INTERNATIONAL

Jun - Sep 2026

BLACK TIE CLUB

Celebrating the classic gentleman with fine food, superb wine, and fantastic fellowship

SUMMER *in Style*

CHECK OUT ALL THE LOCAL HAPPENINGS

DESTINATIONS FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELER

Key West Adventure 2026
New England Fall Foliage 2028



Black Tie Club International

Vol. 32, No. 4: Jun - Sep 2026

Visit us online at
blacktieclubinternational.org
Or scan QR code

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Founding Editor: Bob Gregson, RIP

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Atlanta, Dallas,
Ft. Lauderdale, Laguna Beach,
Los Angeles, New Mexico,
New Orleans / Gulf Coast
Palm Beach, Palm Springs,
Phoenix / Scottsdale,
Rehoboth Beach / Lewes,
Rochester / Finger Lakes, San Diego,
San Francisco, Toronto,
Washington, DC

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Int'l President Emeritus Len Olds
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Magazine Submissions Deadlines

Covering Oct-Dec 2026: 15 Dec 2026
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Covering Jan - May 2027: 15 May 2027

Cover Image
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Dougan, International President

Happy Autumn to my Black Tie brothers!

This is the Magazine covering May through September. There have been so many chapter events this summer. I will keep my comments short so you can get right into the photo and narrative of each chapter. This is a 44-page masterpiece. Let's celebrate the achievements of our chapters whose dinners and other activities fell during this period.

International Magazine Past Issues can be found easily on our website: blacktieclubinternational.org/magazine. It is easy to click on the current issue as well as past issues.

Convergence Magazine Issue: If you have not yet viewed the Convergence Issue covering the Rehoboth Beach / Lewes Chapter's sponsoring of their 'Coastal Convergence," take a moment to peruse that issue. It captures the implementation of a special Convergence.

Additionally, here is the current news that I'd especially like you to know:

- **Key West Adventure is still open:** Join us for our 2026 **Special Travel Series** event to Key West, November 18-22. the week before Thanksgiving. Detailed description of this multi-venue event is on page 42-44. This production includes everything from pool time to tasting local treats, crowd watching and sunset gazing. Thanks in advance to local host **Mr. Bob Major**, one of our very generous members who has provided venues for other BTCI events in Puerto Vallarta, San Francisco, Luxembourg, Paris, and now Key West. Our Key West Adventure is limited to 60 participants and we are approaching that. Thanks to our own **Mr. Patrick Rylee** (SF Chapter) for producing this Special Travel Series event. Additional information may be found on our website: blacktieclubinternational.org/travel.
- **2027 "Convergence on the High Seas,"** sponsored by the Palm Beach chapter, will be April 5-9 aboard the Celebrity Reflection ship. Just added is a pre-cruise gathering in Fort Lauderdale with Happy Hour at the Tropics Grille in Wilton Manors for those arriving the day before the cruise. Check out the flyer on page 40 or check the website blacktieclubinternational.org/convergence for registration details. Cruise ship rooms are limited, so please don't delay. Remember that Convergence is our club's annual **SIGNATURE EVENT**, and the world revolves around us Converging on each other for this annual gathering.
- **No New Years Eve Plans?** Check out our newest chapter in New Orleans, Louisiana, as they pull off another "first." They hope to start an annual trend for a New Years Eve celebration in the Big Easy. For more information, check the calendar at blacktieclubinternational.org/calendar.
- **Announcing 2028 "Special Travel Series" Fall Foliage / Canadian Maritime Provinces** cruise on the Oceania Vista September 2028. Watch for details in this magazine and in the near future. Cruises book up a year in advance, so we deferred our original idea for this trip from 2027 to 2028 to allow for better planning.

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

- **Annual Dues and Membership Recruitment: October 1** kicks off the dues renewal season for the 2027 Program year. Your chapter Presidents will be reaching out for you with Renewal Application forms and statements of the combined International and Chapter Dues. Please respond promptly when billed. We appreciate your loyalty and membership keeping the Black Tie spirit active and vital to our social activities. All Dues must be paid by Dec15 th to remain a member in good standing for 2027.
- **Oversize Postcard** went out at the end of September. Watch for this item in your mail delivery. It is published 2-3 times a year IN PRINT to remind you of essential Black Tie Club International information and upcoming events, to remind you to click on the magazine, and to register for upcoming events. Of special note is the listing of upcoming chapter events to add to your calendar. This information is also in this issue on page 38.
- **In Memoriam** Our thoughts are with all these fine gentlemen and their surviving spouses. Please keep these chapters in your thoughts for your upcoming travels and inter-chapter visits.
- **REMINDER NOTICE: Black Tie Club International is an a-political organization. We do not tolerate polarizing discussions of politics or religion, and we also do not allow marketing and soliciting of business from each other. We are a social dining club "celebrating the classic gentleman with fine food, superb wine and fantastic fellowship." We know that you appreciate these rules and will respect them.**

In Fellowship,



International President
btciprez@gmail.com



For more information, see pages 42 - 44 or blacktieclubinternational.org/travel.


Black Tie Club
INTERNATIONAL
CONVERGENCE
ON THE
HIGH SEAS
Friends. Adventures. Unforgettable Moments.
Space is Limited, sign up now!
For more information, see page 40
APRIL 5 – 9, 2027
CELEBRITY REFLECTION
FORT LAUDERDALE | KEY WEST | AT SEA | NASSAU
Come Aboard!

TRIP

Travel Recognition Incentive Program
(BTCI-TRIP)
Update

Submitted by Chris Hester (Atlanta)
TRIP Ambassador

In case you haven't heard yet, we launched an exciting new program during the Rehoboth Beach/Lewes 2026 Convergence to recognize and reward BTCI members that travel to other chapters to participate in their formal dinners and casual social events. There are two levels of achievement in the program as follows:

Level 1: Globetrotter: Attended an event in 8 of the 16 active chapters. At least 5 visits need to be a Formal Dinner or Convergence.

Level 2: Jet-Setter: Attended an event in all 16 active chapters. At least 10 visits need to be a Formal Dinner or Convergence.

