



Friday, January 29, 2016 – 6:00 PM
At the Community Church Assembly Room, 40 East 35th Street, Manhattan

The History of Princess Cruises

by Allan Jordan



DAWN PRINCESS, ex-SITMAR FAIRWIND, on a rare visit to New York in September 1988, shortly after Princess Cruises purchased Sitmar Cruises as part of a major fleet expansion. (Bob Allen)

We start 2016 by welcoming back noted writer and historian Allan Jordan for an illustrated program recalling the events of the mid-1960s that led up to the founding of one of the most successful companies in the modern cruise business – Princess Cruises. While the birth of the modern cruise industry is closely associated with Miami, Los Angeles-based Princess Cruises is actually the first of the “new” cruise lines to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Far from the tropics, the tale begins in Seattle, Washington with the 1962 World’s Fair, the LIBERTE, the DOMINION MONARCH, and the aging coastal steamer turned cruise ship, YARMOUTH. We will hear how three years later with another coastal steamer, a visionary entrepreneur believed he could build a cruise business to Mexico despite the failure of several previous attempts. We will also hear how Princess Cruises got its name and now famous logo; about the line’s early ships, the PRINCESS PATRICIA, “PRINCESS” ITALIA and “PRINCESS” CARLA; and about the day they almost sent away the producers of “The Love Boat” because it was too much trouble. Despite many early setbacks and challenges, it all came together to create one of the most pioneering and revolutionary firms in the cruise industry.

Allan Jordan has been a guest lecturer aboard cruise ships, has authored numerous articles on the history and future of the cruise industry, and is a frequent contributor to Cruise Travel magazine and Cruise Business Review. He is also the author of the 40th anniversary history of NCL, and of Saluting the Aloha Spirit, which recalls the history of American Hawaii Cruises and the sister ships INDEPENDENCE and CONSTITUTION. Join us as Allan regales us with tales of the early days of cruising and how Princess Cruises pioneered cruising from California.

NEXT EVENTS: Membership Meetings: Friday, 2/26 - Cunard Line’s 175th Anniversary Celebration in Liverpool, by Bill Miller; Friday 3/18; Thursday, 4/21; Friday 5/20; Friday, 6/24; - Programs TBD; PONY group cruise on the QUEEN MARY 2, July 1-6

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MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



AZORES at Honfleur, France, June 12, 2015.

(Bob Allen)

MUSEUMS, LECTURES AND HARBOR CRUISES

CONTACT THESE INSTITUTIONS BY EMAIL OR PHONE FOR CURRENT EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org or 917-492-3379.

MYSTIC SEAPORT www.mysticseaport.org or 860-572-0711.

VANCOUVER WSS & VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM www.worldshipsocietyvan.ca for information or if you visit, contact Glenn Smith: 604-684-1240, email glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca Per their website, monthly meetings have been eliminated for the foreseeable future.

NEW SOUTH WALES WSS: Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Complex in Lord Street, Roseville. Contact the branch at PO Box 215, Strathfield, New South Wales 2135, Australia for additional information.

THE NATIONAL LIBERTY SHIP MEMORIAL, INC. www.ssjeremiahobrien.org or liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org or 415-544-0100. 1275 Columbus Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133-1315.

PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP www.liberty-ship.com or 410-558-0164.

NEW YORK WATER TAXI, www.nywatertaxi.com or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises departing from both South Street Seaport Pier 17 and Pier 84 at West 44 Street. Hop on – hop off service throughout New York Harbor is offered as well. Contact via website or telephone for departure times and prices.

CIRCLE LINE DOWNTOWN, www.circlelinedowntown.com or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises on the ZEPHYR from April to December, and aboard New York Water Taxi from January to March, departing from Pier 17, South Street Seaport.

CIRCLE LINE, www.circleline42.com or 877-731-0064. Circle Manhattan and other harbor cruises, departing from pier 84 at West 44 Street.

NEW YORK WATERWAY, www.nywaterway.com or 800-533-3779. Trans-Hudson ferry service and special-event cruises.

