blooded and the sun warms their bodies. During the morning trek, I saw many Komodo Dragons enjoying the morning sun, while on the afternoon trek the few dragons I saw appeared to be sleeping or waiting for prey to walk toward them. The



dragons are also amazingly well camouflaged. Their dark sandy brown skin blends extremely well with the loose sand and the dirt of each island, and many times the ranger would point out dragons I would have missed otherwise.

All the ranger huts and lodges are built on stilts; however, even though they are high, dragons can still climb the stairs or find ways inside.

My ranger told a story about a dragon that entered a ranger hut and attacked a ranger who was standing on a table. A second ranger heard the screams and ran inside. Grabbing the dragon by the tail, he rescued the first ranger only to be bitten himself. Both rangers wound up in the hospital for three weeks, and fortunately both fully recovered.

On each island, multiple dragons were found surrounding the ranger kitchen hut attracted by the smell. All the rangers assured me they did not feed the dragons. At the Rinca Island ranger kitchen, there was a dragon whose front arms were both broken. This dragon had been injured during a fight for the right to mate many years ago, but amazingly had found a way to survive.

Also, on Rinca Island, I observed a female dragon protecting her nest. The female dragon digs multiple holes in order to confuse predators from the hole containing her eggs. Each hole is almost a meter deep. Typically a dozen or more eggs will hatch and the baby dragons must quickly find shelter in the surrounding trees and forest or risk being eaten by the adult dragons.

It takes ten years for a dragon to reach adulthood and they can live for 50 years. While I saw a few healthy dragons on Rinca, most of the Rinca dragons appeared weak and thin.

In between Rinca Island and Komodo Island, I enjoyed an afternoon of snorkeling and then headed to a tiny island covered in mangroves to await sundown and the flight of the “flying foxes.” Flying foxes are actually fruit bats that ascend each night flying to the island of Flores in search of food.

The flight of the bats was unlike anything I had ever witnessed. Once the sun sank below the horizon, extremely large bats flocked from the island for over 20 minutes and literally darkened the skies.

The next day, at sunrise, I arrived at Komodo Island. The island and the waters were extremely peaceful, and it seemed as if I had the entire island to myself. Once again I was paired with a ranger and his trusty wooden pitchfork.

I saw fewer dragons on Komodo Island, but the dragons I did see appeared much healthier. I also observed more wildlife, and larger wildlife, on Komodo Island including deer, water buffalo, and wild boars.

I was amazed how close I was able to get to a dragon. In some cases I was within two meters of a resting dragon. Of course, this was not without risk since dragons are very quick and can travel at speeds up to fifty kilometers per hour. If a dragon wanted to attack me it had the advantage.

The rangers would also get extremely close to the dragons sometimes pulling a tree branch or the brush away from the dragons so I could get better photographs. It was very clear, the rangers as well as my guide knew very well what was and wasn't possible.

When dragons eat, they swallow their prey in large chunks, rarely chewing their food. With a combination of deadly bacteria and venom, they bite their prey mortally injuring it, and then when the animal is too weak to defend itself, the dragon consumes it. Dragons are able to smell blood up to five kilometers away, so when animals are killed other dragons can be expected to join in the spoils.

The remainder of my travel was spent snorkeling, boating, and enjoying wonderful Indonesian cuisine served on the boat. Our crew even caught fish that was served Indonesian style.

Overall, the experience was amazing and completely lived up to my expectations. The location was remote, the nature was unspoiled, and the Komodo dragon was as wild and exotic as I expected.



Rangers watch a dragon



# THE NEW FACE OF PUBLIC ART CAN BE EYE-POPPING

BY ROGER WEATHERBURN-BAKER,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



When you last traveled overseas, did you notice how much new contemporary art is on display? Some of it is small, quirky and whimsical. Some of it so huge it gives ‘monumental’ an entirely new meaning.

Take the giant swimmer in London for example (Fig. 1). He’s 46 feet long and 10 feet wide, and is seen swimming vigorously through a grassy meadow on the South Bank of the Thames at Tower Bridge. There’s a massive steel bather taking a dip in a Hamburg lake (Fig. 2).

An 85-foot tall floating rubber duck seen here in Hong Kong (Fig. 3) has been displayed in more than a dozen cities around the globe “bringing happiness to people worldwide by reminding them of their childhood,” says Dutch conceptual artist Florentin Hoffman. He’s the man who also created a huge rabbit lying flat on its back in the middle of Örebro, Sweden.

Artistic expression through paint has also gone jumbo, often bringing new life to a decaying neighborhood and heralding the start of energetic urban rejuvenation. In Lyon, France, for example, realistic street scenes cover entire sides of exposed walls (Fig. 4), creating an international tourist attraction.

Small-scale wall art can also pay unexpected dividends. In London, a once anonymous graffiti artist named Banksy went public when his wall art became so iconic it began selling for close to \$2 million a canvas (Fig. 5).

From ancient civilizations to the Victorians, public art has often been in the form of stately statues in bronze, marble or stone, decorative visualizations of epic historic scenes, formal recognition of long-dead heroes and titans, conquerors and kings, saints and martyrs.

But in the 1970s that traditional view of public art began to change radically. Public art became much more about the public and it took on a universally new face. It was technology driven, of course.



The uber-tech world we now live in has allowed ideas and concepts to be transferred globally in an instant. It’s created new materials, tools and techniques, stimulating innovation and ingenuity. It has removed barriers and created a new age of energy, excitement, and optimism, that’s spurred public and civic liberalism.

All this has set the artist free. No longer confined by a studio, tools, or strict public scruples, artistic expression now knows no bounds -- except for budget. Costs as large as the project can curb super-sized ambitions, but they’re not a barrier to provocative innovation on a more manageable scale.





Fig. 4



Fig. 8

In central Europe, I saw a life-sized, favorite patron immortalized in bronze on the sidewalk outside a café on the town's main square (Fig. 6). I particularly liked the whimsy of a soda fountain (Fig. 7) commemorating Anyos Jedlik, the inventor of soda water, in his hometown of Győr in Western Transdanubia, Hungary, and a spitting-man fountain in Tren hín, western Slovakia (Fig. 8).

Not to be outdone, of course, the U.S. has kept pace with these trends, if not surpassed it. We're all familiar with the gentlemen of Mount Rushmore, of course. But have you seen the giant grizzly staring in through the third-story window of a downtown Chicago office block (Fig. 9)? In Milwaukee there's a giant eyeball on display (Fig. 10) that brings new meaning not only to 'monumental' but also 'eye-popping'!

In Liege, Belgium they've got the new art form pegged; although, you may have to pinch yourself to believe it (Fig. 11).





Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 9



Fig. 5



Fig. 11



# AROUND THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET

BY C. GAVIN SHAW  
UK CHAPTER



*(Editor's Note: Professional pilot Gavin Shaw, a new member of the UK Chapter, flies for National Geographic's circumnavigation by private jet. The cost is approximately \$80,000 per person, but, as Gavin describes it, it's a magical lifetime experience. Find out more at [www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com](http://www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com).)*

National Geographic has a well established series of expeditions, using various means of transport. Perhaps the most impressive is its "Around the World by Private Jet". This is a 24-day circumnavigation, starting and finishing in the USA, at either Washington, DC or Orlando. I have had the privilege of being the captain flying the aircraft on a number of these, most recently last April.

My normal job, if I can describe it as such, is as the captain of a Boeing 757 flying holiday-makers from Glasgow, Scotland, to resorts in Spain, Greece, Turkey and other popular tourist destinations. The 757 is fitted out with 225 seats in an "economy" seating plan. We have two pilots and either five or six cabin crew. However, for National Geographic, we take these same aircraft and fit an 80-seat all-business-class plan: three pilots, eight cabin crew, two engineers, a dispatcher, a chef, and assistant chef. The route we fly is initially to Lima, Peru, then across the Pacific stopping at Easter Island, Samoa, and on to Cairns, Australia. Then to Asia, taking in Siem Reap, Cambodia; Kathmandu, Nepal; and Agra, India. On to Africa, first Tanzania, then North to Aqaba in Jordan and finally Marrakech, Morocco, before crossing the Atlantic back to our starting point.

Within these destinations our guests always have a busy schedule with various options to make the most of the time available. Experts are on hand with onboard briefings and we are accompanied by a National Geographic photographer, always available to give advice on the best way to get perfect expedition photos. As a way to circumnavigate it is remarkable. The jet becomes your fixed point around which everything else changes. The aircraft is cleaned only by the crew, allowing guests to leave anything in their seat area, confident no one will interfere with it. The cabin crew becomes adept at catering for guest preferences in drinks and food, and the chefs go to extraordinary lengths to make every meal noteworthy.

The challenges we face are varied and multiple. The 757 is an excellent aircraft to meet these challenges, small enough to operate in and out of relatively small airports, but capable of the extended range needed to cross the Pacific. The flight from Lima to Easter Island is about six hours.

Easter Island—That's Gavin on the far left



During that time we will see no other aircraft, no land, and our diversion is to turn around and fly the six hours back. Indeed the Pacific crossing is a lonely affair; there are times the closest other people are on the International Space Station! Weather can be an issue: smog in India is common, tornadoes in Tanzania, and on my last trip, Tropical Storm Debbie to our south in Australia.

