Making memories ‘ever after’
By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney

The winter edition of Disney Files Magazine took a numeric look back at our milestone celebration of “25 years AND BEYOND,” sharing statistics on everything from the approximate number of Members and their guests who enjoyed complimentary, after-hours celebrations in Disney Parks (70,000) to the estimated number of Members and their guests who visited the new Member Lounge at Epcot (180,000).

I read my advance copy of that issue (leadership has its privileges) as I flew home in early November from Southern California, where I had the pleasure of visiting with Member families at one of those aforementioned after-hours celebrations – the Disney Vacation Club 25 AND BEYOND Bash at Disney California Adventure Park. The event was a success by every measure, and by the time the flight attendant asked me to return my seat back and tray table to their full upright and locked positions, statistical-recap emails from my team had even more numbers swirling through my head.

I learned, for example, that Members and their guests consumed 4,990 complimentary churros during that memorable evening in Anaheim, which I’m told is enough to circle World Showcase at Epcot, and 7,061 complimentary ice cream novelties, which I now know resulted in enough popsicle sticks to stretch seven regulation football fields. While I’m not exactly sure who takes the time to calculate those comparisons, I do appreciate the picture they paint.

We celebrated our silver anniversary in a big way in 2016, and as we now move from “25 years” to “BEYOND,” we have no intention of winding down. Those complimentary, after-hours celebrations in Disney Parks have inspired an equally epic event slate for the year ahead, the Member Lounge at Epcot will welcome you home whenever you visit the Park in 2017, and that’s just the beginning as we introduce what we’re calling “Membership Magic Ever After.” As the year unfolds, you’ll also enjoy new exchange options and a continuation of waived transaction fees from RCI, expanded options from Member Services, a variety of special offers, unique access to Disney experiences, a new pioneering place to use your Vacation Points in the neighborhood (our proposed 14th resort, Copper Creek Villas & cabins at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge, scheduled to open in Fall 2017) and more.

We do all of this as part of our daily commitment to rewarding your loyalty and enhancing the value of your Membership.

This edition of Disney Files Magazine shares more details about this next great chapter in our story, and I suppose I should look forward to someday learning how many times the free popcorn you eat at parties could string the length of Main Street, U.S.A., how many times the complimentary Mickey Premium Ice Cream bars at those parties could scale the Matterhorn or how many times the free soft drinks you enjoy in the Member Lounge could fill Bay Lake. Of course, only one statistic will truly measure our success: the number of memories you create. All of us at Disney Vacation Club are honored to be part of those memories, and we look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

*This proposed resort is not yet fully registered or available for sale.

The following important information applies to select offers as noted in the pages ahead: You should not purchase a real estate interest in a Disney Vacation Club Resort in reliance upon the continued availability or renewal or extension of these offers. These offers may only be available to Members at certain times and may or may not be renewed or extended. Membership Extras, such as vacation options in the Disney and Concierge Collections, certain discounts, offers and special events, are incidental benefits. These incidental benefits are subject to change or termination without notice, may require the payment of a fee and cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Membership Extras are also subject to availability, and block-out dates may apply, including high periods of demand, such as Christmas and New Year’s Day. To receive any Membership Extras, purchasers must present a valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with a corresponding valid photo ID. Disney and Concierge Collection options are not available for ownership interests not purchased directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc. (affirmative April 4, 2010). Members who do not purchase an ownership interest directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., will not have access to Membership Extras.
Earlier this year, Disney Vacation Club shared a first look at “Membership Magic Ever After,” moving from “25 years” to “BEYOND” with a colorful collection of extended Membership Extras* from 2016, additional offers* and opportunities for 2017, and new Disney developments that together will help pen the next great chapter in our community’s collective story. It was a lot to take in on the heels of another busy holiday season, so as we turn the page to spring, Disney Files Magazine is pleased to highlight some of the many reasons we all have to be excited about the year ahead.

“See important “Membership Extras” eligibility information at the bottom of page 1

The second floor of the iconic Imagination! Pavilion at Epcot has become one of the most popular spots in the neighborhood, welcoming Members home to a relaxing retreat that offers comfortable seating, complimentary soft drinks and Wi-Fi service, assistance from Member Services and more. Whether you use the Member Lounge to recharge your devices or yourself, Disney Vacation Club is thrilled to keep the lounge open to Members and their guests visiting Epcot in 2017. Simply present your valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card and photo ID to the Cast Member at the bottom of the staircase in the pavilion’s merchandise shop, and enjoy your “lofty” place in the Disney community!
Disney Parks became Members’ own personal playgrounds in 2016, with complimentary, after-hours events that featured shorter-than-usual wait times at popular attractions, special entertainment and character appearances, complimentary treats and more. Members’ enthusiastic response to these grand events inspired an equally epic slate of what will now be known as Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic events at Disney Parks in 2017, beginning in Florida with Moonlight Magic at Magic Kingdom Park on Feb. 24 and March 3.

Next on the calendar of complimentary, after-hours celebrations are Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic events at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park (June 22 and 28, and July 5 and 13), Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park (Sept. 6 and 13), Disneyland Park in California (Nov. 15) and – new for this year – Epcot (Dec. 4 and 11). (Note that the Moonlight Magic events at Epcot replace the previously offered “Merry Member Mixer” gatherings as part of an effort to broaden the experience, accommodate more Members and remove the requirement of paid Theme Park admission.)

As always, disneyvacationclub.com will be the first place to access the latest details about these and other Member events, including reservation information, so keep an eye on the site’s Event Calendar (part of the Plan Vacations tab).

This year sees the continuation of a doubled Walt Disney World merchandise discount** (previously 10 percent, now 20 percent) valid at select Disney-owned-and-operated shops at Walt Disney World Resort, Disney’s Vero Beach Resort and Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort, and an expanded Walt Disney World dining discount** with Victoria & Albert’s at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa now the only Walt Disney World-owned-and-operated table-service restaurant not offering a 10 percent Member discount.

Members enjoying the Disney Vacation Club World Collection of exchange options also will save money by taking advantage of the waived $95 transaction fee*** for new RCI reservations in 2017. Visit disneyvacationclub.com (Plan Vacations tab, Points & Destinations, World Collection) to learn more about available RCI resorts.

Enjoy “Moonlight Magic” at Disney Parks

The magic is endless at Walt Disney World Resort, and with nine Disney Vacation Club Resorts located in the middle of that magic (and with a 10th – Copper Creek Villas & Cabins* – scheduled to open in 2017), the possibilities for Members are equally endless.

Among the new Walt Disney World developments scheduled to welcome Members and guests in 2017 is Pandora – The World of Avatar at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park (see page 20). Featuring two marquee expeditions, magnificent floating mountains, and an iconic and richly layered bioluminescent forest, Pandora will join a fresh slate of offerings that already includes such instantly embraced newcomers as the nighttime offerings at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular at Disney’s Hollywood Studios, the Frozen Ever After attraction at Epcot, the “Once Upon a Time” projection show at Magic Kingdom Park and more.

