

At Sea – Day 11 Oct. 8:

We awoke to another day of calm sea, broken cloud cover and temperatures in the mid 50s. When we arrived in the Lido Restaurant this morning the bread display looked especially appealing. They do a great job of making the restaurant and food as appealing as possible and this picture on the right is a great example of their work.



After breakfast we went down to attend the “Good Morning Amsterdam” TV show. This morning Cruise Director Gene and hostess



Adele had three lady guests from the “Greenhouse Spa” who demonstrated their skills in skin care and hair styling.

The lady seated next to Gene had prepared a special wrap with herbs and other skin enhancement lotions so she could show the process to the audience. Gene graciously volunteered his handsome face for the demonstration. She carefully applied the cloth face wrap with holes cut strategically for the eyes, nose and mouth, as shown on the right.



Gene, being the real trouper that he is, carried out the rest of the show sporting his new skin enhancement mask. It was a bit spooky at first but we quickly got used to it.



The next Greenhouse Spa surprise of the morning targeted Adele and her long flowing blond hair. We were treated to a demonstration of “back combing” or “teasing”



ending with a chignon hair style. With apologies to Adele here, on the left, is how it looked part way through.



However, very quickly Adele’s hair was brought down and tucked neatly in to the attractive chignon style, as shown on the right.

As the show was ending, the mask on Gene’s face

was carefully peeled away. Unlike Adele’s hairdo, Gene’s face looked remarkably unchanged.



We wandered through the Amsterdam library and saw that the ever popular jigsaw puzzle table was surrounded by people busy with piecing together two different puzzles. The jigsaw puzzle is a classical cruising pastime. Many pleasant hours are spent by people intently engaged in their work as can be seen in the picture on the left.

While in the library recently we took special note of a prominently displayed portrait of a man and woman that we have seen on prior cruises but never stopped to closely observe. The picture shown on the right is of Kirk Lanterman, former chairman and CEO of Holland America Lines and his wife, Janet Lanterman. We took notice today because we had heard Janet Lanterman, the CEO of Cruise Specialists International travel agency address the Cruise Specialists bon voyage dinner in Seattle just 12 days ago. The brass plaque, shown below, was next to the portrait and explained that Janet Lanterman is the Godmother of our good ship ms Amsterdam.



Back on October 30, 2000 she had cracked a bottle of champagne on



the hull of the Amsterdam and launched the ship that has carried us many happy miles.

Our travel agent, Shannon Nelson, is part of Cruise Specialists International (CSI) and booked us on this Grand Asia & Australia Voyage. As mentioned before, we have been attending “Chat

Time” sessions that Lucia and Henk Barnhoorn conduct in the Explorer’s Lounge at 11am on every sea day. Lucia and Henk are CSI “Ambassadors” who accompany clients on long cruises to represent the travel agency and provide assistance when needed. The Chat Time sessions are a little something extra that provides a forum for getting to know other CSI passengers who care to participate. We joined the group today and snapped the picture on the right where Lucia is the lady in yellow on the left and Henk is the man in a blue shirt – back, right hand side.



After dinner we went to the Showtime entertainment presented by the “Moscow 4”. This was the same Russian group of two men and two women singers that had presented a terrific collection of US Broadway hit tunes in Russian and English a few days ago. Tonight they were equally entertaining as they sang some familiar songs in English and some Russian folk songs in Russian.

We are currently sailing in the Sea of Japan on smooth waters toward Vladivostok, Russia. We expect to arrive about 5am tomorrow morning.