

METROPOLITAN Airport News™

JANUARY 2026

The Journal of the Metropolitan New York Airport Community

Airport Lounges – The Art of Relaxation

Pre-flight Leisure Options at Port Authority Airports

Also Inside:

A Better Way to LGA?

America West Airlines: Low Fare, More Care

A One-Week Spanish Rail Pass

Airport Employment, Upcoming Events, & Aviation News

ASAK



- GROUND HANDLING
- PASSENGER SERVICES
- GSE MAINTENANCE
- CARGO & MAIL HANDLING
- FUMIGATION SERVICES
- ANCILLARY SERVICES
- SNOW REMOVAL & DE-ICING

NEW YEAR,
NEW CONNECTIONS,
NEW POSSIBILITIES!



**VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED: LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**FOR FURTHER INFO
WWW.ASAK.AERO**



PUBLISHER

Kathryn Bliss
kbliss@metroairportnews.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Lauria-Blum
jblum@metroairportnews.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Raymond F. Ringston
rringston@metroairportnews.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Beverly Holder
bholderphoto@gmail.com

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Roberta Dunn
rdunn@metroairportnews.com

ADVERTISING

Edward J. Garcia
egarcia@metroairportnews.com

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Tanya Austin
taustin@metroairportnews.com

Maureen Katz
mkatz@metroairportnews.com

Jonathan Katz
jkatz@metroairportnews.com

Robert G. Waldvogel
robertw@metroairportnews.com

**METROPOLITAN
AIRPORT NEWS**

JFK International Airport
PO Box 300877
Jamaica, NY 11430
Tel: (347) 396-0904
info@metroairportnews.com

www.metroairportnews.com

Permissions: Material in this publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The views and opinions expressed in *Metropolitan Airport News* are those of the authors and advertisers, and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the publisher. Articles presented in this publication are for general information and educational purposes and do not constitute legal or financial advice.

©Copyright 2026 by Airport Media, Inc.
All rights reserved • Printed in the USA

Empire State Development
Certified MWBE
Woman-Owned Business Enterprise

New York Press Association
NYFA

Welcome to the January 2026 issue of *Metropolitan Airport News*. As I put away my holiday décor and plan for the New Year, travel for the New Year is, of course, on my mind. While I love the final destination and the adventure that awaits, I also love the trip planning and the actual traveling. Doing the research, planning the itinerary, and making all the plans are all part of the excitement for me.

Once all the plans are finalized and it's time to travel, I get to experience airports and the amenities they offer as a passenger. You can grab a bite to eat at any one of the excellent concession options in any airport terminal in the world and hang out by the gate, or you can access a lounge for a premier experience that will surely start your vacation off right. I've done both. If I'm tight on time, I stay near the gate, of course, but if time allows, you will find me in the lounge!

In this first issue of 2026, Editor-in-Chief Julia Lauria-Blum researched the history of airport lounges and the future of the lounge industry. The experience can be as simple as sitting in a quiet place to take a meeting and enjoy a light snack, or spending the day at a lounge spa with Michelin-starred Chef menus served. It's the lounge for me!

As we plan our editorial calendar for 2026, we are delighted to bring you updates on critical infrastructure projects, insights from key individuals, fun events for all, community leadership moments, extensive charitable giving opportunities, company spotlights, and so much more.

Please keep in touch with us and let us know what's going on with your companies and colleagues. Make 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 to check out the steady stream of articles and information for the airport community.

I hope you enjoy the issue, and I will see you around the airports, probably in a lounge!



KATIE BLISS, *Publisher*
kbliss@metroairportnews.com



ON THE COVER

As seen here at JetBlue's newly opened BlueHouse located at JFK in Terminal 5, airport lounges are evolving into premium, personalized pre-flight sanctuaries. The focus is on enhanced wellness, better technology, and unique local experiences.

Sustainability Is At the Forefront of Everything We Do



*Proudly serving
New York and the
Tri-State area for
more than 20 years*



Get the Royal Advantage!

Compactor & Container Service
Demolitions & Clean Out
Document Shredding • Composting & More!

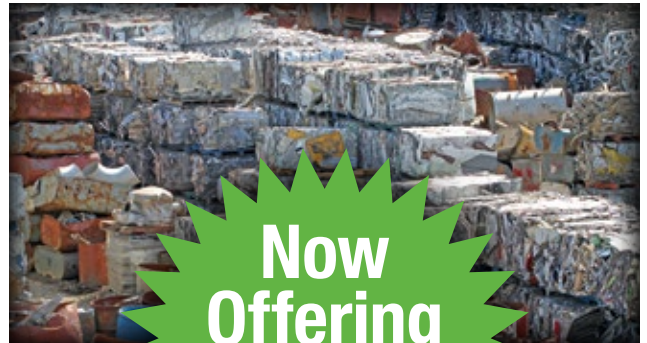
SINGLE STREAM MATERIAL RECYCLING

With the use of our Single Stream Material Recycling Facility, Royal helps to increase waste diversion rates up to 90%.

ROYAL
Waste Services, Inc.

(718) 526-2623

Call today for more information,
or to speak with a Royal Waste
Green Team Sustainable Consultant



**Now
Offering
Metal Recycling
With Rebates**

www.royalwaste.com

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

A Better Way to LGA?

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

When traveling by air, nine times out of ten, I fly out of John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). The main reason for my choice over LaGuardia Airport (LGA) is the ease of access to JFK from points east of Queens and the NYC boroughs via mass transit, avoiding the expense of a taxi or Uber. More importantly, it enables me to travel at any time without inconveniencing a friend for a ride to or from the airport. It is also more economical and spares me the time and expense of driving myself to the airport and paying for long-term parking.

In my experience, the AirTrain JFK is the fastest and most reliable way to reach the airport from Long Island, easily connecting to all terminals via New York's public transit at Jamaica, and operating 24/7, 365 days a year. I simply board a westbound train via the LIRR, get off at Jamaica, take the escalator up to the AirTrain, pay the \$8.50 fee and get on the AirTrain. The fast 8-mile long elevated rail link conveniently stops at each of JFK's terminals typically every 7-15 minutes, but sometimes 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day.

Getting to LaGuardia from points east of the Queens borough is a bit more like 'jumping through hoops.' Having avoided LGA over the last 15 years or so, and since its awe-inspiring \$8 billion redevelopment, in April 2025, I decided to book my planned round-trip flight from LGA to Love Field, Dallas. While looking for the most convenient transportation to the airport for my early morning flight, I searched for the most seamless mass-transit/commuter option. This option entailed finding a train on the LIRR to take me directly to Woodside, without having to transfer at Jamaica, then getting off



at the Woodside platform, walking down the stairs with my luggage to pick up the free Q70 bus at Roosevelt Ave. and 61st Street. From there, I learned that the 3.5-mile ride would typically take between 14 and 26 minutes, though traffic could significantly extend travel time, sometimes to 45 minutes or more, especially during peak hours.

With an uncertain time frame, I opted to book an Uber for roughly \$90 one-way. Before doing so, a friend graciously offered to drive my husband and me instead. He picked us up, and the ride through rush hour traffic took us about 75 minutes to LGA's Terminal B. Okay, outside of my friend's 2-hour ride back to his home, the rest went well.

The option of transport home from LaGuardia after our trip back via mass transit would prove even more complicated, as my flight back to LaGuardia would arrive late Sunday night. I decided not to ask for, nor accept, a ride home from a friend at their inconvenience at that hour, or any hour in the future.

Getting off a plane at 10:30 pm after a flight from Dallas, picking up my luggage from baggage claim, finding and waiting for a Q70 bus outside the terminal at night, then the trip to the Woodside LIRR, with the probability of having to transfer at Jamaica for the final late-night leg of the train ride home? It's just not feasible, especially when traveling alone.

Therefore, a week or two before my flight to Dallas, I looked into reserving my ride home to Long Island from LaGuardia via Uber, or risking a taxi that late Sunday night outside the terminal. However, because of my flight's weekend/off-hours arrival, I learned it might not be easy and that the fare could cost nearly as much as a round-trip ticket. For convenience, comfort, and security, I pre-booked a private livery service for \$189 for the one-way trip home (not including tip). When I checked, this price was comparable to what an Uber or taxi would have cost.

