

METROPOLITAN Airport News™

DECEMBER 2025

The Journal of the Metropolitan New York Airport Community



A Canvas for Holiday Cheer & Giving

Decking the Halls With Warmth & Brightness

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Holidays at the Airports

The Port Washington
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A Cruise Stay Alternative
to Southampton, England

Airport Employment, Upcoming Events, & Aviation News

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Welcome to the December issue of *Metropolitan Airport News*. It's the most wonderful time of the year – are you singing? It is truly the most wonderful time, especially in New York City. We have so many iconic events and well-known experiences throughout the world. Just think of the Rockefeller Christmas Tree, ice skating at several beautiful locations throughout the city and the boroughs, quaint tree lightings in each community, and, of course, strolling through the city to take in the over-the-top 5th Avenue window displays. I'm sure many of you will catch a show or perhaps the Rockettes, all while smelling the rich chestnuts roasting throughout the city. The holidays are here, and the décor is captivating.



As travelers come and go from all over the world into our city, the decorations have to be larger than life. This month, we have met with a provider of the wonderful displays as well as a terminal operator who has installed them. The wonder that the travelling public, as well as the employees of the terminal, enjoy is electric. Everyone is grabbing photos and selfies in front of the stunning décor. It absolutely de-stresses everyone and gives folks a few minutes to forget about the rigors of travel. It's a lot of work for all involved; however, the outcome is absolutely worth it.

This is a very busy time for all of us at the airports: passengers, cargo, maintenance, retail, concessions, security, and more. We are all working together to deliver a world-class experience for the passengers in a safe and secure environment. I'm grateful that so many took the time to make it joyous for the holidays. I hope you are able to take some time and enjoy the entertainment that has been curated as well throughout the terminals. And if you are able, there are countless volunteer opportunities to bring joy to kids, seniors, and those in need in the community. Make sure to check our calendar for up-to-date events throughout the Metropolitan New York airport. www.metroairportnews.com/ny-airport-events

Visit our website to register and to check out the steady stream of current articles and information for the airport community.

I hope you enjoy the issue, and I will see you around the airports!

KATIE BLISS, *Publisher*
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ON THE COVER

At our airports, holiday décor and the spirit of giving add warmth and brightness, reducing stress and enhancing the journey for travelers, staff, and the airport community. This month's cover photo was taken at the JFK Rotary Club Children's Holiday Party, held at JetBlue Hangar 81. The holiday decorations were provided by American Christmas. (Doug Kearsé)

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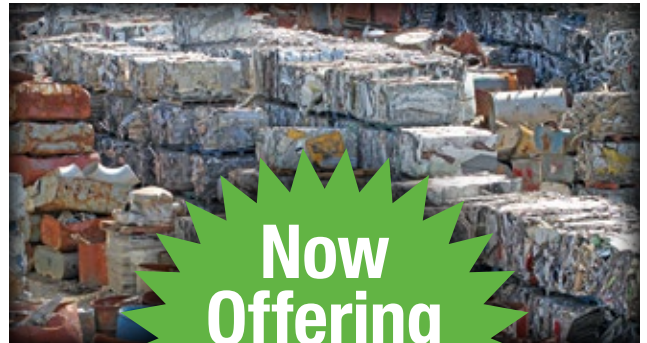
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The Genesis of a Library at San Marcos

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

This past November, as the wheels of a JetBlue airliner left the runway at JFK International Airport, **Donna Coughlin-Argeroplos** breathed a sigh of relief as she settled into her seat for the three and a half hour flight she was taking to the Dominican Republic with over a dozen fellow congregants of the Genesis Church Dominican Republic Mission Team.



Donna stands happily by the shelves of the new library at the Fundacion Fuente de Esperanza School at San Marcos.



Donna and students celebrate a new chapter at the new library at Fundacion Fuente de Esperanza School



On this trip, Donna, a retired teacher and librarian at the Mill Neck School for the Deaf, was now realizing her four-year vision of creating and building a children's library at a school in San Marcos, which is financed by the Genesis Church in Medford, New York.

"This was my fourth trip going to the DR with the mission teams, and the excitement was more than ever, knowing that I was going to see the teachers and work with the students again. And this year was extra special for me because it was the year that the vision of setting up the library was going to become a reality! I was looking forward to the upcoming week and excited about the possibilities it would bring," said Donna.

The Genesis Church DR Team started their work in San Marcos 23 years ago. The relationship began with Genesis Church's head pastor, Roger Blackmore, and a pastor in the San Marcos community. The DR team travels to the Dominican Republic twice a year, and over these two decades, their work has evolved greatly.

It began with building a Christian church and school called the

'A book is a gift you can open again and again' – GARRISON KEILLOR

'Fundacion Fuente de Esperanza', whose name translates to 'Foundation of Hope'. The school itself serves 400 students and their families, and the students are individually sponsored by the congregants of the Genesis Church, as well as a church in Florida.

Each year, new projects are added to improve the school and the church. The team works to help the local community surrounding the school by building individual homes for those in need, establishing another local community church, and bringing a clinic, medicines, and medical professionals to care for the families. People will wait for hours for this care. In the past, the team has also installed water filtration systems in the neediest of areas.

Through this sponsorship program, daily meals are provided for the students, and food distribution for the families is available in the summer when the school is closed; in addition, the program provides educational materials and funds for teacher salaries.

Upon the Genesis DR Team's arrival in Puerto Plata, the over 200 pounds of books that were checked in on the JetBlue flight from New York were brought to the Fundacion Fuente de Esperanza's school. Over 400 children's books published in Spanish in various genres

Continued On Page 6

were donated, as well as over \$600 for future additions to the library.

“As a retired school librarian,” said Donna, “I was always drawn to children’s books. When I first came to the school four years ago, I noticed that a small closet had a sign, ‘Biblioteca’. It was a storage place for old books and materials. The idea for something new was planted then. Fundraising was done in the church community and through social media. Throughout the years, the vision became a reality.”

Over the next week, Donna and the DR Mission Team worked together alongside the students of the school, labelling and organizing the books. A larger room was cleaned out. Painted shelves were installed, and the space for the new library was created! The books were organized on the shelves in baskets by genre, and a simple checkout system was instituted.

The students were thrilled when the books were brought into their classrooms for a preview, and especially when they saw the library. The teachers were also excited about what the library could offer the students and made suggestions as to what books in other subject areas they would like to have for the future.

Upon her return home to New York, Donna reflected upon the week’s experience in San Marcos, commenting, “It was extremely rewarding to see the outpouring of support for the project. Prior to the mission, books showed up on my doorstep in New York every day! To see the progress from the first thought four years ago to seeing it become a reality was truly inspiring. I am grateful for the leadership of Pastor Roger Blackmore and Pastor Charlotte Pendleton,



for the generosity and kindness of my local community, and for the work done by the Genesis DR team to turn this vision into reality. The most extraordinary part was seeing the faces of the children as they saw the library and looked at the new books. That, indeed, was priceless.”