We will formally induct new members each year during the Convergences but will add new members to the roster and the website gallery all throughout the year. So, be sure to fill out your application and get it submitted to BTCI.TRIP@gmail.com so that you will be on the list. More information and application forms are available on the BTCI website: blacktieclubinternational.org/trip.

Once you are a BTCI-TRIP member, you should be on the lookout for special perks and recognitions from BTCI such as: Recognition at annual Convergences, enamel lapel pin for your level (Globetrotter or Jet-Setter), special cocktail parties at Convergences, recognition in the newsletters and on the website, and discounts on Convergences registrations.

As of now, we have one Jet-Setter, our distinguished President Gary Dougan, and nine Globetrotters: Russell Buescher and Gordon Markley from Dallas; Norm Ditto, Steve Weiner, Bob Herman, and Dan Joraanstad from San Francisco; Jack Varga from D.C., Chris Hester from Atlanta, and Peter Tsang from Toronto. Special shout out to Jack Varga for being the first to submit his application and be approved!!

Our first class will be inducted during the Convergence on the High Seas in April 2027 and you want to make sure that you are in the inaugural class!! We will also hold a special cocktail party for TRIP members during the cruise, and you won't want to miss out. So get your applications submitted today.



Gary Dougan | Russell Buescher | Norm Ditto | Bob Herman | Chris Hester | Gordon Markley | Dan Joraanstad | Peter Tsang | Jack Varga | Steve Weiner

ATLANTA

Submitted by Paul Donahue
Chapter Co-President

The Atlanta BTC chapter enjoyed a festive afternoon by the pool followed by a wonderful cookout at the home of BTCI member Chris Hester and his husband Charles Warren on Sunday, August 23rd. The weather was perfect and the pool was refreshing. We had 25 BTCI members in attendance along with 12 guests and potential new members.

After several hours of swimming and socializing along with drinks and appetizers, a full cookout was served including all of the standards such as burgers, hot dogs, brats, and grilled chicken along with the usual accompaniments. This was followed by several flavors of pound cake and fresh fruit for dessert.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, food, and drinks. It was the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Atlanta.



Host: Chris Hester



George Thompson, Bob Herbert



Gerard Lozano, Newton Galloway, Chris Hester, Greg Barnard, Ed (Guest)









Clockwise from Left: Bob Herbert, John Heath, Gerard Lozano, Paul Donahue

Don (Guest), Jack (Guest), Chuck Rice, Robert Wayne, Alfredo Lagamon, Ken Anderson, John Heath, Joseph Stabile

Robert Wayne, Alan Akin, Eric Wallens

Ken Anderson, Michael Dunkelberger, Hal Brown



Steve Parker, Ed (Guest), Greg Simms, Doug Quarterman, George Thompson

LAGUNA BEACH

Submitted by Len Olds
Chapter President

On June 14, members of the Black Tie Club of Laguna Beach gathered at the Wind & Sea Restaurant in Dana Point Marina for a festive evening of camaraderie and fine dining against the backdrop of a beautiful Southern California evening. Seated at a table overlooking the boats and the marina, we all enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a terrific dinner of different seafoods.

That night, Interim President Len Olds discussed the founding of the chapter, the six original members still active after 32 years, gave a memorial speech about the passing of Trent Hofferber and our late President, Alan Miller, and displayed the 20 year old memorial plaque crafted to celebrate our first 20 years as an organized group.

Helping give a great ambience was the support of the staff, all beautiful young women and men.

Len Olds announced that a survey of the membership would go out soon on a number of Black Tie related items and spoke about the formal Black Tie dinner to take place in September 2026 as well the upcoming Key West Adventure.

As the glow of sunset came, many stayed to enjoy a long dessert and after dinner drinks. A good time was had by all.



Bob Coons, Doug Kirk, Len Olds, Hugh Rouse, August Lobato, Kamal Al-Faqui, Andreas Frank, Mark Gillis, Jim Brophy, Rick Jackson, Kim Johnson, Claus Dieckell



Kevin Le, Mark Guillod



Jim Brophy, Rick Jackson



Bob Coons, Doug Kirk



Kim Johnson, Claus Dieckell

LAGUNA BEACH



Len Olds (Interim President), Bill Clifford (new President)





Submitted by Len Olds
Chapter President

On Sunday, September 13th, Black Tie Club Laguna Beach returned to the Five Crowns Restaurant in Newport Beach where they had their first dinner 32 years ago. It was a wonderful celebration of our history together and six original members were saluted. They were: Len Olds, Hugh Rouse, Dr. David Diaz, Michael Peckham-Diaz, Jim Brophy and Bob Coons. Past members who had been part of our dinners and parties were also mentioned and honored.

Nineteen Black Tie members joined us at 6:00 PM where they started the evening with cocktails, wine and varied hors d'oeuvres. Len Olds, Interim President, spoke about the history of our chapter which began in 1994 and told of the many special events that had occurred over the years. That night, Len also introduced our new President, Bill Clifford, who greeted everyone enthusiastically. He was welcomed by all.

After our elegant dinner was finishing, Gary Dougan, International President, spoke about current events, international travel, and plans for our newest Convergences. He also congratulated Bill Clifford on his new position as President.

It was a gracious night of delicious food and a celebration of the years to come.



Rick Jackson, Dr. David Diaz, Michael Peckham-Diaz, Hans Ewert, Mark Guillod



Hugh Rouse, Len Olds, Bill Clifford, Gary Dougan, Charlie Priest



Len Olds, Bill Clifford, Gary Dougan



August Lobato, Gabe Koh, Doug Kirk, Steve Gale, Jim Brophy, Kim Johnson, Bob Coons

LOS ANGELES

Submitted by Greg Vaccaro
BTCI International Magazine Editor

On a sultry Saturday afternoon, members of the Los Angeles Black Tie Club gathered for an evening of Spanish flavors, fine wines, and warm camaraderie at “El Bufé Español.” Hosted by Jan Donsbach, Jordan Budd, and Sam Warner at Jan and Sam’s Long Beach Park Estates home, the evening offered guests a festive taste of Spain in a beautiful and intimate setting.

