

METROPOLITAN Airport NewsTM

DECEMBER 2021

The Journal of the Metropolitan New York Airport Community

Aviation Horizons

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in the Aviation Industry

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I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and family. Things usually get quite hectic leading up to Thanksgiving and don't slow down until after New Year's Eve for me. I am very excited about seeing the social events coming back. There are parties to attend, gifts to buy for local children that are in need, and service projects in place to make sure as many people in our area can enjoy the holidays regardless of their situations. There are many opportunities to help out, reach out to local organizations in your area and see what you can do. If you want an easy one, touch base with the JFK Rotary Club or the LGA Kiwanis Club. They are always doing something for the community, especially around the holidays!

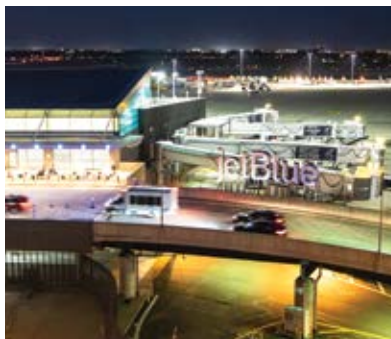
This month's feature article is all about obtaining the skills needed for in-demand jobs in and around the airports. The JFK Redevelopment is getting going again. There will be good-paying jobs out there for skilled workers. For some Queens residents, they may be lucky enough to get training through Aviation High School or at Vaughn College, and for others, it will be by way of technical school, training classes, and certificate programs. Whether you choose to learn a skilled trade or pursue professional development, there are so many options. I am seeing loads of both live and virtual offerings. If you just put your mind to you and allow yourself the time to grow you may just change your life. Never stop learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our readers to our new Editor-In-Chief, **Julia Lauria-Blum**. We have been working with Julia for many years on her very interesting research and well-written articles focused on local historical aviation topics and women in aviation. Since the passing of our long-time editor, Joe Alba, we knew that we would have to bring someone on to fill his big shoes. Julia already felt like part of the family. We know that you will be delighted with the content that Julia is curating for our readers. Julia can be reached directly at **JBlum@metroairportnews.com**.

Lastly, our December issue is always a Giving Campaign issue where we donate to a local organization proceeds from our advertisers that participate in the issue. This year we are once again supporting the Aviation High School Education Foundation. Since the inception of the *Metropolitan Airport News* in 2016, we have been able to donate over \$38,000 to local organizations due to the generosity of our advertisers! Thank you in advance to all those who support the Giving Campaigns. It really makes a difference to those who receive the donations.

From the entire team at the Metropolitan Airport News, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We'll see you in the New Year!

Katie Bliss, *Publisher*

**ON THE COVER**

With the JFK Redevelopment back on track, the JFK Jetblue Terminal 5 is getting ready to become Terminal 6. Do you have the right skills to be part of the project now and into the future? Now is a great time to assess your capabilities and get trained on what will be needed for the future at our airports.

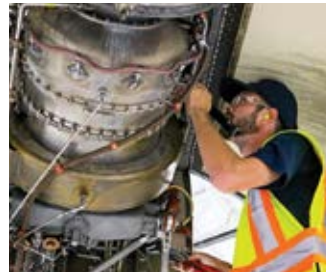


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Steve Mikhlin

Vice President, Risk and Insurance Management at Morgan Stanley

Steve Mikhlin is a Risk Manager at Morgan Stanley. His work is mainly concerned with managing the organization's cyber, fidelity, fraud, and aviation risks. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Steve was the Risk Manager for the Port Authority of NY/NJ, handling its real estate, marine, rail, transportation infrastructure and airport/aviation risks. Steve's aviation career began as an aircraft and powerplant technician for Tower Air, before moving on to British Airways as a Line Maintenance Engineer. From there, he joined Matsushita Avionics Corp. serving as a Field Service Technician.

1 How did your experiences at Aviation High School and Vaughn College shape your career path?

Attending Aviation High School (AHS) was perhaps the single most important decision of my professional life. It shaped my career and in many ways my view of the world. AHS taught me how to work in a zero-tolerance industry where everything matters. I learned that one's reputation precedes them and that being punctual, detail-oriented, and having respect for others are three key ingredients of a successful reputation. I formed relationships that endure to this day, many of us from the Class of 1989 continue to stay in touch.

In many ways, Vaughn College was a continuation of my experience at AHS. I attended classes taught by some of the best professors in the industry. Their ability to teach complicated topics in physics and math gave me a whole new appreciation for the subjects and, quite frankly, gave me the tools I need in my current profession.

My passion for AHS is what prompted me to found the Aviation High School Education Foundation (AHSEF). I wanted to do something positive and lasting for the AHS. And what better way than to create an organization that will benefit students and graduates alike.

2 As a student did you see yourself working as a maintenance technician, or was the business side of aviation always your plan?

I took the AHS entrance exam in 1985 with one thing in mind – I wanted to fix airplanes for a living. However, I found the business of aviation fascinating – pilots, flight attendants, fuelers, and mechanics – working together as parts of a diverse, multicultural community working towards a common goal.

I have met many aviation professionals whose experiences fueled my passion. They shared stories of their challenges, and shared information about the rewards available if we were fortunate enough to get a job with one of the big airlines. They talked about the generous compensation, benefits, and paid time off. Frankly, there was only one benefit that meant anything to me at the time – flight benefits. I envisioned myself jetting off to exotic destinations, visiting distant shores, and experiencing new foods, languages, and customs.

3 What made you change career paths from the technical side to your current role within risk management?

After many years of working the midnight shift, I managed to complete a bachelor's in science degree in Aerospace Technology. Almost immediately, opportunities came my way. One of which was with a group

of investors, who at the time were focusing on FAR 145 repair stations. As Manager of Inside Sales, I helped to build a little-known repair station into a formidable competitor within its space.

I would argue that there are many parallels between aviation technology and risk management. Both fields require a technical aptitude and an ability to understand systems, processes, and comprehend complicated, often highly nuanced language. Both industries are highly regulated, requiring knowledge of laws and policies. My aviation career training was a great springboard toward risk management.

After I earned my Aircraft and Powerplant licenses, I set out to earn an FCC GROL license, which I obtained through self-study. I also managed to earn a bachelor's degree in aviation sciences while working full-time as an A&P at JFK Airport.

The senior management at the small airline I was working for recognized my resourcefulness and offered me an opportunity to move into a managerial role.

4 Can you tell us about your current position as Vice President, Risk and Insurance Management at Morgan Stanley?

When people ask me whether I like my job I often say, "No. I love my job." I work for a multinational, highly respected, world-class organization that prides itself on its ability to recruit and retain top talent. I am very proud of being part of this group of professionals. My responsibility is to help protect the Firm against financial losses stemming from any variety of events, including financial and personal injury to its employees, clients, or arising out of its engagement with its vendors. I do this, primarily, in two ways: I help to negotiate agreements with our counterparties, and I procure insurances that protect the Firm from losses.

5 What advice can you offer people interested in pursuing a career within aviation?

You need to start with a passion for aviation, this will sustain you through the turbulence you will experience in your career. Prioritize your studies and build a network of like-minded professionals.

Make sure to build a solid reputation for knowing your craft AND for working well with others.

Remain flexible, you may need to take a job that isn't within your primary discipline. For example, you're an avionics technician and the position offered is interior maintenance. Take the job! Always keep an eye out for new opportunities and professional growth. ■

To learn more about the Aviation High School Education Foundation (AHSEF), visit them at www.AHSEF.org.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



KAAMCO and KAAMCO Cargo Kick Off the Holiday Season

On a beautiful crisp November evening, The JFK Airport community joined with KAAMCO and KAAMCO Cargo to officially open the holiday season at the iconic Tribeca Rooftop in New York City. It was a well-attended event complete with a divine display of food, a jamming band and hand rolled cigars to be enjoyed on the rooftop with amazing views of the city.

LaGuardia Kiwanis Club Installed a New Board for the 2021-2022 Year

The LaGuardia Kiwanis Club met at the LGA Marriot to celebrate the great work done under the leadership of George Dixon over the last two terms and to welcome the new board to the club. It was noted by George that the past two years were difficult indeed due to the pandemic, however the club still supported the community in many ways. The leadership has been passed to Cheryl Jones of Royal Waste. This is nothing new for Cheryl, in fact this will be the 4th term as club president she will be leading.



(L.-R.): Shanel Thomas-Henry, Board Member; George Dixon, Immediate Past President; Carol Verdi, Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor; Cheryl Jones, Club President; Neisha Joseph, Vice President; Bill Huisman, Secretary. Not in Photo: Zendra Spence, Treasurer, Anthony Vero Board Member; Finny Kurian, Board Member.

Vaughn College Student Awarded Scholarship from IAWA

The International Aviation Women's Association (IAWA) is an international organization for women who hold positions of impact in the aviation and aerospace industry. Vaughn College student, class of 2023, Alina Santander Vinokurova studying Mechatronic Engineering has been awarded a scholarship by the prestigious organization.

Alina developed her love of aviation at age 15. She has medaled at the science Olympics, participated in NASA competitions, and become a noteworthy public speaker. She is committed to improving opportunities for women in STEM, and "learning the art to convey encouraging and motivating messages to everyone who is following their dreams and sometimes encounters obstacles in their way." At Vaughn, she is the founding president of the newly formed NASA Rover Club, as well as president of the Society of Women Engineers.



(L.-R.): Ed Trippe, Linda Freire, and John Luetich.

The Legacy Endures: Unveiling of the Pan Am Timeline Exhibit

On December 5, another piece of Pan Am's history was added to the airline's permanent exhibit at the Cradle of Aviation in Garden City, NY. "The Pan Am Saga", a historical timeline, traces the beginning of Pan Am in 1927 to its slow demise and fall in 1991, highlighting moments in the company's history. John Luetich, the curator and historian, spoke of the difficulty in distilling 64 years of this iconic airline into the events pictured on "my wall" as he lovingly called it.