For more information about Genesis LI local and international ministries: www.genesisli.com



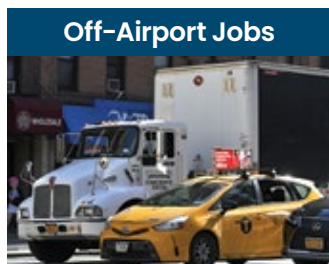
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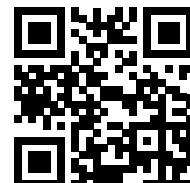
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Three New Ribbon Cuttings Add Momentum to JFK Terminal 5 \$100M Refresh



Customers are getting a bigger bite of the apple for a better travel experience with three new units at JFK Terminal 5. Many thanks to our concessionaires who helped make the day special.

We're proud to welcome more of the best New York has to offer:

Jacob's Pickles comes in from the Upper West Side with a sense of community and a "best of NY" taste of comfort cuisine.

Park Ave. Emporium brings inspiration from Park Avenue to Queens with curated collections of travel essentials, local art, gifts and snacks.

InMotion is technology reimaged expressly for T5.

And all set off against a striking new digital art installation by immersive Brooklyn artist, Ekemini Nkanta.

Fraport USA & JetBlue...Transforming the Customer Experience at T5

AIRPORT INTEL

JetBlue Expands Gateway Programs With New Pathway for Aspiring AMT's

JetBlue has announced the expansion of its industry-leading Gateway programs with the launch of Gateway University – Tech Ops, a new pathway that provides a direct route for aviation maintenance students to join JetBlue as Aircraft Maintenance Technicians (AMTs). The initiative expands career opportunities in one of the airline industry's most vital and in-demand fields.

For the first time, JetBlue is offering external candidates a defined path to becoming a JetBlue maintenance technician. While existing Technical Operations Gateway programs have been available for current JetBlue crewmembers, Gateway University – Tech Ops opens the door for aviation students outside of JetBlue to pursue a structured, hands-on route to joining the airline's maintenance operations.

The program launches with two partners: **Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology** in Queens, New York, and **Cape Cod Community College (CCCC)** in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Both institutions offer FAA-approved Aviation Maintenance programs and have deep connections to JetBlue's operations and workforce.



"Aircraft Maintenance Technicians are integral to our industry, working days, nights, weekends, and holidays, ensuring safety, reliability, and efficiency on every flight," said **David A. Marcontell**, vice president, technical operations, JetBlue. "JetBlue's home in the Northeast sits at the center of our operations, and many of our current technicians were trained at these schools. We know the skilled talent available well here, and streamlining the path

from early development to a full-time job at a major airline is as much a benefit to us as it is to the many candidates who are often dissuaded by the post-graduate employment uncertainty."

Building on JetBlue's longstanding Gateway partnership for pilot development, Vaughn College now extends opportunities to aspiring maintenance technicians and deepens a relationship rooted in shared commitment to aviation excellence and workforce development, demonstrating how accessible, community-based pathways can open doors to rewarding careers in aviation.

"Vaughn College is proud to build on our existing relationship with JetBlue and offer students a streamlined path to a rewarding career as Gateway University – Tech Ops partners," said **Domenic Proscia**, Vice President of Training, Vaughn College. "Our students see JetBlue's aircraft flying overhead every day from our campus, and many already aspire to careers there. This program provides a clear bridge from classroom to career—connecting local talent with a world-class airline." ■



(L.-R.): Major Raymond Miller, Colonel Peter Koch, Captain John Liu, Lt., Major Steven Pinello

NYS Senator John Liu Named CAPs Check Pilot of the Year

On December 1, 2025, state senator **John Liu** was presented with a plaque recognizing him as "Check Pilot of the Year" of the New York Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. The presentation was made at a meeting of Falcon Squadron, the CAP unit based at John F. Kennedy International Airport. The honor had been bestowed upon Liu in absentia at the October 25, 2025 CAP conference in Lake George, NY.

Liu is a pilot and flight instructor, and volunteers in CAP. He was named the 2024 New York Wing Standardization & Evaluation "Check Pilot of the Year" for his outstanding contributions to aviation safety and pilot training. Liu is a member of the Falcon Squadron and, as a Civil Air Patrol check pilot, has committed countless hours to ensuring that fellow CAP pilots receive high-quality training, mentoring, and evaluation. ■



A Canvas for Holiday Cheer & Giving

Decking the Halls With Warmth & Brightness

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
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Airports worldwide, including the Port Authority NY & NJ's LaGuardia, John F. Kennedy, and Newark Liberty International airports, have recently completed, or are currently undertaking, major terminal redevelopment projects.

Today's redeveloped airport terminals feature sweeping, light-filled, expansive interior spaces. These architectural designs, combined with passenger amenities, create a brilliant and modern aesthetic.

These spaces serve as central lounges or living areas at the airport, offering a perfect canvas for festive holiday cheer.

Adornments such as giant Christmas trees and lights, holiday-themed events, entertainment, and a spirited palette of colors and special programs create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for travelers during the busy holiday season.

As Christmas cheer begins to flourish on the streets of New York, at retail shops and markets, restaurants and transport facilities, our airports in the metropolitan region are right there in sync. They, too, are decking the halls with boughs of holly, Christmas displays and trees, menorahs, and festive décor adorned with stunning holiday lighting.

Professional Christmas decorating services for airports create a comfy and relaxing environment with ornamentation and

embellishments that take the stress out of travel during the holiday season. The warmth of well-planned and placed holiday décor has a calming effect on airport travelers and staff alike. It also provides unique photo opportunities that may contribute to image building and increased social sharing.

American Christmas is a leader in commercial holiday décor, serving cities, corporate headquarters, hotels, shopping centers, transport facilities, and more. Their festive holiday décor lighting up LaGuardia Airport Terminal B, JFK International's Terminal 8, and Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal B spreads Holiday magic from check-in to takeoff and encourages travelers to arrive early, making them

feel welcome, safe, and inspired to spend more time exploring shops.

Carefully selected holiday decorations may also represent a blend of cultural revelries, fostering an inclusive atmosphere that champions diversity. And for travelers who may be feeling emotionally isolated or lonely during the holidays, festive decorations, memorable holiday musical performances, and community initiatives can create a softened ambiance that helps to alleviate these feelings.

Beyond towering evergreens, sparkling seasonal decorations, and vibrant lighting, the holidays encompass a broad spectrum

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.” – NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

of traditions, activities, and sentiments, including spending time with family and loved ones, celebrating diverse cultural and religious events, and engaging in acts of kindness, charity, generosity, and community spirit.