The festivities began with a full cocktail bar and passed tapas, followed by the evening’s centerpiece—a delicious Toledo-style paella, prepared from scratch by Jan, who expertly manned the grill. A traditional Spanish almond cake provided the perfect sweet ending to the meal.

Throughout the evening, guests mingled and relaxed on the patio, surrounded by Jan and Sam’s lush garden and inviting swimming pool. With wonderful food, flowing wine, and great company, El Bufé Español was a memorable evening enjoyed by all.

Kudos—and a heartfelt thank-you—to Jan, Jordan, and Sam for their generous hospitality and for creating such a delightful Spanish-inspired evening!





Hector Garza, Chris Moen, John Fabion, Warner Thomas, Gary Dougan, Greg Vaccaro



A hunky tapas server and a charming bartender added a little extra spice to the festivities.



Jan Donsbach slaving over the paella.

Mark B. going in for a paella serving.



Gary Dougan, Charlie Priest, David Wagner in the background





Bruce Scher, Jordan Budd, Hector Garza



John Fabion, Warner Thomas, Danny Bozarth



Greg Vaccaro, Co-Presidents David Warner and Christopher Thomas

Chris Moen, Kevin Kuettel



NEW MEXICO



Jack Cox, Jere Kelly,
Paul Oostenbrug



Bruce Henrichs,
Mark Williams, James Alley



Tom DiNapoli, Tom Hall



Don Collins,
Guy Christopher-DeLyne

Submitted by Stephay Farley
Chapter Administrator

The gentlemen of Black Tie Club New Mexico gathered together in July and August for informal events in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, respectively.

Our July 19 informal drop-in at San Francisco Bar & Grill in Santa Fe saw familiar faces from both Albuquerque and Santa Fe gathered together, along with thirteen guests who added so much to the afternoon. The occasion gave us much to celebrate. We had the pleasure of honoring founding member Bob O'Neal on his birthday — a milestone that felt especially fitting surrounded by the friends and gentlemen who make this chapter what it is. And of course, the timing couldn't have been better: we had a front-row seat to the World Cup Finals, which made for an afternoon of great excitement and camaraderie. We had so much fun we forgot to take pictures!

Our August 16 informal drop-in at VERS in Albuquerque was a real treat. VERS is the city's newest gay bar, and we had a private room for Sing-Along-Sundays hosted by Vanessa Patricks. Familiar faces and fun were the order of the day, and we even got some pictures!

Black Tie Club New Mexico will hold monthly, informal drop-ins on the third Sunday of every month (schedule permitting), alternating between Santa Fe and Albuquerque. September's event in Santa Fe will be held at Tesuque Casino on September 20, and we will return to VERS in Albuquerque on October 18. You can find out more about both events and register here: https://blacktienm.com/events. We hope to see you sometime soon!

NEW ORLEANS GULF COAST



Tony L., Cary O.

Submitted by Cary Oswald
Chapter President

June was Pride in New Orleans. BTC NO GFCST hosted a booth at Pridefest and met many members of our community as we wanted to continue to promote the club and share the benefits of joining with the larger New Orleans community. Attendance was great and many prospective members picked up "shwag" and our business cards and signed up for our "friends of the club" email listing.

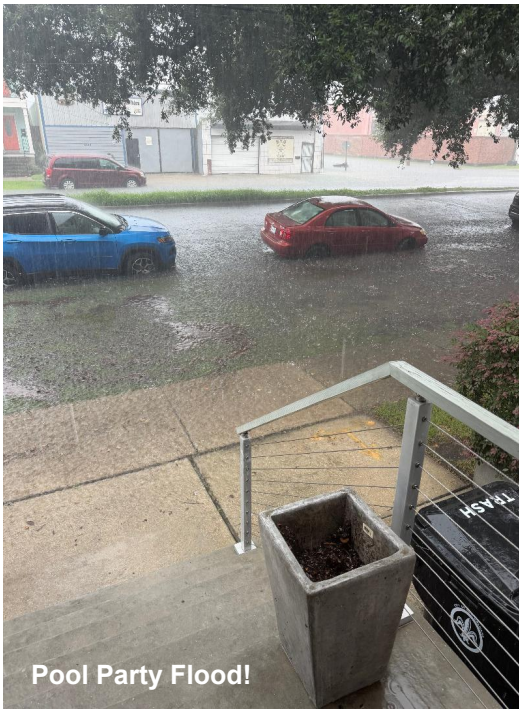


Trent B., Cary O.

July in New Orleans is HOT and Steamy! So, we had a pool party hosted by our fabulous member, Edward Moreno, at his lovely townhouse in Mid-City New Orleans. Well, it rained and rained so much so there was a flash flood and you can see in one of the pictures how high the water is relative to parked cars. In fact, our lovely bartender, Jerek, had his car partially flood. Thankfully, Edward had a shop vacuum, which made quick work of the water in the car. The rain did part for about 45 minutes enabling members and guest to get into the pool.







Pool Party Flood!



R. J., Jerek



David T., Steve K.



Brock A., Art L., Trent B., Tony L.



July was the annual Gay Appreciation Awards presented by Ambush Magazine and three of our members came away with awards. Trent Bender was awarded with Hair Salon of the Year, and Edward Moreno was named Gay Man of the Year! Finally but not last, Tony Leggio, our board member, was named Gay Reporter of the Year! Congratulations to all these men and well deserved. Editor note, I have to confess I was VERY disappointed I was not nominated nor did I receive the "Bitch of the Year Award"! However, there is next year and I'm trying to be a real BITCH for that award. I mean if you don't strive to achieve how are you going to advance!



Art L., Alan H.



Mike M., Darwin R.

HONORING THE BEST IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

SOUTHERN DECADENCE

NEW ORLEANS

Labor Day in New Orleans can only mean one thing: Southern Decadence!



Isaac K.



Alan H.



Cary O.

PALM BEACH

Submitted by Charles Contessa
Chapter President

On May 31st, the Palm Beach Chapter gathered at Pistache in West Palm Beach for a delightful evening of food, friendship, and camaraderie. The evening began with cocktails and conversation in the bar before we enjoyed a delicious three-course dinner featuring French-inspired cuisine. It was a relaxed and memorable evening shared with good friends and fellow Black Tie members.