Since then, and moving forward, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey recently announced the approval of a record \$45 billion Capital Plan for 2026-2035 detailing infrastructure renewals. This plan states that it will include a "world-class new bus terminal, airport transformations and major path service increases" and drive "Finishing the job to make a vastly improved experience at LaGuardia even better includes; The plan also funds a vastly improved fast, free and frequent LGALink Q70 bus service with a new bus lane on the BQE and new on-airport bus stop. Work will also be completed on a new taxi hold lot at Terminal B, with amenities including new restrooms and prayer space for drivers."

Continued On Page 6

At the aforementioned LGALink Q70 bus link, the Port Authority NY NJ Builds – A Whole New LGA: A FASTER WAY TO LGA, explains that the Port Authority, in coordination with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the NYC Department of Transportation, and the New York State Department of Transportation, is advancing a \$160 million package of improvements to the free Q70 LaGuardia Link bus line and states that these upgrades, the result of months of interagency collaboration, are designed to provide faster, more frequent, and more reliable service between LaGuardia Airport, the subway in Jackson Heights, and the Long Island Rail Road and subway in Woodside.

It also outlines that there will be:

- Traffic signals that prioritize Q70 buses on Roosevelt Avenue and Broadway to reduce travel time.
- An exclusive bus lane on the shoulder of the northbound Brooklyn-Queens Expressway between Northern Boulevard and Astoria Boulevard to improve service reliability.
- Increased bus frequencies during peak periods (10:00 am to 4:00 pm), to accommodate growing ridership.
- A newly designated bus pick-up and drop-off area near Terminal C with direct, exclusive road access to avoid airport road congestion.
- Enhanced wayfinding and lighting at Jackson Heights-Roosevelt Av / 74 St (7, E, F, M, R) and 61 St-Woodside Stations (7, LIRR) to improve the customer experience.



- Upgraded branding and signage to highlight the enhanced service.

On my own behalf, and I think I can honestly say on behalf of the majority of Long Islanders, A Better Way to LGA is greatly needed and wanted. I hope the Port Authority's future plan proves to be feasible for Long Islanders, as well as those who live within New York City's five boroughs.

In the meantime, with the Port Authority's often-recommended use of mass transit to the airport, AirTrain JFK will be my go-to. ■

Airside Jobs



Landside Jobs



Terminal Jobs



Off-Airport Jobs



Helping job seekers find airport and aviation-related jobs that match their skills while assisting hiring managers and recruiters to locate suitable candidates.

www.AirportWorker.com

Are You Looking for a New Job?

Airport Employers Are Looking for You Too!

Register Today and Get Found.



THE LAW OFFICES OF MCINTYRE, DONOHUE, ACCARDI, SALMONSON, & RIORDAN, LLP

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS. SECURING YOUR FUTURE.



SPECIALIZING IN:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
3/4'S DISABILITY PENSION

HURT AT WORK?
CALL US TODAY!

866.557.7500

PROTECTING WORKERS THROUGHOUT NY STATE

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!



inquire@licomplaw.com



licomplaw.com



The first floor of JetBlue's lounge located at Terminal 5 at JFK Airport, known as BlueHouse.

Airport Lounges – The Art of Relaxation

Pre-flight Leisure Options at Port Authority Airports

BY JULIA LAURIA-BLUM
jblum@metroairportnews.com

In December 1939, the first airport lounge opened when American Airlines debuted its Admirals Club at LaGuardia Airport. The idea was envisioned by C.R. Smith, the then President and CEO of American Airlines. Smith wanted to create a dedicated, relaxed space catered to the most loyal American Airlines passengers and VIPs. The lounge was also a way to build support for commercial aviation.

The Admirals Club included a bar and a comfortable spot to enjoy before and after a flight. Membership was exclusive, and

access to the Club was by invitation and consisted of celebrities, politicians, VIPs, and valued passengers who represented a close relationship with the airline. In offering a more select and accommodating environment to American Airlines passengers, the lounge created a blueprint that would ultimately shape the airport lounge industry.

As the decades have passed, airport lounges have evolved into more accessible spaces and more than just a place to pass restful time for prominent and select passengers. Tucked away from the bustle of a crowded, hectic terminal, today's airport lounges are private spaces designed to set a

new standard for pre-flight leisure and the airport experience, where a passenger's journey begins.

There are different types of airport lounges that can be categorized into three areas:

■ **Airline-Specific Lounges:** operated by individual airlines, such as American Airlines' Admirals Clubs, United Club, and Delta Sky Clubs. Each of these airlines has different rules. Access is typically for premium (First/Business class) tickets, elite status, high-level frequent flyer status, annual memberships, or day passes. Alliance Lounges are for airline alliances that offer access to members flying with partner

airlines or premium co-branded credit cards offered by most major airlines.

■ **Credit Card Provider Lounges:** exclusive lounges run by credit card issuers, i.e., Capital One, American Express, and Chase Sapphire Lounges. Access is primarily reserved for cardholders of specific premium cards.

■ **Independent & Pay-Per-Use Lounges:** Operated by third-party companies not attached to an airline. Access is through membership programs such as Priority Pass and Plaza Premium, day passes purchased at entry or online, or via specific credit cards. Members present their Priority Pass membership and boarding pass at the lounge reception desk up to three hours before departure. In contrast to airline lounges, pay-per-use facilities are open to any traveler, regardless of ticket class or airline, and are subject to a fee.

Additionally, some larger hub airports have Specialty Lounges, such as a USO Lounge reserved for U.S. military members and their families.

The basic amenities found in most lounges include food and drinks, complimentary snacks, buffet items, non-alcoholic beverages, full bars with cocktails, beer, and wine, high-speed Wi-Fi, and power outlets for charging devices, comfortable seating, and quiet zones outside of the main terminal.

Premium and special amenities vary by

lounge and network and include dedicated workspaces, private meeting rooms, and printers. Wellness offerings may include shower suites, fitness centers, relaxation rooms, and even spa treatments. Dining experiences include chef-curated meals, local craft cocktails, themed bars, and sit-down dining. Enhanced services may include luggage storage, digital guides, flight information monitors, newspapers, and magazines.

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, owner and operator of LaGuardia Airport (LGA), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), offers over 40 lounges across its terminals. These include airline-specific lounges like Delta Sky Club (JFK/LGA), United Club, Air France, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, and Virgin Atlantic. Credit card and independent lounges include Capital One (JFK), Chase Sapphire (LGA/JFK), The Centurion Lounge, Plaza Premium, and Primeclass (JFK), as well as those accessible via airline status or day passes. A unique option is Minute Suites' pay-per-use private rooms. Availability and hours vary by lounge and terminal.

LaGuardia Airport

In the 87 years since the opening of C.R. Smith's Admiral's Club lounge, the 'new LaGuardia Airport' of today offers several lounges across both Terminal B & C.

At Terminal B, you will find the American's Admirals Club, Air Canada Maple Leaf Club, AMEX Centurion Lounge, United Club, and the Chase Sapphire Lounge. Additionally, Minute Suites offers a quick rest, catering to various airline flyers and credit card holders, as well as the Be Relax Spa.

At its January 2024 opening, Chase, with the support of Airport Dimensions, welcomed travelers to an enhanced and premium hospitality experience with a local flavor and a side of NYC-inspired design at the Chase Sapphire Lounge by The Club at LaGuardia Airport. *Metropolitan Airport News* was invited to attend a media reception and was given a personal tour of the new lounge, led by **Chris Gwilliam, Sr.** Vice President, Global Business Development of Airport Dimensions.

Airport Dimensions is the global specialist in helping airports enhance their experiences and enrich travelers' time in the most valuable way.

At LGA Terminal C, the main lounge is the Delta Sky Club; its entrance is on level 3 after security, offering amenities like premium food, Wi-Fi, and flight monitors for Delta flyers and eligible members.

Newark Liberty International Airport

Newark Liberty International Airport has 12 lounges across its three terminals, including United Club in Terminal A and C, offering services for United members and premium passengers; the renovated Delta Sky Club in Terminal A, with comfortable seating and airfield views; Admirals Club in Terminal A featuring conference room, the British Airways Lounge for premium international flyers and Oneworld elites, the Lufthansa Lounge in Terminal B, featuring a central bar and seating, and in Terminal C, the United Polaris Lounge offering luxury suites with showers and fine dining.

