

METROPOLITAN Airport News™

DECEMBER 2023

The Journal of the Metropolitan New York

A Fresh Perspective On Airport Experience

LaGuardia Gateway Partners CEO, Suzette Noble,
Discusses Connecting Terminal B Guests
to an Exceptional Airport Experience

Also Inside:

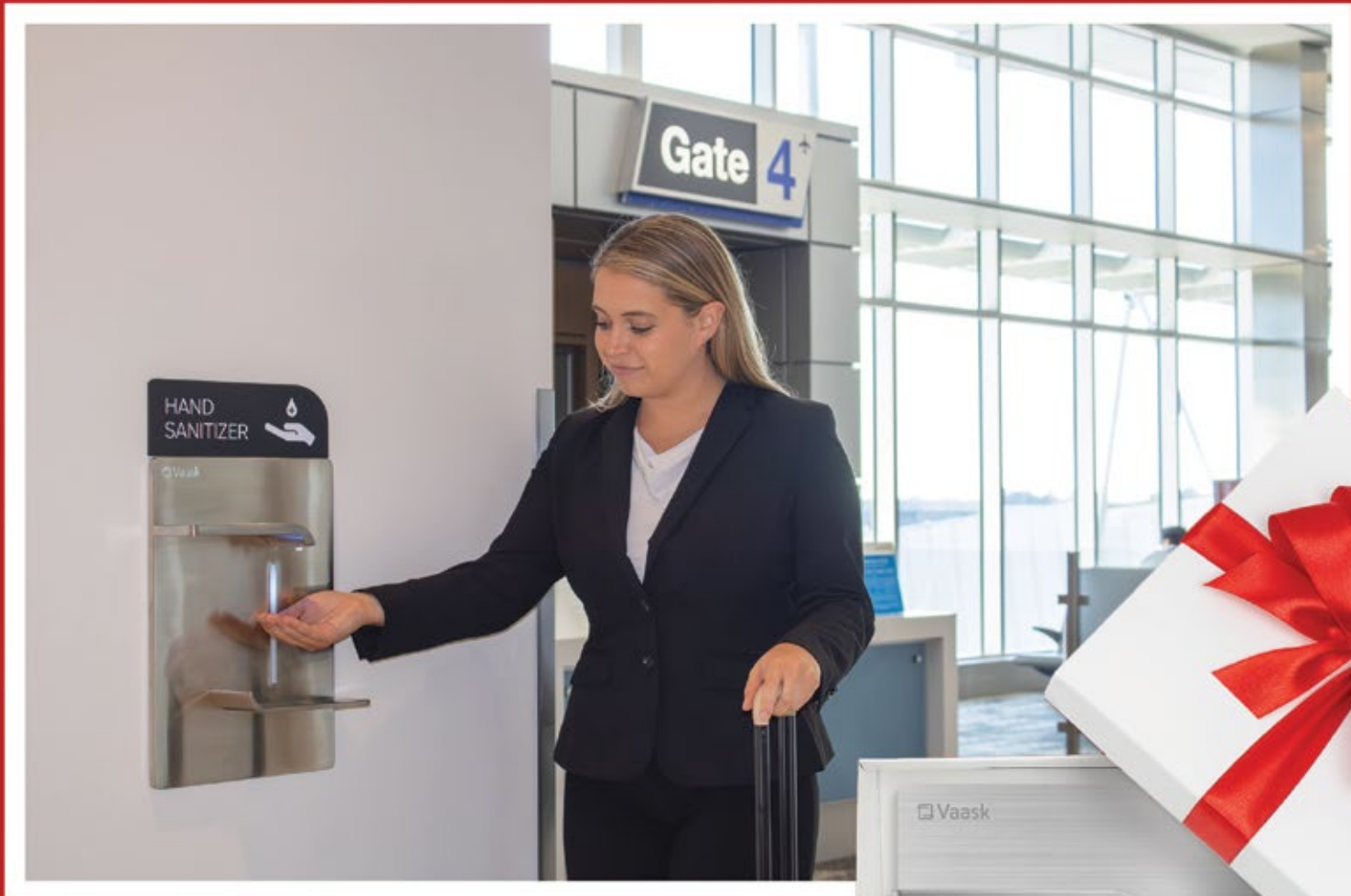
MGM Grand Air: Airline or Corporate Jet?

Non-Rev Traveler: A Three-Day Trip
to Vancouver & Victoria, Canada

Company Spotlight: Pelicargo Inc.

Airport Employment, Upcoming Events, & Aviation News

What every airport wants for the holidays



There's still time to order your Vaask **permanent hand sanitizing fixtures** and be ready for the record-breaking holiday travel season.

Plus, if you order by **Dec. 15, 2023**, you'll get a free upgrade.

Scan me!



 **Vaask**[®]
The permanent solution



+1 (512) 965-7687
Vaask.com
Austin, TX

PUBLISHER

Kathryn Bliss
kbliss@metroairportnews.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Lauria-Blum
jblum@metroairportnews.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Raymond F. Ringston
rringston@metroairportnews.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Douglas Kears
photoandvideo2010@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Roberta Dunn
rdunn@metroairportnews.com

ADVERTISING

Edward J. Garcia
egarcia@metroairportnews.com

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Tanya Austin
tanya.austin@tai-ny.org

Michael Baldini
mbaldini@metroairportnews.com

Maureen Katz
mkatz@metroairportnews.com

Jonathan Katz
jkatz@metroairportnews.com

Robert G. Waldvogel
robertw@metroairportnews.com

**METROPOLITAN
AIRPORT NEWS**

JFK International Airport
PO Box 300877
Jamaica, NY 11430
Tel: (347) 396-0904
Fax: (347) 474-7331
info@metroairportnews.com

www.metroairportnews.com

Permissions: Material in this publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The views and opinions expressed in *Metropolitan Airport News* are those of the authors and advertisers, and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the publisher. Articles presented in this publication are for general information and educational purposes and do not constitute legal or financial advice.

©Copyright 2023 by Airport Media, Inc.
All rights reserved • Printed in the USA

Empire State Development
Certified MWBE
Woman-Owned Business Enterprise

New York Press Association
NYFA

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and family. Life tends to get pretty hectic leading up to Thanksgiving, and it doesn't slow until after New Year's Eve for my family.

It is also a very exciting and fulfilling time of year: parties to attend, gifts to buy, and airport community service projects ensuring that people in our area can enjoy the holidays regardless of their situations. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer your time to local organizations in your area, so see what you can do. Contact the JFK Rotary Club or the LGA Kiwanis Club if you want an easy one. Whether handing out turkeys or gifts for needy children, these organizations always do something for the community, especially around the holidays! The experience of giving back to the community is something everyone should experience, and this is the season to do just that.

There are also many other events for networking and socializing at the airports. Stay up to date with everything that's going on through our online calendar.

This month, our Editor-in-Chief, **Julia Lauria-Blum**, spoke with LaGuardia Gateway Partners CEO **Suzette Noble**. The discussion focuses on how the Terminal B team at LaGuardia Airport has focused on providing guests with an exceptional airport experience. Relying on her 20-year background with companies such as Disney and Krispy Kreme, Suzette has brought a unique perspective to reenvisioning how travelers move through the airport and erasing the old LaGuardia image guests may still have.

Suzette's vision for the future of LaGuardia is ambitious; however, we are confident that Suzette and the team she has assembled will do great things for the airport and ultimately benefit the surrounding community. Now a Skytrax-certified 5-Star Airport, LaGuardia is on its way to becoming the proper first impression we want travelers to have of New York.

Do you need holiday travel inspiration? Look no further than our 'Non-Rev Traveler' column written by **Jonathan & Maureen Katz**. In this issue, they review their three-day trip to Vancouver and Victoria, Canada, from hotels to walking tours.

For a nostalgic look back at how air travel used to be, **Robert Waldvogel** provides a deep dive into the defunct MGM Grand Air and the VIP service it provided celebrities traveling between New York and Hollywood!

The entire team here at the *Metropolitan Airport News* wishes you, your colleagues, your friends, and your family a wonderful holiday season full of joy, good health, and happiness.

I'll see you around the airports!

Katie Bliss

Katie Bliss, *Publisher*
kbliss@metroairportnews.com

**ON THE COVER**

Suzette Noble, a Vantage Airport Group senior executive, is LaGuardia Gateway Partners Chief Executive Officer. She leads the delivery of an exceptional guest experience at LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B.



MONUMENTAL
CAPITAL



What Is Invoice Factoring?

Invoice Factoring is not to be confused with a loan. It is an alternative financial solution for businesses that invoice their customers, specifically business-to-business.

