

WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS



... and looking forward to an exciting New Year



In this Edition:

President's Message	2
Editorial	3
40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa	4 - 9
WACA Charity Project - Fikelela	10
Reports of Tours and Events	11 - 16

President's Message

At the Opening Ceremony of the 40th AGA in Cape Town



Dear Guests, Dear Interliners,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all to the 40th Annual General Assembly held in the beautiful and historical city Cape-town. This Annual General Assembly is hosted by the Region Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East and promises to be an important landmark in the history of the association.

I am glad to note that we have delegates and observers coming from different part of the world throughout our five regions coming to this southern part of the globe and for the very first time that WACA is holding its AGA in South Africa. I know that our members were looking for this moment not only for the sunshine but to experience the beauty of one of the world's most beautiful cities, the variety of people and cultures, the landscapes and the political history .

WACA remains the umbrella that regroup Airline Employees (active and retirees) in true spirit of interlining – i.e. Friendship and mutual understanding and after all in the spirit of togetherness to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Association this year.

But without forgetting our main objectives among others to coordinate, advise and arbitrate the activities of the affiliated Airlines Clubs throughout the world in promoting air transportation as a mode of

travel and to promote better service to the traveling public and also to provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the Airline Industry and community in general as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility.

To embrace the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as we did for the past years, this year the AGA in Cape Town marks a milestone in making a global difference coupled with its 40th Anniversary celebration; we are holding this assembly with a theme i.e. bringing Compassion into Action by contributing to combat HIV/AIDS in South Africa, thus contributing to the UN Millennium Development Goal No.6 It is WACA's commitment to help those stricken with HIV / AIDS. Towards this end, we work closely with FIKELELA as professionally coordinated by the Canon Reverend Rachel Mash. Fikelela is a non-profit organization that provides an active response to the HIV / AIDS pandemic in South Africa and we are pleased to be in partnership with FIKELELA AIDS project through our WACA relief fund.

By coincidence this year we have our AGA in the month of September when the International Peace Day is celebrated on the 21 September and the World Tourism Day on the 27th September as recognized by the United Nations and we at the World Airlines Clubs Association we cannot ignore these two dates and the more so that WACA is a coalition partner to the International Institute of Peace Through Tourism.

We feel blessed to be here in South Africa where we have three imminent personalities who won the Nobel Peace Prize namely Mr. Nelson Mandela and Mr. Fredrik De Klerk former presidents of the Republic of South Africa and the third one is Archbishop Reverend Desmond Tutu who endlessly supported the Fikelela projects which we as WACA we are linked with.

Dear Interliners, Participants of the 40th AGA in Capetown, let us all make the most of it and make this AGA a real milestone in the life of our Association to share with the world by bringing "Compassion into Action".

Thank you for your attention.

Maga Ramasamy
President



Dear Interliners,

The wonderful AGA in Capetown and the commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the Association lay behind us. All those who joined us at this very special event certainly will always remember these days on the Southern point of Africa, with the wonderful ocean view from our hotel, the touching visit to Robben Island and the unique panorama at the Table Mountain.

In this edition of WACA World News you will find some impressions and photographs. But – as we always say – after the AGA is before the AGA. That means we are now looking forward to the next AGA which will take place at the Bahamas. On the last evening in Capetown you had the opportunity of a very pleasant presentation of what is awaiting us next year at the Bahamas: a beautiful place, old friends, new friends, friendship, joy, music – just a wonderful time.

It is not only the AGA, which is coming up next year. Please have a look at the Calendar of Events on our website www.waca.org and you will certainly find the right event for you to spend your next holiday.

Besides the traditional events there are many new programs organised by our member clubs. Would you like to go on a cultural trip, visit the pyramids in Egypt or the temples in Cambodia? Or do you prefer to attend the Opera in Vienna? Perhaps you fancy an amazing journey in China or a relaxing beach party in Jamaica? Many interliners prefer a ski week or tennis and golf tournaments. You will find all these programs and much more – and for sure something according your taste!

On the tours and events, we never forget all those, who are not as fortunate as we are. One of the main goals of our Association is to support people who need our help. After the support given to a school in Sri Lanka after the devastating Tsunami at the end of 2005, constructing a new library and furnishing it with books, the EC has decided pledge support to Fikelela HIV /AIDS outreach programme in Cape Town... With your contribution in school material and personal care items for children, we started a first but important project to support this charity association. The contributions to the WACA Relief Fund for the coming years will guarantee ongoing support of the efforts of Rev. Canon Rachel Mash and her Team o help HIV+ and AIDS infected children. Of course we will continue supporting local charity institutions as well as a project at the Bahamas to be announced by our friends of the Airlines Club Bahamas.

