

## **2011 Upchurch-Wise Family Reunion Cruise** **Information Letter**

Greeting Family,

Our reunion cruising time is rapidly approaching. As we put the finishing touches on everything it is important that you check the website and or your e-mail weekly for any updates.

### **Reservation Booking ID Numbers**

We have a total of 46 family members and friends cruising to the Bahamas. Jun Malana (our travel agent) has provided us with the Booking ID's for each of you. I will be contacting you by phone or email this weekend to give this information to you. If you do not hear from me, it is because I do not have updated contact information for you. So, please feel free to send me an email [bridgette\\_lipscomb@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgette_lipscomb@yahoo.com) or call 706-587-3775.

Once you have received your reservation ID numbers, it is strongly recommended that you go to the website, [www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com) to create a My Cruise Account/login. Once you have created an account on the site, you can review your reservation and cabin number and also complete the Online Check in process which allows you to print your Set-Sail documents. You will also be able to make special request to enhance your cruise; such as purchasing water, soda, juice or wine packages and reserving spa, land and/or shore excursions etc. Overall, this will save time and prevent you from getting stuck with loads of paperwork to fill out once you board the ship at the pier. \*This process has to be completed 3 days prior to our sail date.

### **On Board Expense Account**

An Onboard Expense Account is the cashless system used for all onboard purchases and services. You can set up your expense account with cash or your credit card. ATM machines are available on board the cruise ship.

\*Hold on to all of your receipts. For each purchase made onboard the ship you will receive a receipt at the point of sale. A final statement will be delivered to your stateroom on the last night of your cruise vacation for your review.

### **Registration Fees**

We did not ask for a registration fee this year; however we are in need of funds to cover minor expenses such as postage, shipping of t-shirts, baseball cap and extras for welcome bags. So we are asking that you add \$5.00 person to your total t-shirt, baseball cap and button balance; caps are optional. Please send money to Ann Johnson by July 1<sup>st</sup>. (See T-shirt order form for address)

## Travel Document Reminder

It is recommended that you have a passport book or card to prevent custom issues when traveling; however it is not required for this cruise, since we are traveling from a U.S. port and back to the same port.

If you are cruising with us, and **DO NOT** have a passport book or card, you will need to **MAKE SURE THAT YOU BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH YOU...**

- Official Birth Certificate - for **everyone** traveling with you including all children as well as yourself. \*Absolutely **NO PHOTO COPIES** -Only original with seal
- Valid Drivers License- or a valid government issued ID
- Official Marriage License (for ladies)

**\*Note: The FIRST and LAST NAMES have to exactly match your reservation and travel documents. So, if you are a female and last name differ on your birth certificate you will need to bring your original marriage license with seal. (Absolutely NO PHOTO COPIES)**

Please be sure to **have ALL OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS or your passports updated and packed** for there will be **NO** exceptions to the cruise line policy regarding required identification so if you are not allowed to board ship, no refunds will be given.

## Hotel Reservations –Miami

If you DO NOT already have reservations and no particular hotel preference, some of our family members will be staying at the following hotel. .

Hampton Inn, Coconut Grove-Miami, Florida - [www.hamptoninncoconutgrove.com](http://www.hamptoninncoconutgrove.com)

2800 SW 28<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133  
(305)-448-2800

This hotel has free parking and will provide transportation to the Miami port. Please contact them for details.

**\*Since the majority of us will be arriving in Miami on different days and our “Meet & Greet” gathering will be held on the ship, we opted to not reserve a specific hotel for the family. Therefore, all reservations are booked individually and not as a family group.**

# Miami Port- Taxi and Parking Fee Information

## Port of Miami

1015 N America Way  
Miami, FL 33132

- There is no Valet Parking at the Port Of Miami.
- Due to security precautions Car/Shuttle rental company facilities are not located on the Port of Miami premises.
- Long term parking is **\$20.00 per day** for cruise passengers parking for 24-hours/overnight or longer per cruise length.
- Oversized vehicles such as motor homes, truck with trailers, or buses that are over 20' in length will be charged an additional \$20.00 per day and can only park in Lot # 2.
- The Port of Miami currently has 3 Parking Garages available for Cruise passengers. The total capacity now available is 5,871, with 56 dedicated to the handicapped and 7 to passengers with young infants. The top floor is open to air at each Garage. There is also one outside Parking Lot available as well.