Upon completion of a job or service, these businesses can be forced to wait up to 90 days to receive payment from customers; they are substantially hurting the growth and development of the business. Factoring eliminates these long waiting periods.

How Does Factoring Work?

Upon completion of a job, the business submits an invoice to both the Factoring company as well as their customer. Depending on the business industry, the invoice is funded up to 100% of the total amount, minus their 1-3% fee.

The only industry that is funded 100% of their invoices is trucking. For other industries, invoices are funded anywhere between 70-90%. The factoring company will hold onto the remaining percentage of the invoice until the customer's payment is received. Once payment is received, the remaining percentage minus that 1-3% fee will be dispersed to the business.

Benefits of Factoring

One of the main benefits of Factoring is that it eliminates the need for high-interest "bridge loans" and can compete with any traditional bank loan. The most important aspect of having Factoring is the elimination of the waiting period for payment.

Waiting 30-90 days for a customer's payment can hurt or put significant stress on the cash flow of a business. Engaging with a Factoring company allows you to focus on what matters most: your business. No more worrying about making payroll or chasing down customers for their payments.

Top Factoring Industries

✓ **LOGISTICS** (up to 100%): Trucking companies will not only have a factoring line. They will have access to equipment loans, discounted fuel cards, free load boards, and, in some cases, a line of credit that ranges from 10-15% of their total factoring line.

✓ **STAFFING** (70-90%)

✓ **MANUFACTURERS** (70-90%)

Note: Anyone who does progress billing is not a fit for Factoring. The same goes for any business that requires money upfront from their customers. Government contracts are also able to be factored. Transactions must be business-to-business.



MONUMENTAL
CAPITAL

280 NJ-35, Suite 305, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Tel: (718) 419-8026 • aj.nocero@monumentalcapitalfunding.com

WWW.MONUMENTALCAPITAL.CO



Vidya Ramsammy

President, Corporate Loss Prevention Associates

Vidya Ramsammy graduated from New York Technical College and is currently attending York College and pursuing a degree in Business Administration. Ms. Ramsammy has been with CLPA since 2003 and, during that time, has developed the knowledge and experience to become one of the foremost experts in the aviation industry. She has proven herself in many advanced training programs, including the TSA, Department of Homeland Security, and Explosive Trace Detection, and is a New York State certified security officer trainer.

Ms. Ramsammy is attending courses given by GE Security- Homeland Protection for advanced technology.

Ms. Ramsammy works very closely with clients to prepare security plans that work within their budgets. Her expertise in aviation security enables her to develop site-specific training programs for our clients.

1 Tell us about yourself and Corporate Loss Prevention Associates?

I started my career with Corporate Loss Prevention Associates (CLPA) in 2003. During that time, I gained the knowledge and experience to become one of the foremost experts in the aviation security industry. Being in the aviation industry has led me to become a strategic problem-solver. I have a solid background in strategic planning, financial management, and team development. I am skilled in identifying opportunities and implementing practical business strategies, and I am committed to staying informed about the latest trends, technologies, and best practices. I graduated from NYCT-City Tech and am certified by the NYS Division of License as a NY State Instructor and a Private Investigator.

2 You've been in the industry for 20+ years. What surprises you the most when you reflect on the security industry now compared to when you first entered the segment?

Reflecting on when I first started, the rapid growth in technology surprises me the most, from the basic systems to sophisticated-driven solutions; the security industry has transformed and improved immensely. When I first started, security officers used a paper trail for verification. Advanced screening technologies have also been an excellent attribute over the past 20 years.

3 Community and education are important topics to most of the airport stakeholders. Tell us how CLPA engages with the community, ensuring a positive outcome for those living in the surrounding areas?

Community engagement is a foundation for CLPA; we partner with numerous security schools for trained officers in the surrounding areas. CLPA is also involved with many charitable organizations that benefit the community. Recently, CLPA CEO Joseph Clabby, along with the help of his colleagues, formed an organization called JFK Cares, whose goal is to benefit the community.

4 Many airport companies are concerned about finding qualified employment candidates for open positions. What qualities do you look for when sourcing and hiring candidates?

When sourcing candidates, we seek individuals with diverse backgrounds and relevant experience in the aviation industry. Being at CLPA for over 20 years, I have learned that communication skills and a keen sense of observation go a long way. With the variety of positions, candidates have a selection of areas they may succeed in. We aim to build a well-trained and adaptable security team to protect JFK Airport and the surrounding community.

Preparing the future workforce requires collaborative efforts, and I have learned that an internship goes a long way to understanding the aviation industry. Educational institutions foster academic knowledge, and the internship provides a practical, hands-on learning experience. The diverse career opportunities at the airports should be able to attract qualified candidates.

5 Airport security companies have unique challenges that other security companies don't. How important is your relationship with PANYNJ and the Federal Partners?

CLPA has an excellent working relationship with the PANYNJ, TSA, and other federal partners. The collaborative efforts made by all parties have helped us maintain our high standards for safety and security, and continue to improve our offerings. Maintaining a strong partnership and regulatory standards enhances our security measures and prioritizes safety at the airports and for all of our team members. ■



Corporate Loss Prevention Associates
38 Brooklyn Avenue
Massapequa, NY 11758
Tel: (516) 409-0003
www.clpa.com

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Seeing the Forest for the Trees

Frank Duffy's Legacy in Aviation



There's a quote that comes up every so often that says, 'cannot see the forest for the trees.' For me, it means that when someone is solely focused on a singular or inconsequential detail, they are so preoccupied with it that they are missing the larger picture in front of them.

In this day and age of information overload, distracting technology, difficulty comprehending current events, and packed schedules and deadlines, it's pretty easy to become sidetracked and lost in the woods without even knowing how you got there.

As the year 2023 concludes and winter begins to settle in, a couple of weeks ago, I looked out at my backyard through a large picture window in my den and watched a single leaf falling off the branch of my next-door neighbor's 60-foot maple tree as it gracefully floated down into my yard. Only then did I notice that the entire yard was carpeted in a spectrum of fading colors and that the surrounding trees were nearly bare. "When did that happen?" I thought. "Plenty of raking ahead of me, but what's the rush?" I asked myself.

The next morning, a neighbor across the street came outside shortly after dawn with her electric leaf blower, whisking every single leaf that had blown onto her property off into the street. A few hours later, most of them blew right back, and she returned outside once again with her trusty leave blower. She doesn't care much for leaves and can be seen blowing them away multiple times a day from November into December.

Trees, to me, are life, like the sunshine and fresh air and a good dog charging through piles of foliage as I rake on a perfectly crisp fall day. Dogs live in the moment, and like trees, they bring joy and color into life and a history all their own.

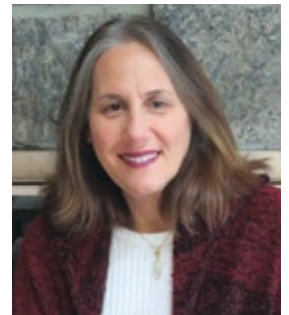
In autumn, the most colorful tree in my yard is a Moonfire Japanese Maple tree. I received this flaming red beauty as a sapling from the daughter of a gentleman who was a flight instructor for the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) during World War II, **Frank Duffy**. After the war, he was a Pan American World Airways captain, retiring after 36 years of service, logging 30,000 hours of flight time.

The sapling that his daughter Denise gave me as a gift after her father's death in 2006 had first sprouted in her dad's yard, and after I received it, I planted it in my backyard and named it after him... Frank. I like to name things I cherish after those who were once, or are now, dear to me.

Today, 12 years after planting Frank, the sapling stands over 15 feet tall. At the height of its brilliance, which only lasts about two weeks in November, it is ablaze with vibrant color before shedding its crimson leaves and regenerating the soil surrounding its perimeter. But even after its leaves fall and fade away, its color remains with me all year round.

Julia Lauria-Blum

Julia Lauria-Blum, *Editor-in-Chief*
jblum@metroairportnews.com



For more info on Frank Duffy's aviation legacy and to learn more about the National WASP WWII Museum visit, <https://t.ly/YwJbT>



**ISLAND
HARVEST**
MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Nourishing Long Island's Future

Turkey & Trimmings COLLECTION CAMPAIGN

November 1 thru December 30



Every gift of **\$35**
will help support
a holiday meal for
our Long Island
neighbors.



YOU CAN HELP
SCAN HERE TO CONTRIBUTE

www.islandharvest.org | 631-873-4775 | 516-294-8528

Melville | Uniondale | Brentwood | Calverton

Sustainability Is At the Forefront of Everything We Do



*Proudly serving
New York and the
Tri-State area for
more than 20 years*



Get the Royal Advantage!

Compactor & Container Service
Demolitions & Clean Out
Document Shredding • Composting & More!