Ed Trippe, son of the Pan Am founder Juan Trippe, was present for the unveiling and referred to his father, a monumental figure in aviation history as just "a normal guy", and is still somewhat in awe of his legacy.

A large group of former Pan Am employees, family members, friends of Pan Am and, aviation buffs attended the event and witnessed the ceremonial ribbon cutting by John Luetich, Ed Trippe and, board member Linda Freire, unveiling the exhibit to the public. ■

AIRPORT INTEL

Port Authority Board Meeting Highlights

PANYNJ Executive Director Rick Cotton gave comment at the November PANYNJ Board Meeting. "Volume activity this month at Aviation and PATH, have been the two facilities slowest to recover from the pandemic, saw a bit of an uptick hitting with their highest weekly volume since the beginning of the pandemic, though both still remain significantly down from pre-covid levels." While the airports and PATH are still way down, they are improving slowly.

Recovery Rates for 11/8/21 to 11/14/21 compared to the same week in 2019.

- Airports down 23%
- PATH down 48%
- Bridges and Tunnels up 2.5%
- Seaports Up 19.6% the highest month volume yet, and the 14th consecutive record setting month on record

Approximately 2,200 PANYNJ employees are unvaccinated and are being tested weekly. In the month of October, those tests revealed 34 cases of employees who were positive for Covid-19 and asymptomatic. Those employees were placed on quarantine. Rick Cotton is reporting that 75% of PANYNJ employees are currently vaccinated and they continue to encourage the remaining employees to get vaccinated.

Rick Cotton gave an update to the current status of the LaGuardia AirTrain project. At the request of Governor Hochul, PANYNJ



has paused the current plans and have begun a review of alternative options. Mr. Cotton commented, "The Port Authority has appointed a panel of world-renowned independent transportation experts as part of our effort to run a high quality review. The experts are **Mike Brown**, former Commissioner of Transport in London; **Janette Sadiq-Khan**, principal at Bloomberg Associates and former Commissioner of NYC Department of Transportation; and **Phillip Washington**, CEO of Denver International Airport. In addition to these leading transportation voices, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will be a key partner in the analysis of the mass transit options specifically with respect to the subway and bus alternatives."

Also discussed at length was the 2022 PANYNJ Budget, which is proposed at 7.9 Billion. It is currently available for in depth review and public comment on their website. It will be voted upon at the December Board Meeting on December 16th.

For details and comment, go to www.panynj.gov. ■

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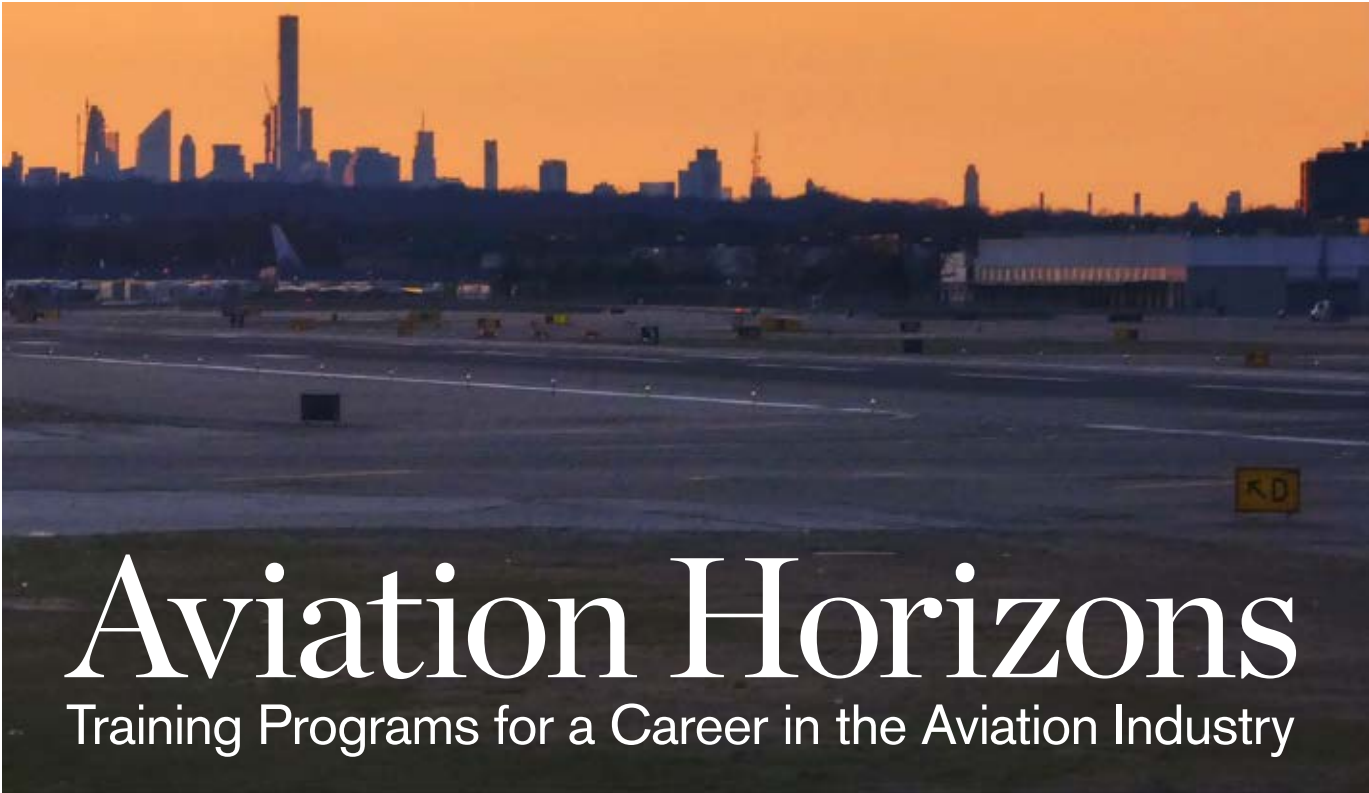
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Aviation Horizons

Training Programs for a Career in the Aviation Industry

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

When preparing for the future and considering a career path, the aviation industry offers a wide variety of occupational opportunities and an abundant number of training courses to choose from. Many of these courses are just the right start to provide a student with the skills needed for an entry-level position and a well-paying job. Other programs may advance him or her to a more senior role in the aviation field. From trade schools and colleges, to airlines and manufacturers; from the growing need for pilots and Aviation Maintenance Technicians/A & P Mechanics, the sectors that play a major role in the aviation industry are civil, commercial and military aviation, including aircraft manufacturers and a variety of other companies. In raising student awareness toward aviation as a strong, viable career choice, the collective efforts of parents, technical schools, educational institutions, and industry stakeholders, along with primary schools, high school administrators and counselors can effectively be the formula that launches a successful, life-long career in the aviation industry.

Aviation High School (AHS)

Located in Long Island City, is a uniquely specialized, co-educational high school that provides a challenging and supportive environment for students of every background. AHS' well-rounded academic program includes the arts, language, physical education, science and rigorous technical instruction and access to Federal Administration curricula that prepares students to successfully earn an FAA certification as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician, as well as college or other aviation related careers.

Industry partnerships include Delta, the FAA, Federal Express, Jet Blue, Mach II, Panasonic, Vaughn College, Port Authority of NY & NJ and Rockwell Collins. Aviation High School has been recognized as one of the best high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Western Suffolk BOCES

Western Suffolk BOCES school of Aviation Maintenance Technology is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration and offers a 1,910 Hour AMT program that helps students to become an FAA certified Airframe and Powerplant Technician. BOCES offers small classes, state-of-the-art

equipment and highly qualified instructors. Those who satisfactorily complete the AMT course are eligible to take the FAA exam for FAA licenses in Airframe and Powerplant. The school is located at Wilson Tech's Republic Airport Campus in Farmingdale, NY.

Vaughn College

Ranking among the country's Top 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* Regional Colleges and Universities in the North, Vaughn College, located in Flushing, New York, is one of only four colleges with an ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)-approved Mechatronic Engineering program in the United States. Vaughn offers Associate, Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Engineering and Technology, Management and Aviation, as well as Certificate and Programs that offer students the opportunity to explore new fields of interest, or that take their current education and experience to the next level. Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology also supports students from middle school through high school graduation via its pre-college Opportunity Program, leading into college and through their graduation at Vaughn.

Fairleigh Dickinson University

For those interested in administrative careers in the aviation industry, New Jersey's Fairleigh Dickinson University, School of Public and Global Affairs offers a 39-42 credit graduate program leading to an MPA (Master of Public Administration) that is tailored to furnish graduates with managerial, analytical and conceptual skills for government, transportation, nonprofits and public service sectors. Expanded course options include security, terrorism and crisis management. A specialization in Global Transportation Management is also offered at FDU's off-campus Newark and JFK International Airport sites.

Global Aviation Training Academy

Global Aviation Training Academy, located at Long Island MacArthur Airport, Ronkonkoma, NY, offers a 200-hour FAA approved Aircraft Dispatcher Certification training course. Aircraft dispatchers are employed by major airlines to exercise operational control for all scheduled flights and they work with many departments and personnel in an airline to manage a flight's safe, on-time departure and arrival. Upon course completion, students are fully prepared for the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher Certification exam.

York College CUNY Aviation Institute

York College CUNY Aviation Institute offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management and a Master in Aviation management program that prepares graduates for mid and upper-level executive positions and FAA Dispatcher Certification. The curriculum is informed by recommendations from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI).

According to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov), from 2020 to 2030 the employment of commercial pilots is forecast to grow approximately 13 percent, faster than the average for all occupations. Yet, a pilot shortage looms on the horizon due to the exit of an aging pilot population with mandatory retirement at age 65, early pilot retirement as a result of the pandemic, fewer new pilots out of the military and a decline of interest in the career. While sharp declines in business and leisure travel occurred because of COVID-19 restrictions

and its impact on the airline industry's massive staff furloughs and reductions, the demand for air travel is expected to be strong in the coming years due to a surge in post-pandemic air travel. The demand for pilots is alarming and has led flight schools and major airlines to vigorously recruit and train a new generation of commercial pilots to fill the shortage.

