

Concierge Events

On July 20, concierge enjoyed a night of perfect weather aboard an always-fun DJ cruise from **Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises** (Pier 83, W. 42nd St. & 12th Ave., 212-563-3200). As we cruised the Hudson, we danced the night away to great music provided by WPLJ 95.5. A country-western barbecue with chicken, corn on the cob, and much more was provided dockside just prior to sailing.

On July 27, concierges were treated to a personal tour of the **Museum of the City of New York** (Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., 212-534-1672), courtesy of director of marketing Sylvia Hemingway, highlighted by *The High Style of Dorothy Draper*, *On the Couch: Cartoons from The New Yorker*, and *Perform*, a celebration of Broadway, past and present. We also enjoyed *We Skate Hardcore: Photographs from Brooklyn's Southside* and other exhibitions. Concierge were also given free passes for their guests.



Julieta Swanson, Waldorf Astoria; Lorena Ringroot, Gramercy Park



Andreas Sappock, Circle Line; Vincent Timpone, City Guide



John Benning, Marti Escalambre, The Muse; Andy Diaz, Viaggio



Divina Gouvatsos, Renaissance New York Hotel Time Square, and guest



Adhara Mereles, Hudson; Janet Barbash, City Guide; Kelly Doule, W Hotel



John Routhermel, Glorice Cabrera, Novotel



Kioni Boyer, Intercontinental; Ana Oleisky, NY Palace; guest: Jonathon Zeron, Cipriani Wall Street



Domenic Alfonzetti, Intercontinental The Barclay; Eli Marcus, City Guide



Dancing on the Circle Line cruise ship



Domenic Alfonzetti, Maurice Janssen, Vickie Ramirez, Intercontinental The Barclay

Upcoming Events

- 9/7: Blue Man Group
- 9/19: Blue Man Group
- 9/26: Heartbreak House
- 9/27: San Domenico Restaurant

FYI News

New York City's Hotel Concierge Newsletter

september 2006



news from the Front Desk

by Peter Johnson

It's hard to believe that the busy fall season will be upon us soon. We hope you all have had a wonderful summer. To begin the season, *City Guide*, with Publisher/Editor-in-Chief **David Miller**, will host the **Gem of a G.M. Luncheon** on Sept. 18 at noon. Yours truly and **Maria Bortoluzzi** will be co-chairing this event. This is a day when the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges will take the opportunity to thank our general managers for their ongoing support of the concierge community. By now you should have received your invitations and hopefully plan to attend. We are proud to have as our keynote speaker **Cristyne L. Nicholas**, president and CEO of NYC & Company. There will also be some surprise entertainment. **Christopher Gilman**, general manager of Palm West, will host this important luncheon.

The Steering Committee is hard at work for **The Les Clefs d'Or Congress** to be held here next year. Help is welcome from the entire concierge community as we proceed with the plans for this exciting event. Leading the transportation team is **Harald Mootz**. **Michael Romei** of the Waldorf Towers leads education and team-building, while **Mary Murphy** of the Omni Berkshire Place brings together the entertainment. Fundraising—and we do need every hotel's full support in this area—is led by **Maurice Dancer** of the Pierre Hotel. **Maria McDonald** of the Ritz Carlton Central Park South will manage the spouse program, and **John Adler** of the St. Regis Hotel the amenities and gift bags.

It has been years since NYC has hosted this Congress and it is a large undertaking for our city. So once again, any help is welcome from those able to participate.

Also, if there are particular people, places, or things you would like us to talk about in *FYI*, please keep us posted!

If you have any news or events you would like to share with the concierge community through *FYI*, please email janet@cityguidemagazine.com.

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Have you registered yet for the **Concierge-Only Access** area on the *City Guide* website? You can check out new and noteworthy restaurants, get information on upcoming *City Guide* concierge events and photos from past parties, share news, ideas, tips, and new discoveries on the message board, and more. Surf on over to cityguideny.com/registerconcierge.cfm.

