

# Kiwi Kaleidoscope

The National Newsletter for Members of The Kiwi Club of American Airlines

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**SWEET, SWEET SAVANNAH!** The Kiwi team is working hard to bring you a wonderful three days in one of the most beautiful and oldest cities in America. They promise you a good time, seeing your sister (and brother) Kiwis, lots of laughs and lots of old memories and making new ones. The dates are April 23, 24, 25, 2024, so mark your calendars now. The DeSoto is our hotel situated in the historic district of Savannah. The DeSoto reigns as “Savannah’s favorite hotel” and has been around since 1890. Even though the hotel is “old” it mixes historic glass chandeliers with contemporary art (showcasing Savannah College of Art & Design). It is small so there is little walking, and the elevators have chairs in them! Need nourishment? The hotel has three restaurants and its own bourbon

bar that stocks 120 whiskeys. It’s pure Southern hospitality from beginning to end that everyone will enjoy.

What to do in Savannah? Boundless things to do-cemetery tour, ghost tour, city market, trolley tour, riverboat tour, walking tour, the list is endless. Don’t forget eating! A glass of wine at an outdoor café? Have a beer in an English pub? The choice is yours, and for convenience many restaurants are close to the hotel.

The DeSoto room cost is \$229.00 a night (convention rate). This includes a single or a double, wi-fi, coffee maker, and Sotherly amenities.

You can make your reservations **now** by going to [www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org). Under convention banner, then the hotel banner, you will find a direct link to hotel reservations. The **link is preferable** but if you must call, the number is **866-810-5325**. *You must tell reservations that you are with The Kiwi Club to receive the convention rate.*

## Convention Bits and Pieces-Silent Auction

It’s less than a year to convention 2024. Time to clean out those Kiwi or AA items you are ready pass on. A silent auction will direct your possessions to a new home and raise money for the Kiwi Fund (NKF) and WINGS. Since 2014 the silent auction has raised \$10,232.64! Please email a picture of the items you are either bringing or sending with another Kiwi to Cindi Sanders at ([cindisanderskiwi@gmail.com](mailto:cindisanderskiwi@gmail.com)).

## A Message from Your President



Greetings Kiwis,

Summer is just about here, and I realize a few chapters take a break from meeting during this time of year, but before you adjourn, please keep in mind our convention “Savannah Sojourn 2024.” The Convention Committee has great plans for your stay in the lovely city of Savannah, GA. I’m very pleased to see Kiwis who are new to the committee, offering to help to make the convention a success.

The Kiwi Club needs you! We have many members with talent, drive and dedication that can make a difference in this organization. I ask you to consider stepping up and serving on the National Board this next term. All positions are open (except President) with people to assist and support you while getting familiar and comfortable with the position. If I can do it, you can also! In closing, I ask you to think about these two subjects during your lovely summer months!

Best Regards,

*Stephanie McCauley Butler*

## AA Anniversary Event MIA

**Chris Strommer Moeckel**

**Traveling Uniform Coordinator**



On April 15<sup>th</sup> AA put together an “anniversary show” at the Miami Airport. The Kiwi Club traveling uniform collection provided four uniforms ranging from 1944 to 1948 to be worn by Flight Service staff. It was a great success as members circulated among the passengers and airport employees. The compliments are still coming in and we may be able to attract new members to the club. It was a great showcase the American Airlines history, heritage, and pride in a very direct way.



**Haka!** The baby boy Kiwi at the Columbus Zoo has a new renovated nocturnal home. There are no plans to match Haka with a gorgeous female Kiwi at this time. They are using this quiet time to study Haka’s habits and needs. If you, or your chapter would like to help support Haka with monetary contributions please contact Stephanie Johnson for further details:

[Stephanie.johnson@columbuszoo.org](mailto:Stephanie.johnson@columbuszoo.org)

## National Kiwi Disaster Relief

By Sam Gooch, Past President/Parliamentarian



The Kiwi Club National Board would like to announce the creation of the **National Kiwi Disaster Relief (NKDR)** to all our members. This need came about due to current members in good standing, finding themselves in need of assistance to make it through a situation that was beyond their control. This is an expansion of the National Kiwi Fund (NKF).