Watch Disney Files Magazine and disneyvacationclub.com for updates as Membership Magic Ever After continues to unfold throughout 2017.

Save on shopping, dining and more

**See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

**The dining discount is valid for the Member and as many as three guests on the Member’s check (meaning no check splitting), and doesn’t apply to special events. To take advantage of these shopping and dining discounts, simply present your physical or digital Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with your valid photo ID. Disney Vacation Club recommends confirming that the discount is available before placing a dining order or making a merchandise purchase, as some shops and restaurants at Walt Disney World Resort are managed independently and may not offer a discount. See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

***Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note the vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities typically require a fee (waived during this promotional period) and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.

New to the neighborhood

Sneak peek at the ‘Creek’: Disney Files Magazine is developing a variety of features exploring Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge,* scheduled to become the 14th resort in the neighborhood in 2017. Look for your photographic tour to begin in our summer edition, and get ready to add this new frontier to your vacation plans!

Sailing to ‘Fantasy’ islands: The Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise** sails for the first time aboard the Disney Fantasy ship in 2017, taking Members to places where no Member Cruise has gone before. The already-sold-out voyage will depart Port Canaveral, Fla., on Aug. 26 for a 7-night sailing that’ll include scheduled stops in Tortola, British Islands; and St. Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with Disney’s private island paradise in the Bahamas, Castaway Cay. Like all Member Cruise voyages, this charter sailing will feature a broad range of special gifts and entertainment created with Members in mind.

Agents of change: A new vacation-planning option in 2016 enabled Member Services Advisors to offer their individual phone extensions to Members booking Disney Vacation Club Resorts, allowing those Members to easily re-contact the same advisor to modify that reservation. The service’s popularity prompted plans to expand the service in 2017, allowing advisors to offer their extensions to Members for any reservation, including those beyond Disney Vacation Club Resorts. The Member Services team plans to begin offering this expanded option later this year.

Where Magic is Endless (and right next door)

*This proposed resort is not yet fully registered or available for sale. **See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.
Quiz

Epcot in spring

By Dr. Ed Yukatid Gess

Dazzling gardens, fresh flavors, interactive playgrounds and outdoor concerts help turn one of your favorite Disney Parks into a chlorafilled (I know that’s not a word, but I like it) carousel of color each spring. This year’s Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, blooming from March 1-May 29, will blanket the Park with elaborate gardens and wildlife habitats; nearly 100 topiary sculptures (including a new Figment topiary and re-imagined Belle topiary); interactive play gardens; the weekend Garden Rocks Concert series; and inspirational exhibits, seminars and how-to demonstrations. The festival also serves farm-to-fork fare at 15 outdoor kitchens, including 13 returning favorites and two new additions. Among the returning favorites is Urban Farm Eats, serving up savory bites and sweet treats, along with ideas for planting produce at home.

“A lot of people, including young children, are serious foodies now, and they have lots of questions about gardening,” Festival Horticulture Manager Eric Darden explained. “We’re getting more and more people in their 20s and 30s asking, ‘How can I grow this?’ I think we’ll be creating more gardeners because people can see what’s possible.”

My colleagues and I dug up some fertile fun facts from the festival and beyond for this installment of “Quiz Ed” as we test your knowledge of – or ability to make educated guesses about – the Epcot festival and all things spring. Good luck!

1. How many complete crop rotations must Cast Members execute during the festival’s run to keep its floral displays fresh?
   a) one
   b) two
   c) three

2. Approximately how many pounds of hairpins do Cast Members use to attach plants and flowers to the festival’s topiary sculptures?
   a) 50
   b) 100
   c) 200

3. Approximately how many different plants, grasses and mosses create the facial features of the festival’s topiary sculptures?
   a) 25
   b) 35
   c) 45

4. Playgrounds are among the festival’s most popular spaces for kids. What city debuted the first outdoor children’s playground in the U.S.?
   a) St. Augustine
   b) Philadelphia
   c) Boston

5. More than two dozen nectar plants grow in the festival’s butterfly house. What do butterflies use to find that nectar?
   a) their feet
   b) their eyes
   c) their antennae

6. The festival features more than 60 species of trees. About how many tree species are believed to grow on our planet?
   a) 10,000
   b) 100,000
   c) 1,000,000

7. Herb gardens grow at several of the festival’s outdoor kitchens. Based on sales, what’s the world’s most popular culinary herb?
   a) cilantro
   b) basil
   c) parsley

8. The earliest written descriptions of the art of topiary can be traced back to what country?
   a) Japan
   b) China
   c) Italy

9. Outdoor concerts are a tradition at the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, which first bloomed in 1994. The world’s most-attended concert also took place outdoors in 1994, but it wasn’t at Epcot. In what country did that record-setting concert take place?
   a) Brazil
   b) United States
   c) Australia

10. What type of flowers bloom in the colorful gardens that float during the festival in the bodies of water flanking the walkway between Future World and World Showcase?
    a) daisies
    b) impatiens
    c) chrysanthemums

ANSWERS:
1: b, 2: c, 3: a, 4: c (according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the United States’ first outdoor children’s playground opened in Boston, Mass., in 1885), 5: a (taste receptors on a butterfly’s feet help it locate food), 6: b, 7: b, 8: c (according to published reports from the International Association of Topiary Growers & Suppliers, the first written descriptions of topiary are rooted in ancient Rome), 9: a (according to Guinness World Records, an estimated 3.5 million fans attended a Rod Stewart concert on New Year’s Eve 1994 at the famed Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), 10: b

Learn more about the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival online at EpcotInSpring.com

Give yourself 10 points for each correct answer, and see where you rank.

90-100 points: coming up roses
70-80 points: makin’ hay
50-60 points: garden variety
30-40 points: shrinking violet
10-20 points: barking up the wrong tree
0 points: pushing up daisies
The most ambitious film in Disneynature history arrives in U.S. theaters on April 21 (the day before Earth Day). Taking audiences to some of the most extreme environments on Earth to witness some of the most intimate moments ever captured in a nature film. Continuing the great tradition of previous Disneynature releases and Walt Disney’s “True-Life Adventures,” Born in China pulls astonishingly human stories from the animal world, following a panda mother as her growing baby begins to seek independence, a mother snow leopard facing the very real drama of raising cubs in unforgiving environments, and a two-year-old golden monkey who runs away after feeling displaced by his new baby sister. The film marks an unprecedented collaboration between eastern and western filmmakers, pairing acclaimed Chinese director Lu Chuan with a team of American and British producers that includes Disney’s Roy Conli (Tangled, Big Hero 6) and premiere nature filmmakers Brian Leith and Phil Chapman. Disney Files Magazine Editor Ryan March caught up with Roy to learn more about his first foray into the art of nature filmmaking.

