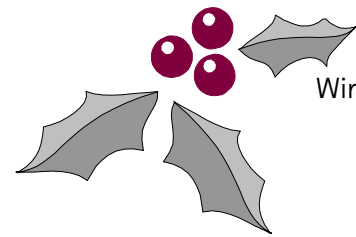
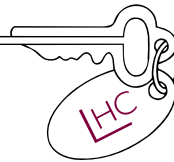


The Innsider

A Newsletter by Linchris Hotel Corporation



Winter 2002

The Newest "American Idol"

Move over, Kelly and Justin. The newest "American Idols" were out in full force at the Radisson Hotel in Williamsport, PA, when Mango's Nightclub hosted "Central PA's Idol." The competition, based on the smash-hit TV show that blends talent, charisma and charm, began on October 8 and took place every Tuesday evening, until the finals on November 5. The promotion was co-sponsored by Clear Channel Communications, which aired commercials on its three radio stations, and Datman Entertainment, which supplied all the lights and sound equipment for the contest.



Gaining R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: Joe Harper from Clear Channel Communications holds Brenda Lukasiewicz's hand on high. Brenda was named the winner of "Central PA's Idol" at the Radisson Hotel, Williamsport, PA.

Hopefuls were screened through qualifying rounds on Clear Channel's radio stations. Those who passed the on-air challenge then had to test their pipes (and presence) in front of a panel of three highly selective judges with extensive musical backgrounds. These auditions whittled the group down to 12 very talented contestants every week.

The variety of extraordinary talent at "Central PA's Idol" drew standing-room only crowds during the final weeks of the competition. Attendees paid a \$1 cover charge that was donated to the Williamsport Chamber Choir. The event was a huge success and raised more than \$1,000 for this worthy charity.

The lucky winner, Brenda Lukasiewicz, belted out a show-stopping rendition of the Aretha Franklin classic, R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Brenda received a \$500 cash prize, a two-hour recording session at a local studio, her record played on all three supporting radio stations and a trophy to call her own. Now that's an all-American success story!

Second Year of Excellence

The Holiday Inn, Weirton, WV, is a proud recipient of Six Continents Hotels' prestigious Quality Excellence Award for the second year in a row. The hotel received this honor during a luncheon held at the annual Global Investors Conference. The event was held November 17-19 at the San Diego Convention Center, located on the waterfront in sunny CA. This year's conference also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Holiday Inn brand.

The Quality Excellence Award recognizes individual properties for their hard work, constant dedication and pursuit of excellence that are the benchmarks of superior service. Congratulations to the Holiday Inn, Weirton, WV for earning this outstanding achievement once again!



The Holiday Inn, Weirton, WV, has earned Six Continents Hotels' Quality Excellence Award two years in a row. General Manager Joanne Matthews (seated, left) and members of her staff display this year's award.

A Message from Chris

As we pause to look back on 2002, Linchris Hotel Corporation has a lot to celebrate. The last two years have been substantially difficult ones for the hospitality industry, with all sectors experiencing sharp declines in performance. The figures are even more dramatic when contrasted with the record prosperity enjoyed before 2001.



CEO, Chris Gistis

Linchris however, has persevered through these tough times. I am proud to say that we continue to outperform our competitors in all markets. Our impressive achievements are due to a winning philosophy that combines total commitment to serving the needs of our guests and appreciation for our hardworking, dedicated staff.

I can't think of a better time to reflect on the talented people that allow Linchris to succeed and grow despite economic obstacles. On behalf of Linchris Hotel Corporation, I wish all of our employees, colleagues and friends a wonderful holiday season and bountiful health and happiness in 2003.

Seeing Stars

A flurry of famous TV personalities recently stayed at the Best Western Inn & Suites, Rutland, VT. Michelle Green (LA Law), Joe Stone (Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman) and Bruce Boxleitner (Scarecrow & Mrs. King and Babylon 5) were all in town while shooting the movie "The Flood."

Linchris has a "Baby Boom"



Linchris has been experiencing a phenomenal "baby boom" in recent months! Kyle Rodenhiser was born on July 15 to John Rodenhiser and his wife, Elise, Manager at the Parkview Inn, Norwell, MA. The Holiday Inn, Salem, NH, saw double when Front Office Manager Suki Marlow gave birth to Mya Ola Grace Marlow-King on August 13 and Guest Service Agent Mary Flight



Elise and John Rodenhiser with Kyle

gave birth to Sierra Jean Flight on October 1 – both were first-borns! John Michael Polito was born on October 14 to Maryann



Maryann Polito with John Michael

Polito, Administrative Assistant for Linchris Hotel Corporation. Two days later, Tracy Berry, Front Desk Clerk at the Comfort Inn & Suites, St. Johnsbury, VT, gave birth to her first child, Cameron Freeman Berry, on October 16. Eric Bailey, Chief Engineer at the Holiday Inn, Concord, NH, and his wife, Jennifer, became the proud parents of Madison Elizabeth Bailey on October 25. The trend continued when Michael French was born on November 7 to Melissa French, Front Desk Clerk at Four Points, Eastham, MA. Congratulations to all our new parents!

Stony Brook property joins Linchris Family

On August 28, Linchris Hotel Corporation's portfolio of managed properties grew to 23 with the addition of the Holiday Inn Express, Stony Brook, NY. Located just off the Long Island Expressway, the Stony Brook property features all of the amenities of the area's finest hotels, including free shuttle service, deluxe continental breakfast and a pool and fitness center. "The Holiday Inn Express in Stony Brook has been designed to allow our guests all the comforts of home," Linchris Vice President Rob McCarthy said, adding, "All rooms are outfitted with elegant, home-style furnishings and a state-of-the-art energy system." The hotel is centrally located within easy driving distance of the Hamptons, SUNY Stony Brook and MacArthur Airport, making it an ideal destination for both business and leisure travelers.

