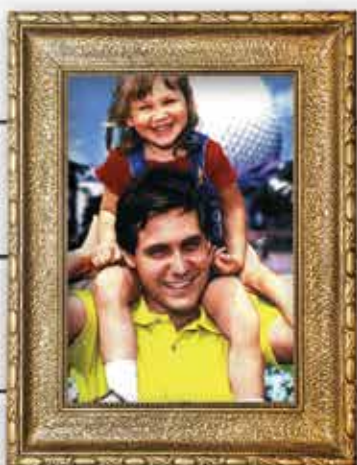


Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2016 • VOLUME 25 • NUMBER 1



25
years

On our cover and back cover: Inspired by the Member photo wall at Olivia's Cafe at Disney's Old Key West Resort, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates our community's 25th anniversary with 25 memorable Member moments.

WELCOME HOME



While my wife will tell you I have a horrible memory and couldn't recall what I did last Tuesday much less how I celebrated a distant birthday, I do remember turning 25.

It was 1998, and I remember being unreasonably excited about renting a car without paying the "under-age-driver" surcharge. I also remember wearing jean shorts, a fashion crime for which I sincerely apologize. And I remember realizing that, when my parents were 25, they had a marriage, a mortgage and a couple of kids old enough to be demanding. Me? I had a futon, a landlord and a fish named Priscilla. Still, turning 25 made me feel like a real grownup.

Thankfully, that feeling passed the next morning, when I propped up the futon to watch reruns of "Bear in the Big Blue House" with Priscilla.

The truth is I've never been too excited about growing up. Now don't get me wrong; who doesn't love filing taxes, buying appliances and being unable to identify the cause of a bruise? Adulthood is awesome.

But still, I'd rather think of myself as a kid dressed like an adult (if you consider a man in a Mickey Mouse T-shirt "dressed like an adult"). Perhaps that's what drew me to Disney in the first place. Maybe I was searching for my own personal Never Land. Maybe I just wanted to be part of a company founded by a man who famously asked, "Why do we have to grow up?"

It's a question I believe many Members will find themselves asking as our community celebrates 25 years and beyond. Whether you're embarking on a Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular (page 4), lounging with your neighbors in a pyramid of imagination (page 5), enjoying a day of extra magic in the Parks (page 6), basking in the spontaneous joy of a last-minute getaway (page 7) or taking advantage of any of the other new offerings presented in the pages ahead as part of our 25th anniversary celebration, I think you'll agree that turning 25 doesn't have to mean feeling like a grownup.

However you celebrate this milestone anniversary, I hope you do so with the same youthful spirit that made me feel so at home with a bear named Bear and a fish named Priscilla. (May she swim in peace.)

Happy anniversary,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

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Editor & Lead Writer:
Ryan March

Design & Production:
Andy Crabtree

Contributors:
Jim Korkis
Dani Moritz-Long
Marty Sklar

Disney Files Magazine Disney Vacation Club P.O. Box 10350 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

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Update your mailing address online at disneyvacationclub.com

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Eastern weekdays, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eastern weekends
From the U.S.: call (800) 800-9800 or (407) 566-3800
From Mexico: call 01-800-436-0264
From the U.K.: call 08007832893

Email Member Services at: members@disneyvacationclub.com

Please recycle this publication (or cherish it forever)

For Member Services in Japanese,
call 0120-98-4050 Tuesday-Sunday,
9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Japan Time)
Email: JPMembers@disneyvacationclub.com

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Two simple, inspiring words

**By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager,
Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney**

Any guess as to what I love most about our 25th anniversary logo? I'll give you a few hints. It's not the retro "25," though it does have a certain "early Walt Disney World" quality

that makes me wish wide collars and even wider sideburns were still cool. It's not the "Celebrating 25 Years" headline, the Disney Vacation Club script or even the silhouetted Mickey (no offense, boss).

My favorite part is the phrase "and beyond." Including those two simple words in the logo – a creative decision that has me waiting to hear from Buzz Lightyear's intellectual property lawyers any day now – underscores the very mission of the community we're so proud to celebrate.

From the beginning, Disney Vacation Club has been dedicated to earning the privilege of being increasingly treasured over time, creating more Member value – both financial and experiential – with each passing year. It's with that mission in mind that we continually challenge ourselves to raise the bar, adding new resorts and innovative accommodations to our neighborhood, enhancing our world-class services and vacation options, providing unique access to unforgettable experiences, presenting an ever-evolving mix of special offers and delivering on our enduring promise of "vacations you never outgrow."

It's a forward-looking focus that began with our company's founder, a visionary who inspired all of us to be optimistic "futurists" dedicated to serving you, not just today, but for decades to come. Walt Disney, who famously promised that "Disneyland will never be completed ... as long as there is imagination left in the world," wrapped a speech to his Cast at a celebration of that Park's 10th anniversary by saying, "Now any of you thinking about resting on your laurels can forget it – we're just getting started."

Being fiercely focused on the future is part of our Disney DNA, and it's why this milestone year in Disney Vacation Club history celebrates, not just 25 years, but 25 years and beyond.

The exciting array of new Member offerings detailed in the pages ahead – from new large-scale events and a new in-Park gathering space to a new Theme Park ticket offer and new opportunities to enjoy last-minute getaways – are vacation-enhancing expressions of our gratitude for the invaluable role you play in making our community's future so bright. And there's more to come.

Of course, the greatest anniversary gift we can give our Member community is the steadfast assurance that, as unforgettable as the past 25 years have been, our best years are still ahead. It's a gift we aim to keep giving, not just in 2016, but for as long as there is imagination left in the world. As Uncle Walt would say, we're just getting started.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

Disney Vacation Club®



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

1991 was a memorable year for Disney fans. A “Rocketeer” took flight, a beauty learned to love a beast, afternoon television added a “Darkwing” to American homes, a patriotic Muppet cut his “glorious three-hour finale” to a minute-and-a-half for Theme Park Guests and forward-thinking families began securing a vacation future they never dreamed possible. The latter of these milestones explains the colorful “25” atop this page, and it’s why 2016 promises to be your most memorable year yet.

While hard for many (including the staff of this magazine) to believe, it’s been 25 years since Disney Vacation Club elevated vacations like a stunt pilot’s jet pack, invited families to “Be Our Guest” like a singing candelabra, surprised skeptics like a masked Mallard and rocked industry norms like a portly pig’s rowboat.

But this celebration really isn’t about us. It’s about *you* and the invaluable role you play in making this community unlike any other. To thank you for being such a cherished part of our Disney family, all of us at Disney Vacation Club are pleased to introduce an unprecedented array of new Member offerings designed to make it easier and more enjoyable than ever to experience Membership Magic. So pack your bags and join us in celebrating **25 YEARS...AND BEYOND!**





NEW MEMBER EVENTS

Inspired by Member feedback, Disney Vacation Club re-imagined Walt Disney World gatherings for Members in 2015, replacing “Welcome Home Wednesday” events that served hundreds with signature celebrations that served thousands. The broader approach, which debuted with “Neighborhood Beach Bash” parties at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, will continue with new events and returning favorites in 2016 as part of the Disney Vacation Club 25th anniversary celebration. Here’s a look at the expanded lineup of signature events for the year ahead:



Disney Vacation Club 25 and Beyond Bash**

Disney Vacation Club Members and their Guests will gather at Magic Kingdom Park in celebration of 25 years and beyond. This after-hours party will allow revelers to experience some of their favorite Magic Kingdom attractions while also enjoying special entertainment, refreshments and more.

This complimentary event will take place on the evenings of Feb. 25 and March 3, 2016.

Member Services recently began taking reservations for this event and will continue until all bookings are full.



Disney Vacation Club Safari Spectacular*

The “wildest” party on our community calendar will unfold at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, where Members and their Guests will gather for an after-hours celebration that includes access to favorite Disney’s Animal Kingdom attractions, special entertainment and refreshments, and more.

This complimentary event will take place on the evenings of Sept. 6, 13, 22 and 27, 2016.

Member Services will begin taking reservations on July 6.



Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Beach Bash*

Slide into summer during this after-hours event at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, where you’ll experience refreshing attractions, rock out to beach party tunes, participate in family fun activities, enjoy special treats and more.

This complimentary event will take place June 23 and 29, 2016, and July 6 and 13, 2016, running officially from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., though Members and their Guests may enter the Water Park as early as 7 p.m.

Member Services will begin taking reservations on April 8.



Merry Member Mixer

Celebrate the season with your neighbors during this happy holiday celebration at Epcot, where you’ll meet festively attired Disney characters, dance to the tunes of a jolly DJ, enjoy complimentary treats and more. Dates and details, which remain in the works as this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine mails, are scheduled to debut this spring online at disneyvacationclub.com.

*Priority booking for Members staying at a Disney Vacation Club Resort or Walt Disney World Resort Hotel during the event date, along with the Guests staying with them in their resort accommodations. Other openings based on availability.