Ryan: Would you please share with our readers just how long Disneynature crews spend on location and what those locations tend to offer in terms of infrastructure and facilities?

Roy: In most locations, the infrastructure is whatever you bring with you. You’re not living in the lap of luxury – that’s for sure. Many of these guys will live in a pit – maybe 3 1/2 by 3 1/2 [feet] – covered in some kind of camouflage, and stay there for weeks at a time before they get their first usable shots. It can take days to get to a remote shooting location, and you’re generally there for as long as 3 months at a time, with filming taking place over the course of years – 2 1/2 years in this case.

Ryan: My desk job never sounded more appealing. Now while shooting on-location may be new to you, I’m assuming you were comfortable with the lengthy production schedule, given that animated features also take years to produce. What else have you found these two mediums to share in common from a filmmaking standpoint, and in what ways have you found them to be most different – beyond the obvious contrast in environment?

Roy: An animated film begins with an idea, and you craft that idea through script and storyboarding as it evolves through a series of drafts and screenings until finally you have a story you want to tell. With a Disneynature film, you essentially reverse the process, sending cinematographers out into the wild to record what’s going on around them. They write journals and collect hours and hours of footage until the stories start to reveal themselves and you can begin developing a script. What comes near the end of an animated production comes at the beginning of a nature-film production. And yet somehow, the two mediums meet in the middle. From a storytelling and filmmaking standpoint, I find them both to be equally enjoyable.

Ryan: I thought you were going to say “difficult” there, and you went with “enjoyable.”

Roy: When I come to work, I don’t come to work – I come to tell stories. I think of myself as one of the luckiest men in the world. I’ve been able to make a living touching people’s hearts and making people feel. To do that through this medium and with Disney is an absolute pleasure.

Ryan: Speaking of being lucky, your team ultimately had great fortune in its search for snow leopards, but I understand that wasn’t the case early in production.

Roy: Snow leopards are probably the most elusive animals on our planet, and they were certainly the most difficult of our filming assignments. We sent out a brilliant cinematographer by the name of Shane Moore, a wildcat expert who has filmed more wildcats than probably anyone on Earth. He was out in the field for 3 months, and it was on the last day of that first 3-month stint that he actually got his first shot of a snow leopard. We were having big questions as to whether or not we’d continue this seemingly impossible pursuit. But thanks to Shane’s persistence, we were able to send him back for three additional 3-month stints over different seasons, and he returned with footage unlike anything the world has ever seen.

Ryan: Another part of what makes Born in China such an ambitious undertaking is its teaming of eastern and western filmmakers. How was that experience for you?

Roy: One of the greatest joys I had on this production was working with [director] Lu Chuan, who I think is one of the strongest storytellers in China ... I’m proud of this film on so many levels, from the logistical challenges we tackled with three teams on three continents to the footage we captured of animals and places few have ever seen before. But what makes me most proud are the stories we’re telling and the relationships we’ve formed as storytellers. I now call Chuan a brother in storytelling. You learn when you tell stories in the Disney universe that, if you can find themes that touch people’s hearts, those themes will cross cultures. Working with Chuan further proved that to me.

Ryan: This is the seventh theatrical release for Disneynature, with the first six ranking among the seven highest grossing feature-length nature films of all time. Impressive as that is, there’s clearly a greater mission here. What do you hope audiences ultimately take away from this film and from Disneynature films in general?

Roy: Just how precious the natural world is. These places and species are in danger, and we have a responsibility to nature and to ourselves to protect them. When you see the emotional and physical parallels in these stories between the animal world and ours, you’re reminded that we’re all in it together.

Help animals Born in China

See Born in China during its opening week in U.S. theaters, and Disneynature will make a donation through the Disney Conservation Fund to support the World Wildlife Fund to help protect wild pandas and snow leopards in China. To learn more about these animals and their environment, visit nature.disney.com, where you can download the free Disneynature Born in China Educator’s Guide and Activity Packet. Created in collaboration with Cast Members from Disney’s Animals, Science and Education team (including 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise presenter Allyson Atkin, who screened Born in China in its entirety, more than 6 months before its U.S. theatrical release), the materials are filled with insightful information, fun family activities, and tips for making an impact on conservation and protecting nature.
New lakeside restaurant offers comfortable dining in the great outdoors

Disney’s Wilderness Lodge: The winter 2016 edition of Disney Files Magazine featured a first look at Boulder Ridge Cove; the re-imagined pool area scheduled to open this summer near the recently renamed Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge.

Careful examination of that story’s hyper-realistic artist rendering revealed a rugged range of eye-catching details, including the pool area’s abandoned-rock-quarry theme, the prominent placement of salvaged mining equipment and an intriguing structure extending from the edge of Boulder Ridge Cove to the shores of Bay Lake.

That stone-chimney-punctuated roofline in question shelters Geyser Point Pool Bar & Grill, a new dining destination scheduled to begin serving Members and guests shortly after this magazine hits the press. Beyond its breakfast, lunch and dinner fare, and menu of beverage offerings (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), the quick-service restaurant will offer the comfort and convenience of covered outdoor seating, allowing diners to enjoy their meal on site or on the go.

Named with a nod to the shoreline it shares with the resort’s famed Fire Rock Geyser, the new Geyser Point Pool Bar & Grill is part of a broader effort to expand opportunities to dine in the great outdoors at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge, including the creation of comfortably covered outdoor seating near the resort’s existing Roaring Fork quick-service eatery (scheduled to debut shortly after this magazine goes to print).

Keep an eye out for these and other enhancements to the Disney’s Wilderness Lodge experience during your next trek into the woods, and look for your visual tour of the resort’s new additions to continue in upcoming editions of Disney Files Magazine.

Community Calendar

Disneyland Resort
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disneyland Park
- Dec. 4 and 11: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort
- May 14: Disney Vacation Club Member’s Day Brunch, Disney’s Contemporary Resort
- June 22 and 26, and July 5 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney’s Contemporary Resort

Disneyparking Area
- Ongoing: Disney Vacation Club Member Night at Splitsville, at Disney Springs West Side
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Member Fireworks Cruise from Disney’s Contemporary Resort Marina on most Thursday evenings

Walt Disney World Resort
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Member’s Day Brunch, Disney’s Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Dec. 4 and 11: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney’s Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Member Fireworks Cruise from Disney’s Contemporary Resort Marina on most Thursday evenings

Condominium Association Meeting: Watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, currently scheduled to take place on Dec. 7 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conserving, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. Simply update your contact preferences online at disneyvacationclub.com (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).

Walt Disney World Resort:
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney’s Contemporary Resort
- July 5 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- July 6: Disney Vacation Club Member Night at Splitsville

DISney Files Magazine

As part of Disney Vacation Club’s commitment to helping Members plan their vacations, Disney Files Magazine is pleased to highlight Member events* on tap for the season ahead and beyond. Please note that event dates, locations and other details are subject to change, and that further details (including pricing and registration information if applicable, as well as new events materializing after this magazine hits the press) debut on the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com when available.