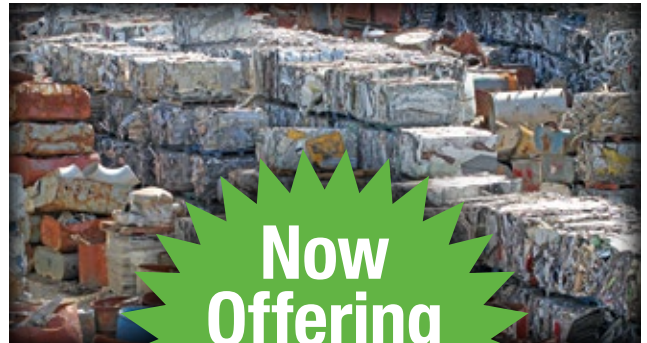
ROYAL
Waste Services, Inc.

(718) 526-2623

Call today for more information,
or to speak with a Royal Waste
Green Team Sustainable Consultant

SINGLE STREAM MATERIAL RECYCLING

With the use of our Single Stream
Material Recycling Facility, Royal helps to
increase waste diversion rates up to 90%.



**Now
Offering
Metal Recycling
With Rebates**

www.royalwaste.com

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Pelicago Inc.

Matching freight forwarders and airlines with the right cargo at the right time.

Pelicago is a logistics-tech company in the pre-seed stage founded by Jon Acquaviva, Shinji Angata, and Edward Wang, who all met at MIT. Its air freight director, Maruf Alikhan, hails from over 20 years of experience in freight forwarding, and its commercial director, Toby Raworth, hails from 20+ years of experience in freight forwarding, including at Expeditors, HAE, and DSV.

random encounter. Pelicago was incorporated in 2021, went through the MIT delta-V accelerator, and raised a pre-seed round in the Fall of 2021. It then started commercial operations after building its initial digital platform in the Summer of 2022. Pelicago has now empowered its customers to book over \$1 million in air freight in over 500,000 kg and 700+ shipments.

approach. Shipment patterns are continuously changing in response to industry developments such as just-in-time supply chains and e-commerce, and every one of these shipments is unique. Additionally, stakeholders in the entire supply chain ecosystem, including consumers, shippers, air carriers, truckers, ground handlers, and brokers, are demanding ever-increasing levels of visibility.

In light of these shifts, Pelicago aims to accommodate its freight forwarders for holistic success rather than just booking success. The company aims to meet its freight-forwarding customers where they are and leverage the best aspects of relational and transactional success. It aims to humanize this transactional industry through kind intelligent automation, allowing it to provide seamless and end-to-end solutions for any situation. Finally, in an age of accelerating climate change, the company hopes its efforts will boost load factors and improve environmental sustainability.

Pelicago is proud to have enabled its customers to grow their businesses and simplify their operations. An example of this is Adrian Lara from the Air Department of Arc Air Logistics, and one of Pelicago's valued customers, who has said: "Since we started [working with] Pelicago, our profit has increased 3x and the amount of our shipments has increased by 50%. On several shipments, we have been able to save 60-80 % of air freight cost!" ■



Pelicago Inc.

770 Massachusetts Ave.

PO Box 390054

Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel: +1 (857) 322-7354

www.pelicago.com



Jon Acquaviva

Shinji Angata

Edward Wang

The company provides digital procurement services to small and mid-sized freight forwarders in the United States, helping to increase their quote throughput and business. Pelicago's "white glove" digital concierge service actively shops more than 80 airlines and 500 destinations for spot/dynamic/promo rates, ensuring customers get the best deals. The company transparently provides all rates in exchange for a monthly service fee.

Pelicago founder Jon Acquaviva previously managed an overseas business unit at Schlumberger that required significant international air freight. He routinely waited days for a simple quote and was frustrated with the lack of visibility into the cargo's journey. He saw a massive opportunity where cargo airplanes fly half empty in many trade lanes due to old-fashioned sales and processes. Jon and Shinji met during an entrepreneurship course at MIT and then met Edward, their technical co-founder, in the MIT dorms during a

Currently, Pelicago services small and mid-sized freight forwarders based out of North America doing international air exports, helping them grow their business by procuring rates from its vast network of over 50 carriers to match them with the best spot, dynamic, and promotional rates. Its augmented intelligent service also provides extra insights, like highlighting alternative promotional rates via different gateways.

Pelicago services its customers holistically and ensures their overall success rather than just in booking, and can intelligently advise its customers in aspects other than booking, including but not limited to dangerous goods, temperature control, project cargo, track & trace visibility, dimensionality, service levels, security, customs clearance. It follows through on every transaction to ensure success (e.g., following up with airlines).

The industry is witnessing a shift towards a more dynamic, customer-centric

ON DUTY

News of promotions, appointments, and honors involving professionals within the aviation and airport communities.



Klaudia FitzGerald

■ **LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP)**, the manager and developer of LaGuardia Airport's new Terminal B, announced the appointment of **Klaudia FitzGerald** to Chief Operating Officer. FitzGerald, seconded from Vantage Airport Group, joins LGP's now majority-women-led executive leadership team from AvAirPros Inc., where she most recently served as the JFK Terminal One operator's Senior Director of Operations. A seasoned operations leader in the airport industry, FitzGerald will oversee LaGuardia Terminal B's commitment to outstanding safety, security, and operational performance. Key responsibilities include defining processes and metrics for the organization and its partners, maximizing commercial revenue, and delivering exceptional and seamless experiences to all Terminal B stakeholders.



Artem Gonopolskiy

■ **Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.** announced that **Artem Gonopolskiy** has been appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company.

Mr. Gonopolskiy has been with Atlas for more than 18 years and has served as the interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company since June 15, 2023.



Adrian Neuhauser

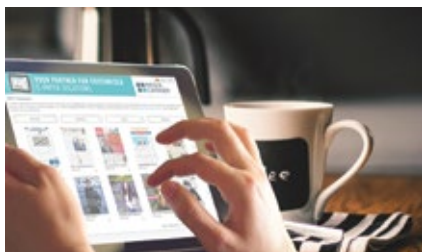
■ As of January 2024, **Adrian Neuhauser** will be the new CEO of **Abra Group** and will continue to accompany **Avianca Airlines** growth as Executive Vice-Chairman of its Board of Directors. In turn, **Frederico Pedreira** will take on the leadership of the airline as its CEO and President.

The announced changes will enable the alignment of Abra Group's expansion strategy with the execution of Avianca's business plan in Latin America to continue.



Frederico Pedreira

Since his arrival at Avianca in 2019 as Chief Financial Officer, Neuhauser led the restructuring of the company; then, in 2021 he was appointed CEO and President; he also led the successful entry and exit process of Chapter 11, the reactivation of the post-pandemic operation in more than 26 countries; the transformation of the airline's business model to be a more efficient, sustainable and competitive company; and most recently, oversaw its rebranding. Pedreira, on the other hand, joined Avianca in 2021 as Chief Operating Officer. In his capacity, along with his team, he managed to turn around the airline's operational indicators, making it a benchmark of operational excellence. ■



Reach Your Audience Wherever They Are

Print and Digital Access for Customers on the Go



Connect with an influential, affluent audience of business and frequent travelers. With our print and digital access solutions, you can expand your reach and supply hotels and airlines with national and international publications. Offer over 2,000 publications from 60 countries in 40 languages, with one access point.

We take care of all the details and ensure optimal integration with your existing IT infrastructure. Contact us today to learn more about our services and reach your target audience, wherever they are!



REACH OUR GLOBAL AUDIENCE TODAY!

Gabrielle Sarmiento

President

Tel: (718) 353-5416

Email: gabrielle.s@thetravelingpress.com

The Traveling Press
Your Travel Content Partner!



**MEDIA
CARRIER**
Solutions

www.thetravelingpress.com • www.media-carrier.de



**WE ARE
HIRING NOW**

JOIN OUR TEAM

JFK INTERNATIONAL

208D WEST HANGAR RD, JAMAICA, NY 11430

SNOW OPERATORS

- Front End Loaders
- Pick-up trucks with Snow Plow attachments
- BobCats / Skid-steers
- Valid Drivers License Required
- Paid Training

Visit our Career Page

<https://aerosnow.com/careers/>

Phone: 718-656-3500



POWERED BY





Suzette Noble, a Vantage Airport Group senior executive, is LaGuardia Gateway Partners Chief Executive Officer. She leads the delivery of an exceptional guest experience at LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B.

A Fresh Perspective On Airport Experience

LaGuardia Gateway Partners CEO, Suzette Noble, Discusses
Connecting Terminal B Guests to an Exceptional Airport Experience

JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

Whether a hotel or resort, a restaurant or lounge, a large public venue, a retail outlet, or even a busy transportation hub such as an airport, the experience that a guest values the most and chooses to revisit time and again is one of hospitality, an excellent first impression, convenience, security, aesthetics, and the quality of services provided. Suzette Noble, a Vantage Airport Group Senior Executive and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP), knows this to be true.