The end of this year is now fast approaching. On behalf of all my colleagues of the WACA EC I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and all the best, good health, prosperity and good luck for the New Year 2008.

Yours in Interlining,
Rosemarie Mamede
Vice President Public Relations

40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa 16. – 21. September 2007

Nearly 300 delegates and observers, representing Airline Clubs worldwide, met from 16 - 21 September at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa, at the 40th Annual General Assembly of the WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION (WACA). During the event, the Association celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its foundation. For the first time in its history, an Annual General Assembly was organized by one of the Regions – Regional Vice President Mr. Yousef Yousef and his Committee from the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Region invested a great deal of effort in carefully planning all the details of this event.

In his welcome speech, WACA's President Mr. Maga Ramasamy stated, that the 40th Assembly was to be held with the theme of translating compassion into action. WACA will contribute to the efforts to combat HIV+/AIDS in South Africa and to the UN Millennium Development Goal No. 6 by supporting FIKELELA, a non-profit organization that provides an active response to the HIV+/AIDS pandemic in South Africa. Canon Reverend Rachel Mash, founder and coordinator of FIKELELA, opened the Assembly. This Assembly marks a milestone in the history of WACA, where a long-term Charity project has been identified. In collaboration with FIKELELA, all WACA donations will be channeled through the WACA Relief Fund and will be used to assist needy children regrouping under FIKELELA.

At the start of the working sessions, WACA's President Maga Ramasamy introduced two new Members of Honour of the Association, **Mr. Ratnasabapathy Sivanandam**, Airline Club of Singapore and **Mr. Kurt Zimmermann**, Interairline Club Zürich.

The following member clubs were awarded for special performances during the last year:

Sports/International Event of the Year: **Hong Kong Interline Club**

Member Club Media/Communication of the Year: **Vancouver Interline Club**

European Regional Club of the Year: **Hungarian Interline Club**

Far East and Australia Regional Club of the Year: **Sydney Interline Club**

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Club of the Year: **Jamaica Interline Club.**

Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Regional Club of the Year: **Capetown Interline Club.**

North American Regional Club of the Year: **San Diego Interline Club.**

Member Club of the Year: **Hungarian Interline Club.**

After the official working-sessions, the Bahamas Interline Club presented their program for the 2008 Assembly to be held in The Bahamas and the official passing of the WACA flag to the Bahamas Interline Club was officiated by the Secretary General in the presence of the President and the VP Public Relations.

WACA's President Mr. Maga Ramasamy and his Executive Committee were proud to have the Annual General Assembly of WACA and the commemoration of its 40th Anniversary in Cape Town, one of the World's most beautiful cities, and for the first time in South Africa.

Rosemarie Mamede
Vice President Public Relations



40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa (2) Reports from the Regions

After a great, efficient and successful AGA in Cape Town, South Africa and after many interesting and memorable experiences in this beautiful country we arrived well at home, and I hope you did it as well. All of us went back to work and everything is again running as usual.



69 interliners from the European region attended this AGA. 11 clubs were present, 8 clubs were missing, and apologies for absence were received by the Airlines Club de España. 6 Members of Honour of WACA from our region attended this AGA.

As per my information, a total of 286 interliners attended this AGA.



Helsinki, Hungary, Portugal and Zürich will host international packages in 2008.



We had a very successful regional meeting and a very interesting forum discussion with the delegates of all 5 regions prior to the regional meetings.

I would like to thank our friends, the Regional Vice President Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Yousef Yousef, Jenny, Glenn, Rosemarie and all their friends and members of the organizing team of this great 40th anniversary event for the great job they did in the past months to give us the chance to celebrate this great event in a wonderful atmosphere in this beautiful area of South Africa.

I would like to thank as well our dear friend and WACA President Maga Ramasamy for his effort in managing a very successful AGA.

And I would like to thank my friends and delegates of the European Clubs for supporting me in doing my job as Regional Vice President Europe.

I thank you all, my dear friends and interliners, for attending this great event and for your attention.

With all my best wishes to all of you and best regards,

Peter Gilardonì
Regional Vice President Europe

40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa (3)

It was decided before the Regional Meetings began that we would have a Pre Meeting with the WACA Executive Committee to see if we could have an open discussion between all clubs to see just how we could better WACA. Today we have around half the clubs left that started 40 years ago. WACA had 97 clubs, and down to 54 - 56 clubs, perhaps even less. It was a brainstorming session, to try and get all of the clubs thinking about ways to improve the packages and communications. It was decided that each delegate should go back to their home clubs and take a 10 minute survey on what each club is doing to try and help the three big questions

- 1) Communication
- 2) Coordination
- 3) Cooperation

I would like to see YVR come up with a plan and perhaps some new ideas.