There are many flight training resources in the Greater NY/NJ area. **Flight Safety International**, located at the Teterboro Learning Center in New Jersey, has training programs comprised of business and commercial pilot training, and government and military training using full flight simulators and immersive technology in specially designed training environments developed through the expertise of professional and EASA qualified instructors. Amongst Flight Safety's several non-pilot training programs, is in-depth corporate cabin attendant crew member training. This training utilizes scenario-based cabin safety exercises in a classroom with special training devices to equip crewmembers with the knowledge and skills needed to efficiently manage any situation, routine or emergency.

Flying Helicopters Made Easy

Flying Helicopters Made Easy, located at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, New York offers professional and private helicopter training and services led by professional flight instructors who take their students from ground school, to Private Pilot Rotorcraft and Commercial Pilot Certificates- all the way to becoming a Certified Flight Instructor. **Farmingdale Aviation**, also located at Republic Airport, offers affordable flight training in order to obtain Private and Commercial licenses, as well as an Instrument Rating.

ATP Flight Schools

With over 70 training centers across the U.S., ATP Flight Schools offers an Airline Career Pilot Program that provides the training, resources, and airline partnerships needed to become an airline pilot. Starting with zero time, this fixed cost, fast-track program can be completed in seven months and will have you flying as an airline pilot in two years. Locations in the Metro NY/NJ vicinity are at Long Island MacArthur Airport, NY; Morristown

Municipal and Trenton Mercer County Airports in New Jersey.

Additionally, many employers have their own training programs for those who make it through their hiring process. The **Federal Aviation Administration** offers several entry-level careers, training and development programs, and also full-time and internship opportunities for students and college graduates. **JetBlue's Gateway Select** program is an innovative talent pathway for those seeking to become pilots with their airline. The Gateway Program is a unique, accessible and cost-effective, competency-based approach to becoming a professional pilot with JetBlue.

Other agencies, such as the **Regional Alliance for Small Contractors** provide free or low cost training for communities that may lead to employment with companies inside the airports and train business owners and their employees to become successful in the construction industry.

Whatever the choice for a career in the aviation industry, training resources are aplenty and from there, the sky is the limit. For more information on admissions to these programs see the links below. ■

Training Resources

- **Regional Alliance for Small Contractors**
www.regional-alliance.org
- **Flight Safety International**
www.flightsafety.com
- **Fairleigh Dickinson University**
www.fdu.edu/mpa
- **Flying Helicopters Made Easy**
www.fly-ny.com
- **GLOBAL AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY**
globalaviationtrainingacademy.com
- **ATP Flight School**
www.atpflightschool.com
- **Fairleigh Dickinson University**
www.fdu.edu/mpa
- **JetBlue Pilot Gateway**
pilots.jetblue.com
- **Western Suffolk Boces**
www.wsbores.org/amt
- **Vaughn College**
www.vaughn.edu

American Airlines Announces Leadership Succession Plan

Robert Isom to become CEO on March 31, 2022; Doug Parker to continue as chairman.

American Airlines Group Inc. announced Doug Parker will retire as chief executive officer of American Airlines on March 31, 2022. Robert Isom, currently president of American, will succeed him. Isom also will join the airline's board of directors on that same date, and Parker will continue to serve as chairman of American's board.

"I have worked with Robert for two decades and I am incredibly pleased that he will be the next CEO of American Airlines, which is truly the best job in our industry," Parker said. "Robert is a collaborative leader with deep operational expertise and global industry experience. His efforts to guide and support our team throughout the pandemic have been nothing short of phenomenal. We are well-positioned to take full advantage of our industry's recovery, and now is the right time for a handoff we have planned and prepared for. I feel extremely fortunate to hand the reins to this clear and capable leader."

Parker added, "It has been the privilege of my life to serve for 20 years as an airline CEO. I am forever grateful to the American team, whose commitment to taking care of each other and our customers has never wavered and will continue to drive our success going forward."

Isom, who was named president in 2016, brings more than 30 years of global industry and leadership experience across finance, operations, planning, marketing, sales, alliances, pricing and revenue management.

"I am humbled to serve as CEO of American Airlines," said Isom. "Over the past several years, our airline and our industry have gone



(L.-R.): Robert Isom and Doug Parker

Welcome Aboard!



Introducing Julia Lauria-Blum, the new Editor-In-Chief for the *Metropolitan Airport News*. Julia has earned her degree in Visual Arts from SUNY New Paltz. She has always had an interest in the women aviation pioneers that paved the way for so many. Her interest led her to research the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) from the

WWII era. In 2001 she curated the permanent WASP exhibit at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY. Also at the American Airpower Museum, Julia curated the "Women Who Brought the War Home, Women War Correspondents, WWII".

Julia is the former curatorial assistant at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY where she worked on many of the exhibits as well as the historical archives.

Her love of aviation, local history and talent for story telling will certainly bring the readers a rich and enlightening experience that will entertain and educate. Julia can be reached directly jblum@metroairportnews.com. ■

through a period of transformative change. And with change comes opportunity. Today, our more than 130,000 dedicated team members fly more people than any other U.S. airline on the youngest fleet of all the network carriers, and we are positioned to continue to lead the industry as travel rebounds."

Isom added, "I want to thank Doug for his partnership over the past two decades. He is a leader and teacher who inspires all around him and leaves an incredible legacy at American and in our industry. Looking ahead, I am deeply honored to be working alongside the best team in the industry and know that we will achieve great things together."

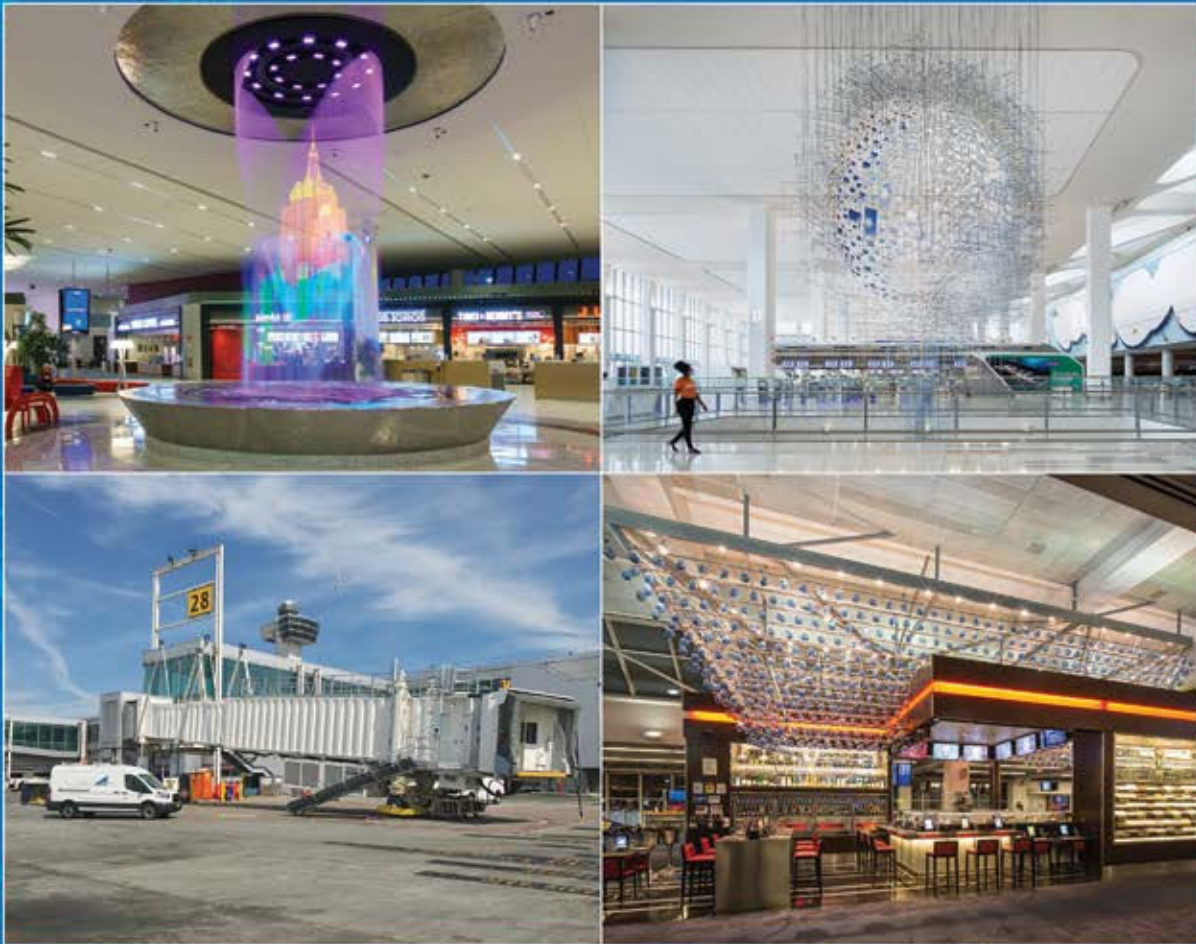
Lead Independent Director John Cahill said, "The board views succession planning as one of our most important mandates, and today's announcement represents the culmination of a thoughtful and well-crafted succession planning process. Robert is an excellent team builder who has worked to bring people together throughout his career. He is the right leader to carry American forward into its next period of growth."

Cahill concluded, "Over the span of his 35-year career, Doug has been an architect and advocate for a more vibrant, resilient and secure aviation industry. At American, Doug has overseen unprecedented investment in our team and our product and set the standard for servant leadership, tirelessly championing our people and establishing an accessible and inclusive culture. We look forward to continuing to benefit from Doug's sound judgement, deep industry knowledge, persistence and optimism as chairman of our board." ■



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Dropping of the Roses

Honoring the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

On December 7, the Long Island Air Force Association chapter honored the 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and all veterans of World War II with the annual Dropping of the Roses program.

