



*Food  
Ice Cream  
Balloon Animals  
Face Painting  
Games*

## 47th Annual Employee Celebration Picnic

Free for all Lafayette Employees and up to 4 guests

**Sunday, May 21st, 2023**

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

**McDonnell Park**  
2960 Adie Road  
St. Ann, 63074

**Everyone must register in advance**



Register online with this QR Code *or* complete the form below and return it to Lafayette



**Contact Vicky James with any questions (636) 227-5666 x 1118**

**YES! I am attending the Picnic!**

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

I work at (circle one):

West

North

**Please return this form to Becky at West or Sheila at North**




**Rob Libera**  
CEO & Executive Director  
[rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com)

**Mission:** The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

**Goals:** • To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled • To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment • To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits • To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment • To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings • To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner • To provide fair wages and good benefits



# **LAFAYETTE'S 32ND ANNUAL RAFFLE**

1ST PRIZE  
**\$1,000 CASH**

2ND PRIZE  
**4 BOX SEATS FOR  
PITTSBURGH PIRATES  
@ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**

3RD PRIZE  
**1 LUNCH A MONTH FOR A YEAR AT THE  
PIONEER BAKERY CAFE**

**Drawing May 21st, 2023**

Purchase Tickets at the  
Lafayette front desk or online  
using the QR Code

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT VICKY JAMES AT  
(636) 227-5666 X 1118**



We are excited to announce that Lafayette has chosen Paycor to be our new Payroll and HR systems partner! Paycor brings us award-winning technology, which will eventually provide access to all of our employees. The pay dates will not change from what they are now. Our last payday with ADP will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and the first payday with Paycor will be on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The new paystubs will look different. However, they will contain all the same information as before - such as hours, pay amount, taxes, deductions, vacation, etc.

A word about vacations: Summer is the busiest time of year for taking time off, so get your requests in early. Please keep in mind that if we have too many employees requesting vacation at the same time, it affects production. This would include the end of the year as well. Try to pace your time off throughout the year.

Based on feedback from employees and families, the use of vacation time can now be used in ½ day (3 hour) increments!

### **WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – FEBRUARY 2023**



#### **RESPECTFUL (Left)**

**Left to right:** Michael Branca, Bill Hawn, Rob Libera

#### **SAFE (Right)**

**Left to right:** Rob Libera, Jenelle Winders, Andrew Rossel



### **WEST ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**



Register today for April. You will have to register each month for each Art Class!!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station. ***Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by April 7, 2023.***

Questions: Call or email Vicky James [vjames@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:vjames@lafayetteindustries.com) 636-227-5666, ext.1118

Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name/phone number of person picking up art student at 4p:

\_\_\_\_\_





## **LAFAYETTE'S NIGHT OUT AT THE BASEBALL GAME: SECOND MOST POPULAR QUESTION ABOUT CARDINAL GAME**

Last month we told you where we were sitting for the upcoming June 30<sup>th</sup> Lafayette Industries' Night Out at the Baseball Game. Same sections as last year, maybe a slight realignment of the seats, but in the same area. The second most popular question asked about the ballgame after "where are we sitting" is: When are the tickets going on sale? Have we heard this question asked here at West? Why yes we have. We have an answer. The tickets **won't** go on sale until the first week in May. When you see the order blank in the May newsletter, then you will be able to send your request in. Stay tuned, as we have one more question next month that requires an answer. You may think you know what the question is, but it's always best to wait until it actually appears before you start trying to guess. We forgot to let you know in the last article that the wheelchair seating will only have 7 seven seats in it this year. For the last 5 or 6 years we have been in a decline in the number of wheelchair seating requests. Last year all 7 were occupied, but the year before we had a very low number. See you next month when we answer the third most popular question concerning the Cardinal tickets, and turn our attention towards the Cardinals upcoming season. Go Cards!!



