



President's Message

2018 Reunion in Washington DC! Dick & Lash have made some nice adjustments in our reunion itinerary and it keeps getting even better. A quick overview is in this Afterburner and full details are on the ARA website.

As mentioned in the last issue, several of you plan to extend your stay in DC to see even more of the places on your personal DC TO DO lists. The Westin will honor our group rate before and after our reunion but you do need to make your reservations soon. As we go to press, it appears that all attendees have made their hotel reservations. If in doubt, please check with the hotel. Also, we had a couple of attendee cancellations so everyone on the wait list has now been accommodated, and we now have two remaining spaces available. Contact Dick if you want to join this fun event. Attendee list and more information is in this issue.

2019 Reunion! A special big THANK YOU to Doris & Marshall for stepping up and volunteering to host our 2019 reunion. After spending many days and countless hours scouting potential reunion locations and venues, as well as pricing hotels and potential airfare, your ARA Board unanimously agreed on their recommendation: a nice short and very affordable cruise out of Vancouver, Canada. "North to Alaska with the ARA" will be another great reunion with friends. Lynn and I have already made our deposit and booked our cabin! The reunion announcement details are in this Afterburner, as well as a very informative flyer with the itinerary and pricing. **NOTE the EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** booking incentive available to the first 40 people who make their deposit. All you

need to do is complete the registration form and get it to Susan Pretkus-Combs with your credit or debit card info for the deposit. Details are on the form. You can also find the form and reunion information on our ARA website.

ARA Website Revised! Speaking of our website, our webmaster Lisa Ringler has taken on a huge workload at her job, or should I say her mission at our church, so Lynn (AKA my wife and drill instructor) jumped in to help. Lynn has loaded lots of photos from past reunions, updated the latest membership list, included the revised detailed DC reunion info, and already has the 2019 reunion announcement and form on the site. You can actually print the 2019 registration form from the site! Go to www.avianoreunion.com and look around.

In this Issue...Member News, DC Reunion Update and Attendee List, an article reflecting on our visit to Barga, Italy, as well as plans for the 2019 Reunion (General Info, 2019 Flyer, 2019 Registration Form)!!...and more. www.avianoreunion.com

Ben



ARA Officers

Ben Catalina - President
Rodger Gracey - Vice President
Sally Ann Eaves - Secretary/Treasurer
Elaine Horton - Editor
Lisa Ringler - Webmaster

FUTURE REUNIONS

2018 – Washington D.C. – October 11-16, 2018
Hosts: Dick & LeNeille Hudgins and Lash & Norma Lasher
2019 – Alaska Cruise – September 21-25, 2019
Hosts: Doris Burnett & Marshall Bishop

Report from the Secretary/Treasurer

Sally Ann Eaves

Email: saeaves@comcast.net

8708 Independence Way • Arvada, CO 80005

Phone: 303-421-2163

Sally's Note

Nancy Beckwith and Doris Burnett are in the process of updating the Membership Roster. Please let us know, by 15 June, of any changes or corrections (address, phone numbers, email) you might have to the current roster. All the changes, additions, and corrections reported in previous Afterburners are already included.

Roster Changes/Corrections

New Email:

Martha Novikoff: mhnovikoff@outlook.com

WELCOME New Members

George Titus

22 N. Ryland Road

White House Station, NJ 0888

Phone: 908-455-1497

Email: tivette1138@gmail.com

USAF (Ret)

Friend of Catalinas, Eaves



Recently, the entire world celebrated the life of a woman admired by so many... and admired for so many diverse reasons. Among her many traits, she has been praised for her Strength, her Directness, Being an Enforcer, being the Family Matron, Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother. Apparently, we can add some famous recipes to that list of lofty accomplishments. A caterer here in Atlanta uses her recipe for Macaroons (the American kind!). I don't have that recipe yet, but I can share another of her famous recipes. Enjoy!

BARBARA BUSH'S FAMOUS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups quick-cooking oats (not instant)
- 1 (12 ounces) bag semisweet chocolate chips, preferably Valrhona

Directions:

- Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt onto waxed paper. Set aside.
- Beat together butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla in a large bowl until fluffy. Stir in flour mixture until well blended. Stir in oats and chocolate chips.
- Drop batter by rounded tablespoonfuls, 2 inches apart, onto ungreased cookie sheets.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool.
Hide from George!