Our decision was made to be able to assist our membership when they have a disaster or catastrophic event. Following is a brief explanation of this newly developed assistance program and how we (Kiwis) will be able to assist our own. For example, the inability to live in their primary home due to a situation. The Kiwi in good standing will be able to reach out to The Kiwi Club National President through a form that will be on our website to give basic information regarding their life event. This could be fire, flooding, hurricane, tornado, etc. The Kiwi in need would give some basic information and then would be contacted by one of the four-member administrative board. Once the information has been received the four-member board would then evaluate the request and either approve the need for assistance, deny the requested based on the information given or request further information to fairly evaluate this request.



This will be a one-time assistance with a cap of \$3,500 that may be given.

The NKF/NKDR information and request form will be posted on The Kiwi Club website ([thekiwiclub.org](http://thekiwiclub.org)) under the "Business" tab at the top of the home page, then using the drop-down tab, click on "Forms". Under "Forms" find "National Kiwi Forms" and you will see that #1 as an explanation and #2 as a request form.

We will send out a message via Constant Contact along with this article in the [Kiwi Kaleidoscope](#) letting everyone know about this new expansion. Make sure that your current email address is up to date with your chapter president or secretary. If you are a MAL, please make sure that your email address is current with the National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

Again, just another way that Kiwis take care of their own.



## Seeking a Website Manager ([www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org))

By Jill Richey Rohan



Join our board and make an impact! We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity within our organization. Our website needs a new Website Manager to take charge and continue enhancing our online presence. Your primary responsibility would be to keep the website up to date with the latest information and announcements.

-No prior web development experience is required! Our website is built on the user-friendly WIX platform making it incredibly easy to learn and update.

-Basic computer skills are all you need to succeed in this role.

-You will receive guidance and support from me during the transition and beyond.

If you are interested in becoming our Website Manager and joining our national board, please contact me at: [kiwiwebhostess@gmail.com](mailto:kiwiwebhostess@gmail.com). The term for this position would start on May 1, 2024. And we will provide all the necessary resources to guide you through the transition process. Let's work together to strengthen our online presence and deliver a remarkable web experience to our club members!

### Did you fly MAC trips?

There is a project underway with the Smithsonian. Oral and written histories are being transcribed from veterans beyond WW 1. The project is interested in interviewing flight crews who flew **MAC** missions. If you are interested in sharing your experiences Google: **Veterans Oral History Project** for complete details.



LAURA BARYAK GALLAGHER-CAREFREE  
KATIE BUSH FANNING-GOLDEN GATE  
GEORGENE DAVIE CONNER-MAL  
LYNNE SOLTYS DAVIS-MAL  
PAMELA DUNHAM KUHN-MAL  
MARSHA DESANZO MCCONNELL-MAL  
DIANE GRISWOLD PALMER-MAL  
BARBARA GREIF PERARCA-MAL  
MARY ANN SCHULTHEIS WILLMENG-MAL  
NANCY SPECTOR-MAL  
JANIS GORSKI-O'HARE

TINA MANE MANEJA-O'HARE  
CHRISTIE WAGSTAFF-ORANGE COUNTY  
ELIZABETH NAPP GILBARD-SOUTHWEST  
FLORIDA  
MEG LAVELLE HATCH-SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
JANA STEIN-SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
GILLIAN ECLHARDT WEILAND-SOUTHWEST  
FLORIDA



## A Kiwi You Should Know...

### Bonnie Lindenberg



Bonnie has been dancing all her life starting at the age of 6 and now at the ripe old age of 77! She did all the girl classes-jazz, ballet, tap and modern dance. As she grew so did her choices which resulted in aerobic dance, Zumba, and Jazzercise classes. She was bored with the previous expressions of dance and decided to take up ballroom dancing. It's fifteen

years later, and Bonnie is still at it, taking up to six lessons a week with two different instructors in two different studios. She does advanced waltz, Viennese waltz, fox trot, swing, cha-cha, hussle, salsa, bachata, samba, rumba, and bolero.

