

Kiwi Klip Notes

The Official Newsletter of the O'Hare Kiwi Club

All the news that's fit to print, and then some!

January 2026

Newsletter Editor: Mary Richter Thrasher

We Had a Party! And Marlene Johnson was there!



We had a party to celebrate Marlene's birthday. She has reached the enviable age of 90! The dining room at the Great Escape was filled with special friends of Marlene's. Kiwis, and those that had the pleasure of flying with her during the HON trips that are now a part of the Marlene "legend." Marlene arrived and sat as a queen under a beautiful cascade of lavender, purple, and gold balloons with a big gold "90" balloon. Marlene in uniform of course is AA even though her first job as a stewardess was not American. AA's dark navy blue with the overseas cap was absolutely stunning on Marlene. What a beautiful lady then and now!

About 37 of us gathered to celebrate Marlene with wine, lunch, and birthday cake. Stories about Marlene were

shared that got lots of laughs. Here is a story submitted by **Fred & Carla Dauer** (edited for space):

Management had a different perspective that placed well above practical value. Peggy Lord had summoned Marlene to the office as



having been observed wearing support hose while on duty; being respectful and supervisory at the same time, offers a situation "Marlene, if you were going on a big date with a handsome guy, you would really like to impress; would you wear support hose on a big date?" Marlene summoned, her respect for Peggy, but needed to establish a reality in place at the same time. "Oh no, Peggy, but you see, in that situation, I wouldn't be planning on being on my feet that long!"

During the long flights to HON and passenger loads bathrooms were not always available for the needs of passengers and crew alike. Not



infrequent was the need to pass a little gas; Marlene had a solution to that too. Just back up to the cockpit door and let it “ease” out completely unnoticed; well, not “completely” unnoticed; the cockpit door has a vent on the lower half for air circulation we always knew the “what” but not the “who.”

From Janet Grasso

A trip to ACA around 1979! Please remind her that the crew went to Villa Demus. We sat around the table outside on the patio under the palm trees. At one point the conversation drifted to the MAC trips and getting troops out of Nam. Marlene got a tattoo on her layover in Nam. So, she stood up, raised her skirt up the outside of her leg and carefully pulled up her pantie revealing her tattoo on her hip! Marty VandenEikle (sp) said something sassy to Marlene, so Marlene took off her wig and threw it at Marty. He put it on just as the restaurant photographer snapped a picture. That picture was passed around the airplane the next day. Memories are to be cherished.



There was laughter and love all around the room. A bit of bubbly was a nice touch for an afternoon with our favorite lady who was responsible for so many fun times on airplane and off!



Always “thumbs up!”



Marlene Johnson's Famous Rum Pound Cake

1 lb. butter
3 cups sugar
8 eggs, separated
1 c shifted all-purpose flour
2 t. pure vanilla
2 t. pure almond extract
1/3 cup rum
½- 1 cup chopped pecans

Cream butter and 2 C sugar till well mixed. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating thoroughly after each addition. Add vanilla extract and mix well. Add almond extract and mix well. Add flour alternately with rum in thirds beating until blended after each addition.

Beat egg whites until blended but not dry. Beat remaining sugar (1 cup) into egg whites gradually. Fold egg yolk mixture into meringue about a third at a time. Mix well until well blended. Sprinkle pecans in bottom of well buttered 10" tube pan, put batter into pan and bake at 325 degrees for approximately 1 ½ hour or till cake is done.





Bird Gathering: February 18th

Where: Greek Islands

300 E. 22nd Street, Lombard, IL 60148

630-923-4545

Meet 'N Greet: 11:30am

RSVP: by Wednesday, February 12

Joan Bourdage 224-558-3641

\$40.00 CASH or \$41.19 with credit card-payable at check-in.

We had a meeting there last year. Food and staff were fantastic.

Have a friend that is Kiwi "qualified?" Invite them to our luncheon and they can see how much fun we have.

Opportunity Tickets:

This is The Kiwi Club's fundraiser. You have your tickets and if you are wise, you will bring your money and stubs to the meeting on the 18th. If you cannot attend the meeting, send your stubs to:

**Jane Fullen Haag,
18816 Oxbow Drive
Marengo, IL 60152**

Editor's Note: As I write this our country has been hit with snowstorms that have broken previous records. When I listen to the news reports I hear single digit temperatures, 800,000 people without power, and snow as high as 17 feet. Chicago amazingly missed this for the most part. We have had our share of snow in the past and understand the challenges, whereas some Southern states/cities do not. The week ahead here is supposed to be sunny or overcast. I give thanks.

Happy Early Valentine's Day (also THINK SPRING)

