

Old Patrician



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Volume 5, Number 3 – April 2012

Of Grand Dining and Coffee & Cake

The last two SocComm events of the 2011 - 2012 season are at hand. The offering is a study in contrast in both content and form. First up is our annual end of the season dessert and coffee. This will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 7:00 PM. All food and drink will be supplied by the SocComm.

The end of the season party is a bookend event that pairs with the Meet 'n Greet we have at the beginning of the season. In this way we welcome and say good bye to our seasonal neighbors. The Social Committee decided to hold the end of the season party a little later in the month this year to recognize two facts. First, more and more of the snowbirds are staying in Palm Beach for more of the year. The real short-timers are the "visitors" who only come down for a week at a time or even for long weekends.

The second reason is that the Patrician has more year rounders than ever before. This is because these folks are younger and are still working full time jobs. With these two facts in mind it makes sense to hold our send off event at the new time.

We had such a good time at Café Boulud back in the fall that we are planning to do it again on Friday, May 11, 2012 at 6:30 PM. As we

did last September, this evening's dinner will be "pay as you go." This form of payment simplifies the planning and it does not matter if we get 4 or 40 people attending.

Of all of the upscale restaurants that we have gone to as a group, Café Boulud receives the highest marks. The cuisine, created by owner and executive chef Daniel Boulud is outstanding. Daniel splits his time between his New York and Palm Beach sites, but whether he is in residence or not the kitchen is run to his exacting specifications.

Speaking for just myself, the Moules (mussels) are "to die for." Regardless of the other fine things on the menu I, for one, cannot pass up this signature dish. It reminds Pat and me of Brussels and the famous Leon's. We had mussels in view of the Grande Place. In spite of the fact that it was over 32 years ago I can still remember them fondly.

The signup sheet will go up on the SocComm bulletin board way in advance of the event. This is because Pat and I will be in the BVI for eight days in mid April and I would like to be able to give Café Boulud a "heads up" as to how many we will be. It is not nice to surprise a restaurant and show up with a gang. Even in pay as you go mode it is the right thing to do.



Exceptional Dining Experience

Over the summer we would plan more of these types of group dining events if there is interest. As the article below explains, I do not mind setting these things up, but only if there is real demand.

Speaking just for myself, I value fine dining with friends. Places like Café Boulud and Café L'Europe work well for me, but not for everyone. So, we can gauge interest only by the vote of the foot. If you sign up and come there will be more of the same; if not there will be less.

The Value of Novelty

It is time, once again, to measure the value of the Patrician SocComm. As we do so, it is useful to retell a little history. Return with me to the fall of 2007. I was sitting down at the pool deck while people were reminiscing about the "good old days." Talk turned to the old

Social Club, and what good times were had back then. "Would it not be great if we did those things now?" It was argued that no one would be interested and besides, Roz would never let it happen.

At some point I said that I would speak to Roz and others to see if we could get things off the ground. "That would be great, everyone said." And so it came to pass that with the blessings of Roz and the Board, the SocComm was born.

Now it was new and a very novel move five years ago. Our first events were modest as we felt our way along. Our first party was a Valentine's Day 2008 coffee. 75 people came out and many people pitched in with the baked goods. It was new, novel, and different. Over

the summer we had barbeques and once again the multitudes flocked to the pool deck. We increased our scope of activities. There was the Dinner Dance and the Meet 'n Greet; both a big success.

Sadly, the novelty faded so current SocComm events are poorly attended. I have many organizations outside of the building for which I run programs. If you are interested in continuing the social events, or you have suggestions on better ones, please let me know.



Patrician circa 1972

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