Located under the site’s Plan Vacations tab, the calendar allows you to browse all events, sort by destination or event type, and more.

*With the exception of the Condominium Association Meeting and pool hopping, the events listed here are considered “Membership Extras,” and eligibility restrictions apply. For details, please see the important information at the bottom of page 1.

STAY UP TO DATE AT DISNEYVACATIONCLUB.COM
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 Dr. Alexandra Baker of Pennsylvania, Member since 1992.

When the groundbreaking Disney•Pixar film Toy Story hit theaters in 1995, it changed, not only the way the world saw animation (and toys), but also the work space – and later, living space – of one Dr. Alexandra Baker. It was during the film’s initial run that Dr. Baker purchased a Buzz Lightyear toy for grandson Jesse, who didn’t heed grandma’s advice to keep it in the box (clearly caring less about the future value of a collectible and more about the immediate value of protecting the galaxy from the threat of invasion). So, Dr. Baker decided to purchase and preserve a second Buzz for herself. And then a third. And a fourth. Countless “Lightyears” later, her dental office had no more space for space rangers, and the collection moved in 2014 to Dr. Baker’s home, where her “Buzz Cave” remains the most toy-filled space this side of John Lasseter’s offices. With Toy Story 4 and a new Toy Story-themed land at Disney’s Hollywood Studios among the Buzz Lightyear vehicles likely to spawn new merchandise in the years ahead, the Baker “Buzz Cave” may soon be in need of expansion.

Trip tip: Members and guests looking to add more Disney to their homes are finding a curated collection of Disney-themed furnishings, housewares and dinnerware at D-Living, one of the newest shopping destinations at Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort. Look for this seasonally updated shop adjacent to UNOde50 in the Town Center neighborhood.

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.

Presented by RCI

Home to more lighthouses than any other area of the U.S., Cape Cod, Mass., has long served as a welcoming beacon for locals and vacationers alike. See if you can spot the seven things we’ve altered in this idyllic photo of Cape Cod, one of many coastal destinations Members may enjoy 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 Ever After.

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities typically require a fee (waived in 2017 — see page 5 for details) and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.
Disney’s Hollywood Studios: The typically quick-service ABC Commissary at Disney’s Hollywood Studios has introduced a new fast-casual dinner menu, with entrée choices at press time ranging from Chimichurri steak to lemon-pepper salmon. Guests order at the counter and receive a device that allows Cast Members to locate their table and deliver their meal. Cast Members in the dining room are available throughout dinner service to assist with refills of drinks and condiments. No reservations are required for the fast-casual dinner, and the restaurant continues to offer quick-service lunch.

Disney’s Port Orleans Resort: Disney’s Port Orleans Resort French Quarter, just a boat ride away from Disney Springs, recently reopened its Sassagoula Floatworks and Food Factory after a reimagining that added even more New Orleans flavors to a menu that still features the eatery’s popular pizza, pasta and salad options. New specialty burger choices at press time, for example, include a “Crawfish Mac & Cheese Burger,” while other New Orleans-inspired fare includes Jambalaya and Po’ Boys. Breakfast options range from grit bowls to Pain Perdu (a baguette French toast with warm fruit). Also new are raspberry, caramel and chichory-coffee-ganache dipping sauce options for the eatery’s made-to-order beignets.

Disney’s Wilderness Lodge: The popularity of Territory Coffee Company service inside the Territory Lounge (adjacent to Artist Point) at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge recently prompted the extension of its operating hours to 7 a.m.-2 p.m. daily (previously 7-11 a.m.). The Territory Coffee Company serves a variety of wilderness-inspired beverages (from a Gold Rush Latte with vanilla, caramel drizzle and whipped cream) and baked goods (including the delightfully named Humphrey Bear Claw).

Disney Springs: Guests attending the Party for the Senses at the 2016 Epcot International Food & Wine Festival got a “sense” for the expertise of Master Sommelier George Miliotes, who presented Triton de Toro 2014 to represent his new wine bar scheduled to debut this fall at Disney Springs. Located across from The Boathouse, the 210-seat Wine Bar George will resemble a winemaker’s home and serve wines representing both established and up-and-coming wineries. Plans call for the wine bar to feature a menu of small plates, cheese and charcuterie designed to complement the wine list. Wine Bar George adds to a still-growing Disney Springs dining scene that also includes Paddlefish and Planet Hollywood Observatory (each slated to open by this spring), as well as the Polite Pig and The Edison (both scheduled to open this year). The Polite Pig will serve a variety of wood-fire grilled and smoked fare (including “The Pig,” a grilled pork sandwich with mustard barbeque sauce and heirloom carrot slaw), along with wine, cocktails and local beer. The Edison, inspired by a Los Angeles venue of the same name, will offer live entertainment, classic American food and craft cocktails in an industrial-gothic space resembling a 1920s electric power plant.

Shrimp and Grits

Among the popular plates returning to outdoor kitchens at this year’s Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival (see pages 7-8 for more details about the festival) is the Florida Fresh kitchen’s “Shrimp and Stone-Ground Grits with Andouille Sausage and side of sunburnt corn”—a dish that couldn’t be more Florida if it was served by a manatee with a comforting loved ones unable to make the trip, all of us at Disney Springs hope that your home and sends images of manatee Maitre d’s swimming through your head.

**Broth Ingredients:**
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup diced Andouille sausage
- 1/2 cup finely diced yellow onion
- 1/2 cup finely diced green pepper
- 1/2 cup finely diced celery
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter at room temperature, cut into pieces
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

**Grits Ingredients:**
- 4 cups water
- 1 cup quick grits
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/2 cup quick grits
- 1/2 cup finely diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh cilantro

**Broth Steps:**
1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add Andouille sausage, cooking until golden brown (about 5 minutes). Add onion and garlic, cooking until translucent. Add celery, peppers and Cajun seasoning, cooking until tender (about 5-6 minutes).
2. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for about 1 minute.
3. Puree with a hand blender or carefully pour broth into a blender and blend until completely pureed. Blend in butter until well combined.
4. Stir in tomatoes and cilantro.

**Grits Steps:**
1. Bring water to a boil. Whisk in grits and salt. Cook, whisking, for 1 minute.
2. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until grits are tender. Stir in butter and Parmesan cheese.

**Shrimp Ingredients:**
- 1/4 cup finely diced Andouille sausage
- 1/2 cup finely diced yellow onion
- 1/2 cup finely diced green pepper
- 1/2 cup finely diced celery
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

**Shrimp Steps:**
1. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add Andouille sausage, cooking until golden brown, about 5 minutes.
2. Add onion, peppers, celery and Cajun seasoning, cooking until vegetables soften, about 4 minutes, for about 1 minute.
3. Add shrimp and cook until opaque and cooked through (about 2-4 minutes). Stir in tomatoes and cilantro.