The Lovely Experience of Quiet

Memories from Tuscany, 2017

Elaine Horton

It is seldom we get to experience the “feeling” of quiet these days. Even if we have not turned anything on in our modern homes, the home is buzzing and humming. Think of the quiet that envelopes you when the power is out. Also, remember the assault of sound and light when it unexpectedly comes back on. When we lived in Aviano, our home was in Giais and was the last house before the undeveloped area. It still is. Other than the sound of our transformers (!), everything was quiet. Still. Any sound would puncture the silence as though it had been stabbed.

On our last Reunion in Italy, we visited the lovely hill-top town of Barga in the Garfagnana region of Tuscany. It is approximately 20 miles due north of Lucca (according to the map I just checked). The day was spectacular which made for perfect viewing of the landscapes below and around this charming village. There was a church at the top of the hill in Barga and we were all walking there. I decided that I would just stop and wait for them to come back to get me, or I could return to where the busses were. The guide insisted on making sure that I only went about half way back down and wait for them where there was an overlook. The place where I sat while waiting for the group to come back down the hill was beautiful, but it was the sounds (or the lack thereof) that enchanted me. It was the perfect respite after a busy week.

When I was a child in Florida living on a lake, afternoon naps were part of the daily schedule. I think it was because that was the hottest time of day and since we had no air conditioning then, it was the best way to deal with the heat. I remember laying on my bed with the light streaming into my room. I would position myself with all of my fingers and toes spread apart so that no part of my body touched any other part of my body. Only the sounds of some crickets were in the air. Total quiet. It almost vibrated. The absence of sound that afternoon in Barga was a similar experience.

Here are the notes that I took on that beautiful afternoon in Barga, Italy (seriously, I took notes!):

Sitting alone in a small Tuscan village at the top of an enchanting hill, the sounds were few. It resembled the sound after a snowfall. No echo. Just pure, sweet sounds. It was a beautiful afternoon, so most people had their windows open. Dogs ruffed as other dogs walked by their house. There was the sound of opera music lightly playing in the background. On the primo piano of the house across from where I was sitting, someone was cooking. There



was no sound of TV or radio or talking. Just the sound of the clicking of a spoon against the bowl and the clanking of pots and pans. There were no TV sounds anywhere, and no music except for the distant recording of the opera. Boys around 10 – 13 years old drove by on bikes and dared each other to go the fastest as they flew UP the VERY high hill to keep their momentum to get all the way up. Later they whizzed down the same hill. I see TV antennas, but few dishes on the red tile rooftops. The one tv dish I see is on the ground inside the big gorgeous walled gardens of a large villa. A Norwegian couple who was hiking stopped to enjoy the view. They were also quiet. Just experiencing the view was enough. An older man drove up and took some things out of his car, delivered them and then left. Even he just gave me a friendly nod and tipped his non-existent hat vs. a spoken “Boun Giorno”. The church bells chimed for the second time at 4:45. At precisely 5 pm, the finale of five deep, slow clangs echoed through the

valley. I can see another village across the valley on an even higher hill that appears to be even smaller than this village. The flowers in the closest window are obviously well tended. There are water marks in the wall below the flower box in about 5 lines from the window to the street where stains had been created over years of having been regularly watered. I wandered a bit and investigated a gated building with 8 apartments that all had beautiful views, plus they had parking for many (small) cars on the ground floor inside the front wall before the front door (quite the luxury!). Roberto has said that this village impresses him because it is in such beautiful repair and lovingly maintained. I absolutely agree.

Soon, the guide came to get me and broke the spell. He took me BACK up the hill (don't ask me why he did not just let me sit where I had decided to stop!), and then back down another stone walkway to a superb little shopping street. It could have been quite dangerous if he had left me there! There was this tiny enclave of fascinating shopping AND a coffee shop that was adorable.... Oh, well, maybe next time! I hear Mary Adams got some treasures there!

Hopefully those who traveled with us had a chance to have the same type of “break” at some point during our Reunion to just sit someplace beautiful and enjoy the sights and the sounds. I certainly did. Even if you did NOT go on the Reunion, I highly recommend that you make a point of finding a beautiful place to sit ... and just absorb and enjoy the lovely experience of quiet.



We have revised the schedule of events for our Washington DC 2018 Reunion to make it more user friendly for our ARA members.

