

# DZ News

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## The DZ Newsletters are Inspiring

Can I tell you a little about our wonderful vacation that your newsletter inspired? I had no intention of going to Disney World at all. I am 26 years old, an attorney. I spend every waking moment thinking about or doing work! No time for fun really. I was visiting my sister about 9 months ago. She had a binder on her coffee table full of your newsletters. I was sitting on her couch, chatting with her and picked up the binder and started thumbing through it. Meanwhile thinking in my head that she was a nutcase! She loves Disney, goes about 4 times a year, her house is decorated in Disney things, she has a Disney shirt for every occasion, too. Her baby (that isn't even born yet) has a room all decorated in Winnie the Pooh, has a closet full of disney clothes, too. Ok, on to the transition this little binder of newsletters

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made on me. I sat there looking through the binder, an article caught my attention. It was about how magical Disney cast members treated guests. I read the article and looked over at my smiling sister. I think she could see that this article sparked something inside me. She invited me on their next Disney trip. I really was not going to go. I told her ok to get her off my back. Then about a month later she called me and told me how much my 'portion' would be. It wasn't much, and I knew how much it would mean to her if I actually went with them. So I agreed. She did all the planning, she made all the decisions, she completely did everything. She told me when we were



going, what time, when to be at their house, what to bring, etc.

I must admit as the time neared for our trip, I was getting a little excited. I called asking questions.

Her excitement for it all was contagious. I asked to borrow the binder of newsletters, to get a better idea of

what I was in for. She lent me the binder about a week before our trip. It was very inspiring indeed. We had a great vacation. We stayed at the Polynesian Resort (I had my own room). We were in the parks all day long every day, ate at many wonderful restaurants, too. We even did a couple of the kids character meals which were really fun. The newsletters are great because they give so many different opinions on things. I think they are wonderful too because they don't try to sell you things. So keep up the good work!

### Please note:

Disneyzone (DZ) is not affiliated with Disney in any way. We are a group of Disney enthusiasts who want to help you in making your next Disney World vacation the best ever!

# Old Key West Review

We recently returned from a week long stay at the Old Key West Resort. We were very impressed!

We had a one bedroom villa, which was huge! I was shocked at how large all the rooms were. Our family of 4 had plenty of room to spread out!

The lay out of the resort is really nice, it doesn't feel 'hotelish' at all. More of a condo atmosphere, which we liked.

The landscaping is nice, the grounds appear to need updating, but everything was always clean and well cared for.

The room itself was very nice. It was clean, and seemed to be very newly refurbished. I am not sure if it was or not, but everything seemed pretty new. The beds were very comfortable! I really enjoyed having the kitchen. We only cooked one meal, but enjoyed having the refrigerator for cold water and other drinks. Much better than constantly buying the water bottles!

We spent the first afternoon wandering around the resort and were so impressed. It has a very laid back atmosphere, and

even the guests we saw seemed so relaxed and happy. My kids enjoyed the play ground, and the quiet pool near our room. They had the main pool closed for refurbishments. We were not around the resort during the day much, so swimming wasn't in our plan. We spent most of our time at the parks. Nighttimes we were at the resort, and enjoyed walking around and taking it all in.

The staff at Old Key West were extremely helpful. We had to wait about 45 minutes for our room to be ready when we checked in. My youngest daughter was really crabby. We were sitting in the lobby area, trying to get her to eat something. One cast member came over and brought my kids a sucker. She was talking to them, and telling them about how Mickey was so anxious to see them, and really cheered up our crabby little one!

The bellperson who took our bags to our room was very nice, too. We had probably 10 bags, heavy ones, too! We made him wait while my husband found his wallet to give a tip. The guy was so funny, he showed the kids around the room. Told them "Look at this, you get a toilet". My son thought that was hilarious!

We never had to wait more than 10 minutes for a bus, and found that the location of the resort was pretty centrally located. It wasn't a long ride to any of the parks.

We ate a few times there at the resort, cooking in your own little kitchen does save some money but it takes away some of the vacation effect. So we ate at the quick food stop, and also at Olivias a couple times. Great food & service at both!

I would not hesitate to stay here again. I cant think of any negative things to say at all. We had never though to stay at a home away from home type of resort, this one just kind of fell in our lap. Now a regular hotel room will not be enough for us!

We visited the DVC desk on our way out and took a tour of the new Saratoga Springs resort. This resort is very nice, but the rooms don't appear as large. Everything being brand new—of course its gorgeous. We did not buy anything this time, but possibly next year!