The program was started by the late Joseph Hydrusko who was a Navy medic serving at Pearl Harbor during the attack on December 7th, 1941. He was credited with saving countless lives as the Japanese aircraft dropped their bombs on the Navy fleet. In 1970, Hydrusko started a tradition of dropping American Beauty Roses, one for each anniversary year, over the Statue of Liberty while flying his own aircraft. The “Dropping of the Roses” was his way of paying a personal tribute to the men and women who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following his death in 1974, Hydrusko’s friends from the “Skytypers” and the Air Force Association continued on with the tradition. The annual ceremony took place at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, NY. ■



LORI & STEVE BIEGLER/LSB PHOTOGRAPHY

JFKIAT Launches New AI-Driven Solution to Elevate Operations at JFK T4

T4 is the first air terminal in the Northeast to launch this innovative technology solution to improve operations, enhance on-time flight performance, and improve sustainability within the terminal.

JFK International Air Terminal (JFKIAT), the operator of Terminal 4 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, announced its partnership with Assaia International AG to launch the ApronAI Turnaround Control solution.

JFKIAT is leveraging a new artificial intelligence technology to enhance its infrastructure at several gates to gain full oversight over airside operations and enhance on-time performance, safety, and turnaround transparency. The Turnaround Control solution will provide real-time alerts in case of deviations from standard operating procedures, helping to identify and prevent situations potentially leading to delays or incidents, and giving JFKIAT valuable insights that will be shared with its airline partners and ground handlers. Computer vision will capture turnaround activities in real-time, using video streams, and will serve as a single source of operational data for the entire terminal community.

“We are pleased to partner with Assaia to implement the ApronAI Turnaround Control solution at T4,” said Roel Huinink, President and CEO of JFKIAT. “In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to transform T4’s digital ecosystem

with enhanced technologies, with a focus on improving the passenger experience. This new solution will not only optimize operations and our work with our business partners but will also help us to ensure a first-class customer experience at T4.”

In addition to bringing efficiency and transparency to airside operations, Assaia’s ApronAI technology will also contribute to JFKIAT’s sustainability initiatives at T4. JFKIAT, which has deeply ingrained sustainability into the core of its business, is implementing this technology as its latest move to integrate Terminal 4’s

environmentally friendly culture across its airside operations. The system will also identify excessive usage of the auxiliary power unit (APU) in a push to lower CO2 emissions and improve air quality as well as noise levels.

“JFK Terminal 4 is an industry-leading air terminal committed to innovation, passenger’s experience, and sustainability,” said Max Diez, CEO of Assaia. “Implementation of Assaia’s ApronAI technology will help JFKIAT enhance airside operations, grow passenger’s satisfaction and support its sustainability initiatives at T4.” ■



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JFK's Terminal 4 Gets First Check-out Free Store With Zippin Tech



JFK's Camden Food Express powered by Zippin, located at Gate B 42

JFKIAT, the operator of Terminal 4 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, announced its partnership with SSP America and Zippin to launch a contactless, frictionless retail concept leveraging artificial intelligence technology, the first of Zippin's locations in an air terminal.

Zippin's new technology for the Camden Food Express, located at Gate B 42, offers a grab-and-go food and beverage selection and leverages AI technology to enable an entirely contactless shopping experience. Customers enter the store through a turnstile tapping their credit card as they enter, and then,

begin shopping by picking items off shelves. As they do, Zippin's AI system automatically identifies the items and builds the customer's virtual cart with the corresponding monetary value. When the customer leaves the store, the total amount spent is automatically charged to the card the customer used to check-in at the store entrance.

"We are thrilled that JFK T4 has become the first airport location to feature Zippin's innovative retail concept," said Roel Huinink, President and CEO of JFKIAT. "We have continued to innovate T4's offerings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and enabling a more contactless customer journey is critical to our mission to provide customers with a safe, seamless experience. This partnership with SSP America and Zippin, launching just as we enter the holiday travel season, is our latest initiative to enable a fully digital purchasing process at T4."

Michael Svagdis, CEO of SSP America, commented, "As the food travel experts, SSP America is excited to see Zippin deployed to ensure passengers have a speedy, contactless option while traveling through JFK's Terminal 4. The SSP America team is passionate about bringing authentic restaurants to airports. Implementing innovative technology to provide a range of shopping solutions is an important part our commitment to our customers and clients. ■

VRH Aeroterm MWBE Subcontractor Outreach Webinar

VRH Construction and Aeroterm, in a webinar on Nov. 30, shared updates on the development of a new cargo facility at JFK International Airport and solicited participation from Minority/Woman-owned contractors and vendors. Aeroterm is the developer and future operator of the new facility, the first new cargo infrastructure to be constructed at the airport in 30 years.

VRH, the general contractor, joined Aeroterm in the project introduction and overview. About 50 local union contractors and vendors attended the virtual presentation, invited by Aeroterm, VRH, the Port Authority of NY and NJ, and several Queens-based organizations.

The presentation detailed the project

requirements for meeting and exceeding the Port Authority set goal of the MWBE participation which consists of 20% minority business enterprise (MBE) participation, 10% woman business enterprise (WBE) participation and 3% service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOB) participation. VRH also stressed the importance of using local business entities for subcontracting and supplier vendor opportunities, with a particular emphasis on Queens businesses.

VRH described the prequalification process for contractors to be invited to bid on this and future projects and also shared the latest development of having virtual office hours, which entails VRH holding



Artist Rendering

30-minute, one-on-one discussions that are available by appointment. Project Executive Magdy Allam explained the next packages that will be issued for bid and broke down the trades that will be required. The meeting concluded with a robust question-and-answer session. ■

Council for Airport Opportunity Online Orientation

Council for Airport Opportunity is now hosting online orientations. This is your opportunity to start a career at the airport!

10:00AM-11:15AM

Tuesday, December 7th: <http://ow.ly/P8Kb50GW3AO>

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Breeze Airways Adds Flights from Long Island MacArthur Airport

Breeze Airways announced that it is adding eight new routes in February 2022 from New York's Long Island MacArthur Airport (ISP) and Palm Beach International Airport (PBI), the first market additions since the new carrier's debut in May of 2021.

"Breeze's business model is to add nice, new nonstop flights on routes where only connecting service is offered by other carriers," said Breeze CEO David Neeleman in a news release. "We're excited to introduce Breeze service to South Florida and the New York area, and look forward to adding more routes from both Palm Beach and Islip."

"David Neeleman's mission to bring together a nice group of people to run a seriously nice airline with great service, innovation, and low fares won our hearts from the start," said Long Island MacArthur Airport Commissioner Shelley LaRose-Arken. "We are a different kind of airport, located in the largest metro market in the country. Breeze offers a unique opportunity to disrupt the marketplace with its competitive fares and reshape air travel for Long Island and New York with its fast, affordable, point-to-point service." ■



Breeze Airways founder David Neeleman announces the new service at MacArthur Airport (ISP).

Airline Passenger Service Workers Call Attention to Rage Incidents In New Ad

No matter where you're from or where you work we all want to be treated with decency and respect. However, some disgruntled travelers are taking their frustrations out on the very people who make their travel safe and secure. Airline passenger service agents, members of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 6001, in Euless, Texas released a digital advertisement campaign, ahead of the holiday travel season, to raise awareness about the rise in passenger rage incidents and encourage civility among passengers. The ads are currently running on Facebook and Instagram, in Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

CWA represents more than 20,000 passenger service agents around the country, who are responsible for assisting passengers and keeping our air travel on schedule and safe. Incidents of passenger rage including physical and verbal assault directed towards passenger service agents have been steadily increasing, putting their jobs in jeopardy.

"A lot of the agents are sharing with me the hostility that the passengers have for them for having to hold so long," said Deborah Johnson, a tariff agent for a major

airline and CWA Local 6001 member, in one of the ads. "I'm someone's wife, I'm someone's mother, I'm someone's daughter, I'm someone's sister, I'm a human being. And all I wish is that you treat me with respect."

The recent uptick in disruptive passengers, both in terminals and in the air, coupled with the difficulties of the COVID-19

pandemic has created a hazardous working environment for frontline workers. Ahead of the holiday travel season, we are encouraging passengers to be patient and treat the passenger service agents, who are there to help, with the respect and dignity they deserve so together, we can all make it to our destinations safe and sound. ■



Go to www.metroairportnews.com to view the commercial

United Becomes First Airline to Fly Aircraft Full of Passengers Using 100% Sustainable Fuel



United operated an unprecedented flight on December 1st that served as a turning point in the industry's effort to combat climate change: for the first time in aviation history, a commercial carrier flew an aircraft full of passengers using 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). United also announced the second round of corporate participants in the airline's Eco-Skies Alliance program to collectively contribute towards the purchase of SAF.

United is the world leader in the usage and support for the development of SAF, an alternative fuel made with non-petroleum feedstocks, already having agreements to purchase nearly twice as much SAF as the known agreements of all other global airlines combined. SAF has the potential to deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel but with a fraction of its carbon footprint, and according to the U.S. Department of Energy, the country's vast feedstock resources are enough to meet the projected fuel demand of the entire U.S. aviation industry.

"United continues to lead from the front when it comes to climate change action," said United CEO Scott Kirby, who flew

onboard the historic SAF flight. "Today's SAF flight is not only a significant milestone for efforts to decarbonize our industry, but when combined with the surge in commitments to produce and purchase alternative fuels, we're demonstrating the scalable and impactful way companies can join together and play a role in addressing the biggest challenge of our lifetimes."

The demonstration flight departed Chicago O'Hare International Airport with more than 100 passengers at 1 p.m. and landed at Washington, D.C.'s Reagan National Airport at 4 p.m. (EST) on a new United 737 MAX 8 using 500 gallons of SAF in one engine and the same amount of conventional jet fuel in the other engine to further prove there are no operational differences between the two, and to set the stage for more scalable uses of SAF by all airlines in the future. Currently, airlines are only permitted to use a maximum of 50% SAF on board. The SAF used on the flight is drop-in ready and compatible with existing aircraft fleets.