North American Regional Meeting

Out of 15 clubs in North America, we had 11 delegates attend. That is a fantastic amount. All member clubs still active in North America are paid up. The minutes from Shanghai and San Diego were approved.

The North American Eric Moilliet fund, Montreal Interline Club had a balance in the account of \$624.91 Cdn. It was approved by the delegates to accept Chico Valdez's, Montreal Interline Club offer to donate \$200.00 to Mother Rochelle's Orphanage from this fund. It was unanimously approved by the delegates.

Sharon Revel, alternate delegate from Vancouver wanted to put through a motion that perhaps all interliners could put together some sort of plan to offer home stay to interliners travelling to various places a home to stay at with the member at home of course. It was decided that we needed to work on this, you need some kind of a form of control to make sure that they are active interliners, would need some kind of authorization.

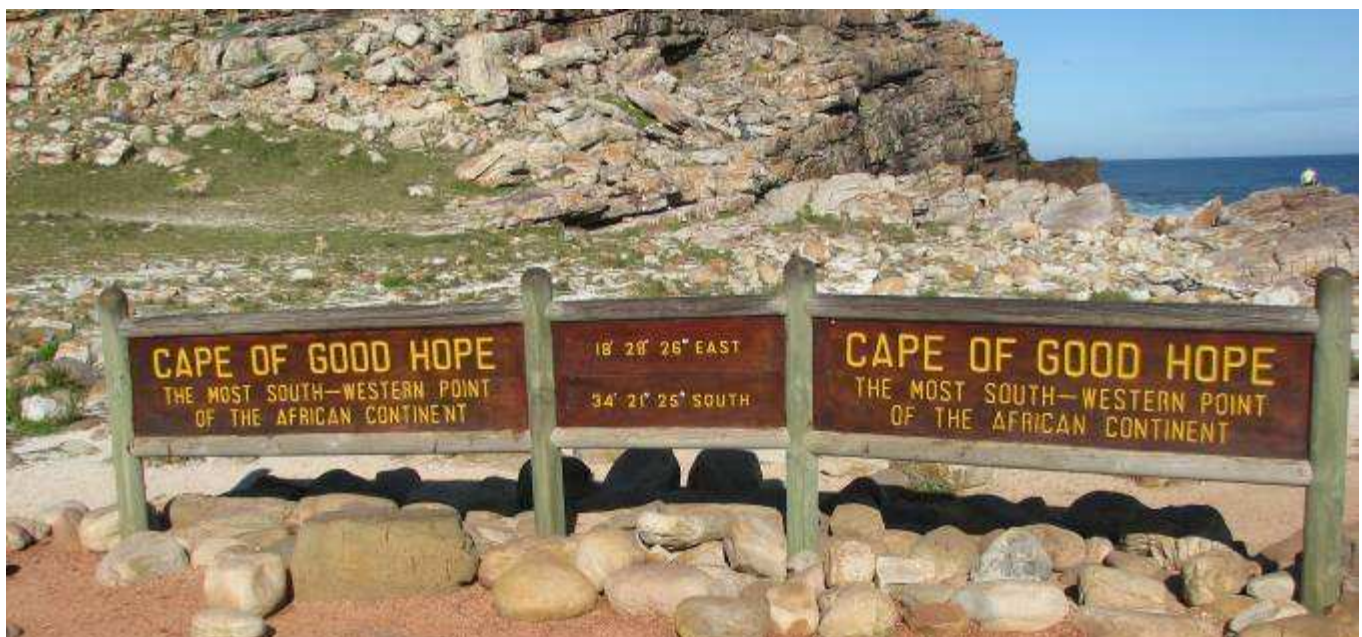
Before we went to Cape Town, each delegate received a message from the RVP, NA asking that each delegate respond with the amount of members in their respective clubs.

To date we have 443 members from 15 clubs I feel it was a good idea to survey this, perhaps we can make room for improvements.

Our Regional Meeting in May 2008 will be held in the exciting city of New York. It is a very new young club, Vancouver had put together a package at the last minute, but felt New York deserves a chance to really get involved in interlining.