**Open to all Members and their Guests

Other events on tap: These new and returning Walt Disney World Theme Park and Water Park events are part of a broader slate of Member gatherings that also include an unprecedented **Member Cruise** voyage from New York City (page 6), an evolving lineup of **Culinary Magic** events (page 11), and new offerings coming soon to Disneyland Resort and Aulani.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

NEW MEMBER LOUNGE

Like little sparks of inspiration, Members have long been at the heart of our community's creations. So when Disney Vacation Club set out to create the first in-Park lounge for Members and their Guests, one special space rose above all others: the "penthouse" of the Imagination Pavilion at Epcot.

Located upstairs from Figment's famed attraction and scheduled to open late this spring, the Member Lounge will welcome you home to a lofty space that offers picturesque views of Epcot, comfortable seating areas, complimentary soft drinks, computers with printers, a strong Wi-Fi signal, device-charging stations, friendly

Member Services Advisors and a restful retreat in which to unwind with your neighbors.

Whether you use the space to recharge your phone or yourself, relax with family or make new friends, the Member Lounge promises to be your new favorite living room.

Entry to the lounge will be complimentary for Members and their traveling party. While no reservations are required, access will be subject to capacity limits. When the lounge opens this spring, Members and their Guests will enter through the Imagination Pavilion's merchandise shop. Watch disneyvacationclub.com for the opening date, and enjoy your new retreat!





NEW THEME PARK TICKET OFFER

Fulfilling one of the Member community's most frequent wishes, Disney Vacation Club is pleased to present a new Walt Disney World Theme Park ticket offer that adds a free Theme Park day to Members' multi-day ticket purchase of four days or more*. As an added bonus, Members who add the Park Hopping option to their ticket receive the "Water Park, Fun & More" option at no extra cost*. This special offer applies to qualifying tickets purchased through March 31, 2016, and these tickets, which can be activated at any time, must be fully used within 14 days of first use. For more details or to take advantage of this limited-time offer, visit disneyvacationclub.com/ticketoffer. To learn about your Member discount on Annual Passes, visit the Member Benefits & More section under the My DVC Membership tab of disneyvacationclub.com.

*Multi-day tickets are valid for admission to any one of the four Walt Disney World Theme Parks per day. Tickets and any options purchased may be activated at any time and must be used within 14 days of first use. All tickets and options are nontransferable and nonrefundable, and exclude activities/events separately priced. Water Parks subject to rehabilitation, seasonal and weather closures. To receive this offer, you must present your Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with your corresponding photo ID(s) to show proof of Membership. Limit of eight tickets per Member household.

NEW YORK CITY

Disney Vacation Club started "spreading the news" last fall, announcing that, for the first time, a **Member Cruise** will set sail from New York City! The now sold-out Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2016 Disney Magic voyage from the port of New York will once again elevate the already spectacular Disney Cruise Line experience with special entertainment, custom décor and unique in-room gifts. The itinerary will feature a scheduled day in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, bookended by two entertainment-filled days at sea.

Some Members have taken advantage of a unique opportunity to enhance their Member Cruise vacation by adding now sold-out **Adventures by Disney** New York City experiences that'll visit iconic landmarks, peek behind the scenes of ABC's "Good Morning America," travel backstage at Disney's New Amsterdam Theatre and more.

Keep an eye out for details about other Member gatherings in the city that never sleeps!





CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
...AND BEYOND!

NEW WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

The evolution of disneyvacationclub.com (formerly DVCMember.com) continues with a variety of enhancements in 2016, including new features scheduled to debut on the site this spring. Among the new additions are a new event calendar designed to help Members plan their vacations around popular Disneyland and Walt Disney World happenings, the ability to manage loan and Annual Dues payments online, a Member Event registration tool and a variety of enhanced online forms, including Disney's Magical Express registration. These feedback-inspired enhancements build on the momentum of 2015 debuts that included the introduction of mobile-friendly responsive design (automatically optimizing the site's pages for viewing on phones and tablets), a new Resort Availability Tool and Points Calendar Calculator, new functionality that allows Members to sort special offers and experiences by location and type, and a completely transformed Member Dashboard that conveniently connects you to a variety of tools created to help you easily manage your Membership.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD

Disney Vacation Club Membership Cards are as well-traveled as the Members who carry them. Having more than earned a restful retirement, the cards recently made way for new versions that now serve as Members' all-access pass for an ever-evolving array of Membership Extras, including the many special offerings debuting as part of our 25th anniversary celebration. Members who haven't received their new card may request one online at disneyvacationclub.com/NewCard, where Members also may access a digital version.



NEW MEMBER SERVICES ADVISOR OPTION

To better serve Members who call Member Services more than once to enhance an upcoming reservation – changing dates or adding experiences (purchasing Theme Park tickets, making dining reservations, booking spa appointments, etc.) as their upcoming vacation nears – Disney Vacation Club is allowing Members to speak to the same Member Services Advisor each time they call to enhance that reservation. At the end of a reservations call, the Member Services Advisor shares his/her phone extension, giving the Member the option of calling that Cast Member directly to make future enhancements to that reservation. (If that particular Cast Member isn't available, another Member Services Advisor will happily assist.) This new option, which reflects Member Services' commitment to delivering ever-increasing levels of personalized service, recently began rolling out with select calls and is scheduled to be available through all Member Services Advisors this spring.

NEW LAST-MINUTE MAGIC

Nobody plans trips like Disney Vacation Club Members. Expertly booking resort accommodations months in advance, Members are accustomed to feeling the special joy that comes with always having a vacation on the horizon. But there's another kind of vacation joy – the kind that arrives at the spur of the moment. It's with that spirit in mind that Disney Vacation Club has created Last-Minute Magic, a new way to vacation without unleashing your advance-planning powers. Visit the Last-Minute Magic section of disneyvacationclub.com (within the Plan Vacations tab) or call Member Services to see which Disney Vacation Club Resorts have availability during the next 60 days, book your reservation and savor the spontaneity! Just don't forget to pack your shiny new Membership Card. (And maybe a change of socks.)



NEW MEMBER BUTTONS

Proudly worn like badges of honor, celebration buttons have joined the rarified ranks of Mouse Ears and princess dresses as must-have accessories for the discerning Disney fan. Celebrating a birthday, engagement or first visit to the Park? There's a button for that. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the most magical community on earth? Now there's a button for that too. They're available this year only to Members free of charge at Disney Vacation Club Information Centers throughout the Disneyland, Walt Disney World and Tokyo Disney Resorts; at Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i; aboard the Disney Cruise Line ships; and at the front desk at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort and Disney's Vero Beach Resort. Add one to your wardrobe during your next vacation, and show the world what you're celebrating!

NEW MEMBER MERCHANDISE

Need more than just a button to show your Member pride? Have no fear, as a wide range of new Disney Vacation Club merchandise items will be available during our 25th anniversary celebration. The new collection's distinctive anniversary designs make it easier than ever to spot a fellow Member in the Park, around the neighborhood or even in line at the DMV. New items will debut throughout the year, including limited-edition Disney Vacation Club 25th anniversary MagicBands later this spring.

Look for the 25th anniversary items at Disney Vacation Club Resort Merchandise shops, and through the Disney Vacation Club Member online marketplace (DisneyStore.com/DVCMemberMarketplace) and Shop Disney Parks app (download at disneyworld.com/ShopMembers). Note that not all items are available through all outlets, and that the MagicBands will be hidden behind the counter of participating merchandise shops. To purchase the Disney Vacation Club 25th Anniversary MagicBand, simply ask the Cast Member at the register, and remember to present your valid Membership Card and photo ID.

As a reminder, Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a 10 percent discount off purchases at select Disney-owned-and-operated merchandise shops at Disney Parks and Resorts, as well as through the Disney Vacation Club Member online marketplace. Visit the Member Benefits & More section under the My DVC Membership tab of disneyvacationclub.com for more details.



NEW PHOTO OP

For a more personal approach to collecting tangible memories of this milestone year in our community's history, visit one of the new photo kiosks at select Disney Vacation Club Resorts. You'll discover fun ways to customize your photo, and you'll walk away with a complimentary photo print as our gift to you. The kiosks, scheduled to be available through the end of 2016, are situated in different locations within each participating resort, so be sure to ask for details upon check-in.

Watch disneyvacationclub.com and future editions of *Disney Files Magazine* for more 25th anniversary updates throughout 2016!



Turtle trends

Conservation efforts yielding positive results

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Dramatic comebacks are at the heart of some of Disney's most beloved stories, and Disney Vacation Club Members are doing their part to author a new comeback story for the ages – the resurgence of green sea turtles.

