

METROPOLITAN Airport News™

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The Journal of the Metropolitan New York Airport Community

Terminal 6 Prepares to Open Its Gates

ACF hosts a discussion about the phase one opening of Terminal 6 at JFK Airport



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In addition to the on-field action, the tournament emphasizes the importance of supporting the next generation of aviation professionals, strengthening community connections, and promoting teamwork and friendly rivalry within the airport community.
www.acf-cup.org

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Welcome to the February 2026 issue of *Metropolitan Airport News*! I hope your colleagues are managing well during the coldest part of winter in the Northeast. Many people at the airports work outdoors, so it's important to stay warm and take frequent breaks to ensure safe operations. As in most industries, prioritizing safety in airport operations increases efficiency. Please encourage your teams to work safely during these challenging conditions.

In this issue, we are excited to share an event hosted by the **Airport Community Foundation (ACF)**, of which I am a founding member. We have been actively raising funds for recipients within the airport community, supporting workforce development, and assisting local students on their path to successful careers in the aviation industry. We have several large events coming up, and we would love to see you all there! The next event is the **ACF Cup**, an airport employee soccer tournament. Gather your teams, bring your colleagues, friends, and families for an exciting day of competitive games and camaraderie—it's an event you won't want to miss!

Progress on the **Terminal 6 project at JFK Airport** has been remarkable; it feels like just yesterday they were breaking ground, and Metropolitan Airport News has been there for all the major milestones. The T6 JFK Millennium Partners team has been fantastic to collaborate with on editorial content and updates, including hosting the recent Airport Executive Series Luncheon with the Airport Community Foundation. You can read all about **Steve Thody's** fireside chat with our editor-in-chief, **Julia Lauria-Blum**, last month, in which they discussed the grand opening of the new terminal in great depth. Like all of you, we cannot wait to see the final product!

Be sure to check our calendar for up-to-date events throughout the metropolitan New York airports: www.metroairportnews.com/ny-airport-events. Visit our website to register and stay informed with a steady stream of articles and information relevant to the airport community: www.metroairportnews.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I look forward to seeing you around the airports!



KATIE BLISS, *Publisher*
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ON THE COVER

This month's cover photo was taken by **Eraldo Llukaj**, a facilities coordinator with JFK Millennium Partners, working on the development of Terminal 6, one of the airport's newest terminals. In addition to his work at JMP, he is an aviation photographer focused on capturing aircraft and the evolution of modern airports.

(L.-R.): *Karen Ali, COO; Steve Thody, CEO; Derek Thielmann, T6 Project Director, and Mike Sibilia, CFO.*

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center

Opening the door to skills that lead to confidence, independence, and dignity.



BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center (SSNDEC), located in Woodhaven, Queens empowers underserved women of all races and faiths to reach the fullness of their potential.

In 2004, the SSNDEC opened its doors with a simple but profound belief: an educated woman is the agent of change for herself, her family, and society. Founded by Sisters Janice Algie, Cathy Feeney, and Jean McLaughlin, the center has grown from its roots in Jamaica, Queens, to their current home in the heart of Woodhaven, one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the country.

Within a safe and welcoming environment, the Catholic-sponsored SSNDEC provides programs that educate adult women whose educational journeys were interrupted by circumstance.

Imagine not knowing how to use the shift key, download an app, or look up public transit directions to a hospital. Imagine not knowing how to save or print a file. Imagine trying to apply for a job, but you can't open the website. For many women who have come to SSNDEC, this was their daily reality.

Today, through the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center's tuition-free programs—including High School Equivalency (GED), six levels of ESOL, Digital Literacy, and Citizenship



School Sisters of Notre Dame

Preparation—the Center empowers underserved women. Beyond teaching essential skills, SSNDEC nurtures the ‘whole woman’ through holistic support, offering health initiatives, yoga, and professional workshops on resume building, interviewing, and financial planning.

The GED (General Educational Development) Preparation Course includes instruction in each of the four subject areas of the GED test (Math, Science, Social Studies, Reasoning Through Language Arts). Classes are taught by teachers who are NYS certified in their respective areas and they work closely with students throughout the year to determine when a student is ready to take a subject test. Students are welcome to continue at the Center until they have passed all subjects. Small class size, subject immersion, and individual attention foster student success.

Throughout the year, SSNDEC offers special celebrations for their students. Some highlights include a potluck lunch at Thanksgiving; special field trips; a Christmas party sponsored by The Ladies of Charity of St. John's University; Pi day; and a closing ceremony when all of the Center's current students receive certificates for their hard work throughout the year.

To date, the SSNDEC have served over 2000 women and their families and built strong relationships with them.

Last August, during a conversation I had with SSNDEC's Executive Director, **Francine Poppo** in regard to the Center's report with the Queen's airport community, she said, “We believe all our programs and services provide opportunities for women in the region, encompassing the Port Authority airports. In particular, we actively seek ways to bring awareness to opportunities by inviting leaders from the airport industry businesses to speak to our students about opportunities and pathways that are available to them that work within and alongside their own individualized plans and goals for career improvement and advancement. Individuals and corporations within the airport community have been very supportive of the SSND Educational Center's mission and ministry since its inception. Our efforts to strengthen and grow those relationships include our participation in wonderful organizations such as the JFK Chamber of Commerce, JFK Rotary Club, and Airport Community Foundation.” ■

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Aigner Chocolates

Offering handcrafted confections in Forest Hills, Queens, since 1930, coming soon to Terminal 6 at JFK Airport.



Aigner Chocolates is one of NYC's oldest chocolate shops, offering handcrafted confections in Forest Hills, Queens, since 1930. Originally established as Krause's Candy Kitchen, it has grown into a beloved neighborhood institution. The Aigner family took over in the early 1960s and ran the shop for three generations, preserving its legacy of quality sweets. Aigner Chocolates continues to grow, with its products now available at T6.

www.aignerchocolates.com

Rachel Kellner, Owner, Aigner Chocolates



What is Aigner Chocolates' connection to Queens?

Aigner Chocolates has been proudly rooted in Forest Hills, Queens since 1930, making us part of the borough's history for nearly a century. Our chocolates are handcrafted locally, and we remain closely connected to the community. We regularly collaborate with neighboring small businesses along Metropolitan Avenue and support local initiatives that strengthen the area's vibrant commercial district.

