

Old Patrician



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Events in March Demonstrate SocComm a Success

From time to time we should review how we are doing and what lessons we have learned during our tenure. March of 2010 provides an excellent source of data on our progress.

When we started the SocComm late in 2007 we had a fair idea of where we wanted to go, but precious little experience on how to get there. With over two years of running events, activities, and parties we have learned a thing or two. During March we held a barbeque and went to the show *Jersey Boys*. Here is what we have learned as illustrated by these two successful events.

When I first started to hold barbeques I could not even light the charcoal fires correctly! Now these monthly events come off without a hitch. The March barbeque is an excellent example. We had 40 people signed up, but the weather did not look promising. A front was moving through and many people questioned if we were going to have a barbeque at all.

Not to worry. We moved the burners close to the pool deck awning such that the “chefs” would not get wet. Tables were set up in the social room so even if

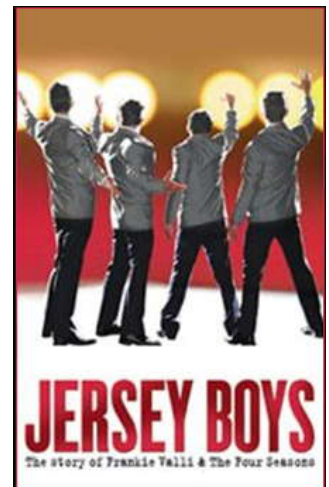
the rain continued and the cold weather was the order of the day, the show could go on. The rain did indeed stop by the time the fires were ready to cook. However, we all felt that we would be much better off if we remained indoors. There was not a single person to either drop out or complain about the accommodations. We carried out our St. Patrick's Day theme to the delight of all. Not bad.

The play *Jersey Boys* also illustrates a successful event. Never the less, here too there were lessons learned. First let me say the everyone who attended, all 20 of us, thought that the outing was a wonderful evening of live theater. Truth be known, we could have sold double that number.

From an informal poll taken the evening of the event demonstrated that some people would have preferred seats closer to the stage even if they cost more money. Others, thought the seats were fine with the price set just about right. What I take away from that feedback is that next time we do a theater event I will reserve seats in two locations at differing price points. There is absolutely no reason why we need to all sit together.

Next, I was afraid of being stuck with unsold tickets so I only ordered 20. Next time I will put up a signup sheet well in advance of when we would need to commit to actually buying. That way we would know how many tickets to get and no one will be disappointed.

The Kravis Center will work with us to make sure that next year's theater party is even better than *Jersey Boys*. This helps us get closer to our goal of making the social life of the Patrician track close to the feelings of community of life here in the 1970s.



And April Will Be Even Better...

With three events coming up in April, the social whirl continues without missing a beat. We plan a barbeque for April 7th and we trust the weather will be good such that we can sit out on the pool deck. This one will not be a themed cookout, but it will let our cooks exercise their culinary imaginations as the mood moves them.

We have decided to have an “end of season” party that will put a closing bookend

to the 2009 - 2010 year. This will follow the same sort of party that the Meet ‘n Greet event that began the season demonstrated. It will be held on Sunday, April 11th at 7:00 PM. It will be a dessert and coffee. The SocComm will provide the coffee and the attendees will supply the desserts. All diets will be suspended for two hours at that time. If this social hour proves to be as successful as the Meet ‘n Greet we will hold it every year.

The last activity planned for April is a return to the Hard Rock Casino. Rae Gross is organizing a bus trip and we have enough folks signed up already so the bus will stop right outside of our door on April 21st. And for all of you who love

to try their encounter with Lady Luck, I have been invited to inspect the new casino boat in town, the *Bahamas Celebration* from Palm Beach Cruise Line.

For those of you who use the Internet let me remind you that we are always adding events and that they appear first on the Calendar page of our website. For example the *Life Long Learning* series will hold *Cooking With Donna* on May 6th. I for one am very excited to learn what Donna Gustafson will be cooking up.

Our upscale dinner this year will feature a really grand restaurant. We are still working out the details so that you will have to watch this spot for news.

We are on the Internet:

www.s-i-inc.com/Patrician

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