North America was very excited at Vancouver's Wine Tour plan for May/08. I have brought home deposits and application forms from 4 interliners, with another 12 telling me they will be coming. It is very exciting.

Sheila Read
Vancouver Interline Club



40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa (4)

Capetown, what a beautiful city. The people are friendly and helpful. The Lagoon Beach Hotel is beautiful, situated 5 miles from downtown Capetown on the Atlantic Ocean.



The opening ceremonies featured a Five piece band playing jazz and singing songs welcoming 300 interliners to their city. A traditional Zulu native group featuring dancing and singing entertained us. The group consisted of young people ranging in age from about 20 to 6. The founder of Fikelela - an orphanage for children with HIV/Aids or orphaned because their parents died of aids - gave a speech which was quite moving. She also declared the AGA open.

Next morning we were up early and taken on a tour of Table Mountain - which is 1630 meters high. The view of Capetown and the ocean is spectacular. Then after lunch at a German restaurant, we were taken by ferry to Robben Island for a tour of the prison where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. Then back to the hotel for dinner and regional night.



Tuesday was meetings for delegates and relaxation or shopping or tours for observers. Dinner and regional night.

Wednesday was meeting for delegates followed by the Gala dinner and dance.

On Thursday a tour of the famous South African Wine Country which included a visit to Stellenbosch and Paarl where we were taken through a farm winery with tasting and shopping for souvenirs. Lunch was at Spier Estates where you could pet a cheetah at the Cheetah Rehabilitation Centre or explore and shop. Back to the hotel for dinner where the highlight was watching the waiters and waitresses up dancing. They enjoyed the music.



Friday was a day for saying goodbye to some. Others stayed on till Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

On Saturday, Chico from Montreal took Marie from Detroit, Marilyn from South Dakota, Salam from Jordan, Sheila Read, Sharon Revel and myself to Cape of Good Hope. What a spectacular view from the lighthouse after a ride in a funicular and climbing the steps and you see where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. A visit to Boulders in Table Mountain National Park to see the penguins completed our day.

Leaving Capetown, we wished we could stay.

Our thanks to Africa, Indian Oceans, Middle East region and especially Yousef for a fabulous AGA

Pat Lindeman, Vancouver

40th AGA in Cape Town, South Africa (5)

Nach einem sehr ruhigen Nachtflug mit SAA sind wir am 14. September in Kapstadt gelandet. Unser WACA – Transfer wartete schon auf uns und wir fuhren voller Vorfreude in Richtung Lagoon Beach Hotel.

Dort angekommen waren wir total sowohl von der Lage als auch von der Ausstattung des Hotels begeistert. Da wir unsere Zimmer sofort bekamen, (mit Tafelberg- und Meerblick) hatten wir die Gelegenheit anschl. Frühstück zu gehen,



wo wir gleich andere Interliner trafen und uns sofort „zu Hause“ fühlten. An diesem Tag sind wir morgens am Strand spazieren gegangen, und nachmittags haben wir zum ersten Mal die Waterfront besucht. Schon an diesem Tag wurde uns klar, dass wir uns in einem Einkaufsparadies befanden, wir hätten am liebsten gleich am ersten Tag so viele Sachen gekauft; Bilder, Schmuck, Dekoartikel aus Holz, usw. Es war schwer, sich zu beherrschen.

Am nächsten Tag haben wir eine Fahrt in Richtung Boulders Beach gebucht. Wir wollten unbedingt die Pinguine sehen. Wir haben an diesem Tag nicht nur Pinguine, sondern auch Wale, Paviane, Straußenvögel und vieles mehr gesehen. Wir fuhren bis Cape Point und standen sprachlos oben am alten Leuchtturm und bewunderten die atemberaubende Landschaft. Der nächste Tag war ein Sonntag, und so machten wir uns zu Fuss auf dem Weg in Richtung Flohmarkt, wo wir wieder Mal einige Schnäppchen gemacht haben und sind danach stundenlang am Strand entlang spazieren gegangen, bis wir zurückkehren mussten, da an diesem Tag die Eröffnungszereemonie im Hotel auf uns wartete. Nach einem Empfangscocktail mit Amarula fing die eigentliche Eröffnung des Events an. Wir haben eine Präsentation mit Bildern von vergangenen WACA-Ereignissen erlebt und anschl. eine tolle Zulu-Show, die uns verstärkt das Gefühl vermittelte, wie intensiv diese Kultur ist.