For more information, visit the hotel's web site at www.stonybrookny.hiexpress.com. Linchris extends a warm welcome to all employees and managers at the Holiday Inn Express in Stony Brook.



The Travelodge, Augusta, ME got into the spirit of the season by taking part in a Thanksgiving food drive for the Salvation Army. Sleepy Bear delivered boxes of canned goods to the National Guard, where he scored some on-air time with local radio personality Genny Judge (left).

Promotions

• *Sean Wilson* was recently promoted to Front Office Manager at the **Holiday Inn Express, Rockland, MA.**



Sean Wilson

• *Tom Rock* is the new Chief Engineer and *Leslie Valente* has been appointed full-time Auditor at **Best Western Inn & Suites, Rutland, VT.**

• *Maxine Bowler* was recently promoted to Assistant Executive Housekeeper at the **Travelodge, Augusta, ME.**

• *Sammy DaSilva* is now Chief Engineer at the **Holiday Inn, Falmouth, MA.**

Scoring a Slam "Dunk"

The **Comfort Inn, Concord, NH,** helped raise funds for the restoration of downtown Concord on September 10 when the property hosted a "Dunk for Dollars" that drew a crowd of 250 people. Participants were able to get into the "swing" of things while giving local dignitaries an untimely dip in a dunk tank. Among those taking their place on the hot seat for a good cause were Comfort Inn Owner Steve Duprey and Chamber of Commerce President Tim Sink. "Dunk for Dollars" was successful in raising money for the community and made a fantastic late-summer "splash!"



Comfort Inn, Concord, NH owner Steve Duprey takes an impromptu dip at "Dunk for Dollars"

Halloween Happenings

Linchris properties enjoyed some frightfully good fun on Halloween this year. The **Best Western Inn & Suites, Rutland, VT,** hosted its second annual Employee Halloween Party, where 50 guests enjoyed a potluck supper. Afterward, a variety of spooky festivities ensued, including karaoke, dancing and prizes for best costume.



Management of the **Holiday Inn Express, Poughkeepsie, NY,** treated their employees to a Halloween luncheon in appreciation for scoring an outstanding 95.24% for overall satisfaction, according to Holiday Inn's Guest Service Tracking System (GSTS). Staff earned high scores for service at check-in, responsiveness to guests' needs, staff friendliness and professional attitude. Later that night, the hotel threw a Halloween party enjoyed by many of its guests.



Holiday Inn Express, Poughkeepsie, NY sales manager Karen Napolitano (right) stands with a guest during a Halloween party at the hotel.



BOO-tification project: The staff of the Best Western Inn & Suites, Rutland, VT, transformed one of the buildings on their property into the haunted headquarters for their Halloween party.

Great Pumpkins

If you've ever wondered where to find one of the biggest and most creative "pumpkin patches" in the world, Keene, NH, is your best bet.

This year, the city hosted its annual "Keene Pumpkin Festival," on October 27.

The event drew 45,000 visitors and featured an astounding 18,882 jack-o'-lanterns. Guests staying at the **Holiday Inn Express in Keene** were

able to sample a classic New England weekend in the fall as Main Street came alive with color, music and delicious food – even a pie-eating contest! Hats off to the **Holiday Inn Express in Keene** and the festival that has taken its place in the Guinness Book of World Records for pumpkin carving!



Maggie O'Brien, daughter of Front Desk Clerk Lanie O'Brien, poses as the "Great Pumpkin" in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express, Keene, NH.



The winning team of Dianne Hammond and "As Good as it Gets"

Horsing Around

The Holiday Inn Express, Rockland, MA, has garnered its share of community and industry accolades, but recently a member of its staff showed some of her own winning ways. Executive Housekeeper and accomplished equestrian, Dianne Hammond took home the Reserve Champion of the Year Award at Briggs Stables in Hanover, MA, this fall. She and her horse, "As Good as it Gets," walked, trotted and cantered their way to receive the title. Congratulations Dianne!



The Holiday Inn, Falmouth, MA hosted the first annual Falmouth Chamber of Commerce Health Fair, titled "A Healthy Mind, Spirit and Soul." More than 35 exhibitors offering services from estate planning to long term health care options participated in the day's events.

GM Thanks



Dorina Weston

Dorina Weston of the Holiday Inn Express, Keene, NH, recently completed 10 years of service in the housekeeping department.

Emily Gasper, Front Desk Clerk at the Holiday Inn, Concord, NH, participated in the Buddy Walk for the Northern New England Chapter of the National Downs Syndrome Society on October 12. She raised \$268 for the organization!



Inge Seidl

Inge Seidl was employed at Best Western Inn & Suites, Rutland, VT for 19 years before retiring. Now, the former housekeeper and breakfast hostess shows her commitment by returning to help out in the breakfast area twice a week!

New on Board

• David Correll has joined the Red Roof Inn, Rutland, VT, as *General Manager*.



David Correll

• Todd McCoy is the new *Executive Chef* at the Radisson Hotel, Williamsport, PA.



Todd McCoy

• Natalie Bernado is the new *Assistant Director of Food and Beverages* at the Holiday Inn, Falmouth, MA.



History in the Making: The Hilton Garden Inn continues to undergo construction in the town of Islip, Long Island. This will be the first property to be both developed and managed by Linchris Hotel Corporation. The property's Grand Opening is scheduled for Spring 2003. Watch for all the details of its debut in future editions of *The Insider!*



Nick Pancoast (far left), General Manager at the Holiday Inn, Concord, NH, stands with a group of fellow intrepid explorers who recently conquered Mt. Washington. Nick scaled the popular peak in honor of his 40th birthday. Way to go!

The Linchris Insider is a publication of

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