

4/27/07 Day 102 – New York City - Friday, 27, April, 2007: We were awakened about 5am by lightning flashing in our window. There was a torrential downpour of rain going on as the ship sailed slowly through calm water. It was still dark but we knew that New York Harbor was near and we didn't want to miss the Statue of Liberty. We got dressed and went up to the Crow's Nest Lounge where you can get a grand panoramic view looking forward. Quite a few people had already gathered to watch as we entered the harbor. In the Crow's Nest we saw several friends whom we had met just three and one half months ago. It was a nostalgic moment as we shared our feelings about having met just a short time ago and now we had completed an around-the-world cruise together.

The sun had not yet come up and the air still had mist in it from the rain when we saw the Statue of Liberty. What a grand sight!



We had tears welling up in our eyes. It was good to be back home.

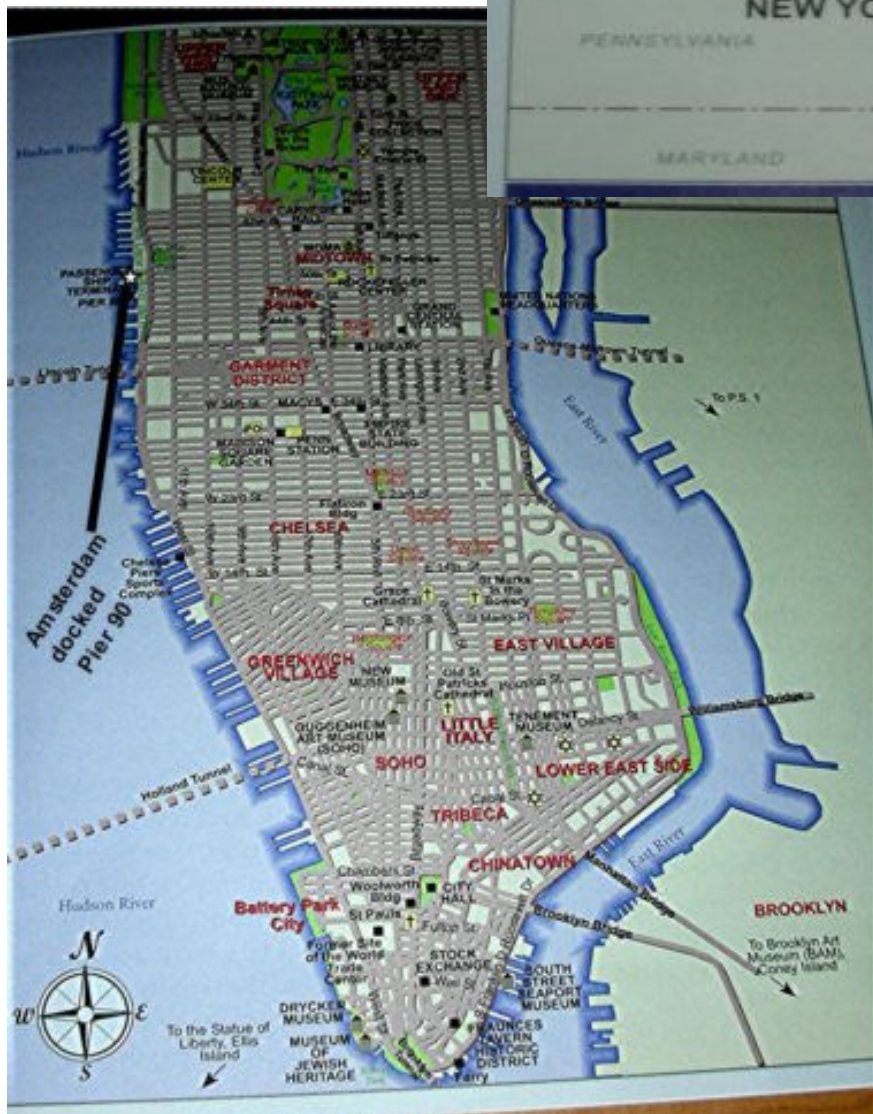
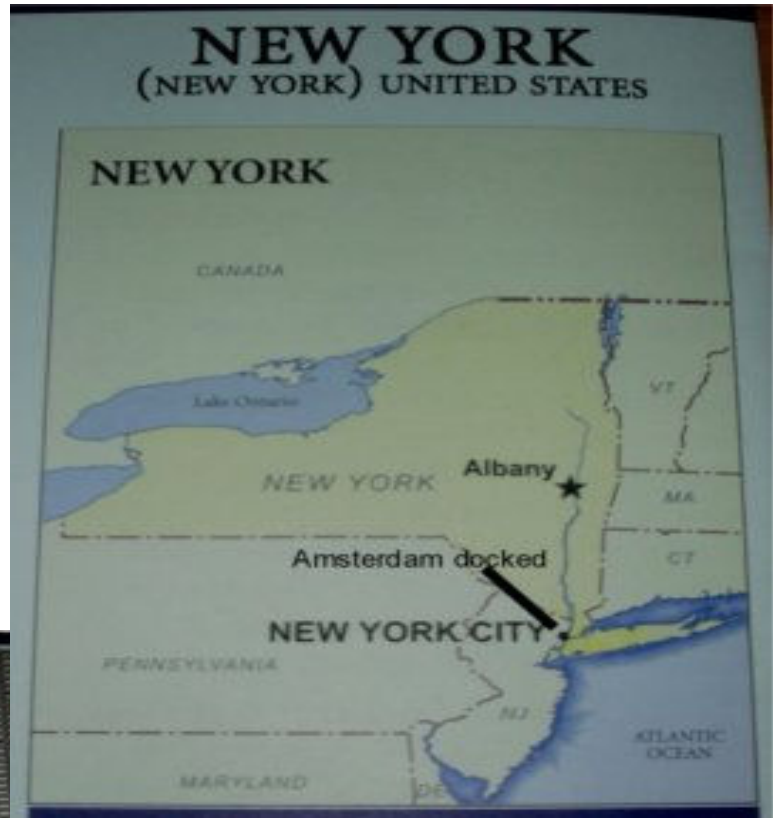