Other options include Plaza Premium, offering pay-per-use access in Terminal B; Minute Suites in Terminal C, providing private rest areas for short stays; and the AMEX Centurion Lounge, expected to open in 2026, becoming the largest Centurion Lounge at over 17,000+ sq.ft., featuring unique amenities like a jazz bar and airfield views.

Continued On Page 11



Chase Sapphire Lounge located at Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport.



Clean. Safe. Compliant.

Full-service cleaning and maintenance programs for airport and aviation facilities.

SIDA Badged with U.S. Customs Seals and PONYA plated vehicles at both JFK & LGA airports.

- PANYNJ Janitorial Maintenance Small Business Enterprise Certified (JMSBE)
- Pre, post, & during-construction cleaning
- Airport lounge detailing and fine cleaning
- Building and office cleaning
- Steam cleaning for all surfaces
- Carpet cleaning & restoration
- Interior and exterior window cleaning
- Building facade cleaning
- Stainless steel cleaning
- Pressure and power washing
- Interior and exterior painting
- General maintenance services
- SIDA badged AOA Janitorial Services for Airport Terminals, Offices, Warehouse, and Hangars
- Ramp, roadway, and warehouse mechanical sweeping
- Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and management
- Airport marking painting and removal
- Emergency Spill response
- Bird-dropping cleaning, Bird control installations, including netting and spikes
- Bird strike clean-up
- Catch basin cleaning
- Emergency aircraft cleaning and decontamination
- Heavy-duty equipment and vehicle pressure washing



Aqueous Solutions is a Certified MWBE Woman-Owned Business Enterprise with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, State of New York, and New York City

24/7 Emergency Response Hotline: 1-800-294-4950



Located at John F. Kennedy International Airport
 1-800-294-4950 • (718) 355-9080
 info@aqsolution.com • www.aqsolution.com

JFK International Airport

JFK's Terminal 5, spanning 9,000 sq.ft. across two floors, JetBlue's newly opened BlueHouse (the airline's first lounge) blends the charm of New York's iconic Art Deco architecture with the warmth of a classic city apartment. Decorative molding, brass accents, and a lobby-style entry set the scene for a residential-inspired space that feels warm and personal. High-speed Wi-Fi, power outlets, open seating, a game room, and quiet areas give space to the various needs of travelers.

JFK Terminal 8 hosts several lounges, including the premium American Airlines-British Airways joint lounges, Chelsea, Soho, Greenwich Lounges, offering luxury amenities like à la carte dining and champagne bars, the new Tasting Room, and the Admirals Club, and alternative options with the Priority Pass. British Airways and American Airlines are further enhancing the newly renovated Terminal 8 at JFK airport with the unveiling of the first-of-its-kind Bridge Bar, featuring a variety of non-alcoholic and spirited cocktails.

Coming Soon to T6

Currently under construction at JFK International Airport and as part of the Port Authority's two-phase \$19 billion redevelopment of JFK, in partnership with JFK Millennium Partners (JMP), the first five gates will open at the new Terminal 6 in



United Club in Newark at gate C74.

early 2026. Upon the present Terminal 7 closure, up to five airline lounges will occupy the new Terminal 6, in addition to a new arrivals lounge.

Among the 15 airlines that have announced plans to operate from JFK Terminal 6 are Aer Lingus, Cathay Pacific, and the Lufthansa Group, which will open signature lounges in the new terminal.

■ **Aer Lingus** will open a brand new lounge at Terminal 6. Scheduled to open spring 2026, the space spans 4,500 sq. ft. and boasts sweeping panoramic views of the runway, and offers a unique vantage point

overlooking the terminal's retail space. The lounge will feature curated Irish artwork drawing subtle inspiration from the airline's iconic brand. Aer Lingus plans the opening with special celebrations that honor the airline's rich legacy. "The addition of a brand-new dedicated Aer Lingus lounge will further enhance our loyal customers' experience, providing them with a modern state-of-the-art lounge," said **Susanne Carberry**, Aer Lingus Chief Customer Officer.

■ **Cathay Pacific** will be among the first carriers to operate from the new Terminal 6 and will open a nearly 10,000 sq. foot lounge; its first dedicated lounge in the New York market and its second in the United States. Cathay Pacific General Manager Customer Experience and Design **Vivian Lo** said, "New York JFK is among the top locations in our global lounge strategy. We are truly excited by this opportunity to bring the signature Cathay Pacific lounge experience to our premium customers at this important port in our network."

■ At over 30,000 sq. ft., the **Lufthansa Group** lounge will span both phases of T6 construction. And in looking toward the future, JFK Millennium Partners plans to open an Arrivals Lounge when phase two construction is complete in 2028.



Terminal 6 at JFK is set to open in 2026, with up to 5 airline lounges, including Aer Lingus, Cathay Pacific, and Lufthansa.

Continued On Page 13

THE
LANGDON
LYNBROOK STATION

MADE FOR MODERN LIVING

Brand New Studio, One, and Two Bedroom Residences Located at Lynbrook Station
Starting From \$2,810*

As Long Islanders we have often asked ourselves,
"Why can't we have the type of luxury rental apartments that improve our quality of life, offer great amenities, be close to mass transit, and be part of a dynamic, welcoming community?"

The answer is: You Can. It's **The Langdon at Lynbrook Station**.

This brand new luxury apartment complex is in the heart of Lynbrook Village and offers an easy commute by train or car to anywhere you want to go. The Langdon offers friendly concierge services, a welcoming café, rooftop terrace with skyline views, a resident lounge, state-of-the-art fitness center, protected parking, a wonderful dog run, dedicated work-from-home stations, and much more.

It's about time Long Island. It's about **The Langdon at Lynbrook Station**.



TheLangdonLI.com | 516.775.0001 | 1 Langdon Place, Lynbrook, NY 11563

*Offering 1.5 months free on a 13 month lease and 2 months free on a 24 month lease. Limited time offer. Offer is subject to errors, changes & omissions, contact the leasing office for more details. All images are a combination of photography and artist renderings. The artist representations, interior decorations, finishes, appliances and furnishings are provided for illustrative purposes only.



On the Horizon at the New Terminal One

At the New Terminal One's Phase A completion, there will be six lounges totaling 85,000 sq. ft., with premium amenities and services that reflect New York's status as an iconic gateway. An elevated experience with premium dining options awaits.

Four airline lounges, including Turkish Airlines, Korean Air, Qatar Airways, and one to be formally announced, shall represent all three major global alliances. Three of the four will have direct boarding access. Two third-party, common-use lounges, one airside, one landside will be operated by Plaza Premium Group.

The forthcoming lounges at the NTO represent a significant investment by their partner airlines and operators, including lounges that will be a first in the U.S. market.

■ **Korean Air** will operate a 16,000 sq foot lounge with a seating capacity for 200, twice the size of the existing lounge in the current T1. Located at the end of the east pier with direct boarding access, the lounge will provide unparalleled convenience, exclusive amenities for first-class passengers, private suites, à la carte fine dining, dedicated zones for business travelers, families, and guests looking for quiet relaxation. Guests will have panoramic views of the airfield, a kitchen with a diverse array of fresh food crafted on-site, a Noodle Bar, and a premium cocktail bar.



The American Express Centurion Lounge located in Terminal 4 at JFK Airport.

■ **Turkish Airlines** will operate an 11,000 sq. ft. lounge offering direct boarding from the lounge, expansive views of the field, gourmet Turkish cuisine, and live music.

■ **Qatar Airways** will launch a 15,000 sq. ft. lounge – its first in the U.S. with direct boarding access, VIP services, prayer rooms, children's play areas, and duty-free shopping.

Plaza Premium Group, the NTO's common-use lounge operator, is developing both an airside (9,300 sq. ft.) and landside lounge (4,200 sq. ft.), offering VIP concierge services, showers, and business center facilities.

■ **Airside lounge** will be Plaza Premium

First – Plaza Premium Group's top-tier ultra premium lounge offering, featuring its signature Infinity Room.

■ **Landside lounge** will offer a welcoming retreat for a variety of travelers – arriving guests who have just landed, who are looking to freshen up before heading into the city; travelers who would like to spend time with family and friends before departing on a flight.

In addition to the six lounges mentioned above, the NTO will also offer three PRA (Passenger Requiring Assistance) lounges. These are available at landside before security, airside after security, and at arrivals. These lounges offer check-in kiosks (landside), assisted changing rooms with hoists, seating areas, a quiet room, restrooms, and wheelchair storage.

