



News & Nuts from The Loco Club

APRIL 1, 2012

Breaking News

It was with bittersweet emotion that Club directors learned that the entire Lotos staff won the recent half-a-billion dollar Mega Million jackpot. In a failed attempt to produce a smile, Treasurer **John Sussek** commented, "We are pleased with their sudden fortune, but they have left us in quite a financial lurch." **Colette Mahoney**, who has stepped in as acting general manager to oversee the Club's daily operations, said, "Since the GM has always run the entire Club, I'll now have the opportunity to institute all the governance regulations I have been pushing for ages." (Former General Manager **John McGrath**, on his first real vacation in twenty-five years, had no comment.-Ed.)

David Schwartz, Mark Lampl and **Janet Gusman** offered their head-hunting services to fill the vacant Club positions. House Committee members will clean bathrooms and bedrooms, polish floors and dust the busts. Committee chairs will arrange their own Club events, including setting up a/v equipment and moving furniture. **Ellen Monk** volunteered to don the chef's hat and prepare all the food. "I'm here everyday anyway, so it's no trouble, and I make a mean tofu burger," she said cheerily.

Members are asked to be patient through this transitional period and to take out their own trash when they leave the building.

SAVE THE DATE
OCCUPY LOTOS
The 1% challenges the .01%
May 1, 2012

Music Committee Gets Current



The Music Committee, in collaboration with Lotos Got Talent, will be holding **Hip Hop Night** at the Club on April 31 (drinks, 5-6:30; \$50). Lotosians **Rick Petersen** (left) and **Melvin Stecher** will perform several rap songs, including number one hits, "Rapper's Delight," "Protect Ya Neck," and "Mama Said Knock You Out!" **Dr. Gloria Shafer** will be offering dance lessons. She will show members

how to krimp and go old school with the running man dance steps. The House Committee has relaxed the dress code for this special evening. Members are encouraged to wear baggy jeans and as much "bling" as they wish. Call the Club office for reservations.

**All members will be allowed to invite up to four members of their posse to this event.*

Trade in Your Founders' Day Glasses

Responding to complaints from members (particularly from **Bob Moskin** who has been uncharacteristically vocal about this for years) whose china cabinets are overflowing with Founders' Day souvenir glasses, the House Committee has adopted a new and very inventive plan. Beginning on April 1, members may trade in old glassware for other attractive items in the gift collection.

Jay Deutsch has come up with a few simple rules. Members may exchange up to 20 sets of glasses (please note that incomplete sets will not be accepted). Each set will be assigned a "point" value ranging 10 to 100 points, depending on the age of

the glasses. Holders of the rare 1991 glasses (the year Lotos economized and ordered cheap glasses that tend to break at the drop of a hat) will receive a special bonus of 250 points. Visit the website for the specifics.

Just bring your glassware to **Darlene Craig** in the Accounting office to tally your points and conduct your exchange. Lotos gifts range from 250 points for a Lotos bathrobe to 20 for those holiday candles that we just can't get rid of. Mr. McGrath hasn't yet decided what to do with the glasses that are turned in, but an anonymous source in the Club office predicts they will be stacked on Stephenie Ralston's desk.

A Note to Members

by Anne Hustle, President

Improper Attire at Club

After blatant violations of the Club's current dress code, Vice President **Michael Yon** (right) and Secretary **Paul Jock** were severely reprimanded and suspended for thirty days. Both of these esteemed members, however, remarked that this was extremely unfair since there was nobody else at lunch in the Grill Room that day (or that week) and, besides, they were wearing *designer* jeans and sneakers.

The House Committee reluctantly decided to send out a new dress code questionnaire. For State Dinners, the choices are White Tie, Black Tie, Business Formal, Business Informal, Business Casual, Cruise Casual, and Smart Casual. Options for attire at other events and dining include Dumb Casual, Casualty Casual, Leather, Hasidic, Preppie, Hooker, Surfer, Hip-hop, or Inside Out. Vice President **Jonathan Rabinowitz** says he personally hopes that the membership votes for Inside Out because then he won't have to make yet another trip to the dry cleaner!

So Long/Good Luck to Bill Chaput

We were dismayed when bedroom reservationist and longtime Lotos mainstay **Bill Chaput** announced that he will be leaving the Club at the end of the month. Mr. Chaput has accepted a position as campaign advisor to Rosanne Barr, the Green Party candidate for President. Mr. Chaput stated, "I will deeply miss the Club, but my country comes first."

(Privately, Mr. Chaput confided that he is thrilled. "With all the contacts I have made at the Club and all the members who owe me for booking them into Room 405," he said, "I

have set up a Super Green PAC and will now be able to visit all the posh venues in the country as I arrange speaking engagements for Roseanne." –Ed.)