Here's an overview of the new itinerary:

Thursday, October 11, 3:00 PM – REGISTRATION AND WELCOME RECEPTION

...is in the Dogwood Hospitality Suite, Westin Tysons Corner Hotel. The Westin Tysons Corner, located in Falls Church, Virginia, is our hotel and headquarters for our 2018 Washington DC Reunion. All rooms have free Wi-Fi, a safe, refrigerator, TV, and iron/board. Self-parking is free, and meals at the restaurants in the hotel are discounted by 15% for our members. Use of the hotel pool and fitness center are free, and for a fee of \$5.00, the hotel will provide work-out clothing, shorts, tee shirts, socks and sneakers for the duration of your stay. The free hotel shuttle bus will transport you to the Washington DC Metro Station, or any other venue within three miles of the hotel.

9:00 AM, Friday, October 12th – SPIRIT RIVER CRUISE AND BUFFET LUNCH

The Hospitality Suite will be open upon our return to the hotel at approximately 3:00 PM.

ARA BUSINESS MEETING IN PALM COURT at 5:30 PM, and dinner is own your own.

Saturday, October 13, 9:30 AM – UDVAR-HAZY CENTER.

The Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia is the companion facility to the Air & Space Museum on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Opened in 2003, its two huge hangars — the Boeing Aviation Hangar and the James S. McDonnell Space Hangar — display thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, a Concorde, and the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Udvar-Hazy Center is also home to the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar where preservation of the National Air and Space Museum's collections takes place. A glassed-in mezzanine provides a view of restoration projects in progress.

Lunch on your own is at McDonalds in the Center

Saturday, October 13, 1:00 PM - MOUNT VERNON MUSEUM TOUR

Gardens and house tours will be followed by a Buffet Dinner at Gadsby's Tavern in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia.

Gadsby's Tavern

Sunday, October 14 – MORNING FREE**Sunday, October 14 - 12:30 PM – ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY****TRAM TOUR. Hospitality Suite is open upon return, and Dinner is on your own.**

Bus departs at 12:30 pm. Relax on the comfortable tour vehicles as you journey through history. Learn about the cemetery's history, the heroes who rest there, and other stories from your knowledgeable guide. You'll be transported to notable graves and memorials and witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown. Today, Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 400,000 active duty service members, veterans and their families.

Monday, October 15, 9:00 AM – WASHINGTON DC CITY TOUR

Our comfortable tour bus will have stops at the Vietnam Memorial, WWII memorial plus various other Monuments, Memorials, and Museums in the City. We will drive by The White House, and the US Capital and Supreme Court Buildings. Our lunch on your own will be at the Reagan Building Food Court.

The Hospitality Suite will be open upon our return to the hotel until 6:00 PM.

Monday, October 15, 6:00 PM - FAREWELL DINNER BANQUET

will be in the Westin Oaks 3 Ballroom, and it features a pay as you go bar, an outstanding buffet dinner, followed by dancing to the live music of Dale Jerrett.

**Dick & LeNeille Hudgins, and Lash & Norma Lasher,
your 2018 Washington DC Reunion Co-Hosts,
are pleased to provide for you an eventful and entertaining
four days of touring highlights in our Nation's Capital.**

2018 Washington DC Reunion Registrants*(As of April 25, 2018)*

Bell, Dave & Bobbie - H	Dorris, Joe & Claire - H	Hughes, George & Gwen - H	Swacina, Dan & Kathy - H
Bishop, Marshall & Doris Burnett - H	Eaves, Sally Ann - H	Ives, Faye & Victoria - H	Titus, George - H
Bolen, Paul & Donna - H	Farmer, Betty - H	Jenkins, Jack & Judy - H	Trent, Doug & Ann
Black, Melvin & Sandy - H	Fryman, Ken & Kay - H	Lasher, Lash & Norma – C - H	Vazquez, Jaime & Belinda - H
Brown, Fred & Mari - H	Futrell, Tom & Carol - H	Leone, Nick & Margaret - H	Vazquez, Jose - H
Catalina, Ben & Lynn - H	Gaskell, Dick & Barbara - H	Maust, Jay & Jane - H	Walbridge, Ray & Sandy McCord - H
Clayton, Mark & Mary - H	Gracey, Rodger & Betty - H	McGuth, William - H	Willsey, Dean & Dana - H
Collins, Gary & Margie - H	Hansen, Mike & Linda Kazarian	Ondrusek, Lou & Astrid - H	Witt, Randy & Peggy - H
Corcoran, Marge - H	Hefner, George - H	Povey, Bill & Emily - H	<i>H – Hotel Reserved</i>
Correale, Vincent & Judi - H	Hoit, Zane & Margaret - H	Rutter, Joe & Franca - H	<i>C – Co-Hosts</i>
Currie, Al & Lou - H	Horton, Tom & Elaine - H	Stephens, Shelly	
Davis, Dee - H	Hudgins, Dick & LeNeille – C - H	Strong, Gary & Ivana - H	