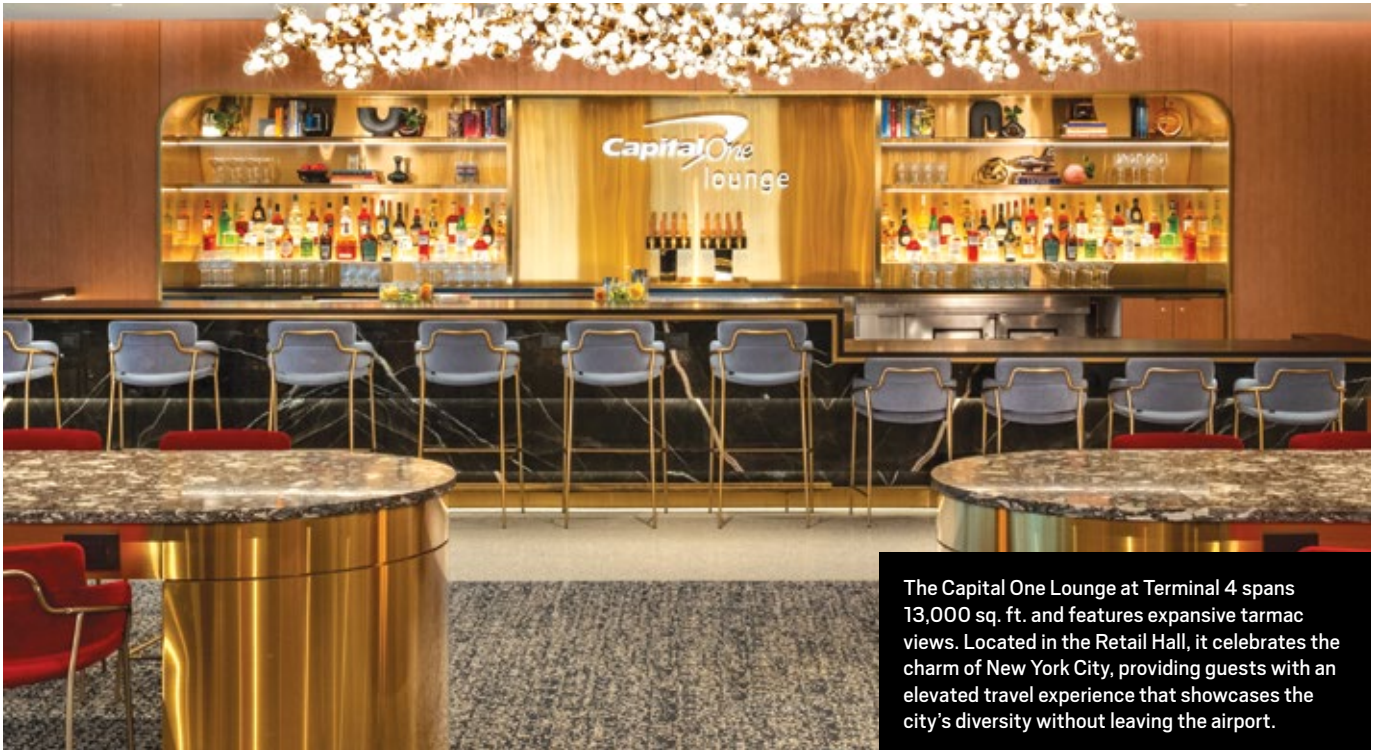
Specific Amenities, Accessibility Information

The Port Authority website (www.panynj.gov) highlights lounge options at JFK, EWR, and LGA, while airline & credit card sites such as Priority Pass, Upgraded Points, list specific carrier lounges & programs at these airports. For detailed lounge features, access rules, and amenities on specific airline or credit card lounges (i.e. Centurion, Delta Sky Club, United Polaris, Chase Sapphire), check the individual airline or lounge operator sites, or the airport-specific lounge lists. ■

Continued On Page 14



Upon completion the New Terminal One will have six lounges totaling 85,000 sq. ft.



The Capital One Lounge at Terminal 4 spans 13,000 sq. ft. and features expansive tarmac views. Located in the Retail Hall, it celebrates the charm of New York City, providing guests with an elevated travel experience that showcases the city's diversity without leaving the airport.

A Look at the JFKIAT/T4 Lounges

Metropolitan Airport News recently spoke with **Belinda Jain**, Vice President, Customer Experience & Commercial at JFKIAT – the operator of Terminal 4 at JFK International Airport – and asked her to share her insights about lounges currently at JFKIAT, trends at T4 lounges that enhance customer experience, what makes the lounges at JFKIAT unique in showcasing the New York City vibe, and more.

What options do passengers have at T4 lounges at JFK Airport?

JAIN: JFK T4 has a variety of airline and common-use lounges available for passengers. Our premium collection includes nine lounges: the Capital One Lounge, Delta One Lounge, two Delta Sky Clubs, Chase Sapphire Lounge by The Club with Etihad Airways, American Express Centurion Lounge, Emirates Lounge, Air India Maharaja Lounge, and Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse. We have also been offering HelloSky lounge, a pay-for-use lounge for passengers to enjoy before their departing flights from T4.

In 2021, JFKIAT broke ground on the \$1.5B transformation of T4, as part of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey's \$19B transformation of JFK Airport. Guided by our T4 North Star – a shared vision that impacts every aspect of the T4 experience – we are redefining T4's commercial offerings, strengthening T4's New York-centric identity, enhancing and aligning customer service culture across the entire terminal, elevating the ambiance with elements of design, and expanding and upgrading our

lounge portfolio. Each lounge at JFK T4 has a unique ambiance, design, food & beverage offerings, and amenities.

We know that different passenger personas have their own sets of needs and preferences when they travel, and JFK T4's lounge options cater to a wide range of passengers, resulting in T4 having the highest concentration and diversity in types of lounges at JFK Airport.

Our passenger combination includes a high volume of both domestic and international traffic. While New York City is a major global hub for several airlines, financial institutions, and cultural centers, T4 attracts a higher concentration of premium passengers, driven by our unique mix of airlines.

In light of that passenger mix, our team at JFKIAT saw an opportunity to further elevate and personalize our passengers' journey by offering a wider variety of premium lounge experiences. We are currently exploring additional common lounge spaces for the future where we can create an elevated experience with some shared features, including elevated commercial and food & beverage options.

What are some of the trends that you're seeing at T4 airport lounges that enhance the customer experience?

JAIN: One trend we're seeing in the U.S. is the emergence of credit card companies offering premium lounge experiences that are changing the game, creating exclusive spaces for their

cardholders that elevate their journeys. They are leading the trends for lounge experiences worldwide. Another trend we're noticing is a bigger focus on gearing the design and amenities toward a more local experience: offering food & beverage options from the airport's surrounding area or city, partnering with brands from the community, and commissioning pieces from local artists to strengthen a lounge's sense of place.

We're also seeing more segmentation in the design and layout of the lounges themselves. They're no longer simply waiting rooms: they offer tailored, curated experiences that cater to different passengers' dwell times and needs. Modern lounges provide a wider range of offerings, such as sit-down dining concepts, grab & go options, spa amenities, and more to accommodate a wider range of preferences across different passenger profiles.

As a result of these shifts, the traditional lounge offering of years past has become the minimum expectation, while the standard for lounge experiences has been raised across the board, resulting in the premiumization of the airport lounge experience. Airport lounges have transformed into destinations of their own, offering elevated dining, wellness amenities, and conveniences akin to boutique hotels and private clubs.

You can see these trends reflected in the lounges at T4. From a speakeasy at the American Express Centurion Lounge to a games space at the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse and a cheese monger at Capital One, our lounges provide those high-end, locally driven experiences passengers look for.

What makes the lounges at T4 unique in showcasing the New York City vibe?

JAIN: While each of our lounge operators at JFK T4 brings unique offerings to the table, we share a common mission to provide distinctive, premium, and locally driven experiences that cater to different passenger personas. From there, each of our lounge operator partners developed their own identity in line

with their brand and passenger profiles.