Bloomington's Is Hot for Fall

From Sept. 8-17, **Bloomington's** (1000 Third Ave. at 59th St., 212-705-2000; www.bloomington.com) will be running an in-store promotion, "Hot." In addition to checking out the latest fall fashions and trends, customers can enter to win a trip for two to San Francisco. (Concierges, as well as their guests, can enter.) The trip includes round-trip air, a three-night stay at either the Hotel Palomar or the Argonaut Hotel, in-room spa treatment, two tickets to Teatro ZinZanni, two City Pass VIP booklets, a \$50 credit for Fifth Floor Restaurant, a Leica C-LUX1 digital camera, and a \$500 Bloomington's gift card to use in the new San Francisco store, which opens on Sept. 28. They're awarding only one prize in each of their 32 stores. Enter via ballot at the store.



ADVERTISING WEEK 2006

Get ready for the American Association of Advertising Agencies' **Advertising Week** (212-381-6911, www.advertisingweek.com), Sept. 25-29. It's an opportunity for advertising-industry folks to learn and share best practices, hobnob with clients, and remember why they're in the business in the first place. There are also many events open to the general public.

Advertising Week's public highlight is the **Procession of the Great Icons**, scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sept. 29. Iconic characters from ads, like Tony the Tiger and the Jolly Green Giant, march through Times Square. This year, two icons and slogans will join the Madison Avenue Advertising Walk of Fame based on a vote by the public.

Another highlight is the ACT Responsible Exhibit, **Taking Care of Our Future: Great Ads on Environmental and Social Responsibility Exhibit**, at the ADC Gallery (Art Directors Club, 106 W. 29th St.). Free and open to the public, the exhibit runs Sept. 21-29 with over 400 campaigns created by agencies from around the world.

Other features include: The Adprentice: You're Hired!, a reality show starring advertising's leading executives; the Panasonic Ideas for Life Keynote Series, a four-part series featuring keynote addresses by dynamic industry visionaries; CBS Radio Radically Connected, a four-part keynote series featuring influential thinkers whose companies or ideas and influence have changed the ad game; Sept. 27th's Fluid Battle of the Ad Bands, in which 10 agency bands will compete (visit www.fluidny.com for tickets); Microsoft XBOX Live!; plus seminars for advertising, marketing, design, and editorial professionals. Visit www.advertisingweek.com for details, including online registration.

J&R Express at Macy's Herald Square

To whet the appetites of midtown shoppers, **J&R Music and Computer World** has opened a showcase location within Macy's, **J&R Express at Macy's Herald Square** (151 W. 34th St. at Sixth Ave.). Offering highlights of J&R's vast selection of digital cameras, computers, PDAs and other electronics, this mini-store is located on Macy's lower level.

Visit www.cityguideny.com for the most comprehensive listings for NYC visitors, with new additions every day.

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Concierge Corner

Mystery Photo

How well do you know NYC? Can you identify this photo? Be the first to e-mail janet@cityguidemagazine.com with your answer and be mentioned in next month's *FYI*.

Laurie Tippon of the Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park identified last issue's mystery photo, which was of the "Trinity Root" at Trinity Church.



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September Events

Dance

9/7-10: **Dancenow/NYC The Festival**, Dance Theatre Workshop, 219 W. 19th St., 212-924-0077, www.dtw.org

9/28-10/8: **Fall for Dance Festival**, City Center, W. 55th St. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves., 212-581-1212; www.nycitycenter.org

Music

9/6-9: **Andrea Bocelli with the New York Philharmonic**, Avery Fisher Hall, Columbus Ave. & 65th St., 212-875-5050, nyphil.org

9/7-8: **Shakira**, Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. btw. 31st & 33rd Sts., 212-307-7171, www.thegarden.com

9/12-13: **Roger Waters**, Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. btw. 31st & 33rd Sts., 212-307-7171, www.thegarden.com

9/14: **Jimmy Buffet**, Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. btw. 31st & 33rd Sts., 212-307-7171, www.thegarden.com