How does the idea of "food as therapy" fit into Aigner Chocolates' philosophy?

The idea of "food as therapy" reflects our belief that chocolate can offer comfort, joy, and connection. Under the leadership of Rachel Kellner, whose background as a therapist shapes our people-centered approach, Aigner Chocolates views chocolate as more than a treat.

Our mission is to spread joy and hope through the magic of our chocolate, which includes actively supporting our community through initiatives and chocolate donations to local organizations and causes. We believe small acts of sweetness can have a lasting emotional impact.

What differentiates Aigner Chocolates from other chocolatiers?

Aigner Chocolates is defined by uncompromising quality and nearly a century of craftsmanship. We continue to produce chocolates using historic, time-honored recipes while thoughtfully incorporating modern flavors and trends.

The truest reflection of our quality is the loyalty of our customers, many of whom have chosen Aigner Chocolates for decades and across generations. That lasting trust speaks to the consistency, care, and attention that go into everything we make.

What treats should travelers be sure to buy before boarding a flight home?

For a classic choice rooted in our Austrian heritage, travelers can't go wrong with favorites like marzipan, caramels, Vienna truffles, as well as traditional truffles, cat tongues, and nonpareils. If they'd like to try a variety, our gift boxes are a great way to sample multiple chocolates at once. Our gift boxes also make an easy and thoughtful option for visiting friends or family, featuring an assortment of our handcrafted chocolates. For those looking to take home a New

York memento, we offer NYC-themed chocolates that make a meaningful and delicious souvenir. We also carry gummies and fruit slices for those not craving chocolate, and our popular chocolate pops for kids, available in a variety of fun shapes.

What advice would you give aspiring entrepreneurs looking to break into the airport concessions business?

Be patient and stay solution-focused! Airport concessions require strong operations, consistency, and the ability to scale while maintaining quality. Having a clear brand identity, reliable production, and flexibility to meet airport demands is essential. Building strong partnerships and staying committed to your standards will help set the foundation for long-term success. ■



ON DUTY

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



Marc Ricks

Avports announced a strategic leadership transition. **Marc Ricks**, a veteran in infrastructure and real estate development and operations executive, will join Avports as CEO, bringing more than two decades of experience in infrastructure, real estate, operations, and public-private alignment to the company. Ricks most recently served as CEO of ShopCore Properties, a Blackstone portfolio company and vertically integrated retail real estate operator overseeing more than 15 million square feet nationwide.



Mara Winn

K2 Security Screening Group announced that **Mara Winn** has joined the company as Vice President of Aviation. In this role, Mara will lead the K2 Security Screening Group in the design, planning, management, and installation of critical security infrastructure for airports, supporting safe, efficient operations across the aviation sector. Mara brings more than 25 years of experience spanning program management, strategic road-map development, and full product development life cycles, from threat and needs analysis through implementation and closeout. ■



Kathryn Garcia

PANYNJ Board of Commissioners approved the nomination of **Kathryn Garcia** to serve as the agency's next executive director. Garcia brings three decades of experience across government. Previously, Garcia served in senior roles in NYC government, including as commissioner of the Department of Sanitation, interim chair of the New York City Housing Authority, and as the city's COVID-19 food czar. As executive director, Garcia will lead day-to-day operations across the PA's air, rail, bridge, tunnel, and seaport operations and will deliver the recently approved 10-year Port Authority capital plan.



Jean Roehrenbeck

The agency's Board of Commissioners also approved the nomination of **Jean Roehrenbeck** to serve as deputy executive director. Roehrenbeck brings extensive experience in federal transportation policy government affairs. As deputy executive director, Roehrenbeck will report directly to the executive director. ■

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Terminal 6 Prepares to Open Its Gates

ACF hosts a discussion about the phase one opening of Terminal 6 at JFK Airport

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

In 2024, I spoke with **Steve Thody**, CEO of JFK Millennium Partners (JMP), about the two-phase development of the John F. Kennedy International Airport's (JFK) new 1.2 million-square-foot Terminal 6. The first phase of the terminal's redevelopment is on track to open its initial gates this year, with full construction slated for completion in 2028.

Terminal 6 (T6) at JFK is a public-private partnership between the Port Authority of

New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) and JFK Millennium Partners (JMP) – a consortium led by Vantage Group, an industry-leading investor, developer, and manager of award-winning global airport projects, including LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B.

T6 will create an anchor for passenger travel on JFK's north side, spanning the sites of the former Terminal 6 (demolished in 2011) and the existing Terminal 7. JFK Millennium Partners is managing Terminal 7 until the 54-year-old facility is demolished this year. This will make way for the second phase of T6's construction,

which begins once the new Terminal 6's first phase opens.

Major milestones have followed the groundbreaking of the new Terminal 6, which was held on February 23, 2023. These include the October 2024 topping-out ceremony, the installation of a massive oculus skylight, and the securing of significant green bonds. With plans for a shared electric ground support (GSE) fleet, the project is advancing toward its first-phase opening this year, promising a digital-first, sustainable design featuring new gates and world-class art.

This past January, less than two years after our 2024 talk, JMP's **Steve Thody** joined an invitation-only fireside chat at The Union at Eisenhower Park. Hosted by the Airport Community Foundation (ACF), he discussed the final stages of the highly anticipated phase one grand opening of the new T6.

About 60 invited Terminal 6 stakeholders attended the luncheon, eager to learn more about the phase one opening in the banquet room of The Union overlooking Eisenhower Park's expansive, snow-covered golf courses. This venue provided an appropriate setting to discuss embarking on new chapters in air travel, as the surrounding grounds were once known as the Hempstead Plains. Today, they are celebrated as the Cradle of Aviation, where pioneering aviators once took to the skies to advance the technology of flight.

The program was opened by **Katie Bliss**, President of Aqueous Solutions and an ACF executive board member, followed by a short video about Terminal 6. Katie then introduced Steve Thody and me as the guests and moderator. To encourage interaction, attendees were asked to scan QR codes on either side of the room to access Slido, allowing them to participate in live polls and submit questions at the end of the chat.

Serving as the host and Q&A moderator, I explored the T6 team's progress with

Steve, covering the construction status and key milestones leading to the terminal's 2026 opening. We also discussed how JFK Millennium Partners intends to set a new standard for travel at JFK Airport, offering a boutique, five-star guest experience when the first gates open this year.