One of three turtle species to nest along Florida's Treasure Coast (the others being leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles), green sea turtles were hunted to near extinction by 1978, when they received a desperate lifeline in the form of federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Since then, numerous conservation-focused groups have turned their attention toward preserving the turtles' nesting grounds, and educating visitors, residents and business owners along Florida's expansive coastline – all of which serves as a potential habitat for nesting sea turtles. As one of the 183 groups permitted to conduct nesting-beach surveys in the Sunshine State, Disney's Animal Programs team monitors a five-mile stretch of beach near Disney's Vero Beach Resort daily throughout the nesting and hatching season, which runs from April through October for loggerhead and green sea turtles, but can begin as early as February for leatherbacks. Beaches in southeastern Florida, including the area near Disney's Vero Beach Resort, are of worldwide importance for sea turtles. This coast sees more loggerhead nesting than any other region (rivalled only by an area of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula), and these beaches support more green sea turtle nesting than any other area in the U.S.

Disney Files Magazine joined the Disney's Animal Programs team's Rachel Smith near the end of the 2015 nesting season to learn more about the ongoing conservation work, Members' role in supporting the cause, and the latest trends in turtle populations and protection efforts.

As a member of her team does each early morning during the nesting season, Rachel

traversed the beach by all-terrain vehicle, marking tracks and nests (known as "crawls") from the previous night's nesters, and noting whether they led to a successful nesting or ended in a "false crawl."

"False crawls result from turtles that make their way up to the beach but encounter an obstruction and return to the sea without laying eggs," Rachel explained. "Although there can be some natural impediments to nesting, such as native dune vegetation, the most common obstructions are human-created, from chairs and umbrellas left on the beach to the intrusion of artificial lighting from coastal buildings."

To help protect against those human causes, Disney's Vero Beach Resort faithfully removes recreation equipment from the beach each evening, uses soft amber path lighting (a light wavelength not as disturbing to sea turtles), and asks all Members and Guests to close their curtains after 9 p.m. during the nesting season.

Without such disturbances, a mother sea turtle – driven purely by instinct – creates a "body pit" in the sand, spends about 15 minutes digging an egg chamber with her rear flippers and another 20 minutes or so laying well over 100 eggs before covering her nest. She then pats down the sand, camouflages the site by throwing sand with her flippers and makes her way back to the sea. A turtle will repeat this process about five times each season if nothing gets in her way.

Rachel and her team mark successful nests with stakes (color-coded by species) and tape off the area for the eggs' protection. The team then carefully monitors each nest for the duration of its incubation period (typically 50-55 days), recording every disturbance and predation event and – hopefully – marking the eventual emergence of hatchlings, evidenced by tiny turtle tracks from the nest to the ocean.

After seeing those signs of success, the team waits three days – giving any stragglers ample time to hatch – at which time the team conducts



a “nest inventory,” counting all of its hatched, unhatched and damaged eggs. If any hatchlings are discovered to be trapped in the nest, the team helps them on their way to the ocean, freeing them near the nest site so they can make the same lengthy crawl made earlier by their siblings – a journey that will be imprinted upon the hatchling so they can instinctively return to that same site about 30 years later to lay their own eggs.

The team discovered two such stragglers during our morning visit – one green, one loggerhead – treating the *Disney Files* staff to the unforgettable experience of seeing sea turtle hatchlings make their way home. Dozens of Members were on hand for the release, taking advantage of the unique opportunity afforded to all of the resort’s Members and Guests, who are encouraged to join the Disney’s Animal Programs team on the beach daily at 7 a.m. to observe their work, ask questions and learn more about the conservation effort. (Just look for the team in the yellow shirts!)

While about 55 percent of all sea turtle eggs in Florida hatch successfully, that number approaches 80 percent on the Disney-patrolled stretch of beach, which Rachel credited in part to the area’s relative lack of natural predators but also to the thoughtful support of Members, Guests, residents and business owners.

“Members and Guests have such a critical role to play, from closing their curtains to removing their belongings from the beach, and the results of those efforts are clearly evident,” she said. “Our turtle populations continue to strengthen, and we’re having a particularly exceptional year for green sea turtles. We’ve seen an exponential increase in the number of green turtle nests, which reflects a recent recovery trend for the species since being federally listed as endangered. It’s a true conservation success story.” (Rachel noted that, as more than 30 years have passed since sea turtles were federally

protected, and as hatchlings mature over a period of 30 years before they can lay their own eggs, one can surmise that those hatchlings protected in 1978 are now coming home to nest.)

Aiding the team’s monitoring efforts in 2015 was Captain Ron, a 2-year-old pocket beagle with an exceptional nose, who quickly learned to locate nests by sniffing out the protective coating found on all sea turtle eggs. While the team’s human members are well equipped to visually detect the distinctive signs of loggerhead nests, adding a canine counterpart proved hugely effective in their efforts to locate the tougher-to-find green and leatherback nests.

“This is an idea we’ve been developing for a long time, and it finally came to fruition in 2015,” Rachel said. “Captain Ron performed amazingly well, locating both green and loggerhead nests on his first try. This can cut our nest-locating time from 30 minutes down to about 30 seconds.”

Canine assistance is part of the team’s plan for 2016 as well, allowing them to further test a method that could prove to be a significant boost to conservation efforts across the globe.

“I’ve worked at a lot of amazing places, but to be part of a team that really encourages you to think outside the box as we’ve done here is pretty unique,” Rachel said. “It’s a truly stimulating place to work.”

Did you know? The Disney Conservation Fund recently celebrated 20 years of protecting the world’s wildlife and wild places. The fund has generated more than \$30 million for conservation projects, including more than \$2 million for sea turtle conservation in more than 15 countries. Many Members and Guests contribute to the fund by adding a dollar to their merchandise purchases at Disney’s Vero Beach Resort and Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge, as well as at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park and The Seas with Nemo and Friends at Epcot. Learn more about the fund and its supported programs online at disney.com/conservation.

Disney Vacation Club®

MEMBERSHIP



A taste of Membership Magic

Expanded lineup of Culinary Magic events planned for 2016

Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts:

From patriotic parties to festive feasts, Members who find themselves “home” for the holidays can enjoy an edible array of Culinary Magic events throughout 2016.

With each offering featuring a unique combination of celebratory meals, detailed theming and interactive entertainment, these special events at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resort locations deliver extra touches of Membership Magic while accommodating a wide range of unique party sizes.

Inspired by Member feedback, this year’s events aim to build on the momentum of a 2015 slate that ranged from a ghoulish Halloween party filled with treats (no tricks!) to a *Beauty and the Beast*-inspired Christmas Eve dinner that invited Members to “be our Guest” and “put our service to the test.”

While the year ahead promises plenty of surprises, returning-favorite activities and entertainment offerings also are expected to be

in the mix. Early plans call for the return of meet and greets with beloved Disney characters, kid-oriented craft stations that allow families to bring home a personalized souvenir, live entertainment and complimentary photographs.

Though details remain in development at press time, the *Disney Files* staff did get a look at the planned lineup of Culinary Magic events likely to unfold in 2016.* Plans call for events to celebrate Halloween and Christmas Eve at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resort locations, while Walt Disney World Resort also will host events for Mother’s Day and Independence Day.

Watch the Member Benefits & More section under the My DVC Membership tab of disneyvacationclub.com for updates, pricing and more as details become available throughout the year.

*Culinary Magic offerings are subject to change without notice. Advance purchase is required, and booking is subject to availability. Culinary Magic experiences are not eligible for any additional special offers or discounts, including the Disney Vacation Club Member 10 percent food and beverage discount.



A celebration for the **SENSES** Introducing new Spa Silver Service

Walt Disney World Resort: Celebrate this milestone year in Disney Vacation Club history by enjoying the new Spa Silver Service* for Members at Senses – A Disney Spa, located at both Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa and Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa.

Scheduled to debut early this year, the new service adds to the existing menu of luxurious spa treatments and exclusive Disney Vacation Club services (Magic Your Way Massage; Best Kept Secret Facial, and Points and Perks Pedicure) already available to Members and their Guests (visit disneyvacationclub.com for details about those Membership Magic offerings).

The Spa Silver Service adds special touches to Members’ spa visit during this silver-anniversary year, from plush Disney Vacation Club logo robes (pictured atop this page) to enjoy at the spa, to a complimentary spa-inspired snack mix you’re free to take home. Members enjoying spa services of 50 minutes or longer also receive a complimentary glass of sparkling wine or cider.

Read more about Senses treatments and packages in the Member Benefits & More section under the My DVC Membership tab of disneyvacationclub.com before calling Member Services to book your treatment, and remember to present your valid Membership Card and photo ID upon checkout at the spa to receive your 15 percent Member discount on spa services and retail items.



*Spa Silver Service offerings are subject to change. Block-out dates may apply. Guests ages 17 or younger must be accompanied by an adult during any spa treatment. Advance reservations strongly recommended. Cancellations made within four hours of an individual treatment or 24 hours of a spa package will result in a charge for the full amount of the service. Swimsuits are required in all wet-relaxation areas, including the steam room and whirlpool. For your convenience, a 20 percent gratuity will be added to each Spa service. Additional gratuities are at your discretion.





my Disney home

Where Members Live

Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from the Albrecht family of New York, Members since 2006.