THE NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM www.lighthousemuseum.org or 855-656-7469. Contact for schedule of cruises and events.

THE WORKING HARBOR COMMITTEE www.workingharbor.com or 212-757-1600. Cruises to both remote and well-travelled parts of New York Harbor - the Hudson River to view tugboat races, Gowanus Bay and Erie Basin in Brooklyn, and a circumnavigation of Staten Island.

THE NOBLE MARITIME COLLECTION, www.noblemaritime.org or 718-447-6490. Maritime lectures and art exhibits at the Sailor's Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island, NY.

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER www.lsc.org or 201-200-1000. The center, located in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ, has just opened a new exhibit, "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition," which will run until May 30, 2016. The exhibit focuses on the dramatic stories of the TITANIC's passengers.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SHIP	FROM	TO	VOYAGE	PASSENGER(S)	DATE
SEABOURN ODYSSEY	Ft. Lauderdale	Ft. Lauderdale	Caribbean Cruise	Tom Cassidy	10/15
NORWEGIAN ESCAPE	Miami	Miami	Inaugural "Nowhere"	Tom Cassidy	11/15
QUEEN MARY 2	Southampton	New York	Transatlantic	Alan Yorker	01/16

SHIP'S LOG – DECEMBER

HO, HO, HO and a bottle of wine! Saturday, December 5 was the date chosen for our holiday party, and the location was a cozy but dark establishment called The Winebar, in the east Village. Early arrivals took advantage of the outdoor tables and chairs to enjoy the beautiful, sunny, spring-like weather before going inside. The room was just the right size to accommodate the 50 or so attendees at several rows of narrow, facing, elevated tables and barstools. The walls were lined with cabinets of the namesake drink, but also available were beer and other alcoholic refreshments, and soft drinks. Accompanying the liquids was a steady stream of tapas – croquettes, cheese, bread, charcuteries (you know – deli), pizza and more.

With Ted Scull acting as cruise director in the absence of chairman Marjorieann Matuszek, we saw three liner films dating from the 1960's and 1970's, introduced respectively by Greg Fitzgerald and Doug Newman. We cast off with a voyage from Southampton to Cape Town on the r.m.s TRANSVAAL CASTLE, preceded by Ted's introduction about his own Union-Castle experiences. Following this was a cruise on the SEA PRINCESS, from the point of view of a cat that was left home while its humans had all the shipboard fun. But the cat was with them in spirit, white outlines indicating the mischief it was causing aboard. Me-ouch! Last and most interesting was a trans-Atlantic voyage on the FRANCE, made in the early 1970's and illustrating the last days of the French Line's trans-Atlantic service. We were take all over the vessel from bridge to engine room, given every relevant statistic and introduced to various personnel from the captain to the baker.

We thank Marjorieann Matuszek for suggesting the venue; Ted, Greg and Doug for providing the entertainment, and the friendly and helpful Winebar staff, who valiantly kept the food coming even during the films.

And so, a happy new year to all!

Marge Dovman

2016 PONY BRANCH CRUISE – JULY 4TH WEEKEND ON THE NEWLY RENOVATED QUEEN MARY 2

Join us on Friday, July 1st for a five-night holiday weekend cruise to Halifax and Boston aboard Cunard Line's flagship QUEEN MARY 2. The QUEEN MARY 2 is the largest transatlantic liner ever to sail and many regard her as the grandest of all time. Cunard's service and cuisine are legendary. This will be the first voyage from New York following the extensive refit of the ship's Deck 7 dining venues and lounges, the replacement of the Todd English restaurant with the Verandah, the addition of new balcony cabins on Deck 13 and new single occupancy cabins on Decks 2 and 3.

Halifax is a favorite port of call for maritime historians and enthusiasts. Samuel Cunard was born here and Cunard Line has always been an integral part of the city. You can explore the city on your own, visit the acclaimed Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, or join one of several shore excursions to places such as Peggy's Cove and Grand Pre National Historic Site. Boston's Freedom Trail, Public Gardens, and nearby Revolutionary War sites beckon and we'll be in port for the spectacular July 4th fireworks display. There will be a party for members on board. Watch for news about a special program.