At the opening of the chat, Steve spoke about the T6 team's collective spirit and the creation of a "North Star" during the terminal's construction. He noted how this single vision has guided the project from the outset and continues to do so as they prepare to open in the coming months.

"The team at the airport isn't anything different from a sports team. We have JMP, our commercial team, our facilities management, and maintenance teams. This winter's storm was an example of how the team rallied together to ensure that Terminal 7 was open the next day and ready for our passengers. We surround ourselves with the expertise of concessions. All these create a team dynamic. Having a North Star to rally around is what's going to make us successful at T6, and we continue to believe in that," said Thody.

Discussing The Vantage Group's 30-year history of global airport transformation, Thody highlighted how their success at JFK depends on resilient partnerships with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and federal agencies. With a

three-decade legacy, the team brings vast experience from projects across the Caribbean, Cyprus, South America, and Canada. *"There's a saying, 'If you've seen one airport, you've seen one airport.' None of them are the same, no partners are the same, no operation is the same. We work successfully through our partnerships with the airlines, the vendors in the building, and the agencies that we work with."*

At the forefront of next-generation airports in the United States, T6 will be home to many 'firsts'

"You'll hear about a lot of 'firsts' today," noted Steve. He then announced the selection of a guest experience partner for the new T6. *"We are working diligently with them on a guest experience program that includes training for everyone at T6. By involving the entire community, we ensure our customer interactions are consistent and deliver a five-star service that anticipates traveler needs. This is a prime example of how we integrate the T6, JMP, and Vantage Airport Group way of working into our everyday operations."*

As a boutique terminal, the design of the brand-new infrastructure is light and airy, de-stressing the customer journey, all while minimizing walk times. Alongside that, a notable first is that Terminal 6 will be physically connected to JFK Terminal 5 upon its opening. This seamless connection to JetBlue's home at T5 will provide additional gates and expand the airline's capacity for new flights, destinations, and partner connections. Additionally, the new T5 exit roadway, recently opened, now features its own direct path above the Terminal 6 construction site, facilitating a quicker exit from JFK. Better yet, while the terminals are connected, each will have its own dedicated roadway when T6 opens later this spring.

Another groundbreaking first, not only at JFK but at any airport in the U.S., is the integration of an EGSE (all-electric ground service equipment) pooling operation model developed with Fortbrand. Founded in 1983, Fortbrand is a Long Island-based business that has successfully provided ground support equipment (GSE) and solutions to New



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York airports for decades. Their commitment to optimizing airport operations while ensuring safe, efficient performance has brought Fortbrand and JMP's T6 team together to establish the first pooled GSE operation in North America.

With a pooling model, there is a common-use fleet of equipment that all handlers, and therefore all airlines, share. T6 will elevate industry standards by prioritizing effective ramp management, greater accountability, sustainability, and high safety standards. To support this effort, JMP worked closely with airline partners to select four ground handling companies that would receive operating permits at T6, including ASAK, dnata, WFS, and Airway.

Because pooling is new to many ground handlers, JMP and Fortbrand have developed a pre-opening program that includes hands-on equipment training, certification, and early system integration. Dedicated testing areas and sample equipment allow teams to familiarize themselves with operations. At the same time, system access and SIDA badge authorizations are established well before day one to ensure a secure, smooth launch.

Ensuring a 5-Star Experience – Community, Technology, Advanced Preparation

Attending T6 partners were polled about what they believe will create a 5-star guest experience and passenger journey at the new T6. The leading responses included: the T6 community; the new hybrid self-service baggage drop machines; a world-class New York-inspired concessions program; and a 5-minute walk to the gates.

Regarding the T6 community, Steve Thody emphasized that success requires a collective effort: "We can't do this as an individual company." He noted that the Terminal 6 project depends on more than just a building — it depends on people. "To ensure a five-star guest experience, the corporate team's vision, grounded in Vantage Group's global expertise, will require consistent attention to detail from all partners in order to achieve their ambitious, world-class service goals."



Advanced Technology Will Enhance Both Passenger & Employee Experiences

In speaking about self-service bag drops, Thody said, "We made a decision very early on to actually take out all the standard check-in desks at T6, and we replaced them all with 100% self-service hybrid bag drops (SSBD). So, we can now flex between the standard check-in or a SSBD check-in. What that will do is 'future-proof us as people change their travel habits.'" Steve then explained how biometrics can be activated at bag drops so that a passenger's face is matched to their passport or driver's license, adding, "We can start to look at biometrics for TSA, and biometrics that will be available at all the gates."

While Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been pushing biometrics as a standard, JMP conducted a test run years ago at British Airways in Terminal 7, where boarding a 747 was 15 to 20 minutes faster. "It was surprising to see how unlocking the technology allowed agents at the gate to focus on problems while letting everyone else board quickly. It sped up the process and improved the guest experience — that's what technology should be for."

For the next phase of the behind-the-scenes employee experience at T6, JMP/Vantage has been working with a company called Opfyx, which will be a game-changer

for terminal operations. Opfyx is designed as a T6 community platform that allows all stakeholders to access live maps, operational updates, flight times, and baggage info, while also enabling management to broadcast messages. "Eventually, we will be morphing into how we collect data and provide an AI overlay on that platform so that we'll be able to have real-time information and predicted information. If you're an airline, you'll see all of your flights; if you're a ground handler, you'll see all the activity you're handling. This is designed to make the experience as seamless as possible, and keep the entire T6 community connected."

The elements supporting a smooth and secure launch of T6 include ongoing staff orientations and ORAT (Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer) trials. ORAT is a structured risk-mitigation process that ensures new or renovated airport infrastructure is fully operational, staff are trained, and systems are tested before opening. It bridges construction and operations by coordinating stakeholders, conducting trials, such as baggage and security, and facilitating a seamless transition to the new facility. "There's a whole plan around the launch of T6, which will start to activate in the months ahead of the opening. But in terms of the

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Airport & Aviation Environmental Services

Aqueous Solutions serves as a critical environmental contractor at John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport, providing around-the-clock specialized cleaning and emergency response services. Headquartered onsite at JFK Airport, with airside access, Aqueous Solutions is uniquely positioned for immediate deployment to address **biohazards, chemical spills, and general environmental remediation and reclamation.**

Our team members are SIDA-badged with U.S. Customs Seals and maintain PONYA-plated vehicles, allowing them to access the entire airport footprint, including the Air Operations Area (AOA) and aircraft, without requiring an escort. This high level of clearance ensures that environmental mitigation can begin instantly, **minimizing operational downtime** and ensuring compliance with DEC and EPA regulations.

