

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

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MEMBERS ONLY

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

Illustration by Keelan Parham



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OUR COVER FAMILY: Ryan and Kelly Young of Seattle, Wash., Members since 2009 (not seen but still technically in the shot: the couple's first child, expected later this year)

To say Disney Parks are the places “where dreams come true” is to state a fact. If it wasn't, I wouldn't be wielding a machete (in this cartoon).

Like many kids, I grew up dreaming of life in Toontown. Whether I was drawn to the notion of showing evildoers the error of their ways through song or just the idea of my head being impervious to falling anvils, the ink-and-paint world called my name. Now, decades later, my dream has come true!

Artist Keelan Parham has given me the “toon treatment” (and made me deceptively handsome) in every edition of *Disney Files* Magazine, and I couldn't be more grateful. From wearing a loincloth to playing a ukulele (both of which have proven disastrous in my real life but worked well in 2-D), my cartoon alter-ego is living the dream. So imagine my delight when I realized the summer 2009 edition of your magazine would celebrate the opening of the first phase of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas' Kidani Village (pages 3-6). Time to check “look awesome in a pith helmet” off my bucket list!

Of course, this magazine is about more than making *my* dreams come true, so we've packed this edition with stories for every manner of dreamer.

For those who dream of the ultimate treehouse, for example, we present the opening of your neighborhood's newest “branch” (page 7).

For those who dream of stuff “happening on vacation and staying on vacation,” we offer a new perk that'll have you rollin' like Clooney but spendin' like Scrooge when you go see Simba on The Strip (page 9). (Prefer Broadway shows over touring productions? Fine. We'll throw in a New York getaways feature on pages 11-12. You're so demanding.)

Let's see, what else do people dream about? Balloon flight? Pages 17 and 25. Cool clothes? Page 18. Powering steam trains with leftover fry grease? Page 19. (Hey, don't judge people's dreams!) Being 23? Pages 23-24. Impressing your friends by explaining how a *Star Tours*™ droid evolved from a goose? Pages 27-28. Becoming an Olympic Champion? Can't really help you there, but **I did meet Olympic Champion Shawn Johnson** this year at ESPN The Weekend, and she specifically asked me to tell you, “hello.” (Not everyone reading this. Just you.)

Wherever your dreams take you, all of us at Disney Vacation Club look forward to welcoming you home again soon. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a snake to fight.

From the jungles of Toontown,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Disneyphiles (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:
really cool people who love, or are attracted to, all things Disney

Disney Files (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:
a really cool magazine for Disney Vacation Club Members, the ultimate Disneyphiles

FROM THE DESK OF JIM LEWIS

top news & perspectives

by Jim Lewis, President, Disney Vacation Club

RAISING THE BAR

Once again, a representative sampling of Members took part in the Disney Vacation Club Condominium Association Survey, fueling one of the most important components of our continuous-improvement efforts. You'll find highlights from the survey responses later in this edition of your magazine, but I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss what I view as the most important survey topic: overall Membership satisfaction.

As you may have heard at our 2008 Condominium Association Meeting or read in your spring magazine, 91 percent of Members described their overall Membership satisfaction as "excellent" or "very good." That's an "A" grade, and I'm extremely pleased to know that we continue to be such a positive part of your lives.

But as my team knows well, I also see "91" as "nine shy of 100," so to say I'm fully satisfied would be an overstatement. Now, do I think scoring 100 is realistic? Maybe not. (Just don't tell my team I told you that.) There will always be room for improvement, and it's with that in mind that we shoot for perfection every year. All of us in the Disney Vacation Club Cast family, from those you meet in our resorts to those who work behind the scenes, are committed to that pursuit, and I'm pleased to highlight some of our many efforts to raise the proverbial bar.

First and foremost, we continue to grow our resort portfolio at an unprecedented rate, giving you a more diverse array of Disney Vacation Club Resort options than ever before. This year alone, we'll welcome the addition of the first phase of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas' Kidani Village, the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort and The Villas at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel*® & Spa. And, with our new resort development in Hawai'i well underway, your vacation future will grow even brighter in the years ahead.

That same commitment to experiential diversity prompted our new relationship with *RCI*®, the world's largest vacation-exchange

company, giving you a broader range of resort experiences, length-of-stay options and more.

Other behind-the-scenes initiatives are focused on everything from your reservation processes to the special perks you enjoy once your vacations begin.

Your spring magazine, for example, outlined efforts by the *Walt Disney World*® Transportation team to use everything from new dispatch software to new "floater" buses to improve service levels at our resorts.

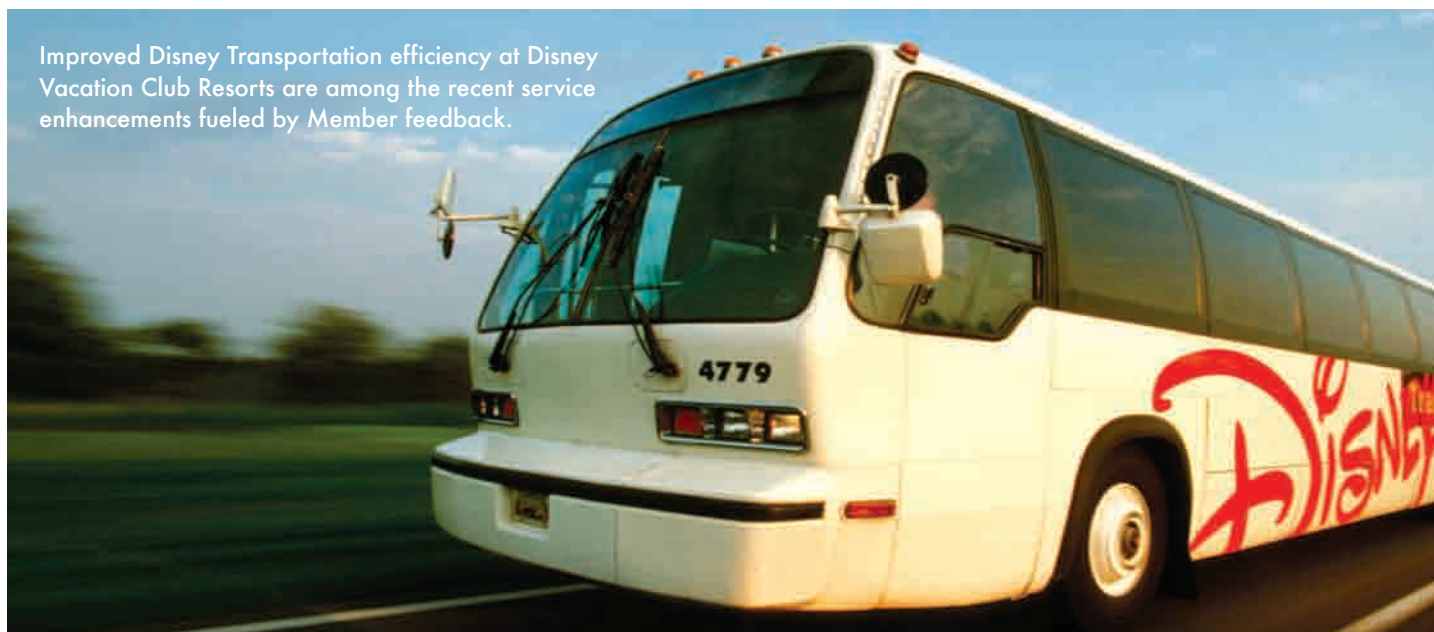
On the Member Services front, a new wait-list process (allowing Members a maximum of two active wait-list requests per Membership, per use year) is decreasing response times and making more resort inventory available to more Members.

Enhancements to your Member Web site (www.dvcmember.com) have added resorts from the Disney Collection at the *Walt Disney World Resort*, *Tokyo Disney Resort*® and *Hong Kong Disneyland*® Resort to the list of places for which you can make online reservation requests, and we hope to launch an online-reservation system by early next year.

These are just a few of the highlights of our continuing efforts to raise the bar, and I thank you for fueling these efforts through your feedback. As proud as I am of our history together, I know that our best days are ahead.



Improved Disney Transportation efficiency at Disney Vacation Club Resorts are among the recent service enhancements fueled by Member feedback.



It Takes a Village (to learn Swahili)

Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas' Kidani Village is welcoming its first Members "home," and your magazine staff is celebrating this new addition to the neighborhood by offering you a complimentary Swahili lesson. (Our other idea was to thrust the resort's General Manager into the air like baby Simba above Pride Rock while Sir Elton sang a little something about life cycles, but that plan never gained much support.) All of us at *Disney Misururu Jarida* (we think that's Swahili for *Disney Files Magazine*) hope you enjoy this illuminating lesson and learn a little something about your new village along the way. So without further adieu (that's French, not Swahili) let's dive right into our makeshift dictionary, avoiding the traditional trappings of alphabetical order.

Kidani: Swahili for "necklace," Kidani (pronounced kid-AH-nee) is a fitting name for the resort's new village, which draws inspiration from traditional African neckwear, with villas serving as beads, hallway connectors as knots and the lobby as a central jewel. Imagineers point out that the village's layout also mimics the sweeping horns of the water buffalo, but Swahili words for buffalo include "mbogo" and "nyati," and frankly, kidani is easier to say. Besides, while the nearby Jambo House focuses primarily on our feathered and four-legged friends, Kidani Village has a more human focus.

"At Kidani Village, it's more about a celebration of the people; their arts and crafts, and their culture," said Walt Disney Imagineer Chris Higgs.

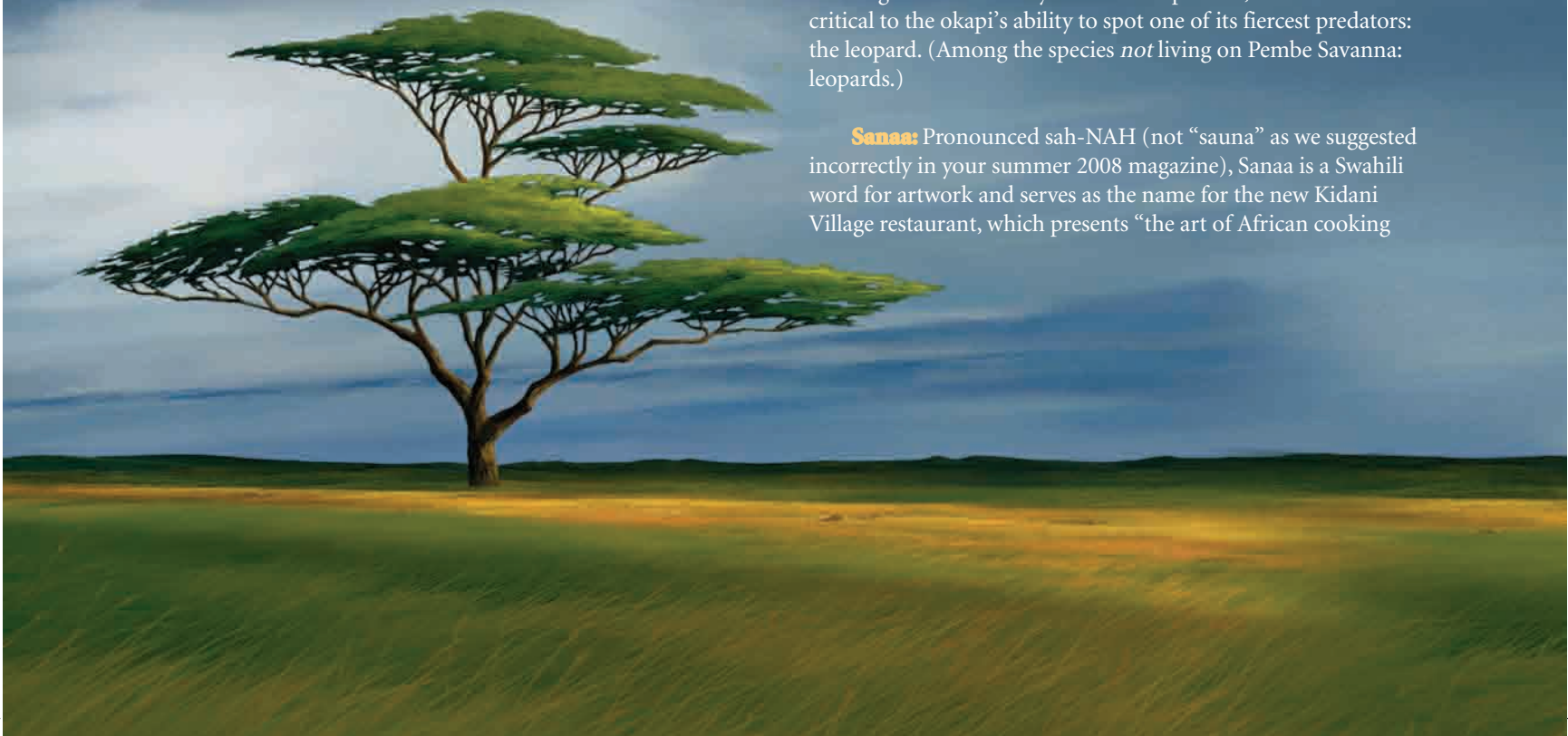
Pembe: Of course, it's not *all* about the humans, and Kidani Village features expanded stretches of the Sunset Savanna, along with an all-new Pembe Savanna (which Members will see from an additional phase of Kidani Village, slated to open later this year). Pembe (pronounced pem-bay) is Swahili for horn, offering a little nod to the village's aforementioned resemblance to the horns of a water buffalo. (Or mbogo. Or nyati.)

