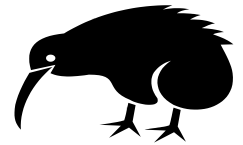


SUNCOAST JOURNAL



Florida Suncoast Chapter of the Kiwi Club - Chartered 2008
 We are a social and charitable organization of former and current flight attendants of American Airlines and former and current flight attendants of airlines acquired by or merged with American Airlines.



President - Sandy Barkel Pagden-Gribaudo
 Vice President - Nonnie Cameron Owens
 Secretary - Kathy Schmidt Kuzminski Treasurer - Ginny Marx Dougall
 Social - Bonnie Bogan Lindenberg

FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS!



Nonnie
 Betsy
 Ruth

Our lovely Kiwis model Razzle Dazzle fashions - left to right;
Marilyn Lowe, Ginny Marx Dougall, Betsy Henderson Howlett, Diane Smith Breitengross, Jane Finzer, Ruth Gault McConnell, Mary Stuckman Paulson Nonnie Cameron Owens

Wonderful weather, fantastic fashions, fabulous food, super socializing, and generous bidding for the bountiful theme baskets made for an exciting and fun-filled day!

We were thrilled to see some of our sister Kiwis from both the FL Gulf Coast and the FL South West Kiwi chapters. Big hugs all around for your support!

Our guests enjoyed checking out the numerous theme baskets...and placing bids for their favorites.

The Golfer's basket grabbed the highest bidder while the Fitness, Cook's and Wine & Cheese baskets were right behind. Twenty baskets in all...there was something for everyone.

Our lunch provided by Cypress Lake Country Club hit the spot and Razzle Dazzle owners, Ralph and Cathy Sangiovanni, had the crowd clapping and cheering as the models began the fashion show. I dare say a good time was had by all!



Florida Suncoast Chapter of the Kiwi Club



Mary



Jane



Diane



Marilyn



Ginny

Happy Travels.....come back soon!

Kathy & Steve Kuzminski will be leaving right after Thanksgiving for a three week cruise in the South Pacific. They'll stop at the Cook Islands, Bora Bora, Moorea, Tahiti and Marquesas Islands.

Karen & Bob Thomas will be going to Maryland to be with family...then on a cruise and then back to Maryland for Christmas. Whew!

Ginny and Jim Dougall are flying to Vancouver, Wa. on Dec 3 for the week to celebrate Jim's sister's 70th birthday.

Mary & Dick Paulson are heading to New York for several days in December.



Happy Birthday wishes to our
President **Sandy Barkel Pagden-Gribaudo.**
She'll be celebrating on December 19th. Have a good one!

*****SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR *****



**Marilyn Lowe will be our hostess on
Friday December 4, 2009
for a Christmas luncheon.
Details to follow...**

2010
January - Ginny Dougall
February - Diane Breitengross
February 27, 2010 - Interline Luncheon
March - Pat Specht
April - Betsy Howlett
April 29 - May 2, 2010 - Philadelphia Kiwi Convention
May - Bonnie Lindenberg



Please remember to save and bring to our meetings:

****Non-perishable food for CCMi FOOD PANTRY.**

****Greeting cards to be recycled for North Fort Myers LEAGUE FOR THE BLIND**

****Spare change for THE PIG**

****Clean, Gently worn clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children for
THE CLOTHES CLOSET.**

****The BOOT STRAP HOMELESS MINISTRY needs
empty & clean plastic containers suitable for leftover food. They also collect CORKS for the
homeless to use to make items to sell.**

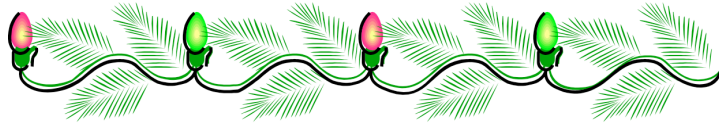
Until then stay safe and stay well!