At JFKIAT, we have considered all of the components that make up the passenger journey from curb to gate, reimagining our entire commercial program, elevating the terminal's ambiance with thoughtful design, and redefining our culture of hospitality to ensure our employees are contributing to the overall passenger experience. Our lounges are a critical part of our unique and premium passenger experiences, offering expansive and curated food & beverage options, niche tasting menus, and locally inspired design elements.

As a local Queens-based business, JFKIAT has continued to strengthen T4's New York-centric identity during the transformation, and the partnership with our lounge partners extends that vision. We want passengers to experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of our city throughout our terminal, including at our lounges. Our lounges offer passengers a curated selection of authentic culinary experiences from all over New York City.

For instance, the Chase Sapphire Lounge by The Club with Etihad Airways features artwork curated by the JPMorgan Chase art collection. The Capital One Lounge features an interactive counter where guests can sample cheese and charcuterie boards with wine and beer pairings, sourced from New York-based Murray's Cheese, and a bodega outpost with fresh bagels and sandwiches from Ess-a-Bagel. Meanwhile, the Delta One Lounge was designed with nods to New York City landmarks, including design references to the gold leaf ceiling and chandeliers of Radio City Music Hall, marble mosaic tiles in the Market dining area that pay tribute to classic New York brasseries, and light fixtures that draw inspiration from the Brooklyn Bridge.

As passenger expectations continue to evolve, at JFKIAT we know that unique experiences are crucial to stay competitive – and each of these lounge concepts offers something immersive, distinctive, memorable, and unmistakably New York. ■



Belinda Jain *Vice President, Customer Experience & Commercial, JFKIAT*

Belinda Jain joined JFKIAT's executive team as the Vice President, Customer Experience & Commercial in October of 2023. In her role, Jain will be responsible for generating and managing the company's non-aviation revenues, working with the team and business partners to develop world-class retail, food & beverage, and passenger service concepts, featuring a distinctive 'New York sense of place' across T4's extensive commercial program, which consists of nearly 100 retail, food & beverage, and other services concepts. She will also lead JFKIAT's customer experience strategy, partnering with stakeholders to enhance T4's passenger satisfaction, the company's marketing and public relations, and foster continuous improvement and innovation.

As a seasoned industry expert, Jain brings more than 20 years' experience leading the development and operations of premium and luxury brands and airports globally, and has a proven track record of delivering customer-centric programs. Prior to joining the JFKIAT team, Jain served as the Managing Director Americas of CXG in New York, where she led CX transformation projects in the U.S. market for leading luxury brands. She has also held roles at CHANEL, Mumbai International Airport, Amman International Airport and Groupe ADP (Paris Airports). www.jfkt4.nyc

America West Airlines: Low Fare, More Care

The only post-deregulation carrier to achieve “Major Airline” status

BY ROBERT G. WALDVOGEL
robertw@metroairportnews.com

From the cactus that characterizes Arizona rose a uniquely structured deregulation carrier which established its hub there in the early 1980s and became the quintessential symbol of the southwest — so much so, in fact, that that plant became its very call-sign, as in, “Cactus 155, you’re cleared for takeoff.”

That airline was America West.

It only plied the skies for a brief two decades. But it demonstrated quality, resilience, and a unique breed captured by its initial slogan of “Less fare, more care.”

Foundation

Incorporated in 1981 after obtaining funding from ten investors and a New York banking firm that underwrote a stock issue for a start-up carrier, it achieved financial lift in the form of \$18.7 million after 3.5 million shares were sold at \$7.50 each.

Deviating from the soon-standard deregulation formula, it was established to provide lower-fare, yet full-service flights from hub-lacking Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. It took to the air on August 1, 1983, when a triplet of leased Boeing 737-100s and -200s connected Arizona with Colorado Springs, Los Angeles, Kansas City, and Wichita.

Its initial strategy entailed mostly short-range service to destinations west of the Mississippi to avoid competition with established airlines.

“The company’s strategy was to make Phoenix an east-west transfer point by routing travelers from its network of Midwestern cities through Sky Harbor Airport to California,” according to the “America West Holdings Corporation” entry in



America West Boeing 737-300 and America West Express Beechcraft 1900D.

Company-Histories.com. “With business travelers as its target market, America West aimed to increase traffic on the routes it served through a combination of full-quality service, frequent flights, and low fares.”

Costs were always key to company success, and America West implemented a dual-fold solution to stem them.

Create a mandatory stock ownership plan for its exclusively nonunion employees, who were required to purchase shares equal to a fifth of their starting salary. Implement a non-hierarchical, cross-utilization work structure, similar to that of PEOPLE Express, so that each employee would be trained to perform multiple, productivity-increasing functions, such as customer service representatives wearing the hats of reservations, ticketing, and gate agents.

Still tiny, but innovative, America West used whatever it had to become airborne.

“We used to wash the aircraft at night with a garden hose...(and) only had tiny areas for dispatch, commissary, and maintenance,” advises Randy Lenton in the carrier’s August 1993 inflight magazine. “We had no hangars—and we did all of our maintenance on the ramp. We were growing, and the facilities weren’t growing fast enough to keep up.”

Indeed, its growth was accelerated. Two additional 737s facilitated service expansions to Omaha, Ontario, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and San Diego by the end of the year for a fleet total of ten and destination count of a dozen. By the end of the following year, these figures respectively increased to

Continued On Page 19



OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR

Duty Manager and Supervisor
Office Agents • Warehouse Agents • Tractor Trailer Drivers

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

Must be at least 18 years old • Must be able to lift 70 lbs. on a regular basis (Warehouse)
Valid driver's license with excellent driving record

Must Pass 10 year background check • Must have authorization to work in the U.S.
Starting Salary \$19.00+ per hour for Warehouse and Office Agents

For immediate consideration, please stop by our JFK Facility
Delta Cargo Building 21A Room 202 between the hours of 10:00am & 1:00pm
Please bring your resume and ALL government I.D's.

Apply for Open Positions On Our Website

Alliance Ground International provides airline cargo handling services to 55 airlines at thirteen airports: Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Kansas City, LaGuardia, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York JFK, Orlando, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. Warehouse and ramp operations schedules are constantly adjusted to flight operations. With partners such as Cargo Force and The Cargo Security Company; Alliance Ground International can be your "one-stop-source" for all of your cargo handling needs. The culmination of years of experience with its industry partners, Alliance Ground International offers a vast range of services: Cargo Handling, Ground Handling, Mail Handling, Passenger, and Security.

WWW.AGI.AERO



LGA Airport Recruitment Event

Passionate About Food and Thrive In Fast-Paced Settings?

Join CAO's Food Service Recruitment Event at LGA Airport and discover rewarding career opportunities in airport hospitality!

January 27, 2026 • 10:00am-1:00pm

LGA Airport, Terminal B, Ground Floor, Near Dunkin', Queens, NY 11371

Looking to Fill Numerous Positions!



Council for Airport Opportunity (CAO)

Tel: (718) 523-7100

www.caonynj.com

All Applicants Must Present:

- Social Security Card (Unlaminated)
- State Driver License, Learner's Permit, or Non-Driver ID
- Working Documents Required
- Will Be Drug Tested (Cannabis Included)



21 and 22, with its first profit realized that November.

Aircraft reach and capacity increases were made possible by its 1985 acquisition of CFM56-powered Boeing 737-300s, which were particularly suited to noise-sensitive California operations. Its statistics, both positive and promising, indicated doubled revenues of \$241 million on an \$11.4 million profit that year, and 122 daily departures were dispatched from Phoenix, giving it a one-third market share there. It operated a 32-strong fleet to 26 cities.

Expansion

Like any foundation, America West progressively built upon the one it initially laid. Serving some 30 destinations by 1986, including its first trans-border ones to Calgary and Edmonton in Canada, it broke ground on a maintenance hangar in Phoenix, inaugurated night flights from Las Vegas to increase daily aircraft utilization, began commuter-feed service from small communities, and expanded its route system—albeit at the expense of a meager \$3 million profit, principally because of the fare wars it engaged in with southwest.

1987 saw the creation of a second hub in Las Vegas, but, more importantly, the acquisition of the six Boeing 757-200s slated for Republic Airlines, which were deemed redundant after its Northwest takeover. Offering a significant capacity increase, they enabled America West to implement long-range routes, specifically to New



Boeing 737-200

York-JFK and Baltimore, on July 1, now with first-class cabins.

