



Birthday Cruise!

In the last issue, we mentioned a potential 80th Birthday Cruise out of Tampa's terminal. Well, a lot of classmates thought that was a good idea and let us know they were interested. Some had previously considered a cruise with a few close classmates.

Fortunately, our class has connections with a travel agent through our classmate, Sally Cook Vazquez. She and her husband owned Bowen Travel for many years and recently sold it. The staff of Bowen Travelworld is very helpful and has stepped forward to help us get lined up with a group cruise in April 2016.

The group tour agent is Edith Salter and she is skilled in arranging the kind of group cruise we want. She has given us a schedule of costs and it is included later in this newsletter.

We need to consider this opportunity now, **and act**. Delay could result in "missing the boat", as this cruise out of Tampa is the last 4-day cruise of the 2016 Florida winter cruise season for Royal Caribbean. Edith is already booking another group on the same ship.

The itinerary involves two days at sea, out of Tampa, a day at Cozumel, Mexico and one+ days at sea back to Tampa. There are some options for shore tours in Cozumel, but that would be on an individual, not a group, basis. Once you have been booked on the cruise, you can see what tours are available in Cozumel via the cruise ship. Actually, walking around the town for the day and shopping are fun.

A little-known tour in Cozumel is Kaokao Chocolates. This is such a well-kept secret that even some local van drivers do not know about it. The proprietor is of Mayan descent (American wife) and conducts tours of the business for small groups – a reservation (\$\$) is needed for up to about 16 people. Each person on the tour gets to grind cocoa beans into a chocolate paste and then into a patty, as a souvenir. Everything at the factory is chocolate – even the soap in the restrooms.

<http://www.chocolateskaokao.com/DefaultEng.aspx>

If we get 16 guests, and 8 cabins, Royal Caribbean will give us a private party, with adult beverages. Hopefully, we can get more cruisers than that and maybe have two private parties! ☺

The ship is the *Brilliance of the Seas*, and it has a crew of 848. It is not one of those megaships where you can get lost trying to find the dining room.



Brilliance of the Seas

There are stateroom options for solo, double, triple and quadruple occupancy, so you can cruise with pals or keep to yourself.



View of typical interior stateroom.



View of typical ocean-view stateroom.



View of typical ocean-view room with balcony.

The prices the Bowen Travelworld has obtained for our class are discounted from the on-line prices at the Royal Caribbean website. There is no fee for Bowen’s services, as the cruise line provides that for Bowen acting as their agent. That is, we get to have our arrangements handled personally for us at a cost reduced from what we would have to pay for dealing directly with Royal Caribbean.

Here are the details:



4 Nights Western Caribbean Cruise
Brilliance of the Seas April 22, 2016
 Tampa, Florida, Cozumel, Mexico Cruising, Tampa, Florida

Fri 22 Apr 2016	Tampa, Florida		04:00 PM	Boarding
Sat 23 Apr 2016	Cruising			Cruising
Sun 24 Apr 2016	Cozumel, Mexico	08:00 AM	06:00 PM	Docked
Mon 25 Apr 2016	Cruising			Cruising
Tue 26 Apr 2016	Tampa, Florida	07:00 AM		Departure

Doubles Rates These Prices Include Cruise Taxes, Fees and Port Charges

Inside M \$391.89 per person
 Outside H/I \$445.89 per person
 Balcony E2 \$582.89 per person

On Request Triples and Quad Rates These Prices Include Cruise Taxes, Fees and Port Charges

Inside L \$447.89 per person
 Outside G \$507.89 per person
 Balcony E1 \$633.89 per person

On Request Singles Rates These Prices Include Cruise Taxes, Fees and Port Charges

Inside M \$714.89 per person
 Outside H-I \$822.89 per person
 Balcony E2 \$1096.89 per person

Deposit \$100 per Person; Final Due by Jan 29, 2016

Cancellation Schedule

Days Prior to Sailing	Cancellation Amount	Schedule
80 to 43	100.00 per Passenger	04-Feb-2016 to 10-Mar-2016
42 to 29	50.00% per Passenger	11-Mar-2016 to 24-Mar-2016
28 to 15	75.00% per Passenger	25-Mar-2016 to 07-Apr-2016
14 to 0	100.00% per Passenger	08-Apr-2016 to 22-Apr-2016

Contact:
 Bowen Travelworld
 Attn: Edith Salter
 4905 W State Street, Tampa FL 33609
 813-289-8344
 813-289-0375-Fax edith@travelworld1.com

Insurance is Optional. For a bunch of 80-somethings, travel insurance is probably a wise option:

\$29 per person base on \$500
 \$59 per person base on \$500- \$1000
 \$89 per person base on \$1001 -\$1500
 \$119 per person base on \$1501 -\$2000

Identification:

U.S. citizens on closed-loop cruises (cruises that begin and end at the same port in the U.S.) will be able to enter or depart the country with proof of citizenship, such as a government-issued birth certificate and laminated government issued picture ID, denoting photo, name and date of birth. A U.S. citizen under the age of 16 will be able to present either an original, notarized or certified copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth

Abroad issued by DOS, or Certificate of Naturalization issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Note: Baptismal papers and hospital certificates are not acceptable. Voter registration cards or Social Security cards are not considered proof of citizenship.

A VALID PASSPORT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to change, whether via an increase or decrease, any published rates, including cruise rates and airfare charges, without prior notice. We reserve the right to impose on any existing booking or new bookings (whether paid in full or not) a supplement for fuel or other matters without prior notice as provided in our Passenger Ticket Contract. In addition, we reserve the right to pass through any third party imposed fuel or other surcharges, also without prior notice, the guest will remain liable for any applicable taxes, fees or surcharges that may be assessed by any governmental or quasi-governmental agencies.

NOT INCLUDED: air transportation (except as noted), transfers (except as noted), optional Shore Excursions, meals and accommodations ashore (except as noted), certain beverages, casino gambling, photographs, gratuities, telephone calls, specialty restaurants onboard certain vessels, purchases from the ship stores, or items of a personal nature such as medical services, laundry, massages, spa treatments, hair styling or manicures. **Note: Some of these items may be purchased separately.**

Update on a Western Classmate

Bev Furman Praschan and her husband Neil moved to Mesa, Arizona 28 years ago. They were married in November of the year we graduated from high school and have two daughters and a son. They also have seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Neil had a career with General Motors at their test track/proving grounds and Bev was mostly a homemaker with some office work.

In retirement, they enjoy the grandchildren and their offspring. Both Bev and Neil are involved in

their church’s choir, worship services and missions.



Bev and Neil are shown at a special occasion in January, 2012



Roy Kaple sent us this clipping from the *Times*, dated April 3, 1951. The print is small, but can you see yourself in the picture?

Our thanks go to Joyce Lindsay Sperry, Lucy Jacobus Bean and an anonymous classmate for generously donating to the class treasury for expenses.

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find it all:
<http://sphs1954.org/> . Help us keep your data current!
Send updates to the webmaster.

Reunions Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd Ave.
N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or
eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com

Contributions: Donations are a big help and they
keep this newsletter coming. (12 years, so far.)
Please send them to Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037
Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please
make checks payable to: “SPHS Class of ‘54”,

Classmate updates, news-to-share, etc., should be
sent to: Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street,
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or
ronr@alumni.ufl.edu

**Next Reunion luncheon is
Saturday, January 9, 2016**

**Location is TBD, but we enjoyed
Harvey’s 4th Street Grill in St. Pete for
our October luncheon. We will provide
firm luncheon information in our
December newsletter.**



3121 4th St N, St Petersburg, FL 33704

www.harveys4thstreetgrill.com

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