This year, as in years past, holiday spirit and goodwill shall abound at PANYNJ owned and operated airports.

The **JFK Airport Rotary Club** held its 47th Annual Children’s Holiday Party, which brought smiles to 425 children with special needs from local schools, as well as Mill Neck School for the Deaf. This year’s event was held at JFK Airport, JetBlue Hangar 81. Santa arrived on a plane provided by JetBlue, and each child received lunch and snacks, backpacks and books donated by The Brooke Jackman Foundation, plus entertainment from a DJ, volunteer elves, clowns, and a gift from Santa.

The **JFK Air Cargo Association** held its Annual Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive on December 11, 2025, at Russo’s on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens. The Annual Holiday Luncheon serves as the JFK Air Cargo Association’s Annual Toy Drive in conjunction with US Customs and Border Protection. These toys will be distributed to less fortunate children, giving them hope for the holiday season.

Fraport USA, one of the leading airport concessions developers in North America

at seven major U.S. airports, will bring unique and innovative concessions programs to JFK International Airport’s Terminal 5 (T5) and Terminal B at Newark Liberty International.

Through a collaborative effort with the Port Authority and in partnership with JetBlue Airways, Fraport USA brings a new level of excitement and local character to JetBlue’s Terminal 5, offering travelers a truly vibrant New York City holiday atmosphere that resonates with its customers, its employees, and the surrounding community.

Focusing on the local community, Fraport USA engages the community through

initiatives that support and promote small businesses and local vendors.

JFK Terminal 5 Holiday experiences include:

- For the fourth consecutive year, Fraport is partnering with NYC Second Chance Rescue to bring adoptable dogs into T5 for a heartwarming experience.
- Holiday Tunes will ring with a resident DJ, a violinist, carolers, a LIVE band, and a visit from the NYC Children’s Chorus to spread holiday songs and cheer.
- A roaming Santa will do meet and greets throughout the terminal.

■ Gift Wrapping Station – Fraport, JetBlue, CSR+1, and iShoppes are partnering to bring gift wrapping in T5.

Terminal B at Newark Liberty International Airport welcomes travelers to the environs of New Jersey with three unique satellite concourse themes – Jersey Shore, Garden State, and Newark’s Ironbound neighborhood. Each captures a sense of place with local pride, flavor, and holiday spirit.

This November, Newark Liberty (EWR) celebrated its Annual Holiday Kick Off with music, treats, and a visit from Santa. It was enjoyed by both passengers and employees.

As Fraport USA has expanded Terminal B’s concessions and holiday plans at Newark’s Terminal B, forthcoming holiday events will include:

- Mr. & Mrs. Claus, who will roam the terminal and spread holiday cheer.
- Local live performances.
- Holiday Elves who will provide children’s crafts to traveling families.

Air travel numbers are expected to soar this holiday season; airports will inevitably be associated with stress, long queues, and possible weather delays, but the right sense of place in their surroundings can help travelers feel more at ease and make for a more enjoyable journey.

Whether at home or across the miles, wherever your holiday journey may take you, we at *Metropolitan Airport News* wish all a Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year. ■



Celebrate the Season at JFK T5



Get in the spirit of the season at JFK Terminal 5.

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- **Santa is here!** Free portraits with the big man on select dates and surprise visits all December long.
- **Gift Wrapping is back!** Gift wrapping station will be available during select timeframes closer to the key travel season in December.
- **Snuggles are free!** Puppies galore at our NYC Second Chance Rescue pet-a-thon, during select dates.
- **PLUS music in the air!** Carolers, musicians, a children's choir and more will keep spirits light throughout the Holidays.

Brought to you with all the warmth of the season by



Holidays at the Airports

BY ROBERT SOLOFF

rsoloff@americanchristmas.com

For more than five decades, American Christmas has been bringing extraordinary holiday décor to New York City and beyond. Founded in 1968, American Christmas has grown from a local provider to a national leader, serving clients across the United States with offices and warehouses in Mount Vernon, NY, Maryland, and Memphis.

Today, American Christmas proudly provides holiday décor experiences for JFK International Airport Terminal 8, LaGuardia Airport Terminal B, and Newark Airport Terminal A, along with iconic brands and destinations including Saks Fifth Avenue, Cartier, Burberry, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Radio City Music Hall, Fox News, Harry Winston, Bergdorf Goodman, Rockefeller Center, and an extensive roster of real estate companies, hotels, hospitals, and more.

The Modern Airport: A New Opportunity

Airports are no longer mere transit hubs - they are evolving into experiential destinations. According to the Amadeus Airline Industry Report, today's travelers seek "a sense of place" and want to feel welcomed, safe, inspired, and emotionally engaged throughout their journey.

At the same time, longer check-in times, increased security procedures, and higher traveler volume mean people are spending more time in terminals than ever before - often under considerable stress. This creates a powerful opportunity for airports to transform these environments through ambiance, design, and emotional connection.

The Power of Décor & Atmosphere Lighting

At American Christmas by MK Illumination, atmosphere lighting and holiday décor can dramatically improve the traveler experience. Lighting creates environments that reduce stress and enhance satisfaction. Satisfied travelers spend 10% more time in the



airport and are twice as likely to shop. Additionally, they spend up to 20% more in duty-free, making atmosphere lighting a powerful driver of airport revenue.

As gateways to cities and countries, airports can use lighting to ensure that travelers' first impressions are positive, memorable, and emotionally resonant.

American Christmas' work illustrates this beautifully; rather than viewing the airport as simply a transition point, thoughtful décor & lighting design turn the terminal into an inviting, uplifting part of the journey.

A 360° Approach

American Christmas designs, manufactures, transports, installs, and maintains every installation. This complete, end-to-end approach ensures that each project meets the highest standards of quality and efficiency and that every design is perfectly adapted to the unique layout, flow, and identity of its space.

Transforming Terminals Into Destinations

Dynamic light scenes, interactive elements, and immersive photo moments turn terminals from places travelers pass through into places they want to linger in.

In addition to creating a stronger sense of

place, increased dwell time, and revenue, shareable moments and dynamic light scenes elevate brand identity and create spaces that feel comfortable, joyful, and human. This is the power of light: turning emotion into value, blending creativity with technology, and transforming everyday environments into meaningful experiences.

More Than Décor — A Strategy for Urban Happiness

Holiday décor is not just ornamental. It is a strategic tool that brings people together, boosts local tourism, strengthens communities, and inspires loyalty. It also encourages dwell time and fuels economic sustainability. When people feel better in a space, they stay longer, explore more, and contribute to the vibrancy of the environment. Airports and retail developments built around joyful design aren't just more beautiful - they are more successful.