Having long admired the artistry of Main Street window displays, the *Disney Files* staff was immediately drawn to the decorating style of the Albrecht family, whose homemade shadowboxes provide thematically appropriate settings for their cherished Walt Disney Classics Collection sculptures. Reflecting the woodworking skills of their son-in-law and the collective brushwork of many members of the Disney-loving family, the distinctive displays charmingly encapsulate memorable moments in animation history.

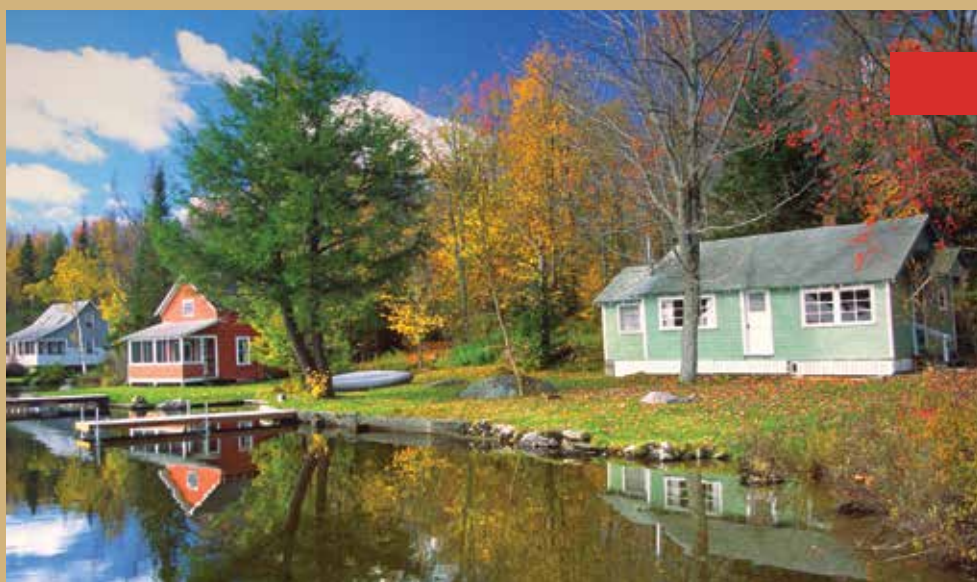


Do you have a Disney home? Whether it's an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we'd like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to Disney Files Magazine's "My Disney Home," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

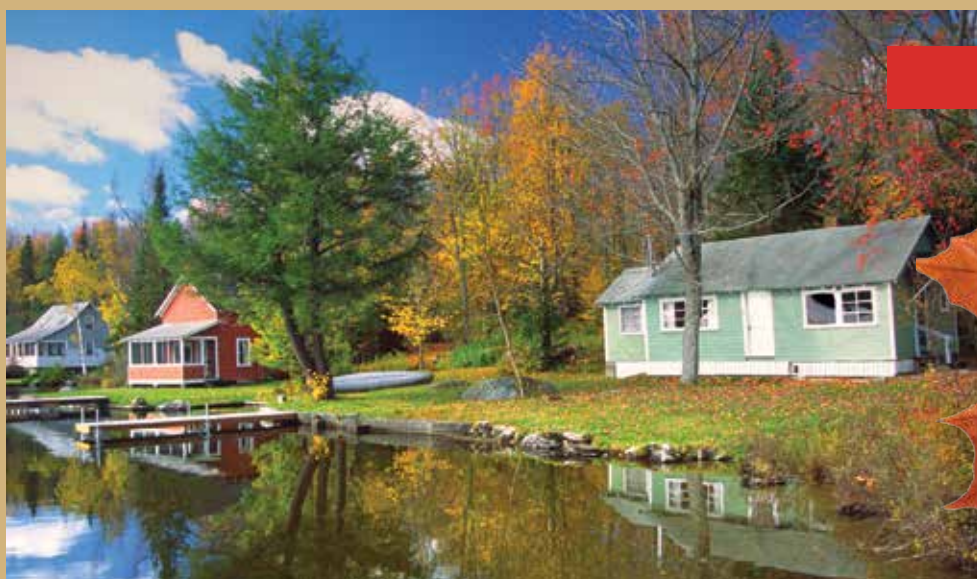
picture this



The new leaves sprouting this spring will star in one of nature's great magic acts this fall, transforming from grassy greens to ruby reds, gilded golds and every handsome hue in between. It's a festival of foliage that plays to particular fanfare in New England states, where "leaf peeping" has been a favorite pastime for generations of travelers. See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this fall photo of Vermont, one of the many destinations available to Members through our friends at RCI*. Visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.



original



altered



ANSWERS: (1) Six window panes on the house on the right have become one, (2) the window on that house's door has disappeared, (3) a rock in front of that house also has vanished, (4) the canoe between that house and its neighbor has grown longer, (5) the tree near that canoe now reflects a third trunk in the lake, (6) the house to the left of that tree has lost its upstairs window and (7) that house's second floor no longer reflects in the lake.



Disney's BoardWalk Entertainment District:

Tuna Tartare on flatbread. Bourbon-ale braised beef short rib. Coffee-brined, barbeque-spiced pork chop. Top sirloin and grilled langostinos with cabernet butter (pictured below). Not exactly your typical sports bar fare, and that's just what ESPN Club Chef Anthony Gregorek had in mind as he led the restaurant to boldly re-imagine its menu.

"It's a complete mindset change," the excited chef told *Disney Files* Magazine of the expansive new menu now serving Disney's BoardWalk Members and Guests. "ESPN Club is no longer just a sports bar. It's now a true dining destination – a place to enjoy great food, great service, great craft beer...and, yes, great sports."

Enabled in part by a back-of-house renovation that added game-changing equipment to the restaurant's kitchen, the transformation almost doubled the size of the previous menu and placed a stronger-than-ever emphasis on fresh, seasonal and local ingredients.

The chef is enjoying unprecedented freedom in the kitchen, seasonally rotating ingredients in everything from the sustainable catch entrée to the market vegetable sides to even the craft beer used to batter the star protein in fish and chips (not to mention altering a wide range of dishes to accommodate vegans, vegetarians and those with food allergies).

A "starting lineup" of 15 appetizers now features five varieties of flat breads (called "Bar Flats"), including the aforementioned "Tuna Tartare" option; pan-fried potato-and-cheese pierogis that harken back to the chef's Polish roots; crispy fried Florida pink shrimp; "Club Fries" topped with the famous ESPN House Chili, cheddar cheese, ale fondue, blue cheese, marinated tomatoes, crispy Pancetta and green onions; "ESPN Wings" with your choice of eight sauces and more.

A menu of eight handcrafted burgers features such standouts as an "Old World

Bavarian Burger" with grilled sausage, potato latke, smoked bacon kapusta (Polish cabbage) and a lager-infused mustard emulsion; and a "Bayou Burger" dusted with creole spices and topped with crawfish salad.

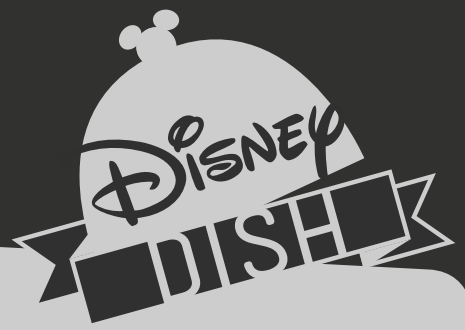
Among the menu's 17 palate-pleasing entrees is a chicken and waffle dish that features a 24-hour-buttermilk-brined chicken, jalapeno-cornmeal waffles and "angry maple chicken gravy" (blending chicken sausage with hot sauce and hard apple cider). The always "waffling" *Disney Files* staff gravitated to the ideal dish for the indecisive, plating three varieties of sausage on three styles of slider-sized buns with three unique toppings.

Treating craft beer like fine wine, the new menu suggests beer pairings for most dishes, with selections pulled from the largest variety of craft beers available at any Walt Disney World restaurant (more than 50 on the day of our visit, including 17 from Florida).

Add a drink menu that includes specialty cocktails both frozen and on the rocks, a "vine up" of wines, and a dessert menu that features everything from a vanilla-sour cream cheesecake to a warm bourbon-pecan brownie with candied bacon, and you have a lunch-and-dinner hotspot in which the food is now as highlight-worthy as the sports.



Trip tips: While ESPN Club doesn't take reservations for most seats, you can reserve Premium VIP Seats by calling (407) WDW-DINE (939-3463). Also note that ESPN Club typically draws its lightest crowds during weekday lunches and midweek dinners.



Chickpea Salad

Harambe Market, a bustling marketplace built around a Colonial-era train depot, has become one of the *Disney Files* staff's favorite enclaves of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. We dig the distinctive flavors of the African street foods, admire the thematic details of the colorful storefronts and bow to the culinary genius of curry corn dogs. Much to the digital delight of the health apps on our phones (and the spouses who monitor them), we also enjoy balancing our meaty meals with sensible servings of marinated vegetables. We're particularly fond of the market's refreshing chickpea salad, which we like to pair with Chef Mwanga's spice-rubbed Karubi ribs, a Safari Amber Lager, an African milk tart...and maybe a few curry corn dogs. Here's the recipe for the healthiest part of that equation.

