



**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

Eddie 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 Eddie 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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*Special thanks to Captain Susan and her stalwart cruise crew. You all outdid yourselves. While we know there were many hands on deck, extra kudos go to the Cruise Committee: Cathleen Asch, Theresa Behrendt, Rebecca Boenigk, Evelyn D'An, Michelle Jordan, Melissa Means, and Linda Watt. And, special thanks to sponsor-donors Pamela O'Rourke and Sandi Peterson. We are grateful to you ALL.*