

JANUARY, 2017 VOLUME XXXIV, # 1

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE AT 50: TALES OF THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN CRUISE INDUSTRY by Allan E. Jordan

Friday, January 27, 2017 – 6:00 PM
At the Community Church Assembly Room, 40 East 35th Street, Manhattan

In December 2016, Norwegian Cruise Line marked the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the MS SUNWARD, originally built as a vehicle ferry with comfortable overnight accommodations, in Miami.

Writer and historian Allan Jordan will start our year off by recalling the events leading up to the SUNWARD's arrival and discussing how its success provided an impetus for the building of the modern port of Miami. He will profile the famous "White Ships" of NCL—the STARWARD, SKYWARD and SOUTHWARD—and cover NCL's daring purchase of the liner s.s. FRANCE for its greatly acclaimed conversion into the cruise ship s.s. NORWAY.

The story of NCL is one of triumph and tragedy. Many of the "firsts" introduced by NCL reshaped the cruising experience and later became industry standards. Allan will regale us with tales about the numerous challenges NCL faced that nearly lead to the death of the company before its rebirth in the new millennium under the revolutionary moniker "Freestyle Cruising."

Allan Jordan is the author of numerous articles on the history and the future of the cruise industry. He is a frequent contributor to Cruise Travel magazine and Cruise Business Review. He is also the author of the history of NCL and of Saluting the Aloha Spirit, which recalls the history of American Hawaii Cruises and the sister ships INDEPENDENCE and CONSTITUTION. He has lectured aboard Royal Viking Line, Crystal Cruises, Princess Cruise Lines and Oceania Cruises.



A broadside view of the NORWAY, which as the rebuilt s.s. FRANCE was NCL's industry-changing ship. She was by far the world's largest cruise ship when NCL introduced her to the Caribbean cruise market in June 1980. (Allan E. Jordan)

NEXT EVENTS: Membership meetings: February 24 – Ben Lyons, "Navigating Through Ice"; March 31 – Bill Miller, "First Class Cargo - Combination Cargo-Passenger ships"; April 28; May 19; June 23. Group cruise on the QUEEN VICTORIA, July 1-7, 2017.

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THE PORTHOLE, published by the Port of New York Branch, World Ship Society, welcomes original material for publication. Address to the editor, Bob Allen, at oceanvoyag@aol.com or via the PONY mailing address.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Holland America Line's PRINSENDAM at Gibraltar.

(Karl Zimmermann)

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 212-748-8600.

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.ssjohnwbrown.org or 410-558-0646. Visit or sail on the World War II vintage Liberty Ship, based in Baltimore, MD. Contact for dates and more information.

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 718-390-0040 – **PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER!** Contact for schedule of cruises and other 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.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SHIP	FROM	TO	VOYAGE	PASSENGER(S)	DATE
QUEEN MARY 2	New York	New York	Caribbean Cruise	Richard Faber	11/16
QUEEN MARY 2	New York	Southampton	Transatlantic Crossing	Richard Faber	12/16
QUEEN MARY 2	Southampton	New York	Transatlantic Crossing	Richard Faber	12/16

QUEEN MARY 2	New York	New York	Caribbean Cruise	Milton & Karen Taube	12/16
OOSTERDAM	Tampa	Tampa	Caribbean Cruise	Don & Ann Eberle	12/16
QUEEN MARY 2	New York	Southampton	Transatlantic Crossing	Don & Ann Eberle	01/17

**WORLD SHIP SOCIETY, PORT OF NEW YORK
BRANCH RATIFICATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018**

Votes were tallied in late December for the election of officers of the World Ship Society, PONY Branch, for 2017-2018. Results of the election are indicated below. We wish to thank all of the members who voted in the election.