Creating Places People Want to Be

American Christmas creates places people truly want to be. Holiday décor and lighting have the power to unite, inspire, and elevate everyday experiences. They don't just support the journey - they become part of the journey itself. ■

AIRPORT COMMUNITY



Airport Community Members Making a Difference

Each year, just before Thanksgiving, Crescent Consulting and its partners organize a food drive to provide prepared meals for local community members in need. Calling upon a network of local restaurants to prepare individual meals, the event is able to feed several hundred people each year. *Metropolitan Airport News* is proud to participate in this event alongside other members of the airport community by providing funding, raising awareness, and offering a helping hand throughout the day.

Behind the scenes, **Yvette Greene** and the team at the **JFK Redevelopment Center** handle all the heavy lifting, working for months prior to the event to coordinate with local restaurants, sponsors, and elected officials to assist as many residents as possible. This year, the event successfully helped more than 750 people in the surrounding area.

Thank you to our airport colleagues and partners for their generosity and time. ■

NTO & Vanderlande Help Furnish Homes for the Holidays

The lives of several local families in need across Far Rockaway and Southeast Queens were transformed just in time for Thanksgiving. Families received complete home furniture sets, including high-quality living rooms, dining rooms, and bedroom furnishings, free of charge. This impactful donation was spearheaded by **The New Terminal One at JFK, Vanderlande, Cauley Coach, Global25, Showing Hearts Foundation**, and the **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**.

This effort underscores a deep, shared commitment from the corporate partners to invest in and uplift the local communities surrounding John F. Kennedy International Airport. ■



ACF Check Presentation

On Dec. 5, 2025, **Airport Community Foundation (ACF)** Board Members, **Sean McCalla, Raymond Ringston, Arnold Sue, Mike Falacara, and Brian Cooley**, took a moment from the festivities of the **KAAMCO Cargo Committee's Holiday Dinner Dance** at the **JFK Marriott** to present the organization with a \$7,500 check.

The funds derived from the proceeds of the 2025 **ACF Golf Classic**, held this past July at the **Seawane Country Club**, will be used to support programs for **Veteran Workforce Development** within the cargo industry and provide assistance to other local airport community programs.

Visit **ACFHelps.org** to learn more about ACF, the programs it supports, and its upcoming airport events. ■



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The Port Washington Pan Am Connection

Port Washington's Brief "International Airport" Era

BY ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL
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Despite appearances to the contrary today, Port Washington, Long Island, with its calm, sheltered waters and location 15 miles from Manhattan, was once conducive to aviation development, at least that using pontoons and floating hulls as opposed to that with wheels.

Wealthy Gold Coast mansion owners like the Vanderbilts, the Guggenheims, the Belmonts, and the Astors had the finances to invest in early "aerial yachts," taking off from the very water that fronted their homes.

"Residents contributed mightily to the advance of flying, beginning as far back as 1910," according to Daniel Pedesich in his article, "The Aeronautical Heritage of Port Washington" (*Long Island Historical Journal*, Volume 11, No. 1).

"From 1929 through 1956, aviation was the heart and soul of Port Washington."

Although the private aircraft of the rich were all but closed out to the public, that situation changed when Pan American World Airways selected the North Shore town as its base for scheduled flying boat service across the Atlantic, first to Bermuda and then to Europe, during what became a brief but illustrious era.

Port Washington Base

Pan American's choice can be traced, to a degree, to the American Aeronautical Corporation, the first company to establish a presence in Port Washington, NY, after it contracted with the Societa Idrovolanti Alta Italia, an Italian airplane manufacturer, to sell Savoia-Marchetti seaplanes on January 1, 1929.

Success, however, was intercepted by the



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Sikorsky S-42 crew member posing with a passenger at the Port Washington Air Service Dock.

Great Depression, at which time aircraft orders dried up, and the company was forced out of business.

But its hangar, then the United States' largest privately owned one, became available for purchase at a fraction of its price, and Pan American, eager to establish a northeast hub, acquired it.

Along with the shelter of Manhasset Bay's water and the expanse of Long Island Sound beyond it, it became the ideal aquatic airport for operations.

Despite this promise, however, the actual airport facilities were less than shining.

"While the (flying) boats, as they were floated into the landing docks, were impressive, and the spit and polish of the crew taking over their craft at the first bell, then boarding passengers at two bells, was dramatic, the reality of the Port Washington

base was disappointing," according to Denise Duffy Meehan in "How Port Washington Gave Birth to Pan Am" (*Goodliving*, June-July 1987).

"What would resemble a third-world airport today housed facilities such as Customs, Immigration, and Public Health, along with the operations division of the airline. The 'terminal' was modest with few amenities."

Bermuda Service

Pan American's first scheduled service was decidedly shorter than that to Europe, entailing, instead, a partial, 770-mile oceanic crossing to Bermuda, and was the result of British government-granted reciprocal route rights; its own Imperial Airways also linked the U.S. with the island.

Continued On Page 19



OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR

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The initial, but opposing-direction survey flight, occurring on May 25, 1937, entailed the eastbound departure of a Pan American Sikorsky S-42B quad-engine flying boat, the “Bermuda Clipper,” under the command of Captain Harold S. Gray from Port Washington, and that of the slower, reciprocal, westbound Imperial Airways’ Short C class “Cavalier” from Bermuda.

Three more such flights, along with an official service inauguration, followed in June by the two airlines. But the actual, regularly scheduled one took place on the 18th, each operating a single weekly round-trip.

“The Bermuda operation provided an excellent flying laboratory for the study of Atlantic weather and flight problems, and in particular for gaining experience with in-flight deicing conditions,” according to R. E. G. Davies in *Airlines of the United States Since 1914* (*Smithsonian Institution Press*, 1998, p. 256).

“Deicing boots and deicing equipment for the propellers were fitted to the S-42, the largest aircraft of its day so-fitted.”

In the process, the North Shore Long Island community was placed “on the (airline) timetable of the world,” according to one local resident. But “world,” to Pan Am, meant Europe, and it set its sights on serving it.

Boeing B-314 Flying Boat

Although the S-42 was considered a technological marvel for its time, its 750-mile range was hardly suitable for the full



NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

A Pan Am Boeing B-314

Atlantic crossing, and the carrier’s three existing – and significantly larger – Martin M-130 flying boats were needed for its comparable Pacific service.

That it would have been unable to operate the route with an acceptable payload against anticipated headwinds sealed its fate. What was needed was a type with both sufficient profitability and range.

Based upon the design requirements submitted by Juan Trippe of Pan American to Boeing, Consolidated, Douglas, and Sikorsky, in February of 1936, for a long-range, four-engine, transoceanic amphibious airliner capable of carrying a 10,000-pound payload on at least 2,400 statute mile routes against a 30-mph headwind and cruising at a 150-mph airspeed,

Boeing itself proposed its B-314 and Pan Am signed a contract for a half-dozen on July 21, 1936.