Ben Small, John Klingel, Juan Rosado



Daryl Evans, Jimmy McNeill, Murray Stegelman, George Ryan, Front - Mark Goldstein



Bill Thon, Marc Glasberg, Rodrigo Gutierrez



Chris Kron, Ben Small, John Klingel



Dave Kurland, Jordan Liang, Peter Rogers, Sid Lesowitz



George Ryan, Harris Freedman, Daryl Evans



Mitchell Gluck, Michael Bocchiocchi



Mark Goldstein, Henry Spence, Michael Judd, Mike Ricca, Harris Freedman



Scott Powell, Charles Contessa, Guy Klein



Mike Ricca, Bill Thon, Henry Spence

PALM BEACH



Bill Thon, Henry Spence, Mike Ricca, Colin Stanley



Dave Kurland, Bill Thon, Colin Stanley, Jude Plum



Harris Freedman, Rodrigo Gutierrez,
Michael Bacchiocchi, Andy Langus

Submitted by Charles Contessa
Chapter President

The Palm Beach Chapter gathered at The Hive Bakery & Café in West Palm Beach for a relaxed and enjoyable evening of good food, friendship, and camaraderie. Members and guests enjoyed the café's welcoming atmosphere and delicious fare while catching up with old friends and making new ones. It was another wonderful evening celebrating the spirit of Black Tie.



John Betz, Rich Katzenberg



Darrin Evans, Kurt Crowl, Charles Contessa



Jude Plum, Harris Freedman, John Fariello, Dave Kurland, Danny Cook



Collin Stanley, William Feldkamp



Rodrigo Gutierrez, Marck Goldstein, Ron Carsell, Miguel Navarone, Mitchell Gluck



Peter Rogers, Sid Lesowitz, Ron Carsell



Ron Carsell, Javier Weicman, Mike Ricca

PALM BEACH

Submitted by Charles Contessa
Chapter President

The Palm Beach Chapter enjoyed a memorable Italian evening at Paradiso Ristorante in Lake Worth, graciously hosted by Dave Kurland and Harris Freedman. The evening began with cocktails and a tempting selection of Italian appetizers in the bar before guests were seated for a delicious Italian-inspired dinner. The excellent food, lively conversation, and warm hospitality made for a wonderful evening of friendship and camaraderie. Special thanks to Dave and Harris for hosting and creating such an enjoyable Black Tie Club evening.



Greg Tallo, Jimmy MeNeill, Javier Weicman



Danny Cook, Dennis Perry, John Betz



Hosts:
Harris Freedman,
Dave Kurland



Daryl Evans, Marc Glasberg,
Harris Freedman



Fred Zrinscak, Ben Small



Mark Goldstein, Harris Freedman, Jimmy McNeill



Michael Bacchiocchi, Dave Kurland, David McPherson



Gabriel Gamayel, Charles Contessa, Danny Cook



Sid Lesowitz,
Bill Thon,
Tony Jaggi

Christopher Canales,
Rich Katzenberg,
Ben Small





Rodrigo Gutierrez,
Mark Goldstein,
Dennis Perry

PALM SPRINGS

Submitted by John Lambert
Chapter Co-Secretary

On Monday evening, September 21, the Black Tie Club of Palm Springs gathered for a casual dinner at Desert Moon. The evening began with classic and creative cocktails in the lounge before members moved to the dining room for a delicious three-course meal with wine.

Our hosts at Desert Moon made everyone feel welcome and treated us to California fusion cuisine with bold flavors. Members enjoyed a choice of Scottish salmon, prime short rib, or osso buco.

It was a wonderful chance to reconnect as Palm Springs leaves the dog days of summer behind and looks ahead to a lively fall and winter season. Special thanks to board members Al Castrucci, Gerry McEvoy, John Lambert, Travis Canepa, Aaron Butcher, and Bobby Dent. We look forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Formal in November!



Gary Dougan, Al Castrucci



Fabrizio Settimo, Aaron Butcher



Travis Canepa, John Lambert



Gary Waddell



Tim Shay, Stephan Pahlavi-Zhan



Eddie Jimenez, Richard Nielsen



Richard Nielsen, Bruce Frasier, Richard Harris





Deni Sebie, Richard Griswold

Gary Brazzi, Les Adelson, Clinton Powell, Scott Holton, Bill Coughlin



Lee Moore, Jonathan Rothschild



David Waterman, James Overturf



Tim Shay, Aaron Butcher, Armand Rouleau,
Matthew Bartholomew, Randy Zeese, Thomas Brown



PHOENIX SCOTTSDALE





Submitted by Eric Fox
Chapter President

The Phoenix / Scottsdale Black Tie Chapter started off the Summer with a June informal Pool Party. Lou hosted the pool party at his home in Sun City. A small but mighty group of four Black Tie members attended this picnic style potluck with the host providing pasta salad, meatballs, and bruschetta. (No photos of this event were taken).

The Phoenix / Scottsdale BTCI Chapter July Informal was hosted by Francis who hosted a Mexican Fiesta at his home in Phoenix on the golf course with beautiful views of Camelback Mountain. Approximately 25 members enjoyed gazpacho, enchiladas, churros, and wine provided by the host, and everyone brought a dish to share. There was no shortage of food or wine! A very enjoyable time was had by all!








Green
Spicy!