NORTH TO ALASKA WITH THE ARA

Ahoy Mates, how about a voyage for the 2019 ARA Reunion? Let's go "North to Alaska, Go North, the Rush is On", says that famous balladeer, Johnny Horton. We have an exciting, very affordable reunion arranged for next year. For a new approach, we have planned a cruise. The sailing dates are September 21-25, 2019, round trip Vancouver, British Columbia (BC) aboard the Golden Princess. The port of call is Ketchikan, Alaska. This will be an ideal time to renew old acquaintances and make new friends on this four-night cruise, not to mention the delicious food, drink and socializing, at a very great price.

For example, the base cost ranges from \$764 per person, plus tax and fees for a mini-suite and an inside stateroom is \$449 per

person, plus tax and fees. For more details on this fantastic voyage see the great prospectus provided by Susan Pretkus-Combs, who will be making your personal arrangements for the cruise. Susan can also provide additional information for those members who want to enjoy a longer stay in Alaska/Canada. Additional cruise space is blocked for us and available on the sailings before our reunion cruise. You may add either of those cruise options to our reunion. Hotel information in Vancouver will be provided later for those flying in early or desiring to remain after the cruise to explore this beautiful Canadian city. Don't forget to update your passport, if needed, so that the expiration date is more than six-months after the cruise completion and/or your stay in Canada.

To register for the reunion:

- Please complete the official registration form, attached, and return it to Susan by email (scan and send as an attachment), mail or fax (949-709-4049).
- Payment information may be added to the bottom of the form if you are faxing it (fax is in a secure location in a private office) or mailing it.
- Payment information may be submitted separately through a secure online payment portal at:
<https://fs24.formsite.com/andonges/form58/index.html>
- **Early Bird Special!** The first 40 members to send in their registrations with deposits will receive \$25 per person onboard credit. (Limited to a max of two members per stateroom.)



- Credit or debit cards may not be charged on the date received as deposits are often made in batches. Invoice confirmations will be sent when deposits are paid.
- Princess requires a minimum of 20% deposit of the cruise fare. We have rounded those amounts to make it easier for members and accounting to manage. Here are the total deposits per stateroom (for 2 people) by category in our group inventory:

• Mini- Suite:	\$350
• Balcony:	\$300
• Ocean View:	\$250
• Inside:	\$200

Members are asked to take care of their own air and hotel arrangements. Information regarding group rates at a Vancouver hotel will be provided later. If you wish

to purchase an add-on vacation or cruise, Susan has saved group inventory at special fares on the cruise noted on the flyer and can assist with others.

Here is a link to information about the ship in case you want more information than what is included on the flyer:

<https://www.princess.com/ships-and-experience/ships/np-golden-princess/>

Hope to see you aboard the Golden Princess for this exciting reunion.

Your Hosts
Doris and Marshall



Complete the Reservation Form and send it to Susan Pretkus-Combs, Email: scombs@dreamvacations.com
Mail: 32722 Coppercrest Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679
Online Payment: <https://fs24.formsite.com/andonges/form58/index.html>
Fax: 949-709-4049
Call Susan at 949-709-0098 for more information

Sail Away to Aviano Reunion 2019



**on the beautiful Golden Princess
September 21 – 25, 2019
Roundtrip Vancouver**

Set sail from spectacular Vancouver and enjoy 4 days of incredible meals, entertainment, pampering and activities aboard this beautiful floating resort as you cruise the placid Inside Passage to Ketchikan, Alaska, and experience the majestic beauty of Canada and Alaska with your Aviano friends! Explore everything from a swim-against-the-current pool, to an Italian trattoria and a Southwestern cantina. Take your pick of four different pools—one with a retractable dome—and six bubbling whirlpools. Enjoy the serene ocean view during a relaxing massage before dinner. Dance all night at Nightclub in the Sky, a sparkling club suspended 15 decks above the sea.

