

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE



WELCOME HOME



Illustration by Keelan Parham

Few places in our “World” make me feel the way I do at Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort. Maybe it’s because, even when I’m there on assignment, seeing people drinking whatever it is they’re drinking from hollowed-out pineapples (let’s go with “juice”) makes me think I’m on vacation. Maybe it’s the omnipresence of Tiki sculptures making the kind of faces that used to get me in trouble at school, appealing to that soft spot in my heart for anything that doesn’t take itself too seriously. Or maybe it’s just because I think the creator of Tonga Toast is a culinary genius.

Whatever it is about that place, I always seem to check my worries at the door. Walking through the Great Ceremonial House, I’m never thinking about my next copy deadline, my receding hairline or the sad lack of lyrics in most modern sitcom theme songs.

Instead, I find myself rationalizing the nutritional value of Dole Whips as fruit servings, wondering if any word is as fun to repeat as “hukilau” and remembering an old episode of “The Brady Bunch” that taught me not to touch anything remotely tribal on my first trip to Hawai’i.

Part of the Walt Disney World landscape since Day 1, Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort is as entrenched in the Disney experience as flying elephants, grim grinning ghosts and dapper guys named Dan. It’s a resort like no other, and now that it’s adding Disney Vacation Club accommodations, it’s going to be easier than ever for me to find *excuses legitimate business reasons* to spend time there during the work day.

Comprised of 360 Deluxe Studios and 20 over-the-water Bungalows, this new Disney Vacation Club development is scheduled to open in phases beginning this spring.

This edition of *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort from a variety of angles, visiting with one of the resort’s most beloved personalities (pages 3-4), taking you on a Deluxe Studio tour (pages 5-8), and even sharing the recipe for Tonga Toast (page 16).

We hope you enjoy this sneak peek at the newest addition to your neighborhood, and we look forward to exploring the resort further in future editions. Until then, may your pineapple always be full, may your toast always be Tonga and may you never tell my bosses if you see me in a hammock on a Tuesday.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor

This edition’s cover proudly features the whimsical work of Disney Design Group Senior Character Artist Casey Jones, who gave an image he created for a new line of merchandise an exclusive treatment for *Disney Files Magazine*. Disney Vacation Club thanks Casey and his creative colleagues at Disney Design Group for their continued contributions to the Member community.



Modern magic elevates historic resort

By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager,
Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney

Disney Vacation Club Members are about to discover what my team has grown accustomed to me calling “the third jewel in our monorail crown” – Disney’s Polynesian

Villas & Bungalows.

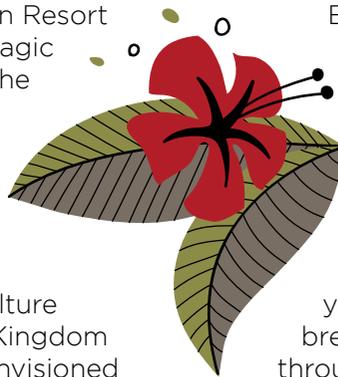
Following in the footsteps of Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort and The Villas at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, the newest addition to our Magic Kingdom neighborhood continues the exciting evolution of your magical community.

One of the three resorts to have opened with the Walt Disney World Resort in 1971, Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort reflects Walt’s love of Polynesian culture and his desire to extend the Magic Kingdom experience beyond the Park. Walt envisioned the resort as a continuation of Adventureland, with Disney’s Contemporary Resort continuing Tomorrowland and Disney’s Fort Wilderness Resort & Campground continuing Frontierland. The Deluxe Studios and over-the-water Bungalows we’re adding to this historic resort build further on that vision, creating new ways for Members to enjoy their adventures for decades to come.

This edition of *Disney Files* Magazine will lead you on a photographic tour of the new Deluxe Studios – the largest Deluxe Studios at the Walt Disney World Resort at 447 square feet. Designed to sleep five, the Deluxe Studios’ spacious layout enabled us to create a paradise

of modern conveniences, including my personal favorite – split bathrooms that allow two people to simultaneously get ready for bed or prepare for a fun day ahead. As a parent well-versed in the art of getting a family settled or out the door, that’s my kind of Disney magic!

Featuring stylish, midcentury-modern furnishings and plenty of fun Disney details, the Deluxe Studios are the product of Member feedback and our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.



Equally inspired by Members are the resort’s other fantastic features and amenities, many of which you’ll explore in future editions of *Disney Files* Magazine, from the Bungalows to the wide range of enhanced public spaces designed to take the Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort experience to another level. Whether you’re enjoying the immediately breathtaking view of the landscape through the more openly designed Great Ceremonial House, ordering a Dole Whip from the new Pineapple Lanai, dining at the updated Capt. Cook’s, raising a glass in the exquisitely themed Trader Sam’s Grog Grotto, spending an afternoon in or around the re-imagined feature pool, relaxing in the gorgeous new whirlpool spa or watching your kids make a splash in a new play area that’ll make you wish you were a kid too, I think you’ll agree that the future of this iconic resort is as bright as its storied history.

All of us at Disney Vacation Club are eager to help you create new memories at Disney’s “original island escape,” and we look forward to welcoming you home again soon.





one on one

with Auntie Kau'i

A visit with Disney's Polynesian Village Resort Cultural Representative Kau'i (pronounced kow-ee) Brandt is a conversation with one of Disney's most gracious personalities. The O'ahu native, who grew up swimming in the very lagoon that now fronts Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, has shared the spirit of aloha with Walt Disney World Guests since 1971. Now looking forward to welcoming Disney Vacation Club Members "home" to her beloved resort, the revered Cast Member known to her countless friends as "Auntie Kau'i" ("Auntie" is an esteemed term of endearment and respect in Hawaiian culture) sat down with *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March for a visit that touched on everything from the literal meaning of her name to the personal meaning of her mission.

Ryan: Part of what fascinates me about Hawaiian culture is that seemingly everything is layered with meaning, including many native Hawaiians' names. Would you mind sharing the story behind your name?

Auntie: Not at all. I was born at home in 1932 during a thunder-and-lightning storm. I came out screaming and crying, so my grandmother named me Kauihealani, which means "thundering voice of heaven." I don't thunder as much anymore.

Ryan: It's hard for many of us to imagine what it would be like to be a kid growing up in a place like Hawai'i. What do you recall most fondly about your childhood on O'ahu?

Auntie: Being barefoot and carefree. I had a lot of friends, and it was just a wonderful time – a very innocent time until the war came. I remember learning English at the school I attended for native Hawaiians. I got \$10 when I graduated for being the student who learned the most English, which was really exciting!

Ryan: You mentioned World War II changing life on O'ahu. As you were only 9 years old when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place, I'd have to imagine that event was difficult to comprehend. What do you remember about that day?

Auntie: My brother and I were up on my Mom's roof that morning, eating mangoes from a tree. We saw these planes flying over the Waianae Mountains, going towards Pearl Harbor. We saw fire, and we thought it was all fake. We kept saying, "How did they make that look so real?" Our mother said, "Get off the roof – this is war." We didn't even know what war was.

Ryan: Thankfully, happier times eventually followed, and hula soon became a big part of your life. Tell me about that.

Auntie: Just as children learn ballet and modern dance and tap here on the mainland, children in Hawai'i learn hula. I remember walking about 2 miles to hula class. I had great teachers, and I loved it. But later in school, we weren't allowed to do the hula. It was considered vulgar by some in the 1940s. The only hula we could do was on our knees. But I never lost my love of dance. In the 1960s, I was living on the big island and after giving birth to my daughter, I went back to O'ahu to learn Tahitian dancing. My teacher was a Frenchman who didn't speak English, so I had to learn just by following him in the mirror. I eventually opened my own studio to teach Tahitian, and we were broke for six months because, like hula in the '40s, Tahitian in the '60s was considered vulgar. So I thought, "Okay, I'll teach hula." That's where I found success, and

it's also where I learned that, if we added little girls doing Tahitian, people thought it was cute.

Ryan: In addition to finding success as a teacher, you found success as a performer in Waikiki. You were doing the work you love in a place you love, so I'm curious, what made you decide to take a chance in 1971 and move to the mainland?

Auntie: I was performing at the Ala Moana Center in Honolulu, where Disney representatives had visited three years in a row trying to convince my boss to take a show to Disneyland. He always told them to "come back next year," and when he gave them that answer on this visit, they said, "We'll go find somebody else." So my boss looked at me and said, "You go." I said, "I don't want to go," because I'd always heard that people who leave Hawai'i never go back. But I eventually agreed to a three-month contract at Disneyland. During that contract, I was asked to go to Florida for another three months to help open Disney's Polynesian Village Resort. They told me I'd get to work with dancers from Hollywood, so I thought I'd be working with the stars! It turns out they meant Hollywood, Fla. But anyway, I obviously fell in love with the place, as I'm still here all these years later. And I'm happy to say I do go back to Hawai'i every year.

Ryan: What specifically did you fall in love with as you settled into the role?

Auntie: The opportunity to share my culture with so many people who are excited to learn. As someone whose grandchildren haven't yet been to Hawai'i, it's so important to me to be able to share my culture with them and with others who may not have the opportunity to visit my homeland. I even teach hula on one of my days off.

Ryan: That you work at all when you've earned the privilege of simply enjoying retirement is impressive, and the fact that you teach on one of your days off is really inspiring. What drives you?

Auntie: Passion. You know, my knees don't allow me to walk very well anymore, but

somehow I can still dance. I'm energized by doing what I love. It's a privilege to share the warmth of Hawai'i and the true meaning of aloha.