"It was critical that we work closely with our Animal Programs partners as we developed the village," Chris explained. "While the animals were safely separated from the construction work, we were often under the watchful eye of our animal neighbors. The ostriches and giraffes appeared to be particularly fascinated by the work."

Among the most highly anticipated new residents of Pembe Savanna is the okapi, an eye-catching mammal native to the Ituri Rainforest of central Africa. While the animals' striped legs lead many to mistake the species for a relative of the zebra, the okapi actually is a close relative of the giraffe. Oh, and in case you're wondering, okapi isn't a Swahili word. The name is derived from two Lese words: oka and kpi (oka means to cut, and kpi refers to striped markings on the shafts of arrows).

One more fun fact before we move on: an okapi's long tongue is well suited, not only for browsing on leaves, but also for swatting flies out of its eyes. This is important, as clear vision is critical to the okapi's ability to spot one of its fiercest predators: the leopard. (Among the species *not* living on Pembe Savanna: leopards.)

Sanaa: Pronounced sah-NAH (not "sauna" as we suggested incorrectly in your summer 2008 magazine), Sanaa is a Swahili word for artwork and serves as the name for the new Kidani Village restaurant, which presents "the art of African cooking



with Indian flavors.” Drawing inspiration from the ancient African spice routes (of 1400s Africa, India, China and Europe), the 150-seat, table-service restaurant, featuring views of Sunset Savanna through 9-foot-tall windows, serves familiar lunch and dinner foods prepared in traditional Indian tandoor ovens, along with slow-cooked specialties showcasing the flavorful spices of Africa. Diners worried about the implications of the word “spice” shouldn’t fret, as the restaurant’s developers are quick to clarify that African spices, which include everything from cinnamon and cloves to nutmeg and vanilla, are all about flavor, not heat. (So next time you enjoy a vanilla shake at your local fast food joint, make like a wine snob and tell your fellow diners that you detect notes of ancient African spice. Then say something about tannins. Everyone enjoys a good tannin reference.)

Pengwini: Swahili for penguin. This has nothing to do with Kidani Village. We just like the word pengwini. (And penguins for that matter.)

Samawati: Pronounced sam-ah-wah-tee, the Swahili word for “azure” (a shade of blue) serves as a refreshing moniker for the village’s 4,700-square-foot, zero-depth-entry pool. Equipped with a 128-foot-long water slide and two nearby whirlpool spas, the Samawati Springs Pool is at the heart of a recreation area that also includes the Maji Pool Bar and Uwanja Camp water-play area. Speaking of which...

Maji: Referencing the Swahili word for “water,” the Maji (mah-jee) Pool Bar serves as a refreshing watering hole in the African (or Floridian) sun.

Uwanja: Pronounced oo-wahn-juh, the Swahili word for “play area” was an easy choice for the village’s interactive wet zone, themed as an animal-observation site known as Uwanja Camp.

“This place is a destination unto itself,” Chris said. “We’ve created unique zones for different age groups, so there’s something for the entire family.”

At the observation station, kids ages four or younger climb discarded cargo crates, unscramble animal images, cross a rope bridge, and frolic through a gently bubbling geyser and shallow cistern pool.

The departure zone, designed for kids ages 5-7, is anchored by a water tower,

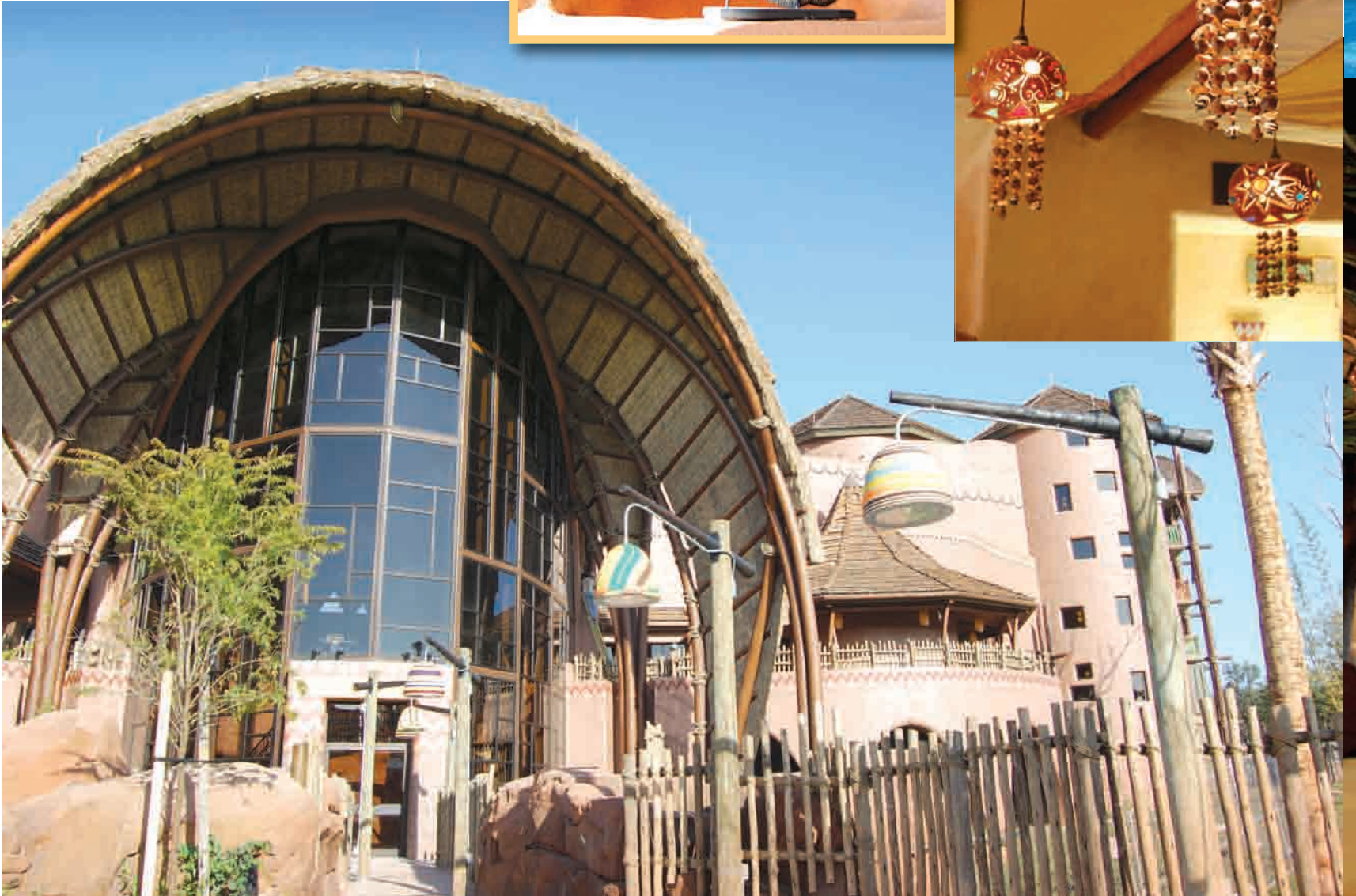
which has fallen into disrepair since the explorers abandoned camp. The resulting leaks, coupled with cistern-filling pulleys and interactive squirting gardens (look out for motion- and touch-sensitive African irises and Venus flytraps) provide splashes of activity.

Finally, kids ages eight or older flock to base camp, with activities revolving around an old weather station. Elevated buckets (once used to keep food away from animals) and oil drums overflow with fresh water, courtesy of the Guest-controlled sluice and water cannons. That Rube Goldberg guy would’ve loved this place! (Reuben Lucious Goldberg – Rube to his friends – was an inventor and cartoonist best known for cartoons depicting complicated devices performing simple tasks. But you probably knew that. Smarty.)

Johari: Remember that we mentioned the village’s lobby serving as the metaphorical necklace’s central jewel? Well it turns out the Swahili word for “jewel” is johari, which probably explains why the lobby’s merchandise shop is called Johari Treasures. (Or it’s a really spooky coincidence.) Explore this location to find apparel, snack and grocery items, character toys and merchandise, books and periodicals, infant supplies, jewelry, sundries and plenty of Member merchandise.

Not referenced above due to their lack of Swahili names but still part of Kidani Village: tennis, basketball (half court) and shuffleboard courts; Community Hall; a two-grill barbeque pavilion, the Safari So Good Arcade and the just-as-cleverly named Survival of the Fittest fitness center.









Disney

VACATION CLUB

news and insight from around the neighborhood

ARBOR ABODES

Resort scheduled to debut new “branch” on June 1

You are now free to be among the trees. (Unless you’re reading this before June 1, in which case you’ll “soon” be free.)

Whether you’re a hard-core Disneyphile, a tree-hugging naturalist or just a big fan of octagons, the newest addition to the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood is “tree-mendous” news. (Sorry.) The 60 new Treehouse Villas mark the newest “branch” (we do love our word play!) of Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa and revive a *Walt Disney World*® tradition born in 1975, but shuttered in 2002.

Inspired by the classic styles of those 1975 originals and driven to blend “cabin casual” with new creature comforts, Walt Disney Imagineers have ushered in a new era of treehouse living.

“Emotion was a key player in this project,” Imagineering Vice President of Resort Projects Jim Durham told *Disney Files Magazine*. “The Disney Vacation Club experience is all about making memories, and treehouses evoke so many memories. Whether you had a treehouse as a kid or vacationed in the original Treehouse Villas, these are fond and vivid memories. With that in mind, we’ve created a place where age plays no role, and where families can enjoy the comforts of today while returning to the past.” (If Jim was like your magazine staff, he would’ve said “returning to their roots.”)

The end result was a design that mimics what Jim calls the “visual value” of the octagonal originals but features modern amenities ranging from granite counter tops to flat-panel TVs. Each elevated three-bedroom villa sleeps as many as nine and features an open kitchen, cathedral-ceiling living room, spacious deck and more.

“This project has exceeded our wildest expectations,” Jim said proudly. “Just to build in such a densely forested area in this day and age is unheard of. With such an unspoiled environment around these structures, it’s easy to forget that the *Downtown Disney*® area is just around the river bend.” (If Jim was like us, he would’ve sung those last five words like Pocahontas.)