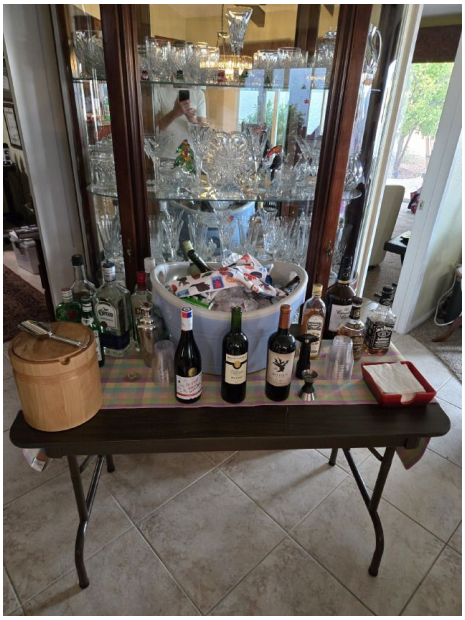


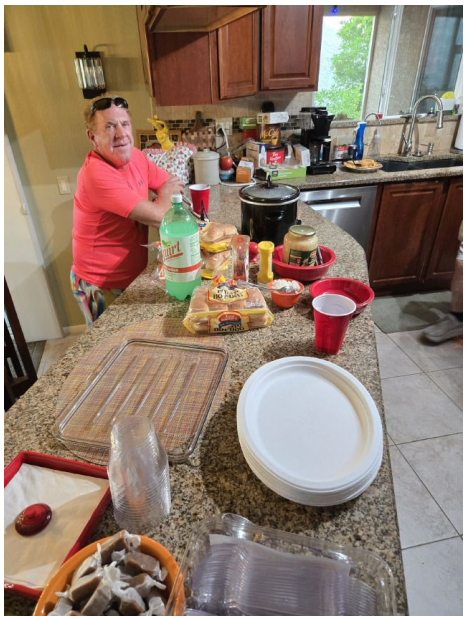




PHOENIX SCOTTSDALE









Submitted by Eric Fox
Chapter President

On August 8, Brad and Aaron hosted a pool party at their home in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Approximately 20 Phoenix / Scottsdale Black Tie members attended and brought appetizers, side dishes, and desserts to share. The hosts grilled bratwurst and sauerkraut and provided a fully stocked bar. Throughout the evening, the guests enjoyed the pool which was a refreshing respite to the 100-degree summer heat.





SAN FRANCISCO

Submitted by Rich Martini
Chapter President

Members of the San Francisco Black Tie Club (SFBTC) along with BTCI President Gary Dougan and first gentleman, Charlie Priest, recently traveled to the beautiful Sierra for a memorable long weekend at the Bear Valley Music Festival, hosted by SFBTC Co-Presidents Markham Miller and Rich Martini.

The festivities began with a warm welcome and arrival lunch at Markham and Rich's Arnold, California home, setting the stage for four wonderful days filled with music, friendship, and the natural beauty of the High Sierra.

Music was, of course, the centerpiece of the weekend. Club members enjoyed an exciting and diverse lineup of performances, including Ticket to the Moon: An ELO Tribute, Copland, Williams and Bernstein: An America250 Celebration, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, and An Afternoon of Broadway with Norm Lewis, Broadway star of Phantom, Les Mis and Porgy and Bess."

Beyond the concerts in the big white tent, members had the opportunity to explore some of the region's many attractions. The weekend included a reception and meet and greet with Norm Lewis, wine tasting and lunch in the nearby historic Gold Rush town of Murphys, scenic hikes through the Sierra, and a visit to Calaveras Big Trees State Park, home to magnificent groves of giant sequoias.

The Bear Valley Music Festival holds special significance for the weekend's hosts. Both Rich and Markham serve on the Festival's Board of Directors, with Rich currently serving as Board President. This year, the festival celebrated 58 years of bringing outstanding musical performances to the spectacular setting of the High Sierra.

The combination of exceptional music, beautiful surroundings, outdoor adventures, and wonderful company made for a very special Black Tie Club getaway. Markham and Rich were honored to share the magic of the Bear Valley Music Festival with fellow club members and friends.



Mastro Alexander Mickelthwate and the Bear Valley Orchestra



Norm Lewis



Mastro Alexander Mickelthwate



BEAR VALLEY
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ALEXANDER MICKELTHWATE • MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Top row: Rich Walker, Charlie Priest, John Walker, Stephen Geisheker, Graham Bell, Norm Dito, Gary Dougan
Fourth row: Brad Chilcoat, Bill Gregory, Bonnie Walker, Michelle Carrier, Peter Drake
Third row: Elie Abi-Jaoude, Terry Meyerson, David Retz, Jim Tom
Second row – Jared Drake, Phil Tecau, Johnny Moallempour
Front row – Markham Miller, Norm Lewis, Rich Martini



Markham Miller, Rich Martini, Norm Lewis,
Jared Drake, Peter Drake



Mastro Alexander Mickelthwate and
the Bear Valley Orchestra



Bill Gregory, Terry Meyerson, Markham Miller, Brad Chilcoat, Elie Abi-Jaoude, David Retz, Phil Tecau,
Jim Tom, Graham Bell, Norm Dito, Stephen Geisheker, Rich Walker, Charlie Priest, Peter Drake,
Johnny Moallempour, Gary Dougan, Jared Drake, Rich Martini

WASHINGTON DC

Submitted by Armando Rascón
Chapter President

No events occurred over the summer, but here are a few pictures of noteworthy events from some chapter members.



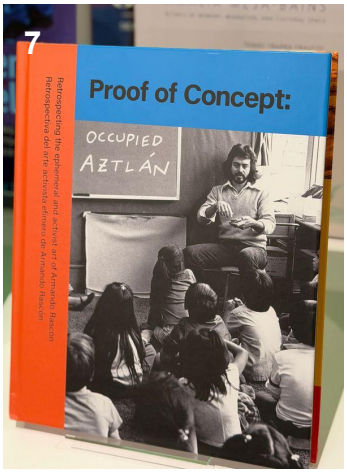












Clockwise from upper left:

1. Marc Levine won a Tony award for his role as producer of Schmigadoon on Broadway.

2. Jack Varga and boyfriend, Bryan on a trip in Ibiza.

3. Neshan Naltchayan submitted an image of his presence as a White House photographer sent to cover the recent UN meetings and a photo of himself at the Clinton Group Initiative at the NY Hilton.

4 and 6. Randy and Tim took a trip to Paris to see Celine Dion in concert. Pictured is Randy and Bob Majors (Tim is behind the camera).

5 and 7. Armando Rascón's book, *Proof of Concept* (documenting five decades of his work as a conceptual artist), debuted at the Print Media Fair at New York University under the category Academic Book Showcase.