A fireboat came out to welcome us to New York with all their nozzles shooting a huge fountain of water into the air.

Everyone loved the fireboat display. We heard that Holland America Line had tried several times to get a

fireboat welcome to New York but until now they had been turned down. We also heard that Holland America had to pay for the privilege. As shown in the photo, we could see the Empire State Building antenna sticking up above the clouds in the background. The Chrysler Building is the next tall spire to the right of the Empire State Building.

The Amsterdam continued to cruise up the Hudson River and we docked in Manhattan at the Passenger Ship Terminal on Twelfth Avenue, Pier 90, and Berth 4. Here is where we were located on the Map.



The following photos show how the port of New York looked when viewed from the Amsterdam at her dock.

Looking up the Hudson River.





Looking down the Hudson River.

Looking down Pier 90 toward Manhattan.



Looking at Manhattan over the bow of the Amsterdam.





Port side of the Amsterdam looking toward the next pier and Manhattan.

There were about 300 people who were leaving the Amsterdam in New York City and they had first priority in clearing US Customs and Immigration procedures so they could get on their way. About 10:30am we were able to get off the ship and walk in to Times Square in New York City. It wasn't raining and it



was a nice 20 minute walk. We had visited New York City about 6 years ago and it was fun to see some of the same sights again.

We stopped by an ATM at Bank of America and got some US dollars so we could pass out some tips to our hard working stewards on the Amsterdam.

Unfortunately, about this time it started raining so we broke out the umbrellas. We inquired about taking a tour of the NASDAQ stock exchange market site but the guard informed us they no longer have tours as they did in 2000.

Although there was no tour, Barbara decided to show her Oak Ridge Library card next to the sign outside the



NASDAQ offices.



Here is the classic Times Square photo (this time in the rain).

We had originally thought we might visit the United Nations Building but the rain was dampening our touring spirits. Taxis are nearly impossible to catch on a rainy day so we decided to call a halt to our tour of New York City and walk back to the Amsterdam.

On the way back we passed a CompUSA store and picked up an HP93 printer ink cartridge that our dinner table mate, Bob, had been looking for since Sydney. Before he ran out of ink for his printer he had used some special software to make clever and humorous composite photos of us and other people around the ship. The framed "Bread Stick Barbara" picture that he and Esther gave to Barbara for her birthday earlier this month was a good example. We were wondering what he would do now that he had some more ink.

Back on the Amsterdam the new passengers were arriving to take the place of those who left in New York. It was kind of fun to see the enthusiasm and confusion of the new comers after only seeing veteran passengers for so long.

About 4:30pm we got underway and cruised down the Hudson River between Manhattan and the New Jersey shore. The waterfront of Manhattan is apparently undergoing a lot of change. The ocean going shipping business out of Manhattan has changed and nowadays doesn't adequately support the infrastructure for piers and other port facilities very well. The piers had fallen into disrepair and they have been sold to enterprising businesses that have done extensive renovation work.

The best example we saw for alternative use of the old piers was one that had been turned in to a golf driving range. It had a huge net suspended from steel girders around what was probably artificial turf. Here is a photo of this interesting site with Manhattan in the misty background.





We passed by the former site of the World Trade Center, now known as Ground Zero after the terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001. In the photo shown on the left Ground Zero is the in a vacant area behind the first row of tall buildings and the dome shaped glass building.

We said goodbye to New York as we cruised by the Statue of Liberty on the way out of the harbor.

In a couple more days we will be in Fort Lauderdale and this marvelous adventure will be brought to a close.