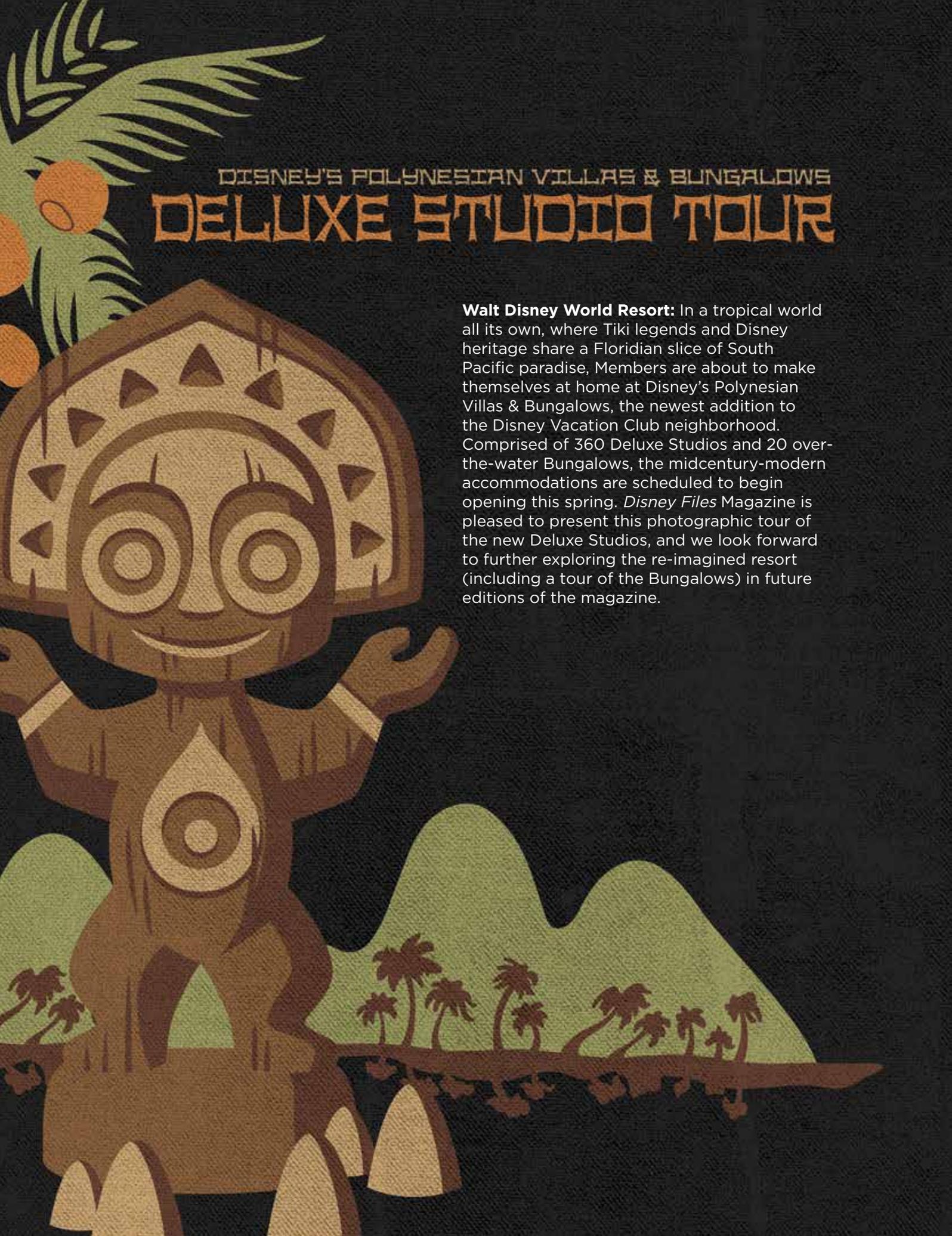
Ryan: You've been very complimentary of the work Walt Disney Imagineers are doing to re-imagine this resort as it prepares to welcome Disney Vacation Club Members. What's been your favorite visual change?

Auntie: I'm excited about the changes to the lobby of the Great Ceremonial House, where I spend a lot of time with Guests. It now reminds me of the feeling you get when you walk into the lobby at Aulani and can see out across the valley to the lagoon. By opening up our lobby space, you get a beautiful view of the landscape and lake as soon as you arrive. I love it.

Ryan: Well our Members are about to enjoy that sense of arrival year after year. Are you ready to make a few thousand new friends?

Auntie: I can't wait.



A stylized illustration of a Tiki figure with large, circular eyes and a wide smile, wearing a large, patterned headdress. The figure is set against a dark background with green foliage and orange accents in the top left. In the background, there are green hills and palm trees. The text is positioned at the top of the page.

DISNEY'S POLYNESIAN VILLAS & BUNGALOWS DELUXE STUDIO TOUR

Walt Disney World Resort: In a tropical world all its own, where Tiki legends and Disney heritage share a Floridian slice of South Pacific paradise, Members are about to make themselves at home at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows, the newest addition to the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood. Comprised of 360 Deluxe Studios and 20 over-the-water Bungalows, the midcentury-modern accommodations are scheduled to begin opening this spring. *Disney Files Magazine* is pleased to present this photographic tour of the new Deluxe Studios, and we look forward to further exploring the re-imagined resort (including a tour of the Bungalows) in future editions of the magazine.



Floor plans and furnishings subject to change. Room views vary.

Each 447-square-foot Deluxe Studio sleeps as many as five, with a queen-size bed, a queen-size sleeper sofa and a pull-down, bunk-size bed that folds away beneath the TV.

Drawers and luggage space beneath the queen-size bed create convenient storage solutions. As long as you're focused on the floor, keep an eye out for hidden Mickey shapes within the Polynesian-inspired carpet pattern.





The subtle, surfboard-inspired design of the coffee table and retro-organic shapes carved into the bed-concealing cabinet are among the details supporting the space's midcentury-modern style.



The Deluxe Studio kitchenette is neatly equipped with a microwave, refrigerator, sink, coffee maker and toaster.



A sleepy scene from Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Lilo & Stitch* awaits those who claim the pull-down bed.





Getting ready for a day in the Parks is more efficient as Members utilize two private bathroom spaces – one containing a sink and shower (pictured here), and another housing a toilet, sink and tub-shower combo. Countertops draw inspiration from volcanic rock, while tile patterns honor the distinctive style of Disney Legend Mary Blair.



ILLUMINATING INSIGHTS

- Like Disney's Contemporary Resort, much of Disney's Polynesian Village Resort was built through U.S. Steel's then newly developed process of modular construction, with pre-constructed rooms – each weighing more than 8 tons – lifted into steel frames.
- Legendary entertainers Bob Hope, Lucille Ball and Fred MacMurray were among the resort's earliest Guests.
- The first Walt Disney World fireworks spectacular took place as part of the official dedication of Disney's Polynesian Village Resort.
- The famed Electrical Water Pageant that still parades nightly across the Seven Seas Lagoon and Bay Lake debuted as part of the dedication of the Disney's Polynesian Village Resort luau.
- John Lennon met with his lawyer at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort on Dec. 29, 1974 to sign paperwork that officially broke up the Beatles. While that's sad but true, rumors of Lennon leaving the resort in a yellow submarine have been unsubstantiated.



It starts at “home”

Accommodations remain central to Membership Magic

As part of our ongoing series of executive conversations examining key elements of the Member experience, *Disney Files Magazine* sat down with Disney Vacation Club Resorts General Manager Sonya Deese-Byrnes to get her perspectives about the continuous improvement of the places Members call “home.”

“They’re the core of our community,” Sonya said of the 13 resorts that will make up the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood when Disney’s Polynesian Villas & Bungalows open this spring. “Membership Magic is all about value, flexibility and extras, and when I think about the resorts

I’m so privileged to manage every day, I hear all three of those words. I think about not just the savings on Disney Vacation Club accommodations costs over time, but the added value created by not

having to eat out for every meal or separate the family into multiple hotel rooms. I think about the flexibility Members have to choose accommodations that are the right fit for each trip and all the extra touches that enhance Members’ comfort or support our company’s passion for storytelling. These resorts, to me, are at the heart of Membership Magic.”

As much as Sonya enjoys thinking about “what *is*,” she’s equally focused on “what’s *next*.”

“Walt Disney famously said that, ‘we can ill afford to rest on our laurels, even to pause in retrospect,’” Sonya said. “He was relentlessly focused on the future, and that continues to be a big part of our culture at Disney Vacation Club. When I heard the recent news of accolades given to several Disney Resorts by readers of *Travel + Leisure Magazine*, for example, I was on my way to a meeting about Disney’s Polynesian Villas &

Bungalows. That moment kind of typified the Disney Vacation Club Cast experience – feeling good about being part of a job well done while simultaneously moving on to the next challenge.”

Asked if she recalled the focus of that meeting, Sonya gave an unexpected answer.

“We looked under the bed,” she said, fully recognizing how odd that sounds. “Members had expressed a desire for additional storage solutions, and we were meeting to approve the final configuration of the space beneath the bed in the new Deluxe Studios, with drawers for personal belongings and open space for luggage.”

“Those are actually some of my favorite meetings, when we really get to focus on the details. It would certainly be easier to simply apply the same proven template from one resort to the next, but it wouldn’t be much fun, and more importantly, it

wouldn’t be very Disney. And that focus on the future isn’t only about *new* resorts. It’s also about keeping established resorts ‘best in class.’ If you’ve been to Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort or The Villas at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge lately, you’ve seen some dramatic transformations. They feel like brand-new accommodations, as will Disney’s BoardWalk Villas and Disney’s Beach Club Villas, both of which are undergoing refurbishments this year. Whether we’re elevating the design of new resorts – quite literally in the case of our new over-the-water Bungalows – or re-imagining the resorts Members already know and love, we take pride in continually raising the bar. It’s what makes Membership Magic possible, and it’s what makes my job so rewarding.”