Despite the elevating aspect of these strategies, it left it vulnerable to more major carrier competition and drained its profitability during the first half of the year.

A cash infusion came with Ansett Worldwide's 20 percent purchase of its stock.

Lower-density routes offered similar comfort levels when its 737-300s were reconfigured with first class seats and in-flight entertainment systems, and its little-known Free Flight Plan frequent flyer program was replaced with the more encompassing and successful FlightFUND one on June 10, 1987.

Positive views often depended upon perspective. A \$45.7 million loss on \$575 million

in revenues was recorded by the end of the year on the one hand, but the airline had added service to ten new destinations that were now served by 23 aircraft on the other.

An airline analyst adopted the former approach when he opined in Business Week magazine, "They're flying into oblivion. It's only a matter of time."

But it was during that "time" that a cost-cutting and debt-restructuring strategy returned it to profitability—to the tune of \$9.4 million—in 1988.

Widebody Era

Seeking to offer longer-range, widebody flights with the eventual intention of serving Sydney so that its passengers could connect with Ansett Australia Airlines' own flights, America West purchased two former KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Boeing 747-200Bs and inaugurated "Bird of Paradise" service from Phoenix to Honolulu on November 15, 1989, as a first step.

CEO Edward R. Beauvias once explained the rationale behind the strategy by stating, "You cannot just sit still and survive."

However, it failed to secure approval to provide Tokyo service, the first of its planned Pacific Rim destinations, and its successfully achieved Honolulu-Nagoya route award only proved the opposite with the first departure carrying all of one passenger. Competition on the Hawaii route from Las Vegas and Phoenix was too fierce, and additional, but excessive-capacity 747s



Boeing 747-200B

Continued On Page 20

only served as stopgap equipment on trans-continental routes from its two hubs.

Unrealized Promise

Although America West became the only one of the more than 150 airlines launched during the post-deregulation start-up boom to be DOT-classified as a “major carrier” when its annual revenues eclipsed the \$1 billion level, fuel costs, high interest payments, and competition caused it to rack up a \$74.7 million loss by the end of 1990. The Gulf War, impacting travel, forced the new “major” to succumb to a “minor” stance.

Its resuscitative strategy entailed passenger-attracting fare reductions, the avoidance of Southwest Airlines’ competition on short-haul routes, the reduction or altogether elimination of unprofitable service, and the shedding of its commuter division. Despite these steps, it still ended the year with a \$213.8 million loss.

Financial Recovery

America West’s remarkable recovery, which few predicted was even possible, entailed several strategic steps. These included the acquisition of 17 Airbus A320-200s originally intended for bankrupt Braniff II, the discontinuation of widebody flights, the service increase in the California corridor, and the creation of a third hub in Columbus, Ohio. The move was seen as offering a dual benefit--namely, the attraction of higher-yield business travelers from the area’s corporate headquarters concentration and the lack of Southwest Airlines competition.

“August 25, 1994, was emergence day for America West,” the “Unofficial History of America West” article states. “The airline left bankruptcy as a new company with reduced debt, a focused management, and a new hope.”

“Record profits in 1995 fueled further expansion around the Phoenix hub,” the “America West Holdings Corporation” article advises. “The airline added six routes from Acapulco to Anchorage. Company officials stated there was enough room for America West and Southwest Airlines to coexist in Arizona, which had one of the fastest-growing economies in the US.”

A new pearl white, orange, and turquoise aircraft livery was unveiled on January 18



Airbus A320-200

of the following year, and a maintenance reliability program, whose tenet was “Getting the product right...together,” was implemented.

The existing, first-generation 737 fleet was hush-kitted and the Airbus order was revised to include 12 A319-100s and 24 A320-200s.

“America West was riding high as a company, capped by winning the J. D. Power Award for short-haul flights and ranking first in baggage handling among major airlines,” according to the “Unofficial History of America West” article.

By June of 1998, it operated 11 757-200s, 18 A320-200s, and 56 737-200s and -300s to 55 regional, domestic, and international destinations in 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Mexico with 153 daily departures from Phoenix, 75 from Las Vegas, and 30 from Columbus.

Final Flight Into the Next Century

Bridging the centuries, America West continued to implement strategy changes to remain competitive and maximize profits, but even proactivity could not predict or combat all conditions.

In October of 1999, for instance, it took delivery of its first Airbus A319-100, which introduced the new interior color schemes

and light-blue slimline seats that would become the standard, after retrofitting, of its entire fleet.

But its strengths almost proved its demise, because US Airways, in financial decline and now in its second bankruptcy, saw America West as a healthy injection into its own failing condition, and a merger between the two was announced on May 18, 2005, ending the airline that rose from the cactus of Arizona and established its largest hub there.

“Like the Phoenix, the mythical bird that rose from its ashes, America West was reborn several times during its short, 22-year history,” the “Unofficial History of America West” article concludes. “...But (it) stayed the course to become the only post-deregulation major airline.” ■



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.



MILES Petroleum Co. Inc.

We Keep Things Moving!

AVIATION / FLEET / INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS

**Free Delivery • Competitive Prices
Free Oil Analysis On Fuel Tanks & Lubricants**



ANGELA STERN
astern.mileswbe@gmail.com
Tel: (631) 767-8448

ED SULLIVAN
esullivan.mileswbe@gmail.com
Tel: (631) 767-8449

WE ENSURE YOUR CONTRACTURAL COMPLIANCE NEEDS*

Minority & Women Owned Certifications:

WBENC • ACDBE & DBE • Port Authority of NY & NJ • New York State • Nassau & Suffolk Counties



Empire State
Development



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

* At the Port Authority of NY & NJ, we believe that our operations should reflect the diversity of our community. Because of this diversity, we have enacted a goal to award 20 percent of contracts to Minority-owned businesses, and 10 percent of contracts to women-owned businesses. We encourage each of our partners to also adopt these goals.

**20% participation goal with certified Minority-owned business enterprises (MBE)
10% participation goal with certified Woman-owned business enterprises (WBE)**

www.MilesOil.com

ON DUTY

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



Kathryn Garcia

■ **Gov. Kathy Hochul** has announced that she is nominating **Kathryn Garcia** as the next Executive Director of the PANYNJ. Outgoing Port Authority Executive Director **Rick Cotton** said, "Governor Hochul's nomination of Kathryn Garcia as the next Executive Director of the PANYNJ is a superb choice. I have worked closely with Kathryn for many years. She has deep knowledge of city and state government combined with extraordinary insight and judgment and a collaborative spirit. I could not imagine a government executive better suited to advance the Port Authority's standards of world-class infrastructure and get things done."



Andrew Dato

■ **Unity Electric** has announced the promotion of **Andrew Dato** to President and CEO, succeeding David Morvant. This leadership transition marks an exciting new chapter as Unity strengthens its position in key sectors, such as airport construction and maintenance. **David Morvant** will assume a new senior leadership role within Equans North America-Unity's parent company, as CEO of the newly formed Modular and Specialty Construction Division. In this role, he will lead strategic initiatives focused on innovation and prefabrication across the U.S. and Canada. ■

The Airport Community Mourns the Loss of Joe Tesi, Sr.



A fixture in the New York City region's waste management service industry since 1999, Joseph Tesi, Sr., passed away on December 28 at the age of 72. He was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose presence will be deeply missed by all

who knew and loved him. Joe is survived by his loving sons, John Tesi and his wife Flora, and Joseph Tesi Jr. and his wife Diana. He was a proud and devoted grandfather to Lola, Faye, Jiana, and Joseph, who brought him immense joy and happiness.

He will be remembered for his deep love of family, his kindness, and the lasting impact he had on everyone fortunate enough to know him. ■



Turn Waiting Time into Engaging Moments Enhance Customer Experience with Premium Print and Digital Content

Make waiting enjoyable with fast and convenient access to over 1,600 national and international newspapers and magazines in 40 languages, available on any device. No subscriptions or apps needed – just seamless integration with your IT infrastructure in your respective corporate design. Elevate your customer service effortlessly.

Contact us to learn more.