Building in such an environment was made possible through the magic of modular construction, a method used to great acclaim during construction of Disney’s Contemporary Resort. Crews built the villas in a controlled off-site environment before lowering the pieces by crane over the forest canopy and assembling them on the ground below like giant 3-D puzzles.

“I can’t imagine any other way we could’ve pulled this off,” said Imagineering Senior Construction Manager Todd Thomasson. “We literally lowered villas through holes in the trees. Not only did this minimize our construction impact on these beautiful surroundings, but we actually reduced the physical footprint of each structure. That’s something we’re extremely proud of.” (If Todd was like us, he would’ve said “of which we’re extremely proud.” But fortunately, he’s not that pretentious.)



EVENT INSPIRES MEMBERS TO VACATION AS THEY WISH

High-tech response devices add to the fun

Continuing a growing trend of Disney Vacation Club events unfolding in places without castles, Members and Guests in suburban Chicago got their Disney fix earlier this year through an interactive “Vacation As You Wish” event at the Woodfield Mall, home to the original Disney Doorway to Dreams store (look for news about a second Disney Doorway to Dreams location on page 16). The event’s signature show explored the growing world of vacation possibilities available through Disney Vacation Club, giving Midwesterners a welcomed mental escape from the bone-chilling “pleasures” of a Windy City February.

More than passive onlookers, Members in attendance were part of the show, using state-of-the-art Audience Response Devices to share their vacation wishes on the theater’s screen in real time. One question, for example, asked the audience if their ideal vacation would involve temperatures: (a) about the same as they currently are outdoors, (b) slightly warmer than they currently are outdoors, (c) much warmer than they currently are outdoors or (d) right now, the surface of the sun would feel pretty good. Surprising nobody, the still-thawing group threw their overwhelming support behind option “d,” prompting show co-host and Vacation Club Guide Dave Kreutzer to quip, “While Disney Vacation Club Members can visit many places *under* the sun, I’m afraid we’ve yet to build anything *on* the sun.”

On the wish front, meanwhile, audience responses

triggered the spontaneous distribution of everything from souvenir passport holders and binoculars to sparkling cider and tasty treats, creating a frenzy of giveaways typically seen in Chicago on the set of that little talk show hosted by up-and-coming television personality Oprah Winfrey. (*Bold Disney Files* prediction: that woman’s going to be a great success.)

Other surprises included appearances by everyone from Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse to such wish-granting characters as Tinker Bell and Genie.

“The response to the entire event was fantastic,” said Disney Vacation Club Events Manager Jennifer Haile Tinn. “This was our third return visit to Chicago since we opened Disney Doorway to Dreams in 2007, and we were thrilled to have so many Members welcome us home.”



SURVEY SAYS

Measuring the magic of Membership

The approach of summer means two things: (1) Chicago’s unpleasant cold will soon give way to unpleasant heat, and (2) it’s time for *Disney Files* Magazine to recap the most recent Condominium Association Survey, reflecting responses from a representative sampling of Members. So here are the highlights: 91, 92, 75, 87 and 21. What, you need more detail? Fine...

As referenced on page 2, **91** percent of Members rated their Membership satisfaction as excellent or very good. Members cited “positive Cast interactions” as the leading contributor to their satisfaction, followed by “quality and selection of resort accommodations,” and the “flexibility of travel arrangements.”

92 percent of Members read *Disney Files* Magazine, with **75** percent reading the majority of the publication.

87 percent of Members use their Member Web site (www.dvcmember.com) to access information about their upcoming *Disneyland*® and *Walt Disney World*® vacations, tracking their Vacation Points, using vacation-planning tools, getting up to speed on the latest perks and more.

21 percent of Members would like to utilize the World Passport Collection more frequently. New nightly and weekly exchange options through *RCI*® are designed to help more Members than ever enjoy this aspect of their Membership.

“The survey is a critical component of our commitment to continuous improvement,” said Disney Vacation Club Member Marketing Manager Cheryl George. “All of us at Disney Vacation Club strive for perfection, and Members’ thoughtful responses help us identify our greatest areas of opportunity as we continue to enhance the magic of Membership.”



PERK ALERTS

Member savings and experiences

THIS WAY A GREAT DEAL COMES

New perk roars into Vegas

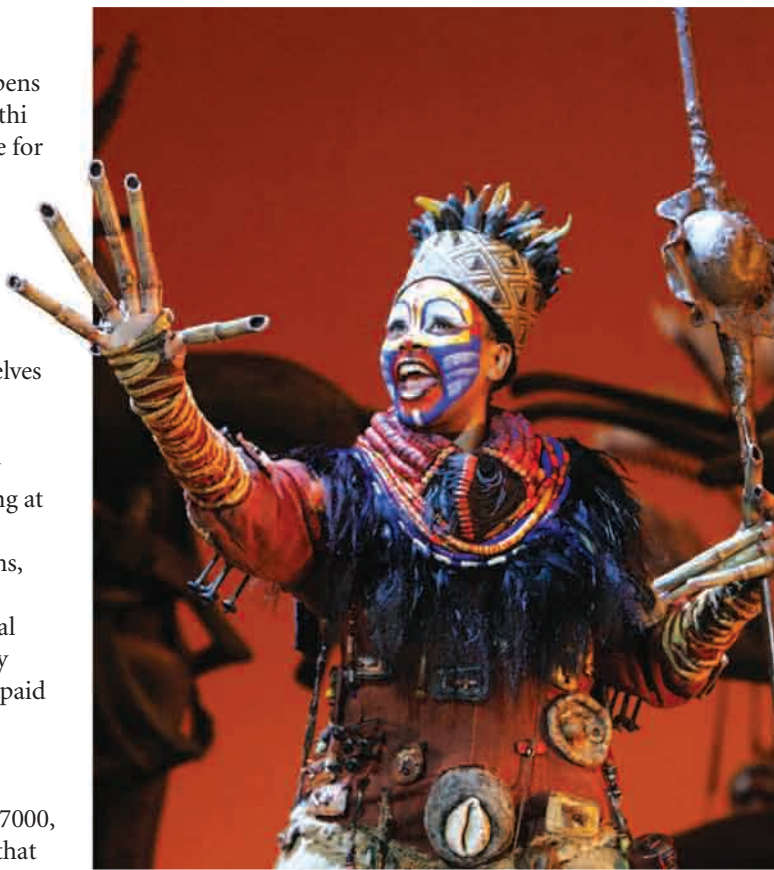
Disney's theatrical production of *The Lion King* opens with a jubilant Rafiki chanting, "Nants ingonyama bagithi baba!" It's unforgettable, albeit a little unpronounceable for most of us.

Loosely translated from Swahili, the phrase means "this way a lion comes." We're not sure of the Swahili translation for "this way a Disney Vacation Club Member comes," but Las Vegas better find out soon. The international smash hit is opening at the iconic Mandalay Bay Resort, and Members are making themselves at home with an enticing new perk.

Through Sept. 7, 2009, Members can experience *The Lion King* along with four-diamond Mandalay Bay accommodations for discounted package rates beginning at \$216 for two nights, based on double occupancy.

The package includes deluxe room accommodations, two mezzanine-level tickets to *The Lion King* (room category and show tickets may be upgraded at additional cost), a \$100 discount on cabana rental at Mandalay Bay Beach and a complimentary child admission with each paid adult admission to the resort's Shark Reef Aquarium, featuring more than 2,000 animals and 100 sharks.

For more details or to book, visit www.mandalaybay.com/vacationclub or call (877) 632-7000, and use offer code PDISNY3. Also feel free to mention that you know what "Nants ingonyama bagithi baba" means. It won't get you anything, but it sure is fun!



Rates are subject to change, and restricted dates may apply for all or some elements of this offer. Contact Mandalay Bay Resort at the telephone number listed in this story for more information.

RELAX IN THE SUNSHINE (STATE)

Members decompress with Florida spa discounts

Telling you about *Disneyland*® Resort spa discounts in your spring magazine got us thinking. (Something had to.) Maybe those members of the family whose idea of vacation involves a good rubdown are looking for deals in the Sunshine State, as well as the Golden State. To those Members, we say, "relax." We've got you covered.

The Spa at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort currently offers Members a 10 percent discount on retail items (excluding Amala Skin Care) and a host of spa treatments, from Hydro-Massage Therapies and the always popular Peppermint Pedicure (who

doesn't love a refreshingly minty toe?) to the special Disney Vacation Club Member Package, which includes a Swedish Massage, Radiance Aromatherapy Facial, Spa Manicure and Spa Pedicure. (You'll look stunning in your *Splash Mountain*® photo later in your vacation!)

The discount even applies to the Mystical Forest Therapies, which, as we were surprised to learn, are administered by neither magical elves nor singing woodland creatures. These treatments, designed to restore balance and relieve stress, are carried out by the spa's top-notch therapists. (Guess the elves are too busy making cookies.)

For reservations or more details, call (407) 827-4455.

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Investigating rumors from a proprietor of perks

Searching for the perfect summer perks led the *Disney Files* staff to uncover some fun rumors about Disney Water Parks, and we're here to get to the truth. After all, the *Disney Files* tagline is, "The truth is out there." (Wait a minute, that's the "X Files." We don't have a tagline. Moving on...)

Rumor No. 1: Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park boasts Florida's largest inland surfing lagoon. While we didn't personally measure every such lagoon in the state, good sources tell us this one's true. We even heard it may be the largest on the planet, though the jury's still out on that one.

Rumor No. 2: The Park's state-of-the-art Crush 'n' Gusher attraction, pictured here, is named for Crush of Disney•Pixar's *Finding Nemo* and a fellow sea turtle named Gusher, who ended up on the film's cutting-room floor. Completely untrue. Curiously, the name has something to do with fruit processing.

Rumor No. 3: The Beach Bucket ice cream treat at Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park is really tasty.

We checked, and it is.

Rumor No. 4: Guests on that Park's Summit Plummet attraction slide at speeds

exceeding 50 miles an hour. We'd test this claim, but the radar guns we got for Christmas are...okay, so Santa didn't bring us the radar guns we asked for and clearly deserved. Still hurts.

Rumor No. 5: Members save money at Disney Water Parks. This isn't really a rumor, but we're in a rhythm. Members currently save \$4 a person ages 10 or older, and \$3 a person ages 3-9 on daily admission to Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park or Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park.

Rumor No. 6: This rumor gimmick stopped being funny paragraphs ago. We report. You decide. (Hey, that would make a great tagline!)



AND VISIONS OF SOMERSAULTS DANCED IN THEIR HEADS

Members enjoy Cirque du Soleil® *La Nouba*™ discount

Perhaps your childhood dreams involved becoming a firefighter. Or teacher. Or timeshare magazine writer. But some folks dream of life as an acro-gymnast, equilibrist or trapeze artist, and we have a deal for them! (Or for anyone who's happy to just sit back and watch such artistry from the safety of their comfortably padded seat.)

We'll get to the deal in a moment, but let's first talk about the people who have successfully pursued the aforementioned dreams of contorting, twirling, flying and mesmerizing. After all, *Cirque du Soleil* wouldn't have a *La Nouba* without them.

Representing 15 countries and boasting résumés dotted with everything from theatrical productions to Olympic Games, 67 uniquely talented artists make up the cast of this hit *Downtown Disney*® West Side show at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort.

The show's title, by the way, draws from the French phrase "faire la nouba," meaning "to party" or "to live it up." That brings us to our "big deal," which is letting Members "live it up" for less! Disney Vacation Club Members currently enjoy a 30 percent discount on Category 2 tickets for all *La Nouba* performances through June 27. Please note that there will be no

performances scheduled from May 19-June 1.

For reservations, call Member Services at (800) 800-9800, and remember to present your Member ID Card or your current *Key to the World* card with a Member designation when you pick up your tickets at the *La Nouba* Box Office.

In the meantime, we here at *Disney Files* Magazine will work on our juggling skills. (Why should dreaming kids and circus artists have all the fun?)