The routing itself is entirely westerly, apart from the first day heading south to Peru and the day from Tanzania heading north. We cross the equator four times in total. Approaching Samoa we cross the International Date Line. This is technically different flying rather than cruising and is surprisingly difficult to define. We cross the anti-Meridian shortly after leaving Samoa. We cover a total of 32,641 miles and spend over 65 hours in the air. This burns 72,038 gallons of fuel.

We do get at least one day off in every destination except Samoa, where we get just the one night. I've been to the Centrale restaurant in Peru, rated the number four restaurant in the World. The Taj Mahal in Agra is always popular. This last time in Cambodia instead of the usual Angkor Wat, I visited the Circus, entirely performed by street children, now with a new career. Last time in Kathmandu the whole crew spent a day at Child Watabaran Centre Nepal (CWCN), a wonderful charity that feeds, houses and educates Nepalese street children. We brought them sports equipment from the USA and Australia, one advantage of using my own aircraft! I'm still in regular contact with CWCN and love the work they are doing. I'm currently helping them to find new sponsors and hope some Circumnavigators might want to help. It really is a very worthwhile cause, especially since the earthquake.

The crew always arranges a day safari in Tanzania and visits to Petra and Wadi Rum when in Jordan. We also have a crew fancy dress party somewhere along the way, for which many of us like to make a big effort.

We become real friends with many of the guests, and the final farewell back in the States can be quite emotional. There is a shared feeling of having achieved something really special together. As a way to travel the World I couldn't recommend it more highly. Certainly not cheap, but in actual value, incomparable. There is frequently a waitlist and it is not unusual for guests to book another trip as soon as they are home.

# CAMPING ON THE WHITE CONTINENT

BY **CS. JANET & HENRY RESTARICK**  
(MANDEVILLE, LA)

In January, our ship sailed from Ushuaia, at the tip of South America, to Antarctica via the Drake Passage. During the crossing, we watched the following high winds blow the huge white caps off 100-foot rogue waves into spume and froth. Sometimes we could see a solitary giant albatross flying in the wind. They are huge and incredibly graceful birds with a wingspan of up to nine feet. Once in Antarctica, and protected from the high winds and gigantic ocean rollers, we launched our small boats to cruise into the endless blue and white floating ice fields. Some of the icebergs were 200-feet high and 1000-feet long. Curious seals circled and swam under our small boat and would pop up only inches away to bark at us. We followed the playful humpbacks and hungry Orcas. We could hear the whales breathing and see their water spouts up close. Once we witnessed a family of orcas in a feeding frenzy. They were eating the penguins and seals that were swimming and jumping from one iceberg to another for protection. Then the giant black petrels flew in for anything the orcas left floating in the sea.

We made daily landings on the islands and hiked along the shores. There were many penguin rookeries and several types of sea lions. We hiked up the windy snow-covered mountains to view spectacular sights of the snow and ice from horizon to horizon.

One of the highlights of our expedition was camping out in a tent on the frozen tundra. After landing on a small island, we loaded up our camping equipment in our own box sled and pulled it across some very deep snow to the base of a gentle sloping hill where we would be safe from being covered in an avalanche during the night. Each couple was responsible for setting up their own tent and laying out their sleeping bags. Putting up a tent while dressed in thick cold weather suits and gloves was slow going. First we laid out a waterproof mat on top of the snow, then we erected our tent. Below our sleeping bags we laid out another mat. This arrangement provided excellent insulation against the snow and ice.

Even though we were dressed in special heavy-duty thermal suits, a cold chill did set in after about three hours of exposure to the frigid night temperatures. When this happened it was time to get into the tent, completely undress and crawl into our sleeping bags to warm up. To do this while lying down in a small tent was no easy task. It was almost impossible. It was the same way in the morning. During the night we prayed we didn't have to get up and go to the W.C. We would never have made it in time.





Our WC was set up behind a homemade wall of very large snowballs for privacy. The potties were next to each other. A special class was held to teach us the operation. Men were required to go in the kneeling position; it was very awkward. The ladies had to bare their bottoms.

Later that evening, a family of penguins and leopard seals came out of the water and stayed with us in our camp. The seals made an eerie wailing sound when they talked to each other on the beach. We witnessed the incredible silence of the night, only to be broken by our family of seals or an agitated squawk of a sea bird. Sometimes we could hear the booming thunder of a giant glacier cracking apart in the distance. It sounded like a huge cannon going off and echoing away into the darkness of the night.

One day we even defied the ice cold waves of Antarctica and took the Polar Plunge. Our legs became numb and our hair turned to ice. If one of us had gone into shock due to severe hypothermia, no problem; our ship brought along a portable defibrillator just in case.

Our trip took us 105 miles below the Antarctic Circle, where it was the land of the midnight sun. During the winter it is the land of the Polar Night, where the sun stays below the horizon throughout the day.

Someone once said: "The person who is able to express the feeling of being in Antarctica in words has probably not been there."



PHOTOS BY THE RESTARICKS





# KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

BY C. CYNTHIA BASSETT - SHAKER HEIGHTS, OH

So many populations are readily distinguished by a unique culture – their dress, customs, celebrations - often dictated by their geography. These incomparable clusters of natives are fast becoming homogeneous as they are absorbed into that catch-all phrase “globalization”.

In my travels to the Seven Continents, two recent trips stood out: one to a portion of the Tibetan Plateau in Sichuan Province, China; the other to the South Omo Region in Ethiopia. In both situations proud people ensconced in centuries of tradition are being forced to cope with a modern world.

**An event that hopefully will never disappear** is the annual Litang Horse Festival in Sichuan. What a spectacle! Monks, nomads, and townspeople from villages near and far gather to embrace the Khampas’ passion for horses. Extreme speed and agility are required to scoop up white scarves along the short race course. In Tibetan culture the white scarf, or khata, symbolizes good will and is used for ceremonial occasions where Tibetan Buddhism is practiced. The riders’ cloaks are colorful and the horses adorned in exquisitely designed blankets. Winning is so prestigious it helps establish the Khampas’ socio-economic hierarchy.

Since the mid-1950’s, Khampa guerrillas have been fighting a Chinese invasion and socialist reforms. From 1958 to 1964 Tibetan freedom fighters received help from the CIA and secretly trained at Camp Hale, Colorado where the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division drilled during World War II. Khampas also fought to retain Tibetan Buddhism. About one-fourth of the population serve as monks, nuns, or scholars, and educate the others. They



have clung to their spirituality while gradually rebuilding the thousands of monasteries destroyed during the 50s and 60s.

Most pronounced is the change in the nomadic lifestyle. Fortunate to have a native guide, our small group was able to communicate with people who have rarely seen a Westerner. They were camped with their huge black yaks: animals that provide food, clothing, and shelter. Nomads of the plateau region move about four times a year from 15,000 foot elevations to lower grazing grounds and finally winter quarters.



Now nomads, farmers, and villagers are being forced to re-settle as the government moves millions into towns, some living on the outskirts, others in stone or brick houses. The Khampas often have trouble adjusting, finding new jobs, and applying their agricultural skills in unfamiliar settings. However, one observes the younger generation shedding old beliefs and habits as they learn the Chinese language, embrace TV messaging and the Internet, become energized by China’s consumerism, and immerse themselves in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Tucked into the southwest corner of Ethiopia** in the South Omo Region are some two dozen separate tribes isolated in a country that itself has been self-contained for over a thousand years. Ethiopia is the only African country never submitting to colonization, except for a brief six-year period from 1935-1941 when it was occupied by Italy.

Each distinct ethnolinguistic group represents an anthropologist’s dream. I felt I was entering a time capsule visiting diverse, colorful cultures where unique tribes – some numbering about 500, others over 60,000 – retain traditions and dress of their ancestors. Most tribes like the Karo identify with elaborate body painting. Some resemble a guinea hen’s plumage and make masks with pastes of chalk, charcoal, powdered yellow rock, and iron ore. Others specialize in scarification used for rewarding tribesmen killing an enemy, while men in the Hamar tribe wear clay buns to prove they killed a person or dangerous animal. Mursi women proudly show their circular clay lip plates which are cut below the lower lip when the woman is about 20, thus enhancing her worth when married. Cattle are among the most prized possessions and territorial fighting among tribes is common. Sticks are being replaced with AK-47 assault rifles however, making these skirmishes far more deadly.

Agriculture represents a large portion of the country’s GDP, harvesting mostly coffee, grain sorghum, and castor beans. Just as Egyptians along the Nile depended upon flood-retreat cultivation to survive, tribes along the meandering Omo River cultivate their crops in the silt and depend upon the Omo for everyday necessities: food, water, bathing, and washing.





Tribesmen in Ethiopia — Photos by Cynthia Bassett

Again, modernization and economic growth are upending the heritage. The Ethiopian government plans to build five dams as the country's economic growth depends upon hydroelectric power. The controversial Gibe III, at 797 feet, one of the worlds' tallest, threatens the lifeline for over a quarter of a million indigenous groups. Food production in a drought-prone area is widening the chasm between natives and their government in an area that may no longer be sustained by the Omo River.