United operated this unprecedented flight in partnership with Boeing, CFM International*, Virent – a subsidiary of

Marathon – whose technology enables 100% drop-in SAF, and World Energy – the world's first, and North America's only commercial SAF producer. United's, Scott Kirby, was joined by executives from each of those companies on the flight along with other business leaders, government officials, NGOs, and members of the media.

"Boeing is proud to support United on this historic event as we work together to make aviation more sustainable," said Ihssane Mounir, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for The Boeing Company. "As an industry, we are committed to addressing climate change, and sustainable aviation fuels are the most measurable solution to reduce aviation carbon emissions in the coming decades. No one entity can decarbonize aviation alone and it will require partnerships like this to ensure aviation is safe and sustainable for future generations."

"We are honored to be part of this landmark event," said Gaël Méheust, president & CEO of CFM International. "Drop-in SAF is something our industry can adopt now to begin making inroads on our commitment to being net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Along with our parent companies, GE Aviation and Safran Aircraft Engines, we applaud United for taking this bold initiative and look forward to even greater cooperation in the future."

"We're excited to partner with this group of innovative companies that are leading the way in sustainable aviation," said Dave Kettner, president and general counsel of Virent. "Virent's proprietary technology demonstrates that SAF can be 100% renewable and 100% compatible with our current aviation fleet and infrastructure. We are proud to be playing a role in this advancement toward sustainable aviation fuels."

"When we fly, we connect, and our demand for the connections that aviation makes possible are only going to grow," said Gene Gebolys, CEO of World Energy. "But we need to develop affordable, high energy density, low-carbon liquid fuels at scale everywhere to allow those connections to be made sustainably. The pioneering work is the hardest work, and United has been with us from the very start. The flight path ahead will require tremendous teamwork."

Continued On Page 22



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DHL Operation Holiday Cheer Delivers Hundreds of Christmas Trees and More to U.S. Troops Overseas

For the 18th consecutive year, DHL is sending holiday letters, Christmas trees and decorations to U.S. military stationed abroad



DHL Express is delivering the gift of joy to soldiers who find themselves far from family and friends this season.

To help them enjoy a traditional holiday celebration, the company is once again sending hundreds of freshly cut Christmas trees with lights, ornaments, decorations, and more to U.S. servicemen and women stationed in Kuwait and Bahrain – along with hundreds of handwritten letters from school children back home. For the past 18 years, DHL has coordinated this very special delivery – known as Operation Holiday Cheer – in partnership with Dees' Nursery and many charitable organizations from the NYC-metropolitan area.

"We're pleased to show our appreciation

for the brave men and women who serve to keep us safe," said DHL Express U.S. CEO Greg Hewitt. "And through Operation Holiday Cheer, we can lift their spirits and give them a touch of home this year. We are proud to donate our global shipping network to deliver Christmas trees and other holiday reminders of home to these troops, who otherwise might not have had access to trees—especially with the short supply we've been seeing as a result of the pandemic."

Operation Holiday Cheer kicked off on Monday, Dec. 6, with a celebration at Dees' Nursery in Oceanside, NY. The event featured local community members, veterans groups, schoolchildren, and Nassau

County dignitaries – as well as Santa himself, who appeared bearing gifts from DHL. The children read letters they wrote to soldiers, followed by a performance of holiday and patriotic songs by the Broadway Carolers.

From Long Island-based Dees' Nursery, a police motorcade escorted the special convoy to the DHL Gateway facility at JFK International Airport, where the holiday decorations and letters were loaded aboard a DHL 767 jet. After a quick stop at the DHL Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG) hub, the donated items were flown nonstop to the DHL Bahrain hub, where they were dispatched to U.S. military personnel in the region.

In addition to the trees from Dees' Nursery, the other holiday contributions were donated by generous community organizations, including Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski Memorial Fund, Proctor-Hopson Post 1896 Veterans of Foreign Wars, John McLaughlin VFW Post 8540, and other VFW chapters in New York State.

DHL Operation Holiday Cheer began in 2004 when the mother of an Iraq-based U.S. soldier asked Dees' Nursery if she could send a Christmas tree to him. The nursery insisted on donating the tree but needed help with shipping. That's when Dees' owner, Tom Di Dominica, Sr., mentioned his mission to businessman Jim Adelis, who then contacted DHL Express – and it all began.

Since that single tree was shipped in 2004, DHL Operation Holiday Cheer has transported more than 12,000 trees from the Dees' farm in Maine, providing a special holiday experience for soldiers serving our country overseas. ■

Continued From Page 20

We are fortunate to have partners like United to do that work and are thrilled to be a part of this important milestone."

United's Eco-Skies Alliance program was launched in April 2021 and now has collectively contributed toward the purchase of more than 7 million gallons of SAF this year alone. With its nearly 80% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions on a lifecycle basis compared to conventional jet fuel, this is enough SAF to eliminate

approximately 66,000 metric tons of GHG emissions, or enough to fly passengers more than 460 million miles.

Including newly announced participants, the program has nearly 30 participants including companies like DHL Global Forwarding. This SAF flight and new Eco-Skies Alliance participants are among the latest accomplishments towards United's goal to be 100% green by reducing its GHG emissions by 100% by 2050, without relying on traditional carbon offsets.

In a further step to build transparency and enable certified sustainable aviation fuel emissions reductions for its corporate customers, last month United partnered with Microsoft, Air bp, and the Roundtable on Sustainable Aviation Biomaterials in the first-ever book-and-claim pilot, a solution that enables airlines to purchase SAF without being geographically connected to a supply site, and to further transfer its sustainability attributes to their corporate partners. ■



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At JFK Terminal 4 our vision is to be the preferred choice for passengers, airlines, businesses and the community in the New York metropolitan area by providing quality services delivered by a highly motivated and professional work force.

JFK International Air Terminal, LLC, the operator of Terminal 4, is seeking candidates for the position of Operations Supervisor. Our Operations Supervisors' primary responsibility is to manage airside, terminal and landside operations at Terminal 4.

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Vantage Airport Group Appoints New COO of LaGuardia Gateway Partners

Experienced Strategist to Lead Operations and Guest Experience at LaGuardia Terminal B

Vantage Airport Group announced that Suzette Noble has joined its corporate executive team as Chief Operating Officer of LaGuardia Gateway Partners, the Vantage-led private organization leading the \$5.1B transformation and management of the new Terminal B at New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Reporting to LaGuardia Gateway Partners' Chief Executive Officer, Frank Scremin, Suzette will lead the delivery of an exceptional and seamless guest experience for all stakeholders at Terminal B, maximizing commercial revenue, and implementing processes and metrics for the organization and its partners.

Ms. Noble is an experienced leader with more than 20 years of experience developing and operating transformational guest experiences at companies recognized for customer service excellence and brand loyalty, including Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts, Krispy Kreme, and Great Wolf Lodge.

Ms. Noble led Krispy Kreme through a \$150M retail market launch amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, guiding the operations team to a successful opening of the company's Times Square Flagship, integrating health and safety protocols that earned guest satisfaction scores in the 80th percentile, implementing a customer experience engagement program, and advising on the operational rollout of the brand's eight subsequent New York locations.

While with Disney, Ms. Noble led and sustained retail-owned and operated business growth during a significant property renovation of the Downtown Disney shopping guest experience. Collaborating with construction, engineering, and marketing colleagues, Ms. Noble created a robust guest engagement program that converted 32% of guests to \$2.6 million in retail sales, while maintaining the safety and satisfaction of some 50,000 daily guests during construction.

"We are delighted to welcome Suzette to the Vantage team," said George Casey, Vantage Airport Group Chair and CEO. "Suzette's extensive experience building exceptional guest experience, customer engagement, and complex retail operations programs make her an ideal fit for this leadership role in the Vantage network and at Terminal B."

"I am very excited about the opportunity to lead the operation and management of a new, world-class airport terminal in New York," said Suzette Noble. "This role offers an opportunity to help establish an entirely new standard for the airport guest experience – one that is safe, secure, intuitive, engaging, and entertaining – while contributing to Vantage's broader network of airport and transportation infrastructure projects."

"Suzette is a welcome addition to LaGuardia Gateway Partners and the Vantage network," said Frank Scremin, Chief Executive Officer, LGP. "With a collaborative mindset, customer-centric focus, and dynamic leadership skills, I know that Suzette will have a positive impact on the experience of each guest that travels through our new Terminal B."

On budget and now more than 80% complete, the redevelopment includes a 35-gate terminal, a parking garage, related roadways and supporting infrastructure – all



Suzette Noble, Chief Operating Officer, LaGuardia Gateway Partners.

with innovative construction phasing to deliver the project on time and without interrupting ongoing airport operations at one of the most critical airports in the U.S. airport system. The terminal's iconic design features two elevated pedestrian bridges that span active aircraft taxi lanes – a first in the world – connecting the main terminal to two island concourses. The largest milestone of the project, the 850,000 square foot Arrivals & Departures Hall, opened on time during the pandemic and features the check-in hall, state-of-the-art security screening, dynamic new shops and restaurants, and baggage claim.

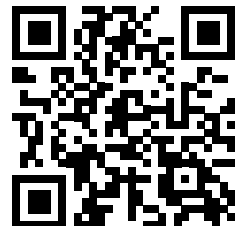
Terminal B features several notable hallmarks of a Vantage airport, including a distinctly New York sense of place in the terminal, through architectural and design elements, a tailored commercial program, and the inclusion of permanent commissioned works of art that celebrate New York's creative spirit. Sustainable design elements and the latest in travel technology and security screening further enhance the passenger experience. ■

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LaGuardia Airport Achieves Record \$2 Billion in Contracts Awarded to Minority & Women-Owned Businesses



Robert Gaskin (left) joins Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (center left), Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin (center right) and Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton to announce a new milestone has been reached through the LaGuardia Reconstruction project.

As a host of businesses in southeast Queens were forced to shut down in the spring of 2020 due to the dire economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, Principal and Founder of RCGA Architects, Robert Gaskin credits the MWBE (Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises) initiative through New York State's LaGuardia Redevelopment project for supplying critical support.