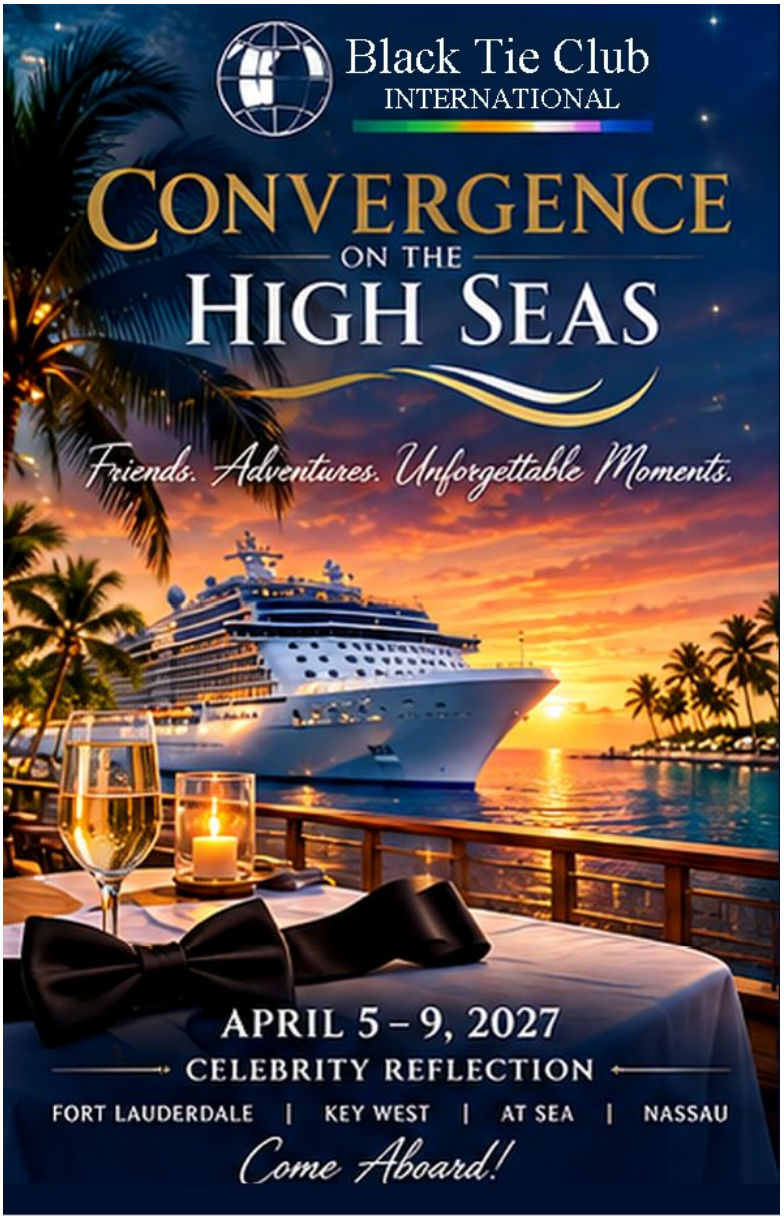
UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

For up-to-date information on chapter events, please consult the website at blacktieclubinternational.org/calendar

The Last Wednesday of Every Month **Rehoboth Beach/Lewes** Boys Night Out Contact: Fran O'Brien info@btc-rehoboth-lewes.com	October 14 **New Orleans/Gulf Coast** Private Auction House Showing Contact: Cary Oswald blacktieclubnogfcst@yahoo.com	November 5 **New Orleans/Gulf Coast** Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop Contact: Cary Oswald blacktieclubnogfcst@yahoo.com	November 18 - 22 **Special Travel Series** **Key West Adventure** Contact: Patrick Rylee 415.686.3520 *(See ad on next page)*
The Third Thursday of Every Month **Dallas** Rotating Bar Locations Contact: Brian Foster bfoster@sundevsolutions.com	October 18 **San Diego** Fall Formal Contact: Lee Galloway lee@leegalloway.com	November 6 - 8 **Palm Springs** Pride Weekend Fall Formal Contact: Al Castrucci bocagrove7123@gmail.com	December 6 **Palm Beach** Holiday Formal National Croquet Club Contact: Charles Contessa cvcwpb@aol.com
October 9 - 10 **Dallas** Fall Formal Contact: Brian Foster bfoster@sundevsolutions.com	October 24 **Phoenix/Scottsdale** Fall Formal at the Biltmore Contact: Eric Fox eric_p_fox@cox.net	November 7 **New Mexico** Fall Formal Contact: Michael Boykin mboykin01@comcast.net	December 12 **Phoenix/Scottsdale** Holiday Dinner Hosted by Jack and Evan eric_p_fox@cox.net
October 11 **Atlanta** Fall Formal Along with Gay Pride Contact: Paul Donahue donahupb@aol.com	October 24 **Washington, DC** Bugsy Gayline Speakeasy Contact: Armando Rascon blacktiepresdc@gmail.com	November 7 **Rehoboth Beach/Lewes** Fall Formal Contact: Fran O'Brien info@btc-rehoboth-lewes.com	December 31 - January 1 **New Orleans/Gulf Coast** New Year's Eve Party Contact: Cary Oswald blacktieclubnogfcst@yahoo.com
October TBD **Toronto** Cocktail Party hosted by Bonte Minnema Contact: Tim Leonard tleonard342@gmail.com	November 4 **Palm Beach** Casual Dinner at La Cigale Contact: Charles Contessa cvcwpb@aol.com	November 14 **Phoenix/Scottsdale** Wine Tasting at Carlson Creek Wine Tasting Room Contact: Eric Fox eric_p_fox@cox.net	December TBD **Toronto** Holiday Formal Contact: Tim Leonard tleonard342@gmail.com
	October/November TBD **Rochester/Finger Lakes** In Development Contact: Tom Wahl wahljr@aol.com	November 15 **Fort Lauderdale** Fall Formal Contact: Scott Powell fllblacktie@gmail.com	March 26 - 28, 2027 **New Orleans/Gulf Coast** Easter Parade & Spring Formal Contact: Cary Oswald blacktieclubnogfcst@yahoo.com

UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

For the latest Convergence updates visit blacktieclubinternational.org/convergence





Cruise Itinerary

- April 5 Monday: Depart Fort Lauderdale at 4 PM
- April 6 Tuesday: Key West
- April 7 Wednesday: At Sea
- April 8 Thursday: Nassau, Bahamas
- April 9 Friday: Arrive in Fort Lauderdale at 7 AM.