Am nächsten Tag standen unsere Busse nach dem Frühstück bereit, um uns in Richtung Tafelberg zu fahren. Wir fuhren mit der Seilbahn hoch und genossen die unglaublich schöne Aussicht bei strahlendem Sonnenschein. Danach war ein Mittagessen im Paulaner Brauhaus geplant (wo das Oktoberfest bald stattfinden sollte). Nachmittags waren wir noch auf Robben Island, mit Führung. Von hier aus ist der Blick zum Tafelberg unvergesslich, nach den obligatorischen Bildern und Besichtigung des Gefängnisses (wo Nelson Mandela Jahre verbringen musste) fuhren wir wieder zurück und genossen die Fahrt. Abends fand ein „Regional Evening“ statt wo wir mit Schweizerische Spezialitäten vertreten waren und voller Stolz unsere roten T-Shirts getragen haben. Am liebsten hätten wir die ganze Nacht weiter getanzt, doch dies war nicht möglich, da wir am nächsten Tag bereits um 04:30 abgeholt werden sollten, um eine Safari zu machen.

So geschah es auch an diesem Tag. Da wir zu früh waren, fuhren wir zunächst wieder zum Tafelberg und genossen die Aussicht, dieses Mal im dunkel. Wir hatten wieder Glück mit dem Wetter und die Aussicht war total klar. Danach fuhren wir über Stellenbosch in Richtung Aguila Private Game Reserve, wo wir

einen unvergesslichen Tag verbrachten und die Big Five gesehen hatten. Wir konnten uns sogar mit dem Leopard fotografieren lassen und bekamen unterwegs Champagner von unserem Ranger als wir eine Pause mitten im Reservat gemacht haben. Alle unsere Erwartungen wurden wieder übertroffen. Abends war wieder Mal „Regional Evening“ und dieses Mal konnten wir länger Tanzen und Feiern bis zum „Umfallen“.



Am nächsten Tag besuchten wir das Aquarium in Cape Town, und haben unter anderem, Haie aus der Nähe gesehen. Abends war Galadinner mit einem sehr guten Essen und natürlich wieder Tanzmusik.

Es war schon Donnerstag an diesem Morgen und unser letzter Ausflug ging in Richtung Stellenbosch und Pearl, wo wir die Gelegenheit hatten, Wein zu probieren. Danach haben wir Mittag gegessen und haben uns die Gesichter bemalen lassen. Nach dem Essen gingen wir spazieren und haben uns Baby - Geparden angeschaut und wieder gestreichelt. Abends verabschiedeten wir uns langsam von allen anderen Interlinern. Am nächsten Tag sollten wir wieder nach Frankfurt fliegen. Wir waren ein wenig traurig, dass diese tolle Woche so schnell vorbei war, aber wir waren uns sicher, dass wir uns bald wieder sehen würden.

Carmen Lattemann,
Hannover Interline Club

Message from Beverley Hendricks, Fikelela

On behalf of Fikelela I would like to thank the President Maga Ramasamy, the Vice President Yousef Khoury, the Vice President Public Relations Rosemarie Mamede, Glenn Pillay & David Germaine. Thank you for your hospitality, your kindness shown and your willingness to embrace our project; it is appreciated! Please ensure that our gratitude and thanks is conveyed to each and every delegate. The gifts have been distributed to our children's centre in Khayelitsha, toiletry items are going to be used for our hygiene pack project, which are given to HIV+ adults/families, and the stationary items would be used for our orphan & vulnerable children's project. These are all hands on projects that link to the bigger picture of the ministry that we do.



With regards to the donation box, we received R320,00 in cash and USD 193,00 which amounted to R1245-59. Our sales for t-shirts & badges plus extra's amounted to R2300,00. A very big thank you to all who came to purchase and support our table. It speaks volumes about the people that you are and I hope to see you next year at the Bahamas. Please feel free to contact or ask any questions at any time. Encourage people to visit our website and to keep in touch with our activities!



Thanks and have a good day.

All my love Beverley

Beverley Hendricks

Tel 021 465 1557

083 285 5977

www.fikelela.org.za

"Did you remember to thank God for your life today" Making a difference starts with you



WACA INTERREGIONAL GET-TOGETHER, PRAGUE 20. – 22. April 2007

The interregional get-together, hosted by the Hungarian Interline Club, took place in the beautiful, picturesque city of Prague. Our Hotel Albion was situated on the outskirts of the city, just a short bus/metro ride from the old town. Those that arrived a day early were able to enjoy the charms of a wonderful rustic restaurant Na Farkane, just around the corner from the hotel. It offered a wide range of traditional Czech and Eastern European meals. On the Friday, the package officially started. After registration we were offered a welcome drink of Champagne before having a buffet dinner in the hotels Beer parlour. Here we were able to meet old and new friends and relax before the meetings the next day. Many finishing the evening sampling the delights of Czech beer in the Lobby bar.