A key component of our environmental services is the deployment and management of specialized **spill kits tailored for the airport environment.** These kits are designed to manage various hazardous materials, including aircraft fuel, oils, and de-icing fluids, preventing them from entering the airport's catch basins or local waterways.

In addition to **emergency spill response,** Aqueous Solutions utilizes advanced technologies, such as electrostatic fogging and closed-loop reclamation pressure washing, to sanitize high-traffic areas, including terminals, ULDs (Unit Load Devices), and entire aircraft if needed. We adhere to Best Management Practices Plan (BMPP) implementation and management as required by the PANYNJ.

Aqueous Solutions' long-standing airport presence—including over a decade of biosafety work under USDA supervision at JFK—positions Aqueous Solutions as a primary partner for maintaining the complex environmental standards required at the nation's busiest airports.

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operational readiness and testing, all of the teams at the moment are working with their vendors, especially facilities,” said Thody. From an orientation perspective, in preparation for the opening, everyone who works in the building will need to walk the facility and know where the security checkpoints are and how to navigate the corridors.

As the Port Authority has partnered with JMP, they have been working together on a dedicated process for PONYA plating GSE equipment and badging as they begin to bring in more staff, especially on the concessions side. “We’ve been talking to all new concessionaires about new staffing and how to get the staffing pushed through a more dedicated process from a badging perspective, to get them up and running,” said Thody, adding. “There’s lots of different work streams on getting us ready. Keep an eye out, as at some point close to going live, we will have a live trial date. Friends and family will be coming along so that you can bring them and walk around the building, acting as passengers. You will get a fake badge, check in, go through security, and basically help us test the entire building.”

T6 In the Community

Many community organizations and local businesses, along with commercial partners such as dining and retail concessionaires and guest service providers, will benefit Queens and the wider region. The initiative



is strongly linked with the Community Advisory Council (CAC), chaired by Queens Borough President **Donovan Richards** and Congressman **Gregory Meeks**. The CAC was set up in conjunction with the Port Authority as an oversight committee to ensure that, as the \$19 Billion project develops at JFK Airport, whether funded directly by the Port Authority or by JMP/Vantage, it promotes local and MWBE-owned businesses. “In the immediate future, we plan to organize a T6 job fair where all our partners can participate and facilitate direct connections to local talent,” emphasized Thody.

Additionally, JMP is actively engaged with

local academic partners, where their HR team recently met with leadership at York and Vaughn Colleges to connect directly with students and recent graduates.

The Future of Terminal 7

Planning for Terminal 7’s demolition is already underway, and it will be torn down as soon as possible, as it stands in the way of phase two. The project goal is to apply circularity principles to repurpose as many materials as possible. JMP is currently salvaging equipment from T7, including jet bridges, hold-room seating, kitchen equipment, furniture, and other smaller fixtures. Moreover, once the structure is demolished, the plan is to recycle nearly all construction waste. At this time, in Terminal 6, more than 95% of construction waste has been recycled, and the aim is to achieve the same for T7.

Regarding a timeline, the original aggressive schedule for late last year was pushed to February and is now set for Spring 2026. “The reality is that putting the power into the building took a lot longer. It was delayed, partly because of some redesign and changes that needed to be made,” explained Thody. “That has now put us on the back foot for some of the systems testing of the fire alarms, the IT systems.” Currently, JMP is working with its building firm, where its workforce is working multiple shifts to maintain the Spring timeframe.



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ASAK

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Milestones Met and Still to Achieve

“For those who haven’t been on site, at TSA, all the equipment is in and is basically in place during testing, so that by approximately February 10, it will be fully tested and ready to go. The baggage system has been done for a while. TSA sent in their SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) in December, and they did about two-thirds of their testing, whereas they will need to finish the testing in March and certify the system for April. We’re also working on the CBP area to try to get their space handed over. Finishes on the building are coming along really well. So, a lot of this is down to testing of the systems.” said Thody.

In wrapping up our discussion, I asked Steve what three words he would use to describe the new Terminal 6 and he replied:

“**Boutique** is the first that springs to mind. While T6 won’t be the largest terminal at JFK, it’s probably going to give the best experience for customers from the moment they drive up and walk all the way through to Departures—and again, through Arrivals, through CBP, or domestic arrivals and back out. The terminal will have a large plaza so that when a passenger arrives, they’re not walking out of the building and stepping onto a road. There will be greenery and seats, and during the spring and summer, you will be able to sit outside, wait in comfort, and soak in some sunlight.”

“**World-Class.** I do think we’ll deliver a world-class terminal and world-class experience, and the way we will do that is with everyone in this room.”

“**Community.** We talked about the T6 community. It’s probably one of the biggest things that I think about. We talk about the leadership



and how we bring everyone together to deliver this world-class, boutique terminal.”

Afterwards, there was a Q&A session, where someone in the audience asked, ‘What are you most excited about for T6?’ He paused for a moment and answered, ‘I can’t wait to see the first passenger who arrives on a plane and enters the building. There’s a story peers at LaGuardia tell about the first passengers to arrive at Terminal B, where United, Southwest, and Air Canada operate. When that flight arrived, the first few passengers got off the plane, looked around, and said, ‘Sorry... where are we?’

The story was received with laughter, before Steve concluded with, “So, I think seeing people’s faces as they arrive at the new Terminal 6—especially domestic arrivals entering this big, light, airy concourse—and seeing their expressions as they interact with the

space will be great. It’s the same for departing passengers at TSA; when they first lay eyes on the Grand Hall or the East Concourse, it’s quite a moment.”

After the Q&A and thanks to the generosity of the T6 airport community and sponsors, the non-profit Airport Community Foundation (ACF), which hosted the luncheon, raised over \$11,000 in donations, which were presented to Vaughn College of Aeronautics, CUNY Aviation Institute at York College, and the newly formed Women Inspiring Nex-Gen Stars (WINGS) at JFK.

Following the close of the program and chat, the warmth and camaraderie in the room between the T6 community who attended the luncheon were palpable. Afterward, all were invited to go upstairs to the Union’s cigar bar to cap off the informative afternoon. ■



The proceeds from the ACF Airport Executive Speaker Series luncheon were donated directly to the CUNY Aviation Center at York College, Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Technology, and Women Inspiring Nex-Gen Stars (WINGS) at JFK.