### **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR MARCH 2023**

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

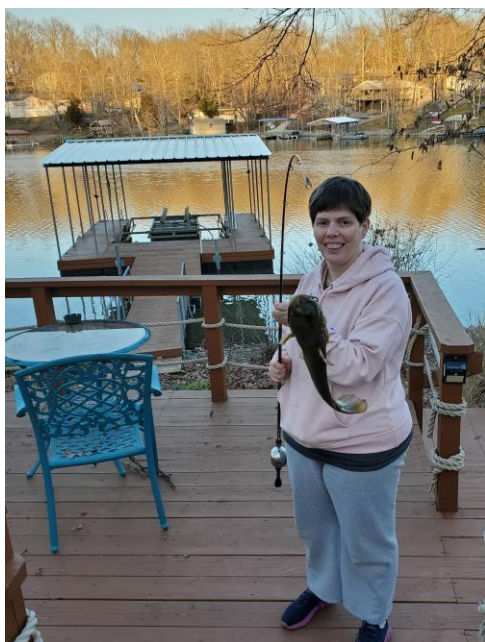
#### **SENSEI, DID YOU SAY "PRACTICE AWARENESS"**

Well yes, I *did*. Your Ol' Safety Captain knows you need to do this. One of the first lessons I was taught as a Supervisor at Lafayette was to walk into the area I was responsible for and look for safety problems. Now in all honesty, it didn't happen like that every day. It was good instruction all the same.

We all need to be more aware of our surroundings. Check for chairs in the aisles, tripping hazards like extension cords or boxes, tools and knives left around, etc. Awareness of safety concerns in the shop will always come foremost with the production team's shop floor management.

This also applies at home as well. Now consider this. When walking in parking lots, walking on the street, even jogging in the park, be aware of hazards, people and moving vehicles. Be safe, my people!

**SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT      -      MORE LATER!**



### **JENNIFER SCHWEISS GOES FISHING**

By Debbie Schweiss (Proud Mother)

After everyone in the house dealt with Covid, we decided that everyone needed a break at the lake house. We worked on the porch while Jennifer spent all her time on the dock fishing. She loves to fish and will sit out there all day. It is her quiet place. After sitting there all day, she only comes up to eat or change her lures. The first day she caught no fish. The second day she caught 9 fish, including the one in the picture at the left. All fish are caught, and then released. Returning home was really hard. Being at the lake is so calming.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL FOLKS!



### NORTH

Roxanna	Robinson	5
India	Stewart	5
Vaughon	Caldwell	9
Sean	Watson	12
Mattie	Abercumbia	17
Tamu	Johnson	18
Paul	Spears	18
Demitri	Johnson	21
Pedro	Cruz	25
Sally	Grant	25
Sara	Morgan	25
Ronesha	Pflederer	27
Laura	Fortus	29

### WEST

Margo	Bates	1	Craig	Marek	14
Andrew	Martinez	1	Jonathan	Walle	15
Sheri	Cooley	2	David	Pfeiffer	16
Elizabeth	Cendekowitsch	3	Mary	Good	18
Samantha	Waigand	3	Mark	Carlson	19
DeWendel	Williams II	3	Nicholas	Strate	20
Justin	Moslander	8	Tim	Roccia	20
Carli	Binek	10	Pamela	Walsh	23
Robyn	Zerillo	10	Tara	Rehagen	25
John	Woerner	11	Cynthia	Jacobson	26
Pam	Gardner	12	Geoffrey	Reusch	28
Andrew	Villaire	12	BJ	Burns	30
Ryan	Clemente	13			



### WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR VACATION? WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY DOING ON THAT VACATION?

By The Editor

Are you excited about going on vacation this year to a special place? If you do go, take some pictures while on your vacation, so you can share them with others via the newsletter once you get back home. Just send us a small article with the picture that tells us where you went on vacation and some of the special things you did while there. Hopefully one of the pictures will include your smiling face with your family. Then maybe take a picture of you and your family standing in front of some extra-special or extra-fun places that you visited while out and about. Hopefully a family member or a friend can help you write the article. As an example, at left is a picture that the Editor took about 5 years ago when I last visited my sister in Loveland, Colorado. This picture was taken in an absolutely fascinating and wonderful sculpture park. It was fun to take pictures of all the different sculptures. This sculpture was one of my particular favorites. When I took the picture I thought the way the light hit it was perfect. A tall, mysterious man strolling out in his raincoat and shielding hat, watching passers-by as he walks stealthily by them. My article was all about the visit to the sculpture park. It was fun, and I had fun sharing it with others. For those of you not traveling, the pictures and article don't even have to be out of town. If you do something interesting in St. Louis, that'd be great. Nothing like having fun in your own hometown, and telling other homeowners about it so they can go too.