MEMBER GETAWAYS

discover a whole new world

NEW YORK

10 interesting things about the Empire State

From the frenzy of New York City to the tranquility of Lake George, New York offers more vacation opportunities than meet the eye. That's good news for Disney Vacation Club Members, who may enjoy the Empire State by contacting Member Services and arranging an exchange through RCI®, utilizing the World Passport Collection.

So, if you'll excuse a little format thievery from a famous New York-based late-night talk show host who we won't name here since his show doesn't air on ABC, the *Disney Files* Magazine staff proudly presents the Top 10 things we found interesting, amusing or somehow "Disney relevant" about the great state of New York as we put together this edition of your magazine.

10: Lake George was named after Britain's King George II by Sir William Johnson in 1755, when British forces controlled the area during the French and Indian War.

9: When the 102-story Empire State Building opened in 1931, President Herbert Hoover turned on the lights by pushing a button in Washington, D.C. (Neat trick!)

8: For a theatrical production to be considered "Broadway," it has to be performed in one of the 39 theaters in New York City's Theater District (plus one

in Lincoln Center), and the qualifying theater must have more than 500 seats. This includes current Disney on Broadway shows *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Mermaid* and *The Lion King*. (Phew!)

7: New York City has 570 miles of shoreline.

6: New York's Coney Island is famous for its amusement park and its celebrated hot dog-eating contest held each Independence Day. The reigning champion is American Joey Chestnut, who narrowly defeated Japan's Takeru Kobayashi for the 2008 crown and the coveted Mustard Yellow Belt.

5: Set in New York's picturesque Catskill Mountains, the classic film *Dirty Dancing* (not a Disney movie, but we've already established our reckless off-brand referencing in this piece) features Jerry Orbach as Baby's father. Orbach voiced Lumiere in the animated film *Beauty and the Beast*, which became a Broadway show meeting the criteria outlined in fact No. 3. Oh, and *Dirty Dancing* choreographer Jerry Ortega later became the dance master behind Disney's *High School Musical* sensation, much to the delight of wannabe Wildcats everywhere.

4: The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, celebrating its milestone 50th birthday this year, is home to 12 resident arts organizations, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, the New York City Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera, whose current musical director, James Levine, arranged the music and conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for Disney's *Fantasia/2000*.

3: When entering one of those famous yellow New York City taxi cabs, you may hear a celebrity voice from the city's Talking Taxi Program. Past celebrity

BROADWAY

8



voices have ranged from comedian Chris Rock and former New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre to Olympian Dara Torres and opera great Placido Domingo.

2: Chittenago, N.Y., is the home of L. Frank Baum, author of *The Wizard of Oz*. The town, which hosts an annual Munchkins Parade, features a yellow brick sidewalk leading to Oz-themed businesses.

And the No. 1 thing we learned about New York during our research: Feb. 14 is more than just Valentine's Day in the Big Apple. It's also Mayor Bloomberg's birthday.

Just missing the cut: New York City is one of only three cities to have served as the U.S. capital (the others being Philadelphia and of course, Washington, D.C.). When George Washington referred to New York as "the seat of empire," it gave rise to New York being forever known as the Empire State. (Hmm...not sure why this didn't beat out "570 miles of shoreline.")





**PRESIDENT NIXON, YOU JUST
DECLARED THAT YOU AREN'T A CROOK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?**

Every once in a while, the *Disney Files* staff looks at a Disney fun fact and wonders aloud, "How can we get this into the magazine?"

Do we force it into a loosely related news story? Toss it into a parenthetical reference? Spell it out in secret code for basement-bound bloggers? (Crack a window there, bloggers. Fresh air is your friend.)

This time around, we figured we'd give one of our favorite facts a space of its own. So here it goes.

On Nov. 17, 1973, U.S. President Richard M. Nixon addressed a gathering of Associated Press managing editors and delivered his now-infamous line, "I am not a crook!" That's not the fun fact, of course. We're sure you already knew about that speech. (Or at least that line.)

Here's the fun fact (more fun for us than for him, but still fun): that historic speech took place at Disney's Contemporary Resort! No kidding.

We also looked into the location of Vice President Dan Quayle's much-publicized misspelling of "potato," but it turns out we had nothing to do with that one. (Though we're still fairly certain that FDR's, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" had something to do with that questionable maintenance-service elevator at the Hollywood Tower Hotel.)

Anyway, we hope this fun little Nixon nugget will help you show off during your next visit to Disney's Contemporary Resort (or its forthcoming new tower). We'll let you know if we dig up anything else.

WIT AND WISDOM
IN 100% COTTON

CLEVER COUTURE

by Andrew Santelli

Disney Vacation Club Advance Sales Associate (and *Disney Files* Magazine contributor) Andrew Santelli has a keen eye for wearable wit. *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to share some of the most memorable T-shirts Andrew has observed on Guests from his prime viewing location at Disney Vacation Club Information Centers throughout the *Walt Disney World*® Resort. Enjoy the madcap, short-sleeved hilarity.

Where: *Disney's Animal Kingdom*® Theme Park

What: A toddler ambling toward The Boneyard with a shirt reading, "I still live with my parents."

Why I loved it: Because to this little guy, I say, "You've got a good thing going. Milk it for all it's worth." (If my parents are reading this: Everything's fine. And thanks for the care package. Love the socks.)

Where: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort

What: A gentleman whose shirt quoted Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

Why I loved it: With apologies to Groucho, a man who didn't want to be part of any club that would have him as a member, we think that (shameless plug alert!) *Disney Files* Magazine is a Member's best friend.

Where: *Disney's Animal Kingdom* Theme Park

What: A shirt reading, "My plan for world domination involves lemurs. Lots and lots of lemurs."

Why I loved it: It allowed me to turn this column into something of a public-service announcement. So when lemurs do take over the world, don't say I didn't warn you.

Where: Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge

What: A school-age girl whose shirt demanded, "Save the Earth! It's the only planet with candy!"

Why I loved it: It prompted me to give this girl a simple challenge: "Prove it."



KEY LIME PIE



Long before Floridians fought about hanging chads, they battled over recipes for Key lime pie. For more than a century, the summery staple has pitted “cooked” against “uncooked,” “meringue” against “whipped cream” and “graham-cracker” against “pastry.” Lives have been lost. Spirits broken. Dreams shattered. (Okay, so that’s a bit dramatic, but you get the point.) We aren’t here to tell you the *right* way to prepare the pie. We’re just telling you how they do it in the kitchens of Olivia’s Café at Disney’s Old Key West Resort. It’s quick, it’s tasty, and it’s as easy as, well, pie. (Had to say it.)

Serves 8

Ingredients:

- 5 large egg yolks
- 1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 2/3 cup Key lime juice
- 1 prepared 9-inch graham cracker piecrust

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees (Fahrenheit).
2. In a bowl, gently whisk together the yolks, but don’t let them foam. Stirring constantly, slowly blend in the sweetened condensed milk and the Key lime juice.
3. Pour the mixture into the piecrust and bake for 12-15 minutes, or until set.
4. Remove the pie from the oven and cool to room temperature on a wire rack. Cover and chill in the refrigerator until very cold.
5. Cut chilled pie into wedges and serve. (Side order of Hemingway stories optional.)

Did you know?

- Many historians believe that a cook known simply as Aunt Sally, who worked for ship salvager and Florida’s first self-made millionaire Bill Curry, invented Key lime pie in the late 1800s. (Others give credit to local fishermen, but attributing the dish to someone named Aunt Sally just sounds comforting.)
- The Key lime tree is native to Malaysia and is believed to have arrived in Florida with Spanish explorers in the 1500s.
- In 1965, Florida State Representative Bernie Papy, Jr., introduced a bill calling for a fine against anyone advertising Key lime pie not made with authentic Key limes. (It didn’t pass.)
- Legislators made Key lime pie the official pie of Florida in 2006.



We didn't reveal the secret for the meringue, or for the pie's cool little shape. Had to save at least a little magic.



Fridge-o-Fame

A refrigerator is more than just a place to chill your cans of carbonated hops and barley. It's a place of family honor, a surface on which to display report cards, award certificates or that cool photo of your kid trying to pull the sword from the stone. Like a proud parent, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates the achievements of Members and their families here on the "Fridge-o-Fame."

DVC



Point of light: Inspired by a close friend battling a disease and fighting to save her eyesight, young Rickie Santer of New York, Member since 2000, raised more than \$10,000 for the Foundation Fighting Blindness by coordinating a fundraising talent show. This and other community projects earned Rickie one of the United States' Daily Point of Light Awards.

Golden girl: Colleen O'Connor of New York, Member since 1997, was among the only 5 percent of Girl Scouts to earn the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award in 2008, earning citations from the President of the United States, the General of the U.S. Army and other dignitaries. Colleen will graduate high school this year and dreams of someday working for Disney Vacation Club.

Honor your family: Send your family's good news, along with your name, address, phone number and Member Since year, to *Disney Files Magazine's* Fridge-o-Fame, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. (Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned.) When sending your submission, please sign and include our release form for each person pictured or referenced. For your convenience, the form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

NEW ADDRESS



Turtle time: Disney's Vero Beach Resort Members and Guests have a variety of opportunities this summer to learn more about the area's endangered sea turtles. June and July guided **turtle walks** in search of nest sites will take place at the resort on Wednesday nights (a \$10 donation is recommended) and at the Barrier Island Center in Melbourne Beach on Thursday nights (cost is \$10 a person). Hopeful participants must be present at 10 a.m. on the day of the activity to take part in a lottery, as space is limited. Members also may call the Caribbean Conservation Corporation at (800) 678-7853 to pre-book a Monday night walk at the Barrier Island Center for \$20 for the first person and \$10 for each additional person in the party. (Participants in the Barrier Island Center walks must provide their own transportation.) A weekly **turtle presentation**, meanwhile, takes place on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Community Hall (no sign-up needed), and a children's **Turtle Troop** activity takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. (register at the Eb & Flo's rental counter). And be sure to visit the resort's merchandise shop to ask how you can support turtle-conservation efforts through the **Adopt-a-Nest Program**.

New doorway: Disney Vacation Club plans to open a new Disney Doorway to Dreams preview center later this summer on Long Island, N.Y. The 6,900 square-foot store in the popular Roosevelt Field mall will feature a full-scale model of a two-bedroom vacation home, an interactive family vacation discovery zone, a supervised children's play area and more.



Star spangled summer: Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort will host weekly Star Spangled Tuesday celebrations from June 2-Aug. 18, with afternoon pool games at Disney's Beach House preceding the resort's evening barbecue and dance party, and the nearby Shelter Cove Marina's fireworks finale.

Online check-in: The Online Check-In Service announced previously in *Disney Files Magazine* has officially launched online for Disney Vacation Club Members at www.dvcmember.com. The service allows you to simplify your arrival by going online as many as 10 days prior to your resort check-in, giving you the opportunity to provide information related to your upcoming stay at select *Walt Disney World*® and Disney Vacation Club Resorts. A welcome folder containing your Key to the World Card

will then await you at a designated Online Check-In Service area in the resort lobby. As a reminder, rooms typically are available for occupancy after 4 p.m.

Lessening the wait: As announced on your Member Web site, a new policy limits Members to a maximum of two active wait-list requests per Membership, per use year. The updated policy is designed to improve the overall Member experience with the wait-list process by increasing available resort inventory, improving overall response time and boosting the efficiency of Member Services.

Pool hopping: As a reminder, pool hopping isn't available at any pools at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge or Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, or at the Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort (slated to open in August). Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping won't be available at any *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel May 22-25, June 28-July 5, Sept. 4-7 and Nov. 23-29, 2009, and Dec. 13, 2009-Jan. 3, 2010. Please remember that the pool-hopping perk is available only to Members staying at an eligible Disney Vacation Club Resort. Complete details are available in *Portable Perks* and at www.dvcmember.com.