Gaskin attended a Port Authority briefing where Governor Kathy Hochul announced a record-setting \$2 billion in contracts have been awarded thus far to Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises program, which is the largest participation by MWBE firms at any public-private partnership project in New York State history. The announcement was

made at the community office of the LGA Redevelopment project, located on Astoria Boulevard in East Elmhurst.

"We are most thankful to the LaGuardia Redevelopment program and the Port Authority's Office of Inclusion and Diversity for the many opportunities that have opened up for us, being that our firm has been assigned 17 enabling and demolition projects and eight new Concession Projects at LaGuardia Airport," Gaskin said. "The contracts we were awarded at LaGuardia, at the Main Terminal helped us to sustain staffing at our company during the pandemic when other opportunities were difficult to find during the economic slowdown during COVID."

Governor Hochul said, "I commend the Port Authority for its commitment to breaking down barriers and leveling the

playing field so that minority- and women-owned businesses have access to one of the nation's greatest infrastructure projects at LaGuardia Airport. As one of the nation's leading transportation agencies, the Port Authority is demonstrating what can be done to create more equity in our society and make sure that the economic benefits of great infrastructure projects reach all our communities."

The redevelopment project has also demonstrated a significant focus on working with locally-based contractors; to date, \$775 million in contracts have been awarded to Queens-based local business enterprises.

Port Authority Executive Director, Rick Cotton said, "It demonstrates that we are committed to producing results and not promises when it comes to our MWBE agenda. And, our commitment to the communities has been equally intense. I am proud to say that the efforts of our partners, LaGuardia Gateway Partners and Delta, have awarded nearly \$800 million in contracts to local Queens businesses."

Assemblymember, Jeffrion Aubry said, "The LaGuardia Airport redevelopment program's historic milestone for MWBE participation represents the culmination of many years of work to ensure that the community that has been most impacted by the airport will have the most opportunities at the airport."

"Almost as astounding as the MWBE numbers is the local hiring for jobs at the airport," Aubry continued, "Of the 600 jobs filled so far, two-thirds of the new hires are from Queens. Much is said about government when it fails to live up to promises, but LaGuardia's MWBE program also proves that government can do things right."

Carrol Bennett, Port Authority Acting Chief of Diversity & Inclusion said, "We are extremely proud of this milestone which demonstrates our steadfast commitment and intentionality to drive results with our partners to provide meaningful contracting opportunities for our Minority and Women-owned Business. It's a commitment that fuels our collective efforts to create outreach events, customized training programs and capacity building opportunities to ensure the success of our minority and women-owned business."

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Why Is Air Cargo Suddenly Affordable Relative to Ocean Shipping?



JIM ALLEN/FREIGHTWAVES

The cost to ship goods around the world by air is about 2.5 times more expensive than before the pandemic. On major trade lanes, where demand is especially high, such as China and Southeast Asia to the United States, rates are five or six times higher than normal for the peak shipping season.

So how has airfreight become a relative bargain when ocean shipping is cheaper?

The air rate from China to the U.S. West Coast during the first week of November was about \$14 per kilogram, double what it was a year ago, according to the Freightos Air Index. Shipping by air to the East Coast cost about \$13, also twice as much as in 2020.

We all know the reasons by now. Passenger aircraft are the source for more than

half of air cargo's global capacity, and most of them stopped flying when COVID started spreading and restricted travel. Fewer border restrictions this year have increased demand and helped start airlines toward recovery, but international air capacity is still about 70% below pre-crisis levels.

Meanwhile, demand, especially in North America, is at record levels as federal relief monies and higher savings rates gave people more disposable income, which they disproportionately spent on goods over services, while the manufacturing sector suffered dislocations and a lack of labor. Inventories have been unable to catch up.

Air is usually the mode of last resort, limited to perishables and high-value goods

with margins that can cover the extra expense. Incredibly, airfreight has become a bargain relative to ocean shipping for many companies, especially when measured against the cost of stockouts and lost sales.

That's what happens when supply chains are turned upside down by constant chaos.

Ocean shipping demand to North America is up more than 20% compared to 2019. Carriers and ports have been overwhelmed, resulting in huge delays and port backlogs demonstrated most clearly by the 80 container vessels waiting last week for a berth at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Glitches in the system — from COVID outbreaks to accidents — created more havoc because the system is so stretched.

Spot tariffs — for immediate transactions not subject to more favorable long-term contracts — can cost upwards of \$20,000 for a forty-foot equivalent unit from China to the West Coast when a host of premiums and surcharges are included. That's 10 times greater than pre-pandemic rates and doesn't even include domestic transportation to move a shipment across the country.

Many companies, especially retailers worried about product shortages for big holiday shopping events, are trying to make up for lost time by shifting goods that normally move by ocean to air.

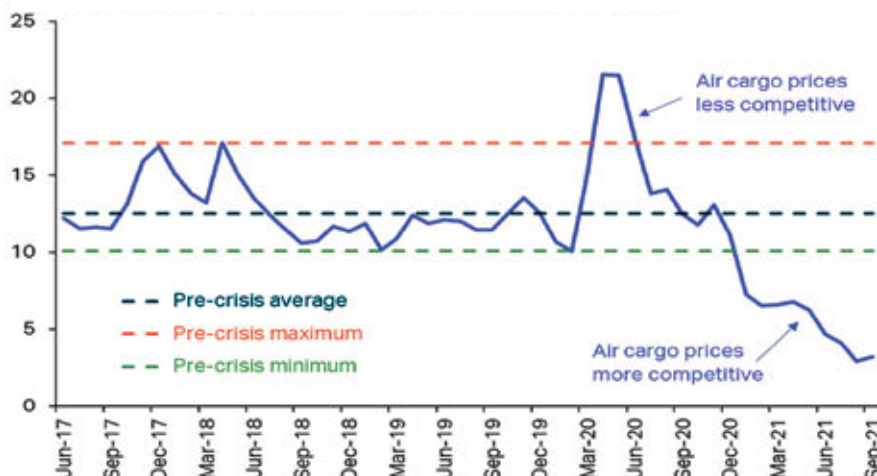
The decision to convert ocean freight to air is easier for shippers because air transport is much more cost-competitive than it has ever been.

Pre-pandemic, the average price to move air cargo was about 13 to 15 times higher than ocean, but now it is only three to five times more expensive, according to the International Air Transport Association and industry experts.

Economists at the airline trade group take the Freightos Baltic Index, which measures spot market tariffs plus surcharges per FEU of chargeable weight. Assuming one FEU is equal to 9,000 kilograms allows them to translate container rates into a price per kilogram and compare them with data for air cargo fares per kilogram of chargeable weight that is visible in IATA's in-house system CargoIS. The data comes from millions of airway bills processed by IATA's cargo account settlement system and information submitted by airlines.

ERIC KULISCH, *FreightWaves*

Ratio of Chargeable Weight Rates Per kg for Air Cargo and Container



Source: Boeing, IATA CargoIS, Freightos Baltic Index



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Flying for Change

As part of American's ongoing pilot recruiting efforts, the AAC team is working hard to expand awareness of the pilot career in communities across the U.S.



Middle school kids at the Marlin, TX fly-in event, took flight for the very first time.

As part of American's ongoing pilot recruiting efforts, the American Airlines Cadet Academy (AACA) team is working hard to expand awareness of the pilot career in communities across the United States. Just in the past few months, the team has participated in numerous community events geared at educating youth on the opportunity of a promising career in aviation.

One such event was the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Rally and Fly-in in Marlin, Texas, where the AACA team met with local middle school-aged youth from underserved communities.

"Our goal is to increase accessibility to the pilot career path through education and mentorship opportunities like this one," said Brad Morrison, Manager of Pilot Recruiting and Development. "There's nothing quite as fulfilling as meeting young people who have never stepped on an airplane before, much less believed a career as a pilot was an option for them."

Nearly 50 airplanes flew into the small airport so that hundreds of aviation hopefuls — more than double last year's attendance — could enjoy a fun-filled day of pancakes, sunshine, and discovery flights.

For many of the kids, this was, in fact, their first-ever inflight experience, which built lifelong memories and created new dreams of a future career in aviation.

"I'm grateful we can play a role in these kids' paths to, hopefully, becoming aviators," said Morrison. "After that weekend, I'm certain that our industry's future and the next generation of pilots will be incredibly bright."

Even more recently, in Mesa, Arizona, the AACA team partnered with CAE Flight

Academy, one of American's flight school providers, to host an educational, hands-on session for similar but slightly more advanced groups — aspiring pilots without any previous flight experience and current pilots not yet affiliated with any airline programs.

"Extensive involvement in the communities we serve plays a pivotal role in our long-term success as an airline and facilitates growth and diversification within the pilot profession," said Capt. Cory Glenn, Director of Pilot Recruiting at American. "Our pilots are passionate, intelligent leaders. Each one can emotionally replay their journey — from imagining what it would be like to be a pilot, gaining an opportunity to visualize and achieve that possibility, and then focusing on that vision to becoming an American Airlines team member. If we can be that moment for even just a few kids and young pilots, we're making a difference."

All three of American's wholly-owned regional carriers — Envoy, Piedmont and PSA — attended the CAE event. Attendees had the chance to visit the CAE flight school facility, tour aircraft, take simulator rides and meet current American Airlines cadets and instructors. For those who had already applied, the team was also able to fast-track their AACA applications and conduct on-site interviews.

"Our goal is to measurably grow and diversify the pilot population and remove the mystery and barriers to be successful in qualifying for this profession," added Capt. Glenn. "We're doing that better than anyone. And we are just getting started with the growth and positive change to come." ■



American's pilot recruiting team offering hand-on experience to aspiring pilots.



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Unfazed by the Pandemic, Flight Attendant Publishes Travel Journal

“Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.”

— Leonardo da Vinci

BY LIA OCAMPO

booksbylia@gmail.com

For us who love to fly, this quote above speaks to us in this present time. Our passion for flying takes us to a greater height, limitless horizon, and undaunted.

At the beginning of 2020, I was busy working on my first book about immigrants. I finally finished it in February and published it in March. I was getting ready to travel to the Philippines to promote the book. But it didn't happen.

