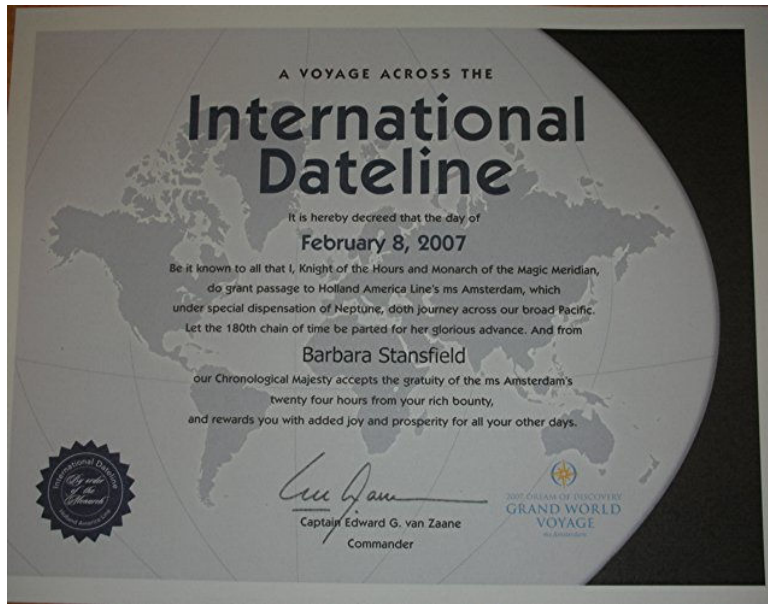


2/8/07 Day 25 – At Sea – Thursday: **International Date Line** - At 1:20am this morning we crossed the International Date Line passing from East to West. Strictly speaking, at 1:20am the ship should have changed the calendars from Thursday, 8 February (which was only 1 hour 20 minutes old) to Friday, 9 February. Instead, the ship elected to keep Thursday, 8 February going. We are spending out all of 8 February and then at midnight tonight we will skip Friday, 9 February completely and go to Saturday, 10 February. There will never be a trace of 9 February on our trip. In principle, the only way to skip a whole day, like 9 February, would be to cross the Date Line exactly at midnight on 8 February. The Amsterdam probably chose to play out the whole day of 8 February, already 1 hour 20 minutes old, for some book keeping reason. Whatever, for us folks traveling across the ocean at about 20 knots, it matters little. We will be using the correct calendar day when we arrive in Suva, Fiji tomorrow.

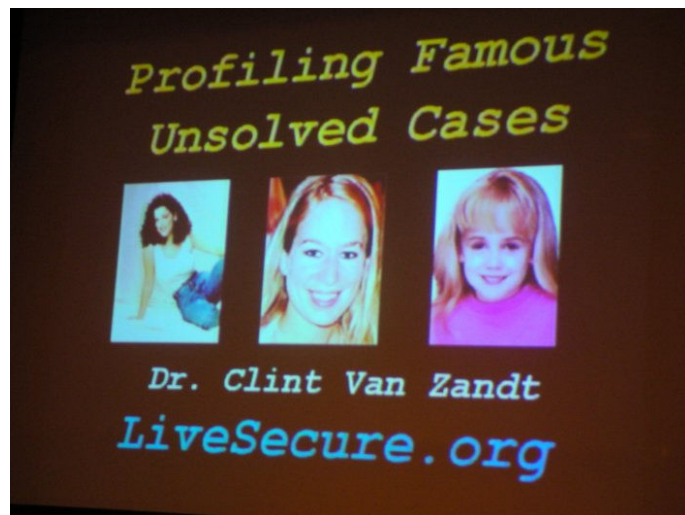
Barbara has had no trouble accepting the International Date Line phenomenon but Orlin has had to wrestle with the concept. Finally, there was a mental exercise that brought a satisfying answer to the question of why we need the Date Line. The argument goes something like this. Accept the fact that in circumnavigating the earth a person passes through a complete 360 degrees of a circle. The 24 hours of any day is distributed around those 360 degrees in 1 hour increments, each 15 degrees of longitude wide (360 degrees divided by 24 hours equals 15 degrees of longitude per hour of the day.) When traveling east or west 15 degrees one must adjust their clock 1 hour forward or backward respectively, to keep the sun directly overhead at noon where you are located. It is this protocol that has had us all complaining about having to set our clocks back one hour in a sequence of nights as the ship cruised westward. Well, consider this, what if you left Fort Lauderdale at noon on 15 January and traveled westward at a high speed so that you circumnavigated the globe instantly? Even though traveling very fast you would set your clock back one hour for every 15 degrees of longitude you traveled westward. If you followed this procedure and in the absence of the International Date Line you would arrive back at Fort Lauderdale at noon on 14 January, a day before you started. This illogical result would take place in less dramatic fashion even if you traveled at a slow speed. The paradox of losing a day relative to the starting point cropped up and mystified people when Magellan's crew completed circumnavigation of the globe in 1520. The use of the International Date Line avoids the lack of closure on calendar dates when circling the globe. It does this by adding 24 hours to your clock when crossing east to west or subtracting 24 hours when crossing west to east. In the example of instantaneous global circumnavigation given above, the presence of the International Date Line would require you to add 24 hours to your clock when crossing the Date Line east to west. Then you would continue to subtract one hour for every 15 degrees of westward travel. When you returned to Fort Lauderdale you would find that it is still noon on January 15, a logical result for instantaneous circling of the globe.

We got special certificates to show that we have crossed the International Date Line.



We went to the second in the series of presentations by Dr. Clinton van Zandt, the well known criminal and behavioral profiler seen on NBC, CNN and other media. Today's lecture was about profiling the killers in the unsolved cases of Sandra Levi, Natalee Hollaway and Jon Bene Ramsey.

In addition to presentations such as these, Mr. van Zandt, assisted by his wife Diane, promote a nationwide program to alert children, parents and grandparents about the dangers of child predators and abusive individuals in adult relationships. Diane handed out brochures



with information about their organization and helpful suggestions about detecting such people. Their website www.LiveSecure.org contains additional information and offers a free DVD to anyone ordering one.

Don't look for a 9 February entry tomorrow because that day was lost to the International Date Line.