On the Saturday after an early breakfast the meetings took place. The European meeting professionally chaired by Peter Gilardoni. All areas of the agenda were well covered and the meeting was able to finish several minutes early. We then gathered outside to board coaches for the short journey to lunch. The restaurant U Sv Jana Nepomuckeho was situated in the vicinity of the castle and we enjoyed a 3 course meal in the sunny courtyard. Many finishing the meal with an ice cold Becherovka. A typical Czech herbal liqueur. After lunch we were joined by tour guides who took us on an informative trip around the castle grounds and into the magnificent St Vitus cathedral. Then a

walk down from the castle to the Charles Bridge where we had free time to do sightseeing of the old town. Paying particular interest in the astronomical clock on the southern façade of the old town hall. After sightseeing and shopping we met beneath the Manesuv Bridge to start our mini cruise on the river Vltava. A welcoming drink and the sight of a beautiful sunset was followed by a buffet dinner, which was accompanied by a roaming musician on an accordion, offering songs to sing and dance to.



After the cruise we were driven back to our hotel to continue our evening and make our fond farewells. A most enjoyable time was had by everyone.

Chris Orton, London Interline Club.

“Grande Festa”

Portugal, 4. – 09 October 2007

The Interline Club of Portugal commemorated its 29^o anniversary with its habitual GRANDE FESTA from 4 to the 9 of October in the North of Portugal, in the call region of ALTO MINHO. They had been days of pleasant conviviality all enters the participants, who beyond being



able to admire the pretty landscapes of the region, had also had occasion to know the places culturally visited. We cannot leave to relate the visit to the “CERVO” in Vila Nova de Cerveira, where all had been able to admire the landscape on Rio Minho, its estuary and the sights of the villages of Vila Nova de Cerveira e Caminha. In It walks with the aid of tourist guides, we are to know a little of its history and the monuments that we were to find in its historical center. Memo if passed in the visit the village of Melgaço where beyond the visit to the historical center, it also had the possibility of a visit to the Solar Alvarinho, where all taste the excellent green wine Alvarinho, produced solely in this region. Others of the visited places had been the cities of Viana de Castelo, Ponte de Lima and Valença.



As habitually in the last night the GALA DINNER was become fulfilled, where the Interline Club of Portugal delivered a donation to an Institution of Social Solidarity of the region that if dedicates the protection of abandoned children. All the participants had been very glad with the offered program, and they had not left to point out the gastronomic part, sufficiently famous in this region of Portugal. Of the part of the ICPortugal a gratefulness to Easa and Rajai, that already in them had sent a mail transmitting its affability per the beautiful days passed in Portugal. They had been the two only interliners foreigners who had been in the GRANDE FESTA, and that after to have been gifts in CAPE TOWN, they had come back per brief days to its country, Jordan, and of followed they had come until Portugal. In the next year, the Interline Club to Portugal commemorates its 30^o anniversary, and we hope that many of that at moment are reading these lines are gifts in our GRANDE FESTA. In briefing, we will present the program.

Victor Carvalho
Interline Club of Portugal



Jacquie's Medical Mission in Ghana July 2007



I just returned from a Medical Mission in Accra, Ghana. I had a great time and experience myself, but the rest of the group (revenue passengers) had major luggage

problems. Thanks to my WACA EC Family ready and willing to aid me to help others, I was able to contact Frank and Sue in London who saved the mission from being completely aborted. As a result, we were able to help thousands of very needy people and had a great mission. People were amazed that I was calling Jordan, Mauritius, all over the world to get help.

One lesson that we all need to remember - **never leave home without your WACA Contact because you never know when you will need it.** I didn't have mine and I had to comb the website until I found numbers and e-mail addresses that finally saved the day!! Thanks again – Love you.

Jacquie Lyseight, Regional Vice-President Latin America and Caribbean

Very special words of appreciation

When I received the report from the Jordan Tour and Nil Cruise (next page), it was accompanied by a very touching Email, which I also would like to join with you all... Rosemarie

Hi Rosemarie,

I just came home from 2 wonderful weeks in Jordan and in Egypt. I've seen "Jordan Adventure" on the WACA Events list for several years now, but who knows anything about Jordan? Besides, the Middle East is too dangerous.