The need for tourism and travel to market their unique lifestyle will also encroach upon the purity and traditions of still another "people of the world."





# THE ARAB SHEIKDOMS

BY C. ANN SWINFORD - MICHIGAN CHAPTER

## ARCHITECTURE AND PEOPLE IN THE ARAB SHEIKDOMS. ALL PHOTOS BY ANN SWINFORD.

Late last year, my husband Mo and I did a full circumnavigation with the centerpiece of the trip being the Arab Sheikdoms tour, which visits Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and all seven Emirates.

The tour, organized by Bestway Tours, Burnaby, Canada, focused on architecture, ranging from adobe forts from the Middle Ages to magnificent mosques to glittering skyscrapers. It also gave us a chance to experience the culture in a part of the world that doesn't get many American and European visitors these day.

In Oman we had a local guide who was quite delightful. He seemed serious until I asked about his wife and children. His eyes crinkled into a smile as he told me about his nine children (two sets of twins!), one grandchild and his wife's determination to have another baby. He seemed to be leaning toward more grandchildren rather than children, however. Omani men treated me with respect, answered my questions and were willing to shake my hand.

In the remaining countries we met few locals, as the native population is generally less than 20% of the total population and the rest are ex-pats who come for work. Tourism is farmed out to ex-pats: highly educated Indian nationals who, while helpful, did not always provide the best interpretation of culture. Often I felt more like I was in India, but it was cleaner and with better driving.

We always felt safe wandering the streets of any of the Arab states that we visited. Late one evening in Kuwait City, I was feeding stray cats my leftover dinner and got to talking with a local shop-keeper who also cared for them. He was delighted and a bit surprised that I was feeding the cats, and I was glad to know that my little pitiful puffs of fur had someone on their side. (Yes, I am the international crazy cat lady!) I carried a long-sleeved lightweight jacket and a headscarf for use in mosques and for sun protection, but I never received any criticism for my short-sleeved shirt and long pants.



Mo (center) with friends at coffee shop





In Bahrain we were very fortunate to have an excellent guide. Amina is a Finnish ex-pat who moved to Bahrain and converted to Islam, following the geography and culture of her heart. She took us to the first coffee shop in Bahrain, founded in 1937 and run by the founder's grandson, where we were treated to sweet creamy dates and rich black coffee. She is such a delight that we will travel with her to the "stans" this year.

We really enjoyed Doha, Qatar. It is a beautiful city where all the buildings are competing to be the most beautiful and interesting. The 7 km corniche runs from the downtown business district past the Souq and then to the museum of Islamic Art. The Museum collection contains wonderful jewels, rugs and calligraphy, but the real jewel is the building itself. In the central atrium is a grand staircase lit by a huge round chandelier, reminiscent of those seen in mosques. The architecture is uplifting. Our tour allowed us about 90 minutes in the museum. We went back later that day for another four hours, most of the time spent ogling the architecture.

Shopping was interesting in all the states. The fish market in Kuwait was surgically clean and the fish mongers were proud to show off their wares. It was one of the few places that we saw locals going about their business.

The souq on Doha is a riot of activity and commerce, crowded late into the night with families. The Qataris love birds and all kinds, from sharp-eyed falcons to curious African Grey Parrots are for sale. The souvenir shops in Kuwait had 16 by 24 inch 14 kt gold-plated models of oil wells (\$1200) and gold-plated plaques of the Emir (\$8000).

In addition to the traditional souq, there are modern malls where I had a glimpse of Emirati women in their natural environments of Chanel and Rolex. Even though they wore black hijabs and abayas, they were distinguished by their lovely handbags.

In Abu Dhabi we visited Masdar city, which runs on solar and other renewable fuels. Masdar was a sponsor of the *Solar Impulse 2* piloted by Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg and featured in *The LOG* (2016, Number 2). When you enter you are put in a self-driving electric vehicle which takes you into the main town area. Housing, restaurants, and businesses are intermixed and one can easily walk from home to work. Siemens has their Mid East headquarters in Masdar City.

The Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi is magnificent. Marble inlaid floral designs cover the interior walls and 180,000 sq. ft. courtyard. It is best to visit near dusk when the mosque is lit in magical blue light.

Traditional treats were sprinkled throughout the tours, including shows of fire dancing, belly dancing, and watching the training of camels for racing.

Of course, the queen of Dubai is the Burj Khalifa, 2717 feet of aluminum and glass facade, the tallest man-made structure in the world. We enjoyed it from the ground, resisting the \$136 entrance fee to go to the observation deck on the 148th floor. Like Vegas, the best show in town was the Dubai dancing fountain at the base of the Burj Khalifa. Unsurprisingly, it is the tallest fountain in the world, shooting water 500 feet into the air. The best part is that it's free and in the evenings runs every 30 minutes.

We said goodbye to the Arab peninsula and after two stops in Singapore and Angkor Wat, we arrived home exhausted, after a full circumnavigation and a final flying time in coach of 28 hours, looking forward to sleeping with our cats. A circumnavigation starts off with a bang and ends with a whimper; nevertheless, I am planning our next one!







# ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

BY C. REAGAN BURKHOLDER - NEW YORK METRO

*(Editor's note: The Burkholders take a look at the UK Countryside with an American point of view.)*

You already know that the British drive on the left, right? Maybe you also know the national speed limit is 60MPH except in cities, towns, villages, hamlets, and places with three buildings in a row. Also, many British roads are narrower than the typical American driveway. Those roads are subject to the national 60MPH limit. This makes driving in Britain exciting.

Having visited only London, my wife Jennifer and I decided it was time to see the British countryside. Previous driving trips in Ireland and Scotland had whet our appetites. Years of English movies, Masterpiece Theater, British detective shows, and P.D. James novels glorified rural Britain in our minds.

We decided on five stops of three nights each, so as not to constantly live out of suitcases. Then we hit the travel guides. Using books from the library, plus the Internet, we began to focus on the south and on Wales. Each time we found something worth a visit, we placed a dot on a map. Bit by bit, the dots began to form patterns. Finding a town in the midst of the dots, we established our home bases for day trips to places of interest.

What emerged as our home bases were Salisbury in Dorset; Okehampton in Devon; Brecon in southern Wales; Betws-y-Coed in northern Wales; and

Oxford. The Internet yielded airline tickets, car rental, B&B's in Salisbury, Okehampton, and Betws-y-Coed, and hotels in Brecon and Oxford. We were ready to go.

Speaking of which, British place names are a combination of the familiar, the charming, and the strange. People from New England will recognize Exeter, Plymouth, and Dartmouth, among many, many others. We also visited Cold Northcott, Hanging Langford, and Chipping Camden. Regrettably, we did not get to Doddiscombsley, Shipton Oliffe, or Over Norton, although we did pass by them on the roads we traveled.

The challenge of driving: roundabouts, shifting left-handed, extremely narrow country roads, and driving on the "wrong" side of the road: all these tend to make one focus. Roundabouts are high-volume intersections that operate without traffic signals. Traffic moves continuously — in the "wrong" direction, of course. Roundabouts are ubiquitous in Britain.

In marked contrast with American highways, most British A roads have no commercial or residential development directly on the road. As a result, they are not lined with houses, gas stations, shops, fast food, or billboards. With 93% of Britain being rural, when you've reached the edge of town, you're in the country.



C. Reagan Burkholder and his wife Jennifer having tea in the close of Brecon Cathedral in Brecon, Wales. It dates to 1093. The Burkholders have been traveling together for only 50 years.



For the traveler, this is a tremendous opportunity for spontaneous exploration, because even tiny villages seem to have a pub serving exceptionally good food. We had a number of lunches that we probably could not duplicate at any random stop in a country town in the US. Lunch stops in surprising places became one of the highlights of our two weeks, enhanced by the opportunity to see these lovely little villages just off the main roads.

Some of our most challenging travel occurred on the B roads, which correspond with county roads in America. Often, two cars cannot pass each other at speed: one must pull to the side and allow the other to pass. Depending on location, the B roads may be bordered by hedgerows. If the road is 16 feet wide, the hedgerows are 16 feet apart and the speed limit is 60.

Here are some of our destinations:

Salisbury, in the county of Dorset, is home to one of England's magnificent cathedrals. It is near Stonehenge, and it allowed us to take day trips to Bath and Winchester and to drive some stunning country roads.

Our B&B was in a residential area less than a mile from the center of Salisbury. We walked varied routes as we visited the market square, the cathedral, and restaurants. We had dinner one night at the New Inn... built in the 12th Century. During two of our days here, Jenny's pedometer registered 15,000 steps: six miles or more of very pleasant walking. Begun in 1220, Salisbury cathedral's graceful spire is the tallest in England, dominating a city with no tall buildings. Adjacent to the cathedral is an octagonal building that houses one of the few remaining copies of the Magna Carta.

On our visits to Stonehenge, Bath, and Winchester, we passed through the stunning Dorset countryside. In May, vast fields of rapeseed were in yellow blossom from horizon to horizon.