### BATTLE OF THE CRUISESHIPS

Recently 2 Lafayette employees took 2 different cruises on 2 different ships to different destinations and different ports of call (where the cruise ship docks). Thought it might be kind of fun to get the particulars on the 2 ships, what things they offer and maybe fun facts. We're not revealing who the mystery cruisers were. Whoever they were, it looks like they both had a great time doing whatever they were doing. They both used their own judgment when they submitted their pictures, and it's highly entertaining to see what these particular people did on their vacations. Thought that highlighting their cruises would be a great way to kick things off in another effort to get people to let us know about their trips. We hope this idea prompts a response, and that you let us know about your vacations this summer.



## NORWEGIAN BREAKAWAY



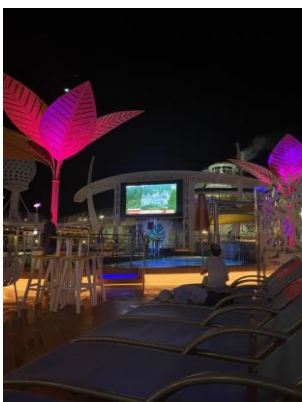
The “breakaway waterfront” is where I spent all my time. I finished two Nevada Barr books!

Name of Cruise Ship: Norwegian Breakaway  
Ports of call for Ship: Costa Maya, Mexico; Harvest Caye, Belize; Roatan, Honduras; Cozumel, Mexico.

Things they offer: Variety of restaurants and bars - 25 dining experiences; great music.

Interesting facts about the Breakaway: Gross register tonnage is 145,655; Guest capacity is 3,963 double capacity; 1,068 overall length; 170 ft. max. beam; 2020 refurbished (year built – 2013); ship crew 1,657. Meyer Werft is the ship builder.

## ROYAL CARIBBEAN’S MS FREEDOM OF THE SEAS





## **BATTLE OF THE CRUISE CHIPS - FREEDOM OF THE SEAS – CONTINUED:**



We had an art auction while on the cruise, and there was a movie theater on the upper deck. We watched the new Jurassic Park. We had a great run of weather too. Only the last day left us with a view that while beautiful, wouldn't look out of place in a fantasy movie just before the end. We also ran into a silent art auction, with a piece I thought was interesting. We didn't get anything, but I almost won some raffles while on board, including one at said auction.

Name of Cruise Ship: Freedom of the Seas

Ports of call for Ship: Miami, Florida; Coco Cay, Bahamas; Nassau, Bahamas; back to Miami, Florida.

Interesting facts about the Freedom of the Seas: Number of passengers accommodated - 3,634; 1300 crew with 4 crew decks below the waterline; Construction started – November 9, 2004; Launched – June 4, 2006; Length – 1,112 feet; Draft – 30 feet; Builder – STX Europe; Height – 63.70m or 209 feet; Decks, 19 total decks, 15 passenger decks.

## **VICKY JAMES HONORED AT MISSOURI CAPITOL**

Lafayette Chief Advancement Officer Vicky James was honored during A Team Missouri's "Day of Choice" March 21 at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

First-term Representative Ken Waller (Rep.) of District 114 in Jefferson County recognized James on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives, citing her more than 30 years of executive management and leadership in both the private and public sectors.

James served as president and CEO of Sunnyhill Inc., in Fenton, Mo., for 22 years. She also was the COO for Chapel Hill Mortuary in Cedar Hill, Mo. On April 1, she celebrated her one-year anniversary at Lafayette.

Missouri A Team, whose motto is "Dignity Has a Voice," was created to advocate in a grassroots effort for adults with disabilities and their families who choose employment at sheltered workshops across the state. It creates awareness in the community and advises elected officials on the importance of legislation for adults with disabilities.