Look for more Membership Magic conversations in future editions of *Disney Files Magazine*.



Service with a story

An inside look at the new Trattoria al Forno

Walt Disney World Resort: Like every great Disney destination, Trattoria al Forno – a new breakfast-and-dinner restaurant now open at the former site of Kouzzina by Cat Cora on Disney’s BoardWalk – has a rich story to tell.

According to Walt Disney Imagineers, married couple Domenico and Concetta Oliveri (“Dom” and “Connie” to their friends) immigrated to America from Italy in the early part of the 20th century, establishing a modest tavern and boarding house that grew along a burgeoning boardwalk. Connie’s cooking attracted a loyal following, prompting the family to convert boarding house rooms into dining rooms to meet demand. Dom called their new café Trattoria al Forno (meaning “restaurant of the oven”), referencing the wood-fired oven he used to make his signature pizzas.

Today, families gather in those comfortably converted spaces – including the living room, formal parlor and tavern – to enjoy culinary creations from the newest generation of Oliveris, who mix time-honored family recipes with innovative dishes drawing on authentic flavors found throughout Italy and the Mediterranean. Adding to the multi-sensory experience is an on-stage kitchen featuring Dom’s wood-fired pizza oven and an eye-catching prosciutto slicer with a brilliant red paint job that would make Lightning McQueen do a double-take.

Inspired by the setting (and by a wood-grilled, 16-ounce T-bone steak), *Disney Files* Magazine set out to learn more from Disney’s BoardWalk Chef Dee Foundoukis, a 24-year veteran of Disney restaurants.

“Atlantic City was really built by immigrants establishing their various businesses along the boardwalk,” Chef Dee explained. “That diversity

is represented here on Disney’s BoardWalk by all the different architectural styles you see in the buildings, and the farmhouse feel of Trattoria al Forno adds another layer to that story.”

Highlights of the expansive dinner menu include signature pizzas (including such creative combinations as Truffle Cream with Asiago, Pecorino and Fontina) made with an Italian Caputo flour that gives the crust a uniquely airy quality, carefully crafted pastas (all served with house-made sauces and in one case paired with a 6-ounce, spinach-infused meatball befitting its “Gigante” name), creatively prepared meat dishes (from a whole-roasted fish on a bed of roasted vegetables from the pizza oven to a Chicken Breast alla Parmigiana created with specialized equipment that enables the restaurant to prepare this typically time-consuming dish fresh to order), along with antipasti dishes (including Italian cured meats fresh-shaved from that authentic Italian prosciutto slicer), delectable desserts (kids – and kids at heart – are particularly drawn to a gelato dish that looks like a plate of spaghetti) and a wine list that’s 100 percent Italian.

For Chef Dee, whose parents are first-generation Greek, the story of her own connection to Italian cuisine began with the intoxicating smells coming from the kitchen of a childhood neighbor in New York.

“Those smells were unbelievable,” she recalled. “I wouldn’t want you to tell my Mom this, but while I love to cook Greek food, my forte is Italian ... And I have to say I’ve never been more excited to be in the kitchen. Today’s Guests are so educated about food, and that gives us as chefs a bigger opportunity to stretch our creativity. It’s an exciting time to be a chef.”



Special Offers part of



A paradise of perks

Membership Magic spreads spirit of aloha

Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts:

Can't wait until your first stay at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows? Us either. That's why the *Disney Files* staff has compiled this list of our Top 5 favorite ways to immediately enjoy your own personal paradise with Member perks at the Disneyland or Walt Disney World Resorts.

5. Bengal Barbecue, Disneyland Park: Feasting on skewered meats at 'Ohana, a family style dining destination and a carnivore's paradise, is a staple of the Disney's Polynesian Village Resort experience. As the primal pleasure of meats on sticks shouldn't be limited to the East Coast alone, we recommend visiting Bengal Barbecue at Disneyland Park, one of more than 20 food and beverage locations in the Theme Park offering Members a 10 percent discount.

4. Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar, Disneyland

Hotel: Whet your appetite for a night at Trader Sam's Grog Grotto at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort by feeding your senses at the original Trader Sam's at the historic Disneyland Hotel. Be sure to ask for your 10 percent Member discount on food, as the "two of his heads for one of yours" deal never favors the buyer.

3. Surfside Lounge, Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel:

Hang 10 with a light meal at this laidback lounge, conveniently located near the lobby of Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel at the Disneyland Resort. You'll get a tempting taste of the surf culture – and a 10 percent Member discount.

2. Movie night with your 'ohana, Disney Vacation Club Resorts:

'Ohana means family, and family means nobody gets left out of movie night. While Members may borrow a variety of Disney films on DVD at many Disney Vacation Club Resorts, we recommend *Lilo & Stitch*, the 2002 hit that inspired the image concealed in Deluxe Studio foldaway beds at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows.

1. Sammy Duvall Watersports Centre, Disney's Contemporary Resort:

Until you can stay in an over-the-water Bungalow, enjoy an over-the-water parasailing experience at the Sammy Duvall Watersports Centre. A variety of water sports are available here to add a splash of adventure to your Walt Disney World vacation, and each offers a 10 percent Member discount. Call (407) 939-0754 for details and reservations.

Visit the Membership Magic section of DVCMember.com to learn more about these and other perks, and remember to present your Disney Vacation Club Member ID and photo ID to take advantage of available offers.





More information at your fingertips

Resort Availability Tool marks latest evolution of DVCMember.com

DVCMember.com: Disney Vacation Club continues to enhance DVCMember.com as part of Membership Magic, and the Resort Availability Tool added late last year to the website's "Vacation Planning" section is just the latest milestone in that ongoing process.

Designed to help Members more easily identify right-fit Disney Vacation Club Resort accommodations before booking their stay, the tool allows Members to quickly check availability across multiple resorts and room types. Members may simply enter their desired check-in and check-out dates before clicking "Find a Resort" to see what's available for all room types throughout the neighborhood, or they may add resort and room-type preferences to conduct a more specific search.

The site then displays available accommodations and, thanks to a recent enhancement to the tool, the number of vacation points required for each night and for the entire stay. With that information in hand, Members know what to expect when booking their reservations online or by calling Member Services. (Tip: Be sure to print or remember your search results, as this tool can't book reservations, and your results won't be saved or transferred. Availability is continuously updated and is subject to change, so it's best to book your reservations as quickly as possible after using this tool.)

To further inform Members' choices, the tool also displays notes about scheduled pool

closures or other operational details that may impact their stay.

As a reminder, Members may make Home Resort reservations as many as 11 months in advance of their desired check-in date, while reservations at other Disney Vacation Club Resorts are available to Members as many as seven months in advance.

Watch future editions of *Disney Files* Magazine for details about other website and social media enhancements in the works as part of Membership Magic.

Right Information, Right Format, Right Time

To better connect Members with the right information in the right format at the right time, Disney Vacation Club is continuing to analyze Member communications materials, identifying which are best suited for print and which could better serve Members in digital formats.

This ongoing process has led to the increased investment in vacation-planning tools available online at DVCMember.com, where Members can now find the vast majority of information previously delivered through printed Vacation Planner books. As updates to vacation-planning information can occur throughout the year, transitioning these particular materials online helps ensure that Members have access to the most timely and accurate information every time they plan a vacation.

To help ease the transition of vacation points charts from printed to digital formats, a printed vacation points chart book is included with this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine. Disney Vacation Club looks forward to continuing to serve Members through a dynamic mix of printed and digital offerings.

MY DISNEY HOME Where Members Live

Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from Andrew Gabbola of New York, Member since 2012.



Filled with more Ducks than an Oregon college campus, the New York home of Andrew Gabbola is an eye-popping tribute to his fowl, feathered friend. Devoted to Donald for decades, Andrew has packed his pad (or pond) with seemingly countless collectibles celebrating the temperamental star. From sketches to sculptures and from pewter to plush, it's a collection that reaches from wall to wall, room to room. Some pieces even hang from the ceiling, so if you pay him a visit, you'd better "duck."



Do you have a Disney home? Whether it's an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we'd like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to *Disney Files* Magazine's "My Disney Home," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at DVCMember.com/releaseform.

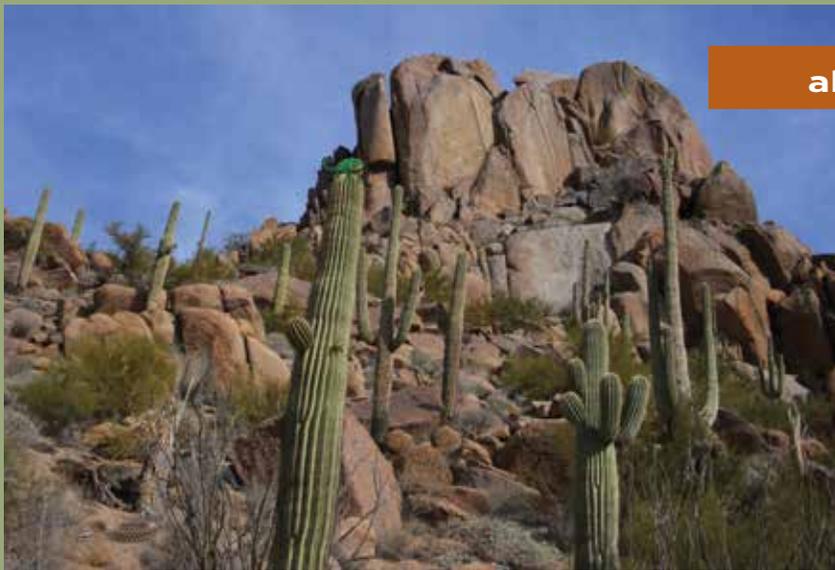
RCI PRESENTS

picture this

As baseball fans who eagerly look forward each year to welcoming spring training back to Florida, the *Disney Files* staff is pleased to dedicate this edition of "Picture This" to our spring training friends out West in the equally sunny state of Arizona. This stunning shot captures the natural beauty of Scottsdale, a spring training city on our vacation wish list and one of many exchange destinations available to Members through RCI. See if you can spot the seven things we've altered, and remember to visit DVCMember.com to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.