LGP is the private entity the Port Authority of New York (PANYNJ) and New Jersey selected to manage and redevelop LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B. In 2021, Suzette Noble joined LGP as Chief Operating Officer (COO), directing the delivery of an outstanding and harmonious guest experience for all its patrons, implementing processes and metrics for the organization and its partners, and maximizing commercial revenue. In just over one year as the COO, Terminal B was awarded 5-stars

from Skytrax, a leading airport rating firm, also earning the title of 'World's Best New Airport Terminal.' With that distinction, Terminal B became the first terminal in North America to be awarded the highest rating by Skytrax.

Another distinction at LGP followed in October 2023 when Noble was promoted from COO to CEO, becoming the first woman to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of LaGuardia Gateway Partners. "I'm very excited about it and the new experiences we've been able to open up in the last year, achieving 5 Stars. I'm pretty blessed

with a good team. They've taught me a lot, and we've collaborated a lot, and at the end of the day, our team is here to deliver something great," said Noble in a recent interview with *Metropolitan Airport News*.

With over 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 and Resorts and Krispy Kreme, Noble has served as Board Director for multiple hospitality and tourism associations. Bringing this experience to LaGuardia Gateway Partners, she views the thousands of travelers who travel through the new 5-star Terminal B daily as guests rather than just passengers.

After leaving Disney in 2018, Noble commented, "Folks ask me all the time... 'aviation'? And I really feel there's a story and a passion in everything that you can build on, and that's why I enjoy the challenge, to be able to learn something new and do something to help it be great." Disney was a great place, where Noble said she learned a lot and feels that it shaped her into the leader she is today.

Suzette Noble was born in Trinidad and spent most of her growing years in the U.S. Virgin Islands. At 14, her family moved to Orlando, Florida, when an opportunity arose for her father to start his own business there. When Suzette turned 16, her parents drove her to Walt Disney World and said, "You're getting a part-time job!"

While working at Disney, Suzette Noble attended Valencia College for Business



(L.-R.): Angelo Salgado, Director Of Operations LaGuardia Gateway Partners; Suzette Noble, Chief Executive Office; Anthony Vero, General Manager, LaGuardia Airport.

Administration, learning about the principles of business development. The next day at work, she would apply those principles. "It became a really great part of my life," said Noble. After leaving school, she joined Disney as an operations leader and stayed with Disney for 20 years, leaving the company as an operations executive. During her tenure there, Noble had the opportunity to work on the opening of the Animal Kingdom Lodge, the expansion of the Magic Kingdom, and as a hotelier and GM of Resorts, amongst others.

"The best part in the last ten years of my career with Disney was when I started to focus on experience development, building new experiences...whether in the attractions field, food and beverage, or retail. There were things that we would think of

that we would literally have to build from the ground up. It's not just the facility, but how does the facility connect with the actual experience," Noble emphasized.

One of the projects that Noble will always consider her baby is the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique, where little girls have the opportunity to be made over as a Disney princess. "Every touchpoint was how do you inspire this magical feeling, and there were a million stories that inspired me," Noble said. One particular story she fondly remembers occurred when they opened up the first store at Disney, another at the Magic Kingdom, and then in Hong Kong and Shanghai. That day, a little girl walked in to get dressed up as a princess. She could not see herself during her makeover, but she saw her mother and father getting tearful as her family watched her. She looked at them as if to say, "What's going on?" When the makeover was complete, they turned her around, a mirror lit up, and a fairy godmother sprinkled pixie dust on her. Noble recalled, "Then this little girl bursts out crying and says, 'I never thought I could be this pretty!'...and, oh my gosh, everyone starts crying at that moment...and we said, 'You are beautiful! You don't need the dress to make you feel that way!'" Noble added, "Being able to do things like that has been pretty amazing."

In 2018, Noble left Disney, and she and her husband decided to open their own

Continued On Page 14



hospitality consulting company. Once they went live, several companies reached out to them. One was Krispy Kreme, whose CEO Noble had worked with at Disney. The CEO called Noble to say that Krispy Kreme was opening up a flagship experience in Times Square. She said, “Suzette, we need you. Move over here, and we’ll make it happen!” Noble accepted and laid out the plans for the flagship with a brand new design for the New York store, keeping the guest experience in mind.

She built a team and resources from all over the world. With travel restrictions in place all during the pandemic, Noble remained in New York when Krispy Kreme decided not to close. As they kept building throughout the pandemic, Noble said, “It was cool, and a little nerve-wracking at the same time, because you need to keep your employees as safe as possible. But we did it, and that speaks volumes to the resilience and determination of the team. We opened up the flagship, and it was a hit!”

Shortly after the Krispy Kreme flagship opened, Noble returned to Orlando to see her family. Krispy Kreme offered her a full-time position as VP of Operations on the East Coast with new builds in New York. She then worked on plans to elevate units in the other states into the new brand.

About four months later, the Vantage Airport Group contacted Noble. They told her they had an amazing new terminal and had just finished building something great. They wanted an experienced leader who understood guest experience



(L.-R.): Klaudia FitzGerald, Chief Operating Officer; Suzette Noble, Chief Executive Officer; Mercedes Rendon, Chief Financial Officer; James Haviaris, Chief Technical Officer

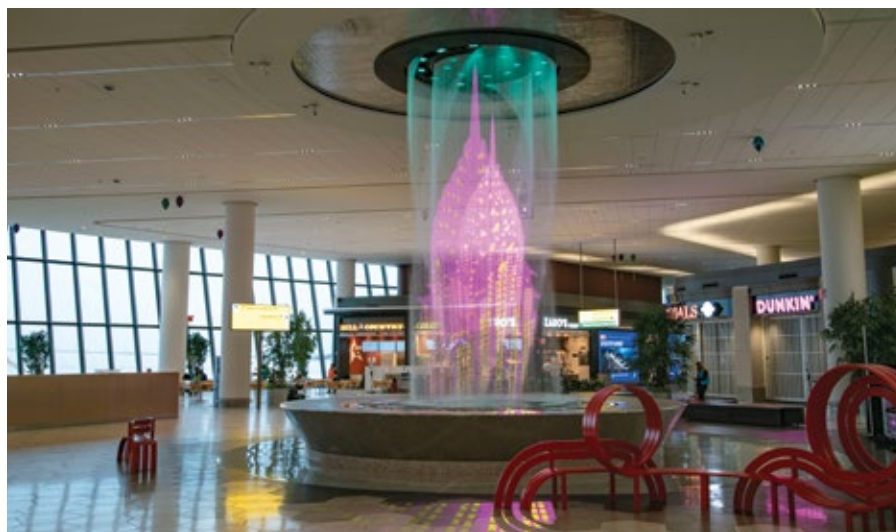
development as part of their team to make the terminal come to life; it was Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport.

“I was flying in and out of New York all the time and thought, Oh, boy, it’s LaGuardia,” recalled Noble, “but I had the ‘old LaGuardia’ on my mind, not the new LaGuardia, and I remember when I came through, it was a lot. I was just amazed, stunned, and excited. And sitting down and really understanding the vision of how working with the Port Authority and collaborating with them on what it could look like and seeing it to what it is today, it’s pretty cool. Something new is great, but what got me about Terminal B was how thoughtful each touchpoint connected to the experience.”

Noble joined LaGuardia Gateway Partners as Chief Operating Officer in December 2021, reporting to Frank Scremin, “A very dynamic leader,” said Noble. She thought about the value that she and her team could bring to the operations and commercial teams at Terminal B and being able to activate that. “I was very lucky to inherit a great team and to just reach out to them and start doing it.” And activating the experience they did.

With 26 food and beverage establishments, including the Brooklyn Diner and the Panorama Bar, which offer stunning panoramic views of the airport’s skyline, Terminal B has something for everyone. A signature dining experience at the Hunt & Fish Grill incorporated details from one of Noble’s favorite restaurants in NYC, the Hunt & Fish Club. “We were starting to look at the designs for the Hunt & Fish Grill, and we were able to tap right in and make sure that we tied in all the really great and tiny details and quality aspects of the Hunt & Fish Club into the Hunt & Fish Grill.” In addition, other closed deals include the forthcoming Chase Sapphire Lounge and Capital One and PPG Lounge, which will be called Capital One Landing. “The Capital One Landing will actually be a hybrid experience, as we want to make sure that it’s open to everybody.” The hybrid lounge/restaurant will be located at the beginning of the elevated pedestrian bridges, with an

Continued On Page 16



We are here to help elevate your operation to the next level of success.