Nearly 200 Missouri A Team members and their supporters from sheltered workshops across the state sat in the gallery of the Missouri House and were recognized from the floor. During their visit to the Capitol, they had opportunities to visit with their area legislators and then had a group picture taken on the floor of the Capitol rotunda.

In addition to James, Lafayette Industries was represented by Executive Director Rob Libera, Executive Coordinator Kate Gregor, CFO Scott Skarstad, and Board of Directors member Dennis Dillon.



**Far left:** Dennis Dillon (Board of Directors member), Vicky James (Lafayette's Chief Advancement Officer), Rep. Ken Waller of Jefferson County, Rob Libera (Lafayette's Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director)

**Immediate left:** Vicky James on the floor of Missouri's House of Representatives.



## **RICHARD FORTUS (LAURA'S BROTHER) VISITS NORTH** (By Sheila Zigrye, Proud Staff Member)

Laura was so proud to introduce us to her brother, Richard. Richard has been the guitarist for Guns n' Roses since 2002. They are performing in concert at Busch Stadium on September 9, 2023.

Laura is an actor who performs on stage at Jewish Community Center, doing 2 plays a year.



Thanks for  
having me!

GnR  
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**Editorial note:** Brad Davis had a fascinating trip to a place few, if any, of us will ever visit. He went to the bottom of the world to Antarctica, one of the least populated and least visited continents. We'll have a couple of months seeing this fascinating place through his eyes.

## **BRAD DAVIS'S 2023 ANTARCTICA TRIP**



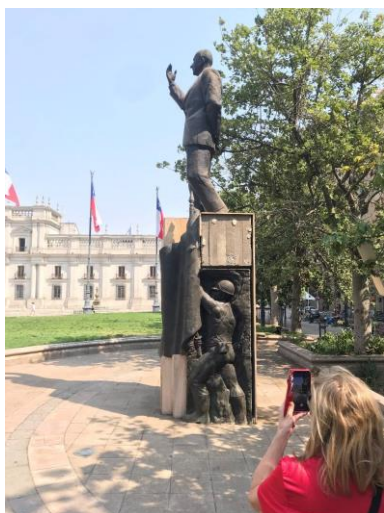
**Day 1:** We landed in Santiago, Chile early in the morning. Since we were only spending one day in the city, we decided to go on a driving tour. Our guide showed us not only the major cultural and historical sites, but also the best places to shop and experience the nightlife.

The fortress of Cerro Santa Lucia, where the Spanish Conquistador, Pedro de Valdivia, founded the city of Santiago. It's located atop a hill in the heart of the city.



The view of the city from the top of the hill. It was 90° and sunny that day but ongoing wildfires left the air smoggy.

La Moneda Palace, the seat of the Chilean government. The 13 flags outside represent the 13 Chilean States.



A statue of President Eduardo Frei Montalva, who was ousted by Pinochet's Coup in 1970, outside of the palace.

**Day 2:** In the morning we flew from Santiago to the city of Punta Arenas. Punta Arenas is a city of 120k that lies along the Strait of Magellan on the southernmost tip of South America. It acts as a port for ships travelling through the strait as well as one of the main travel hubs for people visiting Chilean Patagonia and Terra del Fuego. We spent most of our time there preparing for the cruise, getting fitted for our boots and parkas, learning the rules for shore expeditions and meeting our fellow travelers.



Punta Arenas is proud of its naval history. The weather was damp and chilly; a taste of what we'd be dealing with for the next week.

Imperial cormorants on the shore. In the background you can see the original dock (also covered in cormorants), as well as ships waiting to pass through



the strait.