**To Serve:** Divide grits among four serving bowls. Divide shrimp and vegetable mixture over grits, ladle broth over the top and garnish with fresh cilantro.

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.
Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: Members and guests are discovering a variety of new experiences inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios’ Moana during their Aulani vacations, including Moana-inspired makeovers in the resort’s Painted Sky Teen Spa and meet-and-greets with the film’s title character. Members and guests of all ages, meanwhile, are enjoying Mo’olelo Fireside Stories with Moana, gathering around an ocean-side fire pit as Moana and Uncle (Aulani’s beloved storyteller) bring legends of Oceania to life. Moana and Uncle swap more stories at Uncle’s Kahakai Canoe Race, sharing sea-faring tales illustrating the importance of the canoe (wa’a) to the ancestors of Native Hawaiians before inviting Members and guests to build their own wa’a models for a spirited canoe race at the lagoon. To further explore the islands’ cultural roots in canoe exploration, don’t miss the new KA WA’A, A Lu’au by the vessels that brought Native Hawaiians feast and an enchanting performance inspired illustrating the importance of the canoe (wa’a) to the ancestors of Native Hawaiians to the shores of Ko Olina. Reservations for KA WA’A, A Lu’au at Aulani, an evening that includes a lavish island feast and an enchanting performance inspired by the vessels that brought Native Hawaiians to the shores of Ko Olina. Reservations for KA WA’A, A Lu’au are available as many as 60 days in advance by calling (808) 674-6850 between noon and 8 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time. Check your in-room Daily 365 publication for details on this signature dining destination presenting a multi-course meal of menu favorites, complete with wine pairings. Call Member Services to book your Wanyama Safari.

Disney’s Vero Beach Resort: The nine-hole, pirate-themed Port Hole Miniature Golf course at Disney’s Vero Beach Resort is now complimentary for Disney Vacation Club Members and their guests. Simply present your valid room key imprinted with “DVC MEMBER” at Eb & Flo’s Rentals to receive complimentary mini-golf equipment for your entire traveling party. Note that operating hours for the course and rental counter vary seasonally.

Disney’s Vero Beach Resort: The Disney Conservation Fund and Disney’s Animals, Science and Environment team are working with the University of Florida to reverse the decline of at-risk butterflies in Florida and California. The Atala butterfly was believed to have gone extinct in the 1960s but was rediscovered decades later as a small population in South Florida. Members and guests have a chance to help increase populations of this special butterfly by releasing Atala butterflies in a newly planted garden at Disney’s Vero Beach Resort. Cast Members from Disney’s Animals, Science and Environment team rear the butterfly eggs, caterpillars and pupae at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park before sending the emerged butterflies to Disney’s Vero Beach Resort for weekly release, making this the only place on Disney property to see Atala butterflies. Be sure to inquire at the front desk to find out if a butterfly release is scheduled during your next stay. In the meantime, use your smartphone’s QR code reader to enjoy a sneak peek at the fun and informative video releasing their butterflies.

Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge: More Members and guests than ever now have the opportunity to experience the Wanyama Safari at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge. Previously available only to those staying at the lodge but now available to all Walt Disney World guests ages 10 or older, this premium experience begins with a pre-safari reception and continues out on the resort’s savannas, where small groups enjoy unparalleled animal-viewing from a private safari vehicle. Members and guests learn more about the resort’s architecture and animals throughout their safari, inspired by an African “afternoon game drive.” The experience, priced at $209 a person, concludes at Jilo – The Cooking Place, where this signature dining destination presents the pick-up and drop-off location next door to Disney’s Contemporary Resort.

Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort: Disney’s Magical Express service, which provides complimentary luggage delivery and motor-coach transportation between Orlando International Airport and select Walt Disney World Resort hotels, has added a new pick-up and drop-off location at the entrance to Bay Lake Tower. The new location makes the service more convenient than ever for Members staying at Bay Lake Tower, eliminating the walk to and from the pick-up and drop-off location next door at Disney’s Contemporary Resort.

The Villas at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: The Villas at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: A two-year renovation of villas at our community’s flagship resort is slated to begin later this year. While design elements are still in development at press time, plans call for redesigned bathrooms, updated floors, refined furnishings and refreshed decor. Disney Files Magazine will share updates as new details become available.

Disney’s Vero Beach Resort: The sweeping enhancement of the rooms and villa resort reported throughout 2016 is scheduled for completion by the time this magazine mails, with work continuing on beach cottages into this summer. Beyond accommodations, these enhancement efforts at the resort included the creation of “Wind & Waves” – a re-imagined dining experience that includes a table-service restaurant, grab-and-go market and dedicated pool bar.
Walt Disney World Resort: Humans recently caught their first glimpse of the bridge that’ll soon lead them to the base camp of Alpha Centauri Expeditions, the eco-tour group preparing to lead explorers on unprecedented journeys to Pandora – The World of Avatar.

Located at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park and first revealed during D23’s “Destination D: Amazing Adventures” event at Walt Disney World Resort, the bridge (pictured here) dates back to a period of destruction on Pandora at the hands of the Resources Development Administration, whose unregulated mining activities and subsequent conflicts with the native Na’vi led to environmental damage across the area. With the RDA now long gone from Pandora, nature has begun breaking down evidence of the group’s damaging presence.

Explorers who cross the bridge and embark on expeditions to a once-again thriving Pandora will discover two distinctive adventures: the beautiful, family friendly Na’vi River Journey boat ride through the deepest and darkest reaches of a bioluminescent forest and the thrilling Avatar Flight of Passage, through which guests will employ Avatar technology to experience a pulse-pounding flight over the jungles of Pandora on the back of an Ikran (known to humans as a Mountain Banshee).

Nourishing and refreshing explorers during their travels will be the Satu’li Canteen, Pandora’s main dining establishment, and Pongu Pongu (Na’vi for “party party”), a drink location with a design as eclectic as its Expat owner. Tangible memories of one’s expedition, meanwhile, will be available at Windtraders, an exotic marketplace offering Na’vi cultural items, toys, science kits and more.

With Pandora – The World of Avatar scheduled to debut this summer, Disney Files Magazine is gathering more insights to share in our summer edition.

Disney Cruise Line: While every Disney Cruise Line voyage is filled with magic, seven special sailings departing New York City this fall promise to be particularly “Marvel-ous” as Super Heroes and Super Villains climb aboard the Disney Magic for a Marvel Day at Sea.

The new, day-long event will celebrate Marvel comics, films and animated series through special entertainment, food, merchandise, youth activities and more. Planned highlights include exclusive interactions with Spider-Man, Captain America, Thor and other Marvel Super Heroes; Marvel trivia games for the entire family; Marvel-themed games, activities and crafts for young heroes-in-training at the Marvel’s Avengers Academy in the ship’s Oceaneer Club; and a spectacular, music-filled deck party that’ll culminate with a stunning display of themed pyrotechnics, lighting, sound effects and the largest collection of Marvel Super Heroes and Super Villains ever assembled on a cruise ship.