9/14-16 & 19: **Itzhak Perlman with the New York Philharmonic**, Avery Fisher Hall, Columbus Ave. & 65th St., 212-875-5050, nyphil.org

9/16-17: **Tradition and Innovation: A Festival Weekend**, Carnegie Hall, 57th St. & Seventh Ave., 212-247-7800, www.carnegiehall.org

9/18-19: **Charles Aznavour**, Radio City Music Hall, Sixth Ave. & 50th St., 212-307-7171; www.radiocity.com

9/18-19: **The Who**, Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. btw. 31st & 33rd Sts., 212-307-7171, www.thegarden.com

9/22-23: **Winners of the Seventh Sonata & Sonata International Youth Piano Competition**, Carnegie Hall, 57th St. & Seventh Ave., 212-247-7800, www.carnegiehall.org

9/28-30: **Eric Clapton**, Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. btw. 31st & 33rd Sts., 212-307-7171, www.thegarden.com

9/30: **World Piano Competition**, Carnegie Hall, 57th St. & Seventh Ave., 212-247-7800, www.carnegiehall.org

Outdoor Fun

9/2-4 & 9-10: **Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit**, University Pl. from 12th to 3rd St. & Washington Pl. from Washington Square East to Mercer St., 212-982-6255

9/3: **18th Annual Ecofest**, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, 212-496-4724

9/9-10 & 16-17: **21st Annual Autumn Crafts Festival**, Damrosch Park, North Plaza & Josie L. Robertson Plaza, Lincoln Center, Columbus Ave. & 64th St., 973-746-0091, www.craftsatlincoln.com

9/14-24: **79th Annual Feast of San Gennaro**, Little Italy, 212-7868-9320, www.sangennaro.org

Parades

9/9: **Labor Day Parade**, Fifth Ave. from 44th to 79th St.

Continued on Page 3

Fall Fun at Madame Tussauds



Tiger Woods makes the cut at Madame Tussauds

This fall will be action-packed at **Madame Tussauds** (234 W. 42nd St., 800-246-8872; www.nycwax.com) with the introduction of new figures and experiences. For example, **Tiger Woods** arrives at Madame Tussauds for this month's Ryder Cup.

In Oct., little ghosts and goblins will gather together at Madame Tussauds' Dome Theater to experience the interactive Halloween thrills and chills of **Scare School**. Children of all ages are invited to attend a "frightology" lesson in a wizard-like environment while dressed in their costumes. Dr.Terwilliger, world-renowned professor of frightology, will teach the children how to make potions, practice pranks, and create treats in an effort to become the hit of Halloween Hocus-Pocus.

Scare School features scary sounds and sights that play on background movie screens. Children will play with the "Trick Pot," where they throw beans in a pot, shake it around, open the lid, and watch as the beans become frogs. The second time around the beans change into spiders. Kids will also learn how to make a knife that looks like it's cutting them, a potion to make fake blood, and how to create a trick bag for hiding candy. Each child that participates will receive a worksheet with instructions for practicing Halloween pranks on their family and friends. Visitors can attend Scare School with their children every day for the entire month of October beginning on the 4th.



Dave and Buster's Times Square

Dave and Busters (234 W. 42nd St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves., 646-495-2015; www.daveandbusters.com) is in the pulsating heart of Times Square. Many of us are familiar with this amazing restaurant where you can eat, drink, and play. They are happy to announce the **Concierge Connect Program**, a wonderful tool for concierge desks to ensure their guests get the ultimate service. To sign up, contact Benjamin Maddy, director of special events sales, at 646-495-1988. Thank you to Mr. Maddy and everyone at the restaurant for this great privilege!

They've also started a **Half Price Cocktail Happy Hour**. Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., visitors can enjoy signature drinks and cocktails. For dining, choose from a vast menu of great American cuisine, before or after theatre—or just make an evening of it. If your guests are in the mood for a relaxing time, they can feast in the elegant dining area; however, if they're looking for excitement, they can experience the Million Dollar Midway, with over 175 video games and simulators. Also, the private club has gone public, and guests can play billiards and shuffleboard!