It was nothing short of a behemoth, a true, aerial ocean liner, both efficient and elegant, and in a class of its own.

“The magnificent aircraft outstripped all rivals in size, load-carrying ability, and performance,” Davies wrote (*ibid*, p. 257).

“Efficient and elegant, it was in a class of its own, and the finest civil passenger-carrying flying boat ever built.”

European Service

Amid the blare of a brass band and the quay thronged with friends, relatives, messengers, reporters, and photographers, the 22 passengers, having had their tickets, passports, and baggage checked (the latter restricted to a 15-pound maximum), filed down the long dock to which the B-314, immersed in Manhasset Bay, was moored, on June 28, 1939, then the most mammoth and luxurious airliner, in- and externally reflecting the nautical heritage which had inspired it.

Piloted by Captain Rod Sullivan, who had previously operated the inaugural flight to Wake Island in the Pacific with the S-42, the transatlantic B-314 “Dixie Clipper” inched away from the dock at 15:00 local time with the 11 crew members, 22 passengers, and 408 pounds of mail. Lumbering through Manhasset Bay, it executed its acceleration run, cascading water by the drowning load behind it. Moving up on step, it disengaged itself from the surface



CRADLE OF AVIATION MUSEUM

Pan American Airways Sikorsky S-42B afloat in Manhasset Bay, aircrew at hull and pilot hatch.

Continued On Page 20

which had provided its buoyancy, and the North American continent hovering above it at a 120-mph airspeed.

When a post-departure engine check revealed positive readings, the throttles were pulled back from the 1,550 to the 1,200-hp level, thresholding an initial climb to 750 feet, and then a secondary power reduction to 900 hp for a final ascent to altitude at 126 mph.

Reflecting the standard of ocean liner service, white-gloved stewards distributed the passenger list in a cabin that could easily have doubled as a nautical vessel.

Subdivided into two decks, the flying boat featured a carpeted and upholstered-chair upper level, which stretched more than six feet in height and extended 21 feet in length, and was provisioned with cockpit positions for the pilot, the copilot, the navigator, and the radio operator; a master's desk; a meteorologist's station; crew sleeping bunks; and a baggage compartment which was partially located in the wing. The cockpit and cabin crew consisted of between ten and 16 members.

A starboard-positioned stairway provided an inter-deck connection.

The soundproofed cabin, itself subdivided, featured five ten-passenger compartments; a single, special four-passenger section; a deluxe bridal suite; a dining room; a full-service galley; a men's restroom; and a ladies' powder room.

Passenger capacity included 74 by day and 34 by night, in convertible berths.



CRADLE OF AVIATION MUSEUM

Passengers arriving from Pan Am Clipper flight have their baggage inspected.

As befitting a destination directly served by scheduled, international airline service, Port Washington was eventually subjected to considerable development: paved roads now covered the agricultural foundation upon which it once rested; car and taxi service offered a surface link to New York City, to which most passengers were destined; and businesses expanded.

Brief, Glorious Era

But Port Washington's prosperous, scheduled-airline era lasted less than a year, with operations transferred to LaGuardia Airport and its Marine Air Terminal.

"From the late-1930s through the mid-1940s, Long Islanders were uniquely located to view the brief, but glorious age of the

commercial flying boat, operating from the two seaplane airports on the North Shore (Port Washington and New York Municipal Airport)," according to the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, Long Island.

"The few long-range aircraft of the day required extremely long take-off runs, and, as no existing airport could accommodate them, they were built as flying boats so they could take off and land in any sizable harbor. New long-range airliners built after World War II, however, were able to operate from new airports on land. Flying from airports on land, they were cheaper, easier, and safer to operate than flying boats; thus, the majestic seaplanes soon disappeared from American skies forever."

Nevertheless, Port Washington temporarily became the center of international air transportation for the New York metropolitan area, once a small, relatively unknown North Shore community whose surrounding water became its greatest asset, transforming it into the gateway to the world. ■



Aerial view of Pan American Airways hangars & launching docks, Port Washington Manhasset Bay 1938.



ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL

spent thirty years working at John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia airports with the likes of Capitol Air, Midway Airlines, Triangle Aviation Services, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, and Lufthansa in Ground Operations and Management. He has created and taught aviation programs on both the airline and university level and is an aviation author.



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ON DUTY

News of promotions, appointments, and honors involving professionals within the aviation and airport communities.



Lisa Romanowski

■ **Western Suffolk BOCES Republic Airport** welcomes **Lisa Romanowski** as its new principal. With nearly two decades of experience in education, Ms. Romanowski offers a fresh perspective in her role. She has held various leadership positions and spent 16 years as a school counselor at Wilson Tech Dix Hills before stepping into administration. Her long-standing commitment to education has given her a deep understanding of the school's evolving needs, and she is eager to continue shaping the academic experiences of students at Republic Airport.



Kim Yan

■ **Menzies Aviation**, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has appointed **Kim Yan** as Vice President of its ground handling operations at the New Terminal One (NTO) at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). Kim's appointment follows the recent award of one of two sets of a ground handling licenses for NTO, marking a new airport location for Menzies Aviation which has more than 350 locations globally. Kim brings more than 30 years of experience in the North American aviation sector. He started his career as a passenger services agent before progressing through a range of operational and management roles giving him a deep understanding of both frontline and strategic airport operations. In his new role, Kim will lead the start up and ongoing operations at NTO for Menzies, with a focus on safety, operational performance, workplace culture and financial discipline.

■ The Board of Directors of **Norse Atlantic ASA** has appointed **Eivind Roald** as the Group's new President and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding founder and CEO **Bjørn Tore Larsen**. Roald will assume the role with immediate effect. Eivind Roald brings more than 30 years of executive leadership experience across aviation, technology, and commercial transformation. His background includes serving as Managing Director of Hewlett-Packard, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer at SAS, and CEO of QNTM Group.



Eivind Roald

■ **Avianca** announced its succession plan for the airline. **Frederico Pedreira** will step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer, effective February 28th, 2026, after five years with the company. To



Gabriel Oliva

further strengthen the airline's leadership structure and ensure a smooth transition, Avianca's Board of Directors has approved the creation of a President position, to be filled by **Gabriel Oliva** concurrently with his COO role, effective immediately. Frederico will remain as CEO until February 28th to ensure full continuity and alignment across the organization.



Rick Cotton

The **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey** recently announced that **Rick Cotton**, who has served as the executive director of the Port Authority since August 2017, will retire from the agency in January 2026. A successor is expected to be announced in due course and will work closely with Cotton to ensure a smooth transition. Cotton's distinguished 8½ year tenure makes him the longest-serving executive director of the Port Authority since the 1940s. Under the leadership of Cotton and Chairman **Kevin O'Toole**, the agency has delivered an unprecedented wave of renewal and institutional reform, while successfully navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and one of the most difficult operating environments in its history. Today, the Port Authority is a revitalized, high-performing agency with a clear mandate, a disciplined operating culture, and a transformative, forward-looking capital plan.