Condo meeting: A single 2009 Condominium Association meeting for all Disney Vacation Club Resorts is planned for Dec. 9 at the *Walt Disney World* Resort. Watch www.dvcmember.com for details.



DESTINATIONS

news and insight from the places where dreams come true

SKY HIGH

Downtown Disney® attraction takes flight

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: There was a time when being accused of having your head in the clouds was a bad thing. Times have changed.

As this edition of *Disney Files Magazine* arrives in your mailbox, the *Downtown Disney* area has debuted its latest additions, including one that's sending Guests 400 feet into the Florida sky. No, it's not a catapult. (Something about "safety concerns.") It's a ticketed, tethered-balloon experience inspired by the *PanoramaMagique* attraction at *Disneyland® Resort Paris*.

Dubbed "Characters in Flight" and operated by Aerophile, the balloon accommodates as many as 30 Guests at a time for the 10-minute experience, rising above *Downtown Disney West Side* to offer 360-degree views of the *Walt Disney World Resort*, Central Florida and maybe even Russia. (Okay, so Russia's a stretch. We're in Florida, not Alaska.)

Emblazoned with silhouettes of familiar Disney characters and illuminated from within after dark, the balloon is designed to be visible for miles, giving even Interstate 4 drivers a bit of unexpected "eye candy." (Eyes on the road, friends!)

The balloon takes flight from a pier directly behind the *Downtown Disney West Side* Guests Relations kiosk between *Wetzel's Pretzels®* and *Pleasure Island*.

Speaking of *Pleasure Island*, it's home to another *Downtown Disney* addition, a new casual eatery called *Paradiso 37*. Scheduled to be serving hungry Guests by the time you read this magazine, the eatery draws inspiration from street foods of the Americas. Intrigued by the concept, we caught up with *Downtown Disney* Operations Vice President Kevin Lansberry to find out what kind of "street food" is on the menu.

"The menu draws mostly from Latin America, but also from North America," Kevin explained. "Guests are going to find a lot of unique stuff they may not have seen before, but are quite popular in some of the represented Latin American countries."

Further intrigued, we pressed for more details.

"One concept is called "crazy corn," and it's going to sound a bit odd," Kevin explained further. "It's an ear of corn, rolled in a dried cheese and grilled. Again, it may sound strange, but it's phenomenal." (He had us at dried cheese.)

"Another interesting item is a grilled cheese sandwich," he continued, sensing our obvious affinity for all things curds and whey. "Now that may not sound all that intriguing, but this one involves a hunk of bread dunked in chimichurri sauce, topped with a soft cheese, skewered with bamboo and then grilled. The taste is unbelievable." (We believe!)

The eclectic eatery, located along the *Pleasure Island* lakefront, is part of a continuing effort to redefine the island as a family-focused destination and increase the area's dining capacity. Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for future updates about *Downtown Disney* development projects as new details become available.




DOWNTOWN DISNEY® GETS **TREN-D**

Designer duds attract fashionable fans

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Traditional mouse gear not your style? You're not alone. A growing number of fashion-forward Guests are demanding trendier tones in their character couture, and some of the industry's leading designers are answering the call.

The movement toward edgier fare made headlines in 2007, when happy hipsters found their Neverland nirvana in Disney Vault 28, a *Disneyland®* Resort boutique stocked with clothing and accessories packing as much punk as pixie. From vintage T-shirts boldly saluting familiar or forgotten characters (an Oswald the Lucky Rabbit design flew off shelves) to eclectic jewelry sporting subtle Disney details to stuff that frankly has nothing to do with Disney but is just plain cool, the store's "A-list" apparel redefined *Downtown Disney* shopping and paved the way for another new venture on the opposite coast.

Now following suit at *Downtown Disney* Marketplace at the *Walt Disney World* Resort (adjacent to the Team Mickey Athletic Club store in the former site of Summer Sands) is Tren-D, a 2,500-square-foot, urban-inspired haven for fashion-conscious females.

"This unique environment, filled with textured fabrics, new silhouettes, and whimsical art and design allows us the opportunity to push the creative envelope as it relates to fashion and characters," said Mark Perrotta, Director of Product Development and Design for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Merchandise. "Our Guests continue to respond to trend merchandise and novel products that they can't purchase at home. Tren-D speaks to what is happening today with a blend of vintage and hip with stylized Disney influences."

Product lines from such noted designers as Kidada Jones, Tarina Tarantino and Roxy include everything from organic loungewear and embroidered handbags to jeweled sunglasses and trendy accessories, all presented in a "raw and unfinished" shopping environment filled with jeweled chandeliers, distinctive fixtures and mod furnishings. About 75 percent of the showcased products draw inspiration from Disney characters and themes (leaving the other 25 percent to the aforementioned "just plain cool" category), and half of the inventory is exclusive to the store.

The store is open now, which is great news for young shopaholics who may be too busy Twittering their friends to actually read this story. (If you'd fill them in, that'd be great.)





MORE TO REPORT

good to know before you go

DISNEYLAND® and WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resorts: As Disney Parks continue to ask Guests what they will celebrate (a recurring theme in this installment of our “More to Report” spread), the *Disneyland* and *Walt Disney World* Resorts have given Disney Dollars a “What will you celebrate?” makeover. Emblazoned with celebratory images of familiar Disney characters, the \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills are available in Florida at *Walt Disney World* Guest Relations and resort Front Desk locations, as well as at the *World of Disney®* store, and in California at select *Disneyland* Resort merchandise locations.

DISNEYLAND and WALT DISNEY WORLD Resorts: Whether you’re planning a surprise for your own trip or adding a magical touch to someone else’s, the new Disney Gift Service can make a celebration vacation even more memorable. Disney Dream Makers are available to help you pre-arrange the perfect custom gift to mark the occasion, from personalized in-room celebration packages to memorable in-Park experiences. For *Disneyland* Resort gifts, call (714) 781-GIFT (4438), and for *Walt Disney World* Resort gifts, call (407) WDW-GIFT (939-4438).

DISNEYLAND Resort: Think those fried foods you’re enjoying at the *Disneyland* Resort serve no greater purpose than sheer tastiness? Think again. All five *Disneyland* Railroad trains recently began using cleaner biodiesel fuel created from recycled cooking oils collected at the resort’s restaurants. Future plans call for the biodiesel to fuel everything from the Mark Twain steamboat to resort light towers. The effort, part of an ongoing commitment to green initiatives, follows the recent conversion of the resort’s parking trams to compressed natural gas. So enjoy those fries. The planet thanks you.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The “Disney Dreams Come True Parade” at the *Magic Kingdom®* Park has become the “Celebrate a Dream Come True Parade.” Joining the float-riding lineup of Disney characters in the re-imagined procession is a cast of roaming, festively costumed “Party Goers,” whose high-energy-dancing, Kabuki-streamer-launching, celebration-pumping revelry breathes kinetic life into the new song, “Celebrate You.” The parade makes stops in the *Frontierland®* area, at The Castle Hub and in Town Square.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Just what *is* the best way to express your excitement about life’s special moments? Do you move it? Shake it? Just plain celebrate it? If you’re at the *Magic Kingdom* Park, you do all three. The “Move It! Shake It! Celebrate It! Street Party” takes place multiple times daily, with Radio Disney-style music, favorite Disney characters, gift-wrapped-package floats, stilt-walkers and other performers traveling down the *Main Street, U.S.A.®* area to the Castle hub, where Guests can move it, shake it and, yes, celebrate it during this interactive dance party. *Walt Disney World* Entertainment President Gary Gutierrez calls it, “the ultimate celebration that celebrates everything worth celebrating,” and we here at *Disney Files Magazine* think that’s cause for celebration. (We should know. Our office is located in the town of Celebration, Fla., which pretty much makes us experts in this area.)





WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Still not sure what to celebrate? How about Galaxy Day? It turns out that every day is Galaxy Day (who knew?), and the alien formerly known as 626 is marking the intergalactic occasion at the *Magic Kingdom®* Park with “Stitch’s SuperSonic Celebration,” an interactive *Tomorrowland®* stage show and party scheduled to open in late spring. Check it out during your next visit to the Park. In the meantime, remember to wish your loved ones a happy Galaxy Day.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: If it sounds like the Bee Gees or Bon Jovi, it Sounds Like Summer at *Epcot®*. Much to the delight of faithful fans, leading tribute bands will return to the America Gardens Theatre for another season of Sounds Like Summer concerts June 15-Aug. 9. Among the planned acts on tap this summer are 2U – A Tribute to U2, Bjorn Again – A Tribute to Abba, Stayin’ Alive – A Tribute to the Bee Gees and Slippery When Wet – The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute.

DISNEY CRUISE LINE®: Fresh off the news that readers of *Conde Nast Traveler* named it the top “large cruise ship experience” in the magazine’s “Reader’s Cruise Poll,” *Disney Cruise Line* recently celebrated a new development milestone in its highly anticipated fleet expansion. This spring, crews at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, began steel cutting for the two new ocean liners scheduled to join the *Disney Cruise Line* fleet (*Disney Dream®* in 2011 and *Disney Fantasy®* in 2012). The new vessels, which will be significantly larger than the two existing 83,000-ton *Disney Magic®* and *Disney Wonder®* ships, are slated to sail out of Port Canaveral, Fla.

TOKYO DISNEY® Resort: Mickey’s PhilharMagic, the computer-animated “4-D” *Fantasyland®* attraction that debuted at the *Magic Kingdom®* Park in Florida in 2003, is scheduled to open a second location at *Tokyo Disneyland®* Park in 2011. The Donald Duck-starring show will replace “Mickey Mouse Revue,” an *Audio-Animatronics®* musical that opened at the Park in 1983 after moving from Florida, where it entertained Guests from 1971-1980. Mickey Mouse Revue is scheduled to close on May 25 of this year to make room for Donald and his unrelenting anger. (Who can blame a duck? He finally stars in a mega attraction, and they name it after the mouse.)

DISNEYLAND Resort Paris: A variety of new entertainment offerings have added more character than ever to Europe’s No. 1 vacation destination as part of “Mickey’s Magical Party.” Playhouse Disney–Live on Stage! (pictured right), the hit show already enjoyed by young Guests at *Disney’s California Adventure®* Park in California and *Disney’s Hollywood Studios™* in Florida, is performing at France’s *Walt Disney Studios®* Park, which also is presenting Disney’s Stars ‘n Cars Cavalcade. Next door at *Disneyland Paris* Theme Park, meanwhile, Guests are celebrating with their Disney pals through “Minnie’s Party Train” in the *Main Street, U.S.A.®* area and “It’s Party Time...with Mickey and Friends” at Central Plaza (both scheduled through March 7, 2010), while “It’s Dance Time” is putting the *Discoveryland®* area into the questionably capable hands of DJ Stitch for a high-energy dance party through Nov. 8.

If we’re counting correctly, that’s 20 appearances by some iteration of the word “celebrate.” (And one appearance by the word “Bjorn.”)



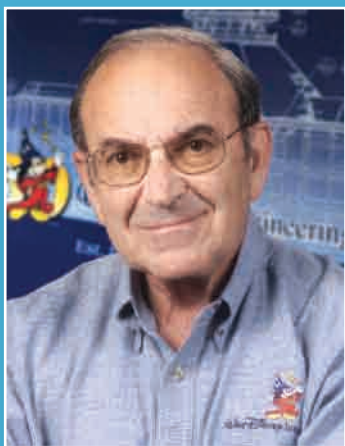


PARK PERSPECTIVES

BY MARTY SKLAR

Disney Files Magazine is proud to present the perspectives of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the longtime leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Park opening on earth.

HONORING A “CLASSIC”



On March 7, 2008, at the *Disneyland*® Resort in Anaheim, the Themed Entertainment Association presented its annual “Classic” award to *Epcot*®, shortly after the Park’s milestone 25th anniversary. By chance, I happened to be at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort speaking to *Epcot* Vice President Jim MacPhee’s executive leadership team about how the Park came

to be...at almost the exact moment the award was first announced. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, I proudly told the group: “It took *Disneyland* 50 years to receive this award, and *Epcot* did it in half the time!”

