

DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED in MAILING!

Take A Break, Make Connections, Brush up on the Basics!

Many of us in Chicago welcome the first snowflakes, and then can't wait for a mid-winter chance to head out of town. Whether we appreciate the fireside warmth of après ski, or seek a warmer locale for our off-season reprieve, each of us—Tour Guides, Greeters, Escorts, DMCs, etc.—appreciates an opportunity to unwind before the next Chicago tourism season.

This year you have the opportunity for an unforgettable experience—and can probably make the trip a work-related tax deduction—**January 31 to February 3, 2004.**

While we take a break—or at least slow down—from the hectic pace of Chicago's peak season, Tour Guides and Escorts from the Greater Boston Tour Guide Association are hard at work preparing a unique program for your enjoyment and edification: the **National Federation of Tourist Guide Association-USA's second biennial Conference.**

From the gala opening ceremonies, to entertaining workshops, delectable local cuisine, unique tours and social events, word has it that our New England friends intend to dazzle their guests. No trip compares to one hosted by tourism experts. If that alone doesn't warm you up to the idea of spending an extended winter weekend in **Boston**, consider some of these:

- * Profit from *National* networking opportunities.
- * Hear a Broadway singer demonstrate how to effectively use your voice.
- * Learn to identify building styles from Boston "Architecture 101" expert.
- * View spectacular one-of-a-kind glass flowers exhibit on included Cambridge tour.
- * Have one at the Cheers Bar.

Please take time to read the enclosed NFTGA Special Edition Newsletter for more information. Full details are posted on and the registration form can be downloaded at the NFTGA website: www.tourguidesofamerica.com. ***There will never be a better time to visit Boston!***

Submitted by: Esther Banike, CTG

Sears...Still World's Tallest Building?

In October, an Associated Press article entitled, "Taipei Boasts World's Tallest Building," announced the "topping off" ceremony for this 1,676-foot-tall newest pretender to be the world's tallest. The ceremony included installation of a 198-foot pinnacle that was installed from an observation deck on the 91st floor.

The building is described as a "101-story structure (that) looks like a stack of gift boxes" and will be called "Taipei 101." It will house offices, a mall and an observatory and have the world's fastest elevators and a stairway that leads to the top spire at 1,676 feet.

Some worry the building would be dangerous in earthquake-prone Taiwan. But the skyscraper's developers have said that the closest fault line is 660 feet from the building, and the fault hasn't been active in 45,000 years.

Although the building has reached its maximum height, it still needs to be completed on the interior to prepare for occupancy in early 2004.

Taipei 101 is not expected to hold the tallest-building title for long. In China, developers say the Shanghai World Financial Center will be even higher when it's completed in 2007. Another source notes that the new World Trade Center in New York City will rise to 541 meters (1,776 feet) and include an enormous spire.

To see a listing and access relevant information about all tall buildings, please check out the following websites:

- www.skyscraperpage.com
- www.skyscraper.org
- ww.architecture.about.com/library/bltall.htm

Of course, our pride in things Chicago does not want us to relinquish the Sears Tower as the World's tallest building. But do we really have to? One look at the scale diagrams on the first two websites listed above, tells ME we do not accept the rankings! Let's look at the facts:

• **Taipei 101**, Taipei, Taiwan, 101 floors, 1,676 feet, finished 2004, architect Cliff Tan. BUT...its roof is at 448 meters and its spire reaches 508 meters.

Read MORE about the NFTGA Conference in Boston on the enclosed Official Newsletter of the NFTGA.

Sears...(continued)

• **Petronas Towers**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 82 floors, 1,483 feet, designed by Cesar Pelli, finished in 1998 and seen in the Sean Connery/Katherine Zeta Jones blockbuster film, *Entrapment!* BUT only its decorative spires reach 451.9 meters!

• **Sears Tower**, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 108 floors, 1,450 feet, designed by Cliff Tan, finished in 1974. Its roof is at 442 meters and its antennae (if you want to count them, like everyone counts spires), reaches 527.3 meters! *Still the tallest building in North America no matter what way you measure!*

My advice is to continue to bill the Sears Tower as the world's tallest building—as long as you know that it: DOES have more occupied floors than any other building in the rankings, that it DOES NOT have “cheating” spires or decorative elements like its competitors, and it is the tallest if you DO count the antennae!

P.S. Tell the Canadians that the CN Tower in Toronto is the world's tallest “free standing structure”. This communications tower IS perhaps the world's tallest tourist attraction, as it measures 553.33 meters (1,815 feet, 5 inches). But it is not a building—it does not have habitable space throughout its height and they do not have offices or residential areas.

FDR'S Undeclared War

To prevent a Nazi victory over Britain, President Franklin D. Roosevelt secretly ordered the US Navy to hunt German warships and U-boats in the Atlantic throughout most of 1941. This, according to author, historian and **CTPA Certified Tour Guide Jerry O'Connor**.

Because Japan, Italy and Germany were allied as the Axis (the first Axis of evil), if the US Navy fought Germany at sea, the war would have begun earlier in 1941, as all three enemies would have joined to fight the United States. History would not have recorded a sneak attack at Pearl Harbor; it would never have happened. How this evidence was uncovered will be revealed in Jerry O'Connor's by-lined features in *Tin Can Sailor* (November) and *Naval History* (December). A Chicago Tribune article is also being prepared.

Jerry O'Connor was the year 2000 recipient of the US Naval Institute's 'Author of the Year.'

**Look for the colorful flyer announcing our
CTPA Quarterly Meetings for 2004!**

November 2003 Event:

Marshall Field's Holiday Traditions

Beverly Livingston, CTG & CTPA Vice President, introduced our hosts **Mayo Dikelsky** and **Erika Bohnhoff (CTPA Associate Member: Marshall Field)** to the 44 CTPA members that attended the Marshall Field's Holiday Party in the Walnut Room, November 11, 2004.

While we sipped wine and enjoyed other tasty treats, Beverly asked for a motion to be made for the increasing of CTPA dues for the year 2004. The increase would be from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for members and to \$50.00 for associate members. **Esther Banike, CTG**, made the motion and **Art Myren, CTG**, seconded the motion. All present were in favor, since this is the first increase in many years, all felt that with increasing costs, the increase was more than fair.

A tour of Marshall Field's was given by Tony Jahn, historian for Field's. We learned the history of the Great Tree and the creation of the beautiful window displays, which date back to the early 1900's. This year the Great Tree is done in white and blue Waterford Crystal Ornaments and thousand of lights. The beautiful decorations and treats was a wonderful way to kick off the Holiday Season.

Many thanks to the entire staff at Field's for sharing the traditions that make people come to Field's as a Chicago destination in itself for over 100 years. *Submitted by: Judy White, Secretary*

Rotary Centennial in 2005

Rotary International, headquartered in Evanston, is the world's oldest and largest service organization. Though it has international chapters, it was founded in Chicago in 1905 and will be celebrating its centennial in 2005. Quite rightly, the annual convention will be held in Chicago, June 19-22, 2005.

This international convention draws members and their families from all over the world, and is expected to draw upwards of 40,000 people. It is estimated that as many as 10 to 20 percent of these people would want to tour Chicago during this convention.

Howard Silver, a CTPA Certified Tour Guide and the Chief Financial Officer of **CTPA Associate Member Educational Tours**, is the Chair of the Rotary 2005 Tour Committee. He has solicited CTPA Associate Members prepare proposals for this exciting convention.