

At Sea –Day 63 Nov. 28:

We woke to an overcast sky and moderate sea with significant pitching and rolling of the Amsterdam. Fortunately, the motion of the ship was not enough to trigger sea sickness for us but the barf bags were hanging by the elevators just in case someone had a problem.

At 9am we went to the “Good Morning Amsterdam” TV show. Gene led off with an announcement that yesterday’s silent auction of water color artwork produced by passengers had gone very well. Hundreds of dollars had been raised for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation through the sale of the artwork. Gene had the winning bid for one of the paintings that we thought was one of the best ones on display. He proudly revealed his prize this morning on the show as seen in the picture on the right.



The guest that Gene and Adele introduced this morning was Siobhan Phillips, who is in the picture on the left. Siobhan (pronounced Sha-von) is a lady from Ireland who provided the entertainment show last night in the Queen’s Lounge. She has a great sense of humor and a

snappy bit of patter to accompany her singing ability. She sang a great rendition of “Danny Boy” on without musical accompaniment on the show today.

At 11am we went to the Cruise Specialist (CSI) Chat Time in the Explorer's Lounge. The main topic of discussion was Siobhan Phillips, the singer who had entertained us last evening and was on the Good Morning Amsterdam TV show this morning. Some people had a bad opinion of her because her song selections were kind of obscure and it was hard to understand the words she was singing. Others, perhaps a majority, thought she put on one of the best singing performances we have had on the cruise. We weren't thrilled by her show last night but thought her engaging interview and singing of Danny Boy on the Good Morning Amsterdam TV Show this morning was super.

With the ship rocking and rolling we didn't do a lot of walking around in the afternoon. Instead we began the painful task of figuring out how we were going to pack up all the stuff we have in the cabin in preparation for leaving the ship on December 5. We managed to get a lot of the larger and most fragile items packed into our biggest suitcase. Having made some progress we called a halt to those activities.

At noon today the Captain came on the PA system with his daily navigational information. He said we were about 300 miles from Honolulu. Our estimated arrival time tomorrow is about 6am. We will be docking at Pier 2 which is a 10 minute walk from the traditional cruise terminal near the Aloha Tower. We are looking forward to getting together with Phil and Erica for dinner and a tour of the Amsterdam while in Honolulu. The last time we saw these friends was in Oak Ridge last summer, before they moved to Hawaii. Unfortunately our visit will be short since the Amsterdam leaves port tomorrow night at 11pm.

We went to a variety show in the Queen's Lounge tonight and were well entertained by magician, Nick Lewin, ventriloquist, Jimmy Tamley, and ukulele virtuoso David Pengelly. The seas had calmed down significantly during the day and we turned in for the night, looking forward to seeing Diamond Head and Honolulu tomorrow morning.