Serves: 8 (as a side dish or appetizer)

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 small jalapeno pepper, seeds removed, minced
- 1 teaspoon tamarind paste, dissolved in 3 tablespoons water
- 1/4 teaspoon chaat masala, optional
- 1/2 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 (14.5-ounce) cans chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 to 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice, divided
- Coarse salt, freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 large tomato, seeds removed, diced
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, stems removed, minced



Steps:

1. Heat oil in a small sauté pan over medium heat. Add garlic, ginger and jalapeno; cook until garlic is lightly golden. Set aside until mixture is room temperature.
2. Whisk in tamarind paste and chaat masala. Stir in onion. Refrigerate until cold.
3. Add chilled spice mixture to chickpeas, tossing to coat. Add 2 tablespoons lime juice and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
4. Just before serving, add cucumber, tomato and cilantro. Add remaining 1 tablespoon lime juice, if desired. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Chef's notes: Tamarind paste, which has a distinctive, tart flavor, is available at many Asian and Latin-American grocery stores and online. Chaat masala is a spice blend available in specialty food stores, some mainstream grocery stores and online.

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community

Walt Disney World Resort: Exercise trails sponsored by New Balance have become popular at many Disney Vacation Club Resorts at Walt Disney World Resort, with signage giving walkers and joggers alike a low-tech way to track their miles. Please note that, for safety reasons, many trails are available only during daylight hours, and trails that run near Disney Springs (from Disney's Old Key West Resort and Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa) may be restricted during early morning construction hours while work continues on the area's unprecedented expansion.



▲ **Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort:** The Bay Cove Pool area is scheduled to reopen in mid-March following a refurbishment project that began on Feb. 1. The area undergoing refurbishment as this magazine mails includes the Bay Cove Pool itself, along with the nearby water play area, whirlpool spa and Cove Pool Bar.

Disney's BoardWalk Entertainment District: The Flying Fish Café refurbishment project noted in the winter 2015 edition of *Disney Files* Magazine is officially underway, with crews making sweeping changes to the restaurant's dining room, kitchen and adjacent restrooms. When this signature dining destination reopens this fall, it will do so with a new look that aims to

deliver an elevated level of sophistication with artistic touches of boardwalk-inspired whimsy. Such Flying Fish menu favorites as potato-wrapped snapper and char-crusted steaks will join new dishes now taking shape in the recently established Flavor Lab, a 7,000-square-foot backstage facility dedicated to culinary innovation at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. Also look for an expanded program of almost 300 wines, including champagnes, rare and vintage labels, and wines by the ounce. Unchanged will be the restaurant's emphasis on seasonal ingredients and enduring relationships with everyone from farmers and suppliers to Members and Guests. Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for updates as the re-opening date nears.

Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa: Narcoossee's Sunday Waterfront Brunch has joined the dining scene at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa. Offered each Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the brunch begins with a specialty beverage and shared pastry basket, continues with your choice of appetizer (selecting from such standouts as artisanal cheeses and seafood charcuterie) and entree (lobster eggs benedict and brioche French toast are among the options), and concludes with a trio of desserts. Prices (not inclusive of tax and gratuity) at press time are \$69 for adults and \$41 for kids ages 3-9. Reservations (highly recommended) are available through Member Services, online at disneyworld.com/dine and through the My Disney Experience app.

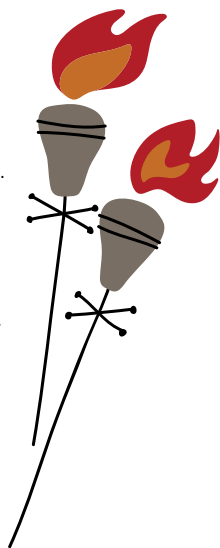
Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa: A distinctive dinner with a savory serving of creative insight has joined the Mediterranean menu at Citricos, where "Dinner with an Imagineer" is served on the first Thursday of the month. The intimate experience, which accommodates as many as 11 Guests in The Chef's Domain (the restaurant's private dining room), allows diners to enjoy a five-course

meal while visiting with a featured Walt Disney Imagineer. The price at press time is \$89 plus tax and gratuity. Guests also have the option of adding a \$30 wine pairing and purchasing a \$30 commemorative plate to be signed by the Imagineer. Reservations are available through Member Services or online at disneyworld.com/dine.

Disney's Old Key West Resort: Members and Guests at Disney's Old Key West Resort are enjoying refreshing beverages without walking away from their poolside lounge chairs, thanks to a convenient new service that delivers drinks from The Gurgling Suitcase bar. Look for delivery menus and Cast Members throughout the Sand Castle pool area. A similar service is available year-round at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa and seasonally (typically May-September) at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge.

Disney's Polynesian Village

Resort: After an extended hiatus to accommodate construction, traditional torch-lighting ceremonies have returned to Disney's Polynesian Village Resort. The approximately 7-minute experience, which takes place on most Tuesday-Saturday evenings, begins with the blow of a conch shell and the selection of a "family of the day" in the lobby of the Great Ceremonial House at 6 p.m., and continues outside at a new ceremony location on the recreation lawn near the Volcano pool for the lighting of two torches and the performance of a Polynesian fire dance.



Condo Meeting: Be sure to watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association

meeting for all condominium associations, to be held Dec. 8, 2016 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conservation, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. These Association Notices can range from condominium association updates and meeting notices to information about your Annual Dues. Simply update your contact preferences online at disneyvacationclub.com (look for the Condominium Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).

Pool hopping: Whenever you're using your Membership to stay at a Disney Vacation Club Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they're not at capacity. You must present your MagicBand or current Key to the World card with a Disney Vacation Club Member designation along with a photo ID to use other eligible pools. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn't available Feb. 14-20, March 19-April 3, May 27-30, June 26-July 9, Sept. 2-5, and Nov. 21-26, 2016, and Dec. 23, 2016-Jan. 2, 2017. Pool hopping is never available at Disney's Art of Animation Resort, Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Disney's Wilderness Lodge, Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts (including Disney's Beach Club Villas), Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Look for details online at disneyvacationclub.com. Please remember that pools are available only to registered Members and Guests staying at that resort (along with those staying with them in their room), as well as Members utilizing their pool-hopping perk. Pool usage isn't available to Members without qualifying Disney Resort reservations.

The Illuminating magic of nature

New Disney's Animal Kingdom experiences debuting this spring

Walt Disney World Resort: A magic you can't believe yet can't deny. That's the magic of nature, and it's the lifeblood of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.

"Most people think of magic as something that's fabricated, when in reality, magic exists all around us," Disney's Animal Kingdom Vice President Djuan Rivers told *Disney Files Magazine*. "When we slow down just a little bit and look closely, we see marvels in nature beyond anything humans could create."

That special brand of magic has long filled vacation days with memorable animal encounters, authentic adventures, delightful discoveries and world-class entertainment. But what about vacation *nights*? What kind of magic unfolds at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park after dark? The world is about to find out.

As part of the largest expansion in its storied history, the Theme Park is transforming into a complete day-to-night destination beginning later this spring, adding illuminating new experiences that will combine to create a nighttime celebration unlike any other.

"I can't wait for Guests to see the charm that exists in this Park after sunset," Djuan said. "When the sun goes down and the Park's beautiful ambient lighting takes over, the authenticity of this place gets even richer. Simply walking through Harambe Village after dark is an amazing experience, and that's just scratching the surface."

The crown jewel of the new additions is "Rivers of Light" (depicted in the rendering below), a nighttime experience conveying the timeless spirit of an ancient celebration. Scheduled to perform multiple times nightly,





“Rivers of Light” will combine live performers, grand theatrical imagery (including exclusive footage captured by DisneyNature filmmakers), a soaring musical score and innovative special effects in a stirring showcase of the beauty, fragility and wild unpredictability of animals and nature.

“‘Rivers of Light’ puts a bow on the Disney’s Animal Kingdom experience with something we like to call a ‘kiss goodnight,’” Djuan said. “While ending Guests’ day with a nighttime entertainment experience is a cherished Disney tradition, doing so through the unique magic of nature creates a kiss goodnight unlike any other.”

The iconic Tree of Life, meanwhile, will come to “life” like never before, with spontaneous stories unfolding as “natural occurrences” throughout the night. These unscheduled moments (one of which is depicted in the rendering above) will harness the metamorphic magic of animal animation to tell visual tales of giving, love, adventure, humor and culture on the surface of the towering tree.

“These are jaw-dropping moments,” Djuan said. “But I’m equally excited about the quieter moments. When Guests leave the Park and pause

to look back over their shoulders at the Tree of Life as it sparkles in a way that looks both real and unreal, it’s an image they won’t soon forget.”