It is true that *Disneyland* Park received the so-called “THEA Classic Award” on its 50th anniversary in 2005, and also true that the *Epcot* was honored after 25 years. But what is remarkable is that each of these classic Parks established a

brand new “genre” in the so-called “themed entertainment industry,” each so remarkably different from what existed before that they literally revolutionized an entire industry.

You may have heard the story of Walt

Disney telling his wife, Lillian, that he was going to create a new kind of amusement park. A surprised Mrs. *Disney* asked, “Why would you want to go into that business? Amusement parks are so dirty, the people who run them are so nasty, and they are not safe!” Walt’s own response was also classic. “Mine won’t be any of those things,” he insisted. And so *Disneyland* had its early manifesto: a dedication to friendliness, cleanliness and one-of-a-kind attractions that, to this day, remains the hallmark of the 11 *Disney* Parks around the world.

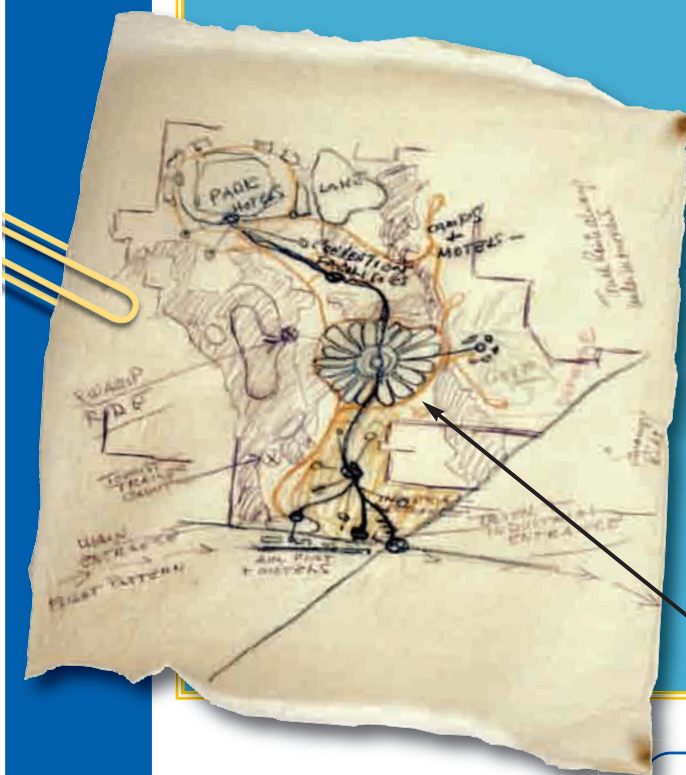
The creation of *Epcot*, too, was a very special time, not just for all of us at *Disney*, but for what it has meant as a beacon of entertainment and communication achievements in the Parks industry.

For me personally, *EPCOT* Center (as it was known at opening before becoming simply *Epcot*) has been a 40-year thrill ride. In 1966, I wrote the film in which Walt *Disney* describes his vision for the *Walt Disney World* project, and *Epcot*. It was actually the very last time Walt appeared on film: October 1966. I still treasure the six pages of notes I took from a series of meetings with Walt to discuss what he wanted to say, and what he wanted the film to convey. And the full day it took on a sound stage at the *Disney* Studio to shoot the five minutes or so that Walt appears in the 24-minute film.

Then, after we had successfully established *Walt Disney World* as a destination resort, *Epcot* as a *Disney* Park became my responsibility, in creative leadership, beginning in 1974.

We started with that proverbial blank sheet of paper and had to figure out *everything*: where to locate it on the *Walt Disney World* property, how to connect it to the hotels and *Magic Kingdom*® Park, what the stories would be, how we would involve sponsors, who the key experts would be for the pavilions about food, energy, transportation, health care, etc. And of course, how to involve all the World Showcase countries and create the Fellowship Program so our Guests could actually meet real people from each nation...young people who, we idealistically hoped, would one day become the leaders of their homelands and continue the friendships established at *Epcot*.

We also had to grow our staff at *Walt Disney Imagineering* with new creative talent – storytellers, designers, engineers, filmmakers, field-construction crews and outside contractors. At *Imagineering* alone, we grew to a staff of nearly 3,000 to



Walt *Disney*’s “Florida Project” sketch reflects his vision for *Epcot*.



accomplish the opening on Oct. 1, 1982. *Epcot*® marked not just the blossoming of the *Walt Disney World*® Resort; it was the start of many careers and the inspiration for the launch of many companies that are now among the 600 members of the association that recently bestowed such a great honor on *Epcot*.

The challenge Walt Disney left us was both exciting and daunting. He wanted *Epcot* to “demonstrate and test” new ideas and new systems, and act as a leader of hope and inspiration to all the world. With my “co-conspirator,” Erwin Okun (the head of Public Affairs for Disney), we expressed it this way for our Chief Executive Officer, E. Cardon Walker, on *Epcot*’s dedication plaque: “To all who come to this place of joy, hope

and friendship, welcome. *EPCOT* is inspired by Walt Disney’s creative vision. Here, human achievements are celebrated through imagination, wonders of enterprise and concepts of a future that promises new and exciting benefits for all. May *EPCOT* Center entertain, inform and inspire, and above all, may it instill a new sense of belief and pride in man’s ability to shape a world that

offers hope to people everywhere.

E. Cardon Walker, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Walt Disney

Productions, October 24, 1982.”

At the *Walt Disney World* Resort, we have often accomplished that objective, both “onstage” and “backstage,” with transportation and energy systems, trash collection and construction methods, environmental planning and design. Within *Epcot*’s major pavilions, the exhibits in Innoventions, and the nations of World Showcase, Imagineering storytelling and placemaking have “brought to life” entertaining, informative and fun attractions, presenting subjects as diverse as the deepest oceans and the farthest reaches of space. *Epcot* has proven that by serving only one master – the public – it can also “inform and inspire” through its adventures, attractions and exhibits.

From the day it opened in October 1982, among all the world’s parks (Disney and non-Disney), only four *Magic Kingdom*® Parks (in California, Florida, Tokyo and Paris) and *Tokyo DisneySea*® Park attract more Guests than *Epcot*. From its spectaculars on the World Showcase lagoon and in the sky...to its annual festivals celebrating food and flowers...and the spirit of its Cast Members from around the globe, *Epcot* continues to “entertain, inform and inspire and...instill a sense of belief and pride in man’s ability to shape a world that offers hope to people everywhere.”

From left, John Hench, Marty Sklar and John DeCuir, Jr. discuss plans for the Park.



Spaceship Earth, July 1981





The Official Community for Disney Fans

“Are you 23?”

Not since “Heard the best-kept Disney Secret?,” has a question piqued so much interest among fans of grim-grinning ghosts, delusional space rangers and musically gifted high school kids who are all in this together. (If doom buggies, Buzz Lightyear and Zac Efron just raced through your head, you may be more “23” than you think.) So what exactly is this “23” business all about?

In the early days of the teaser campaign, online message boards swirled with theories focusing on everything from “a contortion of binary code” (sounds sinister) and “a sequel to the Jim Carrey movie *The Number 23*” (not a Disney film, by the way) to “free Park tickets for people born in 1986” (seriously?) and the mind-bending mystery behind “the decision to give a *Disney’s California Adventure*® restroom building a 23 street address when all neighboring addresses are factors of two” (yes, this was an actual theory).

The far-less-bizarre answer came on March 10, when The Walt Disney Company unveiled D23 – The Official Community for Disney Fans. Named for the year of the company’s founding (1923), D23 aims to give fans unprecedented access to all things Disney through a new quarterly magazine, special events, one-of-a-kind experiences, exclusive collectibles and more.

“Disney fans are the reason we have thrived and grown over time,” said Bob Iger, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, in the premier issue of the club’s magazine. “Generation after generation, you’ve welcomed Disney into your hearts and homes. You carry on our traditions and stories as you share them with your children, grandchildren, friends and families, and for that, we couldn’t be more grateful.”

Showing that gratitude like never before is the enviable job of a team led by Steven Clark, head of D23.

“Individual businesses throughout our company have great traditions of reaching out to their most loyal fans,” Steven told *Disney Files Magazine*. “Fans of animation art, for example, have the Walt Disney Collectors Society. Movie buffs have Disney Movie Rewards. Park goers have everything from Annual Passholder programs to Disney Vacation Club. But in all likelihood, the fan who collects Disney DVDs or animation art is also a fan of Disney Parks, television programs and more, and we’ve never really connected the dots until now. D23 works with every part of Disney to create the ultimate place for the ultimate fan ... We want to give our fans the same kind of behind-the-scenes, insider perspectives that we enjoy as Cast Members.

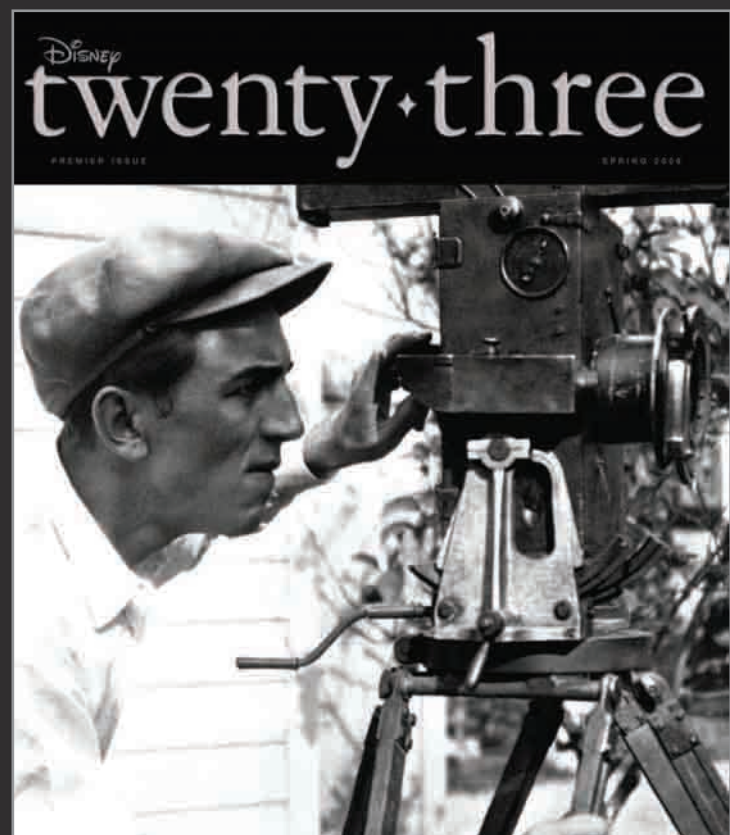
“It all starts with the company’s rich heritage. To walk through the Walt Disney Archives is to really live this company’s legacy. From Annette Funicello’s Mouseketeer sweater to Davy Crockett’s coonskin cap to the boxes of files from the office of Walt Disney, these are the company’s crown jewels. Working with

the Archives is part of my job, and I fondly remember sorting through these treasures in one of our warehouses and being totally blown away by every box we opened. But our fans don’t have that privilege, and without them, these things are just things. The fans are the ones whose memories, emotions and love of Disney have made these things treasures, and we want to give our fans the same feeling we had in that warehouse.

“But, of course, looking back is only part of being on the ‘inside.’ One of the things I love most about working for this company is getting the scoop about what’s coming next. Whether we’re looking at designs from Walt Disney Imagineering for a new Theme Park attraction, watching scenes from upcoming live-action features or listening to rough music tracks for a future animated film, we love getting those sneak peeks. We want to give our fans the true insider experience, so D23 is designed to reveal as much about the future as it does about the past.”

Membership highlights

Many of those inside looks, both forward and backward, come to life through the pages of *Disney twenty-three*, the club’s quarterly member magazine.