Exclusive at-sea screenings will feature fan-favorite films from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, including the newest theatrical releases, along with special presentations of the Disney XD animated series “Marvel’s Avengers Assemble,” “Marvel’s Ultimate Spider-Man” and “Marvel’s Guardians of the Galaxy.”

Marvel Day at Sea will debut with 7- and 8-night Bahamian voyages departing New York City on Oct. 6, 14 and 28, and Nov. 4, 11 and 18, 2017, with each itinerary including scheduled visits to Disney’s private island paradise, Castaway Cay, and Port Canaveral, Fla., from which guests may depart to enjoy a day at Walt Disney World Resort. Also featuring Marvel Day at Sea is a 7-night Canadian Coast voyage departing New York City on Oct. 21, 2017, with scheduled stops at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Visit disneycruise.com for more details before calling Member Services to book your next voyage.*

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1
runDisney: First-time runners and experienced endurance athletes alike are starting 2017 on the right foot by registering to race through Disney Parks with runDisney. Upcoming events include the Star Wars Half Marathon – The Dark Side April 22-23 at Walt Disney World Resort and Tinker Bell Half Marathon Weekend presented by PANDORA Jewelry May 11-14 (Mother’s Day weekend) at Disneyland Resort. Both events feature a half marathon, 10K, 5K and kids races (including “diaper dashes” for crawlers!), as well as a runDisney Health & Fitness Expo. To learn more about these and other runDisney races on the 2017-2018 calendar, visit rundisney.com and click on “Events.”

Disneyland Resort: Four experiences familiar to Walt Disney World guests are part of the latest evolution of the Downtown Disney District at Disneyland Resort. Now open are PANDORA Jewelry (where guests craft their unique story through jewelry), SammY Duvall’s Curl Surf (featuring apparel and accessories from top surf brands) and Sprinkles (home to handcrafted cupcakes and signature cookies). Scheduled to open late this year is Splitsville Luxury Lanes, featuring 20 luxury bowling lanes, a 625-seat restaurant, two full-service bars, live entertainment and a large outdoor patio. Located adjacent to Tortilla Jo’s, this will be the first Splitsville in California.

Walt Disney World Resort: Families will enjoy unparalleled backstage views of majestic African elephants while gaining insights from dedicated animal care experts when the new “Caring for Giants” experience debuts this spring at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park. Available to guests ages 4 or older (note that guests ages 4-17 must be accompanied by a paying adult and that paid Theme Park admission is required for all tour participants), the hour-long tour includes interactions with African cultural representatives who share inspiring stories of Disney’s efforts to preserve wild populations throughout their homeland. Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a 15 percent discount off the price of $30 a person. Call Member Services to book this experience. (Tip: While at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, don’t miss the newest additions to the Maharajah Jungle Trek – lion-tailed macaques. Also known as wanderoo, these playful primates are located in a uniquely designed habitat between the Komodo dragon and bat habitats.)

Disneyland Paris: This spring marks the 25th anniversary of Disneyland Paris (the resort opened as Euro Disney on April 12, 1992), and guests will celebrate the milestone by enjoying new attractions, entertainment experiences and more at the resort’s flagship Park. Beginning March 26, guests will experience Star Tours: The Adventures Continue and Star Wars Hyperspace Mountain (putting a Star Wars twist on the Park’s popular Space Mountain: Mission 2 attraction). The new Disney Stars on Parade will traverse the streets by day, while the new Disney Illuminations nighttime spectacular will light up the night. Add new stage shows ranging from “The Starlit Princess Waltz” to Mickey presents: “Happy Anniversary Disneyland Paris” and enhancements to some of the Park’s most beloved attractions, and you have a sterling celebration of a silver anniversary.

Hong Kong Disneyland: The Walt Disney Company and the Hong Kong Government are evaluating a proposal for a multi-year expansion of Hong Kong Disneyland, which opened its new Iron Man Experience attraction earlier this year. Envisioned to take place from 2018-2023, the proposed expansion plan calls for the development of a new Marvel-themed area, the creation of a new Frozen-themed area, the complete transformation of Sleeping Beauty Castle and the surrounding area (creating a backdrop for a new nighttime spectacular) and the introduction of Moana’s Village Festival (a new daytime stage show and meet-and-greet area) to Adventureland. Disney Files Magazine will share updates as new details materialize.

Shanghai Disney Resort: Work is underway on a new, 11-acre Toy Story Land that will bring three new attractions to Shanghai Disneyland. The new development will further expand the presence of Toy Story characters and experiences at Shanghai Disney Resort, which already features the Buzz Lightyear Planet Rescue attraction (featuring the most advanced Buzz Lightyear targeting system at any Disney Park) and the Toy Story Hotel.

Tokyo Disney Resort: Nemo & Friends SeaRider, a new attraction featuring characters from the Disney•Pixar films Finding Nemo and Finding Dory, is scheduled to open in Port Discovery at Tokyo DisneySea Park on May 12. Guests will board a submersible SeaRider vehicle and shrink to the size of a fish to explore the “big blue world” from the same point of view as Nemo and friends, including Dory, Destiny and Hank. The attraction replaces StormRider, which propelled guests into the eye of the storm from 2001-2016.

Walt Disney World Resort: Major League Baseball’s Atlanta Braves are gearing up for their first regular season at Georgia’s new SunTrust Park with their milestone 20th season of spring training at Walt Disney World Resort. The 2017 spring training camp is the first orchestrated by new Braves Manager Brian Snitker, a 40-year veteran of the Braves organization who took over as interim manager midway through the 2016 season and had the “interim” tag removed after leading the team to a winning record following the All-Star break, including 20 victories in their last 30 games. The Braves will welcome Grapefruit League foes to Champion Stadium at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex for home games on select dates through the end of March, with each game featuring unique entertainment, on-field character cameos and the chance for kids to run the bases after the final out. 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 suites, group tickets, mini-plans and other options, call (407) 939-GAME (4263) or visit espnwwos.com/atlantabraves.
Few films in Hollywood history have earned the kind of pre-release buzz generated by Beauty and the Beast, this spring’s live-action adaptation of the 1991 Disney-animated classic. The May 2016 teaser trailer for this new take on a timeless tale did what few dreamed possible, attracting more views in its first 24 hours online (nearly 92 million) than that of pop-culture phenomenon Star Wars: The Force Awakens (the previous record holder at 88 million). Fans’ excitement grew to beastly proportions from there, propelling the film’s first full trailer to shatter another record months later with more than 127 million online views in its first 24 hours. Early coverage of the film even extended beyond traditional entertainment media, with Architectural Digest writing late last year that “design fans will want to mark their calendar for March 2017.”