Total Votes Submitted = 102

Chairman	Marjorieann Matuszek	102	100%
Vice Chairman	David Hume	102	100%
Membership Secretary	Stuart Gewirtzman	102	100%
Branch Secretary	Doug Newman	102	100%
Treasurer	Greg Fitzgerald	102	100%

SHIP'S LOG – NOVEMBER 2016

Our Branch Secretary, Greg Fitzgerald, introduced our long-time member and travel writer Karl Zimmermann for our November program. An experienced traveler and devotee of the Holland America Line, Karl started sailing with Holland America in 1949. His first voyage, not well remembered, was a westbound crossing from Rotterdam to Hoboken on the NIEUW AMSTERDAM (1938) at age 6. In the years since Karl has traveled on Holland America many times, or on ships that they built but were later operated by other lines. His talk presented these voyages and the line's history since World War II through the lens of his and his family's travels. As the decades of travel were presented, we also became familiar with the Zimmermann family history. The program was illustrated with Karl's superb photography, as well as photos, postcards, and other memorabilia from Karl's collection.

Karl's better-remembered second voyage on HAL was in 1963 on the MAASDAM. Karl had the opportunity to take four more crossings on the MAASDAM in her later life as Polish Ocean Line's STEFAN BATORY. She operated from 1968 to 1986 between Gdynia, Poland and Montreal, Canada - one of the last surviving transatlantic liners. Much of her original Holland America décor, mixed with Polish design, remained on the STEFAN BATORY, giving her a warmth and unique charm until her final days.

Another former HAL liner that Karl sailed on was Paquet Cruises' RHAPSODY, formerly the STATENDAM of 1957. She was a highly popular liner modeled on the successful MAASDAM, with mostly Tourist Class accommodations; an intimate, deluxe First Class area was set on the ship's highest decks.

Alaska was a favorite place for the Zimmermanns to cruise, and Holland America was a leader in the growing Alaska market in the 1980's and 1990's. Karl visited the 49th state on the VOLENDAM, a rare HAL ship that was actually built first for another line. She started out as Moore-McCormack's BRAZIL, connecting New York with South American ports between 1958 and 1969. She was completely rebuilt as VOLENDAM and reintroduced by HAL in 1973, along with her sister ship VEENDAM (ex-ARGENTINA).

Karl's favorite Holland America liner was the magnificent ROTTERDAM (V) of 1959, on which he made several voyages. She was a vessel of tremendous style and elegance, and Karl pointed out that she retained her original artwork and furniture throughout her long career. Karl also sailed on her as REMBRANDT, after Premier Cruises purchased her in 1997. Following a thorough restoration to her original appearance as HAL's flagship, she opened to the public in 2008 at a berth in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where she is now a floating hotel, museum and convention center.

The Zimmermanns could also frequently be found cruising the balmy Caribbean Sea. Karl showed us a beautiful shot of a rainbow over St. Thomas, taken during a cruise on the 1984-built NOORDAM. After a 20-year career with HAL, NOORDAM has been a popular vessel in Thompson Holidays fleet for many years, now sailing as their THOMPSON CELEBRATION.

Another of Karl's favorites is the PRINSENDAM, ex-ROYAL VIKING SUN, completed in 1989 and part of the HAL fleet since 2000. Karl noted that as HAL's smallest ship, she has a loyal following and spends much of the year in Europe and on longer, luxurious voyages. She features an abundance of maritime artwork featuring HAL ships, by the brilliant Bermudian painter Stephen Card. Karl pointed out that Stephen's paintings grace the forward stair landings on most of the Holland America ships built since the 1990's.

Karl has cruised on some of the recent Vista-Class Holland America ships, introduced after 2000. He is fond of the EURODAM (2008), on board which he was thrilled to find a wrap-around promenade deck lined with wooden deck chairs. Karl's most recent HAL voyage concluded just days before his talk; he and his wife Laurel were passengers on the new KONINGS DAM's first transatlantic crossing from Rome to Ft. Lauderdale. Over 99,000 tons, she is Holland America's largest ship to date, an expanded Vista-Class vessel, with features from Cunard's QUEEN VICTORIA as well. Karl found many of the traditional HAL venues, such as the Ocean Bar and Explorer's Lounge exuded warmth and comfort, especially after the familiarity of a long ocean voyage. He and Laurel were impressed by the ship's multitude of creative artworks, many themed to the history and universality of music – several decks are even named for classical composers. The line's Dutch heritage was well represented by a new venue for HAL – the Royal Dutch Café, just off the main atrium. Karl reported that this was an enormously popular spot to grab a hot chocolate, Dutch beer or light meal throughout the day, and was routinely packed with convivial passengers by the end of the crossing. On the negative side, the ship has no library, just an area in the Crow's Nest Observation Lounge