“Our writers sit down with filmmakers like Jerry Bruckheimer, Tim Burton and John Lasseter; step behind the construction walls in our Theme Parks; peek into the meeting rooms of Walt Disney Imagineering; visit movie sets and more to take readers to places they’ve never been before,” Steven said. “The magazine is filled with bold photography, stunning illustrations, in-depth interviews and exclusive content that we believe makes this one of the most sought-after elements of D23.”

Equally eye-catching is the club’s official **membership certificate**, designed by longtime Disney animation artist David Pacheco and featuring a cast of seldom-grouped characters to create a one-of-a-kind collectible.

Other club collectibles come courtesy of the **Walt Disney Archives Collection**, a new line of merchandise created exclusively for D23.

“Every piece is authenticated and approved by the Walt Disney Archives, and we think this is something that, through the years, will create a very special collection,” Steven said. “And, every year, D23 Members will receive an exclusive Walt Disney Archives Collection gift with their membership.”

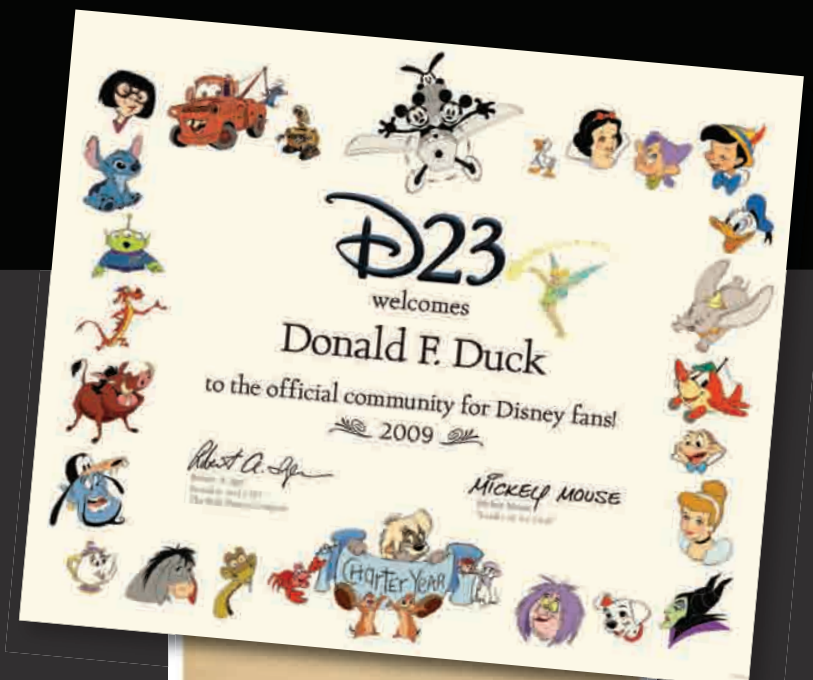
Many of the merchandise items are available to members through the club’s official Web site, located online at www.disney.com/D23. The site builds on the content of *Disney twenty-three* magazine with an ever-evolving dose of Disney dish. Site surfers (both members and non-members) find Disney press releases in “News and Features,” buzz-worthy notes in “The Twilight Bark” (kudos to those who know that’s a *101 Dalmatians* reference), historical materials through the “Walt Disney Archives” and more.

Of course, not every D23 offering is designed to be enjoyed at home. Some invite members to gather in places they never dreamed possible. From advance screenings of Disney films to exclusive gatherings in Disney Parks, **D23 events** promise to become highlights on every member’s calendar.

And if there’s a holy grail among these treasured events, it’s the **D23 Expo**. Conceived as the largest single gathering of all things Disney, the fall mega-event at the Anaheim Convention Center will assemble an all-star lineup of Disney Legends and contemporary visionaries representing every area of the company to lead fans down memory lane and peel back the curtain for an inside look at what’s next.

“I think we’re just scratching the surface of what D23 will deliver,” Steven said. “We’re off to a great start, but this is only the beginning.”

To learn more about D23 membership,
visit www.disney.com/D23.





Disney DIVERSIONS

enjoying Disney between trips

SEVEN "UP"

What we learned from the new Disney•Pixar film's director

Seventy-eight-year-old balloon salesman Carl Fredricksen just wants to be left alone. But as he finally begins to fulfill his lifelong dream of soaring in solitude – tying thousands of helium balloons to his house and flying away to the wilds of South America – he discovers an unwelcome stowaway in the form of a nine-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell. And so begins the new Disney•Pixar animated comedy-adventure *Up*, opening in U.S. theaters on May 29 in standard and *Disney Digital 3-D™* formats. *Disney Files Magazine* caught up with director Pete Docter, who previously directed 2001's *Monsters, Inc.* Here are seven things we learned during our visit. (Why seven? We like the headline.)

1. Even award winners feel the pressure. "It's a little daunting," Pete admitted when asked about maintaining the Pixar hit streak. "I remember enjoying myself at the wrap party for *WALL•E* and then suddenly thinking about 'being next' and kind of lowering into my seat."

2. Pixar filmmakers "fish" for ideas. "Some ideas get free or peter out, and some of them grab you," Pete explained of the angling analogy. "You can't let go of them. [*Up*] was one of those ideas, and it took us on a pretty wild chase along the way."

3. Pete feels a kinship with filmmakers past. In discussing his team's research trip to South America, Pete recalled, "When we stepped off the plane, we pictured ourselves as something out of [the 1942 Disney classic] *Saludos Amigos*. We started calling ourselves El Grupo."

4. Age brings leeway. "Having a curmudgeonly old man as your star is a lot of fun," Pete said, chuckling. "He can get away with things other characters can't. There's just something very forgivable about him. He's old, so it's okay."

5. The scene in which Carl's house takes flight is among Pete's favorite moments in the film. "The way we treated it is almost poetic. It's set to this waltz as the house drifts through the city ... That, to me, really captures the spirit of the film. It's got a bizarre juxtaposition of imagery, it's got action and drama, but it's also quiet in a way."

6. Pete's almost as excited about seeing his characters in Disney Parks as he is about seeing them in theaters, saying, "It's absolutely mind blowing."

7. The human good luck charm is back. Okay, so we didn't learn this from Pete, but from the production notes on our desk during the interview. Listen for John Ratzenberger, the only actor to voice a role in every Disney•Pixar film, as a construction foreman named Tom in *Up*.

GUINEA PIGS JOIN THE FORCE

Summer movie will add to Hollywood's rodent "A-list"

Hollywood's hottest rodents continue to find fame in the house of mouse. From Remy the rat in 2007's *Ratatouille* to Rhino the hamster in 2008's *Bolt*, venerable vermin have weaseled their way onto the "A-list" and helped their four-legged friends become more than household pets. The momentum builds further this summer, when guinea pigs step into the spotlight.

Scheduled to open in U.S. theaters in standard and *Disney Digital 3-D™* formats on July 24, Walt Disney Pictures' and Jerry Bruckheimer Films' *G-FORCE* explores the latest evolution of a covert government program created to train animals to work in espionage. Armed with the latest high-tech spy equipment, these carefully trained guinea pigs discover that the fate of the world is in their paws.

Tapped for the force are guinea pigs Darwin (voiced by Sam

Rockwell, *Frost/Nixon*), the squad leader determined to succeed at all costs; Blaster (voiced by Tracy Morgan, "30 Rock"), an outrageous weapons expert with tons of attitude and a love for all things extreme; and Juarez (voiced by Penelope Cruz, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*), a sexy martial arts pro. Add a literal fly-on-the-wall reconnaissance expert named Mooch and a star-nosed computer and information specialist mole named Speckles (voiced by Nicolas Cage, *National Treasure*), and you have a crack team that's out to prove once and for all that size doesn't matter.

The film reunites Bruckheimer with director Hoyt Yeatman, who developed visual effects for such hits as *Armageddon*, *Con Air* and *The Rock*; and a writing team that includes Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio (the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series), The Wibberleys (*National Treasure: Book of Secrets*) and Tim Firth (*Confessions of a Shopaholic*).



Explore top-secret paperwork and plans for the covert government protocol showcased in the movie *G-FORCE* through the pages of the new Disney Editions book *The G-Force Dossier*, scheduled to hit stores in June.

DISNEY XD LAUNCHES ON AIR AND ONLINE

Boy-focused programming spans television, gaming and more

While twinkling pixie dust and crooning Jonas Brothers make the magical world of Disney a pretty enticing place for fans made of sugar, spice and everything nice, there's still plenty of room for those made of frogs, snails and puppy dog tails.

It's with that nod to masculinity that The Walt Disney Company has launched Disney XD, a boy-focused (but still girl-inclusive) entertainment brand for kids ages 6-14, with a 24-hour basic cable network as its centerpiece.

The ad-supported cable channel, formerly known in the U.S. as Toon Disney, reaches more than 72 million households with content supporting themes of adventure, accomplishment, gaming, music and sports (developed with ESPN). The Disney XD experience continues online through DisneyXD.com, featuring games, exclusive video, fan pages, community elements and a unique personalization option through which fans can create a 3-D avatar character (complete with "personalities" and "emotions") that represents them across the site.



VAULT

Disney

by Disney-history
expert Jim Korkis

AMERICA SINGS BEFORE THE SPLASH

How classic attraction stars found a thrilling new home

Some of the most patriotic characters in Disney Park history call the *Splash Mountain*® attraction home. To fully understand that statement, you need to travel back more than 30 years to Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress.

Developed for the 1964 New York World's Fair, The Carousel of Progress had taken residence at *Disneyland*® Park in California, rotating audiences around six stages showcasing the progress of electrical appliances through the decades.

After six years in Anaheim, attraction sponsor General Electric believed its message had effectively reached the West Coast audience and therefore supported the attraction's 1971 move to the new *Magic Kingdom*® Park in Florida. The company even sponsored updates to the attraction, including the replacement of the song "It's A Great Big, Beautiful Tomorrow" with "Now is the Time," both written by the legendary Sherman brothers. (The original song returned later.)

The move left *Disneyland* Park with a big, round, empty, rotating theater. Meanwhile, the approaching bicentennial of the United States had Imagineers working feverishly to develop new Americana-themed projects, opening the door for the theater to welcome a patriotic new resident.

Inspiration struck on a cruise ship, where Imagineering power couple Marc and Alice Davis were vacationing. While on board, the two ran into fellow Imagineer Ward Kimball, who also was a musician known for his eccentric behavior. (Editor's note: Ward Kimball, Alice Davis and Marc Davis are all Disney Legends, making that voyage something of a precursor to Disney Vacation Club's "Disney Legends" S.S. Member Cruise in 2007.) Ward was dressed as an American flag, and the odd encounter gave Marc the idea of creating an *Audio-Animatronics*™ show telling the story of America in song, from the Old South to the Old West and from the Gay Nineties to modern rock.

Marc previously had designed the Country Bear Jamboree, and this new attraction would feature his trademark comedic animal-character designs. Named "America Sings," the attraction featured more than 100 animal characters, giving it the distinction at the time of being the largest *Audio-Animatronics* cast ever assembled.

"It was the first time Marc had done a show all the way through without Walt," Alice recalled in an interview. "He had a great deal of fun."

Marc worked with story man Al Bertino (who, by the way, was the inspiration for the Big Al character in the Country Bear Jamboree) to come up with the story, and with Buddy Baker to create the music. Marc himself received credit for the new lyrics that helped transition the show from scene to scene. (Performed in the show by Sam the Eagle, the lyrics included, "We should all remember, as history moves along, that everything is better now 'cause someone wrote a song.")

America Sings was a six-act, 24-minute celebration of America's musical heritage. Actor Burl Ives voiced show host Sam the Eagle, while Sam Edwards lent his voice to the owl sidekick informally



referenced as “Ollie.” Each number creatively included a weasel who would “pop” into the scene and deliver the recognizable line, “Pop, goes the weasel!”