To learn more about that design, Disney Files Magazine caught up with Beauty and the Beast Production Designer Sarah Greenwood, known for her standout work on such period pieces as Atonement (2007), the Sherlock Holmes films (2009, 2011) and Anna Karenina (2012).

“All films are period pieces, really,” Greenwood said. “Whether your story is set in the past, present or future, production design begins with taking the audience to a specific time and place – 18th century France in our case.”

With that real time and place defined, Greenwood and her team set out to create a fantasy world that wouldn’t aim to replicate the look of the 1991 film, but rather to visually capture the spirit of the animated classic.

“The goal isn’t to have the audience think, ‘That looks just like the castle in the animated film,’” said Greenwood, who deliberately limited herself to a single viewing of the animated film during her creative process. “Instead, you want the audience to feel that this is, in fact, the Beast’s castle, because every detail faithfully supports the story they know and love.”

“Belle’s bedroom in our film is a great example,” Greenwood explained. “It was once the most beautiful room in the castle but has been neglected since the spell. Understanding that key – the castle being alive – we didn’t cover the neglected bedroom in green vines but instead designed those vines as part of the plaster work, suggesting that the castle itself is becoming overgrown. It’s true in the kitchen as well, where the china has become part of the architecture. You start to get a sense that, if the last rose petal falls, the entire place could implode on itself.”

Helping to bring that story to life is an all-star cast that includes Emma Watson (of Harry Potter fame) as Belle, Dan Stevens (“Downton Abbey”) as the Beast, Luke Evans (of The Hobbit films) as Gaston, Josh Gad (Frozen) as Lefou, Golden Globe nominee Ewan McGregor (Moulin Rouge!) as Lumiere, two-time Oscar nominee Ian McKellen (Gods and Monsters, The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring) as Cogsworth, Oscar winner Kevin Kline (A Fish Called Wanda) as Maurice and two-time Oscar winner Emma Thompson (Howard’s End, Sense and Sensibility) as Mrs. Potts, just to name a few. The film’s soundtrack, meanwhile, features new recordings of the 1991 film’s original songs by Disney Legends Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, along with new songs from Menken and fellow Disney Legend Tim Rice. Directed by Oscar winner Bill Condon (Gods and Monsters) and produced by Mandeville Films’ David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman, Beauty and the Beast opens in U.S. theaters March 17.

“Belle’s bedroom in our film is a great example,” Greenwood explained. “It was once the most beautiful room in the castle but has been neglected since the spell. Understanding that key – the castle being alive – we didn’t cover the neglected bedroom in green vines but instead designed those vines as part of the plaster work, suggesting that the castle itself is becoming overgrown. It’s true in the kitchen as well, where the china has become part of the architecture. You start to get a sense that, if the last rose petal falls, the entire place could implode on itself.”

Asked if she finds herself evaluating a film’s production design when watching as a fan, Greenwood offered an illuminating answer. “If I’m truly enjoying the film, I’m not thinking much about the production design at all,” she said. “While I may focus on design the second or third time I see a film, I only tend to notice it on first viewing if the story doesn’t keep me interested or if something in the design doesn’t appear to fit ... So as proud as I am of the design work in Beauty and the Beast, I actually hope audiences – at least the first time they see it – don’t think much about the design and instead simply get lost in the story.”

A visit with the production designer of Beauty and the Beast
Even more of the best advice I ever heard (or read)

By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

When I first developed “Mickey’s Ten Commandments” in the early 1980’s, I never imagined there would be more than one set of these very special principles. But soon I had to apologize to Moses. He stopped at that incredible 10, but I now have 30 more “commandments” about leadership and “followership.” (The last 10 were called “Part IV – Followership: How to be a great team player and help your leaders succeed.”)

I’m the kind of person that always needs to be “doing something” – even at age 82. I don’t “retire” easily (although it happened “officially” from Disney after 54 years in 2005). I’m finding there are great new opportunities for learning in this kind of freedom. And chances to reflect (and add to) work that you thought was your best thinking, as new doors open through travel, reading, technology breakthroughs and just plain old “experience.”

I was recently asked to present one of my favorite speeches again. It’s called “The Best Advice I Ever Heard.” Disney Files Magazine published (in its winter 2014 and spring 2015 editions) my column that pulled from that speech, sharing the wisdom of 10 great achievers, including, of course, Walt Disney, as well as George Lucas, UCLA basketball coach John Wooden and Don Hewitt (creator of TV’s “60 Minutes”).

So when asked to present my speech again this year, I began rummaging through my notes and, lo and behold, I found a brand new list I wanted to talk about – not a “better” list, but ideas and advice that are just as strong as the original 10. And it includes the advice of only two people – Walt Disney and Coach Wooden – from my original 10.

As a special treat for Disney Files readers, I asked Ryan March if I could introduce Part 2 on these pages, So here, in capsule form (the speech is longer), are the first of those new additions, with others to follow in the summer 2017 issue. I guarantee you a great ride into creative imagination!

“It has to be magic – but it doesn’t have to be seamless.” Michael Eisner, Chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Company (1984-2005)

Michael Eisner and his executive partner, Chief Operating Officer Frank Wells, injected new life into The Walt Disney Company when they became Disney’s top management team in the fall of 1984. The Disney Parks and Resorts, motion pictures and television (with the purchase of ABC) all grew by leaps and bounds. And new ventures – theatre productions and Disney Cruise Line among them – came into being. But it was Eisner’s clarity and focus on storytelling that drove us in creating new Disney Parks and Resorts projects.

In my book, Dream It! Do It! My Half-Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms, I included a number of my favorite Michael Eisner quotes: “This is so large and impractical – that’s what appeals to me” and “I like this because it’s driven by entertainment – and not by office buildings.”

But his best was “[the above quote] about creating magic.” It connected perfectly with another of my favorite quotes from UCLA’s great basketball coach, John Wooden: “Perfection is a byproduct of excellence. But in a Disney Park, everything’s a lobby! You have to treat every design as an important feature, because that’s how our guests experience the magic!”

“Love what you do!” Daniel Jue, Portfolio Creative Executive, Tokyo Disney Resort, Walt Disney Imagineering

At the risk of promoting another of my books, this advice appeared in my second book, One Little Spark! published in 2015 by Disney Editions. Daniel wrote about passion. His full quote: “Love what you do. To me, this is more important than ‘Do what you love.’ Whatever job you can get, no matter how small or simple, have the passion to do it well. I liked this advice so much that I asked Daniel to expand on his thinking in another section of the book. Become the Best, Daniel wrote: “When you do your job with passion, you will excel and you will become the best at what you do. People want to work with people who love what they do. They will want you on their team. They will mentor you. They will give you opportunities. If you take advantage of these opportunities, then someday you may have the luxury to do what you love.”