Cotton said, "From the moment Chairman O'Toole and I stepped into these roles in 2017, we shared a simple conviction: this region deserves world-class infrastructure equal to its people and its promise. Working in partnership across two states, political lines, and every corner of this agency, we have made historic progress toward that goal. Together, we transformed our airports from appalling laughingstocks into award-winning, best-in-class gateways, and jump-started the Midtown Bus Terminal, which had languished for decades. The foundation is now set for future generations to keep building a stronger, more connected region".



C. SanGiovanni

■ **Menzies Aviation** has appointed **Christopher SanGiovanni** as Senior Vice President Risk Americas, effective immediately. Christopher returns to Menzies Aviation after previously serving as Head of Safety for the Americas from 2009 to 2013. Since leaving Menzies, he has broadened his leadership experience, across aviation, technology and autonomous-vehicle sectors, leading the development and oversight of safety management systems in complex, safety-critical environments. In his capacity as SVP Risk Americas, Christopher will be responsible for safety, security, operational training, quality assurance and compliance, as well as fuel quality and environmental standards across all 14 countries in the Menzies Americas network. ■

AIRPORT INTEL

TSA Introduces New \$45 Fee Option for Travelers Without REAL ID

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it will refer all passengers who do not present an acceptable form of ID and still want to fly an option to pay a \$45 fee to use a modernized alternative identity verification system, TSA Confirm.ID, to establish identity at security checkpoints beginning on February 1, 2026.

Travelers will be able to pay \$45 to use TSA Confirm.ID for a 10-day travel period. TSA urges travelers who do not have a REAL ID to schedule an appointment at their local DMV to update their ID as soon as possible.

All travelers without an acceptable ID, including those who present a non-REAL ID-compliant state driver's license or ID, will be referred to the optional TSA Confirm.ID process for identity verification

upon TSA check-in and prior to entering the security line. This process will differ airport to airport, and TSA is working with private industry to proactively offer online payment options prior to arrival at the airport.

The REAL ID law was signed more than 20 years ago, but previous presidential administrations failed to properly implement it. Under President Trump's leadership, the law was finally implemented and enforced by Secretary Kristi Noem as of May 7, 2025.

Currently, more than 94% of passengers already use their REAL ID or other acceptable forms of identification. TSA expects increased wait times for passengers who do not provide an acceptable ID.

"Identity verification is essential to traveler safety, because it keeps terrorists, criminals, and illegal aliens out of the skies

and other domestic transportation systems such as rail," said Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Administrator for TSA **Adam Stahl**. "The vast majority of travelers present acceptable identification like REAL IDs and passports, but we must ensure everyone who flies is who they say they are. Beginning February 1, travelers who do not present an acceptable form of ID at our security checkpoints and still want to fly can pay a \$45 fee and undergo the TSA Confirm.ID process.

This fee ensures the cost to cover verification of an insufficient ID will come from the traveler, not the taxpayer. The security of the traveling public is our top priority, so we urge all travelers to get a REAL ID or other acceptable form of ID as soon as possible to avoid delays and potentially miss flights." ■



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AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT (PART TIME)

From check-in and bag drop, to boarding gates and arrivals, as a Passenger Service Agent you'll ensure our traveling customers are kept well-informed and are in the right place at the right time.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000431
Passenger Services
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

DIRECTOR OF RETAIL OPERATIONS I

The Retail Director of Operations I oversees multi-faceted commercial operations with revenue of up to \$6M.

Hudson
Job No.: 000430
Sales, Retail, & Customer Support
Full-time
New York Stewart International
Airport, NY

SHIFT MANAGER

This role is responsible for maintaining operational readiness through exceptional cleanliness, proper staffing, and adherence to high retail and operational standards using prescribed policies and procedures.

Hudson
Job No.: 000429
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
New York Stewart International
Airport, NY

FOOD & BEVERAGE ASSOCIATE

Hudson is North America's leading travel retailer. For over 30 years, Hudson has met the needs and wants of travelers in more than 1,000 duty-free, duty-paid, and food & beverage stores.

Hudson
Job No.: 000428
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
New York Stewart International
Airport, NY

ANIMAL ATTENDANT AT JFK AIRPORT

Attendants will be responsible for providing the very best short-term care for pets transiting through John F. Kennedy International Airport.

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The Ark at JFK
Job No.: 000373
Cargo Handling
Full-time • Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Waste Connections is currently seeking a NIGHTSHIFT Operations Supervisor with strong leadership experience to join our team in Brooklyn, NY.

Waste Connections
Job No.: 000427
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
Brooklyn, NY 11231

HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic, energetic, and eager Human Resources Coordinator in New York!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000426
Office & Administrative Support
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

INDIAN CUISINE SOUS CHEF

An incredible opportunity for a dynamic Indian Cuisine Sous Chef to explore and embrace culinary inspiration from Indian and Middle Eastern cuisines, contributing fresh ideas and flavor-forward concepts to product development and menu evolution!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000423
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

ASIAN CUISINE SOUS CHEF

Bring Asian flavors to life and shape our next wave of culinary innovation! We're seeking a dynamic Asian Cuisine Sous Chef who's passionate about exploring diverse regional flavors and infusing fresh, creative ideas into product development and menu evolution.

DO&CO
Job No.: 000422
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

MANAGER, DIVERSITY CERTIFICATION & EEO COMPLIANCE

The position supports contractor and workforce compliance, assists in investigations of EEO-related complaints, and contributes to the development and enforcement of EEO and anti-discrimination policies and procedures.

**Niagara Frontier Transportation
Authority**
Job No.: 000420
Office & Administrative Support
Full-time
Buffalo, NY 14203

AIRPORT ATTENDANT II

Under the direction of the Maintenance Foreman and/or Airfield Supervisor, performs a variety of tasks relevant to airfield operations.

**Niagara Frontier Transportation
Authority**
Job No.: 000419
Airport & Terminal Operations
Full-time
Niagara Falls International Airport

CUSTOMS ENTRY SPECIALIST

The Customs Entry Specialist prepares and processes entries, review details and verifies compliance data related calculations, and duty policies.

JAS Worldwide
Job No.: 000418
Shipping & Freight
Full-time
Valley Stream, NY 11581

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

LOUNGE AGENT

Swissport provides Ground Handling, Cargo Handling, and Passenger Services to over 300 million passengers annually.

Swissport
Job No.: 000417
Janitorial & Facility Services
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

SNOW OPERATOR - JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Aero Snow Removal, part of the Outworx Group family of companies, is currently seeking individuals to assist us in the push/pile and melting of snow at our JFK International Airport location.