Acts I and II took Guests from the lazy swamps and bayous of the Deep South to the moonlit plains and prairies of the Wild West. Acts III and IV moved from a sparkling ballroom in the Gay Nineties to the bright lights of a modern city. The show featured raccoons, chickens, geese, dogs, vultures, horses, frogs, rabbits, possums, pigs and more attired in appropriate costumes made by talented costumers like Alice Morgan and Joyce Carlson. These unique performers sang everything from ballads and folk songs to ragtime and rock, and everything in between.

“The show captures America in song,” Marc Davis told the press when the show opened, “Its history and heritage. We reviewed over a thousand songs. We had to choose tunes that would fit in with our themes and characters, as well as songs that had a ‘memory flavor’ to them. We want every Guest to walk out with a smile.”

Singers included Rex Allen, Chill Wills and Betty Taylor, who for more than three decades portrayed Slue Foot Sue at the Golden Horseshoe Revue. Alice Davis told me that actor Chill Wills, who voiced the turkey character, never saw the completed attraction because he refused to go into any building that moved.

In looking back at the project, Marc Davis talked about the critical pacing of the show, saying, “I kept thinking, ‘How long can you keep these characters alive and doing something different?’ We did only a chorus or a verse of the songs. Burl Ives, who did the eagle for us, came up to me and said, ‘I like what you guys did with those songs. When you have to sing along with those things all the way through, it gets pretty darn boring.’”

Disney released a record containing the music from the attraction, packaged with Marc’s concept sketches. It was one of the few pieces of merchandise released in connection with the show.

The “E-ticket” attraction premiered on June 29, 1974, with Del Monte as its sponsor. A few years after the bicentennial, as leaders perceived that the show had lost its timeliness, it became a “D-ticket,” maintaining that status as it entertained audiences through April 10, 1988.

About five years earlier, Imagineer Tony Baxter was developing a concept for a unique water-flume attraction at *Disneyland*® Park when he became stuck in rush-hour traffic on California’s Santa Ana freeway. It occurred to Tony that a log ride could draw inspiration from the animated film



Song of the South.

When he proposed the idea to his co-workers, they pulled out reference drawings from the film and discovered that Marc Davis had worked on the movie, and that several of his unused character designs had appeared in “America Sings.”

Imagineers divided the “America Sings” characters by type (happy, lazy, silly, etc.) and then assigned to appropriate *Splash Mountain*® scenes. Aside from six pairs of Sam and Ollie characters and an Old Gray Mare in an automobile, almost every “America Sings” character found a *Splash Mountain* home along with such newly created figures as Brer Bear, Brer Fox and Brer Rabbit.

(An interesting aside; a couple of the show’s geese had already been de-feathered and repurposed as repair droids in the queue for the Park’s *Star Tours*™ attraction. If you look closely, you can still see those droids’ webbed feet and tail mechanisms.)

With *Splash Mountain*® attractions now soaking Guests in California, Florida and Japan, the future remains bright for these characters rooted deeply in Disney and American history.



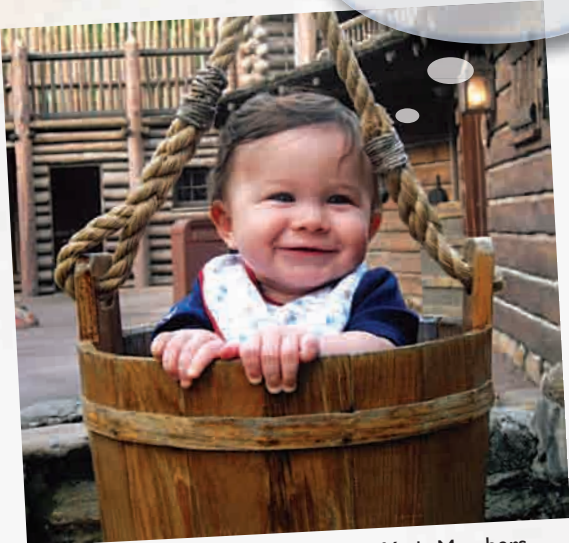


PHOTO FILES

from your cameras
to our pages

First Disney Vacation

And my first time
in a bucket!



Max, part of the Perry family of New York, Members since 2003, celebrates a new experience on Tom Sawyer Island.

First Taste of Freedom

What am I going
to do next?

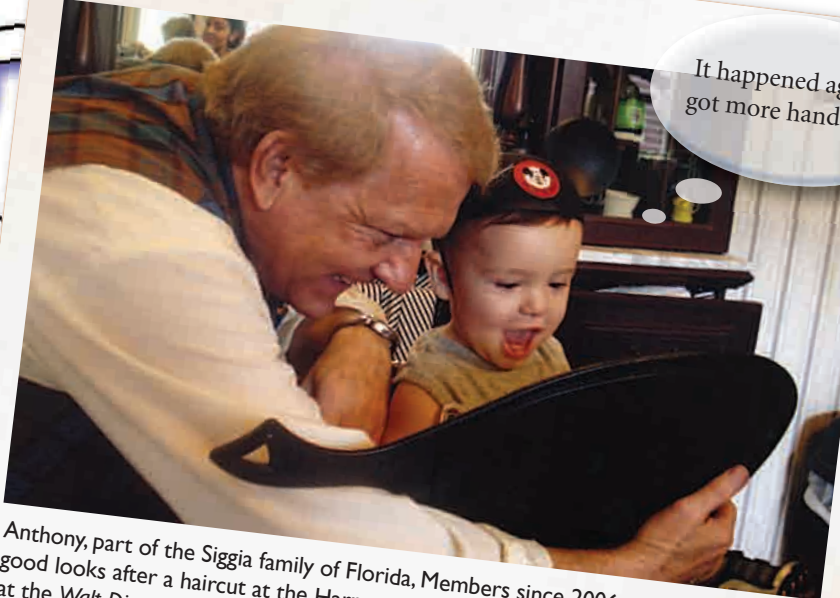


Samantha, left, part of the Bochna family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2006, celebrates her high school graduation with her friend Chelsea and announces her post-graduation plans.



First Haircut

It happened again. I
got more handsome!



Anthony, part of the Siggia family of Florida, Members since 2006, celebrates his own good looks after a haircut at the Harmony Barber Shop at the Magic Kingdom® Park at the Walt Disney World® Resort.



FILE IT AWAY

Members continue to travel with the *Files*, and we dig it. Here are some of the latest appearances of our pages in your vacation photos. Keep 'em coming!



Our incredibly impressive magazine captivates Todd Miller of Virginia, Member since 2003, even against the distracting backdrop of those mildly impressive Niagara Falls.



Less impressed is the littlest member of the Koenigs family of South Carolina, Members since 2003, who appears to have used the *Files* as a resort-room sleep aid.



The Becker family of Wisconsin, Members since 2001, share the *Files* with WALL-E, who appears to be uninterested. (Ever since he won that *Oscar*®, he's been a bit self-absorbed.)



Leticia Taufahema of California, Member since 2007, reads the *Files* in London, proving that Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort is more interesting than Big Ben.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

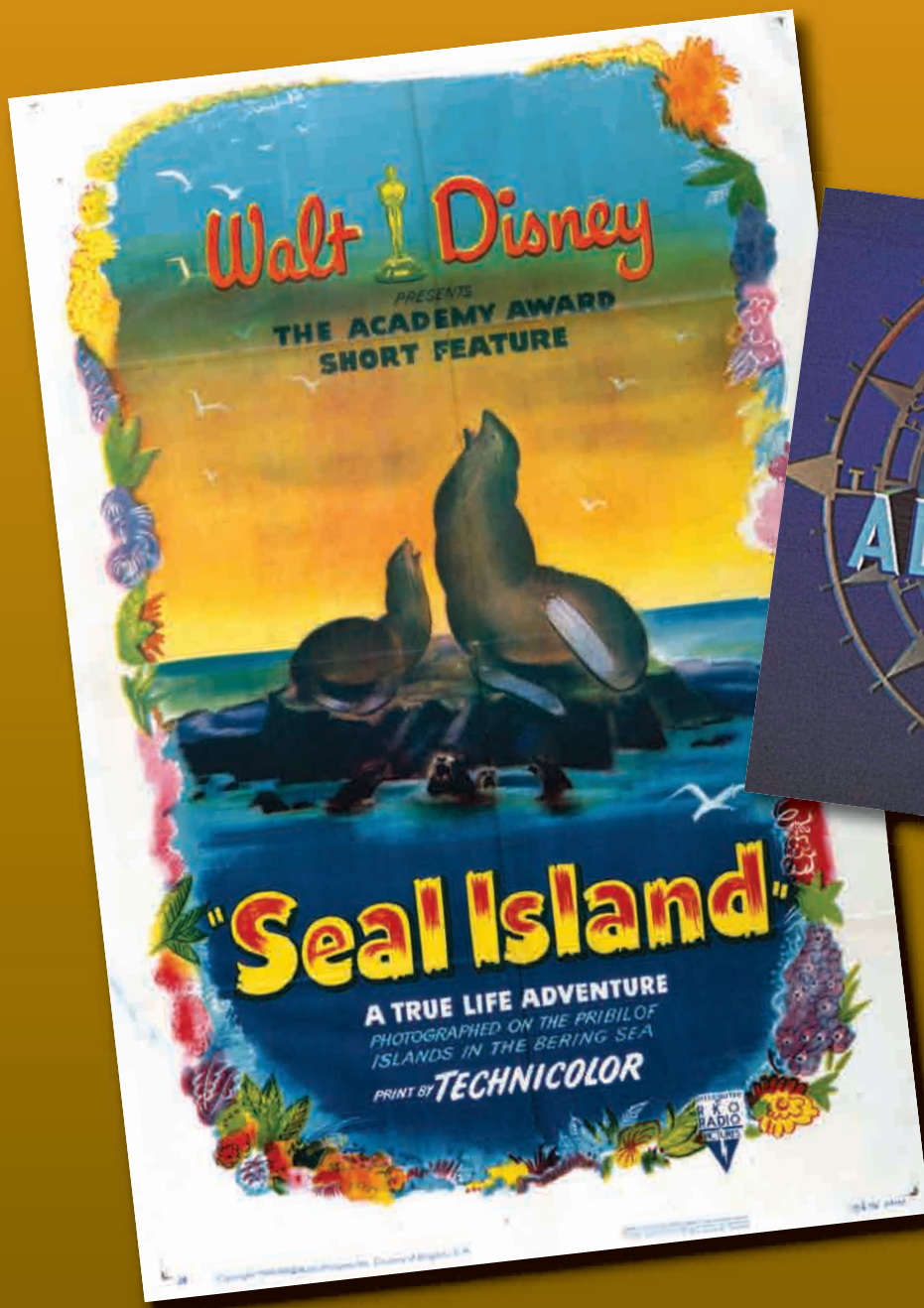
Send your vacation photos to **Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747**. Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year so the staff can credit you with the submission, as well as your phone number so we can contact you with questions. Also remember to sign and include our release form for each person pictured. The form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

Tip: Photos that tell a story have the best chance of getting into the magazine. So look for your best tight, candid shots that focus more on people than places. If you can make the staff laugh or cry, even better!

NEW ADDRESS

BACK FILES

Disney through the rear-view mirror



Long before Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas had a Kidani Village, Disney storytellers called on the animal world through the "True-Life Adventures" series. While those films became classics, getting the series off the ground was no easy task. Distributor RKO rejected the series' first film, *Seal Island*, believing that audiences wouldn't sit through a nature documentary. An unconvinced Walt Disney asked a personal friend who ran Pasadena's Crown Theater to run the picture for a week beginning on Dec. 21, 1948, thereby qualifying it for an Academy Award®. The move paid off, as *Seal Island* took home the award for Best Documentary. Legend has it that Walt took the Oscar® statue to Roy O. Disney's office and said, "Here, Roy, take this over to RKO and bang them over the head with it." The head-banging proved unnecessary, as RKO gave the now award-winning *Seal Island* a general release on May 4, 1949, and the series was born.