The chefs at Dave and Buster's take the dining experience seriously. The friendly staff serves the full menu all day, from lunchtime to late night. Be sure to recommend it your hotel guests!

Italy, New York-Style

The **79th Annual Feast of San Gennaro** (212-768-9320; www.sangennaro.org). Little Italy's salute to the Patron Saint of Naples, will be celebrated Sept. 14-24. The festivities are capped on Sept. 19th with a celebratory Mass and candlelit procession as the Statue of the Saint is carried from its permanent home in Most Precious Blood Church on Mulberry St.

Parades have been scheduled as follows. Saturday, Sept. 16: The annual Grand Procession, starting at 2 p.m., with the statue of San Gennaro carried from its permanent home in the Most Precious Blood Church through the streets of Little Italy; Tuesday, Sept. 19: The Official Feast Day, with a Mass in honor of San Gennaro, led by Father Fabian, pastor of The Most Precious Blood Church; Saturday, Sept. 23: parade starting at 2 p.m., with floats, marching bands, and the statue of San Gennaro carried through the streets.

Highlights of the Feast include indoor and outdoor dining at Little Italy's most famous Italian restaurants and licensed street vendors. Free entertainment is featured every night from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the bandstand located at *Grand & Baxter Sts.*



© D. Finnin/AMNH

The American Museum of Natural History Comes Alive

Your guests shouldn't miss the newest special exhibition at AMNH (Central Park West at 79th St., 212-769-5100; www.amnh.org). **Lizards & Snakes: Alive!**, which offers a chance to come face to face with over 60 live lizards and snakes. Another highlight is the fascinating IMAX film, **Journey Into Amazing Caves**. This gripping 40-minute film follows cave explorers as they search for microorganisms in some of Earth's most extreme environments. On Sept. 30, a new film will open, **Ride Around the World**, which captures the spirit of the cowboy. Don't forget the popular **Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter**. Opening Oct. 7, this annual favorite features up to 500 live, free-flying tropical butterflies from the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Beyond

For descriptions of shows and playing schedules, consult the current edition of City Guide or log onto www.cityguideny.com. All information subject to change.

Coming soon



A Chorus Line

A Chorus Line—Previews begin 9/18 for a 10/5 opening at the Schoenfeld Theatre. **Heartbreak House**—Previews begin 9/15 for a 10/11 opening at the American Airlines Theatre. **Jay Johnson: The Two and Only!**—Previews begin 9/19. **Losing Louie**—Previews from 9/21 for a 10/12 opening at the Biltmore Theatre. **The Times They Are A-Changing**—Previews from 9/25 for a 10/26 opening at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

Limited runs *History Boys* (through 10/1); *Heartbreak House* (through 12/10).

September closings *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (through 9/3); *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (through 9/3); *Sweeney Todd* (through 9/3); *Kiki & Herb: Alive on Broadway* (through 9/10).

NYMF Showcases Fresh, Hot Talent

The **New York Musical Theatre Festival** (NYMF), hailed as the "Sundance for musical theatre," is the largest musical-theatre event in the world. A three-week showcase (Sept. 10-Oct. 1) of the freshest, hottest talent in the city, NYMF 2006 will feature 312 performances, including premieres of 34 new musicals and more than 80 musical-theatre-related events. NYMF's broad range of programming includes full productions, developmental presentations, concerts, seminars, master classes, and events in partnership with other organizations. Visit www.nymf.org for more information or call 212-352-3101 for tickets.



Ethos, a Genuine Greek Dining Experience



Giannis Chatiris brings us the ultimate Greek cuisine at his very popular restaurant, **Ethos** (495 Third Ave. btw. 33rd & 34th Sts., 212-252-1972). Murray Hill is fast becoming a destination for diners and visitors to the city, and Ethos restaurant is a great enhancement to the neighborhood. The name itself suggests appeal, character, and reliability.