“All of us is as smart as all of us.” Warren Bennis, Distinguished Professor of Business Administration, University of Southern California

Believe me, it was not easy for this old UCLA 

Bruin to include this quote from a professor at that school across town in Los Angeles. But Professor Bennis makes a good argument that the truth of Noel Coward’s observation that ‘work was more fun than fuss.’”

Please count me in!

“Everything’s a lobby!” Stanley “Mickey” Steinberg, Senior Advisor, The Portman Holdings Companies, Atlanta; former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Walt Disney Imagineering

Mickey Steinberg was my favorite “partner” at Imagineering in the development of the Disney Parks. From a management standpoint, no one was more responsible for the successful launch of Disneyland Paris, the foundation for Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park and the organization of Imagineering’s 140 disciplines into its most efficient working team.

“Coming to Walt Disney Imagineering from the respected and successful John Portman Architectural firm in Atlanta, Ga., Mickey was initially taken aback by the difference between designing a hotel – a Portman specialty – and Disney Park projects. “In the hotel,” he said, “we concentrated on making the lobby the focus of our design. After all, it’s the one-of-a-kind feature in a hotel. But in a Disney Park, everything’s a lobby! You have to treat every design as an important feature, because that’s how our guests experience the magic!”

So you think your little piece of the project – your part in the storytelling – is insignificant? Don’t tell that to Mickey Steinberg!
The Wonderful, natural World of Walt Disney

By Jim Korkis

While Walt Disney may not have been with us to enjoy the first Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival back in 1994, history would suggest he would’ve warmly embraced this spring tradition.

Walt’s love of nature is well documented, reflected in everything from hiscinematic, television and Theme Park creations to the subject matter of numerous books that once again line the shelves of his recently restored Burbank offices (familiar to those who enjoyed exclusive footage of Walt’s office suite during the 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise).

Walt’s love of the planet we all share is evident in many of his writings, including one of my favorites, a piece he penned as part of the foreword for the book Secrets of Life (Simon and Schuster, 1957), saying, “… landscapes of great wonder and beauty lie under our feet and all around us. They are discovered in tunnels in the ground, the flowers, the hollows of trees, fresh-water ponds, seaweed jungles between tides, and even drops of water. Life in these hidden worlds is more startling in reality than anything we can imagine on other planets.”

So as we welcome another spring, celebrate another Earth Day and revel in the colorful pageantry of another Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, I thought it would be fun to to fill up some of Walt’s many connections to the natural world.

Walt’s complicated relationship with gardens: Walt’s wife, Lillian, maintained a personal garden for decades at the home she shared with Walt in the Holmby Hills, where she famously vetoed plans to run his miniature backyard railroad directly through the garden, forcing him to build a tunnel beneath it.

While Walt tried his own hand at gardening, seeing how it proved to be an after-work stress reliever for his older brother Roy, he soon found he simply didn’t have the patience. Walt’s gardening woes even inspired the 1935 short “Mickey’s Garden,” in which Mickey battled (unsuccessfully) with a variety of insects invading his garden.

“I don’t like formal gardens.” Walt later concluded. “I like wild nature. It’s just the wilderness instinct in me, I guess.”

Formal gardens did, however, play a big role in Walt’s Disneyland dream, including a rose garden reflecting Lillian’s love of roses. Today, both Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park showcase a special rose developed in 2001 called the Disneyland Rose. This unique variety of the Floribunda Rose features multi-color blooms ranging from orange to pink and is available to the public at select nurseries.

Another Southern California tribute to Lillian’s love of flowers in general and roses in particular can be found at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, where architect Frank Gehry designed the hall to represent a blooming flower in a garden, saying, “Lillian Disney loved flowers and gardens. I promised I’d build her a garden.”

The venue includes the Lillian Disney Memorial Fountain, designed by Gehry to resemble a rose crafted from 200 shattered vases and 8,000 tiles of Delftware – white-and-blue porcelain from the Netherlands that Lillian loved to collect.

Man is in the forest: Walt’s love of the wild is clearly reflected in the animated classic Bambi (1942), which he made in part to inspire audiences to be good stewards of nature.

“There is always need for vigilance and further education in all public channels, on matters of conservation,” Walt said. “I regard it as a privilege of the American citizen. We are entitled, by common consent, to experience the delights, the beauties and wonders of living creation in the world around us – just as we have asserted a common right to visit woodland, mountain, desert and shore areas in national parks and monuments. We claim these privileges for our children, as well as for the present generations.”

Painter and Disney Legend Tyrus Wong (who recently passed away at the remarkable age of 106) created the film’s impressionist water color backgrounds, emphasizing the ethereal beauty and mystery of the forest by eliminating the busy detail. He created grass with just a few streaks of tints and blended into pink and is available to the public at select nurseries.

Walt’s love of the natural world is now available through leading online booksellers.

A legacy of conservation: Many of the world’s leading animal and conservation organizations bestowed prestigious honors upon Walt Disney, including the American Forestry Association, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and the American Humane Association.

Walt even served as honorary chairman for the National Wildlife Federation, filming Public Service Announcements in 1956, 1957, 1961, 1964 and 1966. Appearing on camera for the 1956 piece, Walt said, “You’ve probably heard people talk about conservation. Well, conservation isn’t just the business of a few people. It’s a matter that concerns all of us. It’s a science whose principles are written in the oldest code in the world, the laws of nature. The natural resources of our vast continent are not inexhaustible. But if we will use our riches wisely, if we will protect our wildlife and preserve our lakes and streams, these things will last us for generations to come.”

Jim Korkis’ newest book Walt’s Words: Quotations of Walt Disney with Sources! is now available through leading online booksellers.
1. Caleb and Lily Belle, part of the Stremcha family of California, Members since 2013, enjoy the 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise in distinctly stylish fashion, with Lily Belle’s custom couture generating considerable buzz aboard the ship.

2. Pete Crisanti of Pennsylvania, Member since 1992, takes a break from winter to warm his soul with Disney Files Magazine.

3. Alice Mattern of Pennsylvania, Member since 2002, helped Disney Vacation Club paint a Finding Nemo mural for a Pennsylvania pediatric hospital at which Alice and granddaughter Emily are volunteers.

4. Preston, part of the Cavalier family of Louisiana, Members since 2010, spends a moment with a fellow space ranger.


7. Ava, part of the Fresolone family of New York, Members since 1997, peacefully (and adorably) naps among friends.

8. Hannah, part of the Liberatore family of California, Members since 2003, passes time in her Alcatraz prison cell by reading some good news from the outside.

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 form is available online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.
THE LAST WORD.

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word.

Ed and Peg Wiora of Illinois, Members since 1995, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a stay at Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort, where they spent their honeymoon four memorable decades earlier. To mark the matrimonial milestone, Ed and Peg recreated one of their favorite honeymoon photos at Cinderella Castle, even going so far as to mimic their vintage outfits. For fashionably embodying the enduring spirit of “vacations you never outgrow,” Disney Files Magazine proudly gives the happy couple this edition’s last word.