From Salisbury, we headed southeast toward the Jurassic Coast, where people still find fossils on the beach. On a delightfully twisting route, we stopped to see the Cerne Abbas Giant, a 180-foot-tall figure carved into the chalk hills. In the village we felt the sadness of a small community mourning the death of its vicar's young daughter in a car crash. At the coast we walked Chesil Bank, an 18-mile beach of pebbles, 660 feet wide and 15



feet high. On the landward side, it is bordered by both lagoons and sheer cliffs, at the top of which are farms and pastures.

Our next three-day stop was in Okehampton, a market town in the beautiful and varied county of Devon. Okehampton offered a view into the lives of people who work at something other than the tourist industry. It sits on the northern edge of Dartmoor, site of the Hound of the Baskervilles, with high, barren landscapes, nary a tree, and vast flocks of sheep grazing the land.

Despite their narrowness, Dartmoor's roads are perfect for driving, undulating and sweeping through the stark landscape, with little traffic because so few people live in this vast upland. You can see for miles, with only sheep to keep you company. Being there in lambing season, we found many opportunities to say, "Oh, isn't that cute!"

Excursions from Okehampton also took us to Cornwall, Tintagel Castle on the Celtic Sea, and the magnificent North Devon Coast's Victorian holiday towns such as Ilfracombe and Lynton, with its water-powered funicular.

Our first three nights in Wales were spent in Brecon, near the Brecon Beacons, a mountainous national park that includes abandoned mines and tiny villages. A center of social life in the town, the Castle Hotel, brought



East Cliff at Bridport Harbour on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. This was the setting for the murder in the British TV series, *Broadchurch*.



Along Black Mountain Road in Brecon Beacons National Park, southern Wales. This is considered one of the best driving roads in Britain.



us into contact with local residents of all stripes. It also provided excellent meals and a very comfortable room. From there we explored the mountain roads and dipped down into Cardiff, the capital.

In Brecon, as in Salisbury and later in Oxford, we stopped in the local church for evensong. We were astonished at the quality of singing, especially in Brecon, where we happened upon the annual convention of church choirs, so we heard some of the best in Britain.

Driving to Betws-y-Coed in northern Wales was a trip of unforgettable magnificence in clear, sunny weather over wide, fast roads rising into Snowdonia and 3500-foot Mt. Snowdon. We ventured to the peak on a Victorian-era cog railway that took 45 minutes for the four-mile climb. Views from the top were awe-inspiring, as were the 45MPH winds and the 39-degree temperature. Weather did not, however, seem to deter the more intrepid British visitors from walking their way up, or down, or both.

(Betws-y-Coed means “small church in the woods.” But, how to pronounce it? Welsh is spoken by a small part of the Welsh population but is widely used for place names. The Welsh W is both a consonant and a vowel. So, the town’s name is pronounced —roughly — Bettoo Sikoid. The things you learn when you travel!!)

At 150,000 population, Oxford was the largest place we stayed. The intellectual fervor of the 38 colleges and the youthful energy of the scholars were palpable. We splurged on a luxury hotel with an excellent restaurant and a very capable bartender — finally getting the martinis we had craved for nearly two weeks. A final day trip took us to lovely Cotswold stone villages and one of the most enjoyable gardens we have ever visited, at Hidcote in Gloucestershire, a fittingly bucolic end to our two weeks in the countryside.





All photos in the following Photo Spread taken by Albert Podell

# COMMON GROUND

BY  ALBERT PODELL - NEW YORK METRO

After visiting every one of the 196 nations on our pale blue dot, plus several dozen colonies, territories, trusteeships, dependencies, principalities, condominiums, and tridominiums -- look it up! -- I've concluded that we are all very much alike under the skin, and that there are many traits and preferences that people around the world share, from the sophisticates in the most modern cities to the "savages" on remote atolls and tropical jungles.

I find the following to be what almost everyone on this planet shares.

- We all love our children and want them to be safe, healthy, happy, and successful. (Although if they are girls in a certain six or seven countries, perhaps not so much.)
- We would like our children to have easier and more comfortable lives than we do.
- We want food and water that is safe to ingest and that will not convey diseases.
- Most people like to eat some form of protein with their meals, if they can afford it. But each culture believes that its way of preparing food is the best.
- We would all ideally like to live in houses, huts, or apartments where the ambient room temperature is between 65 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. (But this is a problem: Supplying the heat in cold climates leads to the burning of wood and fossil fuels and promotes global warming, while the need for AC and refrigerators in hot climes results in the overuse of hydrofluorcarbons, which wreak havoc on the atmosphere.)

- We all want a world at peace and without the constant threat of nuclear annihilation -- as long as we can still climb over the neighboring hills once in a while to steal a few pigs or brides from the ancient-enemy tribe in the next valley.
- Most people want grandchildren.
- We all want some form of social security, to know that our lives will not be destroyed or our families impoverished by the next illness, earthquake, flood, drought, cyclone, tsunami, or relentlessly rising tide.
- Few of us have much personal animosity toward the citizens of other nations. Few Iranians or North Koreans wish death to Americans when they meet them and talk face to face, and vice versa.
- Amazingly, and no matter how cut off from other societies, almost every culture believes in an Almighty and worships Him or Her, some more actively and frequently than others. (Whether they are all the same God, and whether that God prefers one way of being worshipped over another, or has a favorite religion, is far beyond the scope of this article.) But every society, going back millennia, has, in the face of the vagaries of Nature and the vicissitudes of life, developed some form of seeking protection or understanding from a higher power.)
- We all prefer to be governed and served by people who are not corrupt, stupid, or overly self-serving.

Despite all these major similarities, foreign folks are also fascinatingly different and endlessly remarkable -- and even well worth a visit.

*(Albert Podell is the author of the international best-seller, Around the World in 50 Years: My Adventure to Every Country on Earth.)*





Eastern Europe



# PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD



Sub-Sahara Africa



Mumbai



Caucasus



South Pacific



Burkina Faso





Japan



Yemen



Principe Island



New Guinea



Uzbekistan



# chapter highlights

## CHICAGO



Membership Vice President, Jeneane Blom, presented membership certificates to Patricia Young and Ralph Segal at their May meeting.

## NAPLES



The Naples Chapter welcomed five new members at their luncheon on March 12, 2017 at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Guest speaker and member Albert Podell from New York gave a presentation on the 196 countries he visited over 50 years.

## PACIFIC-NORTHWEST



Chapter President Charles Stotts with new members Jim and Caroline Farrell.

The Pacific-Northwest Chapter gathered for lunch at the Pearl Bar and Dining in Bellevue, WA on Saturday, April 22. ☪ Jim Foster presented a brief description of his Magellan Project, where he hopes to replicate Ferdinand's circumnavigation 500 years later. New members Jim and Caroline Farrell of Bellevue were also introduced and presented with their membership certificates.

## WASHINGTON DC

The Washington DC Chapter enjoyed a Chinese New Year lunch at Grace's Mandarin Restaurant at National Harbor in Maryland. New Member Ernest Weiss was welcomed to the Chapter.

## PALM BEACH



Chapter President Paulette Cooper Noble with ☪ Albert Podell

On March 19, 2017 the Palm Beach Chapter held their annual luncheon at St. Andrews Club in Delray Beach. Guest speaker and member Albert Podell also visited the Palm Beach Chapter and gave a presentation on his book *Around the World in Fifty Years*.



Ernest Weiss receiving his membership certificate from Chapter President Kip Knudson.



# chapter highlights

## SINGAPORE



President Graham Bell held a Chapter lunch meeting where two founding members of the Chapter were present. (The Singapore Chapter was founded on March 12, 1964)

Mr. John Kirkham (Past President 1987/88) and seated on the right Dr. Richard Eu (Past President 1985/86) with current Singapore Chapter President Mr. Graham Bell.

## MIAMI



Chapter President Patricia Lodge with new members Dr. Cecelia Rokusek and Robert Petrik.

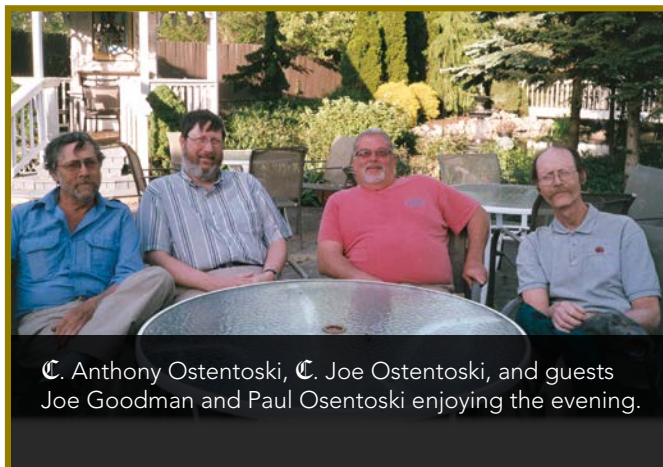
On March 19, 2017 the Miami Chapter held a luncheon with guest speaker and Circumnavigators Club member, Albert Podell at Francesco Restaurant in The Towers of Key Biscayne along with South Florida Explorers Club members.

## PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST



On June 16, 2017, **CS**. George and Kathleen Beebe gave a presentation on China to Pacific-Southwest Chapter members in La Jolla. They have made 12 circumnavigations together!