Ramirez family  
From the Chicago area

# DisneyHands Reaching out and Helping

I live in New York and found some info on things that Disney is doing in our area to help others. I wanted to share this info with the readers of the newsletter.

Disney's New York Community Relations team actively implemented a variety of 2003 holiday season activities and special events. The centerpiece holiday event was DisneyHand's lead sponsorship of the Lincoln Center Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration on December 2nd, 2003.

This family celebration of music, light and the multi-cultural richness of New York City, drew 6,000 families and was hosted by WABC-TV's weatherman Sam Champion.

The event featured a thirty-minute live show including performers from the Big Apple Circus and from Disney's Broadway production of "Beauty & the Beast" culminating in the ceremonial lighting of a 40-foot tall blue spruce. Disney VoluntEARS helped to light the tree with

support from several business units of the company. In 2003, our "Adopt-A-Family" program encouraged departments and individual employees to adopt an entire family from The Carver Center in Port Chester, NY and, in the spirit of the



holidays, purchase gifts and holiday food for these needy families. Employees also filled 275 holiday "Care Stockings" with travel amenities that were donated to Lincoln Square Community Senior Center and the New York City Department of the Homeless.

Back by popular demand was our highly successful New York Cares "Secret Santa Program." In answer to letters written by children from New York inner city

schools, Disney employees bought 250 gifts for distribution at an annual holiday party.

Disney Publishing Worldwide celebrated their annual "Wrap 'n Roll" party, where employees wrapped thousands of books to be donated to this year's children's charity, Pathways for Youth.

Disney VoluntEARS partnered with ONLY MAKE BELIEVE, a non-profit organization that introduces the magical world of theatre to dis-

advantaged children living with chronic illness and disabilities, to host two children's parties: one at the Foundling Hospital and the other at Incarnation House in Harlem. Our VoluntEARS were thrilled to bring holiday cheer and help the children escape the boundaries of the hospital walls.

Our Disney Blanketeers are hard at work on holidays blankets for children's hospitals and senior centers, including Beth Israel's neo-natal unit.

## Articles Needed!

Would you like to share your Disney experiences with others? Do you have some great tips that others might benefit from? Would you like to tell everyone about your favorite WDW restaurant? Have you stayed at one of the Disney resorts

lately and want to share details?

**DZ News is as great as it is  
because so many of you  
contribute articles! Thanks!**

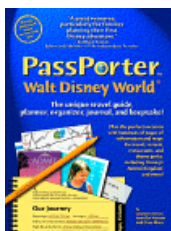
There are so many things you can write about - please consider contributing to this newsletter. It's the DZ visitors who submit articles that make this newsletter so popular. Submit articles, or send questions to: [kimmi@disneyzone.net](mailto:kimmi@disneyzone.net)

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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit today! **CLICK HERE** to go to the boards!

The **NEW LOOK**. The newsletter has changed a little, this layout should make it easier to read. Also, all the links to email & websites now work. Which means you can click on them and they will actually take you to a website, or bring up your email client. Give it a try and visit some of the links within the newsletter!

DZ has a great **contest** that just ended. And another one just started! Contests on DZ are ALWAYS FREE. You can win a great prize, just for participating!

Go enter the new contest, by visiting the contest page!

**CLICK HERE** to go to the DZ Contest Page - play and you could win a cool prize!

**\*If you would like to donate a prize, please contact us! prizes@disneyzone.net - You get some advertising on the site in exchange for your donation!**

## DZ Kids

Here is a poem from my kids. They worked on it together.

Kiara & Tamara

Vacations at Disney World are great,

For April we cant wait,

We will get to spend 7 days,

Doing something we will remember always!

We love to see the parks,

Even when it is dark,

A trip to disney is a score

There's nothing we want to do more.

The hotels are very cool,

What we really like is the pool.

Post cards we will send,

We will hate for it all to end!

## Advertising Information

The next page of the newsletter offers ads from various companies. DZ offers very reasonable rates for advertisers. Reach thousands of Disney World fans via the DZ News!

### Current Rates:

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## Happy Birthday...



Celina:16, AJ, Daniel, Erin, Kristin-12, Josey-40, Leo-63, Sara,

Brandon, Shane, Keri, Ryan-4, Lori, Cameron-42, Mari-50, Pauline, Steven, Chris, Ann, Bradley, DJ-8, Gavin, Courtney-5, Justin, Todd, Alexander-10, Molly, Jason, Randy-33, Kieran, Daniel-13, Skye, Kyle-20, Victoria, Bob, Isabella-2, Marina-16, Amanda-5, Johnny, and Meriah-14.

Please send an email to birthdays@disneyzone.net if you want a birthday added to the list!

Ages are optional!

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