See the enclosed flyer for details, and make your reservations soon for this wonderful summer cruise on the great QUEEN MARY 2 before it's too late! To reserve your cabin or for more information, please contact **Brad Hatry at Pisa Brothers Travel** at 212.265.8420 ext. 222; 800.729.7472 ext. 222; fax 212.265.8753; or email: brad@pisabrothers.com



Join fellow PONY members on a group cruise on the great QUEEN MARY 2 this summer!

(Cunard Line)

WHAT DAY IS TODAY?

You won't have to ask if you buy a WSS PONY 2016 Anniversary Calendar! Featuring 13 stunning ship photos from our own superb maritime photographers, this calendar can be yours for only \$10, or \$15 for two, while the supply lasts. Pick one up at a membership meeting, or request one by email: WSSPONY@gmail.com.

WORLD SHIP SOCIETY–PORT OF NEW YORK BRANCH



2016 CALENDAR

Don't sail into 2016 without a beautiful WSS – PONY calendar! The cover features Paul Klee's magnificent photo of the QE2 arriving in New York in June 1970.

SHIP NEWS

LE BOREAL EVACUATED: In what has been an unlucky streak for small luxury lines, French operator Compagnie du Ponant had to evacuate their elegant “mega-yacht” LE BOREAL in November. An engine room fire disabled the deluxe 11,000-ton vessel off the coast of the Falkland Islands, as she began to drift dangerously close towards the rocky coast. All 347 passengers and crew were evacuated; some were airlifted by Royal Air Force Sea King rescue helicopters, others by lifeboat to the Royal Navy patrol vessel HMS CLYDE, and still more to Ponant fleet mate L'AUSTRAL which was also cruising nearby. The crippled LE BOREAL was towed to a shipyard in Punta Arenas, Chile for repairs.



Ponant's elegant “mega-yacht” LE BOREAL was evacuated near the Falkland Islands in November.

(Philip Plisson / Ponant Cruises)

PRIDE ON THE ROCKS: Windstar Cruises' STAR PRIDE grounded off Isla de Colba, Panama, during a late December cruise. Inspections revealed that the 9,975-ton luxury vessels sustained some hull damage, and Windstar diverted sister ship STAR BREEZE to the scene to evacuate passengers to Golfito, Costa Rica. Paul Gauguin Cruises' TERE MOANA also assisted with the evacuation. Passengers were then transferred to San Jose, Costa Rica where they were given the option of continuing their vacation or returning home. All passengers were given a 100% refund, and a free future cruise. The 212-passenger STAR PRIDE was built in 1988 as SEABOURN PRIDE, and recently became part of the Windstar fleet. The vessel was subsequently refloated and towed to Balboa, Panama for repairs, and it was announced that a few cruises would be cancelled. However, damage was more extensive than originally thought, and STAR PRIDE will be out of commission for until early April.