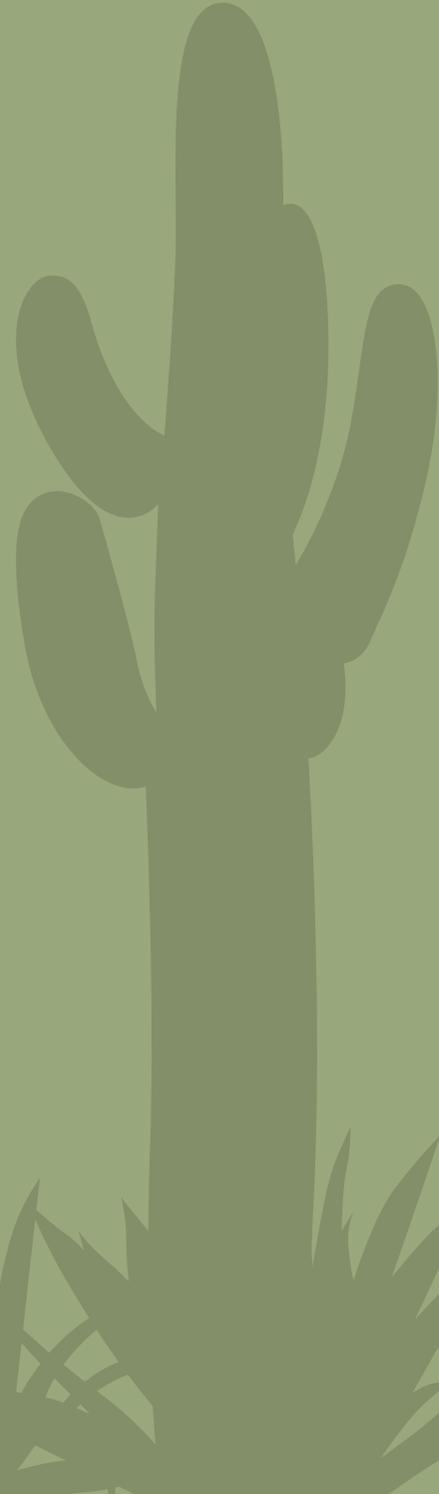


original



altered

ANSWERS: (1) A new cactus has risen from the horizon on the left side of the image, (2) little Pascal has left his Tangled tower and perched himself atop the cactus in the center foreground, (3) a large shadow has disappeared from the rock face toward the upper-middle of the photo, (4) part of the rock has disappeared atop the ridge toward the upper-right of the image, (5) there's a snake in the lower-left of the photo, (6) a cactus in the lower-right foreground has grown a new arm and (7) a rock near the bottom center of the image has turned into a hidden Mickey.





community kitchen

tasty tidbits and nourishing news

Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort: While the Tonga Toast at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort (see recipe on page 16) may be the most iconic member of Disney's French toast family, the delightful dish has a decadent cousin that's quickly growing its fan base a few hundred miles north in South Carolina. Served at the Tide Me Over quick-service location at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort, the Salted Caramel Banana Bread French Toast (let that sink in for a moment) is topped with whipped cream and plated piping hot with a side of bacon for good measure. There's no part of that equation we don't like.

Disney's Polynesian Village Resort: Inspired by Hawai'i and made famous in Adventureland, the Dole Whip is as alluring to Disney fans as a motor car to Mr. Toad. That wild ride to happiness recently added another point of departure in the form of the new Pineapple Lanai at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort. Located in a covered outdoor area just beyond the glass doors as you enter the resort through the Great Ceremonial House, this dedicated Dole Whip destination serves the pineapple-favored, soft-serve swirls in bowls or as floats. You can even add a souvenir tiki bowl or sipper to forever remind you of your time in palate-pleasing paradise.



Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Two celebratory buffets will tempt taste buds this spring at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, and reservations are available now. The Easter Sunday Feast will feature seafood, salads, carved meats, hot entrees and decadent desserts on April 5 from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., while a similarly bountiful Mother's Day Buffet will help families celebrate Moms on

May 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Prices for each buffet are \$34.99 for adults and \$18.99 for children ages 3-9, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call (407) WDW-DINE (939-3463).



Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park: The popular Flame Tree Barbecue restaurant at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park is scheduled to reopen to Guests in April, culminating the first phase of a refurbishment project that began in January. Additional work on covered walkways and seating areas is scheduled to continue into the summer. Guests visiting before the April re-opening can find the restaurant's sweet-and-smoky fare at select kiosk locations within the Park.

Disney Cruise Line: Did you know that Disney Cruise Line voyages offer a "Dine and Play" option during the second dinner seating to allow grownups to enjoy mealtime both with and without their little ones? Kids' meals are served first, and youth counselors arrive soon after to pick up young Guests so the adults can enjoy a more peaceful, leisurely meal. Ask about this option when registering your kids at the youth clubs aboard the ship.

Tonga Toast

It's toast...stuffed with cheer, battered in joy, fried in happiness and rolled in elation. This is the recipe for the unbridled ecstasy that is Tonga Toast, the decadent dessert that magically masquerades as breakfast at Kona Café at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort.

Serves: 4

Batter ingredients:

- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/3 cup whole milk
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar

Sugar-Cinnamon ingredients:

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

Toast ingredients:

- 1 quart canola oil, for frying
- 1 loaf sourdough bread (uncut, 12 inches long)
- 2 large bananas, peeled

Steps:

- 1 Mix 3/4 cup of sugar with 2 teaspoons of cinnamon in medium bowl (large enough to roll toast) with a fork until thoroughly blended. Set aside.
- 2 Whip eggs in another medium bowl (large enough to dip toast) until well beaten. Add milk, 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon and 1 tablespoon of sugar. Mix well and set aside.
- 3 Preheat oil to 350 degrees F in a large pot or a deep fryer. (If using a large pot, use a candy thermometer to make certain the oil does not get any hotter or it will burn.)
- 4 Slice the bread into four three-inch-thick slices. Cut each banana in half crosswise, then each piece lengthwise.
- 5 Place a bread slice flat on the counter and carefully slice a pocket just enough from the middle (do not tear all the way through) to stuff half a banana into; repeat with each bread slice.
- 6 Dip stuffed bread into batter, covering both sides, allowing excess batter to drip off bread and place carefully into hot oil.
- 7 Cook 4-5 minutes until golden brown. If needed, turn toast over after 2 minutes and cook for another 2 minutes on other side. Remove and drain excess oil. Roll toast in cinnamon-sugar. Repeat for each piece of toast and serve!

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



**Watch a Kona Café chef
show you how it's done!**



neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community

Member Services: Members calling Member Services from Mexico now have a new, toll-free number: 01-800-436-0264. That line's operating hours mirror those of the U.S. number: 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern time) on weekdays and 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern time) on weekends.



▲ **RCI:** The menu of international exchange options available to Members through RCI continues to evolve as part of Membership Magic. Among the newly added options in Japan, for example, is the Towa Pure Hotel and Cottage resort in the Nasu Kogen region of Tochigi, north of Tokyo. This quaint resort, featuring an open-air hot spring and multiple onsite restaurants, is now available to Members nightly with no nightly use fee. To learn more about this and other exchange opportunities in Japan and beyond, visit RCI.com/DVC.

Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i:

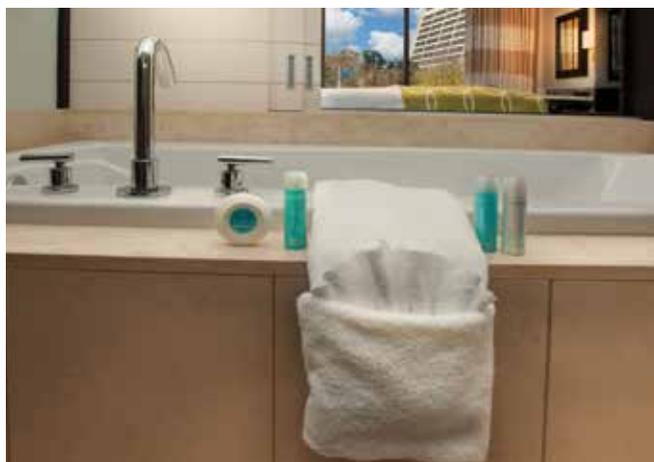
Operating hours recently changed for Aulani pools, slides, whirlpool spas and the Waikolohe Stream. New hours for pool and whirlpool slides are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily, while the Waikolohe Stream and slides operate from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Note that these closing times extend by two hours during select periods. Upcoming dates for extended hours include March 20-April 5 and May 29-Sept. 6. In other Aulani news, Hawai'i-born Janelle Sanqui has earned the honor of serving

as the first Aulani Ambassador, building on a tradition that has thrived at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts for a half-century. Part of the resort's original opening team, Janelle will represent Aulani at a variety of events both at the resort and in the community, while also maintaining her role in workforce management.