## MICHIGAN



**CS**. Anthony Ostentoski, **CS**. Joe Ostentoski, and guests Joe Goodman and Paul Osentoski enjoying the evening.

The Michigan Chapter held a dinner at the Royal Eagle Restaurant in Harper Woods, MI on May 18, 2017.

## DESERT

In March, Desert Chapter members met at the home of **CS**. Phyllis Heyliger and husband Stanley David Lode and were "bearish" to hear Dr. James McDonald present his photo narrative on the Spirit Bears of Hartley Bay, British Columbia, Canada--the only place in the world where these genetically recessive bears are found.



Stanley David Lode, speaker Dr. James McDonald, and **CS**. Phyllis Heyliger



# 115 YEARS & STILL GOING

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

### WALTER TYRIE STEVENS

BY C. HOWARD MATSON

*This new column will profile those leaders who built our Club and carried on the mission, "Through friendship, to leave this world a little better than we found it."*



Above you see Tyrie Stevens at extreme left and George Huntington, right. The in-betweens are also ex-preszoes: (L to R) Frank Smith, James Pond, Charles Richards and Stanley Wilson.

The second President of the Circumnavigators Club was Walter Tyrie Stevens who served from 1913-1914.

"W. Tyrie", as he was known, was born in Dunnville, Ontario, Canada, a small city along Lake Erie, about forty-five miles west of Buffalo, New York, December 11, 1867. His "school" education ended at the age of fourteen and he held a myriad of merchant clerk positions. By 1889, he was traveling to the West Indies and South America, representing American based exporters, where he became known for his compilation of Wright's Trade Directory for Latin American countries. Between 1895 and 1900, Walter made three circumnavigations, establishing contacts for his own export business, which he founded in 1905 in New York City. His first office was located at 72 Trinity Place. He formed a syndicate of manufacturers and travelled extensively on their and his behalf. Later he founded a trucking export firm in Long Island City that was the exclusive representative of Mack Trucks.

He soon expanded his company and established offices in Bombay, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

In 1922, he established the Canadian Bond Corporation, one of the first broker-dealers in bonds issued by the individual Canadian provinces. This office was located in New York City at 5 State Street. Coincidentally, this corporation included among its board of directors, Newton W. Gilbert and William E. Peck, the fifth and sixth presidents of The Circumnavigators Club!

Active in New York City business, social and club life, he and his family lived at 106 East 52nd Street in midtown Manhattan. In addition to the presidency of our club; he was a vice-president of The Canadian Club of New York, and active in the India House and the Asiatic Society.

He married Marie Claire, a native of Maryland, in 1898 and was widowed in 1913 when he was forty-six. His second marriage was to Anne Gilliard in 1915.

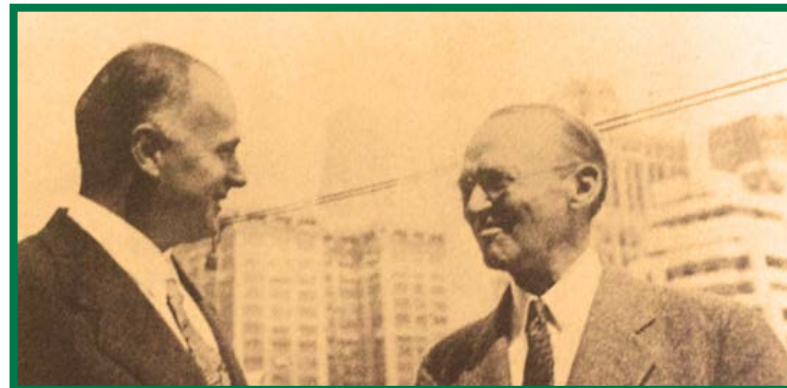
Walter had four children, Robert (born 1905), Walter, Jr. (born 1917), Mary (born 1918) and William (born 1921).

President Stevens was inaugurated at a dinner at the historic venue, Sherry's, in New York on Friday, March 20th, 1914. The guest speaker was Rear-Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee who was in command of the USS Maine when it was destroyed in Havana harbor. Admiral Sigsbee, although he had navigated over 300,000 nautical miles, voiced regret that he was not eligible for membership, not having circumnavigated in his 44 year naval career.

The inauguration of his successor, Thurlow Weed Barnes, March 26th, 1915, also at Sherry's in New York City, was reported in the following day's New York Times: "When The Circumnavigators Club began the installation of its new officers at a dinner at Sherry's last night, the orchestra struck up, "Tipperary." The air inspired generous applause. The musicians then started to play 'Die Wacht am Rhein,' but the first strains were marred by hisses from the Allied sympathizers.

By 1931 he was involved with policy making in Washington. Elected Vice-President of the American Exporters and Importers Association (our illustrious past President was a lobbyist), he and his associates passed an organizational resolution calling for a special department to be separate from the Department of Commerce regarding foreign trade. By 1933, as acting President of the Association, he was pushing for greater powers in tariffs and trade regulations to be in the hands of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

President Stevens died in New York City, at the home of his daughter (1215 Fifth Avenue), April 22, 1947. His New York Times obituary noted, "...he had an enormous circle of friends and was known in the financial district....as the dean of American exporters." He is buried in the family plot at Swallow Savannah Cemetery in Allendale, South Carolina.



Looking into the past - Incumbent President Huntington seeing eye-to-eye with the C. President of 30 years ago, Hon. W. Tyrie Stevens.



# 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](mailto: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, Kifissia

**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, Elmhurst, Northbrook, Winnetka

**MICHIGAN** - Detroit

**NEW MEXICO** - Albuquerque, El Prado

**NEW YORK** - New York

**PENNSYLVANIA** - Philadelphia

**SOUTH CAROLINA** - Hilton Head

**WASHINGTON DC**

**WASHINGTON** - Seattle



▲ President Ellen Parke visits with the Palm Beach Chapter at the Palm Beach Par Three Golf Course.

Michigan Chapter member, Joe Osentoski and his wife Lori joined Cs. Alexander and Mindy Sutherland in New York for wine tasting and sight seeing, including Lake Canadagwa.



Cs. Jim Foster and Stefan Krasowski from the Pacific-Northwest Chapter and C. Bruce Kropshot from the Naples Chapter were welcomed in New York at the Coffee House where members enjoyed a dinner and program with guest speaker Theodore Scull.

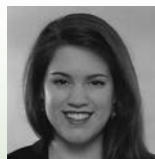




# WELCOME *aboard*s

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

## Catherine Althaus



Catherine is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. In 2013, she circumnavigated as the Chicago Chapter's Foundation Scholar. The following year, she graduated from Northwestern University and moved to Ecuador for 13 months to lead community development initiatives as a Program Director for Manna Project International. Catherine is back in Chicago now, working for buildOn, an NGO that empowers U.S. urban youth to transform their neighborhoods and the world through intensive community service. As a Trek Coordinator, she travels at least 26 weeks of the year leading treks to build schools throughout Africa, as well as in Nicaragua, Haiti, and Nepal. Catherine has joined the **Chicago Chapter**.

## Hilde Binford



Hilde is a resident of Bethlehem, PA, where she is an associate professor in the music department of Moravian College. She completed her circumnavigation through a Youth Seminar on World Religions in 1983. Hilde's interests include music, climate change and nature, and she has explored these passions around the world.

## Ghislaine Blomquist



Ghislaine, a native of France, has lived all over the world with her husband Bill, an executive with American Express Banks. Their four children were each born in a different country – Bahrain, Hong Kong, France, and Switzerland. They make their home in Naples, but also have a place in Paris. Ghislaine has joined the **Naples Chapter**.

## Reagan Burkholder



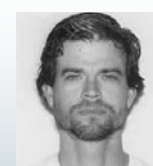
Reagan circumnavigated at the young age of 10, traveling with his family due to his father's duty with the US Air Force. He received degrees from Notre Dame and the University of Connecticut. Reagan is now a municipal consultant, following a long and distinguished career in city government in New Jersey. He and his wife Jennifer live in Summit, NJ and enjoy travel, cooking, and the performing arts. Reagan is a long-time member of the Rotary and initiated a program to provide winter coats to children of low-income families. He is a member of **New York Metro**.

## Jack Carlson



Jack completed his circumnavigation in 2015, stopping in South America, Australia, Asia and Europe. He has a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Oxford, and is a member of several clubs including the Explorers Club, the New York Athletic Club and the Royal Numismatic Society. Additionally, Jack is an accomplished rower who won a bronze medal at the 2015 World Championships. He joins **New York Metro**.

## Van Chappell



Van Chappell of Seattle, WA, a product manager and entrepreneur, has joined the **Pacific Northwest Chapter**. A former CEO and founder of a company, Van's circumnavigation came in 2008 when he took a year off work and traveled to many locations around the world. He has many stories to tell, including being deported from South Africa over a "minor passport issue" and being held up at gunpoint in Mozambique where most of his valuables were stolen. He hopes to travel extensively again when his three children are older.