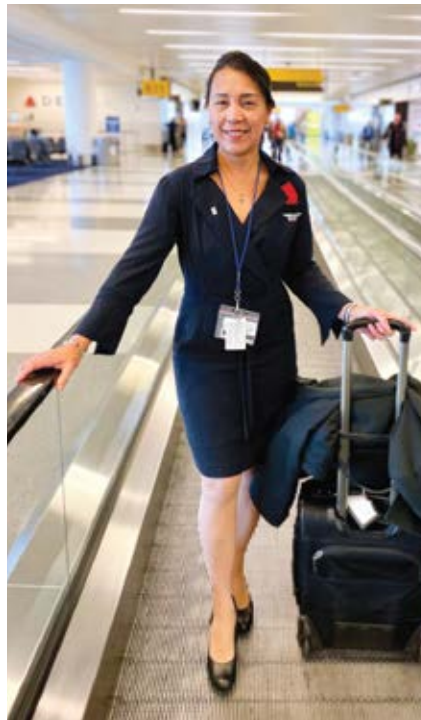
In January, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Consequently, the news about the COVID-19 became more prevalent. The first case in the U.S was detected in Washington, and the first death was reported in February. After that, COVID-19 quickly spread across the country. The rest was history.

The World Has Stopped Flying

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and the world of travel. Demands have drastically fallen because of fear of traveling and global efforts to stop the spread of the virus. Travel warnings were heightened, and restrictions were mandated. Non-essential travel was limited. Planes have been grounded. Airports became deserted. Employers offered retirement programs and voluntary unpaid leave. Others have lost their jobs due to massive layoffs and furloughs. In addition,

the industry reported some deaths linked to COVID-19. The pandemic even forced some airlines to go out of business.

I was overwhelmed and sometimes depressed with all the negative news every day. I had to tell myself not to be consumed with what was happening around me and the world. Wearing an uncomfortable mask at work and in other public places became the norm. Walking at the quiet airports and working in an almost empty plane was a sad reality.



Turning Adversity Into Opportunity

When my employer offered the voluntary unpaid leave, I took it in April with the intent of working on promoting my first book. However, the time I spent at home ultimately became a blessing. Little did I know that the emotional impact of COVID-19 would inspire me to write *I Love Flying: An Inspirational Journal for Your Flying and Travel Adventures*. I felt a strong desire to create something positive out of adversity and do my part in the ailing world. My love for flying was my driving force. Hence, I started brainstorming in September and finished the journal in December.

As a flight attendant, the least I could do for the victims of COVID-19 is to honor them. For this reason, I dedicated *I Love Flying* to those lost who their lives to COVID-19 and the frontline workers in the aviation industry.

Hard times present us with an opportunity to reflect, grow, reinvent, or discover. In my case, it took me to a greater height, a new journey of writing my second book.

A Passion for Flying

My goal is to fall in love with as many places as possible and never stop exploring.

If you love flying and traveling, I encourage you to write your stories and create your book of life. Writing your thoughts and memories about your flying experiences and travel adventures is a way to reflect. I

Continued On Page 34

Continued From Page 33

Love Flying can be a time capsule of your memories, people, places, and experiences you have encountered. Writing them down is a way to help preserve them. You can always look back to this journal and share your stories with your family and friends.

Set your travel goals. Fill in your bucket list. Find an adventure. Discover a new



Lia Ocampo poses outside WhereTraveler Books at JFK Airport with her latest book.

country. Enjoy the experience. Capture poignant moments. Build inspiration to create beautiful stories and wonderful memories. See for yourself the magnificent world in which we live.

On Being Optimistic

While the recovery advances and the progress against the COVID-19 continues, travelers are venturing out and flying again. I am excited to share this unique journal that you can take along with you on your next adventure. I used my photos to show a different perspective of the world through flying. Traveling and flying reconnect us with ourselves and with others. It can bring out the best in us. It can empower us.

COVID-19 has become a household topic and generated a new normal in the way we live and work. The aviation industry is underway into its recovery. Humanity is slowly healing from all types of losses and pains.

We may have different opinions, approaches, and journeys to recovery. But one thing is for sure — you and I had learned something from this unprecedented era when the world suddenly stopped flying. ■

About Lia Ocampo



Born and raised in the Philippines, Lia worked for the U.S. Government for 22 years. She came to New York City in 2012 as an immigrant. In 2014, Lia achieved her

dream of becoming a flight attendant.

Her flying stint allows her to meet amazing people, create beautiful memories and inspire her to do the things she loves: writing and photography. She became a first-time author in 2020 with *What We Know for Sure: Inspirational Stories of Filipino Special Immigrants in America*.

Lia is a mentor and resource speaker for immigrants. She splits her time between Florida and New York while pursuing her writing, love of travel, and passion for helping others. Her books can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at WhereTraveler (JFK Airport).

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ITA Airways Prepares to Replace Alitalia As the Pope's Airline

After seven decades of business, Italy's flagship carrier, Alitalia, touched down at Fiumicino Airport in Rome for the very last time on October 14, 2021, leaving behind a storied past, marked by years of labor troubles and serial bankruptcies. From 1964 Pope Paul VI became the first Pope to leave Europe since 1809 and the first to travel by airplane, beginning a custom of papal voyages on Alitalia, serving as the Pope's "official airline." Often referred to as Shepherd One, the airline's characteristic red and green tail with its 'Winged Arrow' served as a setting for the pope's arrival around the world and for a run of popes to follow.

On October 4, 1965, Pope Paul VI became the first sitting pope to visit the Western Hemisphere dedicating a whirlwind 14 hours to New York City. Disembarking from 'Shepherd One' to crowds of welcoming people and TV cameras as JFK International, the Pope said, "Greetings to you, America." He then visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, met President Lyndon Johnson, addressed the General Assembly at the U.N., attended a public Mass at Yankee Stadium, and visited the Vatican Exhibit at the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows before returning to Rome by day's end.

One day after Alitalia's final flight, ITA Airways became Italy's new flagship airline and is preparing to take the baton from Alitalia as the new official airline of the Pope on December 2, 2021, when Pope Francis sets off for a 3-day visit to Cyprus aboard ITA, before



CRADLE OF AVIATION ARCHIVE

Arrival of Pope Paul VI at John F. Kennedy International airport. Alitalia DC-8 is in the background.

traveling to Greece for his first international flight since March 2021. The Pope will travel onboard an Airbus A320-200 with an ITA Airways crew consisting of three pilots and six cabin members. In a statement by ITA CEO Fabio Lazzerini, he said,

"It is an honor and nice satisfaction for us to accompany the Holy Father on his journey to Cyprus. We're an organization that places sustainability on the middle of its technique and that is another reason to be blissful to move the Holy Father who consistently recollects these values in his phrases." **JULIA LAURIA-BLUM**

CALMM Returns to In-person Meetings



The Council of Airline Maintenance Managers (CALMM) held its first in-person meeting and holiday lunch since the beginning of the pandemic. Aviation High School hosted the event at the JFK Airport Annex.

It was announced during the meeting that **Tom Fitzgerald** of KLM will be retiring at the end of the year. CALMM President,

Robert Kennedy, shared his personal memories of working with Tom and then opened the floor for other members to share their own. His impressive career and personal connections led to some very heartfelt and thoughtful speeches. Tom plans to stay active with CALMM and continue on as an advisor with Aviation High School.

CALMM members, as well as other industry professionals, shared their personal experiences working as aviation maintenance technicians with the Aviation High School fifth-year students who were in attendance. The overarching theme of the advice was to "guard your professional network" and to "avoid burning bridges." This is a small industry, and it is likely they will wind up working with the same people at different facilities around the world. Clearly, Tom Fitzgerald was given the same advice at some point in his career.

In turn, the students did an impressive job of sharing their own professional plans as they enter the industry. These young men and women have been hard at work during the pandemic, and have found their own passions for this industry. The Annex at JFK was closed during the pandemic and has only recently reopened. The students have done their best with online learning, but are obviously happy to be back to in-person learning at the Annex. ■

Southwest Airlines Celebrates 50 Years With Commemorative Book

Southwest Airlines Co. is wrapping up its milestone 50th Anniversary year by releasing a one-of-a-kind commemorative history book, “50 Years. One Heart. A History of Southwest in 50 Objects.” Southwest fans can purchase this unique coffee-table book, which brings to life the Company’s colorful history, its corporate archives, and reflection of its people through photographs and moments from the carrier’s rich past, exclusively sold at Southwest The Store. This special book also represents the exciting culmination of 50 years’ worth of iconic stories as Southwest Airlines closes out its first five decades.

“Throughout our 50th Anniversary year, we’ve reflected on the past—the people, stories, and moments that defined our first half-century,” said Gary Kelly, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for

Southwest Airlines. “This commemorative history book celebrates our unique past and culture, and serves as an inspiration as we close one chapter of our company history and turn the page to our next chapter, filled with hope and resilience.”

Southwest is celebrating its incredible

first 50 years by showcasing a stunning collection of 50 unique objects, outfits, and artifacts, accompanied by short stories from the company’s inspiring history and a special foreword by Kelly as he prepares to transition into his role as Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors in early 2022.

This is the first of two special books launching in celebration of Southwest’s 50th year of service—more information coming on the second book in early 2022. ■



Long Island MacArthur Airport Named In *USA Today* 10 Best Small Airports

‘A panel of experts partnered with 10Best editors picked the initial nominees and the top 10 winners were determined by popular vote.’ - *USA Today* 10 Best, 2021

In the *USA Today* 10 Best Readers’ Choice for best small airports, Long Island MacArthur was selected in the Top Ten for the year 2021. As one of the 10 airports that serve fewer than 10 million passengers per year, Long Island MacArthur met the winning criteria of excelling in their commercial flight offerings, easy access, and air traveler amenities.

While mammoth airports in the New York Metro vicinity take center stage on the travel scene due to the immense numbers of passengers who pass through them each day, Long Island MacArthur Airport offers a quieter diversion for harried air travelers looking to avoid the bustle of big, congested New York area airports like JFK International and LaGuardia Airports.