▲ **Disney's Beach Club Villas:** The Drawing Room, positioned just as Members and Guests enter Disney's Beach Club Villas from Disney's Beach Club Resort, has become a more competitive gathering place, thanks to the recent addition of a new pool table. It's available to Members free of charge, 24 hours a day. Meanwhile, a sweeping refurbishment project is scheduled to begin in late March at Disney's Beach Club Villas, with crews slated to conduct work in waves through late June. Plans for the accommodations refurbishment include new furniture, carpet, living space flooring, curtains, linens, stainless steel appliances and more. Planned electrical upgrades include the installation of USB charging stations and additional outlets. Deluxe Studios will sleep five when the project is complete. Look for images and more details in a future edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.

Disney's BoardWalk Villas: Work is underway on a variety of enhancements to accommodations at Disney's BoardWalk Villas. Crews are replacing bedding and draperies, reupholstering seating, updating tile backsplashes in kitchens, hanging new artwork and installing new laminate flooring. The project began in January and is scheduled to continue in phases through the summer.



▲ **Disney's Contemporary Resort:** Members, Guests and Cast Members have helped make Disney's Contemporary Resort No. 1 of all Disney Resorts in support of the philanthropic "Clean the World" program. Dedicating to collecting and recycling used soap and shampoo products from resorts and hotels, the program redistributes the sanitized products to domestic homeless shelters and to people in more than 70 other countries where hygiene-related illnesses cost millions of lives. In addition to fighting the spread of preventable diseases, the program diverts hotel waste from local landfills. Disney properties have, at press time, collected more than 53 tons of soap alone through this ongoing effort. During one recent month, Disney's Contemporary Resort and Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort contributed 974 pounds of soap and 572 bottled products to the program.

Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows:

The opening of Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows gives the *Disney Files* staff an opportunity to answer a question that becomes more frequent with the opening of a new resort: "Why are some rooms available for reservations using cash but not vacation points?" The room may have been given up by a Member to do a Member Getaways exchange (excluding RCI) and is being rented to pay for the exchange. This is why rooms are available for cash and not with vacation points. Additionally, undeclared rooms, which are owned by the Developer and are not part of the Condominium Association, can be rented out to Guests paying cash.

Pool hopping: Whenever you're using your Membership to stay at a Disney Vacation Club Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they're not at capacity. You must present your MagicBand or current Key to the World card with a "DVC Member" designation along with a photo ID to use other eligible pools. Note that pool hopping isn't available Feb. 14-21, March 21-April 5, May 22-25, June 27-July 11, Sept. 5-7, Nov. 22-29 or Dec. 19, 2015-Jan. 3, 2016, and is never available at Disney's Art of Animation Resort, Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, Disney's Polynesian Village Resort or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Look for details online at DVCMember.com. Please remember that pools are available only to registered Members and Guests staying at that resort (along with those staying with them in their room), as well as Members utilizing their pool-hopping perk. Pool usage isn't available to Guests who are staying at other resorts or who live locally.

Working around the croc

Cast Member nurtures crocodiles in the Park and in the wild

Walt Disney World Resort: While everyone's favorite hook-handed captain knows to "never smile at a crocodile," a Zoological Manager at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park continues to ignore that advice. His name is Lonnie McCaskill, and he recently invited *Disney Files* Magazine to join him on a very early morning to observe feeding time for the 25 male Nile crocodiles he's helped nurture since they first moved to the Theme Park from South Africa in 1998.

"These are true survivors over millions of years," Lonnie said of the species as he served the day's feast from a Kilimanjaro Safaris bridge. "They're smart, cunning and beautiful, and their diversity is really amazing."

Here's just a bit of the knowledge Lonnie figuratively fed us while literally feeding his reptilian friends:

They're big. While American alligators rarely exceed 14 feet in length, Nile crocodiles can grow longer than 17 feet.

They're as patient as they are aggressive. Unlike American alligators, which seldom attack anything taller than 3 feet, Nile crocodiles aggressively prey on anything from wildebeest to antelope. As they don't need to eat frequently to survive, they're content to study their prey's behavior for prolonged periods of time, noting patterns and weaknesses before ambushing.

They're great parents. Both males and females protect, and to some degree help feed, their young throughout a newborn's first year.

They maintain a well-defined social structure. Self-organized by size, strength and even personality differences, their hierarchy is not unlike that of the average high school.

Lonnie is among the many Disney's Animal Kingdom Cast Members dedicated to protecting

animals, not just at the Theme Park, but around the world. Since 1997, Lonnie's work with groups like Flora and Fauna International has taken him everywhere from Cambodia to Thailand, advising on local captive-breeding programs; teaching workshops in crocodile husbandry, safety and transport; and even participating in the first-ever reintroduction of captive Siamese crocodiles into the wild.

His enduring commitment to these creatures recently earned him an appointment as Co-Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Crocodile Specialist Group for East and Southeast Asia.

For his first assignment in this philanthropic role, Lonnie traveled to Sumatra, Java and Borneo to assess local crocodile-farming practices (unregulated croc farming is among the species' greatest threats) and to survey populations of crocodiles that have become critically endangered due to habitat loss to palm-oil farming.

"Crocodiles, if monitored and controlled, can be part of a sustainable industry," Lonnie told us. "I'm happy to say that efforts to regulate farming practices have proven to be quite successful, both for the businesses and for the conservation of the species."



From left, Sam Han of Flora and Fauna International helps Disney's Animal Kingdom Zoological Manager Lonnie McCaskill reintroduce a small Siamese crocodile to the wild in Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains.

Adventure together in Europe

Adventures by Disney debuts new Tuscany and Spain itineraries

Adventures by Disney: From truffles and pasta to paella and tapas, the richly interactive experiences offered in new Adventures by Disney itineraries will immerse families in two of Europe's most popular destinations beginning this summer: Tuscany, Italy; and Spain.

In the rolling hills of Tuscany, families will embark on a 7-day, 6-night, culinary-focused adventure that will immerse them in the spectacular settings, tempting tastes and time-honored traditions of the Italian countryside. Among the hands-on highlights are wine-blending and olive oil-infusion activities, a bruschetta- and pizza-making activity, a private pasta lesson, cheese tasting and honeycomb candle-making, and even a once-in-a-lifetime trek with a local truffle hunter and his dog in search of the elusive truffle native to San Miniato.

Other memorable moments of the trip will find families enjoying a classic Tuscan country picnic, an adults-only dinner at Contrada Restaurant at Castel Monastero (while Junior Adventurers enjoy a pizza party and Disney movie night) and a farewell Tuscan dinner hosted in the garden of Castello di Spaltenna.

The Spain adventure, meanwhile, is a 9-day, 8-night itinerary that'll guide families through the treasures of Spanish art and history, from bustling cities to relaxing beaches. Interactive experiences

include paella-making and Flamenco dancing lessons in Seville (you'll even take your Flamenco fans and castanets home as mementos), an etched-glass activity in a Royal 18th century manufactory, bicycling on the boardwalk on the Costa del Sol and a beachside sangria-mixing session for adults and kids alike in Marbella (Junior Adventurers also enjoy a gourmet chocolate-tasting experience).

Also on tap in Spain is a lunch at El Asador de la Esquina restaurant inside the Real Madrid football club's famed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium; and privately guided tours of such landmarks as Antoni Gaudi's masterpieces in Barcelona (Parque Guell and La Sagrada Familia), the Cathedral of Seville (final burial site of Christopher Columbus) and the Plaza de Espana (a site that'll look familiar to astute *Star Wars* fans).

Like all Adventures by Disney trips, the new Tuscany and Spain itineraries feature the expert guidance of two Disney-trained Adventure Guides who tend to every detail, allowing families to simply relax and enjoy a vacation filled with experiences they won't find anywhere else. More details about these and other itineraries are available online at AdventuresByDisney.com.

Call Member Services to book your adventure, and be sure to ask about exclusive Disney Vacation Club departure dates.

*Effective March 21, 2011, Members who do not purchase their ownership interest directly from Disney will not be able to use those vacation points for Adventures by Disney exchanges.

Cordoba in Andalusia, Spain



BUZZWORTHY

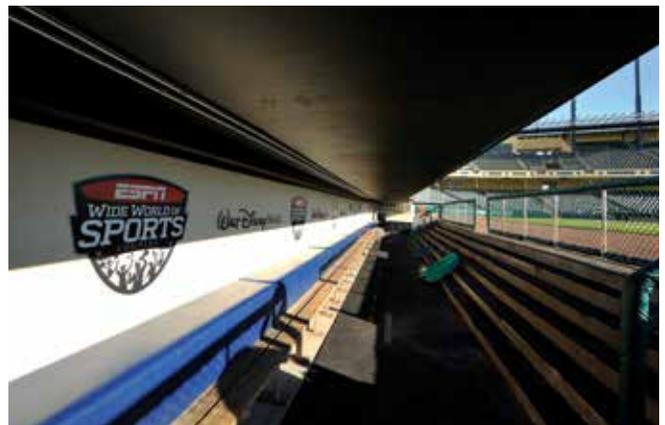
6 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Disney Cruise Line: Tortola, the largest of the British Virgin Islands and a place first permanently populated by such legendary pirates as Captain Kidd and Blackbeard, will join the itinerary for Eastern Caribbean sailings aboard the Disney Fantasy ship in 2016. The Disney Wonder ship, meanwhile, will visit the mountainous island of Martinique during four special 7-night Southern Caribbean voyages from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Other January-April 2016 itineraries now available for booking include 3- and 4-night Bahamian voyages aboard the Disney Dream and Disney Magic ships from Port Canaveral, Fla., 7-night Eastern Caribbean sailings aboard the Disney Fantasy ship from Port Canaveral (in addition to the ship's aforementioned Western Caribbean voyages from that same port), and 4- and 5-night sailings to the Bahamas and Western Caribbean aboard the Disney Wonder ship from Miami. Learn more about available itineraries online at DisneyCruiseLine.com before calling Member Services to book your voyage. Effective March 21, 2011, Disney Cruise Line exchanges are available exclusively to Members who purchased their ownership interest directly from Disney.



▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** Guests will celebrate all things Spring during the 22nd annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival from March 4-May 17. The multisensory experience allows Guests to see beautiful gardens and spectacular Disney character

topiary sculptures (including new Anna and Elsa sculptures); taste fresh foods from Outdoor Kitchens; smell the flowers, herbs and foods; hear the music of weekend concerts; touch and feel the gardens in interactive play areas; and more. It's "Fresh Epcot," and you can learn more online at EpcotInSpring.com.



▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** When the Atlanta Braves return to their Champion Stadium dugout for another season of Spring Training home games at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex from March 4-April 4, they'll do so with five teams from Major League Baseball's 2014 postseason on their star-studded schedule - the Baltimore Orioles, Detroit Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals and Washington Nationals. The planned slate also includes matchups with the Boston Red Sox, Houston Astros, Miami Marlins, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies and Toronto Blue Jays. Learn more online at ESPNWWOS.com/AtlantaBraves.

Walt Disney World Resort: The latest Starbucks store at the Walt Disney World Resort is scheduled to open at Disney's Hollywood Studios within days of this magazine hitting the press. Dubbed The Trolley Car Café and located at

the former site of the L.A. Prop Cinema Storage merchandise shop near the intersection of Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards, the new location offers Disney baked goods in addition to Starbucks favorites. This new café brings the growing number of Starbucks stores at the Walt Disney World Resort to five, joining two Downtown Disney locations and one in both the Magic Kingdom Park and Epcot.



Morimoto Asia



The BOATHOUSE

Artist Renderings—Proposed

▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** Downtown Disney news continues to bubble to the surface as crews transform the shopping, dining and entertainment destination into Disney Springs. Among the latest developments was the recent opening of a new parking garage (where parking remains free!) and the creation of a new pedestrian bridge in Downtown Disney Marketplace, stretching from The LEGO Store across the water to Rainforest Café (the bridge is scheduled to have opened by the time this

magazine mails).

Also new since our last issue is official word of two new restaurants in the works for the area to be known as The Landing (currently Pleasure Island): The BOATHOUSE and Morimoto Asia. Scheduled to open this spring, The BOATHOUSE will feature upscale, waterfront dining, three distinctive bars (The Captain's Raw Bar, The Admiral's Club Bar and The Dock Bar) and dining rooms (The Runabout, Twin Transoms and The Lake House), live music, a merchandise shop and more. The BOATHOUSE also will offer romantic guided tours aboard *The Venezia*, a 40-foot wooden water taxi, and exhilarating rides aboard amphibious automobiles known as Amphicars.

Morimoto Asia, slated to open this summer, will mark the Japanese master chef's first pan-Asian restaurant, serving flavors from across Asia in a richly layered setting offering exhibition kitchens, open terraces, a grand hall, private rooms, a long bar and cocktail lounge, waterside seating and more.

Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for more Disney Springs news as the multiyear transformation project continues.

Tokyo Disney Resort: Oriental Land Company has begun work on a 10-year expansion plan for both Tokyo Disney Resort Theme Parks. While details remain in the works, *Disney Files Magazine* can report that plans for Tokyo Disneyland Park call for the redevelopment and expansion of the Fantasyland area, renovating existing offerings and nearly doubling the size of the land with new attractions, shops and restaurants. Under consideration for Tokyo DisneySea, meanwhile, is the development of a new themed port that would place new attractions, shops and restaurants south of the Lost River Delta area. Other plans aim to enhance everything from technology to traffic flow in both onstage and backstage areas. *Disney Files Magazine* will share updates as details emerge.

A different kind of hero

Live-action *Cinderella* opens in U.S. theaters March 13

“What if we made a movie where kindness was a superpower?”

That inspiring question, posed by director Kenneth Branagh to producer Alli Shearmur, sparked a lively conversation about heroism and ultimately sent one of Disney’s most cherished characters waltzing back into theaters.

The new, live-action *Cinderella* loyally follows the celebrated storyline of the Disney-animated classic while going a cinematic step further by more deeply exploring the rich back stories of principle characters. For Shearmur, a lifelong fan of the 1950 film and a veteran of such hero-driven epics as *The Hunger Games* series, producing *Cinderella* was an opportunity to redefine what it means to be a hero.

“People expect heroism to be loud,” Shearmur told *Disney Files Magazine*. “It can be just as powerful when it’s quiet.”

The film follows the fortunes of young Ella, whose merchant father remarries years after the tragic death of her mother. Ever supportive of her loving father, Ella warmly welcomes new stepmother Lady Tremaine, along with new stepsisters Anastasia and Drizella, into the family home. But when Ella’s father suddenly and unexpectedly passes away, she finds herself at the

mercy of a jealous and cruel new family. Relegated to nothing more than a servant girl covered in ashes, and spitefully renamed Cinderella after a cold night spent sleeping among the cinders, Ella refuses to lose hope. Despite the cruelty inflicted upon her, she’s determined to honor her mother’s dying words.

“Cinderella’s inner strength is rooted in a promise she made to her mother to always have courage and be kind,” added Shearmur, who said walking onto the set of the isolated attic in which Cinderella was forced to live deepened her appreciation for the character’s heroism. “Like all of us, she has her beliefs tested. But through it all, she stays true to who she is, and everyone around her eventually comes to see the world through her eyes. Yes, there’s a gigantic amount of magic in the movie, but the real transformation is the one Cinderella accomplishes in other people through her own inner strength. She proves that there’s magic in kindness.”

Along the way, Cinderella enjoys a life-changing meeting with an intriguing young man named Kit – a complex man who, like Cinderella, is more than what most people see.

“It was an important decision on everybody’s part to have Cinderella and the prince meet well

before the ball,” Shearmur told us. “The idea that ‘love at first sight’ could suggest a permanent and profound connection just isn’t as credible for today’s audience. We wanted to establish the foundation for a long-lasting bond, so creating a genuine interaction before they knew anything about each other’s backgrounds or identities was critical. And after the ball, we purposefully set the wedding in winter time. Was it the following winter, or was it a year or two later? That’s for the audience to decide, but it was important for us to suggest the passage of time for them to really get to know each other before embarking on a life together.”

The prince is more than just charming, thanks to a concerted effort by the filmmakers to develop a complex character worthy of our hero’s hand.

“The prince is called Prince Charming in the animated film, and we just didn’t know much about him,” Shearmur explained. “We frankly knew more about his father. All of us, and especially Ken, wanted to explore who this young man is. What’s his life like? Does he want to be king? What are his responsibilities and experiences? We show that Kit has been to war. He understands where his kingdom exists among others and the intricacies of alliances that will ensure stability for his people. He’s a poetic young man – a poet warrior, if you will – a person who appreciates subtleties and listens closely. He reconsiders his views. He’s a dynamic, thoughtful, modern young man. We didn’t want *Cinderella* to end up with someone one-dimensional.”

Equally layered are the film’s visuals, with everything from art to architecture, props to costumes and hair to makeup reflecting filmmakers’ painstaking attention to detail. Whether drawing ballroom-design inspiration from Prussian palaces and Parisian opera houses or meeting with experts in Austria to understand the science of creating a glass slipper, the creative team took deeply personal pride in an artistic process that Shearmur described as being “steeped in historical references with doses of

magic, invention and imagination from masters in their fields.”

Explaining the feeling that comes with producing *Cinderella* for a studio that begins so many of its films with an image of the title character’s castle, Shearmur revealed equal parts excitement and trepidation.

“Growing up on Long Island, we had a local theater that would present a festival of classic Disney films each summer, and I looked forward to it every year,” Shearmur recalled. “I remember being in awe the first time I saw *Cinderella* on the big screen at that theater ... Disney was a huge part of my childhood and a big part of our family bond. I don’t think you could find anyone who loves animated Disney classics more than my Dad. When I was 13, my parents took us to Walt Disney World, and I could not believe I was seeing that castle in person. I’ve since shared *Cinderella* with my own son and daughter, and it’s a movie that continues to play in our home.

“So while it’s unbelievably exciting to help bring this story back to the screen in a new way, it’s also a bit daunting. To me, the animated classic is perfect. You can’t make it better, so you have to make it different. And it really wasn’t until we started adding incredible people like Kenneth Branagh, Dante Ferretti (production designer), Sandy Powell (costume designer), Francesca Lo Schiavo (set decoration), Cate Blanchett (Lady Tremaine), Helena Bonham Carter (Fairytale Godmother), Lily James (*Cinderella*), Richard Madden (Kit/Prince Charming), Stellan Skarsgård (Grand Duke), Derek Jacobi (The King) – the list goes on and on – that we started to think, ‘Okay, now it feels like we’re allowed to do this.’”