## Victoria Donaldson



Victoria is a retired ESL teacher from New York and is currently living in Palm Beach, FL. Her 1973-74 circumnavigation began in New York and included stops in Australia, Southeast and East Asia and Europe. Victoria is a member of the Sailfish Club of Florida and her interests include scuba diving, croquet and tennis. She is a member of the **Palm Beach Chapter**.

## Charles Curtis Dunnavan



Splitting his time between residences in Minnesota and Boynton Beach, FL, Curt continues to travel extensively. During his career in the investment field, he managed 52 overseas trips for business and pleasure. He has a prominent collection of ancient Chinese art. He joins the **Palm Beach Chapter**.

## Mohamed El-Fouly



Dr. El-Fouly was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He pursued his education in Genetics at Bowling Green State University and the University of Michigan. He received fellowship training in Human Genetics at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. El-Fouly is currently in private practice in Brighton, Michigan in the field of pediatrics and the welfare of children. He enjoys gardening and is a member of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. He joins the Michigan Chapter. Dr. El-Fouly is married to Ann Swinford, also a member of the **Michigan Chapter** and recently elected to the Club's Board of Governors.

## David Ennis



David holds several Trustee/Advisory Positions with Monmouth University. He was awarded Alumni of the Year in 2008. Currently he is serving on the Agricultural Development Board in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He lives in Pittstown, NJ with his wife Nancy. They have a second home in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

## Nancy Ennis



Nancy is a retired teacher/librarian and an accomplished artist. She has received several honors and fellowships from St. Andrews University. She is the author of two publications and is a board member of the Women and Girl's Education International. Together with her husband David, Nancy has joined **New York Metro**.

## L. Caroline Farrell



Caroline is a graduate of the University of Washington who has had careers in travel and aerospace technical writing. She is retired from Boeing. She and her husband Jim live in Bellevue, WA. Her favorite hobby is playing classical piano music.

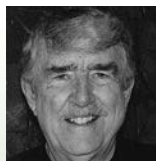




# WELCOME *aboard*s

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## James Farrell



Jim is retired as an accountant from the Boeing Company after a 32-year career, including two assignments at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. His last assignment was Corporate Headquarters Finance. He is involved with TELOS, a cultural enrichment program for retirees. He and Caroline join the **Pacific Northwest Chapter**.

## Lila Ford



A native of Athens, Greece, Lila came to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship to the University of Georgia. She pursued a career in the travel industry, allowing her to visit over 120 countries and owned a travel agency in Rochester, NY for 30 years. Lila is a member of Florida Women's International, Women of the 239 and Naples Council of World Affairs. She is a member of the **Naples Chapter**.

## James Foster



Jim is an adventurer, living in Anchorage, Alaska. He has extensive sailing experience and has traveled the world by air and sea. His mission is coordinating the Magellan Project, an ambitious plan to trace the circumnavigation of Magellan. More about this project can be found in this issue and more to come in the future. He joins the **Pacific Northwest Chapter**.

## Brian George



Brian earned his BA and JD from the University of Illinois. After a few years of working for an appellate judge and then in private practice, he moved to American Samoa, where he worked for an Associate Justice of the High Court of American Samoa. Once his clerkship there ended, he decided to take time to travel the world, completing his circumnavigation in May 2014. After a short time back in Chicago, he moved to Maine, where he now serves as clerk to a judge of the Maine District Court. Brian enjoys running (six marathons so far), surfing, reading, music, and has tried his hand at home-brewing beer.

## Mary Goldschmid



Now retired, Mary had an accomplished career as an economist with Exxon and as a professor at the College of Mount St. Vincent. She has been a member of several organizations, including the Council of Foreign Relations, Cosmopolitan Club and Riverdale Yacht Club. Mary divides her time between Naples and Riverdale, NY. She has joined the **Naples Chapter**.

## John Herrick



Although a pilot and veteran of the U.S. Air Force, John loves to travel by ship. He lives in New York City where he is a patron of the arts, particularly the theater. Former CEO of General Mills Canadian operations, he has a second residence in **West Palm Beach**. He will join New York Metro.

## Deanna Jones



Deanna is a retired flight attendant who lives in Scottsdale, AZ with her husband and fellow Circumnavigator, Thomas. Originally from Pennsylvania, she lived for 25 years in San Francisco before settling in Arizona. Deanna and Thomas were married in Okinawa and honeymooned in the Philippines—all during the Vietnam War. They continue to travel extensively, both in the U.S. and abroad.

## Thomas Jones



Tom spent over 25 years as an executive in the computer industry. Before entering the business world, he served six years of active duty in the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Captain. He received his bachelor's degree from the US Naval Academy and a masters from USC. Deanna and Tom love the outdoors and are avid golfers. They join the **Desert Chapter**.

## Stefan Krasowski



Stefan recently moved from Jersey City to Seattle, WA. He has an impressive resume of travel, having visited 189 countries. He lived in China for eight years and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. After working in international business development in the insurance industry, he now writes the travel blog Rapid Travel Chai ([rapidtravelchai.com](http://rapidtravelchai.com)) and he is a public speaker at national travel events. He has degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He joins the **Pacific-Northwest Chapter**.

## David Ladd



David is a retired senior management insurance executive. He was an officer of the Wyndemere Country Club and a member of committees at Champion for Learning. David and his wife Lynn now live in Naples, FL and enjoy seeing their family who live on both coasts.

## Lynn Ladd



Lynn is a retired social worker and has volunteered for several organizations, including the Wyndemere Country Club and Champions for Learning. Lynn and her husband David circumnavigated in 2016, which included a five-week cruise from Hong Kong to Athens. The Ladds join the **Naples Chapter**.

## Elizabeth Larsen



Elizabeth grew up in Iowa and in 2014 was the Chicago Chapter's Foundation Scholar from Northwestern University. Her research project, "Tackling Childhood Malnutrition: A global study of scaling up grassroots approaches to catalyze world progress," was presented on the website of the World Food Program. Elizabeth graduated in 2015 and now works as a consultant for McKinsey & Co. She joined the **Chicago Chapter**.





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## Christine Luscher



Christine, residing in Naples, Florida, joins the Club after working over 30 years in the import business and retail stores in Chicago. She is active in the Chamber of Commerce and Columbia Club of Chicago. She is a member of the **Naples Chapter**.

## Ronald Marks



Author of *Spying in America in the Post-9/11 World*, Robert lives in McLean VA. He is a 33-year veteran of the U.S. security community, having served as a CIA official, among other intelligence roles. He is also a member of the Cosmos Club, Explorers Club, and numerous national security associations. He joins the **Washington, DC Chapter**.

## Benjamin Miller



Benjamin (Biff) worked for the New York State government for 30 years and retired as Director of Personnel from the NYS Office of Mental Health. He and his wife, Ginna, divide their time between Naples, FL and Watch Hill, RI. They belong to organizations such as the Watch Hill Yacht Club and the Moorings Country Club.

## Virginia Miller



Ginna has been involved in organizations such as Literacy Volunteers, Girl Scouts and the Albany First Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Biff, enjoy traveling, boating and golf. They circumnavigated with National Geographic Expeditions in 2016. The Millers join the **Naples Chapter**.

## James Miner



Jim earned a BA at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and an MBA from Pepperdine. A career that began in sales led to heading worldwide marketing for two personal care companies. Jim is retired and lives in Charlottesville, VA with his wife Karen. He enjoys travel, photography, continuing education, and intercollegiate athletics at the University of Virginia. He joins our **Washington, DC Chapter**.

## Tan Chin Nam



Dr. Tan has had a distinguished career of 33 years in Singapore Public Service, holding key positions before completing his term as Permanent Secretary in 2007. He is a member of numerous clubs, including the Cricket Club and Tanglin Club, and is a recipient of Public Administration Medals. He joins the **Singapore Chapter**.

## Eric Oborski



Born in California, Eric has lived, worked and studied in many lands. He now splits his time between New York City and Lima Peru, continuing his work as a travel agent. He organizes Santa Goodwill Tours on which he takes Americans to foreign destinations where they dress up as Santa, bringing good cheer to the elderly and needy. One claim to fame, according to The Smithsonian Institution, he holds what could be the world's largest passport. More on this elsewhere in this issue. Eric has joined **New York Metro**.

## Catherine O'Connor



Catherine, a retired New York State employee, lives in Naples FL. She maintains a second residence in Woodbury, NY. She is active in church and civic organizations. Catherine enjoyed traveling with her late husband Gerald. She joins the **Naples Chapter**.

## Louise Ost



Born and raised in Chicago, Louise now lives in Naples, FL. She is a graduate of North Park College in Chicago. She and Larry, her husband of 49 years, have three children and nine grandchildren. They spend summers at their home in St. Charles, IL. Louise is a member of the Friends of Opera Naples and has traveled extensively, including to all seven continents.

## Lawrence Ost



Born and raised in New York, Larry moved to Chicago in 1961 when his father, a preacher and professor, took a job at North Park College. Larry got his degree from North Park and spent his career at Filtration Group, Inc, retiring as the CEO. He is an avid golfer. Larry and Louise are members of the **Naples Chapter**.

## Hywel Peterson



Hywel lives in Cardiff, Wales, where he is involved in charitable and sporting activities, including rugby, cricket, and horse racing. Hywel is a business management consultant and member of numerous professional and civic organizations. He joins the **UK Chapter**.