Well, I was wrong. This trip was a real surprise. Jordan is a wonderful country and there was no danger. And, without being disrespectful, they should change the name of the country from "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" to "The Hospitality Kingdom of Jordan". I have never felt more welcome and more loved by the ordinary people than I was on that trip. For my money, the most impressive thing about the country was not the grandeur of its treasures, but the warmth of its people. Highly recommended.

The point of this letter - in case no one volunteered to say "thank you" on behalf of the group, I prepared some things I would have said if it was I would stand up (I did the same Julian's Silk Road trip...).

I humbly submit my words to you, at Yousef's insistence, for possible publication in WACA World News. If yes, simply entitle it "Thank you speech prepared but not delivered".

Steve Charlton
Montreal Interline Club

Jordan Adventure and Nil Cruise 23. October – 05. November 2007

Thank you speech prepared but not delivered

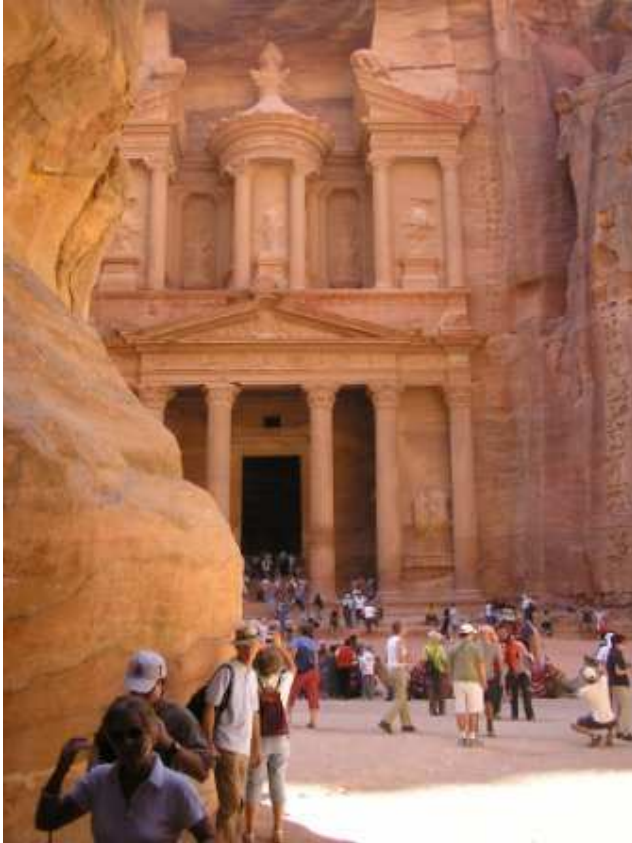
Can I have your attention, please.

Well, it's been a great 2 weeks, hasn't it? Now the time has come to thank those people who made it all happen...

In 2 weeks, in 2 countries, we saw 2 of the 7 Wonders of the World – Petra and the Pyramids. And in those same 2 weeks we all enjoyed the experience of a lifetime, visiting these 2 wonderful countries.

I read a saying once I'd like to share with you: "The world is like a book. He who doesn't travel reads only a chapter." Think about it: "the world is like a book; he who doesn't travel reads only a chapter."

Aren't we fortunate, as Interliners, to be able to see the World? Most people would give their eye teeth to be able to do what we do. I guess it sort of makes up for being underpaid all these years, doesn't it? :-)



But we should neither be complacent, nor selfish. As Interliners, it is our responsibility to be good ambassadors when we get home.

We must say "Go to Jordan". We must tell people "Visit Egypt". And we must keep an open mind ourselves, when we hear politicians speak, and when we read the newspapers. We have the opportunity to go behind the headlines, and actually talk with the "real" people, thanks to our ability to travel.

Travel is more than simply seeing and taking pictures of bricks and mortar, like we did at the Pyramids, or at the Karnak Temple. It is more than basking in the sun, like

we did on the Nile cruise, or basking in Nature's beauty, like we did at Wadi Rum.



To travel means to understand the people – their culture, their religion, their values, their history, their hurts, their aspirations for the future, and their point of view re the present. To be good ambassadors, we must talk with them.



Myself, I spent quite a bit of time with both Suhair and with Ahmad trying to understand the world as they see it. I have to thank both of them for their patience with me, and their generosity. Others among us spent time talking with the Bedouins, and I'm sure many of you spoke with the local people as well.

