



# .....KIWI TAILWINDS

A periodic newsletter to keep the Houston Kiwis in the know!

September, 2008



## "Wild" ABOUT KIWIS"



### THE 2008 KIWI CLUB NATIONAL CONVENTION - IT'S HISTORY!

Congratulations, Houston on a *wild* and wonderful Kiwi Convention in April that made both history and memories of a lifetime! The concluding report including the Evaluation Summary is available by contacting Sherri and has been sent to the Board via email. Thank you **Pat Donnell** for keeping the funds straight! A job beautifully done by all, with added kudos to our Art Director **Claudia Benson** whose vision and direction with our Steering Committee made the *wild* come alive in full color: Texas "wild," "wild" flowers, jungle "wild," and "wild" about Kiwis! Her tribute to Kiwis having "flown west" was an added gift, including to our own, the late **Patty Green Benson, Jean Cleveland Hovas** and **Pat Coffman Bothe**...And see **photo collage** that **Claudia** put together for us! (Photos by **Sharli's sis!** Thank you both!) The hearts and hands of 25 Houston Kiwis came together to welcome 207 Kiwis + 30 guests to the touted Woodlands Marriott/Waterway. Celebrations both at the hotel (when we also surprised Claudia for her birthday) and at Gaile's lovely home, made the perfect finales...**WILD ABOUT DONATING \$1000 TO WINGS FROM the TEXAS SHUFFLE, \$700 to Goodwill, \$1200 back to DAL Kiwis, and \$5,000 to PHL Chapter to get them started!** (We rec'd \$6,000 from SAN in '06). *From the heart,* your '08 Convention Chairs, **Gaile** and **Sherri**...

### SWAK (Sealed with a Kiwi Kiss) – AND ENCLOSURES!

**Kiwi Kalendar** (To post on your fridge) ~ **New Chapter Roster** ~ **National Dues Envelope** - \$50 national dues payable to **The Kiwi Club** - send to **Ann Muench** in envelope provided.

### A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE



Because the focus has been on convention over the course of several months, take a look back at the gatherings so many of you were able to join! It was great to see those who came, and those who could not were sincerely missed. WELCOME NEW KIWIS COMING IN SEPTEMBER! We look forward to extending our welcome!



#### DECEMBER:

**Back Street Café:** Convention plans, goodies, and the traditional Christmas Silly Santa Exchange were held.



#### JANUARY:

**Sharli Mathis Home and Hanger at Kitty Hawk.** Roma Landry and Linda Whittredge won prizes for coming the farthest to assemble and prepare the Convention registration packets for mailing to all Kiwis. BIG project but with many busy hands, the project was complete in a few hours. Tummies were filled, too! Bonus: Tour of Sharli and Mark's Hanger containing prized airplane collection – they are both pilots! Great start to New Year flying high!



#### FEBRUARY:

**Gaile Chiles Home:** Amidst a gourmet luncheon and wine (and more wine), Tex-Mex programs were assembled and tissue paper was cut for flower making. Sharli brought a life-sized stuffed gorilla to be used for a photo op on Banquet Night, "A Walk on the Wild Side." The walk had begun, more like a run! And so had the celebration!



### MARCH:

**Patty Crosby Home:** More work for Convention – Italian family style lunch complete with homemade lasagna in Patty’s lovely home! Long day of assembly, wrapping gifts for VIPS, and hauling! One month countdown... The Houston Kiwis -- ready for Convention with a bit of Irish luck – and blarney!



### MAY: CONVENTION WRAP-UP PARTY

**Gaile Chiles Home:** Throughout the 2 years of planning, Gaile’s home became Convention HDQ! The celebration was another “home cooked” luncheon plus vino, with a single engine Cookie Bouquet airplane/Kiwi cookie for each. Fun gifts and certificates of appreciation created by Ann were presented, and more by Sherri, Sharli and Sis Cheryl, and Gaile including a hilarious feather frame containing photo of the Kiwis in Boas Nice photos, Chery – thx! **Wild!**



### HOUSTON KIVI ELECTIONS



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**Honorary Kiwi – Patty Bothe Crosby**



### SUMMER BOARD MEETING

The new Houston Kiwi Board held a luncheon and meeting on July 2 in First Colony where plans and ideas came together in anticipation of the quieter coming Kiwi year following Convention. See the Kiwi Calendar. Congratulations to all and thank you for serving! Ideas? Do contact your eager officers!

### HONORARY KIVI:

**Patty Bothe Crosby** was elected as Honorary Member of the Houston Chapter. We welcome Patty, touched not only by her tireless work with and for The Kiwi Club through the Houston Chapter, but by a special presence of her greatly missed mother. Her Mom would be proud...and we are blessed.

### NEW MEMBERS:

**Helen Knezek Mattern.** A big, Texas, heartfelt welcome to Helen who has been on our email list for a long time and decided it was time to join us – just in time to help us finish our work for all the hoop-la of Convention. Helen graduated stew school in 1967 and is currently a Realtor in Fort Bend Co. A fun, delightful addition!

**Judy Minor Garner.** Another big, Texas, heartfelt welcome to Judy who was told by a colleague during another convention being hosted at the same time/place as the Kiwi Convention, that former AA Stewardesses and F/As were having a convention on site and to go find out more about it! She looks forward to joining us at our Kick Off in September!! We look forward to getting to know her!

**Just Faux You, Connie Sivits Lupo.** Color this new Kiwi – bright and wonderful, whose husband Steve just came home from Iraq in July! We celebrate with them, and celebrate Connie joining our Chapter! She is an accomplished faux painter and has her own business, so be sure to call her. She flew 1983 until 10/31/01.



And Safe Travels!

From Your Houston Kiwi Board and Newsletter Editor, *Sherri*