## Robert Petrik



Robert Petrik lives in Florida has the distinction of being #41 on the list of mosttraveledpeople.com and the 8th most travelled male in the United States. He served as first Honorary Consul of Slovakia in the State of Florida. Robert formerly served as head of international regulatory affairs for Pfizer Pharmaceutical in New York and serves on the board of several cultural organizations.





# WELCOME *aboard*s

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## Steven Plewes



Although Steven began as a professional musician, he decided in 1980 to pursue a career in the financial services industry. Since then he has served in many leadership positions and involvement in related organizations for which he has received several prestigious regional and national awards. Steven and his wife Jan live in St. Michaels, Maryland, their home for nearly 40 years. There, he enjoys his family and plays music both solo and in his band.

## Michael Puldy



Spending his college summers traveling solo overseas gave Michael many valuable insights when he later became a professional in the computer industry. There, he has worked in the aerospace, financial, retail and technology sectors. He has also served management roles in sales, collation design, service delivery and operations in the U.S. and overseas. In between times, he's a writer, photographer and traveler. Michael and his wife, Adrienne, live in Los Angeles. He joins the **Pacific Southwest Chapter**.

## Elizabeth Rider



Liz comes from a family of avid travelers and completed her own circumnavigation in January 2017. She has visited 53 countries so far and works at American Express Company headquarters in New York City. Liz is also a member of the Harvard Club of New York City and is a board member of the Harvard Business School Women's Association of New York. She has joined **New York Metro**. Liz's father Greg is President of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation.

## Cecilia Rokusek



Cecilia has had a distinguished career in higher education and is now the Assistant Dean for Research and Innovation at Nova Southeastern University. Like her husband, Robert Petrik, she has served as Slovak Honorary Consul in Florida. She and Robert live in Davie, FL and join the **Miami Chapter**.

## Laura Schramm



Laura lives in New York. Her training in business has taken her to financial institutions in London, Hong Kong and Chicago where she held posts related to such areas of expertise as risk management, financial services regulation and fixed income trading. Her outside interests include sailing, recreational bridge, skiing, snowboarding and travel that has taken her to 60 countries. She joins **New York Metro**.

## William Sedlack



After receiving B.A. degrees in Political Science and Literature at the University of Vermont, he entered the University of Maine, where he expects to receive his J.D. in 2019. Work experience includes being editor of the student newspaper, Vermont Cynic, teaching high school English and serving as a member of Americorps. He is especially interested in education policy and law, the future of unions and information privacy.

## Ralph Segel



With a degree from MIT and a PhD from Johns Hopkins, Ralph spent most of his career as a physics professor at Northwestern where he is now Professor Emeritus. He has written more than 100 articles in scientific journals and has received many honors for his work. Ralph's late wife, Esther Sprenkel, was a member of the Club. He joins the **Chicago Chapter**.

## Rick Shaver



Rick is CEO and owner of a marketing services company with 140 employees based in Toronto and three U.S. offices. In school, he was Captain of the McGill University Football team and a member of the University of Alberta National Championship Football Team. He was inspired to travel by his Grandmother, a well-known artist and world traveler. Aside from his interest in travel (116 countries) is that of running marathons. Rick and his wife, Jane, live in Mississauga, Ontario.

## Gavin Shaw



A professional pilot, Gavin, among his other assignments, captains the jet that takes National Geographic guests around the world. Read more about this endeavor in this issue of The LOG. Living in Scotland, he joins the **UK Chapter**. Gavin loves the outdoors, engaging in hillwalking, skiing, and scuba diving. He is involved in the mountain rescue community.

## Kerstin Trone



A native of Sweden, Kerstin has traveled extensively over the years through her work for the United Nations Population Fund. She circumnavigated in 1977 and in 1979 and has visited over 100 countries. Kerstin now lives in Naples, where she has actively participated in Planned Parenthood of Florida and the Collier County Democratic Club. She has joined the **Naples Chapter**.

## James Wade



James is a retired AT & T engineer, now living in Naples, FL. During his business career, he had assignments in Iran and Saudi Arabia. Born in Alexandria, VA, he has a second home in Leesburg VA. He joins the **Naples Chapter**.

## James R. Wadsworth



Jim Wadsworth of Pacific Palisades, CA, a retired real estate developer and investment banker, has become a member of the **Pacific Southwest Chapter**. He is a former president of the Bel-Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades. He and his wife, Kay, retired headmaster of the Calvary Christian School of Pacific Palisades, enjoy three or four international trips annually and numerous domestic trips to visit their three children and seven grandchildren.





# WELCOME *aboard*s

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

## Christopher Wasson



An attorney living in Ohio, Chris has traveled the world extensively, beginning as a child living with his parents in Germany. A graduate of Kenyon College, he spent a year studying in England.

He now travels with his wife and they are about to embark on a trip with their two teenage children, with the hope of giving them the "travel bug." He joins the **Chicago Chapter**.

## Ernest Weiss



Ernest Weiss of Westminster, Maryland is an attorney involved in a number of legal organizations. He enjoys travel and the fine arts, as well as collecting fine art.

He circumnavigated in 2014, visiting Australia, Abu Dhabi, Frankfurt, and Venice.

## Allan Wesler



Allan is an archaeologist who has published "Images Encyclopedia" and "The Story that Changed the World." He circumnavigated in the early 1990s visiting Mexico City, Hong Kong,

Tel Aviv and London. Allan has been a member of several organizations, including the Pipe Fabricators Association, the American Anthropology Association and the Archaeological Institution of America. He has joined the **Miami Chapter**.

## John Wharton



John Terence (Terry) Wharton, a retired chemical engineer who has circumnavigated three times, has joined the **Washington DC Chapter**. His first round-the-world trip in 1999 lasted a year. He is an active skier and sailor and a

leader in a local wine and cheese club. A member of the Travelers Century Club, he was born in Heanor, England, worked in various engineering and environmental quality jobs in the U.S. and traveled extensively during his career and after retirement in 1996.

## John R. Whitmore



John R. Whitmore of Washington, DC, retired president and CEO of the Bessemer Trust Company of New York, has joined the **Washington DC Chapter**. In Washington, he has been a board member of the

Washington National Symphony. He and his wife, Suzanne, spend summers at their second home in Jackson, WY, where he has served on the board of the Grand Teton Music Festival. His hobbies include a study of Presidents of the U.S., international travel, boating and gardening.

## Suzanne S. Whitmore



Suzanne S. Whitmore of Washington, DC, a member of the **Washington DC Chapter**, along with her husband, John, has a love of history, travel and music. Formerly employed in human resources, she more recently is a former board

chair and member of the Board of Trustees of Hollins University in Roanoke, VA; a member of the board of trustees of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY; a member of board of trustees of the Miller Center in Charlottesville, VA, and a former regent of the George Washington Foundation in Fredericksburg, VA.

## Martha Wintermeyer



Martha Wintermeyer, who has joined the **Naples Chapter**, was at a loss after the death of her husband 25 years ago, so she began to explore the world. While volunteering to help provide dental work for school children in Honduras, she learned

the village was operating a kindergarten in a small room in a home. Today, a pre-school serving 50 children bears Martha's name in tribute to her dedicated work for the community. Next, she and friends built an eight-classroom high school, adding grades 7 through 12 with enrollment of about 500 children. She also took the Trans-Siberian railroad from Vladivostok to Irkutsk and in 2016 did her second world cruise.

## Kari J. Wright



Kari J. Wright of Ferndale, WA, a freelance travel writer and photographer who has won numerous awards, has joined the **Pacific Northwest Chapter**. Kari, who writes under her maiden name, Kari Bodnarchuk, became a travel writer and photographer after an 18-month trip around the world. A member of Servas, a homestay/peace organization, she stayed with about 38

families around the world. Her goal is to tell people about the world, share stories and ideas about other cultures and break down stereotypes. Her articles appear in national newspapers and magazines, including a biweekly column and regular features for the Boston Globe's Travel section, and she has written books on Rwanda and Kurdistan for a children's series on ethnic conflict. She has won four Lowell Thomas Awards and more than 20 awards from the Society of American Travel Writers.

## Harris Chan Weng Yip



Harris Chan Weng Yip is a Rear Admiral in the Singapore Navy, assigned to the Ministry of Defense. With an MBA from MIT, he has had a long and distinguished career with many honors, including the

prestigious Public Administration Medal presented to him by the President of the Republic of Singapore. He enjoys golf, cooking and traveling. He joins the **Singapore Chapter**.

## Patricia Young



Dr. Patricia Michelle Clary Young of Northbrook, IL, a retired internal medicine MD, has joined the **Chicago Chapter**. When Pat discovered she had a small gap in her travels between the Middle East and India that prevented her from saying she had

circumnavigated, she and her husband, Jim, booked a round-the-world trip in 2016. She became ill in China and had to be hospitalized, but returned home and filled out her application for membership! Before her retirement in 2016, she was medical director of St. Anthony's Occupational Medicine Clinic in Michigan City, IN, and an internist at Lake County Public Health Department in Waukegan, IL.