with “10 books and some magazines on a shelf.” The Promenade Deck, while still wrap-around, is far too narrow for deckchairs (wooden or otherwise), and the life safety equipment obscures the ocean view for most of its length. Karl was dismayed that the lovely old Holland America funnel logo, featuring the HALF MOON superimposed on the NIEUW AMESTERDAM (1938), has been radically altered – and not for the better. The HALF MOON is gone, and the remaining ocean liner logo is so streamlined that it no longer resembles the grand old NIEUW AMSTERDAM. The KONINGS DAM is clearly geared to a younger generation, said Karl, with information readily available electronically, but scarce in printed form. And as impressive as the artwork on board is, Karl was very disappointed to find that those beautiful Stephen Card ocean liner paintings were conspicuously missing from the grand stairwells. Only two were commissioned for the new ship, and they are on a single bulkhead of the Crow’s Nest annex. One painting is of the new KONINGS DAM passing a waterfall, but the other, happily, is of Karl’s favorite - the legendary ROTTERDAM of 1959.

We thank Karl for a remarkable program filled with stunning photographs and delightful memories of decades of voyages on the great ships of the Holland America Line.

Marge Dovman and Bob Allen



Stephen Card’s painting of the ROTTERDAM at Rotterdam is in the Crow’s Nest annex aboard Holland America’s new cruise ship KONINGS DAM. (Bob Allen)

SHIP’S LOG – DECEMBER 2016

Holiday time again, which means party time, and the PONY Branch celebrated the season on December 10th, a chilly Saturday, when over 40 members and guests headed for the warmth and good cheer of Café Arte, an Italian restaurant on West 73rd Street. As neighborhood residents enjoyed their Italian lunch, we gathered at long tables in our own private room with a Christmas tree at one end. After a welcoming toast by David Hume, we proceeded with the high-decibel ship-related conversations while awaiting our food.

Ah, the food! The menus placed at each setting gave us a choice of five appetizers, five entrees and two desserts. Decisions, decisions. For an appetizer, we could choose among Caesar salad, meatballs, fried calamari, tomato crostini or “Daily Chef’s inspired soup.” That day the chef had been inspired to prepare pumpkin soup. And how to choose from chicken parmigiana, roasted salmon, gnocchi, rigatoni, or short ribs of beef? All tasted or at least looked delicious. And then there was either tiramisu or sorbet, plus the usual coffee or tea. Other beverages were available too, at one’s own expense. The serving staff was very friendly, very accommodating and quite efficient.

The surprise presentation promised on the invitation turned out to be two Italian Line films, provided by Doug Newman. The first, a rather short one, showed the construction and maiden voyage of the RAFFAELLO, while the other, longer one gave a more comprehensive picture of a crossing on the MICHELANGELO with emphasis on the food and drink and showed what strikes us now as the funny shipboard pastimes of the 1960’s. Commentary was in Italian, with no subtitles, but this was remedied by occasional translations by Mario di Stefano.

We thank our restaurant sleuth, Marjorieann Matuszek, for finding the venue, and we express our appreciation to the restaurant’s waitstaff. And your reporter is happy to find a hitherto unknown (to her) restaurant on the Upper West Side.

Marge Dovman

SHIP'S MAIL

Mr. Bob Allen
Editor, THE PORTHOLE
Port of New York Branch, World Ship Society
Re: THE PORTHOLE December 2016 Issue

Dear Mr. Allen,

A friend of mine, who is a member of The World Ship Society, forwarded me a copy of the December 2016 issue of THE PORTHOLE.

I was pleasantly surprised to see on Page 3 a picture of the SS Independence, showing the sunray burst.

Forty-eight years ago, in the spring of 1968, the owners of the SS Independence transformed the vessel into what was advertised by them as a "Fun Ship." The entire ship was renovated including a sunburst, super-graphic, with Jean Harlow's eyes painted in the sun.