DAY	PORT OF CALL	ARRIVE	DEPART
Sat Sep 21	Vancouver, British Columbia (Embark - Times subject to change)	--:--	4:30 PM
Sun Sep 22	At Sea	--:--	--:--
Mon Sep 23	Ketchikan, Alaska	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
Tue Sep 24	At Sea	--:--	--:--
Wed Sep 25	Vancouver, British Columbia (Disembark - Times subject to change)	7:30 AM	--:--

Special Group Cruise Fares:

	Mini-Suite	Balcony	Ocean View	Inside	Inside
Double, Per Person	\$764	\$679	\$609	\$469	\$449
Solo Occupancy	\$1,528	\$1,358	\$1,218	\$938	\$898

Add taxes of \$75 per person to fares shown. Airfare, gratuities & personal expenses addl. Deposit = \$350 MS, \$300 BLY, \$250 OV and \$200 IN per person.

Fares Include:

- ☼ Food and many beverages!
- ☼ Ocean transportation & accommodations!
- ☼ Entertainment, activities & casino!
- ☼ Enrichment opportunities & lectures!
- ☼ Aviano Reunion Cocktail Party!
- ☼ **Early Bird Special:** First 40 w/deposits receive \$25 onboard credit (max 2/stateroom)
- ☼ Bottle of wine per stateroom
- ☼ \$50/stateroom onboard credit for retired, active duty and military veterans

Want to start early and enjoy more of Alaska or Canada?

- ☼ Fly into Seattle and board the Ruby Princess to sail the complete 7-night Alaska Inside Passage cruise before disembarking in Vancouver, in time to board your Aviano Reunion cruise. Call Susan for details.
- ☼ Fly into Anchorage or Fairbanks, enjoy a land tour of Alaska (Denali National Park, Kenai Peninsula or Copper River) for 3 to 7 days before boarding the Golden Princess for a 7-night Alaska cruise. Cruise ends in Vancouver the day the Aviano Reunion begins, on the same ship! Call Susan for more information.
- ☼ Fly into Vancouver a night or two early. Princess offers hotel packages with airport & ship transfers; plus 2-night packages that also include a full day tour to Victoria and Butchart Gardens. Call Susan for pricing!

Book your Reunion Cruise Today:

Complete the Reservation Form and send it to Susan Pretkus-Combs, Dream Vacations by:

Email: scombs@dreamvacations.com
 Mail: 32722 Coppercrest Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679
 Online Payment: <https://fs24.formsite.com/andonges/form58/index.html>
 Fax: 949-709-4049



**Call Susan at
949-709-0098
for more information!!!**

AVIANO REUNION CRUISE RESERVATION FORM

Golden Princess

Sept. 21-25, 2019

Today's Date: _____

Please enter your name exactly as it appears on your passport:

Lead Passenger Full Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

DOB _____ Citizenship: _____ Email address: _____

I am a retired, active duty or military veteran: Yes No

Do you wish to insure your trip? Yes No (We strongly recommend travel insurance!)

Any special celebrations? Type: _____ Date: _____

Have you cruised with Princess before? No Yes: Captain's Circle No.: _____

Are you sailing with family in another room? No Yes: name(s) _____

Check Stateroom Type Desired: Mini-Suite Balcony Ocean View Inside

Check if you: need an Accessible Stateroom are bringing/renting a wheelchair/scooter

Do you have any other special needs/requests? distilled water for CPAP raised toilet seat

sharps container fridge for insulin wheelchair assistance at the pier

food allergy: _____ other: _____

Passengers sharing your room: (If different address and email address than yours, please provide information)

First and Last Name (match their IDs, pls.): **M or F:** **DOB:** **Phone/Email if different than above:**

(Triples/quads are subject to availability and will be quoted at the time of reservation. Use back if more space needed.)

Submit payment with form by fax or mail below, or online through our secure payment portal instead:

<https://fs24.formsite.com/andonges/form58/index.html> . If paying online, check "online pymt" and

submit form separately. AMEX VISA MasterCard Discover Online Payment

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Authorization Code: (3 or 4 digit number on the back or above your account no.) _____

Name (as on card) _____ Signature: _____

Thank you! Susan Pretkus-Combs

Phone: 949/709-0098

FAX: 949/709-4049

scombs@dreamvacations.com

www.mycruiseagents.com



Combs, Catalina & Associates