

## At Sea – Day 24 Oct. 21:

We woke to a gentle rolling of the Amsterdam as it sailed southward. We worked on the blog and then at 9am attended the “Good Morning Amsterdam” TV show. During the TV show Cruise Director, Gene Young, introduced two of the staff from the front office of the Amsterdam. They were both from the Philippine Islands and they gave a little biography leading up to their current jobs on the Amsterdam.

At 11am Barbara went to a presentation by the celebrity guest chef on the Amsterdam, Keegan Gerhard, in the Culinary Arts Center (Wajang Theater). He was assisted by his wife. The session was very well attended and the theater was packed with standing room only. Apparently, Keegan Gerhard is well known among people who take cooking and food seriously. He is the Host of Food Network’s top rated “Food Network Challenge.” He described and demonstrated how to make Popcorn Panna Cotta dessert. Barbara had a sample at the end of the session and it was GOOOOOD! He handed out a printed recipe for his Popcorn Panna Cotta creation and we will have to try it when we get home -NOTTTT!



Our friends in San Diego, California might be interested in Keegan’s plans to open a restaurant in the Hillcrest community of San Diego soon.

During the day we checked the TV screen on deck 5 to determine the position of the Amsterdam on the route to Xiamen, China. Our position in the early afternoon was as shown in the picture below.



The dress for dinner tonight was formal with an oriental theme. The dining room, casino and lounges around the Amsterdam were all decorated with hanging oriental lanterns and banners. The ladies had been planning for this since before the cruise so they enjoyed putting on their finest oriental styles while the guys just went with the usual tuxedo. We had a nice surprise at our table when Presti, the dining room manager told us he had arranged for an officer host at our table tonight. It turned out that our host for the evening was Allison, the lifestyles coordinator for the Amsterdam who is shown in this picture on the right with Barbara, Esther and Presti. She gives sessions on Tai Chi and other recreational presentations that promote good health. She is a great conversationalist and we all enjoyed the evening with her.



In addition to the passengers being all dressed up, our dining room stewards looked particularly striking tonight as shown in the picture on the left.

After dinner we attended a show in the Queen's

Lounge put on by Dan Riley. He is a standup comedian who uses a guitar to accompany humorous musical skits he plays.

After the show we returned to our stateroom and found a pillow gift from Holland America that had been left by the room stewards. The gifts were zippered boat bags for each of us. They are handy canvas bags with adjustable shoulder straps to be used for carrying various items during excursions. Barbara is holding one of the bags in the picture on the right.



We turned in for the night as the Amsterdam continued south toward Xiamen, China. No one we know has been to Xiamen and we are eager to explore that city. We have a tour that was arranged by Cruise Critic friend, Ira.