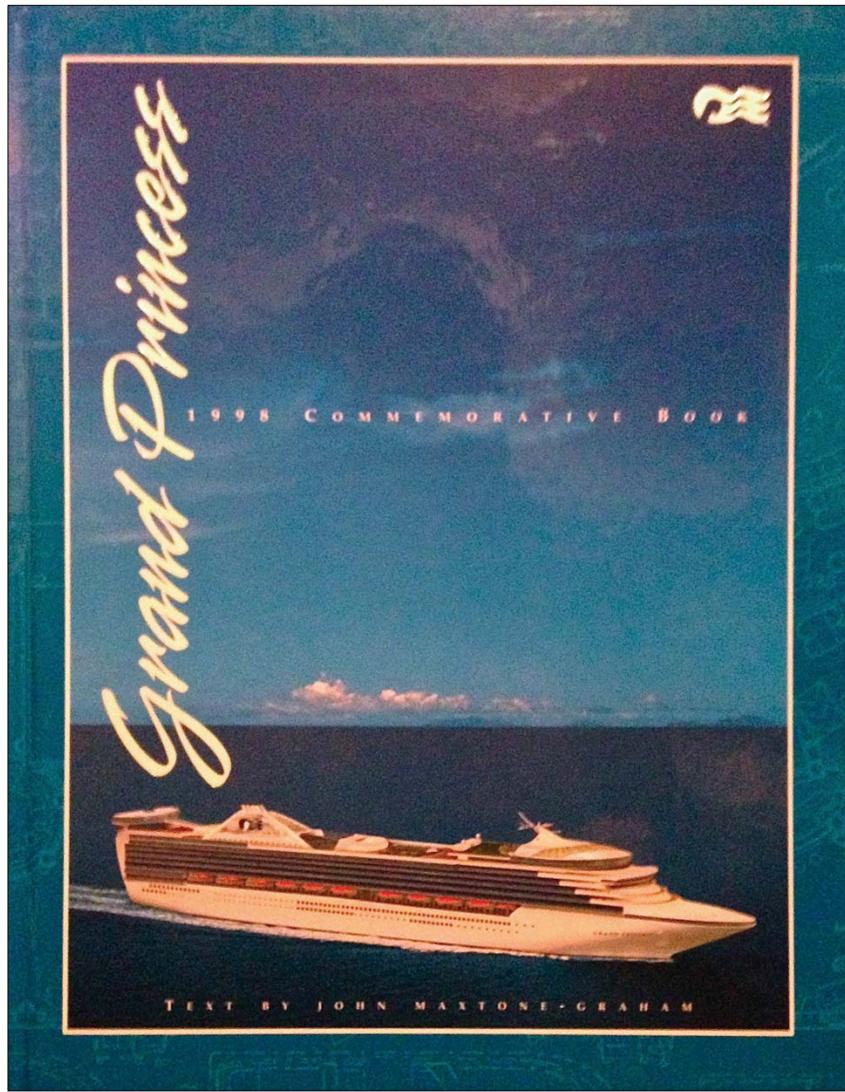
Windstar Cruises' STAR PRIDE ran aground near Isla de Colba, Panama, causing extensive damage to the luxury vessel. (Windstar Cruises)

GENTING TO OWN SHIPBUILDER: Genting Hong Kong, the Chinese resort and casino developer that recently acquired Crystal Cruises, will soon purchase German shipbuilding and repair company Lloyd Werft. At the time of the Crystal purchase, Genting also gained control of 70% of Lloyd Werft, with whom they contracted to build three 100,000-ton luxury vessels for the line. Included in the deal was an option to buy the remaining 30% of Lloyd Werft, which will be exercised in 2016.

CARNIVAL EXPANSION CONTINUES: Carnival Corp has announced fleet assignments and details for four of the five newbuilds that are part of an agreement reached last March with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri. Three vessels will be of 133,500-tons with a 4,200-passenger capacity, and will be based on the CARNIVAL BREEZE / COSTA DIADEMA platform. Two will be assigned to Costa Asia, and one to P&O Australia. The P&O vessel will have nearly twice the capacity of their largest vessel, indicating the continuing strong growth in the Australian cruise market. The fourth vessel will be a 143,700-ton sister ship to ROYAL PRINCESS, REGAL PRINCESS and MAJESTIC PRINCESS. The massive expansion program announced last March also includes four 180,000-ton, 6,600-passenger vessels from German shipbuilder Meyer Werft, two of which will be for Costa Cruises and two for Aida Cruises. Most of these new ships will come on line between 2019 and 2020.



P&O Cruises Australia's first newly built ship will be based on Carnival's 133,500-ton CARNIVAL BREEZE platform. (Carnival Cruises)



Princess Cruises memorabilia through the years: John Maxtone-Graham's 1998 commemorative book for the launch of the GRAND PRINCESS (top); a 1973 postcard of the new ISLAND PRINCESS (below). On the back, the sender wrote: "This is the most beautiful ship I have ever been on – spacious state rooms. I am going on it 8 more times." (Bob Allen collection)

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