The Loco Club

5 East 66th Street
New York, NY 10065

(212) 737-7100
(212) 737-9188 (fax)

www.lococlub.org

News & Nuts

Executive Editor
Steffi Purina

Design Editor
Shari See-All

Principal Writers
Jancee Nonsense
Tony Rigatoni
Alli Huckster

New Advice Column

Starting next month, our newsletter will carry a brand new and oft-requested feature: an advice column for members. "Dear Steffi" will offer solutions to common problems: how to say no when asked to second the nomination of someone you really can't stand; what to do if that hot, young new member goes after the rich Lotosian you've had your eye on; how to get John McGrath to make a decision in your favor; whom to slip a twenty to for tickets to a sold out event. Send your requests today to dearsteffi@lotosclub.org. All questions will be printed anonymously.

Keep in Mind

The Club will be closed on the second Friday in April because of a noteworthy coincidence. It is both Stephenie Ralston's birthday and Friday the 13th, and the Club's astrologers warn that such a convergence might put visitors at risk on that day.

Club Daycare Opens

Club leaders are delighted to announce that Lotos will now offer daycare services. Never again will members have to miss an outstanding Club event because they can't find a sitter or agreed to babysit their grandchildren.

Members can simply call the Club Office to make arrangements. A playpen will be set up in the Club Office where Sharon and Alison, always the multi-taskers, will teach the children valuable lessons throughout the day. These will include proper table settings; which fork to use first; tying the perfect tie, and building a healthy stock portfolio. Between lessons, children will participate in the silent game: the first one to speak loses!

Our strict non-tolerance policy on misbehavior stipulates that all means of punishment will take place in the form of filing: an effective way to reinforce learning the ABC's.

Summer Events at Lotos

Lotos Olympics

In honor of the upcoming Summer Olympics in London, the Club has decided to hold its first ever Lotos Club Olympic Tournament. Lotos members will have the opportunity to show off their athleticism and skills in a variety of competitions. The new **Athletic Committee** has decided on the following events: bare knuckle boxing, hula hooping, hopscotch, Parcheesi and the ever-challenging game of Yahtzee. Members who are interested in exhibiting their athletic prowess are encouraged to contact Lotos Club Athletic Director and former Olympic Boxing Gold Medalist **Norman Horowitz**.

Summer Film Festival

This year the Club will continue its annual Summer Film Nights. In the past, some members have seemed bored watching classic movies at the Club that they could easily watch at home. This year, at the suggestion of **Dr. Joseph Meltzer**, the Club will

present 1970s horror movies, such as *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, *Drive-In Massacre*, *I Drink Your Blood*, and *Blood Sucking Freaks*. Before the screenings, Great Thinkers Moderator **Dr. William Johnson** and Book Discussion Leader **Dr. Jacqueline Aronson** will discuss the universal themes and symbolism in each film.

Beach Party

Avoid the traffic (and the masses) at our own exclusive beach right here on the Upper East Side. Join us on Saturday, July 21st, for a private beach party in the clubhouse. The Ballroom floor will be covered in sand, specially trucked in from Amagansett, and **Gail VanVoorhis** has promised to make papier-mâché palm trees to complete the look. Wear your bathing suit (sunscreen not necessary), and enjoy Chef Hollanda's authentic clambake fare. *Note: John McGrath is seeking volunteers for a bucket brigade to remove the sand the next day.*

New Rule for History Table

If you have recently attended a History Talk Table, you know that it is standing room only. Moderator **David Schwartz** has complained, "The shuffling of standees' feet and papers is driving me crazy!" To calm Dr. Schwartz and alleviate overcrowding at these very popular discussion groups, a new reservation program will be introduced.

Members whose last names begin with the letters A through L may attend a History Talk only in an odd month. Members with last names that begin with the letters M through Z may attend a History Talk only in an even month. **No exceptions will be made.**

Twain Is Misquoted

For many years, members have been told over and over and over again that Mark Twain once said that Lotos was "The ace of clubs."

"This is not quite what he did say," claims **Nancy Johnson**, Lotos' Archivist. While researching the annals of the Club, Ms. Johnson came upon Twain's actual comment.

It was during a formal dinner at Lotos when Twain showed up in his white suit and was not allowed entrance to the black-tie (and black suit) event. As he was escorted out of the Club, Twain was heard to exclaim in a fit of pique, "Lotos is a deuce of a club!!" Somehow during the intervening years, the remark has been distorted.

Defying the Lotos History Committee suggestion that Ms. Johnson mind her own business, she has gone public with the corrected version of Twain's remark. She deserves the thanks of all Lotosians who will never have to hear another Club president misquote the former Club member from Hannibal, Missouri.

New Grill Menu Is Here

To combat the increase in food costs, Chef Raymond Hollanda and his creative staff had a brainstorming session recently.

They unanimously decided to "retire" several popular, but costly (as well as boring), menu items. The famous Lotos crab cakes, Dover sole and beef Wellington are now a thing of the past.