Other new experiences scheduled to debut this spring include evening hours for Kilimanjaro Safaris, allowing adventurers to travel beneath the setting sun through the African savanna (where African wild dogs and hyenas are among the newest animal additions); festive nighttime street parties throughout Discovery Island and Harambe Village; and Tiffins, a new signature dining destination inspired by the research expeditions of Walt Disney Imagineers.

“I’m both honored and humbled to have the opportunity to be here during this unbelievable time in Disney’s Animal Kingdom history,” said Djuan, whose Disney career has seen him take on leadership roles everywhere from Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai’i to Disneyland Paris. “To someday be able to say, ‘I was there when Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park transformed into this incredible day-to-night experience,’ is something I don’t take for granted. I’ve been fortunate to work in so many incredible areas of our company, but to be here now is truly among the highlights of my career.”



BUZZWORTHY

12 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts: A new line of better-for-you snacks is available now at merchandise locations throughout the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts, aboard the Disney Cruise Line ships and at Aulani. Created in collaboration with such well-known specialty suppliers as Ocean Spray (launching later this year), Enjoy Life Foods, Way Better Snacks and WOW Baking Company, the new “Snacks with Character” line includes a variety of items addressing the needs of Guests with special

dietary needs, including gluten-free, nut-free and other allergy-friendly products. Select Walt Disney World food and beverage locations also carry “Snacks with Character” products.



Disneyland Resort: After nearly 14,000 performances in the Hyperion Theater at Disney California Adventure Park, “Disney’s Aladdin – A Musical Spectacular” recently took its final curtain call to make way for a new theatrical production inspired by the Walt Disney Animation Studios megahit *Frozen*. The new show, which promises show-stopping production numbers, elaborate costumes and sets, stunning special effects and surprising scenic transformations, is scheduled to debut this summer.

Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts: More Members than ever are engaging with Guest Services Cast Members during their Disneyland and Walt Disney World vacations through the real-time convenience of Twitter, accessing useful tips (with Tweets communicating everything from short attraction wait times to upcoming live-entertainment experiences), getting their questions answered and even seeing occasional Tweets about special Disney Vacation Club offerings as part of Membership Magic. To add these official Disney Parks accounts to your Twitter feed, simply follow @DisneylandToday and @WDWToday.



▲ **Walt Disney World Resort:** Guests will discover farm-fresh foods in outdoor kitchens, lively concerts, elaborately themed gardens and topiary displays, expert-gardening presentations, interactive play areas and more during the 23rd annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, taking place from March 2-May 15, 2016. Learn more online at EpcotInSpring.com.

Walt Disney World Resort: Guests are discovering a “sweet” new way to enjoy the “Wishes” nighttime spectacular in the Magic Kingdom sky – taking it all in from the Seven Seas Lagoon aboard a ferryboat with delectable treats and the show’s stirring soundtrack onboard. The “Ferrytale Wishes: A Fireworks Dessert Cruise” departs the Ticket & Transportation Center one hour prior to the spectacular on select nights, serving up a spread of treats inspired by the Theme Park and its neighboring resorts, from “Main Street” Mickey Balloon Tarts and mini fireworks cupcakes to a Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort pineapple upside down cake and a Disney’s Contemporary Resort spiced flourless chocolate cake, just to name a few. The experience also includes specialty alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in souvenir

DISNEY SPRINGS

glow glasses, an onboard activity for kids and a souvenir “artist palette” plate. Prices at press time are \$99 each for adults and \$69 each for kids ages 3-9. For dates and reservations, call Member Services or visit disneyworld.com/dine.

Walt Disney World Resort: Major League Baseball’s Atlanta Braves are back for another star-studded schedule of March Spring Training home games at Champion Stadium. The distinctively Disney experience includes in-game entertainment, on-field character cameos and the chance for kids to follow in the footsteps of their heroes by running the bases after every game. Individual-game tickets are available online at braves.com/springtraining, by phone through Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 and in person at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex box office. For season tickets, suites, group tickets or mini-plans, call (407) 939-GAME (4263) or visit espnwwos.com/atlantabraves.

Walt Disney World Resort: The more leisurely pace with which the Disney Vacation Club community is able to enjoy Disney Parks makes Members among the biggest fans of Epcot cultural galleries and exhibits. The latest addition to that “off-the-beaten-path” landscape is the new “Kawaii: Japan’s Cute Culture” exhibit in the Japan pavilion’s Bijutsu-kan Gallery. The exhibit celebrates the country’s “culture of cute,” a means of self-expression rooted in Japan’s Shinto past.

Tokyo Disney Resort: Work continues on the redevelopment of the Palm & Fountain Terrace Hotel near Tokyo Disney Resort, which is scheduled to reopen as the Tokyo Disney Celebration Hotel in June. The re-imagined hotel, which will celebrate the magic and imagination of Tokyo Disneyland Park and Tokyo DisneySea Park in the Guest rooms, lobby and courtyards, will be the fourth Tokyo Disney Resort hotel, joining Tokyo Disneyland Hotel, Tokyo DisneySea Hotel MiraCosta and Disney’s Ambassador Hotel.

Walt Disney World Resort: A globally inspired sweets shop and a Floridian “farm-to-fork” restaurant are among the latest newsmakers generating buzz around Disney Springs (formerly Downtown Disney).

- **The Ganachery:** Walt Disney World chefs traveled the globe to research and create a custom blend of chocolate for this now-open, Disney-owned-and-operated shop. The Ganachery proudly features freshly made ganache – a luxurious mixture of chocolate and cream – hand-crafted on stage by a chocolatier and served in a variety of flavors, from the signature custom blend to hazelnut to chipotle. Custom packaging turns items into elegant take-home gifts, while character-inspired chocolate bars add Disney magic to the sweet selections.

- **Homecoming – Florida Kitchen and Southern Shine:** James Beard Award-winner Art Smith will celebrate Florida heritage and Southern cuisine at this new restaurant, scheduled to open this summer. A sixth-generation Floridian whose participation in the Walt Disney World College Program helped spark a culinary career that has seen him work for Florida governors and serve as Oprah Winfrey’s personal chef, Smith draws inspiration from memories of childhood “homecomings” with family and friends near natural springs in North Florida. His menu will put a Florida twist on traditional Southern dishes with locally sourced ingredients, while the bar will feature whimsical cocktails, punches and coolers, including some made with now-legal variations of moonshine.

- **Frontera Fresco:** Fellow James Beard Award-winner Rick Bayless, whose legendary Mexican cuisine has earned worldwide fame and helped fuel his victory on the hit Bravo TV series “Top Chef Masters,” will bring his Frontera Fresco restaurant concept to Disney Springs this summer. The menu will feature hand-crafted tortas, tacos, salads, fresh-made guacamole and classic Mexican braised-meat entrees, all prepared from time-honored recipes with natural, locally sourced ingredients. Frontera Fresco also will serve an extensive selection of margaritas, cocktails, and craft beers and wines.

- **Planet Hollywood Observatory:** The flagship Planet Hollywood restaurant recently closed to undergo a makeover fit for a star, taking on the look of a converted observatory while also adding live entertainment and an outdoor terrace bar called Stargazers. The new Planet Hollywood Observatory is scheduled to open this summer.

Creating a mammal metropolis

Animal insights drive heart and humor of *Zootopia*

Zootopia, a new comedy-adventure from Walt Disney Animation Studios, takes the storied Disney tradition of anthropomorphic animals into uncharted territory – a metropolitan city designed *by* animals, *for* animals, with no trace of humans.

Comprised of such distinctive habitat neighborhoods as the ritzy Sahara Square and the frigid Tundratown, the city of Zootopia is a melting pot in which mammals from every environment live together – a place that promises that, no matter what you are, from the biggest elephant to the smallest shrew, you can be anything.

To learn more about this modern mammal metropolis, *Disney Files Magazine* sat down with Oscar-nominated producer Clark Spencer, a veteran Disney filmmaker whose previous credits include such hits as *Lilo & Stitch*, *Bolt* and *Wreck-It Ralph*.

Clark cited the city's scale as one of the film's earliest design challenges, referencing such behind-the-scenes creations as a chart illustrating the relative height of mice and giraffes (95-1, if you're curious).

"The city needs doors tall enough for giraffes and short enough for mice," he explained, noting that doors are just the beginning. "What does a train look like? How do its seats and steps work? How do escalators function? The list goes on and on, and it became such a fun exercise for the artists."

Equally enjoyed was the team's animal research (including backstage explorations of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park and Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge), which allowed filmmakers to deepen their knowledge of animal movement (to avoid creating characters that look like "humans in animal suits"), draw comedic inspiration from animal behavior and refine their approach to "creature casting."

While some early ideas stuck (employed sloths are to blame for long lines at the local "Department of Mammal Vehicles"), research led

others to evolve (herds of wildebeests originally envisioned as suit-wearing business men, for instance, took on the quirkier characterization seen in the film's teaser trailer when filmmakers learned that wildebeests aren't too bright). The most illuminating discoveries, meanwhile, led to concepts the team had never considered.