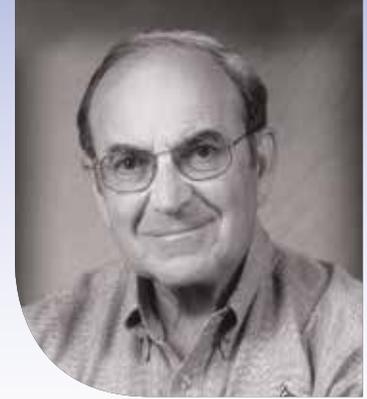
Asked why she believes a story written more than 300 years ago still resonates with today’s audiences, Shearmur answered, “This idea that you can define who you are by how you see yourself and not by how others see you is one that’s not only strong and aspirational, but also accomplishable. It’s true *wherever* you live and *whenever* you live.”



As a special bonus, *Cinderella* audiences will experience *Frozen Fever*, a Walt Disney Animation Studios short that reunites the creators, cast and characters of the Academy Award-winning feature *Frozen*. It’s Anna’s birthday, and Elsa and Kristoff are determined to give her the best birthday celebration ever. But when Elsa tries to fight off a cold, more than just the party may be at risk. The highly anticipated short reunites directors Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck with producer Peter Del Vecho, along with a returning voice-acting cast that includes Kristen Bell as Anna, Idina Menzel as Elsa, Jonathan Groff as Kristoff and Josh Gad as Olaf. Also featured is an all-new song from Academy Award-winning couple Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez.

Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the longtime creative leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Park opening on earth, continues to write and inspire in retirement, penning everything from his

revealing memoirs (*Dream it! Do it! My Half Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms*, available wherever books are sold) to his recurring column in *Disney Files Magazine*. Readers may email Marty at marty@martysklarcreative.com.



More of the best advice I ever heard

By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

In the winter 2014 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, I shared five of the 10 best pieces of advice I've heard from amazing leaders who have played a role in my personal development. To further share these invaluable pieces of advice with Disney Vacation Club Members, I'm pleased to present the other five in my top 10 here.



“Tell me a story!” – Don Hewitt, creator and executive producer of the long-running CBS TV series “60 Minutes”

Don Hewitt was one of the people who shaped our knowledge of world news in America in the second half of the 20th century. When he retired, he was interviewed on his own program, and was asked what his direction was to all the great journalists he directed, including Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, Harry Reasoner and Diane Sawyer. “My inspiration was the Bible,” Hewitt said. “Think about it. The Bible is full of stories that have endured for centuries. So I told our reporters four little words: ‘Tell me a story!’ Those are four little words you can put on my bulletin board any day of the year.”

“You can go to any museum and see stuff. The great museums show you stuff but tell you a story.” – Shaike Weinberg, founding director of the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

If it sounds as though Shaike Weinberg and Don Hewitt were singing off the same song sheet, you are correct – despite the fact that they were in far different fields, in far different parts of the world. I first met Shaike Weinberg in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1980, when Walt Disney Imagineering was designing a proposed pavilion for the State of Israel for Epcot. I can still see the exquisite models of amazing Jewish synagogues – places of worship – he had commissioned for display in the Museum of the Diaspora. Shaike Weinberg was a theatre man by background; he saw a museum as a place for telling stories, not just for showing authentic artifacts. He made the architects re-design the Holocaust Museum so he could have an authentic railroad boxcar, to show how Jews and other minorities were transported to the Nazi concentration camps. When you visit the Holocaust Museum, you will never forget the room full of 4,000 shoes – all that remained of a Jewish community in Poland.

“Practice always works because it knows no theory.” – Disney Legend Bob Gurr, renowned Walt Disney Imagineer

Bob Gurr designed “anything that moved” at Disneyland, from Main Street vehicles and Autopia cars to submarines, bobsleds and monorail trains. Then, for Universal Studios Hollywood, he designed the great King Kong, all 30 feet and 13,700 pounds of him. And for Steve Wynn, he designed the iconic Pirate Ship outside the Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas. Even though Walt Disney thought Bob was an

engineer, Bob had no engineering training. “On paper, I was not qualified to do most of those early Disneyland vehicle designs,” Bob admits. “We taught ourselves how to do it.” Practice – actual experience in figuring out what works through trial and error – those methods proved more important than any theory.



“We love the wind!” – Jackie Cooper, head tennis professional at La Quinta California Tennis Club

I had the good fortune to play in two member-pro tennis tournaments with the late Jackie Cooper. We won both championships, even beating John Austin and his partner in one of them (John Austin and his sister, Tracy – twice a U.S. Open women’s champion – famously won a Wimbledon mixed-doubles crown). When we played, the wind was blowing so hard in the California desert that you could hardly keep a hat on your head.

As we walked onto the court, I asked my professional partner for instructions, expecting him to say, “Just get the hell out of my way!” But all Jackie Cooper said to me was, “We love the wind!” In other words, conditions are what they are – on both sides of the net. Life is full of strong breezes; sometimes the wind blows in strange directions. You can’t change it, so learn to live with the conditions that come your way. Many times, you can make even the worst obstacles work for you!

“What’s wrong with Contemporary?” – Roy O. Disney, chairman, Walt Disney Productions

We all have a tendency to over-design, over-write and over-think. Sometimes we need someone to remind us that simplicity is often the best plan. When Walt Disney Imagineering was designing the Walt Disney World Resort in the late 1960s, we put placeholder names on the hotel themes we were designing – originally five concepts: Asian, Venetian, Persian, Polynesian and “Contemporary.”

Only the last two were built, of course, but the great designer John Hench (Space Mountain, Spaceship Earth) and I regarded the name “Contemporary” as no name at all – it just suggested modern and “up to date,” in keeping with a hotel that would have a monorail running through the center!

So we created a new name – Tempo Bay – and a beautiful graphics package for a modern hotel on the shores of Bay Lake, and presented it to Roy Disney. He listened very politely, looked at our wonderful graphics and replied, “What’s wrong with Contemporary?” Well nothing, I guess – now that the 690-room Disney’s Contemporary Resort is 43 years young and still one of the most popular hotels in the world. Roy’s message: “Keep it simple, stupid!”

Keeping this two-part series of articles to “just 10” of the best pieces of advice I’ve ever heard has not been easy, considering the amazing talents in concept, design, engineering, construction and project management I had the privilege of working with during my 54-year Disney career. I’ve eliminated very useful advice from Frank Wells, Disney’s president from 1984-1994; professor Randy Pausch of Carnegie Mellon University from his book *The Last Lecture*; my mentor, John Hench (who said “Disneyland is good for you!”); grand slam tennis champion Rod Laver (“Never change a winning game; always change a losing game”) and others. But looking at these 10, I realize that if you mastered and implemented just those I’ve covered in these past two editions of *Disney Files Magazine*, you would have taken a big step toward your PHD in understanding the amusement and attraction industry. And chances are, your projects, like most of my team’s at Disney, would be bringing entertainment pleasure and fun to millions of people, old and young, around the world.

Disney Files Magazine columnist Jim Korkis continues to keep fans entertained and informed with a wide variety of books exploring fascinating avenues of Disney and Hollywood history. His latest book releases, available now in both print and electronic formats, include *The Vault of Walt: Volume 3*, the third in a series of books sharing insightful stories about the man behind the magic; and *Animation Anecdotes*, packed with stories gathered during Jim's many years as a Los Angeles-based columnist for *Animation Magazine*. (Eagle-eyed fans can spot legendary Disney filmmaker John Musker reading Jim's *Animation Magazine* column in the Disney documentary *Waking Sleeping Beauty*.) *Disney Files* Magazine asked Jim to share some of his favorite Disney tales from *Animation Anecdotes* as a special treat for Disney Vacation Club Members.



Animation Anecdotes

By Jim Korkis

As much as I love the stories told through animated films, I've long been equally fascinated by the real-life stories surrounding these timeless productions. Here are just a few of my favorite Disney-related tidbits from my new book *Animation Anecdotes*.



▲ **Father or Mother?** In 1990, John Lasseter remembered this story about the iconic little Pixar lamp: "After the *Luxo Jr.* short was first shown, Jim Blinn, who's one of the pioneers in this [computer animation] field, came running up to me and said, 'John, I have to ask you a question.' And I thought, 'I don't know anything about these algorithms. I know he's going to ask me about the shadow algorithms or something like that.' And he asked me, 'John, was the parent lamp a mother or a father?'"

"That question keeps coming up. I always envisioned it as a father, but it's based greatly on my mother. To me, if it was a mother lamp, she would never let the baby jump on that ball. But the dad is like, 'Go ahead, jump on it, fall off and break your bulb. You'll learn a lesson.'"

Inspired by a secret: In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, just before Snow White sings "I'm Wishing," she says, "Do you want to know a secret? Do you promise not to tell?" Well, those two lines inspired Beatle John Lennon to write one of the Beatles' first hit singles in 1963, "Do You Want To Know A Secret?" Lennon's mother would sing songs from *Snow White* to her young son when he was a child.

The sound of a spider web: When asked why he gave silent events – like the spinning of a spider web – sound effects, Disney Legend and sound effects master Jimmy MacDonald smiled and answered simply, "When Walt Disney said it could [have a sound], you made it have a sound."

Just the facts, Mr. Disney: The late actor/writer/producer/director Jack Webb is perhaps best remembered as the tough, no-nonsense cop Joe Friday on the TV series "Dragnet." In his youth, he wanted to be a cartoonist. "I was convinced that Walt Disney was combing the country for a fellow like me," he said. "I made up a portfolio, took it to the Disney Studios and sat back to wait for the big offer."

All of this took place in the mid-1930s, and as that big offer never came, Webb found other work.