The new contemporary retro menu will include such scrumptious dishes as

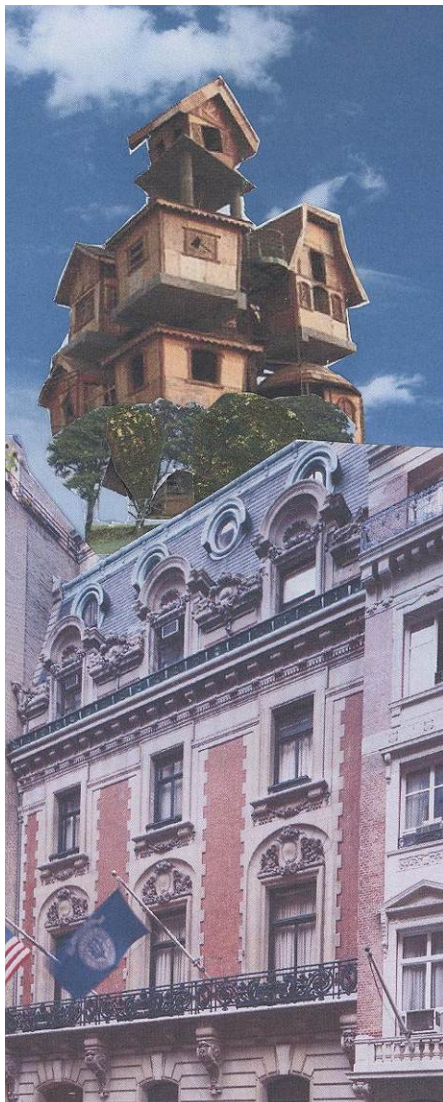
Juan Marte's Gourmet Frozen Fish Sticks
Don Balladin's Spaghetti-Os Bolognese
and everyone's childhood favorite with a grownup twist
Hot Chili Pepper Sloppy Joes à la Manuel Rivas

The chef believes these cost-cutting, but yummy, entrées will surely pack the Grill Room nightly!

Get a 20% off coupon from the Front Desk (first time guests only).

Lotos Goes Green

In response to an increasing number of members calling to enlarge the clubhouse, as well as those who are environmentally conscious, the House Committee voted last week to add a new eco-friendly and completely sustainable addition to the building. Modeled after eco-resorts in Costa Rica, as well as on the Weasley's house in the *Harry Potter* movies, the addition is unique and sure to delight. A lush garden will be installed on the roof at the base of a multi-level treehouse containing six additional guest rooms, a yoga studio, hookah lounge and top-floor observatory.



Pay As You Go

In keeping with the Club's goal of fiscal responsibility, the House Committee has decided to install pay-for-use toilets throughout the Club. This trend has taken off in Europe with positive and profitable results. As General Manager John McGrath stated, this will be a great money-maker for the Club.

Installation of the new bathroom stalls will begin in early May. In order to use the new stalls, a \$1 fee is required. Members and their guests can insert dollar bills or coins (no pennies, please) into a special slot, which will unlock the bathroom door. When asked to comment on the new pay-to-use toilets, Club President **Anne Russell** responded, "When nature calls, a dollar is totally irrelevant."

Member Class Is Added

To attract more Resident members, a new classification has been established: the Two-for-One Resident. Two unrelated people may now join the Club together, splitting initiation fee and annual dues costs. The only stipulation is that they may not be in the Club at the same time.

What Members Collect: 2013 Show

The Art Committee has decided to give advance notice to members for next year's "What Members Collect" exhibition. In the past, the exhibition has focused on fine art – last year on portraits, this year on abstraction, featuring work by Picasso, Miro, Léger and other legendary artists. But in an effort to appeal to a different kind of collector, Art Committee member **Nancy Hall-Duncan** suggested next year's theme: "Kitch: You Know You Love It."

Committee members offered some suggestions: a complete run of Archie comic books; frog figurines;

Admissions Committee Faces Quandary

In a first for The Lotos Club, the three candidates for the Republican nomination for President of the United States have all applied for membership in the Club at the same time. "It seems a remarkable coincidence," said Admissions Committee Chair **Lenore Kelly**, "but applications for Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich were all received on the same day.

Since it has been impossible to find Committee members willing to put aside their political views and conduct objective interviews, each candidate will be asked to submit a position paper describing his ability to be convivial and an interesting dinner companion.

"What concerns us most," Ms. Kelly said, "is that this situation will get ugly, as each impugns the other for a chance at membership. That is just not what we are about here at Lotos." Other Committee members disagreed. "Bring it on," said **Patricia Greenwald**. "We could use a little excitement around here."

McDonald's Happy Meal toys; Hummels; anything from the Franklin Mint; souvenir shot glasses; miniature models of landmark buildings; lawn ornaments; Star Wars merchandise. (*Please note that, in keeping with the Club's current effort to restrict spending – with the exception of the new website – these art works will **not** be insured.*)

Members should send a photograph of their collection along with a statement explaining when and why they started it, and whether or not they think their collection reflects a personality disorder.