A Newsweek article in May of that year, described it as the "S.S. Psychedelic."

The article went on: "To old-time ocean voyagers, the spectacle of the S.S. Independence steaming into New York Harbor, was scarcely to be believed. Fresh from the Maryland dockyard where she had been restyled inside and out, at a cost of \$3.5 million, the seventeen-year-old, 23,754-ton, American Export Isbrandtsten liner was emblazoned across 570 feet of her 683-foot hull with a psychedelic mural—an orange, yellow and raspberry sunburst out of which leered a huge pair of eyes."

The super-graphic was the very first of its kind to be painted on the side of any passenger ship—which has now become the norm.

Painted on both sides of the ship, if both graphics were placed, end-to-end, it would be nearly equal to the height of the Empire State Building. The design won an award from the prestigious DOMUS magazine, a design and graphic-oriented publication.

I'm proud to say that I was the designer of the super-graphic sunburst and was one of a three-man team that physically laid out the graphic on the side of the ship, which was then ready for painting. The entire process took over three months.

Back in 1968—before the advent of the personal computer—I produced 2D pencil drawings, by hand, which were used to do the layout.

With the introduction of the PC and present hi-quality rendering programs, I recently decided to recreate various 3D, photo-realistic renderings of the SS Independence from 2D plans, elevations, and many photographs I have in my possession, showing the actual super-graphic (to scale).

This 3D model took over 200 hours of work and involved many hours of research. Primarily, because the INDIY took on many structural changes in and before 1968.

My personal story of how it was accomplished is published on the website ssmaritime.com.

The direct link is: <http://www.ssmaritime.com/ss-independence-constitution-2.htm>

Some of my 3D renderings are available for purchase on EBAY.

Hope I've made the extraordinary voyage of the INDIY a bit more interesting.

Have a great day.

Sincerely,

Bill Chefalas



Bill Chefalas is a New York based architect who designed the stunning graphics applied to American Export Line's INDEPENDENCE during the spring of 1968. He recently created multiple computer-generated views of the legendary American liner with her psychedelic livery. (Bill Chefalas)

WSS PONY BRANCH PLANS CRUISE TO VENICE, ITALY IN 2017

The PONY WSS Branch's annual group cruise departs Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy on July 1, 2017. The itinerary is around the "boot" of Italy, calling at La Valletta, Malta and the Dalmatian coast ports of Kotor, Montenegro and Zadar, Croatia before arriving in the magical city of Venice one week later. We will sail on Cunard Line's elegant QUEEN VICTORIA, fresh from a multi-million dollar renovation. Contact Brad Hatry at Worldview Travel soon for the best stateroom selection. Brad@worldviewtravel.com, or 212-265-8420 or 800-729-7472, x 222.



QUEEN VICTORIA of 2007 is a perennial favorite of Cunard passengers. You can join WSS PONY on a cruise around Italy on this luxurious ship next summer. She is renowned for her superb service, ocean liner ambiance, and plush accommodations. (Cunard Line)



The elegance of the QUEEN VICTORIA is evident in these photos of her main lobby and one of the passageways. (Marjorieann Matuszek)

SHIP NEWS

NO MORE LEISURE: Britain's All Leisure Holidays Group ceased operating their three cruise brands in early January, citing "operational reasons." The three brands are Voyages of Discovery, which operated the 15,396-ton VOYAGER; Swan Hellenic, which operated the 12,892-ton MINERVA; and Hebridean Island Cruises, which operated the 2,112-ton HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS. All Leisure had over 7,000 passengers booked for 2017 cruises. Two smaller British cruise lines, CMV and Fred Olsen, offered displaced All Leisure passengers special discounts to encourage them to book substitute cruises. Fortunately, many passengers booked on All Leisure will benefit from travel insurance, which is strongly encouraged by UK based lines. Shortly after the failure of All Leisure, a group of investors led by Hebridean's majority shareholder Roger Allard purchased the HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS outright. She will return to service with a program of cruises in 2017, once renovations currently in progress are completed in early March.

OFFICERS

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 Branch Secretary: Doug Newman
 Membership Secretary: Stuart Gewirtzman
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* Past Chairman