Gabrielle Sarmiento
The Traveling Press, LLC
Queens, NY 11355
Phone: 718-353-5416
Email: gabrielle.s@thetravelingpress.com
www.thetravelingpress.com
www.media-carrier.com



AIRPORT INTEL

PANYNJ Announces a Record \$45-Billion Capital Plan for 2026-2035

On December 18, 2025, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) reissued a press release announcing the Port Authority Board of Commissioners' approval of a record \$45-billion Capital Plan for 2026-2035. Here is a summary of the plan featuring the segments that pertain to the Port Authority's Aviation sector.

Aviation

The Port Authority is in the midst of a more than \$50-billion wholesale remaking of its three major airports, anchored by historic public-private partnerships (P3) in cooperation with airline and development partners. Over the next 10 years, the agency will continue to deliver on its promise to transform its airports from worst to first.

John F. Kennedy International Airport

The 2017-2025 Capital Plan achieved: an ambitious vision plan and construction to completely transform John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) into a world-class global gateway.

The 2026-2035 Capital Plan will drive: the delivery of a once-in-a-generation transformation of JFK. The first gates of the world-class international terminals 1 and 6 are set to open in 2026, and further sections of the completely rebuilt, vastly simplified roadway network are set to come online. The plan also calls for designing and completing a transformation of AirTrain JFK with state-of-the-art new train cars to double capacity, alongside new world-class stations. At the central taxi hold lot, a new restaurant will open to serve taxi drivers. The plan also funds preliminary enabling work in the second half of the decade to replace aging terminals and infrastructure and accommodate demand-driven growth, as needed.

LaGuardia Airport

The 2017-2025 Capital Plan achieved: An unprecedented worst-to-first transformation. \$8-billion was invested in LaGuardia Airport (LGA) across two innovative public-private partnerships at Terminal B and Terminal C.

The 2026-2035 Capital Plan will drive: Finishing the job to make a vastly improved experience at LaGuardia even better. The plan calls for replacing the 1980s-era gate and boarding areas of Terminal A to meet demand and continued passenger growth. In consultation with community leaders and historians, the Port Authority will preserve the entire original Marine Air Terminal, including its rotunda and observation decks. The proposed renovation plans at

Terminal A only encompass the 1980s prefabricated concourse that was not part of the original MAT.

The plan also funds a vastly improved fast, free, and frequent LGALink Q70 bus service with a new bus lane on the BQE and a new on-airport bus stop. Work will also be completed on a new taxi hold lot at Terminal B, with amenities including new restrooms and prayer space for drivers.

Newark Liberty International Airport

The 2017-2025 Capital Plan achieved: Major steps toward an entirely new Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) experience. The ambitious EWR Vision Plan was established as a roadmap to complete Newark Liberty's transformation.

The 2026-2035 Capital Plan will drive: Construction of a world-class gateway at Newark Liberty. The plan provides funding for the Port Authority to establish a public-private partnership to design and build a new world-class, light-filled, and inspiring Terminal B. The plan calls for expanding the five-star Terminal A, including design and construction work on additional gates for future growth. A brand-new, state-of-the-art \$3.5-billion AirTrain Newark is currently under construction, improving reliability and capacity. Construction is also set to be completed in 2026 on a new community access point to the Airport Train Station, transforming airport and mass transit access for historically underserved areas of Newark and Elizabeth. The capital plan will also fund a third major taxiway to reduce flight delays and a new, simplified roadway network.

Operation Legal Ride

The 2026-2035 Capital Plan funds "Operation Legal Ride," a 10-year, \$100-million investment to launch a new war on predators who harass airport passengers by offering illegal rides and stealing business from hard-working drivers. The Port Authority is committed to ensuring that airport customers receive transportation offers from only legitimate taxis and for-hire vehicle services.

The approvals of the Capital Plan 2026-2035 followed a month-long public comment period during which the PANYNJ received a total of 402 comments solicited through a variety of channels, including six public hearings at multiple locations across the region and at the Dec. 18 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. ■

Visit our website, www.metroairportnews.com, to view the full text of the Capital Plan for 2026-2035

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

DUTY MANAGER - CARGO OPERATIONS

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow your career? Then let your career take off with Alliance Ground International as a Duty Manager!

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000443
Cargo Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

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

Airport Butler is a premier meet and greet service provider to clients in approximately twenty-five airports in the United States and Canada. Our clients primarily consist of executives, celebrities, production companies, inexperienced travelers, families, and senior citizens.

Alliance Ground International (AGI)
Job No.: 000441
Passenger Services
Part-time
JFK Airport, NY

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT

As an 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 passengers 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

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

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

BAGGAGE HANDLING AGENT – JFK AIRPORT

The Baggage Handling Agent ensures the safe, efficient, and accurate loading, unloading, and sorting of passenger luggage while adhering to safety guidelines, operating ground equipment.

Primeflight
Job No.: 000437
Ground Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

WHEELCHAIR LEAD - JFK AIRPORT

The Wheelchair Lead oversees the wheelchair assistance team, ensuring efficient operations, high-quality passenger service, staff training, and compliance with airport regulations through coordination, issue resolution, and regular communication with airport personnel.

Primeflight
Job No.: 000436
Passenger Services
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

SUPERVISOR - JFK AIRPORT

Interested in working in aviation? Are you looking for a job with stability and growth opportunities? If you are looking for a career with growth potential and work well in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment, we want to speak to you!

Primeflight
Job No.: 000435
Aircraft Cabin Maintenance
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

FORKLIFT OPERATOR

Experienced forklift operators to move, load, make & accept deliveries of all types and sizes of cargo.

AIISTEM Connections
Job No.: 000432
Cargo Handling
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

DIRECTOR OF RETAIL OPERATIONS I

This role takes full ownership of sales growth and profitability through strategic leadership, operational excellence, and high employee engagement.

Hudson
Job No.: 000430
Sales, Retail, & Customer Support
Full-time
SWF Airport, NY

SHIFT MANAGER

Responsible for maintaining operational readiness through exceptional cleanliness, proper staffing, and adherence to high retail and operational standards using prescribed policies.

Hudson
Job No.: 000429
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
SWF 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
SWF 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

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY ASSURANCE TECHNICIAN

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic FS/QA Technician to join our growing New York Team!

DO&CO
Job No.: 000425
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

ASIAN CUISINE SOUS CHEF

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

ITALIAN CUISINE SOUS CHEF

Join our team and bring authentic Italian craftsmanship to life! We're searching for a dynamic Italian Cuisine Sous Chef ready to infuse passion, tradition, and creativity into our culinary program.

DO&CO
Job No.: 000421
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

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 Airport, NY

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

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

STATION TRAINER - CARGO

This role will deliver airline practical, and instructor led training and monitor Classroom & OJT/Coaching activities at their respective station(s) to ensure Swissport and local specific requirements are met.

Swissport
Job No.: 000415
Education & Training
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

Visit our website to apply for these featured airport employment opportunities and search for additional jobs at the New York area airports. Register today to allow airport and aviation employers to match your skills with available positions.

www.airportworker.com



AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

FUELING AGENT

Fueling Agent provides all necessary and required fueling services as contracted by the customer to include, but not be limited to, aircraft fueling/de-fueling, vehicle fueling and operation of motorized/non-motorized fueling equipment.

Swissport
Job No.: 000411
Flight Operations
Full-time

LaGuardia Airport, NY

AVIATION SNOW SUPERVISOR

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 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
EWR Airport, NY

SNOW OPERATOR - JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Aero Snow Removal, part of the Outworks 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
EWR 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
EWR Airport, NY

SNOW OPERATOR AT LGA AIRPORT

Aero Snow Removal, part of the Outworks 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

FACILITIES AND FLEET MANAGER

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

ANIMAL ATTENDANT AT JFK AIRPORT

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

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

FLIGHT COORDINATOR

Your main responsibility is to oversee inflight catering operations.

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

LGA CABIN AGENT - P/T

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

Unifi Aviation, LLC
Job No.: 000358
Aircraft Cabin Maintenance
Part-time
Republic 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

AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT

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

PT SEASONAL DEICER AGENT

The Seasonal Deicer Agent ensures safe and efficient aircraft operations by inspecting for ice, applying deicing fluids using specialized vehicles.

Hallmark Aviation Services
Job No.: 000362
Ground Handling
Part-time ▪ Seasonal
JFK Airport, NY

PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT P/T - JAL

This is a customer-facing role, providing first-class customer service to everyone. You are friendly, outgoing, and love to make people happy daily!

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

ASSISTANT FOOD AND 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.