When visiting Ethos, you'll find it consistent with the finest of Greek-dining experiences. What a beautiful and warm setting! Greek stone-slab art and urns line the walls, cozy booths will appeal to couples wanting a romantic evening, and the service is attentive and excellent. There are numerous fish dishes, expertly grilled and filleted tableside for a fresh and tasty experience, the cuisine is very traditional, and each dish is presented as a work of art.

Be sure to try one of the many *pylina* dishes—which are baked in a clay pot—including Kosta's Special Clay Pot of the Day. Seafood lovers will enjoy *ostraka*, a selection of oysters and clams: Malpeque and Blue Point oysters, plus Cherrystone and Littleneck clams. *Kypriaki*, imported, lightly grilled goat cheese with roasted red peppers and grilled croutons on a bed of baby greens with slices of sour apple and olive oil basil lemon dressing, is a delight to the palate.

Be sure to try Ethos and recommend it to your hotel guests!

—Peter Johnson

Grand Central Terminal Fall Events

Autumn brings us two exciting events at **Grand Central Terminal**. Running Sept. 22-28 is **Experience Parks and Conservation Presented by National Geographic Magazine**. *National Geographic* will transform Vanderbilt Hall into a breathtaking visual venue to celebrate the magazine's October issue, which is devoted to national and international parks and conservation. A photography exhibit will feature larger-than-life images of parks from around the world, brought to us by some of the magazine's noted photographers. For seven days, this event features a "Wild Cam," a live broadcast of wildlife from the Mashatu Game Reserve in Botswana and Kadaku National Park, Australia. There will be interactive displays, plus daily drawings and a sweepstakes for valuable prizes. This will be an experience not to be missed!

Street Festivals

9/8: Southbridge Adult Center Street Fair (Fulton St. btw. Water & Gold Sts.)...**United Nations Festival** (47th St. btw. First & Second Aves.)...**9/9: Big Apple Performing Arts Festival** (Seventh Ave. btw. 47th & 57th Sts.)...**Chelsea Reform Democratic Club Street Fair** (Eighth Ave. btw. 14th & 23rd Sts.)...**9/10: East Manhattan Community Chamber Festival** (Third Ave. btw. 66th & 86th Sts.)...**52nd Street Festival** (btw. Lexington & Seventh Aves.)...**9/15: Financial Community Day Festival Series** (Maiden La. btw. Water & South Sts.)...**9/16: The Great Irish Festival** (Sixth Ave. btw. 42nd & 56th Sts.)...**Stonewall Veterans' Association Festival** (Greenwich Ave. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves.)...**13th Annual Upper Broadway Autumn Festival** (Broadway btw. 110th & 118th Sts.)...**9/17: Columbus Avenue Street Fair** (btw. 66th & 86th Sts.)...**Mexican Independence Day Festival** (116th St. btw. 2nd & Lexington Aves.)...**92nd Street Y Festival** (Lexington Ave. btw. 79th & 96th Sts.)...**Tudor City Festival** (Second Ave. btw. 43rd & 57th Sts.)...**9/22: Fulton Street Follies** (btw. Water & Gold Sts.)...**9/23: Seventh Avenue - Guardian Angels Fair** (btw. 47th & 57th Sts.)...**Village Center for Care Street Fair** (Bleecker St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves.)...**9/24: Eighth Avenue Fall Festival** (btw. 23rd & 34th Sts.)...**Greenwich Village Girls Basketball Festival** (4th St. btw. Seventh Ave. & W. 11th St.)...**9/29: Downtown Visiting Neighbors Festival** (Maiden La. btw. Water & South Sts.)...**9/30: University Place Fair** (btw. Waverly Pl. & 14th St.)...**10/1: Cathedral High School Street Fair** (Lexington Ave. btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)...**NYC Oktoberfest** (Lexington Ave. btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)...**Third Avenue Merchants Association Street Festival** (Third Ave. btw. 69th & 95th Sts.)