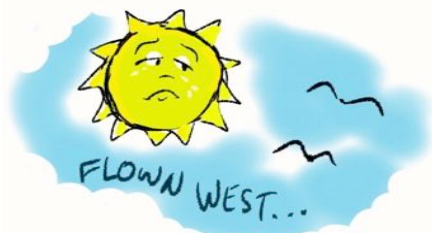
She claims she loves smooth and rhythm dances equally, but most students prefer one or another. She advises that there are several reasons you should tackle this hobby. You can tailor it to be many things you desire. Take lessons with a partner or simply work with an instructor. You can do only social dancing or more competitive or advanced dancing. You can do showcases and/or competitions. Or just do weekly practice dance parties at dance clubs, dining places and cruise ships with dance floors. You can go small-from studio to large, with competition in the USA or around the world.

Just think too of the mental and physical exercise! Bonnie has short and long routines; the choreography is literally mind boggling but as she says, "so good for our aging brains."

There is no doubt that her "hobby" brings her much joy! Bonnie offers to give any Kiwi advice and years of learned information.

You can contact her at: [purring0314@yahoo.com](mailto:purring0314@yahoo.com).

*Bonnie is an active member of the Florida Suncoast Chapter.*



Mary Mikenas Bifulco-Southwest Florida Chapter  
Kathleen Harrington-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, Anne McKinney Houston-Orange County/Long Beach, Marie Lockbaum-MAL, Esther King Moore-Dallas Chapter, Elaine Price-O'Hare Chapter, Colleen Fisher Racz-Carefree Chapter, Jackie Lacy Trager-Orange County/Long Beach Chapter, Rosanne Radcliffe Wensinger-Dallas Chapter, Sandy Martin-Chicago & O'Hare Chapter

## Attention On-line Kiwi Flight Attendants! (and those Kiwis who travel on AA)



*Card may be subject to design revision*

The idea is to pass out the card to flight attendants that may show an interest in Kiwis, and perhaps leave a few cards in crew rest areas. For those of you who travel on AA, if you get an opportunity to “talk up” the Kiwis, you can follow up with a card with all the information needed. Contact me with how many cards you would like to have at: Mary Thrasher, 21 Briarwood Lane, Palatine, IL 60067 or [thekiwiclub@comcast.net](mailto:thekiwiclub@comcast.net). Be sure to add your current mailing address!

A goal that has been set by our national president and her board is to increase membership in The Kiwi Club. We have come up with an idea that we hope promotes awareness of The Kiwi Club for the on-line flight attendant. I have designed a card that will be the size of a business card. One side an illustration (that I hope will attract attention) and the reverse side will provide information on how to join The Kiwi Club.

*Editor’s note: “Brief History of AA” will continue in the September 2023 issue.*



### Did You Know?

We have a new 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vice President. We welcome Connie Leighliter Budge ([kiwiclb@aol.com](mailto:kiwiclb@aol.com)) back to the National Board! Connie’s responsibilities are to keep the membership database up to date. No easy task with Kiwis moving here and there, summer and winter. If you want to be sure that you are getting everything from The Kiwi Club then keep Connie informed, and that includes email addresses. You certainly don’t want to miss a single issue of the KIWI KALEIDOSCOPE!

Many, many thanks to “retiring” Ginger McDonough Paul for her many years of dedicated service to the national board. First as our website hostess and then as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (along with writing the Atlanta Chapter newsletter.) We couldn’t have done it without her! Thanks Ginger!