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Aloha Airlines: The Spirit of Hawaii

Hawaii's second major, but colorful and creative carrier

BY ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL
robertw@metroairportnews.com

“Aloha, the Hawaiian greeting of “hello” and, by little stretch of the imagination, “welcome,” became the name of the state’s second major airline because its founder realized that not everyone was. He was once one of them.

The People’s Airline

That founder, Ruddy F. Tongg, Sr., an Asian-American and Honolulu publisher, was once refused boarding on a flight to the U.S. mainland because of his ethnicity, and the event became the catalyst for a Hawaiian carrier that would both employ and transport non-Caucasians. It would, for the first time, offer competition to Inter-Island Airlines, a subsidiary of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, which would later be renamed Hawaiian Airlines.

Initially operating a pair of war-surplus Douglas C-47s converted to DC-3 passenger standard and initially operating on a charter basis, TPA Trans-Pacific Airlines dispatched its first flight from Rodgers Field, Honolulu’s original airport that equally sported its World War II roots with its Navy-built Quonset huts, on July 26, 1946.

From that branch of service came the two pilots who took the aircraft to the air, Al Olson and Louis Lucas. “It was an Aloha Friday, back in the days when that meant something special in the Islands,” according to the account in “A Proud History: The Story of Aloha Airlines.” “As the morning sun warmed the air hanging limply over Ke’ehi Lagoon, the freshly painted DC-3 taxied to the end of Runway 4-Right at John Rodgers Field.”

Take-off clearance was granted by the Aloha Tower, then the tallest building in all



Boeing 737-200

of the Hawaiian Islands. “...The plane turned into the wind and gunned its twin Pratt and Whitney engines,” the account continues. “The throaty roar scattered the snowy-white terns...foraging by the runway and echoed across the Ke’ehi Lagoon toward Diamond Head...”

Founded for and by Islanders and therefore embodying the very concept of inclusion, it quickly became known as “The People’s Airline,” avoiding all types of exclusivity. Roy Umaki became its first Asian-American pilot.

Opening its arms to everyone, TPA served as the aerial passenger and cargo link between Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii, eliminating the need for the longer journey by sea. Three years later, it achieved scheduled-airline status, and the first post-war seed to tourism expansion was symbolized by the opening of Honolulu International Airport, which replaced Rodgers Field.

“After the end of World War II, Hawaiian lost its monopoly on air transport in

Hawaii,” according to R. E. G. Davies in *Airlines of the United States Since 1914* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998, p. 316). “On June 9, 1946, Trans-Pacific Airlines was incorporated under the Law of the Territory, and non-scheduled services were started on July 26. Progress to full scheduled-airline status took almost exactly three years...”

It initially made significant inroads into the once monopolistic Inter-Island. Serving Honolulu, Molokai, Maui, Upolu, Kona, Hilo, and Kauai by the summer of 1950, it operated 22 daily flights. Two years later, having since been approved for the carriage of mail, it transported 175,000 annual passengers, a 26-percent increase over the year-earlier period, and turned its first profit of \$36,000.

Now dubbed “TPA—The People’s Airline,” it uniquely satisfied the senses in flight—sweet pineapple juice for the taste, ukulele playing for the sound, and hula dancing for the sight—courtesy of its flight

Continued On Page 19



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attendant “entertainers.” It advertised its 28-passenger DC-3s as “Alohaliners,” and their elongated windows offered panoramic views of the islands.

Fleet Upgrades

Unable to adequately compete with Hawaiian Airlines, which operated more modern Convair 340s, Trans-Pacific ordered faster, higher-capacity, turboprop-powered Fairchild F-27s, the first of which was delivered on April 15, 1959. The year marked a milestone for the carrier: it changed its name to Aloha Airlines to reflect its location, and Hawaii became the nation’s 50th state.

In its timetable, it urged, “For more than just transportation, fly Aloha Airlines—The People’s Airline in Hawaii.” It served the Honolulu, Molokai, Maui, Kona, and Hilo route with some dozen daily frequencies and the Honolulu-Kauai route with four. Its market share increased to 40 percent.

In 1963, it introduced quad-engine Vickers V.745 Viscounts, which complemented its F-27s, enabling it to emphasize that “Only Aloha Airlines provides the modern convenience of all jet power for Hawaii,” urging passengers to “Fly Aloha jet-prop Viscounts and F-27s at no extra fare.”

Although both aircraft were powered by turboprop engines, whose turbine core turned propellers, it began service with a type powered by pure-jet engines three years later, when it took delivery of the first of two Rolls-Royce Spey-powered British



Vickers V.745 Viscount

Aircraft Corporation BAC 1-11-215s, named “Queen Kapidani,” to more effectively compete with Hawaiian’s DC-9s.

Still able to boast of an “all-Rolls Royce-powered fleet,” it assured passengers of “the powerful confidence of Rolls Royce engines on every aircraft,” providing them with “a quiet, lounging refinement with the friendliest name in flight—Aloha Airlines.”

Designating the type as its “Alohajet,” it stressed that it was “the elegant way to fly between the islands. And in Hawaii, only the Aloha jet offers you a central lounge designed to accommodate businessmen or families. Pamper yourself in the jet, which combines elegance with the colorful décor of Hawaii.”

Yet, performance restrictions, precluding it from full-payload operations at some of the destinations in its route system, later prompted it to replace the BAC 1-11s with 737-200s. Featuring a new, more colorful livery of orange and yellow with a tropical flower design on their vertical fins, they were dubbed the “fun birds of Aloha” and became the mainstay of its fleet.

“After introducing British-built Vickers Viscount four-engine prop-jets in 1963 and the all-jet BAC 1-11s in the mid-1960s... Aloha found the new Boeing 737 passenger jet,” according to “A Proud History: The Story of Aloha Airlines” (op. cit.). “It was love at first sight.”

Continued On Page 20



British Aircraft Corporation BAC 1-11-215



Boeing 737-700 in Bird of Paradise Colors

Route Expansion

Seeking to expand its reach, it acquired Princeville Airways in 1987 and renamed it Aloha Island Air. Equipped with appropriately-sized, 19-passenger DHC-6 Twin Otters, it was now able to serve small, limited-traffic Hawaiian destinations, such as Lanai City, Kalaupapa, and Hana.