For more information and to reserve a spot on board, Click: Convergence 2027

Pre-Cruise Hotel

For those who wish to arrive early, we have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate at the Courtyard by Marriott in Fort Lauderdale.

Pre-Cruise Cocktail Party

April 4, Sunday, 4:30 - 6:30

Join us for our official pre-cruise get-together at Tropics Grill, located on Wilton Drive in the hearr of the action. Tropics is within a short walk of numerous bars and restaurants.

UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

For the latest Convergence updates visit blacktieclubinternational.org/convergence

Coming in 2028
SAVE THE DATES



SPECIAL TRAVEL SERIES

Escape to Paradise with the Black Tie Club!



[Click here for registration and up-to-date information]

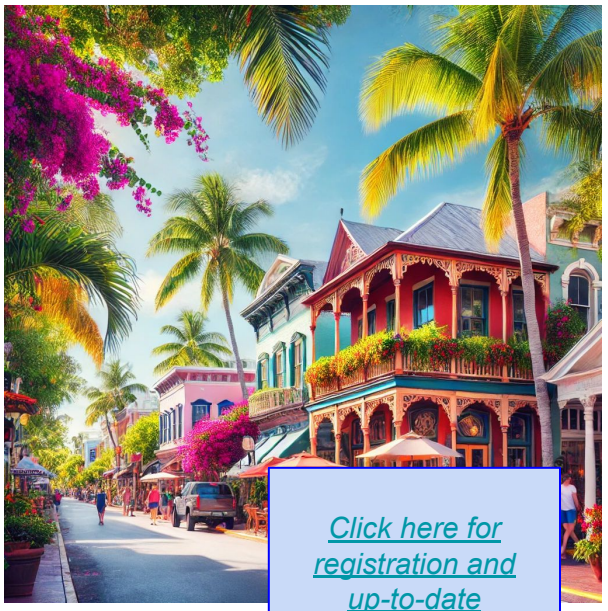
Key West Adventure

Coming November 18-23, 2026

This November, join us in sunny Key West for five unforgettable days of friendship, adventure, cocktails, sunsets, and tropical fun. Limited to just 60 guests, this boutique getaway is designed for men who enjoy travel, great company, and unique experiences. And the best part is, it's all beach chic casual! No formal attire!

From our Pink Flamingo Opening Party at Bob Major's historic Victorian home to our Tropical All-White Party at Sunset Pier, we've created a schedule that combines special Black Tie Club events with plenty of time to experience Key West your own way. *Continued on next page.*

Key West Adventure 2026, continued from previous page.



Highlights include a Conch Train tour, Cuban cooking class with lunch, rum and key lime tastings, champagne at Gallery on Greene, sunset at Mallory Square, poolside cocktails at Alexander's Guesthouse, an elegant sunset cruise aboard the Argo Navis, brunch and cocktails at La Te Da, and the world-famous Tea Dance.

And because this is Key West, we've deliberately built free time into every day. Explore the Hemingway Home, Truman Little White House and Fort Zachary Taylor; visit the Butterfly Conservatory and Aquarium; shop and dine on Duval Street; kayak, snorkel or take a boat excursion—or simply relax by the pool.

All scheduled events are optional. Your vacation, your Key West.

Click here for registration and up-to-date information

Registration Now Open
$1,250 Land Package — Five Days

Includes all scheduled Black Tie Club events and activities.
Does not include airfare, hotel accommodations or specifically designated optional activities.

Current Daily Itinerary

Every Day

- ★ **9:00–10:30 AM — Mimosas, Coffee & Pastries at Alexander's.**
- ★ **9:00 PM — Bar Meet Up.**

Wednesday, November 18 — Arrival & Opening Night

- ★ Arrive in Key West, check into your hotel and get settled before we officially begin the adventure.
- ★ **4:00–7:00 PM — Pink Flamingo Opening Party.** Join us at BTC member Bob Major's historic Victorian home for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and our official welcome to Key West.

Thursday, November 19 — Conch & Cuban Day

- ★ **10:30 AM — Conch Train Tour.** Approximately 1½ hours exploring Key West.
- ★ **12:00–2:00 PM — Cuban Cooking Class.** Lunch, rum tasting and Key lime tasting included.
- ★ **2:30–4:00 PM — Champagne Party at Gallery on Greene.**
- ★ **4:00 PM — Wander to Mallory Square.** Experience Key West's world-famous sunset celebration.

Friday, November 20 — Key West & Sunset

- ★ Optional Fort Jefferson Morning Excursion or All Day Historic Tours. Explore attractions such as the Hemingway Home, Truman Little White House and other Key West landmarks.
- ★ **12:00–3:00 PM — Poolside Cocktails at Alexander's.**
- ★ **3:30–6:00 PM — Elegant Cocktail Party & Sunset Cruise aboard Argo Navis.** Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails as we sail the waters off Key West.

Saturday, November 21 — Explore & White Party

- ★ Optional Fort Jefferson Morning Excursion or All Day Historic Tours.
- ★ **12:00–3:00 PM — Poolside Cocktails at Alexander's.**
- ★ **3:00 PM — Conch Train departs Alexander's for the White Party.**
- ★ **4:00–8:00 PM — Tropical All-White Party at Sunset Pier.** One of the signature events of the trip. No tux required—just wear all white!

Sunday, November 22 — Finale

- ★ **12:00–4:00 PM — La Te Da Brunch & Final Cocktail Party.**
- ★ **4:00 PM — World-Famous Tea Dance.**

See next page for hotel and additional information.

Key West Adventure 2026, continued from previous page.

Hotel Reservations

Host Hotel — SOLD OUT
Alexander's Guesthouse

- Alexander's will be at the center of many of our Key West activities.