"We learned that there are 10 prey animals for every predator," Clark told us, "which brings up this really interesting idea of a predator-versus-prey dynamic and the tension that creates."

The latter of those discoveries led to the creation of *Zootopia*'s principal characters: optimistic Officer Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin, "Once Upon a Time"), who arrives in town to discover that being the first bunny on a police force of big, tough animals isn't so easy; and fast-talking, scam-artist fox Nick Wilde (voiced by Jason Bateman, "Arrested Development"), with whom Hopps must partner if she wants to prove herself by solving the mystery of a missing animal.

This perfectly imperfect pairing of predator and prey adds an intriguing twist to this richly layered comedy-adventure.

"I knew that with Byron Howard (*Tangled*, *Bolt*) and Rich Moore (*Wreck-It Ralph*, "The Simpsons") as directors, this was going to be an incredibly funny film," Clark said, "and I loved its universally relatable theme."

Zootopia opens in U.S. theaters on March 4.



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Disney THE JUNGLE BOOK

Modernizing a classic

The Jungle Book blends live and digital action like never before

From acclaimed director Jon Favreau (*Iron Man*) and screenwriter Justin Marks comes *The Jungle Book*, an envelope-pushing epic based on Rudyard Kipling's timeless stories and inspired by Disney's animated classic.

The eye-popping adventure blends a breakthrough live-action performance by newcomer Neel Sethi as Mowgli (the man-cub raised by wolves) with photorealistic, digitally created animals and environments reflecting the latest advancements in cinematic storytelling.

"When you go about telling a story that's already been told on the big screen, you have to ask the question, 'Is there something I can add to this that will make it different?'" Favreau told *Disney Files*

Magazine. "In this case, we knew that if we really embraced new technology, we could not only present the *animals* in a different way, but the entire jungle."

Asked how he approached the grind of an extended production schedule that would task him with directing both live action and animation, Favreau said, "You need to have an obsessive relationship with the work, and you have to find it extraordinarily compelling ... That's been the case on my favorite projects, and it's certainly been the case here."

Equally daunting was the trifold challenge of honoring classic stories written a century ago, a beloved 1967 animated film that varied considerably from the original mythology and the modern moviegoer's expectation of a spectacular action experience. Favreau's game plan: identify the timeless myths of the original stories and the most enduring moments of the animated film, and modernize them with new technology and sensibilities. His inspiration: a man named

Walt Disney.

"Whether it was Audio-Animatronics in the Parks or multi-plane animation on film, Walt was always developing new technology to tell old-world tales," Favreau said.

Armed with their own new technology, filmmakers created strikingly photorealistic animal characters with sizes and features delicately exaggerated to allow the audience to experience them through Mowgli's young eyes.

"If you push it only slightly, it creates a surreal feeling that amplifies the story while maintaining photorealism in terms of the lighting, textures, physics and behavior," Favreau said. "You can walk that really cool fine line to great effect."

Adding to the characters' believability is an all-star voice cast that features Idris Elba (*Star Trek Beyond*) as Shere Khan, Sir Ben Kingsley (*Learning to Drive*, *The Walk*) as Bagheera, Bill Murray (*Lost in Translation*) as Baloo, Scarlett Johansson (*Avengers: Age of Ultron*) as Kaa, Christopher Walken (*Deer Hunter*) as King Louie,

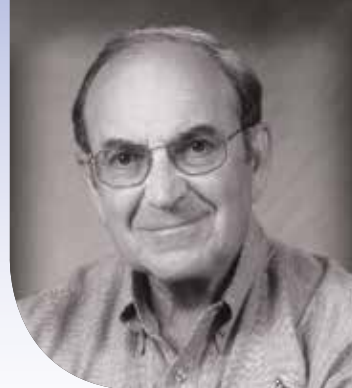
Lupita Nyong'o (*12 Years a Slave*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*) as the fiercely protective mother wolf Raksha and Giancarlo Esposito ("Breaking Bad") as the wolf pack's alpha male Akela.

"It's something I've grown to depend on," Favreau said of the stellar talent of the cast and crew. "Anytime I've had a successful experience in film, it's been because I've surrounded myself with extremely talented people in front of and behind the camera ... You never lose the excitement of being a fan and getting to meet these people, but to then collaborate with them is the ultimate reward for what I do for a living."

The Jungle Book opens in U.S. theaters - including large-format 3D cinemas - on April 15.



Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the longtime creative leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Park opening on earth, continues to write and inspire in retirement, penning everything from books (*Dream it! Do it! My Half Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms* and *One Little Spark! Mickey's Ten Commandments and the Road to Imagineering*, both available wherever books are sold) to his recurring column in *Disney Files Magazine*. Readers may email Marty at marty@martysklarcreative.com.



The Walt Disney I knew

By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

It's pretty amazing to me when I think about it now. But during the first 10 of my eventual 54-year Disney career, I wrote personal material for Walt Disney for use in publications like the Disney Annual Reports and Disneyland souvenir guides, presentations to major corporations about sponsorship opportunities, and special film/TV script material – much of it before I was 30 years old.

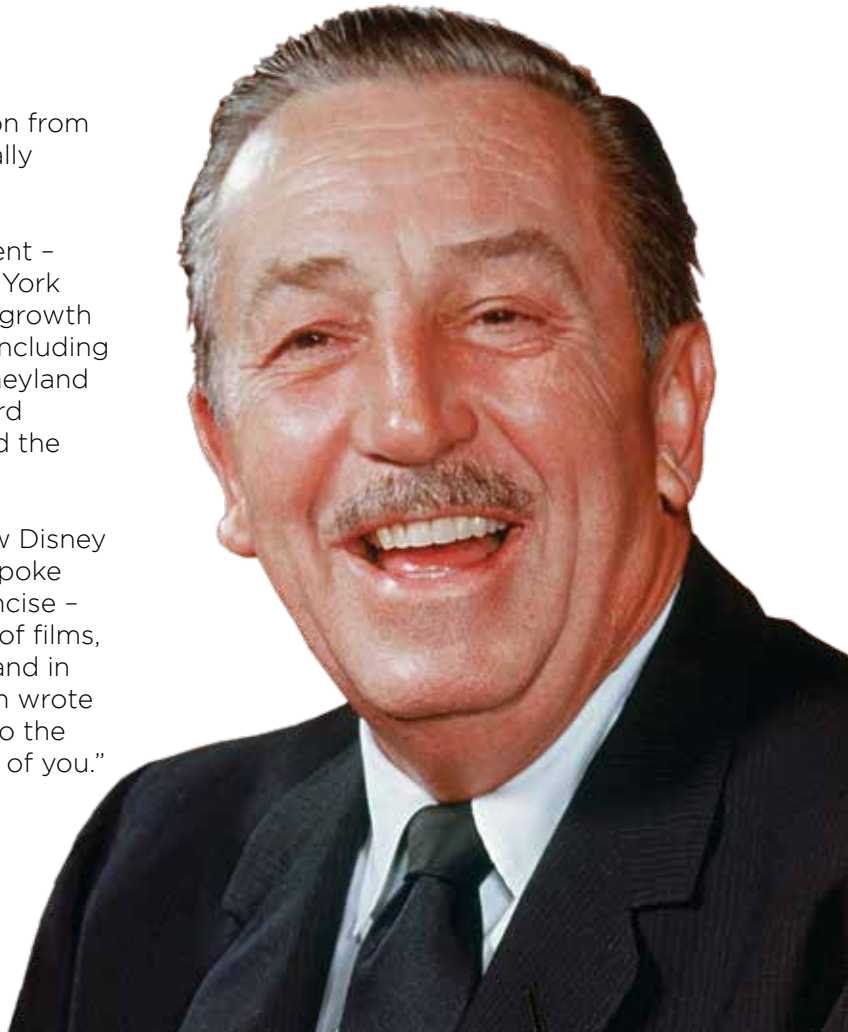
That's why I have been asked many times what I thought about the two-part PBS show that aired last fall about Walt as part of "The American Experience" series. Because it was four hours long over two nights, you may not have seen it all. The first half covered the early years of Walt Disney building his company and creating an amazing list of full-length animated features, including *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs*, but concluded on a low point in Walt's career – the animators' strike against the Studio in 1941.

Since I was 7 years old at the time, I will not attempt to comment on that early period. But if you watched Part 2 of the program, the second night, you did see me commenting on my experience that began 14 years later in June 1955 – one month before Disneyland's Opening Day (July 17, 1955).

My first reaction on viewing the show was mostly positive – except for a few things:

- Over-emphasis on the strike
- Too many "talking heads," too many assumptions, and too much pontification from academics and writers who never actually knew Walt
- No coverage of a watershed development – the four Disney shows at the 1964 New York World's Fair: It was fundamental to the growth of Disneyland, as all of the attractions, including "it's a small world," became part of Disneyland after the Fair. And it was the springboard for Disney's move from west to east and the creation of Walt Disney World.