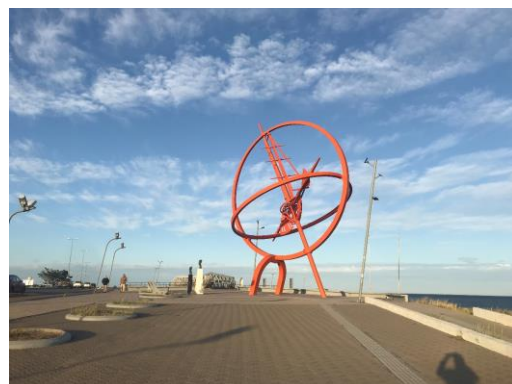
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## BRAD DAVIS'S 2023 ANTARTICA TRIP – CONTINUED:

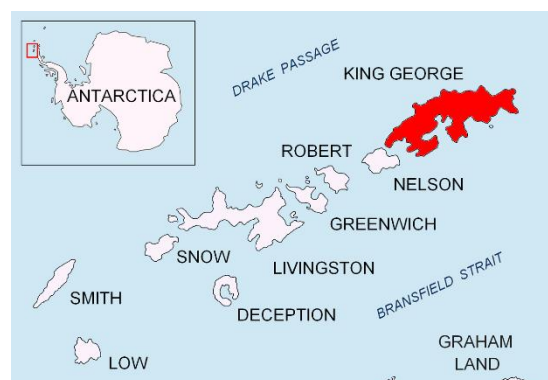


Street art at left is extremely common in Chile.

An enormous sextant at right. Sextants were used by sailing vessels to determine their position while at sea.



**Day 3:** After lunch we left our hotel and finally boarded our flight to Antarctica. The airfield we were supposed to land at was a short, gravel runway attached to Frei Station, a Chilean military base on King George Island. This meant that our pilot had to land the plane entirely by sight, and if the weather turned we would have no choice but to wait for another day. Fortunately the weather held, and we were able to land safely on our first try. There was no dock on the island big enough for our ship, so we had to take the Zodiacs out to it.



The planes we took to King George Island (the larger ones). Since we were landing on a very short runway we were limited to 30 lbs. of checked luggage, which isn't a lot when you're packing for the Antarctic. Thankfully, the boots and parka were provided by the cruise and not included in that weight limit.



One of the Zodiacs. This was from later in the trip, as taking photos while on the base was strictly forbidden, and I didn't want to get my phone confiscated. I ended up sitting in the front and took a splash of Antarctic water right in the face when we hit a particularly large swell.



The picture on the right is of our ship, the Ocean Adventurer. Also from later in the trip; I wasn't confident taking pictures on my first zodiac ride. There were a little over 100 passengers and 120 crew.

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## **BRAD DAVIS'S 2023 ANTARTICA TRIP – CONTINUED:**



The gangway: This was the only way we could get on or off the ship.

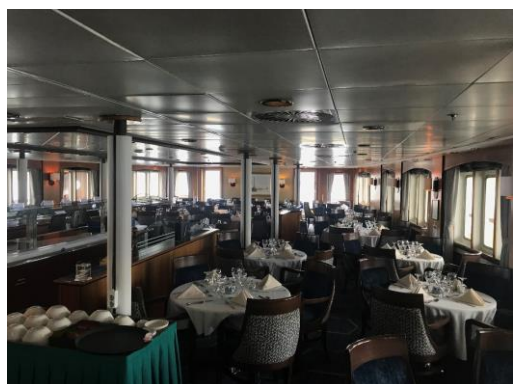
The hatch while underway. After every shore excursion we had to scrub our boots in the tubs on the right to prevent cross-contamination, and also to get rid of the smell of penguin.



Our room, small but comfortable. You can feel the rocking of the ship even in calm bays, let alone the open ocean.

The deck outside our room. We were on a cruise, but the ship was built for expetions first and foremost. The hatches were heavy, the stairs

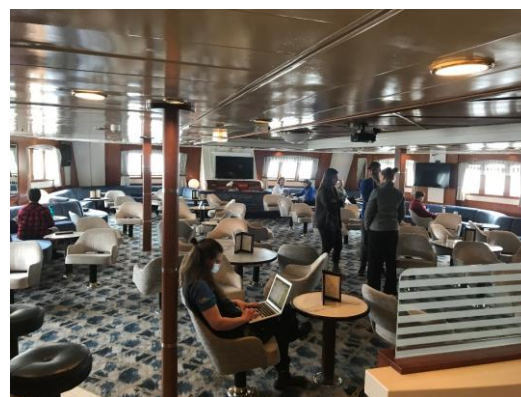
were steep, and the outside docks were metal and weathered wood.