ASAK Solutions offers a full range of high-quality aviation services to the world's major airlines. Our handling agents use their extensive expertise to ensure safe and on-time aircraft handling. The ASAK Solutions team understands what the needs of an aviation company are and how to bring those needs to reality.

**Ramp, Cargo & Mail Handling • Aircraft Ancillary Services
GSE Sales, Leasing, & Maintenance • Snow Removal & Deicing Solutions**



John F. Kennedy International Airport • 78A Suite 203 • N. Boundary Rd. • Jamaica, NY 11430
(516) 262-4118 • info@ASAKsolutions.com • www.ASAKsolutions.com

Employment Opportunities Available (Apply Within) – OPEN HOUSE Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

*Available for a limited time.

enclosed space and an outside view of the tower and the city.

Completed in 2022, the new Terminal B was designed and constructed with a focus on sustainability. Constructed in phases, the terminal became the first airport project to receive LEED v4 Gold Certification, which was awarded in 2021 for the then-completed phases of the project. Upon completion of the remaining phases, LEED v4 Gold was achieved for the overall project.

Following the expectations of sustainability at the terminal, Noble noted how sustainable initiatives are in force through waste aversion, recycling, the banning of plastic straws, launching electric buses for employees who travel from Concourse A to B, and that all vehicles purchased in the future will be electric, even as they work with some of their vendors and partners. The baggage handling system uses about 37% of the energy compared to the prior system, and it goes into sleep mode when the loads start to lighten or senses that there is no baggage. “These are some of the things we continue to do that allow sustainability, and we are constantly looking for ways to work with our retail partners toward using more electric equipment to be built into our refurbishment plan in the future,” explained Noble.

In terms of AI (Artificial Intelligence), Noble said, “We know it’s the future, so we know it is ahead of us, and there are things

that we’ve done pretty well.” A couple of the systems in place include tracking passenger flow management through BriefCam software technology, which helps understand flow, wait times, and dwell times to make sure they can capitalize on commercial opportunities at the terminal. Recognizing the elements of people’s pause intuitively assists in helping with their movement, as does leveraging other technology like wayfinding and virtual queuing. “We are continuously having conversations with the TSA around biometrics, as we think about biometric screening from a security screening standpoint, and we’ve have had some pretty robust conversations with them about that. How do we continue leveraging technology to personalize experiences? How do we collaborate with airlines so that we can connect and integrate those pieces?” From an operational perspective, Noble noted that there have been some good conversations with companies looking at aircraft turnaround, expediting movement, and taking that a step higher. “There is really great technology out there that can help us keep a better grasp of the entire apron, resulting in better security, remote security, and safety inspections that can catch and address issues faster, resulting in less damage to equipment. There are elements like that, and we’ve been meeting with companies like SITA (an information technology company specializing in providing IT and telecommunications services

to the aviation community) and ASSAIA (Apron Artificial Intelligence for Optimised Airport Operations) to talk about how to leverage the infrastructure that we’ve put in place, like our great camera system’s ability to help understand what is happening in real-time and be more proactive about it,” explained Noble.

Another of the important initiatives at Terminal B is MWBE (Minority & Women-owned Business Enterprises), which Noble and her team are proud of. “I think we upheld our commitment with the Port Authority when it came to MWBE, as well as Terminal B. We actually had more than \$910 million in design and construction contracts with over 300 talented MBEs and WBES. Overall, we far exceeded our goal of \$687 million. MWBEs account for over 30% of our operations and maintenance, so we are meeting our goal nicely and also achieving 26% ACDBE (Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise). We continue to focus on this as one of our strategic initiatives as we think about operational excellence and engaging our stakeholders,” said Noble.

The question of accessibility to LaGuardia Airport is another issue discussed all the time. The Port Authority is working diligently on increasing bus transportation and ride-share options to increase ridership, which, according to Noble, has almost doubled since the decision was made to

Continued On Page 18





OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR

Duty Manager and Supervisor
Office Agents • Warehouse Agents • Tractor Trailer Drivers

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

Must be at least 18 years old • Must be able to lift 70 lbs. on a regular basis (Warehouse)

Valid driver's license with excellent driving record

Must Pass 10 year background check • Must have authorization to work in the U.S.

Starting Salary \$19.80+ per hour for Warehouse and Office Agents

EMAIL RESUME TO:

CPILARINOS@ALLIANCEGROUND.COM

For immediate consideration, please stop by our JFK Facility
Delta Cargo Building 21A Room 202 between the hours of 10:00am & 1:00pm

Please bring your resume and ALL government I.D's.

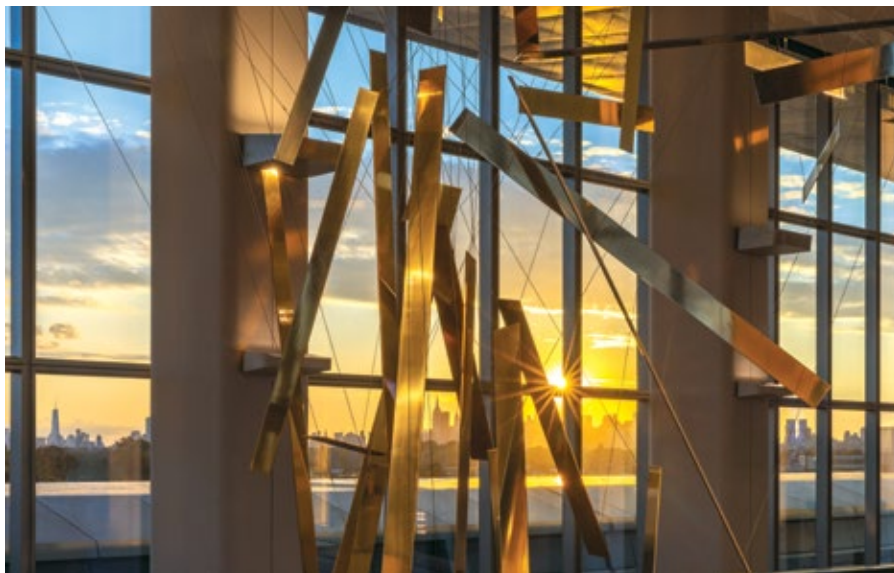
Alliance Ground International provides airline cargo handling services to 55 airlines at thirteen airports: Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Kansas City, LaGuardia, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York JFK, Orlando, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. Warehouse and ramp operations schedules are constantly adjusted to flight operations. With partners such as Cargo Force and The Cargo Security Company; Alliance Ground International can be your "one-stop-source" for all of your cargo handling needs. The culmination of years of experience with its industry partners, Alliance Ground International offers a vast range of services: Cargo Handling, Ground Handling, Mail Handling, Passenger, and Security.

www.allianceground.com

shift toward bus shuttle transport.

Public Art is another significant component at LaGuardia in delivering and connecting guests to an excellent airport experience. “I think that what we’ve been able to do with public art at Terminal B, what we’ve been able to do with the Port Authority and at Terminal C is pretty impressive,” exclaimed Noble. “We just opened up the Atrium, which is the business center at Terminal B.” The Port Authority operates the Atrium and offers business travelers various services and capabilities, including on-site airport facilities for meetings and conferences and a café/lounge on the mezzanine level with views of the Manhattan Skyline and airport taxiways and runways.

Richard Lippold’s world-renowned sculpture, *Orpheus and Apollo*, is on display for the first time in nearly ten years. The sculpture was originally displayed in the Grand Promenade at Lincoln Center’s Philharmonic Hall, where it hung from 1962 until 2014. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the Port Authority worked together to restore the sculpture and facilitate its installation at LaGuardia Airport’s Terminal B, where it joined the airport’s collection of public artworks that create a unique sense of place for travelers. This has added a whole other level of art to the building. One of the several public art pieces that highlight the guest’s experience from the minute you walk into the terminal is Sarah Sze’s monumental sculpture, ‘Shorter Than the Day,’ which is suspended



Lincoln Center and the Port Authority worked together to restore Orpheus and Apollo and to relocate the sculpture at LaGuardia Airport. The 4.5 ton sculpture consists of 188 pieces of Muntz alloy connected by 450 steel wires. It is suspended from the ceiling.

from the ceiling and evokes the passage of time through an intricate constellation of photographs and appears to float in mid-air. “It’s the special touches along the path that connects the entire experience and that delights our guests,” said Noble, “and then there’s the water feature, which is our most Instagrammed moment at Terminal B. Public Art has been a game changer in aviation and terminal design. Our focus is to minimize, smoothen, and calm the guest experience from curb to gate. It is very noticeable when you get to the water feature, because it starts its projection, the music starts, and out comes the cell phones to capture it. It cools and calms the space and allows everyone to decompress completely,

and as the anticipation and anxiety that varies between travelers lessens, guests start to enjoy everything around them. It’s a pausing point that calms.”