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

AREA MANAGER

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

SBM
Job No.: 000343
Sales, Retail, & Customer Support
Full-time
New York, NY 10001

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

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

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

Endeavor Air
Job No.: 000341
Passenger Services
Full-time
JFK Airport, NY

JUNIOR PASTRY SOUS CHEF

We have an incredible opportunity for a dynamic Junior Pastry Sous Chef to join our growing New York Team!

DO&Co
Job No.: 000339
Food Service & Hospitality
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11430

ROLL OFF DISPATCHER

Royal Waste has an immediate opening for a Roll-Off Dispatcher to join the team at our site in Queens, NY.

Royal Waste
Job No.: 000335
Trucking & Intermodal
Full-time
Jamaica, NY 11423

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

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

Visit our website to apply for these featured airport employment opportunities and search for additional jobs at the New York area airports. Register today to allow airport and aviation employers to match your skills with available positions.

www.airportworker.com



NON-REV TRAVELER

A One-Week Spanish Rail Pass

BY MAUREEN KATZ

mkatz@metroairportnews.com

In June 2017, my husband Jon and I purchased a one-week Spanish Rail Pass and traveled around the country to visit places we had not been to on prior vacations. One of the highlights of this trip was the city of Santiago de Compostela, the Capital of Galicia, and located in the province of A Coruña.

We have an old friend from the United States who now lives in this region. He was there when we arrived, and we had the opportunity to experience the city through a local. He drove us all over the area and showed us the many sites of interest. There is a lot of history in this city, and it is one of Spain's top cultural destinations. It is famous for the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, which ends here. The pilgrimage has routes from all over Europe and the British Isles. The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is the city's most famous building and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the burial place of St. James the Apostle, and pilgrims who have completed the pilgrimage typically end their journey at the Cathedral.

The city is wonderful for walking, and the streets are very narrow. The Old Town is a maze of streets and historic landmarks. There are many cafes, restaurants, unique shops, and a lively nightlife.

On our second day, our friend drove us to the coast of Galicia, in Northwestern Spain, where we visited a beach named Porto del Son. The weather that day was not beach weather, but the scenery was spectacular. Afterwards, he took us to a restaurant in a small fishing village for lunch, where we experienced the native Galician-style octopus. Santiago de Compostela is famous for its seafood.

Jon and I stayed at the Hotel Palacio Del Carmen, a five-star Autograph Collection Hotel by Marriott Bonvoy. We paid 118 euros per night, a bargain at the time.

Another wonderful city that we visited was Seville. We stayed at the famous Hotel Alfonso XIII, a Luxury Collection Hotel by Marriott Bonvoy. It is located in the city center and remains a cultural landmark. Its central location is perfect for exploring the city's main attractions.

Seville is the Capital and largest city of the community of Andalusia. It is situated on the lower part of the River Guadalquivir in southwestern Spain.

Since we had only two days in this city, we focused on the major attractions. We went to the Alcázar Real de Sevilla, the Royal Palace of the city. The palace is still in use today by the Spanish king. We saw the palace from the outside, because it is necessary to make prior reservations for a tour of the inside.

Another key site is the Cathedral of Seville, which features the famous Giralda bell tower. From the top, it offers an excellent view of



the city center; both of these attractions are located in the Barrio Santa Cruz, the former Jewish quarter of Seville.

Historically, Seville had the largest Jewish community in Spain. In this district, they could live with relative freedom. During the 14th century, the Jewish people were driven out or even killed if they did not convert to Christianity. Santa Cruz has many narrow streets, historic squares, and quaint restaurants.


Taking a one-hour river cruise on the Guadalquivir River was special. We passed under beautiful bridges, one of which, Puente de Tirana, was built in 1852. There are several historic buildings to see, including the Torre del Oro. Also, we passed the Seville Expo '92, which has unique architecture.

There is so much to see in Seville, and walking is a great way to take it all in. Calle Sierpes is the most popular pedestrian shopping street. It consists of fashion boutiques, local stores, and Spanish and International brands.

Spain has many wonderful cities we have still not visited, but on this vacation, we picked Granada for one day. Granada is in southern Spain in Andalusia and is on the outskirts of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Granada was considered the first city to be called a "melting pot" of different cultural heritages; in this case, Jewish, Muslims (Moors), and Christians lived side by side peacefully.

Granada is famous for its Grand Mosque, named Alhambra, and the city is centered around this fortress. Albaicín is a very worthwhile, very walkable city. It is known as the Jewish quarter and is one of the most beautiful places in Granada to lose yourself in. There are many steps, but as you walk up and down, you enjoy great views of the Alhambra. We stayed at the Hotel Palacio De Santa Paula, an Autograph Collection Hotel by Marriott Bonvoy. ■

The LaGuardia Link Q70 Bus to the Subway Is FREE!

The **LaGuardia Link**  Q70 bus provides free non-stop service between **LaGuardia Airport** and the **E F M R 7** subway lines at Jackson Heights. It's a 15 minute ride and buses leave every 8-10 minutes all day.



UPCOMING EVENTS



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

📅 January 12

**PAPD Emerald Society
General Meeting**
McSorley's Old Ale House
15 E 7th Street
New York, New York 10003
www.papdemeraldsociety.com

📅 January 13

Noontime at the Pan Am Museum
"Life, Love, and a Hijacking" Memories
from Pan Am Flight Attendants
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, New York 11530
www.thepanamuseum.org

📅 January 13

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

📅 January 14

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

📅 January 15

**JFK Airport Chamber
"Bring In the New Year"**
Russo's On the Bay
Howard Beach, New York 11414
jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

📅 January 21

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

📅 January 21

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

📅 January 21

Forward Together 2026
Invitation Only
JFK Airport
Terminal 4, Arrivals Hall
www.jfkiat.com

📅 January 27

ACF Terminal 6 Luncheon
Invitation Only
Guest Speaker: Steve Thody, CEO,
JFK Millennium Partners (JMP)
The Union at Eisenhower Park
East Meadow, NY 11554
www.acfhelps.org

📅 January 27

Networking in Your Neighborhood!
One Station Plaza
21310 41st Ave,
Bayside, NY 11361
www.queenschamber.org

📅 January 28

**New York Community Aviation
Roundtable (NYCAR) Meeting**
Virtual Event
aircraftnoise.panynj.gov

📅 January 29

**KAAMCO Cargo Operations
Committee Meeting**
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Port Authority Building
Queens, New York 11430
www.kaamco.org

📅 January 29

**JFK Air Cargo Association
Member Meeting**
Vetro Restaurant & Lounge
Howard Beach, New York 11414
www.jfkaircargo.aero

📅 January 29

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

📅 February 4

**JFK Airport Rotary Club
Dinner Meeting**
Patrizia's of Long Island
Massapequa, New York 11762
www.jfkr Rotaryclub.org

📅 February 5

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

📅 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

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

📅 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

📅 March 19

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

30TH ANNUAL EVENING OF FINE FOOD



CELEBRATING
30 YEARS!

Queens Centers for Progress' most anticipated culinary celebration that offers a vibrant fusion of exceptional cuisine, meaningful connections, and community spirit.

Tuesday - February 24, 2026

**Terrace on the Park
52-11 111th Street - Corona, NY 11368**

6:30 PM to 9:00 PM



2026 CHEFS OF THE YEAR



Patricia Ornst

*Director, NYS & Local
Government Affairs*

Delta Air Lines



Richard S. David

*Director, Queens
Corporate Affairs*

Con-Edison



Ben Guttmann

*Executive Director
Queens Economic
Development Corporation*

CLAIRE SCHULMAN
"SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY"
AWARD HONOREE



Loycent Gordon

*Chief Executive Officer
Neir's Tavern*

This Year's Participating Vendors Include:

- * Aigner Chocolates * Althea's Tropical Delights *
 - * 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!**

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors:

Veronica Tsang

- * BDO * Boro-Wide * Gerald J. Caliendo, Architects *
- * Mutal of America * Ray-Block Stationery *
- * Tarek M. Zeid PE PLLC Consulting Engineer *
- * TotalCareRX * Valley Bank *



**Scan QR Code or Visit Link to
Reserve Tickets :**

www.tinyurl.com/26FineFood

FREE, FAST, FREQUENT!



**FREE BUS TO SUBWAY &
LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD
EVERY 6–10 MINUTES**