Aero Snow Removal
Job No.: 000407
Ground Handling
Seasonal
JFK Airport, NY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - GROUND HANDLING

Under limited supervision, operate computers to input data into files and databases. May undertake more complex tasks where necessary.

Swissport
Job No.: 000410
Office & Administrative Support
Full-time
LaGuardia Airport, NY

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Key Responsibilities for an Account Manager for dnata Catering, your primary role is to build and maintain strong relationships with airline clients.

dnata
Job No.: 000389
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

AIRCRAFT CLEANING AGENT P/T

Aircraft Cleaning Agent provides our customers with an efficient and professional cleaning service as per their specifications.

Swissport
Job No.: 000416
Aircraft Cabin Maintenance
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

TRAFFIC OFFICE SUPERVISOR

Cargo Office Supervisor is responsible for warehouse and storage facilities, loading and unloading air cargo, ensuring cargo related documentation.

Swissport
Job No.: 000414
Cargo Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Under limited supervision, operate computers to input data into files and databases. May undertake more complex tasks where necessary.

Swissport
Job No.: 000412
Office & Administrative Support
Part-time
Long Island Mac Arthur Airport, NY

FUELING AGENT

Fueling Agent provides all necessary and required fueling services as contracted by the customer.

Swissport
Job No.: 000411
Flight Operations
Full-time
LaGuardia Airport, NY

AVIATION SNOW SUPERVISOR

Reports to the GM, the Aviation Supervisor will assist the airport base management team to ensure that services are delivered to customer(s) with the utmost level of safety and quality.

Outworks Group
Job No.: 000409
Ground Handling
Part-time • Seasonal
JFK Airport, NY

SNOW OPERATOR - NEWARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Aero Snow Removal, part of the Outworx Group family of companies, is currently seeking individuals to assist us in the push/pile and melting of snow.

Aero Snow Removal
Job No.: 000408
Ground Handling
Seasonal
EWR Airport, NJ

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Play a critical role in ensuring smooth operations, particularly during storm events, and will assist in various administrative and operational tasks.

Outworks Group
Job No.: 000406
Ground Handling
Seasonal
JFK Airport, NY

SNOW OPERATOR - LGA AIRPORT

Aero Snow Removal, part of the Outworx Group family of companies, is currently seeking individuals to assist us in the push/pile and melting of snow at our LGA International Airport location.

Aero Snow Removal
Job No.: 000403
Airport & Terminal Operations
Seasonal
LaGuardia Airport, NY

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AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

GROUND SERVICE EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (DIESEL)

Troubleshoot, repair and complete preventative maintenance on Ground Service Equipment (both motorized and non-motorized)

United Airlines
Job No.: 000402
Ground Handling
Full-time
EWR Airport, NJ

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (BUILDING ENGINEER)

Requires a thorough knowledge of general building maintenance with emphasis on electrical solving, including AC & DC circuits, high voltage (480), high amperage and some 400 cycle equipment.

United Airlines
Job No.: 000401
Janitorial & Facility Services
Full-time
EWR Airport, NJ

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

We are seeking a dedicated and detail-oriented Operations Coordinator to join our team. This position will be on call through the winter season, primarily working during winter weather events.

Outworks Group
Job No.: 000404
Airport & Terminal Operations
Seasonal
EWR Airport, NJ

CDL CLASS A DRIVER

This role requires a CDL-Class A license with relevant endorsements and a commitment to adhering to safety regulations and procedures.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000395
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

SUPERVISOR - AIRPORT OPERATIONS RAMP SERVICE

The supervisor will focus on leading and developing the skills of front-line co-workers with the goal of delivering consistent and excellent customer service and delivering a quality product in accordance with Company guidelines.

United Airlines
Job No.: 000400
Flight Operations
Full-time
EWR Airport, NJ

GSE MECHANIC

The Ground Service Mechanic is responsible for general troubleshooting and repair work on gas/diesel engines and associated systems, electrical systems, transmissions, gears, brakes, and all other systems associated with airport service equipment.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000397
Ground Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (CI) MANAGER

Key Responsibilities As a Continuous Improvement Manager at dnata Catering, you will drive operational excellence and enhance efficiencies within our aviation catering operations.

dnata
Job No.: 000393
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Inwood, NY 11096

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

As a Maintenance Technician, you will be responsible for performing various repair and maintenance tasks to ensure the smooth operation of our facilities.

dnata
Job No.: 000392
Janitorial & Facility Services
Full-time
Inwood, NY 11096

FACILITIES AND FLEET MANAGER

As a Facilities and Fleet Manager for dnata catering, you'll be responsible for overseeing and managing the facilities and fleet operations.

dnata
Job No.: 000391
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Inwood, NY 11096

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY ASSURANCE TECHNICIAN

Key Responsibilities: As a Food Safety & Quality Assurance Technician at dnata catering, an innovative catering company, your role is vital in ensuring the highest standards of food safety and quality.

dnata
Job No.: 000390
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Inwood, NY 11096

TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Key Responsibilities as a Transportation Manager at dnata Catering, you will be responsible for overseeing the efficient and timely transportation of meals and supplies to various airline clients.

dnata
Job No.: 000387
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
Inwood, NY, NY 11096

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

Key Responsibilities as a Food Safety and Quality Assurance Manager for dnata Catering, you will oversee a team consisting of a Food Safety and Quality Insurance Supervisor and multiple Food Safety and Quality Assurance Technicians.

dnata
Job No.: 000386
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

FLIGHT COORDINATOR

Key Responsibilities as a Flight Coordinator for dnata catering, your main responsibility is to oversee and manage the inflight catering operations.

dnata
Job No.: 000385
Flight Operations
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

COOK

Key Responsibilities as a Cook at dnata Catering your main responsibility is to prepare exquisite, gourmet meals specifically designed for airline customers.

dnata
Job No.: 000384
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

COLD KITCHEN ASSEMBLY

Key Responsibilities as a Cold Kitchen Assembly team member for dnata catering, your role is to meticulously prepare and assemble a variety of cold food items for airline passengers.

dnata
Job No.: 000383
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

DISPATCHER

Responsibilities as a The Dispatcher at dnata Catering plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of our transportation services.

dnata
Job No.: 000382
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

CONTROLLER MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Controller is designated as the single point of contact for aircraft status, restrictions, and is the Technical Operations focal contact point with respect to the rest of the airline.

JetBlue
Job No.: 000381
Flight Operations
Full-time

Long Island City, NY 11101

MANAGER CREW RELATIONS

The Manager Crew Relations is responsible for providing human resource tools and data to influence effective leadership and engage crewmembers in their assigned areas.

