

2/11/07 Day 27 – At Sea – Sunday: This was a cloudy and windy day with the seas rougher than we have had before. No rampant sea sickness yet but if it gets much worse there may be an outbreak.

We attended the church services by Pastor Douglas van Gessel in the ship's movie theater. A packed house with standing room only. A port lecture about Sydney, Australia was then given in the Queens Lounge. After a series of visits in relatively poor countries it will be a nice change to visit a port like Sydney.

In the afternoon we attended the third presentation by Clint van Zandt. This time he finished the profiling of the Jon Bene Ramsey murderer. His suspicion, the ransom note was probably written by a female and a member of the family. Perhaps an accidental injury and death of Jon Bene followed by a cover up by family members? With regard to the person who sent the lethal anthrax laden letters to government and TV personalities after 9/11, van Zandt had a view we had not heard. He suggested that the lack of a continuing series of letters indicated that the perpetrator had accomplished his purpose and wisely stopped activity before being identified. The motivation could have been that of a frustrated patriot who felt the US government and congress had not done enough to protect the US from terrorist attacks like 9/11. The anthrax letters intensified the anxiety created by the 9/11 attacks and assisted in promoting government action to strengthen defense.

This was a slow day so Barbara spent some time knitting a scarf to be donated to the Gifts of Love charity.

The Gifts of Love charity is sponsored by Holland American Lines to help poor children around the world. The Amsterdam provides the yarn and patterns and passengers with knitting skills turn the yarn into knit garments for the children. The knitted gifts created by passengers on this cruise will be donated to the poor children of Casablanca, Morocco.

The Executive Chef Ed Sayomac and his team put all their talents to work and created a buffet table in the main dining room loaded with magnificent presentations of food. Just before lunch the main dining room was opened for viewing and photography. Some of the creations were real works of art. Here are some photos of what we saw.





Fruit Tower

Bread Alligator





White Chocolate Cake

Dark Chocolate Eifel Tower



Dark Chocolate Cake

At the dinner tonight the dress was formal so Barbara wore a black dress and Orlin wore his standard dark tuxedo. These formal nights are coming around so often that we take them in stride.