The Main (and only) Dining Room. Breakfast and lunch were served buffet style, and dinner was a la carte. All of the chairs were chained to their tables, which made getting up a bit of a pain.

The Main Lounge where people hung out while underway. This was also wehre the various

scientists on the crew gave lectures on the things we'd encounter.



Hot tubs on the aft deck. The contrast between the warm water and the cold wind was surprisingly enjoyable.

The observation deck above the bridge.



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## BRAD DAVIS'S 2023 ANTARTICA TRIP – CONTINUED:



Deck furniture and lifeboats. They never unstowed the furniture so I'm not sure why it was even there.

The full map of our voyage to the right.



**Day 4:** During the night, we sailed from Frei Station across the Bransfield to Mikkelsen Harbor. Mikkelsen Harbor was discovered by Otto Nordenskjöld, during his 1901-1904 expedition. It was used as a safe harbor for whaling vessels. After lunch we put on our gear and boarded the Zodiacs to go see the penguin colonies that live on the island.



Sailing into Mikkelsen Harbor. You could see (and smell) the penguin colonies from a good distance away.

One of the colonies established itself around an old hut. The hut is still used as an emergency shelter for researchers.



Penguins near the bones of a long-dead whale. You can also see the remains of a water-ship. These ships would collect water and bring it to the factory ships that processed whale oil. They were also used as platforms by the whalers who cut the blubber from the whales.



A better view of the ship is to the right above. Whalers would breach ships like this in the off-season rather than take them with them. The extra oil this let them carry more than made up for any repairs they would have to make.

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## **BRAD DAVIS'S 2023 ANTARTICA TRIP – CONTINUED:**



A pair of gentoo penguins. The one on the right is in the middle of molting, a process that can take several weeks. During this time, they lose their waterproofing and are unable to hunt.

Weddell seals sunning themselves on the beach. Weddell's are the only seals

that don't migrate north for the winter.



Every passenger was assigned to a departure group that left at a specific time but once you were out there you could return whenever you wanted. Instead of coming back, I joined up with a boat that was going to take a tour around the harbor.



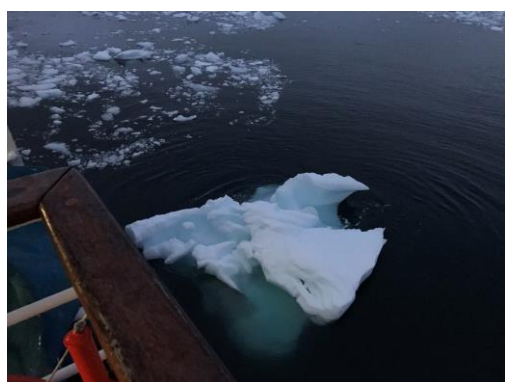
You can see where icebergs broke off the glacier.

Antarctic fur seals on the shore. Fur seals are very territorial, and young males spar with each other constantly in preparation for the mating season.



A fur seal looks back at our boat as we drive alongside it.

From Mikkelsen Harbor we sailed south to Curtis Bay. There we boarded the Zodiacs for an evening cruise. The water in the bay was placid and covered in a sheet of loose ice. The Zodiacs were more than tough enough to push through or drive over the ice. But it slowed us down enough that instead of a full tour of the bay, we ended up just making a few laps around our ship.



The water in Curtis Bay was full of drifting ice. The ship's hull was more than strong enough to handle it, but the noise took some getting used to.

The water in the bay was as smooth as glass.



**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!!**

## APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 April Fool's Day
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6 First Day of Passover	7 Good Friday  Deadline for signing up for West Art Class	8
9 Easter	10 PAY DAY	11	12 West Art Class – 3:00-4:00p	13	14	15 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p – Celebrate the Cardinals – Wear Cardinal Red
16	17	18	19 5:00p – Board Planning Committee	20 North Free Lunch	21	22 Earth Day  Eid ul-Fitr
23	24	25 PAY DAY— Paycor for first time!	26	27 West Free Lunch	28	29
30						