Kathy Schmidt Kuzminski - Newsletter Editor

E-mail me with your latest news!

klk49@comcast.net





The Crystal Ball

A short memoir from Kathy

One of the many wonderful memories from my childhood is the fun we used to have every year decorating our home for Christmas. Lots of our holiday decorations were hand-made and my mom and dad usually had some fun new idea for a Christmas project. One year we made dozens of ornaments with hand-painted eggs. Another time we used pine cones and pipe cleaners to fashion little elves.

And we even used paper straws to make some very pretty decorations.

My parents really enjoyed dancing and one night they went to a ballroom that featured a rotating “crystal” ball. They got such a kick out of the multitude of sparkling lights emanating from the mirrored ball that my father decided we’d have one of those balls in our living room for a Christmas decoration.....and he’d make it himself.

First the challenge of how to attach a rubber ball to a motor that would rotate as it hung from the ceiling.
Next came what seemed to be the easy part...transforming the toy rubber ball into a “crystal” masterpiece.

After smashing a couple of mirrors into hundreds of pieces and experimenting with different types of glue, my dad began the tedious task of gluing each mirrored shard of glass onto the ball like a jigsaw puzzle.

Many, many hours later, the ball was finally covered and dad hung it up to finish drying.

The following morning he was dismayed to find the ball had deflated into a shriveled mess!

On another try he found the ball intact but all of the mirror pieces, still glued together, were on the floor.
Not one to be deterred, my father tried different size balls with different textures until he finally found the perfect ball and glue combination.

One night, a few days before Christmas, my father hung the finished ball from the ceiling in the middle of the living room. Then he shined a small spotlight on the rotating ball and voila! As the ball slowly turned, thousands of shimmering, dancing lights radiated all around the room.

It was the best Christmas decoration ever!

While my mother and the seven of us children marveled at dad’s handiwork, a fire was crackling in the fireplace, snow fell softly outside, and from the record player Bing Crosby was crooning,
“White Christmas.”

We laughed and giggled as we watched the tiny lights bouncing around the room and from face to face. After all these years I can still see the joyful sparkle in my mom’s and dad’s eyes as they danced together under the crystal ball.



Hope you will all take the time to check out the official Kiwi Club website.....because it changes frequently!

When visiting the National Kiwi Web Site, www.thekiwiclub.org

Remember a User name and Password are needed to read the chapter newsletters and certain other web pages.

User name = [kiwiclub](#) Password = [birds](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SANDY BARKEL PAGDEN-GRIBAUDO

Happy Holidays everyone!

I was sitting down, relaxing after our chapter had just completed our first fund-raiser and thinking how wonderful the Kiwi women are in this young chapter. I am also very fortunate to know kind, personable Kiwis from other chapters who offered their support by coming to our fund-raiser. To be surrounded by all of these gracious women is very humbling to me and I can only thank them from the bottom of my heart for being there for us. It meant so much to our chapter to have the "kiwi" support that only the "flight" bond can provide. I know that other, more seasoned chapters have done fund-raisers for many years and probably think nothing of it, but for us...this was our "first" and it was a big deal!

Everyone in our chapter was involved- there was the creative nature of each Kiwi that showed in the 20 different theme baskets sitting next to each other; the organization necessary to create a flow from registration, entree selection, selling drink tickets, to the fashion show and finally the auction results.

Of course, there are always the "little things" that we can learn from- but no one noticed anything amiss, except a keen "Kiwi" eye. The things learned from years of flying to apply to the next event.

As President, I am so proud of my Kiwi sisters- each one is unique in their own way- thank goodness! That makes our chapter special in so many ways; so many funny, happy Kiwis! When all is said and done, it was a great event; we had a great time with wonderful people; we are proud Kiwis!

Take a bow Florida Suncoast Kiwis!

Don't forget- save the date: Interline Luncheon- Saturday, February 27th, 2010 @ Collier's Reserve, starting at 11:00 a.m.

See you next month,
Sandy PG



Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!