So, on behalf of the entire group, I'd like to first-of-all thank Yousef, who master-minded the entire vacation. This man is wonderful – his limitless energy is only ex-

ceeded by his generosity. He's put on the Jordan Adventure trip for many years now. I've seen it listed in the "Events" section of the WACA web site for many years now, but only by having experienced it, do I now realize what a truly great trip it is; when I get home I will surely encourage my fellow-Interliners to take it! He's done a great job, and we are forever indebted – Yousef, from the bottom of our hearts, thanks from all of us for a great great trip!



Yousef is not alone - the Jordan Interline Club is a very strong and healthy club, and when Yousef was unable to be with us, his responsibility was shared by 2 J.I.C. members whom I'd like to thank for making sure "Yousef's" trip ran smoothly – Suzie and Suhair.

Suzie made sure we didn't get lost when we were touring, watched we made it onto the right bus, and undoubtedly took care of many of the administrative details we didn't see. She was a bundle of energy, and a lot of fun, too. "Cabin #4; Cabin #4"

Suzie was helped by Suhair, who already did a lot of work in South Africa to make sure the AGA was a success, so she's no stranger to hard work either. And for those of you who had the opportunity to talk with her at

length, as I did, she's not just beautiful outside, but on the inside as well.

I would also like to make an example of these 2 young women for another reason, too. When we get home, we have to make sure that the World Airlines Club Association doesn't have to change its name from "W.A.C.A." to "W.G.C.A." – World Geriatric Clubs Association. WACA needs young blood to survive! I don't know what the answer is, but the Jordan Interline Club certainly does – they have young people like these two – Suzie and Suhair – busy recruiting young people like themselves, holding activities for young people, and ensuring a future for their Club. These 2 were wonderful, and an example for other clubs. Let's together give a big "Thank you" to both Suzie and Suhair, and to Yousef, and to the entire Jordan Interline Club for this extraordinary trip. (solicit applause) Lastly, but not least, Hamad... What a great guide he was! What a great person he is! How lucky we were to have him with us! I've never seen anyone with such a knowledge of his country, its attractions, and its history. And Hamad is not just a walking Google – he has personality – he's fun! He like to laugh – he likes to dance – he likes to party. He makes us happy to be with him, and to share his enthusiasm for this great country we're now in.

Hamad is obviously:

- Proud of his country
- Enthusiastic about its history
- Passionate about sharing all this with us

Hamad, it was a really great week. From all of us and again, from the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely thank you. And on behalf of the group, we have a small gift for you, in appreciation for all you've done. Thank you! (solicit applause)

Steve Charlton
Montreal Interline Club



CAIRO and NILE CRUISE (2)

Kitty and I were among the 39 interliners who attended the Cairo and Nile Cruise hosted by the Jordan Interline Club.

Our journey started at the five star Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in downtown Cairo on the banks of the river Nile. An overnight train journey to Luxor and we were in the Valley of the Kings. Our guide Hamed was a passionate and dedicated Egyptologist with a vast knowledge of the subject.

After visiting a variety of tombs and temples including that of the boy King Tut we boarded a cruise ship to take us to Aswan to view the famous Aswan Dam, the granite quarries and the unfinished obelisk. Our time spent on the ship was very pleasant with large state rooms, good food, entertainment and a lovely sun deck. A side trip on a felucca (Egyptian sail boat) was an added bonus.

Then it was back on the train for an overnight return trip to Cairo. Once comfortably settled in the hotel

again, it was off to see the Citadel of Salah-El-Din and the Egyptian Museum. The following day it was a visit to the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Our final night in Cairo was a dinner cruise topped off with a very energetic belly dancer for a floor show.

Throughout the tour we were accompanied by Suzi and Suhair of the Jordan Interline Club and Yousef joined us on the final weekend.

Apparently the Jordan Interline Club is planning to host another tour in 2008, if that is the case I highly recommend it to interliners worldwide.

We flew from London to Cairo non-stop aboard Egyptair's A340 and returned aboard a Boeing 777. Most of the major airlines fly to Cairo from their European gateways.

Aubrey Winterbotham
Montreal Interline Club



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

c/o International Air Transport Association (IATA)
800 Place Victoria, P.O.Box 113
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4Z 1M1

Tel.: +1(514) 874 0202
Fax: +1(514) 874 1753
Internet: www.waca.org
E-mail address: info@waca.org

WACA World News

is an official publication of the
World Airlines Club Association

With 30.000 members worldwide.

Publicize your company, a particular product or a special offering and you have 7.000 interliners working to spread the word for you. Your ad will also help the cause of WACA itself, dedicated to furthering the cause of the air travel industry and to networking amongst its employees.

More details:

Rosemarie Mamede
Vice President Public Relations
Email: rosemarie.mamede@t-online.de