Nevertheless, remotely located on the Hawaiian Islands and limited with its existing, first-generation 737-200 fleet, Aloha embarked upon a U.S. Mainland expansion strategy by initially leasing two next-generation, ETOPS (extended-range twin-engine operations performance standards)-equipped 737-700s, which enabled it to inaugurate service to the West Coast on February 14, 2000, connecting Honolulu with Oakland.

Well-received, it continued this secondary-city expansion to Burbank, Orange County, and Vancouver after taking delivery of additional aircraft, with extensions beyond them to Sacramento, Reno, Las Vegas, and Phoenix. Several Mainland flights originated in Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii, altogether avoiding Honolulu.

Westbound Pacific routes were also offered to Christmas Island, Rarotonga, Johnston Atoll, Majuro Atoll, and Kwajalein, its aircraft now sporting a new “bird of paradise” flower livery.

“Some say, ‘It’s not about the destination, but the journey,’” it wrote in its October 26, 2003, timetable. “We believe it’s both. At Aloha Airlines, we always strive to create the most relaxing and enjoyable flying

experience possible. So, whether you’re island-hopping, flying across the Pacific, or simply buzzing around the U.S. West Coast, you can count on comfortable leather seats and in-flight service that’s second to none.

“Every trans-Pacific flight includes Hawaii’s regional cuisine by award-winning chief Alan Wong, freshly baked cookies and milk, complimentary Mai Tais, and free entertainment.”

Although its strategy was highly successful, the post-9/11 terrorist attacks reduced travel to a trickle, and rising fuel costs and low-fare competition forced it into a decline.

“Go!” Came and Aloha Went

Despite continual competition from Inter-Island/Hawaiian, briefly with Mid-Pacific Airlines, and three failed attempts to merge Aloha with Hawaiian itself, Aloha’s demise came when Go!, a regional jet operator and a division of the Mesa Air Group, began its own inter-Hawaii service with progressively lower fares that finally reached the \$1.00 level.

Unable to generate a profit when it had to match them to retain passengers, Aloha was forced to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2008. It operated 13 127-seat, single-class 737-200s, eight 124-seat, dual-class 737-700s, and one 162-seat, dual-class 737-800 at the time.

Go! even had the audacity to try to legally change its name to “Aloha,” but failed to attain the authority to do so.

“Mesa succeeded in inflicting great harm, not only upon the Aloha corporate

entities, but also upon thousands of Aloha families,” Lloyd King, a U.S. bankruptcy judge, commented at the time.

“After 61 years of service, Aloha Airlines flew its last flight on March 31, 2008—an inter-island hopper from Maui that landed in Honolulu at 10:34 p.m.,” Christine Hitt reported in her article, “The Fare War that Killed Hawaii’s Aloha Airlines” (SFGATE, September 15, 2022). “It was the end of an era for a storied airline with deep roots in Hawaii that went back to before Hawaii became a state, and its closure resulted in the loss of 1,900 jobs.”

While it is not always easy to offer a proper perspective about an airline that was instrumental to Hawaii for more than six decades, “A Proud History: The Story of Aloha Airlines captures its essence.

“(Aloha offered its) passengers what they wanted: comfort, convenience, value, and something more—that friendly Aloha spirit that comes from the Islands and from the heart.” ■



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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AIRPORT INTEL

JFKIAT & Hospitality Quotient Launch Hospitality Training Program at T4

JFKIAT has partnered with Hospitality Quotient, a hospitality advisory from the team at Union Square Hospitality Group, to launch a comprehensive hospitality training program for the thousands of employees who power the largest and busiest air terminal at JFK.

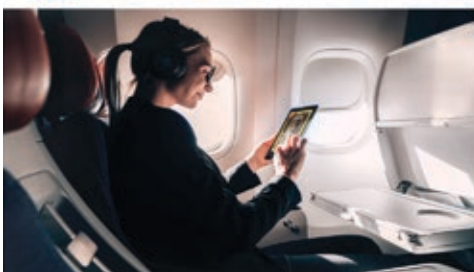
This partnership is in support of JFKIAT's T4 North Star program, the strategic vision for T4 as the terminal undergoes a \$1.5B transformation. The many components of this initiative will evolve every aspect of T4 to stand as a truly world-class air terminal with an enhanced hospitality culture, achieving the Port Authority's larger vision for JFK Airport. JFKIAT's partnership with Hospitality Quotient will focus on refining and activating the T4 State of Mind, JFKIAT's hospitality-centered training and engagement program for all terminal employees that reinforces the belief that every interaction shapes the terminal experience.

The program empowers staff with key hospitality traits and behaviors that elevate daily operations, helping employees take pride in their roles, understand the difference they can make, and fully realize their contribution to the central mission of the T4 North Star. The training will focus on setting a new level of service standards, strengthening emotional intelligence skills to provide authentic,

personable interactions, and harnessing the power of the T4 community to deliver a seamless and welcoming experience to the nearly 80,000 passengers who travel through T4 every day. Moving forward, JFKIAT and Hospitality Quotient will also work together on creating a model for future recruitment at T4, informed by the T4 State of Mind and the skill sets necessary for this new standard of customer service at the terminal.

"The T4 State of Mind embodies the core of our identity as a terminal, blending New York City's ambition and resilience with the T4 community's bold spirit of ingenuity," said **Roel Huinink**, Chief Executive Officer of JFKIAT. "As we continue to bring the transformation of T4 to life, our focus on exceptional service, authentic hospitality, and the strength of our T4 community will set a new standard for customer service. I'm looking forward to our partnership with Hospitality Quotient and Union Square Hospitality Group to bring this program to fruition through every interaction our community has with our passengers."

JFKIAT has collaborated with Union Square Hospitality Group for over 15 years, opening Blue Smoke and one of two Shake Shack locations at T4. ■



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Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000457
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LaGuardia Airport, NY

AIRPORT CABIN DISPATCH AGENT - LGA

Dispatch Agents will deal with various airline systems and use effective communication with all cabin agents and leadership team to ensure passengers depart in a clean and sterile aircraft within a scheduled timeframe.

Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000456
Aircraft Cabin Maintenance
Full-time
LaGuardia Airport, NY

AIRPORT CABIN AGENT - LGA

Cleaning and servicing of aircraft interiors, including cabin, cockpit, galleys, and lavatories.

Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000455
Aircraft Cabin Maintenance
Part-time
LaGuardia Airport, NY

TRACTOR TRAILER DRIVER - CDL CLASS A REQUIRED

Tractor Trailer Driver provides all necessary and required under-wing ground support services as contracted by the customer to include but not be limited to loading and unloading baggage and cargo, marshaling, water and lavatory servicing.

Swissport
Job No.: 000454
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

LOUNGE SUPERVISOR

The Lounge Supervisor is responsible for oversight of the lounge operations by ensuring exceptional customer service levels are met through proactive monitoring and supervision of employees and suppliers while fostering strong working relationships with Airline partners.

Swissport
Job No.: 000453
Food Service & Hospitality
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JFK Airport, NY

DUTY MANAGER CARGO SERVICES

As a Cargo Duty Manager, you will be responsible for the day-to-day safe and efficient operation of cargo operations while ensuring customer service standards and contractual services are met.

Swissport
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GSE MECHANIC

As a GSE Mechanic at AGI, you'll play a pivotal role in maintaining and enhancing our ground service handling equipment, ensuring the reliability and safety of our operations.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000449
Ground Handling
Full-time
Newark Airport, NY

MATERIAL HANDLER

Material Handlers will be required to lift up to 70lbs per mail handling unit. Materials handlers are required to sort, scan, load/unload both USPS mail containers and Airline cans.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000448
Ground Handling
Full-time
Newark Airport, NY

OVERNIGHT FACILITY CLEANER

We are seeking OVERNIGHT cleaning staff to perform janitorial services at a high-end lounge located at JFK Airport. Duties include general office cleaning, restroom cleaning, dusting, vacuuming, and other tasks. Job hours will be from 9:00 PM to 6:30 AM.

Aqueous Solutions
Job No.: 000447
Janitorial & Facility Services
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

GSE TECHNICIAN

GSE Technician is responsible for service and maintenance, keeping in good order all Ground Service Equipment at a designated station, keeping Swissport Ramp and other service agencies safe with reliable equipment that meets all local and governing laws.

Swissport
Job No.: 000445
Ground Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

GROUND RAMP AGENT

As a Ramp Agent, you will be essential in ensuring that flights run on time by providing efficient ground support services.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)

Job No.: 000442

Ground Handling

Part-time

JFK Airport, NY

AIRPORT CONCIERGE/ COORDINATOR

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Alliance Ground International (AGI)

Job No.: 000441

Passenger Services

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JFK Airport, NY

AIR LOGISTICS WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATE

The Air Logistics Warehouse Agent is responsible for moving and sorting small packages by hand and pushcart from containers inside the warehouse to semi-trucks, in an open air, uncontrolled temperature environment.

Worldwide Flight Services

Job No.: 000440

Warehouse

Part-time

JFK Airport, NY

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT

As a Passenger Service Agent, you will be responsible for providing a wide range of customer service functions related to airport and passenger operations. This includes assisting passen-

gers with reservations, tickets, baggage handling, and general travel information.

Worldwide Flight Services

Job No.: 000439

Passenger Services

Part-time

LaGuardia Airport, NY

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CHAMPION

The CI champion will be expected to identify and deliver attainable results while leading the change management efforts to build support and buy-in from peers and leadership teams.

Worldwide Flight Services

Job No.: 000438

Ground Handling

Full-time

JFK Airport, NY

COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGER

The Compliance and Risk Manager will lead the development, implementation, and oversight of JFK NTO's compliance and risk management programs.

The New Terminal One at JFK Airport

Job No.: 000434

Airport & Terminal Operations

Full-time

JFK Airport, NY

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Executive Assistant serves as a trusted partner and gatekeeper who provides high-level executive support to the President & CEO, ensuring priorities and workflows are managed effectively.

JFK International Air Terminal (JFKIAT T4)

Job No.: 000433

Office & Administrative Support

Full-time

JFK Airport, NY

AREA MANAGER

The Area Manager will be responsible for managing company programs and area staff to ensure compliance with contract duties between company and customer.

SBM

Job No.: 000343

Sales, Retail, & Customer Support

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New York, NY 10001

SENIOR MANAGER, COMMERCIAL, TERMINAL 4

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JFK International Air Terminal (JFKIAT T4)

Job No.: 000342

Airport & Terminal Operations

Full-time

JFK Airport, NY

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

We are looking for service-oriented professionals with a passion for customer service and helping others.

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Job No.: 000341

Passenger Services

Full-time

JFK Airport, NY

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Food Service & Hospitality
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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
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AVIATION SNOW SUPERVISOR

Reporting to the General Manager, 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 at our EWR - Newark International Airport location.

Aero Snow Removal
Job No.: 000408
Ground Handling
Seasonal
Newark 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

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The ideal candidate will 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

AVIATION SNOW SUPERVISOR

This position is responsible for supervising the staff, processes and gaining complete understanding of snow removal operations. The Supervisor needs to be available to support snow events whenever they occur.

Outworks Group
Job No.: 000405
Airport & Terminal Operations
Seasonal
Newark Airport, NY

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
Newark 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

ANIMAL ATTENDANT AT JFK AIRPORT

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

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

PT SEASONAL DEICER AGENT - JFK AIRPORT

The Seasonal Deicer Agent ensures safe and efficient aircraft operations by inspecting for ice, applying deicing fluids using specialized vehicles, maintaining accurate usage records, and coordinating with dispatchers while performing daily equipment checks.

Hallmark Aviation Services
Job No.: 000362
Ground Handling
Part-time ▪ Seasonal
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

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT P/T - AEROMEXICO

Passenger Service Agents are the first line of defense for our customers! This is a customer-facing role, providing first-class customer service to everyone.

Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000353
Passenger Services
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT P/T - JAL

A customer-facing role, providing first-class customer service to everyone.

Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000351
Passenger Services
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR - CHASE LUXURY AIRPORT LOUNGE

We are seeking a talented individual who will commit to the challenges of creating and delivering a culinary-driven, fine-dining experience within a thoughtfully designed travel oasis.

Sodexo
Job No.: 000347
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

AIRPORT LOUNGE FOOD SERVICE WORKER - JFK TERMINAL 4

As a Airport Lounge Food Service Worker at SodexoMagic, you are a pair of helping hands and a good mood motivator.