It was not surprising to me that my fellow Disney Legends who appeared on the program all spoke about how inspiring – and how clear and concise – Walt Disney's leadership was in the creation of films, TV shows, animation and, of course, Disneyland in the 50's and 60's. As animator Floyd Norman wrote afterward, "Walt Disney always got directly to the point – you always knew what was expected of you."





In this memorable moment from the famed Epcot film – Walt Disney's last appearance on film – Walt playfully remarks that, “according to this scale, I am 6 miles tall.”

The clarity of songwriter-lyricist Richard Sherman's remarks was especially noteworthy – and very familiar to me. The “praise” from Walt that Richard and his brother, Robert, received – even for songs like “Chim-Chim-Cher-ee” from *Mary Poppins* that won an Academy Award – was usually, “That'll work.” And we all *lived* for that simple praise!

For me, the inspiration in my work with Walt Disney can be characterized by three words. The first was trust. Once Walt knew what you could do – how your talent fit into the project we were working on – you had lots of room to spread your wings and lots of opportunity to “play” on the big stage, which in those days was Disneyland and the 1964 New York World's Fair.

Just as important was Walt's drive to create *new* adventures like Walt Disney World – the “wienie” (as Walt might say) we were all working toward when he passed away. This was Walt the inspiration – always making it clear that what we did yesterday would never be good enough again: he was moving on to new challenges, new attractions, new places. That meant you had to *grow* – learn new things – raise the level of *your* game – create new fun for our Guests. We all loved it!

And finally, there was Walt's optimism, expressed in so many things, but none more illustrative than his concept for Epcot

– Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. It was his last great passion and final great conception – and my great thrill to write the script for Walt Disney's last appearance on film, in late October 1966, less than two months before he died on December 15. Here it all came together: his inspiration, his optimism for the future and his trust in me. I still treasure the seven pages of notes I have from my one-on-one meetings in Walt's office to discuss the Epcot film. He made it so easy for me to write the script – all I had to do was go back to those notes – that “bible” – when I needed the right word or phrase.

So did PBS' “The American Experience” truly capture the Walt Disney I knew? Impossible! Not in four hours – not in four days – not even in the 60 years of Disneyland we celebrate this year. Walt was not an enigma – he was front and center on your television screen every Sunday night. “The American Experience” TV show “gave us warts and all,” Floyd Norman wrote, “but they did not give us Walt Disney ... Walt Disney was a simple farm boy whose scrappy determination helped him realize the American dream. He was an entertainer, visionary and an idealist. He loved people and was free of pretension. Walt Disney was authentic. He was everything good about the common man.”

And I say, Amen to that!

Spilling secrets

By Jim Korkis

One of the great advantages of being a Disney Vacation Club Member is the ability to experience Disney Parks at a more leisurely pace, avoiding the typical rush and taking the time to enjoy the Parks' many hidden details and back stories, comforted in the knowledge that you'll be back again soon. Nearly 100 of those "secret" stories appear in my latest book, titled *Secret Stories of Walt Disney World*. As a special treat for Members, I'm pleased to share highlights here of some of my favorite stories hidden right before your eyes.



▲ **Give me liberty:** The Prince Charming Regal Carrousel at Magic Kingdom Park was built in 1917 by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, which made only 89 carousels before closing the business in 1929. Originally called the Liberty Carousel, it's No. 46 of the company's 89 creations and one of fewer than a dozen still in existence. It was one of the largest carousels ever built, with a diameter of 60 feet. Look closely during your next ride for a variety of details celebrating Americana, from frontier-bow-and-arrow images on horses' saddles to an image of Lady Liberty still detectable beneath the carousel's modern paint job. Disney rescued the carousel in 1967 from Olympic Park in Maplewood, N.J., where it had fallen into disrepair

after operating there for 39 years.



Say hello to Beacon Joe: If you've sailed aboard the original Pirates of the Caribbean attraction at Disneyland Park, you've likely "met" Beacon Joe, a character designed by Disney Legend Marc Davis and sculpted by Disney Legend Blaine Gibson to set the mood with his banjo tune from a rocking chair just across the water from the beautiful Blue Bayou restaurant. As the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction wasn't originally slated to be part of Magic Kingdom Park in Florida, Marc replicated the character instead along the banks of the Rivers of America, smoking his corn cob pipe in front of his alligator-swamp shack while his faithful dog watches a fish jumping in the water. But that's not the only place you'll find that familiar face in Florida. Take a close look at the standing pirate in the last jail cell of the eventually built Pirates of the Caribbean attraction (which opened in 1973 by popular demand) and at the crown-wearing ghost at the ballroom banquet table inside the Haunted Mansion.



▲ **Domo arigato, Disney:** The late Japanese Emperor Hirohito was buried – at his request – wearing his Mickey Mouse watch. The emperor received the watch during a Disneyland visit and wore it to many official functions. Later, to help celebrate the opening of Magic Kingdom

Jim Korkis' new book *Secrets of Walt Disney World* from Theme Park Press is available now through leading online booksellers.

Park in Florida, the emperor gave Roy O. Disney a traditional stone lantern, known as a Toro, to light the way to happiness and success. While that lantern stood for many years at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort without any identification, it moved in 1982 to the Japan pavilion at Epcot, where it remains today (still with no placard) on the right side of the pavilion's entrance. The deer design on the lantern's side represents Nara Deer Park, which is located adjacent to Japan's Kasuga Shrine, where visitors find thousands of such lanterns.

All aboard: For the 1995 Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival, Disney horticulturists created a "temporary" miniature railway garden near the Germany pavilion, theming their creation to Southern Germany's famous and colorful Romantic Road (Romantische Strasse), which runs from Fussen to Wurzburg. The miniature railroad became so popular that it remained in the Park, where it celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. Subtle changes to the landscape and its small figures reflect the different seasons throughout the year. The railroad consists of three lines: a passenger line running between distant cities through the countryside to the Wurzburg stations and back, a freight train on a loop through the town and forest, and a rack locomotive climbing up the steep alpine grades and back down to Fussen.

Priceless real estate: At Disney's Hollywood Studios, just a few feet from a street sign that says "Keystone Street" (a reference to a California street on which filmmaker Mack Sennett had a movie studio that made silent comedies starring the "Keystone Kops") is Peevy's Polar Pipeline. Originally used as a newsstand called Lakeside News when the Park opened in 1989, the location was later re-imagined in 1991 with tool chests, welding tanks and other details supporting its new "Peevy's" name, inspired by the mechanic character in the 1991 hit Touchstone Pictures film *The Rocketeer*, set in 1938 Los Angeles. To the right side of Peevy's is a door marked with a "Holly-Vermont Realty Office" logo, and above

that door is a window displaying a "Room for Rent" sign. This is a wonderful reference to Walt Disney's first studio in Hollywood, which he moved into on Oct. 8, 1923 in the back of a real estate office. Walt told the owners of the office that he only needed enough room "to swing a cat in," and that he could only afford a maximum of \$10 a month. He was given a room at the back of the real estate office. In February 1924, the Disney brothers moved their studio into the empty storefront next to the real estate office. The address was 4649 Kingswell Avenue, and on the plate glass window was emblazoned in gold leaf the name "Disney Bros. Studio."



▲ **To the moon:** I'll finish with a story from the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood. Luna Park Pool, which serves Members and Guests at Disney's BoardWalk Inn and Disney's BoardWalk Villas, is a reference to one of the most popular early amusement parks on the Coney Island boardwalk. Luna Park was built and operated by Frederic Thompson and Elmer "Skip" Dundy from 1903-1944 and was one of three major entertainment parks at Coney Island (the others being Steeplechase Park and Dreamland). That's why the proprietor of your resort's "On the Boardwalk Thimbles & Threads" shop is F. Thompson, and why the sundries shop in the lobby is called "Dundy's Sundries - Serving the Boardwalk since 1902." Why 1902? That marks the year that "A Trip To The Moon" - Thompson's and Dundy's headline-grabbing attraction from the 1901 Pan-American Exposition - moved to Coney Island's Steeplechase Park. Luna, as you may know, is Latin for "moon."

PHOTOFINISH

1. Kara, part of the Neat family of Maryland, Members since 1999, shares the news with a friend at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort.

2. The Page family of Michigan, Members since 2010, channel their inner Rafiki in presenting three bundles of joy (two babies and a magazine).

3. All of us at Disney Vacation Club hope little Claire, part of the Kantany family of Massachusetts, Members since 2011, finds every Disney vacation to be as memorable as her first.

As 2016 is as much about looking ahead to the *next* 25 years as it is remembering the first, we proudly punctuate our "Photo Finish" with images of Members moving forward. (The backside of water is no longer our favorite reverse angle.)

4. Grace, part of the Chesney family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2007

5. Anna, part of the James family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2008

6. Bradley with grandfather Earl Horner of New Jersey, Member since 2005

7. A.J., part of the Lafont family of Louisiana, Members since 1997

8. Melinda Nichols of Tennessee, Member since 1998

9. Keira, part of the Mee family of Pennsylvania, Members since 1993

Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The release form is available for printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.