JetBlue
Job No.: 000380
Flight Operations
Full-time

Long Island City, NY 11101

KITCHEN HELPER

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic culinary Kitchen Helper to join our New York Team!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000378
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic Transportation Supervisor to join our growing New York Team!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000377
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

CARGO SERVICE AGENT

Are you ready to explore a world of possibilities, both at work and during your time off? Join our American Airlines family, and you'll travel the world, grow your expertise and become the best version of you.

American Airlines
Job No.: 000368
Cargo Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

DISPATCHER

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic Dispatcher to join our growing New York Team!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000376
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

PRODUCTION PLANNING COORDINATOR

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic, energetic, and eager Production Planning Coordinator in New York!

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NON-REV TRAVELER

A Cruise Stay Alternative to Southampton, England

BY JONATHAN KATZ
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If you are considering taking the Queen Mary 2 or another cruise ship departing from Southampton, England, about 2 hours south of London, we suggest an alternative city to stay in before or after your cruise – Portsmouth, England; a beautiful city, particularly in warmer months, with quite a number of interesting museums along with many options for shopping, eating, and just walking around – an excellent place to visit.

Our second cruise on the Queen Mary 2 began with a terrific flight to London on JetBlue Airways, followed by an easy rail connection from London Heathrow Airport via London Waterloo Train Station to Portsmouth.

We have been told by another Delta agent that Portsmouth, located only 14 miles from Southampton, is a terrific town to visit and ‘hold over’ for a cruise from Southampton, and we were not to be disappointed.

The beginning of our visit to Portsmouth was our arrival at the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel, about 10 to 15 minutes outside downtown but located in a large commercial area.

Our tour of Portsmouth started with a visit to Gunwharf Quay, located along the banks of the Solent Strait. This modern outdoor shopping center also offers several harbor cruises. We decided to take one of the one-hour cruises available.

On our second day, we visited the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, which houses the famous clipper ship, the Mary Rose, as well as the retired HMS Warrior and HMS Victory warships. In the downtown area there are quite a number of ocean-themed historic museums to visit. We were also able to view the tallest structure in Portsmouth, the Spinnaker Tower.



We walked from the dockyard across downtown Portsmouth to an area called “Old Portsmouth”, again on the Solent Strait, which has quite a number of restaurants and bars, all very historic, beautiful, and interesting.

A great museum to visit in Portsmouth is the D-Day Story Museum. Other museums worth exploring include the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the World War One Remembrance Centre. Portsmouth is the birthplace of Charles Dickens, and you can visit his museum there. There are many ferries along the strait, including ferries that go to the famous Isle of Wight – another terrific location to visit, but mainly in better weather in the Summer and Fall.


The main story of this town continues to be the people of Portsmouth. They were very friendly, proud of their city, and hospitable. One couple volunteered to take us back to our hotel from ‘Old Portsmouth’ via the historic Southsea Castle that we would have missed. They also offered to take us to a nearby tavern for some refreshments.

On our departure day for the Queen Mary 2, our Uber ride was simple, about 1/2 hour in duration, and directly to the Queen Mary 2. You can take a train from Portsmouth to Southampton, but Uber is considered to be a much more efficient way of going.

We’ve already written about a cruise on the Queen Mary 2 (**February 2025**), but just to reiterate, it is a terrific 7-day nonstop oceanic cruise across the Atlantic to Brooklyn, New York. It is elegant, not overly expensive, and absolutely worthwhile. This cruise has no scheduled stops, but rest assured, there is plenty to keep you occupied each day. One highlight is a special, almost ceremonial, English tea every afternoon. This delightful event features a variety of offerings, including a course of tea sandwiches, a course of English scones, and a course showcasing a wide selection of desserts. ■



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UPCOMING EVENTS



The most comprehensive listing of New York & New Jersey airport and aviation events available anywhere online. metroairportnews.com/ny-airport-events

December 1

**JFK Airport Committee (JFKAC)
Quarterly Meeting**
Virtual Event
aircraftnoise.panynj.gov/nycar

December 2

**JFK Rotary Club
Children's Holiday Party**
Jet Blue Hangar 81
Jamaica, New York 11430
www.jfkrotaryclub.org

December 3

**JFK Chamber of Commerce
Networking Event**
Casa Margaritas
Bellerose, New York 11426
jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

December 5

**KAAMCO Cargo Committee
Holiday Dinner Dance**
Marriott New York JFK Airport
Jamaica, New York 11436
www.kaamco.org

December 9

**Republic Airport
Commission Meeting**
Republic Airport-(FRG)
East Farmingdale, New York 11735
www.republicairport.net

December 9

ADDAPT Holiday Party
Heritage Club at
Bethpage State Park
Farmingdale, New York 1173
www.addaptny.org

December 9

LAAMCO Holiday Party
The Atrium: Orpheus & Apollo Lounge
East Elmhurst, New York 11371
www.laamco.com

December 10

**Community Mayors:
Operation Santa**
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building
Jamaica, New York 11430
Over 4,000 children with special abilities are entertained in a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport provided by the PANYNJ and PAPD.
www.communitymayors.org

December 11

Wings Club Meeting
Guest Speaker: Bob Jordan, CEO,
Southwest Airlines
The Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.wingsclub.org

December 11

**25th Anniversary of the
Aviation High School JFK Annex**
141 Federal Circle
Jamaica, New York 11430
www.aviationhs.net

December 11

**JFK Air Cargo Association
Holiday Luncheon & Toy Drive**
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkaircargo.aero

December 11

**MacArthur Business Alliance
Networking & Nutcrackers**
Toast Coffee & Kitchen
3 Hawkins Avenue, Unit 1101,
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
www.macarthurbusinessalliance.com

December 12

LGA Kiwanis Club Holiday Party
Drinkology
43-04 34th Avenue
New York 11101
www.lgakiwanis.org

December 13

**The Christ for the World Chapel
Christmas Concert**
JFK Airport - Terminal 4
Jamaica, New York 11430
www.christfortheworldchapel.org

December 13

**American Airpower Museum
Holiday Pancake Breakfast**
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale, NY 11735
www.americanairpowermuseum.com

December 17

**KAAMCO Members
Holiday Meeting**
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building
Jamaica, New York 11430
www.kaamco.org

December 13-14

Festival of Games
Cradle-Con and Long Island Retro Gaming Expo are proud to present Festival of Games – a holiday-themed extravaganza of shopping and gaming experiences.
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, NY 11530
www.cradleofaviation.org

December 20

**GatewayJFK 8th Annual
Community Holiday Event**
Corner of Baisley & Rockaway Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11430
www.gatewayjfk.com

December 23

**Queens Chamber of Commerce
Holiday Reception**
Terrace On the Park
52-11 111th Street
Flushing, New York
www.queenschamber.org

January 29

Wings Club January Luncheon
The Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.wingsclub.org

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