Later, Webb became a friend of Walt. Stage 2 at the Disney Studio in Burbank was built and financed as a joint agreement between Walt Disney and Webb, who used the stage for the filming of the first "Dragnet" television series from 1949-1954. He moved away when Walt started using the soundstages to build elements of Disneyland Park.

By the way, it's interesting to note that

Roy E. Disney's first professional film work wasn't for Disney, but rather as an assistant film editor on "Dragnet" in 1951.

Mutual admiration: Walt Disney was a great fan of the work of silent film comedian Charlie Chaplin, and the feeling was mutual. When Chaplin's film *City Lights* was released in 1931, he insisted that it only be shown with a Mickey Mouse short.

Tale as old as (a tremendous amount of) time: In a Feb. 16, 1953 *Newsweek* magazine article, Walt Disney announced that, after the completion of the next Disney animated feature, *Lady and the Tramp*, the studio was considering doing *Beauty and the Beast*, going on to say that an adaptation of Walt Kelly's comic strip *Pogo the Possum* was another possibility. *Beauty and the Beast* opened in theaters in 1991. Still waiting on that possum film.



▲ **Just a hair:** When Linda Woolverton wrote the screenplay for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, her physical description of Belle was minimal. "The only thing I wrote was 'she has a little wisp of hair that keeps falling in her face,'" Linda recalled. "Why? Because I wanted her not to be perfect. It was important that not every hair be in place."

A cat named Mouse: A 1935 *Time* magazine article cited a survey revealing that many children didn't think of Mickey as a mouse. "A good many of them were asked whether Mickey Mouse is a dog or a cat," the article reported. "Almost half of the tots answered brightly, 'A cat!'"

From magic to monsters: A 1954 article in the magazine *Mechanix Illustrated* spoke of the monstrous career of Millicent Patrick, saying, "After working for a while for Walt Disney as the first girl animator in history, Millicent Patrick was hired to create monsters for Bud Westmore at Universal International. The Gill Man in *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* is her masterpiece ... " Millicent also was responsible for the mutants in *This Island Earth* (1955), the Xenomorph from *It Came From Outer Space* (1953) and *The Mole People* (1956).

Tongue in cheek: Disney Legend Bill Justice shared the following memory with me of an incident he observed at the Disney Studio: "A Canadian radio station interviewer who was obviously delighted to meet Walt ... asked exactly how many people worked at the Disney Studio. Walt paused to think and then replied deadpan, 'Oh, about half.'"

Wet and wild: During the production of *Pinocchio*, the studio had to figure out how to make Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket sound as if they were underwater when delivering lines during their search for Gepetto. Dick Jones, who voiced Pinocchio, nearly choked when he tried to read his lines lying on his back while a director poured water in his mouth. After several similarly misguided experiments, they determined they could put a filter on the microphone to muffle the sound so it sounded like talking underwater (effective, though not as fun as torturing actors).

The amazing expanding turtle: Disney Legend Bill Justice shared this story with me in 1997: "In the old Hyperion studio, there was a little garden area with some benches where people would go on break. Walt would go there. There was a little turtle that would eat the vegetation. So the guys got the idea to bring in a different turtle. They kept bringing in a larger and larger turtle every two or three days so it looked like the turtle was growing at a fantastic rate. Then, to top the gag, they reversed it and brought in smaller turtles every two or three days. Walt even started talking about it at meetings. I am sure he caught on to the gag, but in the beginning, I think they got him going."



PHOTOFINISH

1. The backside of water is no longer our favorite reverse angle at the Magic Kingdom Park, thanks to this great photo of the adorable Reese, part of the Szubinski family of Michigan, Members since 2010.
2. The content smile on the face of baby Emsley, part of the Binkowski family of Virginia, Members since 2005, suggests she recognizes the good fortune of being part of a Member family.
3. Princess Aurora meets her handsome prince in little Tyler, part of the Layman family of North Carolina, Members since 2009.
4. Crafty young Matthew, part of the Atherton family of British Columbia, Canada, Members since 2012, shows off one of the “countdown collages” he creates before every Walt Disney World vacation.
5. Alyssa, part of the Song family of Colorado, Members since 2010, gives two enthusiastic thumbs up to *Disney Files Magazine* (or to the mildly impressive ruins behind her) in Athens, Greece.
6. Frances, part of the Sherlock family of Maryland, Members since 2001, takes the magazine to Istanbul (not Constantinople).
7. The McCoys of Alaska, Members since 2010, wait a little longer to say goodbye to winter.
8. The expressive Addalyn, part of the McCormick family of Illinois, Members since 2013, caps a memorable day at Epcot by embracing the power of IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth.

Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Include your name, hometown and “Member Since” year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form is available online at dvcmember.com/releaseform.

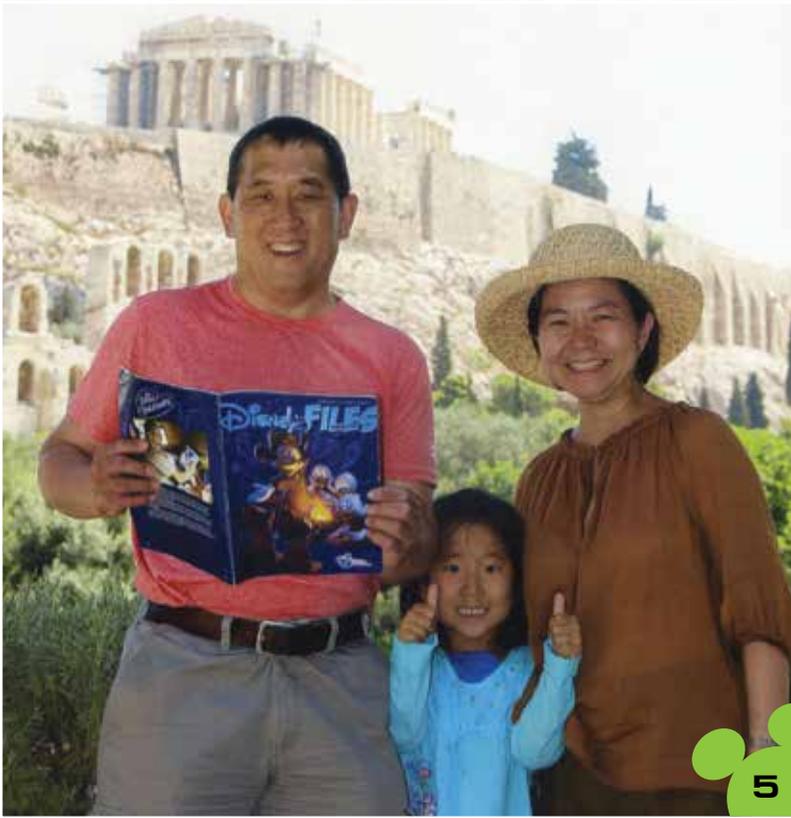




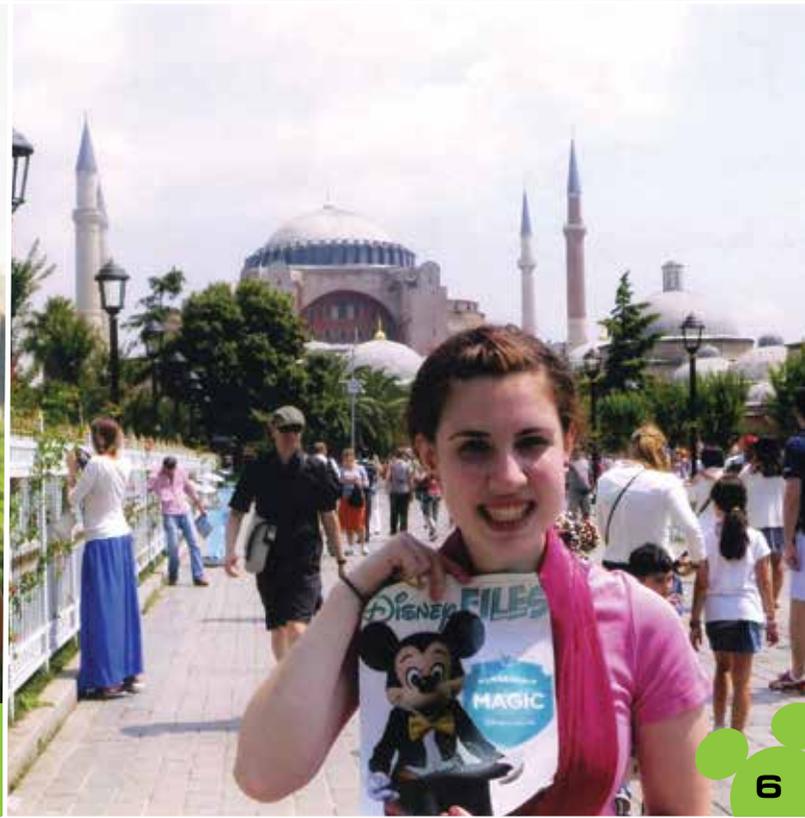
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THE LAST WORD.

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word.



When you bring an issue of *Disney Files Magazine* to your wedding, you get our attention. When you bring 14 (even if one is upside down), you get the last word. All of us at *Disney Files Magazine* congratulate Emily, part of the Lynch family of Washington, Members since 2004, and her new husband, Jeremy. May your lives together continue to be filled with good news.



Disney Files Magazine salutes the Young family of Illinois, Members since 2000, for capturing – not Cinderella Castle itself – but rather Ryan's and Rachel's reactions to seeing it upon their first visit to the Magic Kingdom Park. For reminding us why we love our jobs, we're thrilled to give the Young family a share of this edition's last word.