Long Island MacArthur is located 50 miles east of Midtown Manhattan in the Town of Islip and is served by Southwest, American, and Frontier Airlines who

collectively offer non-stop flights to Florida and the Southeast and connecting service to over 800 destinations worldwide. In addition to local ground transportation, the Long Island Railroad Ronkonkoma Station is less

than two miles north of the MacArthur Terminal with \$5.00 shuttle service from train-to-plane and vice versa, providing passengers the ability to travel to and from Manhattan, easily, affordably and efficiently. ■



Swissport Buys Remaining 41% Stake In Korea Joint Venture Taking Full Ownership

Swissport International AG has increased the shareholding in its Swissport Korea joint venture to 100% from formerly 59%, underlining its confidence in the Korean aviation market and delivering on its Asia growth strategy. After first entering the Korean market in 2005 in a joint venture with local partners, Swissport now supports many leading airlines with ground services and cargo handling.

Swissport has acquired all shares in its Korean joint venture from its local partners, underlining the company's confidence in Korean aviation and its growth potential. Since entering the market in 2005 with local partners, Swissport Korea has tripled its revenue, expanded its offering, and steadily expanded its customer base.

"We thank our joint venture partners for many successful years," said Brad Moore, Managing Director for Asia-Pacific at Swissport. "We commenced in Korea with a team of 250 and two airline customers. Prior to COVID-19, the business had 1,200 employees serving well-known brands including Emirates, FedEx, Air Canada, AeroMexico, Air France-KLM Cargo, Air New Zealand, Hawaiian Airlines, VietJet, and many more. With the acquisition complete, we will turn to further strengthening our local management team to



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continue to deliver exceptional service to our partners. We want to leverage the significant growth opportunities in Korea and throughout Asia and are delighted that our founding partner J.W. Kim will continue to maintain strong ties with Swissport Korea."

In 2019, Swissport Korea opened the country's first "regulated" cargo terminal at Incheon International Airport, serving forwarding agents and airlines off-airport. As the only independent ground handling agent, Swissport Korea also operates check-in facilities at Seoul's main rail station and express bus terminal, Seoul City Air Terminal. ■

JetBlue Promotes John Flaherty to Vice President, Inflight Experience

JetBlue announced that John Flaherty has been named the airline's vice president, inflight experience. In his new role, Flaherty will lead and support JetBlue's best-in-class inflight team with a focus on ensuring new and current crewmembers have the tools and



John Flaherty

training to safely deliver and advance JetBlue's award-winning hospitality and customer experience onboard every flight.

Since joining JetBlue more than 15 years ago as a frontline airport crewmember, Flaherty has served the airline's airport operations in a variety of roles with multiple promotions. He most recently served as director, airports for JetBlue's Boston operation. In his role as director and prior, Flaherty helped grow JetBlue's Boston presence from just a handful of gates more than a decade ago to one of the largest operating carriers at Boston Logan International Airport. He has led JetBlue's crewmembers through a number of industry challenges, including the pandemic.

Flaherty will assist in the smooth transition from his previous role with a focus on the busy holiday travel season. He is a graduate of Stonehill College. ■

Royal Waste Distributes Thousands of Turkeys Across NYC

The Royal Waste team was out in full force during the holiday season giving back to local communities. This year, Royal Waste donated thousands of turkeys, throughout the five boroughs, to community members, homeless shelters, religious institutions, youth organizations, and their own employees. Royal Waste was able to accomplish this feat in partnership with over 40 houses of worship, nonprofits, and elected officials to deliver to communities across the New York metropolitan area. ■



NON-REV TRAVELER

A One Day Trip to Paris, France



In the pre-pandemic days, my husband and I used to fly to European cities for one day and one night. We decided to take a trip to Paris, France as we have done many times in the past. This decision was based on the covid testing requirements to return to the United States. We were able to be tested at Terminal 5 at JFK airport where we have

been tested many times in the past year. The test is good for 72 hours. Therefore, we did not have to find a testing site, pay for the test, or worry about the results.

The one day we spent in Paris, “The City of Lights”, was wonderful. We did not have to go to the tourist sites because we had been there many times in the past. The

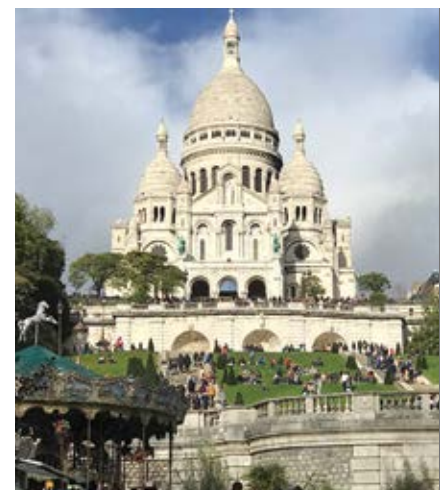
weather was perfectly clear so a stroll down the Champs Elysees was the first thing on our agenda. We began the walk at the Arc De Triomphe.

Our favorite spot in Paris is Montmartre in the northern section of the city on the Right Bank. The most popular attraction in Montmartre is the Sacre-Coeur Basilica. Montmartre is on a mountain with access by a funicular or by hillside stairs. The views on top of Montmartre, overlooking the city of Paris are magnificent and become an instant lifetime memory. The cute village of Montmartre consists of old cobblestone streets, many wandering artists, and quaint restaurants and cafes. This special place is never to be missed.

The day we were there was Monday, November 1. It was All Saints Day and it was very crowded. It felt like it was a tourist day in the middle of the summer. When our beautiful weather turned into rain showers, we had lunch under an overhang and sat through the rain.

That evening we had dinner with friends, who are native French citizens, and for many years lived in the United States. They live in a cute town very close to the Charles De Gaulle airport. They took us to one of their local favorite restaurants, where we had to show our CDC vaccination certificates.

For this trip, we stayed at the Sheraton Airport Hotel that is connected to Charles De Gaulle. Staying at this hotel made our departure day extremely easy in that we were very concerned about huge airport lines, similar to Amsterdam, now that all passengers must check in with a live agent because of covid protocols. **MAUREEN KATZ**





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JFK Airport Rotary Celebrates the Holiday Season

The JFK Rotary Club kicked off their holiday season with an 'Ugly Sweater' themed party at Vetro Restaurant & Lounge. This group really took the theme and the competition for the ugliest sweater seriously. Yvette Greene-Dennis won the contest with her personalized Naughty and Nice lists!

In addition to being a wonderful party, the event collected supplies and donations for St. Joseph's Church outreach and the new moms at the Saratoga Family Inn.





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December 5 – 10:00am

Unveiling of "The Pan Am Saga" Exhibit

"The Pan Am Saga – from its beginnings in 1927 to Its Slow Demise and Eventual Fall in 1991."

Cradle of Aviation Museum
1 Davis Ave, Garden City, NY
www.thepanammuseum.org

December 8 – 10:00am

KAAMCO General Meeting

TWA Hotel, Jamaica, NY
www.kaamco.org

December 8 – 7:00pm

JFK Airport Rotary Club Holiday Party

Vetro Restaurant & Lounge
Queens, NY
www.jfkrotaryclub.org

December 9

The Wings Club Foundation December Luncheon

Speaker: Gary Kelly, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Southwest Airlines
Yale Club of New York City
50 Vanderbilt Ave, New York, NY
www.wingsclub.org

December 13 & 27 – 7:00pm

Civil Air Patrol Falcon Squadron Meeting

JFK Airport, Building 14, Jamaica
www.falconsquadron.org

December 16 – 12:00pm

LaGuardia Airport Kiwanis Club Meeting

LaGuardia Airport Marriott
Queens, NY
www.lgakiwanis.org

December 17 – 10:35am

Wright Brothers First Flight

Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful powered flight in history with a 12-hp internal combustion engine designed and built by Charles Taylor.

December 20 – 4:00pm

JFK Redevelopment Community Advisory Council Meeting

For more information, email
jfkdevelopment@panynj.gov
or call (718) 244-3834.

Virtual Event

www.anewjfk.com

January 12 – 5:30pm

JFK Airport Rotary Club Dinner Meeting

Vetro Restaurant & Lounge
164-49 Cross Bay Blvd, Queens, NY
www.jfkrotaryclub.org

January 12 – 10:15am

KAAMCO General Meeting

TWA Hotel, Jamaica, NY
www.kaamco.org

January 12 – 7:00pm

The Semantics Meeting

Trotters Bar and Grill
1050 Hempstead Tpke., Franklin Square
www.thesemantics.org

January 21 – 7:00pm

Living Legends of Aviation 19th Annual Awards

CEO of Avfuel, Craig Sincock to be honored at Annual Living Legends of Aviation event

The Beverly Hilton

Beverly Hills, CA

www.livinglegendsofaviation.org

February 3 – 11:45am

The Wings Club Foundation February Luncheon

Speaker: Constance von Muehlen,
Executive Vice President and Chief
Operating Officer, Alaska Airlines

Yale Club of New York City

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www.wingsclub.org

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GatewayJFK is seeking applications from students enrolled in qualified Trade School, Undergraduate and/or Graduate Programs; who express a sincere interest in a career in Aviation (including air cargo related fields) and/or can provide proof of residency in Southeast Queens, New York. To submit an application visit Gatewayjfk.org/scholarship. For more information email info@gatewayjfk.org.

GatewayJFK is a not-for-profit public-private partnership working to make our neighborhood a great place to work in, live in, and invest in.

GatewayJFK is home to over 600 businesses and 150 single family households. GatewayJFK is home to 8,000 workers and is a vital part of New York's 8.6 Billion air cargo sector.

GatewayJFK is dedicated to making the Springfield Gardens neighborhood in Queens, a clean and safe space to live in, work in, and invest in. We partner with the local community to mitigate the impacts of commercial traffic and improve their quality of life. We partner with local businesses to provide supplemental services, and act as the voice of the Off-Airport community.



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