Commenting on her vision for the future, Noble said, “We’ve done something that is pretty remarkable at Terminal B. We took the vision from our leaders at the Port Authority and now say, ‘Okay, let’s figure out how we can continue to offer an experience that guests would absolutely love.’ How do we continue to connect the experience and make it more seamless than it is today? And that is by constantly challenging ourselves, getting out there, understanding technology, and how we can think about expediting experiences, whether through self-baggage check and tracking, biometrics, or whether that is to create other experiences that our guests would love. If that is curb-to-gate, maybe it’s also home-to-gate so that we can communicate with our guests prior to their experience at the terminal, allowing them to make better decisions about the time they spend with us. All those elements come together for a 5- or 6-Star experience, and that is what we need to do. Getting a 5-star rating from Skytrax was tough; sustaining 5-stars is going to be even tougher. But when you get to know me better, you realize that there is no ceiling, so we are going for six stars, even though Skytrax doesn’t have a 6-star rating; but maybe we will inspire that!” ■





NOW HIRING

Ground Service Agents • Ramp Supervisors

Turn Around Coordinators (TRC)

Fleet/Ground Service Equipment (GSE)

A Mechanic/Diesel Mechanic at JFK Airport

Senior Safety and Compliance Manager

You can view all open positions and search our website
to find jobs that suit your specific career interests.



APPLY IN PERSON:

JFK International Airport

Building 66, Cargo Area C, Suite 207 • Jamaica NY, 11430

Tel: +1 (718) 244-1249 • Tel: +1 (718) 244-1280

dnata is committed to not only developing exceptional leaders who live our values but to building a culture where both our people and the organization will prosper. If you'd like a rewarding and fulfilling career with the world's most admired air services provider, then browse our jobs listings to find a role that's right for you.

<https://careers-dnata.icims.com/job>

MGM Grand Air: Airline or Corporate Jet?

BY ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL
robertw@metroairportnews.com

Fighting airport congestion, joining long security queues, and being packed into cattle cars with wings, today's airline passengers must sometimes wonder how the privileged few fly: private sanctuaries removed from the terminal turmoil, a corporate jet that awaits only feet away from it, and living room luxury once on board. A few may not have needed to imagine such an experience, even if they do not count themselves among the rich and famous if they once flew on a carrier that blurred the boundaries between the airline and private jet—MGM Grand Air.

Founder and Foundation

If that name evokes images of the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, it is no coincidence. That facility served as the inspiration for it, the brainchild of Kirk Kerkorian. Hotels and airlines do not necessarily share a commonality, but with his aviation background, he sought to connect the two.

A pilot himself, he was contracted to fly de Havilland Canada-built Mosquitos across the Atlantic for the Royal Air Force Ferry Command during World War II and, after it, purchased surplus airplanes, restoring and selling them. But the hotel and air service combination inched toward reality when he acquired charter carrier Trans International in 1947 to funnel gamblers to Las Vegas, and two years later, he bought the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. That famous MGM name soon adorned the hotel and casino, then the world's largest, with some 2,000 rooms.

The movie studio, hotel, and casino were now tied together, but what was needed was an airline that could fly passengers to them. Although he had sold Trans International to Transamerica Corporation and was a major



shareholder of Western Airlines, he elected to create his own instead, which grew from a deregulation-facilitated concept.

Airline Concept

Aerial elegance for those of Hollywood fame served as the initial inspiration—a private jet of airliner size that featured comfort, gourmet cuisine, and inflight gambling. Toward that end, Regent Air, in which Kerkorian had a financial stake, provided early transcontinental experience between Los Angeles and Newark with opulently-outfitted Boeing 727-100s, but it proved unsuccessful. It operated on a charter basis, was not adequately promoted, and used a far-removed terminal at Newark International. Inflight gambling was ultimately ruled illegal.

Although Kerkorian divested himself of Regent Air, he took the concept with him, believing it could be successful with the right elements. Those included scheduled airline status, listing in all five major airline computer reservation systems to permit travel agent bookings, first-class-comparable fares, service to JFK in New York to facilitate international flight connections, and a more recognizable name. That name, of course, was MGM Grand Air.

Kerkorian acquired Regent Air's three 727-100s for \$10 million, retaining their interior appointments, but had them retrofitted with long-range fuel tanks for an additional \$1 million to provide the needed nonstop transcontinental capability and spent an additional \$1 million to refurbish the Imperial Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport. The airline-turned-private jet was thus ready for takeoff.

Service

Service began in September of 1987 with two daily roundtrips between Los Angeles and New York. Pilots, idle after layoffs from Continental, joined the corporate jet carrier, and five flight attendants served the 32 passengers in the cabin, a total that was 100 short of the aircraft's certified maximum capacity.

Celebrities, Hollywood stars, entertainment executives, designers, and royalty constituted the targeted clientele, and Tom Cruise, Robert De Niro, and Julia Roberts were frequently on board.

"The customer looks upon our service as if it were his own private corporate jet and, as such, enjoys and expects the stress-free, hassle-free environment," its promotional video touted. It claimed that it offered true

Continued On Page 23



LOGISTICS RECRUITMENT EVENT



WAREHOUSE AGENT



RAMP AGENT



CARGO AGENT

Hourly wage \$19/hr!

Location: 90-04 161st Street, 2nd Floor
Room 201 Jamaica, NY, 11432

Date: Friday, December 29, 2023

Time: 9AM-3PM



Business attire
recommended

Masks recommended

Please practice
social distancing

All applicants must present the
following documents.
Social Security Card (unlaminated)
State Driver's License, Learner's Permit,
or Non-Driver's ID
Working Documents Required

Register with CAO!



New York Career Center

90-04 161st Street, 2nd Floor Room 201
Jamaica, New York, 11432

 (718) 523-7100
 www.caonynj.com

Follow us on Social Media





YOUR JFK TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER

PROVIDING SAFE & RELIABLE
TRANSPORTATION

— SINCE 1995 —



OUR SERVICES

- Airports
- Charter/Groups
- Shuttles
- Flight Crew Shuttles
- Sporting Events
- Distressed Passengers



NANCY VARGAS

Chief Executive Officer
nancy@dh2limo.com



MIKE VARGAS

Chief Operating Officer & Founder
mike@dh2limo.com

79 North Boundary Road, Building 79 JFK, Suite 205, Jamaica, NY 11430

(718) 928 9966 www.DH2Limo.com DH2Limo DH2Transportation DH2Transportation

first-class service and “everything else should be called second class.” It labeled its flights “the MGM Grand Air experience.”

And an experience it was. Passenger check-in in the Imperial Terminal in Los Angeles entailed sitting on leather chairs at a rosewood concierge desk, and the plush, private club atmosphere was enhanced by couches, coffee tables, and bars. Separate conference rooms were available for use at no additional charge.

Like those of Hollywood fame, the passengers walked the red carpet—literally—to the aircraft parked only feet away, which sported the gold MGM lion emblem on its vertical tail.

Internally, it appeared nothing short of a corporate jet; individual swivel seats, velvet window curtains, plush carpeting, dining room tables, a bar, four-place compartments that served as both private dining and conference rooms, bed-convertible seats, and lavatories adorned with smoked glass, Italian marble, and gold fixtures.

Dinner, preceded by the distribution of menus and hot towels, progressed through warm nuts and cocktails served on formally set tables with Royal Worcester china; hors d'oeuvres, such as shrimp and lobster puffs, pate, and caviar; a salad course with hot rolls formed the basket; beef, poultry, and seafood entrees with accompaniments like potatoes au-gratin and a selection of wines; and pastries and coffee. The final course, presented at the bar and inviting social interaction, consisted of



assorted cheeses, fruits, biscuits, sparkling wines, and liqueurs.

Entertainment entailed several audio channels and films viewed through a Sony video system; both were considered state-of-the-art some four decades ago.

Although MGM Grand Air offered comfort, convenience, and cuisine, it failed to generate a profit, having needed to fill 27 seats on every flight just to break even, and in some sectors, flight attendants outnumbered passengers.

In order to attract a wider passenger base, it replaced its three 727-100s with an equal number of DC-8-62s, configuring them with 35 Grand Class First and 40 Grand Class Coach seats, the latter in a four-abreast arrangement and offered at lower fares. In its April 5, 1992 timetable, it advised, “All scheduled transcontinental service operates with spacious DC-8 Super 62s.” It still offered two daily roundtrips, departing at 08:40 and 15:30 from Los

Angeles and at 10:30 and 18:40 from New York. It also briefly linked the former with Orange County, operating a de Havilland Canada DHC-6-100 Twin Otter on this commuter route.