The Seaport also offers a Shuttle Service for cruise passengers, one of which is wheelchair accessible. The Shuttle will pick you up at the Parking Garage/Lot and take you to the appropriate Cruise Terminal location.

The Port of Miami prides itself on our customer service and its visitor's safety. If you have any questions please feel free to email the Port of Miami at [pomservice@miamidade.gov](mailto:pomservice@miamidade.gov).

### Taxi Service:

Taxicabs are available at all terminals. The flat rate fare between Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami is \$24.00.

**\*Upon arrival and after check in process...be sure to head to the Wind Jammer Café it will be open for lunch.**

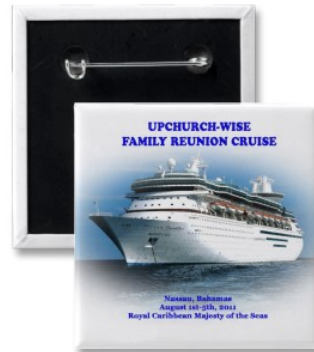
\*If you are a first time cruiser, be sure to stop by your local Walgreens or drug store to pick up your Sea Band Wristband \$10.99. It helps with sea sickness and nausea.

## T-Shirts, Baseball Caps and Family Buttons

We do extend our apologies for changing the t-shirt design that the family originally voted on. In order to minimize cost we chose to go with another t-shirt vendor. We were able to keep the agreed upon colors of royal blue and white. While on the cruise, we are asking each family member and friend to wear the square button **DAILY**, So that we will be able to identify each other and recognize our travel group even when we have gone our separate ways.

Family reunion t-shirts, baseball cap, buttons, family gathering itinerary and goodie bags will be distributed during our “Family Meet & Greet” time onboard the ship. **\*We will be wearing the T-shirts as a group on the day that we visit Coco Cay Island.**

T-shirt and Button Designs below...



Youth T-Shirts \$7.00 each

Adult T-Shirts \$8.00 up to size XL  
(Additional \$1.00 for each X up to size 5X.)

Baseball Caps \$10.00 each

Family Reunion Button \$ 1.75 each

**\*See T-shirt and Button Order Form (link)**

## Cruise Attire

Men: sports jackets, suits and or tuxedos are acceptable for dinner. There is one formal captain's reception night where formal/semi-formal attire is *mandatory*. It is suggested that sports jackets or suits are worn in the dining hall for dinner. For the remainder of the cruise casual attire is appropriate. Women: Nice dressy dresses, skirts and/ or pants are acceptable for dinner. For the remainder of the cruise, casual attire, shorts, sundresses etc. are appropriate. Casinos, shows and club activities are available for night life. So... pack in preparation for these options. \*Irons are not permitted on ship but you can bring steamers.

**\*Note: We will be having an –“All White Family Affair” during the late evening hours. Day and time details will be announced in our family itinerary. Please wear all white casual. This will be in a very relaxed atmosphere.**

## Cruise Gratuities

A 15% gratuity will automatically be added to your beverage package when purchased, bar bill or wine check when you are served

For new bookings that set sail on or after July 1, 2011 the suggested gratuities are:

- Waiter: \$3.75 USD a day per guest
- Assistant Waiter: \$2.15 USD a day per guest
- Head Waiter: \$.75 USD a day per guest
- Housekeeping staff: \$5.00 USD a day per guest
- Suite Housekeeping staff: \$7.25 USD a day per guest

Gratuities are voluntary and at the discretion of each guest. These guidelines serve as suggestions to help guests express their gratitude for the outstanding service they experience on their Royal Caribbean cruise vacation.

Envelopes for gratuities will be provided in your stateroom on the last night of the cruise. Gratuities may be paid in the following ways:

- Added to your onboard Sea-Pass account.
- Paid in cash at the end of the cruise

It is our hope that each bit of information provided will make your trip smooth and stress free. We are looking forward to a great time!