## Hifziye Zincir



Hifziye was born in Cyprus and moved to Washington, DC in 1973. She circumnavigated in 1974 and has traveled to over 190 countries and islands. She has lived in Indonesia, Turkey and England, and

currently divides her time between Washington DC, Fort Lauderdale, Turkey and Cyprus. Hifziye is a member of numerous organizations including Welcome to Washington International Club, Travelers Century Club and International Women of Istanbul. She has joined the **Naples Chapter**.





# FOUNDATION *news*

## OUR FOUNDATION SCHOLARS ARE ON THEIR WAY AROUND THE WORLD.

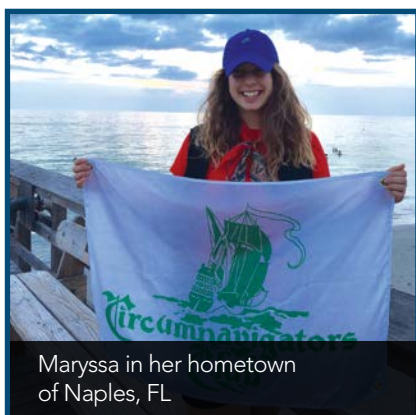
*Log onto their BLOGs and follow them along the way. We wish them the best of luck!*



**Cassidy Gasteiger**  
*Georgetown University*

Itinerary: Dominican Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia

BLOG: <https://statelessness-blog.wordpress.com/>



**Maryssa Pallis**  
*Florida Gulf Coast University*

Itinerary: Peru, Lithuania, Italy, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Singapore

BLOG: <https://maryssatradingplaces.wordpress.com/>



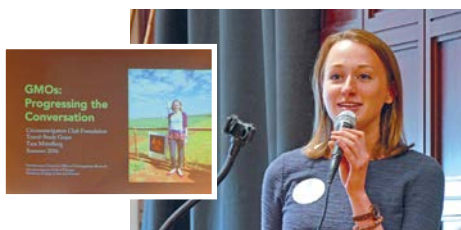
Margot with her host family in Kampala, Uganda

**Margot Zuckerman**  
*Northwestern University*

Itinerary: Uganda, Italy, Hungary, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Argentina

BLOG: <http://blog.undergradresearch.northwestern.edu/blog/margot/>

## 2016 Foundation Scholar Updates



◀ On May 17, 2017, Tara Mittelberg presented her 2016 travel-study research at the Koi Restaurant near the Northwestern campus in Evanston. Tara gave an entertaining and informative lecture on her trip and her food research. She concluded answering many interesting questions from the audience.

2016 Georgetown University Scholar, Ryan Sudo, with Foundation selection committee members Samuel Watson, Jim Whalen, and Ellen Parke; also Past Presidents of the Washington DC Chapter.



◀ 2016 Arizona State University Scholar Carlyn Harris, presented her travel-study research on April 21, 2017.



▲ ♪ Jaclyn Winship and her husband James of Michigan attended the May meeting in Evanston for the 2016 Scholar Presentation. Also enjoying the meal together are former secretary, Pat Smith, 2011 Foundation Scholar, Ben Shorofsky, and 2016 Foundation Scholar Tara Mittelberg.





## FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators:

Our current year's grantees, the three young women profiled in this edition, are off and running, undertaking journeys of a lifetime. Their experiences this summer and the research projects they pursue will have a life-long impact and, has been the case with so many of the 131 Foundation Scholars who have preceded them, will shape the course of their future academic and professional endeavors. While many Foundation Scholars have gone on to become leaders in their respective fields - from diplomacy and government to the arts, sciences, business, communications, and academia - all of them attribute their opportunities to learn and grow in an international framework to your largesse in providing the only truly global research grant in existence. Preparing to undertake around-the-world travel- study projects requires careful, detailed advance planning and considerable resourcefulness *en-route*. Please join me in following the progress of our soon-to-be fellow circumnavigators via their travel blogs as they experience the joys and challenges of making their research proposals a reality.

Luck to You!

Greg Rider



### *C. Anne Hughes*

distinguished Club member, passed away earlier this year. She served terms as an executive board member in the role of secretary, was a multi-time member of the Board of Governors, chaired numerous committees and served as a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. She also played a vital role as a contributing editor and proofreader of The LOG.

Anne was the quintessential Circumnavigator; circling the globe three times. She celebrated her 86th birthday aboard the Trans-Siberian Express!





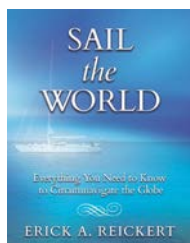
# SCUTTLEBUTT

☪. **Thomas Ambrose**, (Palm Beach Chapter) was recently advanced to Fellowship in the Explorers Club NYC in recognition of his earlier first ever historic helicopter exploration of the very remote Sierra Chiribiquete mountains in Colombia, South America. Even today no roads exist in this area located along the east side of the Andes some 250 miles southeast of Bogota.

Tom a geologist, carried EC Flags on expeditions to the geographic center of South America in Mato Grosso, Brazil (2011) and to Cuba (2013) to document the world-class Karst limestone topography across the island.

## Authors Among us...

☪. **Erik Reickert** (Palm Beach Chapter) has written a book *Sail the World*. It is subtitled *Everything You Need to Know to Circumnavigate the World*. The book describes his sailing adventures, including his circumnavigation by sailboat. Erik lays out the cruising risks, including dangerous weather and pirates. The book is available on Amazon.



☪. **Paulette Cooper Noble**, president of the Palm Beach Chapter, was recently honored in Orlando FL with a Distinguished Travel Literature Award, sponsored by the Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute. Paula has written 24 books, and has been a travel writer since 1968. Her articles have appeared in many major newspapers and magazines.

☪. **PJ Heyliger** (Desert Chapter) has illustrated and co-authored a series of children's books along with ☪. **Henri Van Bentum** from Canada. One book, *King Neptune's Jewels*, was described by one reviewer as a "fantastic" book. The other books in the trilogy



are *Nimbert and Tirwinking in the Enchanted Flower Garden* and *The Misadventures of Rexie the Damsel Fish*. They are available on Amazon.

☪. **Sylvia Booma Carroll** (Miami Chapter) has written a book, *This is Your Life, Achieving Success in the Wake of Tragedy*. It tells the story of the challenges faced when Sylvia's husband, a famous scientist, was tragically injured in a skiing accident. The book is available on Amazon.



Congratulations to ☪. **Amanda Hubbard Swenty** and her husband James who welcomed a baby boy, Ronan James in March. Amanda is a former officer of the Washington DC Chapter.

# OVER THE HORIZON

Robert Augustine, Bonita Springs, FL  
February 26, 2017

Raymond Bizzigotti, Surprise, AZ  
February 2, 2016

Eleanor Briggs, Chicago, IL  
April 29, 2017

Joseph D. Donahue, Naples, FL  
January 6, 2017

John H. Glenn, Jr., Columbus, OH  
December 8, 2016

Rolf M. Gunnar, Hinsdale, IL  
March 18, 2017

Anne M. Hughes, New York, NY  
January 2, 2017

Richard Kasperson, Chicago, IL  
May 9, 2017

Michael A. Nicolais, New York, NY  
November 7, 2016

Mary M. O'Connor, Milford, MI  
February 24, 2017

Bernice Pink, Evanston, IL  
December 28, 2016

James R. Smith, Hyde Park, NY  
October 6, 2016

Harry Tuyl, Middlebury, VT  
February 24, 2017



# PEOPLE PICTURES ARE NOT ALWAYS A SNAP



## ***THROUGH MY LENS***

*Tips from a travel photographer*

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

Photographing family and friends is a relatively easy project. Usually you'll have willing, cooperative subjects in a familiar environment. But photographing strangers in exotic settings can be much more of a challenge.

Most of the time you have a couple of options: stealth or request. To get away with a spontaneous shot you need to be quick and confident in yourself, your camera, the available light, and your environment. But candid shots can leave a lot to chance.

One of my favorite people shots is shown here: a group of coopers working in a distillery in South Africa. It looks staged but it wasn't. I snapped them curiously watching me, wondering what on earth could be interesting about their workplace. But I just loved their expressions, casual posture, and the telling environment.

Sometimes asking the subject's permission may be best. But beware: some may be affronted, made to feel like an oddity, while others may be offended because of cultural beliefs. But chances are most will be flattered.

If English fails, sign language is universal: pointing at the camera and giving a thumb's up usually will get you the nod. Offering cash is universal too and often brings on a smile, but this too risks offense. You have to gauge each situation. Always have a few local coins or small bills in your pocket, but never pull out a wad.

Beware of pickpockets wherever you are, but especially when visiting sites in crowds. It's easy to be intensely focused on that special shot and not notice

someone's hand lifting your wallet from your hip pocket or purse, or the rest of the gear you've just put down. It's happened to me!

Watch out for small crowds. In some remote locations and developing countries children may swarm around you, curious to see what you're up to. And with today's digital photography, everyone wants to see how your shot worked out and will pester you to retake it if they don't like it!

Don't ask anyone you don't know to take your photo, handing over your camera or even your cell phone. They may take off with it faster than your shutter speed.