Demise

While its concept was unique, it lacked the clout of the major airlines. Higher fares, the absence of a frequent flyer program, and a route system that could be reduced to a pair of destinations all resulted in its inability to turn a profit, leaving it little choice but to discontinue service in 1992 and sell its assets to Champion Air, which itself specialized in flying sports teams and their fans.

“(Selling the airline) enables us to focus all of our efforts on the operation and expansion of our core hotel and gaming business,” Robert Maxey, MGM Grand Air’s Chief Executive Officer, commented at the time.

Sandra Bernhard, actress and hostess of “Sandyland” on Sirius XM Radio, summed up the experience best.

“It wasn’t like any other plane I’d flown in,” she said. “The thing had more rooms than a mansion. And everybody was flying it—models and celebrities—so you’d always be running into people. There’ll never be anything like it again.” ■



ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL

spent thirty years working at JFK International and LaGuardia airports with the likes of Capitol Air, Midway Airlines, Triangle Aviation

Services, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, and Lufthansa in Ground Operations and Management. He has created and taught aviation programs on both the airline and university level and is an aviation author.

AIRPORT COMMUNITY

Aviation High School & CALMM Holiday Luncheon and ACGC Check Presentation

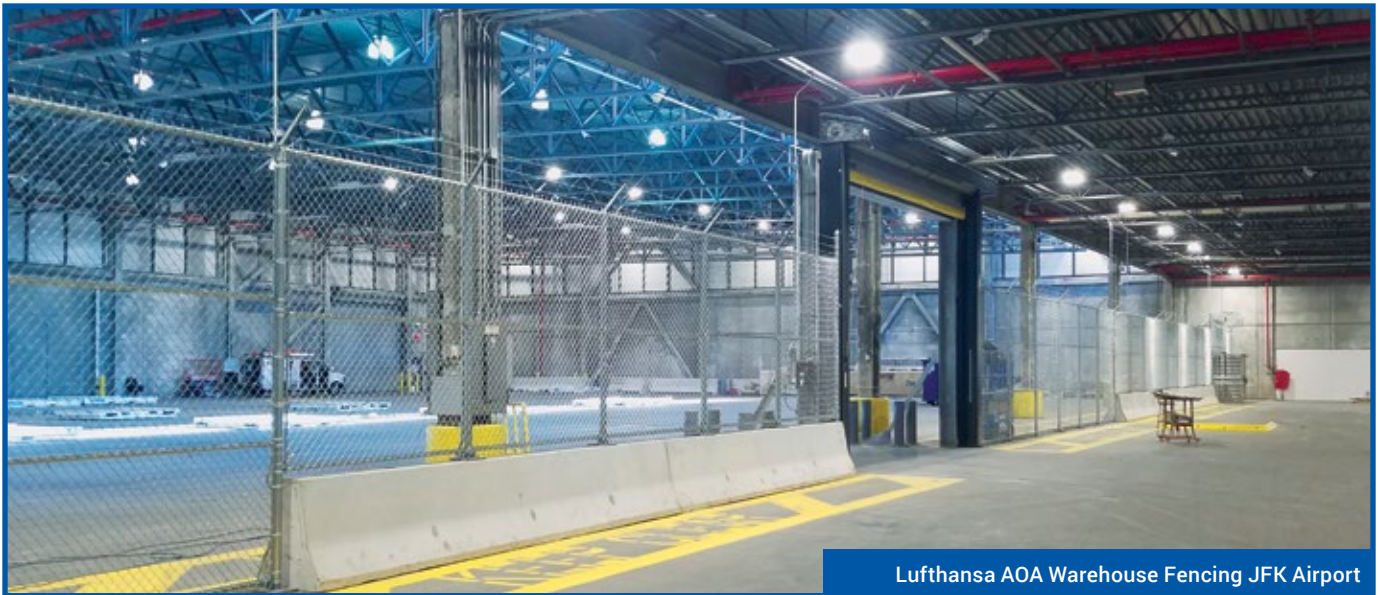
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the **Council of Airline Maintenance Managers (CALMM)** and Aviation High School Holiday Luncheon at the Aviation High School Annex at Building 141 at JFK Airport. We are delighted to announce that all funds from the Airport Community Golf Classic have been distributed; we presented the final

checks of \$12,000 each to the **Aviation High School Education Foundation (AHSEF)** and CALMM.

Thank you to our lunch sponsors, **Ford of Queens** and **Vinny's Panini at the TWA Hotel**.

Photos from the luncheon can be viewed online: www.flic.kr/s/aHBqjB6EYJ





Lufthansa AOA Warehouse Fencing JFK Airport



TNT Industries, Inc.

*Specializing in Airports, Warehouse, Industrial,
Office Fitouts, New Construction and Alterations*



USDA Inspection Area JFKIA



Breakroom Lounge



Access Control Systems
JFK Airport



Dime Bank
Customer Waiting Area

A Full Service MWBE Commercial Contracting Co.

In 2023 we celebrated our 34 years of serving the unique needs of JFK International Airport, Retail Banking, Corporate Interiors, Warehouse and Ground Up Construction in the New York Metropolitan area, while offering the best value for new construction, renovation and Construction Management Services.

We can work directly with your architects and engineers to develop accurate cost estimates, value engineering and accurate scheduling. We can also suggest construction alternatives that will save you both time and money via our established business partners. ***Follow Us...We'll Get You There!***

Tel: (718) 776-5315 • contact@tntind.net • www.tntind.net



Servicing the New York Metropolitan Area Since 1989



MILES Petroleum Co. Inc.

We Keep Things Moving!

AVIATION / FLEET / INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS

Free Delivery • Competitive Prices

Free Oil Analysis On Fuel Tanks & Lubricants



(800) 564-8777

(631) 694-4488 • Fax: (631) 337-9015

Inquire for National Pricing

WE ENSURE YOUR CONTRACTURAL COMPLIANCE NEEDS*

Minority & Women Owned Certifications:

WBENC • ACDBE & DBE • Port Authority of NY & NJ • New York State • Nassau & Suffolk Counties



**Empire State
Development**



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

* At the Port Authority of NY & NJ, we believe that our operations should reflect the diversity of our community. Because of this diversity, we have enacted a goal to award 20 percent of contracts to Minority-owned businesses, and 10 percent of contracts to women-owned businesses. We encourage each of our partners to also adopt these goals.

20% participation goal with certified Minority-owned business enterprises (MBE)

10% participation goal with certified Woman-owned business enterprises (WBE)

www.MilesOil.com

AIRPORT COMMUNITY



The well-attended GatewayJFK Networking event at the TWA Hotel was packed with guests all in the holiday spirit.



Rev. Romeo Dabee blessed guests and their pets during the annual Ark at JFK Blessing of the Animals.



JFK Rotary Club members dressed in their holiday best and helping the visiting students celebrate at the Annual Kids Holiday Party located in the JetBlue hangar at JFK Airport.



LAAMCO celebrated the season with its annual Holiday Party held at Il Bacco in Little Neck. Guests enjoyed good food, good company, and a wonderful start to the holiday season.



The JFK Air Cargo Association's Annual Holiday Luncheon also serves as the annual Toy Drive in conjunction with US Customs and Border Protection.



JFK Air Cargo Association presented board member, and now Special Olympics coach, Rich Hernandez with a \$1,000 check to support his newly formed basketball team.

NON-REV TRAVELER

A Three-Day Trip to Vancouver & Victoria, Canada



BY MAUREEN KATZ
mkatz@metroairportnews.com

Vancouver is an excellent west coast city and seaport in British Columbia. It is Canada's most ethnically diverse city. My husband, Jon Katz, and I flew to Vancouver non-stop from John F. Kennedy International Airport and round trip on JetBlue. It is approximately a five-and-a-half-hour flight westbound.

We spent the first night downtown at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center. We stayed at a different Bonvoy Hotel each



night. Our plan for the first day was to rent a car and take a ferry to Vancouver Island. British Columbia Ferries provides all passenger and vehicle ferry services for coastal and island communities in British Columbia. We drove to a port in Tsawwassen and took our car on the ferry to Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island; our ultimate destination was Victoria. The ferry ride was very scenic and took about an hour and a half.

The capital of British Columbia, Victoria, is located on the southern end of Vancouver Island; we stayed at the Marriott Inner Harbour Hotel. Jon and I spent the afternoon



walking downtown on Government Street, which has a lovely outdoor pedestrian mall. Nearby, the Marriott Inner Harbour Hotel is very scenic and a worthwhile walk.

