

# Kiwi Kaleidoscope

The National Newsletter for Members of The Kiwi Club of American Airlines

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## Happy New Year!

### A very short message from your president... Vicki

Wishing you, our wonderful KIWIS, the New Year of 2025 filled with warmth, love, and good cheer. May the upcoming seasons be filled with wonderful memories, health, and happiness!

### In case you missed it... Convention 2026

The theme of the 2026 Convention has been announced: **“FIESTA FLIGHT ROYALE.”** The lucky city to have a surge of beautiful and handsome Kiwis is SAN ANTONIO! I am excited as I spent four days in the city, on the Riverwalk this past September. I had a marvelous time. The city was very welcoming; I think you call it Texas hospitality! Our convention hotel is The Contessa ([www.thecontessahotel.com](http://www.thecontessahotel.com)) right on the River Walk. It's lovely, fit for Kiwis! Our selection committee of **Polly Toll Goodman, Stephanie McCauley Butler, and Vicki Valenciano Kubal** did a wonderful job selecting the destination and hotel for 2026. Stay tuned to our future issue for bits and pieces for the 2026 event to come. Right now, **Sherri Engle Lowe** (Chairman) is busy putting her team together to bring you another fantastic convention.





### **A Bit of AA History: 1960's & 70's**

The 60's continues the "Golden Age" of aviation. The late 50's brought on jet aircraft, the B707. Are you of the age where you remember the "conversation" seating in first class on the 707? Wide sets with a respectable 36" to 40" pitch (nowadays is more like 28").

Passengers dressed up for a flight. Men in suits and ties, ladies in smart outfits with high heels. Fur coats were common.

In the 60's AA introduced the 3-engine B727, BAC-1-11, and the B747 with the staircase, and piano bar.

First Class meals could be five or more courses. Flights with "Captain's Table" and Chicago's Blackhawk Restaurant



"Spinning Salad Bowl" originated from New York and O'Hare to the West Coast. The stewardess uniforms got less conservative. From pill box hat to raccoon hat in a few years.

Introduced in '67 were short dresses in red, white, or blue turned out to be a hit with male passengers. After a few months all were asked to lower their hemlines. Apparently too much skin or girdle was shown in reaching into the overhead rack.



You saw movie stars on flights (prior to corporate aviation). I remember Dustin Hoffman asking me if he could upgrade to first class. Do you remember the packs of 4 cigarettes on meal trays? No wheels on suitcases? Smoke filled cabins. Hijackings?

Safety has improved over the years. During the 60's there was a crash and fatalities somewhere every year. Today, safer but miserable to endure. Travel was smooth, fast, expensive, and luxurious across most large airlines.

The 70's came with a brand-new airplane, the DC-10. American also acquired Trans Caribbean and AA joined other majors in the hiring of men in the cabin. New routes opened; Sydney, Auckland, American Samoa, to name a few. Time for a uniform change for the newly named flight attendants. The Americana collection was red, blue, or plaid complete with a racoon hat. If you ever saw a fuzzy tail dangling from a flight attendant's suitcase that was probably a hat. Another first was the hiring of the first female pilot Bonnie Caputo who took the helm of the B727.

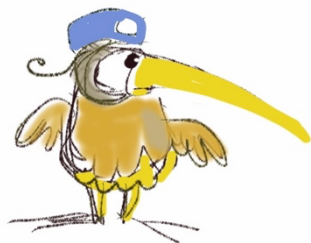


Those who live in Chicago area especially remember Flight #191 in 1979 that crashed after take-off (it could be seen from AA Operations). All AA personnel were deeply affected over the loss of passengers and crew. The Chicago Kiwi Club assisted in identifying passengers, keeping records, etc. at the AA hangar. There is a permanent memorial in Des Plaines, Illinois. People gather every other year to remember.

Being a stewardess/flight attendant was a dream job for those young and adventurous. Stewardesses/Flight Attendants were either handsome or beautiful and always perfectly groomed and looked like movie stars! *I loved every minute of it.*



*Your National Board hopes all had a wonderful holiday season. Soon it will be time to "think Spring"*



## NEW MEMBERS! WE JUST LOVE NEW MEMBERS!

LINDA ANGEL-MAL, KATHY BRODERICK-MAL, MARY BURTON-O'HARE, DEBRORAH CARLTON-ORANGE COUNTY-LONG BEACH, MAUREEN FREEMAN-SAN DIEGO, KATHLEEN KIHM-FLORIDA GULF COAST, EVY LESLIE-MAL, BETSY MASIA-O'HARE, SUSAN MERINGOLO-LONG ISLAND, PATTI O'BRIEN-CLUB ERW, MARTIN SOEBBING-OKLAHOMA CITY, MELISSA SPINELLI-SAN DIEGO, KATHY SZESZEL-O'HARE... **WELCOME ABOARD!**

### *Editor's Note*

As I write this newsletter, I have one eye on the television. I am watching the non-stop coverage of the California fires. I cannot comprehend the devastation and what will be the aftereffects. We have many Kiwis that live in the impacted area, though at this writing we do know who. Please, if you know of a Kiwi who is going through this, please let her/him know of the National Kiwi Fund (NKF) that offers financial assistance to Kiwis that are qualified. **Contact:** Sam Gooch at [thekiwiclubadvisor@gmail.com](mailto:thekiwiclubadvisor@gmail.com)

### **Kiwi Info...**

There was no winner of the convention contest from the October 2024 issue (name the chapter pictured, year and location). The correct answer is **Chicago Chapter, 1984, Dallas**. I know cause I'm in the picture!

I'm sorry to say that our Kiwi highlighted in the last issue has flown West. Sue Cyon was 105 years old at her passing; still active and still loving The Kiwi Club. Rest in Peace Sue.

Unfortunately, the **Manhattan Chapter** has disbanded. A few members have chosen to be MAL's. Sorry to lose the remaining members.



## Our Namesake

May I introduce you to **Haka**? He is named after a Māori (New Zealand) ceremonial tribal dance that involves chanting and angry facial expressions (Google: Haka wedding dance, you will see an example of how serious the New Zealanders are about this dance).

How adorable is this little guy? The picture is the actual Kiwi that is loved and cared for at the Columbus (OH) Zoo. I personally donate to the Columbus Zoo to help keep Haka in treats that he so dearly loves. **The O'Hare Chapter** sends a yearly donation At Christmas. Maybe the Zoo will find a female

and begin a breeding program? What female kiwi could resist those beady black eyes and fluffy feathers. There are precious few kiwis in the United States. If you feel like donating (tax deductible) personally or as a chapter you can find a kiwi at the following zoos: Toledo Zoo (OH), Franklin Park Zoo (BOS), Smithsonian National Zoo (Washington D.C.) Zoo Miami, and of course the Columbus Zoo.

*If your chapter donates, let me know, I'd like to recognize you in the KK.*

*email: [thekiwiclub@comcast.net](mailto:thekiwiclub@comcast.net).*



*Sandy Marlowe Gardner-62/14*

*Susan Ermatinger Cycon-45/10*


*Vivian Fitzpatrick Kiley-50/04*


*Fly High Kiwis!*

# Nostalgia Section...

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NEW YORK — WASHINGTON 12:30 pm, 5:30 pm  
WASHINGTON — NEW YORK 12:30 pm, 4:30 pm



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