



Ahoy SS Grove!
Susan and Crew on the Ocean Blue

Nautical Mindset

We Grovers are adventurers, we've traveled near and far, but the one thing that's been hard
to understand

Is why we always stick to shore (perhaps we cannot swim?), and always hold retreats safe
on the land?

Well this year we all broke the mold, the Grove went out to sea, a hundred stalwart sailors
we became

And cruising has forever been completely redefined (Celebrity Line won't ever be the
same)

It's true we had our doubts at first, and many came with dread...seems seasick bracelets
were the new Grove chic

And many of couldn't figure out the boarding process lines, and finding cabins took most of
the week

And two forgot their passports (such fun dramas at the pier), and we all screwed up the
time for lifeboat drill

But once we got our cruise mode on (and figured out the decks), this Grove became an extra
special thrill

Our bags were blue, our pads were blue, the blue sea set the stage...we met each day with
endless ocean view

At night we dined in luxe salons, the finest on the ship, we were luxuriated and pampered
through and through

Some went ashore to see the sights, on days we were in port, and other lounged around or
hit the spa

And many spent their downtime running all around the ship to see if they could find just
one more bar

Cruising Conversations

Our panels at sea were the best (the ocean was inspiring), we learned from Global Guests
our Grove sisters

We spoke of science and the law, and arts and innovation, and of leadership by women (not
just "misters")

Miles from shore, we were distraction free, no iPhones, and no emails, and no texts
And like Tara and Grove, all of us were in one boat...albeit we might be on different decks

Edie launched our conference, with a WATER centered talk, Weird Life, Alternate Currency
 and such
 From Robotics to E-Sports, she completely blew our minds, her warp speed brain
 commands so very much
 Then an old friend “happened by” to share insights from the Court, and her passion for a
 process that’s fair
 (On a personal note she’s got no time to date...but she will find time to shop most
 everywhere!)

We spoke about pipelines, and saving the world, and the value of empathy and art
 And of failures in life, and going deep fast, and empowering girls at the start
 We’d a unicorn parade (no “yes buts”, but “yes ANDs”); we learned eating’s a political act
 And “woulda, shoulda coulda’s” (Lois Scott told it all); and that cyber-extortion’s a fact

We learned the “power of girlfriends,” the power of water and the power of creative
 thinking
 And the power of laughter, the power of friendship, and the power of auctions (while
 drinking)

We also acknowledged the power of the mike, when the Captain interrupted our meeting
 To tell us the weather, the volleyball schedule...and to give the whole ship the day’s greeting

Cruise Math

This cruise featured numbers, Mary Ann learned them all, like 50% -- species going extinct
 And 12 new TARA-Grovers, 79,000 US dams, and 44 million fantasy sports players (I think)
 2 lawsuits and 1 cancer (those were Sherri’s “down bound” stats) and 7, -- the ideal number
 for the Court
 97 -- percent of corporations who’ve been hacked; and 2: the number of stops we made in
 port

We also had some food math, like 19 gallons of H2O...just to raise a tomato for your salad
 lunch
 And almost 450 gallons for a burger to go with it, we’ll no longer be eating many, that’s my
 hunch
 And zero for the number of men, who we learned bested Queenie, and 150 million tons of
 plastic in the sea
 And 2 million total Girl Scouts, and 21% of US kids, who are doomed to life in dire poverty

Cruise Lingo

While English was the cruise line’s tongue, sea lingo was a must, there were oh so many
 words we had to learn
 Like *port* and *aft* for front and back, and something called the *bow*, and how to tell the
starboard from the *stern*
 And Edie taught us all *synbio*, and *social and nano bots*, and *e-theletes* (turning online games
 to sport)
 And Alison spoke of *nimbyism* (not-in-my-back-yard), and we learned *ocean acidification* in
 every port

Showmanship at Sea

Our roaring 20's dinner unleashed each Grover's inner flapper, we donned headbands, lots
of fringe, and hip length pearls
But our talent night performances revealed our secret divas, as flappers morphed into celeb
dancing girls
We had Edie...and her back-up group, who practiced for two days, and still forgot some
words to Sloop John B
And Tracy as our Ellen (with Portia at her side) who hosted the whole night like real TV
We had Jay Lo and Beyonce (a/k/a Gladys and Joy) and the "Sexy Roots" with Tiffany's
uptown funk
And the Fed chicks, with no costumes as their budget was "sequestered," ... and few acts that
were purely cruise ship punk
Grace laughed at her own jokes, and we laughed right along, and a flock of Flockers flitted
round the stage
This year the pink flamingo and her chic black-feathered brood, made wearing feathers
seem like quite the rage

Cruise Spirit

Cruising the main reminded us all, how privileged we've become, and how important it is
for us each to share
At our auction this year, our Grove spirit shone, we all gave from the heart 'cause we care
And with sadness and with a much heavy heart, we remembered our dear Lorna Wendt
And we turned thoughts to Rita, who was living her last days, but loved all the cruise
updates that we sent
For us all the days are numbered, we must make each moment count, and carry inspiration
from our departed
And vow to live the fullest lives, and leave the world improved, and finish the good works
our dear friends started
For the spirit of the Grove, is so much more than any one, it's something we collectively
create
And the memories we together make, are for all eternity, and are treasures we must ever
celebrate

Cruise Wisdom

For most, this was our first cruise, and many of us worried, that cruising wasn't quite our
cup of tea
But we quickly were reminded, that it isn't where we go, but who we're with that makes the
Grove quality
We bonded in such grand new ways, old faces meeting new, with real time to let our hair
down and connect
We left with deepened friendships, and new insights and ideas (being at sea makes us more
open, I suspect)

We giggled when we boarded, we gave hugs when back in port (sharing tiny cabins makes
for special ties)

We know sitting in a deck chair, surrounded by the sea, helps you see the world through
someone else's eyes

Hooray for Captain Susan, our fearless maritime explorer, we'll follow you to any place you
choose

For the morale of this Grove retreat, is clear for all to see, dear sisters, if you didn't
cruise....you lose

Mint Juleps and Mojitos

But fret not if you did miss out (some years timing just won't work), or if you cruised and
now have Grove withdrawal

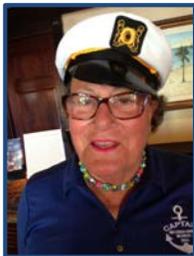
Atlanta's coming very soon, CNN and CDC, and great parties where the locals say y'all
And Havana isn't too far off, so get ready to sign up, hotel rooms will go fast (in just a day?)
Don't miss out on Fidel's hometown, and salsa in the streets, and celebrating everything
that's Ché.

So pay your dues, and register, and don't get left behind, and you mustn't miss the Grove's
next magic year

Atlanta hospitality and Cuban savoir-faire, and precious time with sisters you hold dear
As Edie said just recently, we're one damned lucky bunch, how many other women do you
know

Who can claim 200 girlfriends, and travel with them all; the Grove's a treasure...WHEREVER
we go!

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