Sodexo
Job No.: 000346
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

HR GENERALIST

The position of HR Generalist will work closely with senior HR management in supporting the HR function in the assigned geographic regions.

Worldwide Flight Services
Job No.: 000315
Office & Administrative Support
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

CARGO PHYSICAL SECURITY SPECIALIST- JFK

A Cargo Physical Security Specialist focuses on safeguarding cargo during transport, storage, and handling.

Global Elite Group
Job No.: 000247
Security
Per Diem
JFK Airport, NY

SCREENING SPECIALIST – CHARTER AVIATION SECURITY SERVICES

Global Elite Group- Providing world-class aviation security through innovation and people committed to excellence.

Global Elite Group
Job No.: 000300
Security
Per Diem
JFK Airport, NY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER

Responsible for planning, directing, and implementing organization safety program to ensure safe, healthy, and accident-free work environment.

SBM Management Services
Job No.: 000293
Janitorial & Facility Services
Full-time
Newark Airport, NY

PREMIUM BARTENDER

The Premium Bartender delivers an elevated guest experience through exceptional service and precise cocktail and food execution at upscale airport dining establishments.

The Blinded Tiger
Job No.: 000291
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

CREW MEMBER

Responsible for performing a variety of duties within a fast food establishment which may include cleaning the food or stock areas, operating fryers & microwaves, manning food preparation production line, assisting in the kitchen.

Villa Russo at Terminal 4
Job No.: 000290
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time • Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

SHIFT MANAGER I

The MGRI ensures the restaurant is clean, ready for business, staffed, and operates to high operational standards.

Brooklyn Tea & Market at Terminal 4
Job No.: 000289
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

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NON-REV TRAVELER

Quick Trip to Segovia, Spain

BY JONATHAN KATZ
jkatz@metroairportnews.com

My wife Maureen and I have been to Madrid quite a few times, and on our most recent trip, we decided to take a quick one-day excursion to the famous city of Segovia, Spain.

Segovia is a 27-minute high-speed train ride from Madrid Chamartín Station (not the larger, better-known Atocha Station), costing about €30 round-trip per person.

This medieval city is most famous for its huge Roman Aqueduct, which spans the entire city; you can't take enough pictures of this ancient structure.

Segovia is known as a great city for walking, touring, and shopping. Its main square, the Plaza Mayor, is beautiful and filled with many restaurants; it is the place to 'be seen' in Segovia. It seems like the entire city is one large pedestrian-only walking zone, and it is very pleasant to 'walk the city'. The view of the snow-capped mountains surrounding Segovia in winter is picturesque.

The Alcazar Castle Fortress of Segovia is not to be missed, and it is rumored to have been the original inspiration for the Disney castles. Also, not to be missed is the Gothic Cathedral of Segovia, which is larger than life in the city. You definitely get the feeling that Segovia is one big 'old town'.

The Walls of Segovia are a fascinating site for exploration, offering excellent photography opportunities both of and from the



walls. There is an ancient Jewish quarter in Segovia, and the city also features a significant number of historic monasteries within its limits.

Segovia is a perfect one-day excursion from Madrid, and this city may be equally beautiful as the medieval city of Toledo in Spain.

Another wonderful one-day side trip via train is the city of Salamanca, a well-known university town. As always on this trip to Madrid, we stayed at the Madrid Marriott Hotel Auditorium at the Madrid Airport. This hotel is Marriott's largest hotel in Europe – a huge, beautiful convention-style hotel that always offers excellent rates for both seniors and airline staff. ■



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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

February 4

JFK Airport Rotary Club Dinner
Patrizia's of Long Island
Massapequa, New York 11762
www.jfkrotaryclub.org

February 8

The Extraordinary Legacy of Tuskegee Airman, Calvin G. Moret
A behind-the-scenes look at the making of AIRMAN, a powerful film about Louisiana's last Tuskegee Airman.
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, NY 11530
www.cradleofaviation.org

February 10

Pan Am and the Olympics Wine & Cheese Reception
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, New York 11530
www.thepanammuseum.org

February 10

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

February 15-17

AirCargo Conference
Omni Orlando Resort
Championsgate, FL 33896
www.addaptny.org

February 22-25

Airport Experience Conference
Gaylord Opryland Convention Center
Nashville, TN 37214
www.nyama.aero/conference

February 22

2026 NYAMA Aviation Advocacy Day
Empire State Plaza
100 S Mall Arterial
Albany, New York 12242
www.nyama.aero/conference

February 24

QCP's 30th Annual Evening of Fine Food
Terrace on the Park
52-11 111th Street
Corona, NY 11368
www.queenscp.org

February 26

The Wings Club Luncheon
Guest Speak: David Neeleman, Breeze
The Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.wingsclub.org

March 2

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

March 5

LAAMCO Member Meeting
LaGuardia Airport-(LGA)
Terminal B at LGA
East Elmhurst, New York 11371
www.laamco.com

March 10

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

March 11

KAAMCO Members Meeting
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building 14
Queens, New York 11430
www.kaamco.org

March 12

Queens Chamber of Commerce St. Patrick's Day Annual Luncheon
Antun's Restaurant
Queens Village, NY 11429
www.queenschamber.org

March 18

JFK Airport Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association Meeting
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkbrokers.com

March 19

JFK Air Cargo Expo
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkaircargo.aero

March 19

WINGS at JFK Launch Brunch
The Rockaway Hotel
Rockaway Park, New York 11694
www.wingsatjfk.org

March 25

LaGuardia Airport Committee (LGAAC) Meeting
Virtual Event
aircraftnoise.panynj.gov

March 26

The Wings Club Luncheon
Guest Speak: Michael Steen, Atlas Air
The Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.wingsclub.org

April 15

Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual Event
www.aircraftnoise.panynj.gov/tanaac

April 14

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

April 15

The Bishop Wright Aviation Industry Awards Luncheon
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.christfortheworldchapel.org

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Patricia Ornst

*Director, NYS & Local
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Delta Air Lines



Richard S. David

*Director, Queens
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Neir's Tavern

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 - * Bevo's Kitchen * El Buho Mezcal * Il Nonno Ristorante *
 - * Marbella Restaurant & Catering *
 - * Mayahuel Restaurant & Bar * MumsKitchens NYC *
 - * Neir's Tavern * Rincon Salvadoreno Restaurant *
 - * Special Sweets * The Wine Room of Forest Hills *
- ... and more to be announced!**

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