On our second day, we drove to the famous Butchart Gardens on our way back to the port of Swartz Bay. These gardens are a National Historic Site of Canada and are not to be missed. They cover about 55 acres and consist of a mixture of rare and exotic shrubs, trees, and flowers. The area is divided into the Sunken, Japanese, Rose, Italian, and Mediterranean Gardens. We thought that the Sunken Garden was the most spectacular area of them all.

We took the ferry that evening back to Vancouver and checked into our last Bonvoy Hotel, the Westin Bayshore Hotel, near the famous Stanley Park. The view from most rooms is magnificent and overlooks the North Shore mountains and Coal Harbour. It has a resort-like atmosphere in a city setting, with a beautiful outdoor pool for winter swimming.

On our final day, we went to Granville Island, under downtown Vancouver's south end of the Granville Street Bridge. One of the highlights of this area is the Granville Public Market. It is an enclosed area where visitors can purchase fresh produce, meat, fish and seafood, cheeses, and other products. Also, there are Mexican, Asian, and Greek stalls and candy and snackshacks. A large outdoor eating area overlooks downtown Vancouver and several artist studios, boutiques, and the Granville Island Brewery.

Back at the hotel, we decided to walk around Stanley Park, a public park surrounded by the Burrard Inlet and the English Bay. We did not walk the 9 km around the park because it takes two to three hours. However, we walked for an hour to capture the beautiful views of this urban setting.

That evening, we returned to the Vancouver International Airport. We decided to try the mass transit system and took the Sky Train at the Vancouver City Center, a ten-block walk from the hotel. The train ride to the airport took 26 minutes and cost \$8.25 Canadian currency. The exchange rate for the U.S. dollar is excellent in Canada. One U.S. dollar is equal to approximately 1.37 Canadian dollars. A taxi from the airport to the downtown costs about \$34 Canadian. ■



THE FDU

Master of Public Administration

MPA

For Employees at Port Authority EWR & JFK Airports!

**APPLY BY
JANUARY 8**

Begin Spring Classes on January 22!

fdu.edu/apply

Schedule a
**PERSONAL
CONSULTATION**

For an in-person consultation to discuss your goals, text "JFK info" or "EWR info" to **215-630-6813**.

Advance appointment required.

An MPA will equip you with the managerial, analytical and conceptual skills to become a leader in your field.

- Convenient evening classes at JFK and EWR Airports
- Competitive tuition
- Expanded course options — including security, terrorism and crisis management
- Seven specializations to meet your career goals, including Global Transportation Management (JFK and EWR)
- Customizable progressive approach lets you tailor your studies

To Learn More

CALL: **201-692-2741**

EMAIL: mpa@fdu.edu

VISIT: fdu.edu/mpa



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

School of Public and Global Affairs

UPCOMING EVENTS

The most comprehensive listing of New York & New Jersey airport and aviation events available anywhere online. www.metroairportnews.com/airport-events

December 1

LAAMCO Holiday Party

Bacco Ristorante

Little Neck, New York 11362

www.laamco.com

December 5 – 11:00am

FDU Master of Public Administration Open House

John F. Kennedy International Airport

14 S Service Road, Building 14

Jamaica, New York 11430

www.fdu.edu

December 6

JFK Rotary Club Kid's Party

John F. Kennedy International Airport

Jet Blue Hangar #81

Jamaica, New York 11430

www.jfkr Rotary Club.org

December 7 – 6:00pm

JFK Air Cargo Association Annual Holiday Party

Russo's On the Bay

Howard Beach, New York 11414

www.jfkaircargo.aero

December 12 – 6:00pm

ADDAPT Dinner Group

The Heritage Club

Farmingdale, New York 1173

www.addaptny.org

December 12 – 6:00pm

GatewayJFK Holiday Mixer

TWA Hotel

John F. Kennedy International Airport

1 Idlewild Dr, Queens, NY 11430

www.gatewayjfk.org

December 13

Republic Airport Commission Meeting

Republic Airport-(FRG)

East Farmingdale, New York 11735

www.republicairport.net

December 14 – 11:30am

The Wings Club Luncheon

Speaker: Bob Jordan, Chief Executive

Officer, Southwest Airlines

The Yale Club

New York, New York 10017

www.wingsclub.org

December 17

American Airpower Museum Holiday Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy a family friendly event with Pancakes, Tram Rides, and photo ops with Santa.

Republic Airport (FRG)

1230 New Highway

Farmingdale, NY 11735

americanairpowermuseum.com

December 19 – 2:00pm

JFK T8 - LBE Retail In-Line Accelerator RFP Q&A

The T8 team and panel of experts will walk you through the RFP, including submission requirements and deadlines.

Republic Airport (FRG)

1230 New Highway

Farmingdale, NY 11735

www.anewjfk.com

December 20 – 9:30am

OTG JFK Hiring Event

90-4 161st Street

Jamaica, New York 11432

www.otgexp.com

December 21 – 9:30am

OTG LGA Hiring Event

LGA Community Outreach Office

East Elmhurst, New York 11369

www.otgexp.com

December 21 – 7:00pm

PAPD Emerald Society JFK & LGA Christmas Party

69th Regiment Armory

New York, New York 10010

www.papdemeraldssociety.com

January 8 & 22 – 7:00pm

Civil Air Patrol

Falcon Squadron Meeting

JFK Airport, Building 14

Jamaica, New York 11430

www.falconsquadron.cap.gov

January 10

JFK Rotary Club Holiday Party

Vetro Restaurant & Lounge

Howard Beach, New York 11414

www.jfkr Rotary Club.org

January 11 & 25 – 12:00pm

LGA Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting

LaGuardia Airport Marriott Hotel

East Elmhurst, New York 11369

www.lgakiwanis.org

January 12

Drone Fly-In

Fly around the F-11A Blue Angel in the museum's atrium with a Microdrone!

Cradle of Aviation Museum

Charles Lindbergh Blvd.

Garden City, NY 11530

www.cradleofaviation.org

January 17 – 11:30am

KAAMCO Members Meeting

JFK International Airport-(JFK)

Port Authority Building

Jamaica, New York 11430

www.kaamco.org

January 18 – 5:00pm

2024 JFK Chamber of Commerce Board Installation

Russo's On the Bay

Howard Beach, New York 11414

jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

January 23 – 9:00am

LAAMCO Monthly Meeting

LaGuardia Airport-(LGA)

3rd Floor, Hangar 7

East Elmhurst, New York 11371

www.laamco.com

January 25 – 11:30am

The Wings Club Luncheon

Speaker: Francisco Gomes Neto,

President and CEO, Embraer SA

The Yale Club

New York, New York 10017

www.wingsclub.org

January 25 – 11:30am

JFK Air Cargo Association Luncheon

Speaker: Andy Kirschner, Director Cargo

Sales - Americas, Delta Air Lines

Vetro Restaurant & Lounge

Howard Beach, New York 11414

www.jfkaircargo.aero

February 1 – 5:00pm

JFK Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

Russo's On the Bay

Howard Beach, New York 11414

jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org



Clean. Safe. Compliant.

Full-service cleaning and maintenance programs for airport and aviation facilities.

SIDA Badged with U.S. Customs Seals and PONYA plated vehicles at both JFK & LGA airports.

- PANYNJ Janitorial Maintenance Small Business Enterprise Certified (JMSBE)
- Pre, post, & during-construction cleaning
- Airport lounge detailing and fine cleaning
- Building and office cleaning
- Steam cleaning for all surfaces
- Carpet cleaning & restoration
- Interior and exterior window cleaning
- Building facade cleaning
- Stainless steel cleaning
- Pressure and power washing
- Interior and exterior painting
- General maintenance services
- SIDA badged AOA Janitorial Services for Airport Terminals, Offices, Warehouse, and Hangars
- Ramp, roadway, and warehouse mechanical sweeping
- Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and management
- Airport marking painting and removal
- Emergency Spill response
- Bird-dropping cleaning, Bird control installations, including netting and spikes
- Bird strike clean-up
- Catch basin cleaning
- Emergency aircraft cleaning and decontamination
- Heavy-duty equipment and vehicle pressure washing



Aqueous Solutions is a Certified MWBE Woman-Owned Business Enterprise with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, State of New York, and New York City

24/7 Emergency Response Hotline: 1-800-294-4950

AQUEOUS

SOLUTIONS

Located at John F. Kennedy International Airport
1-800-294-4950 • (718) 355-9080
info@aqsolution.com • www.aqsolution.com

Frequent User Discount Fares Available



AIRTRAIN JFK

\$25

10-ride cards

Valid for 30 days after first use and on AirTrain only.

\$40

**30-day
unlimited card**

Valid for 30 days after first use and on AirTrain only.

Check the expiration date on your discounted card at any AirTrain ticket vending machine.



John F. Kennedy
International Airport