Island House Key West

- Located directly across the street from Alexander's Guesthouse.
- Clothing-optional men's resort
- Social resort atmosphere
- Extremely convenient to Black Tie Club activities
- *Call 305-294-6284 and ask for Paul regarding the 10% BTCI discount.*

Heron House Court

- Located just around the corner from Alexander's. Be sure you are looking at Heron House Court when making your reservation.
- More budget-friendly option
- LGBT-friendly
- Short walk to group activities
- *Call 305-296-4719 and ask for Roman regarding the BTCI room upgrade offer.*

Which Hotel Is Right for You?

- Alexander's Guesthouse puts you at the center of the action and offers the most immersive group experience.
- Island House is ideal if you prefer a more playful, social, clothing-optional resort atmosphere.
- Heron House Court offers a quieter and more affordable alternative within easy walking distance.

All three properties are within easy walking distance of one another.

Getting to Key West

- Flying directly into Key West International Airport (EYW) is generally the easiest option. Once you arrive, you should not need a rental car for the Black Tie Club weekend.
- Key West is compact and walkable, and Uber/Lyft, taxis, bicycles and golf carts provide additional ways to get around.
- Travelers may also consider ground transportation from Miami or Fort Lauderdale or ferry service from Florida's Gulf Coast.
- Tip: Compare fares and set airfare alerts as early as possible.

How to Register

1. Contact Trip Host Patrick Rylee
Text **415-686-3520** with your interest or questions.

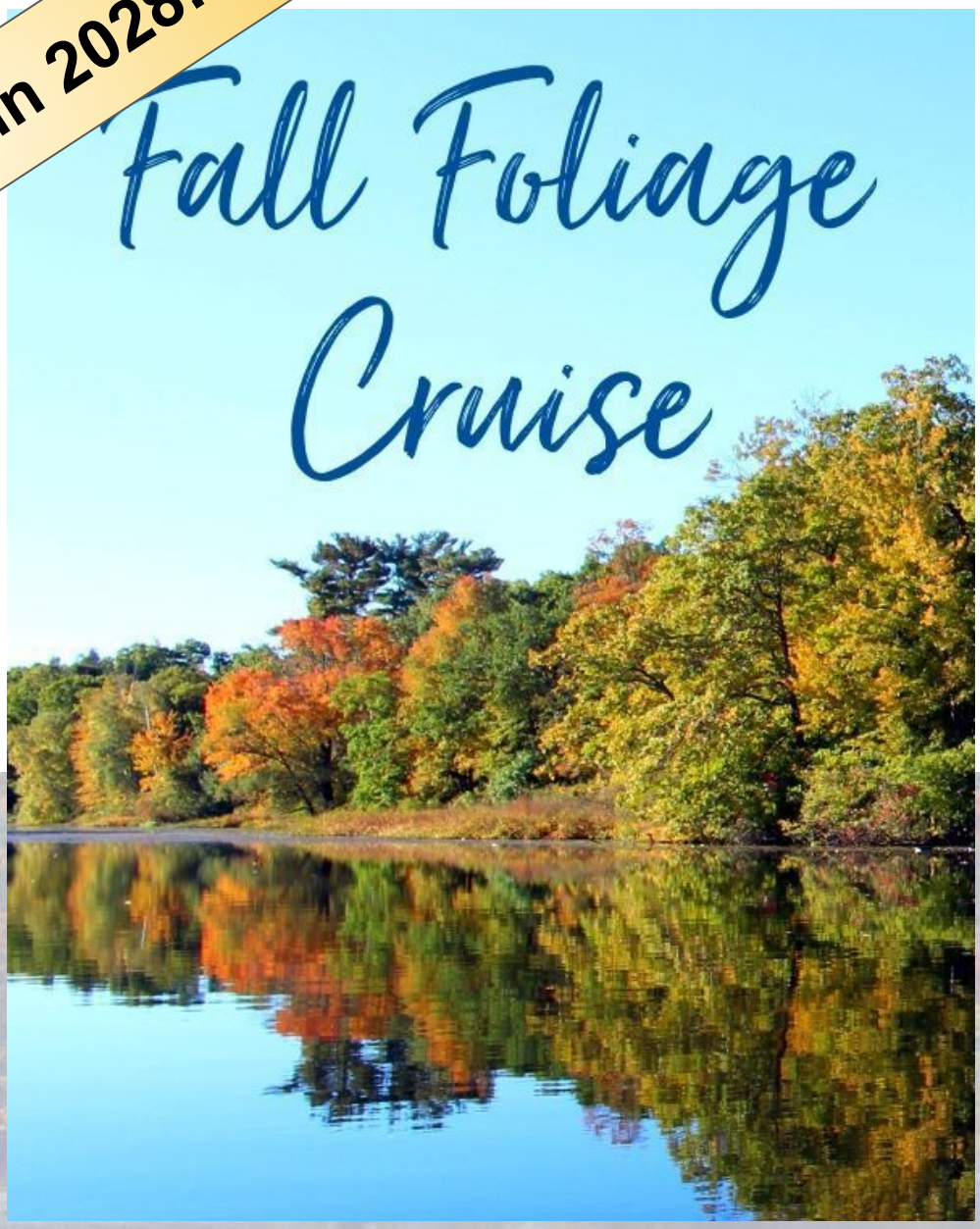
2. Submit your $1,250 registration payment to:
Mike Gin, BTCI Treasurer
518 Cluster Lane
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
-or -
Call **310-387-0462** for Zelle/PayPal options.
Email: mikegin@me.com

Important Notes

- A few spots remain. If you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time to reserve your place.
- Hotel reservations are subject to each property's individual cancellation policies. All activities are optional and participation is at your own risk. Events, times and locations may change.
- For the latest information, continue checking blacktieclubinternational.org/keywestadventure2026.

SPECIAL TRAVEL SERIES

COMING in 2028!



We are working on a Fall Foliage Cruise from Montreal up the St. Lawrence, with various stops in places like Nova Scotia, Quebec City, and culminating in New York. We will have an option for a theater extension in NYC, and a pre-trip extension in Montreal. Montreal is known for its lap-dances, bars and restaurants… New York is known for, well, what New York is known for – so many things!

We are currently working with Oceania for their Vista ship which will be newly refurbished. Current plans are for an 11-day cruise with pre-trip to Montreal and post-trip in New York City. Contact Gary Dougan at btciprez@gmail.com about your preferences.

Did you receive a postcard?



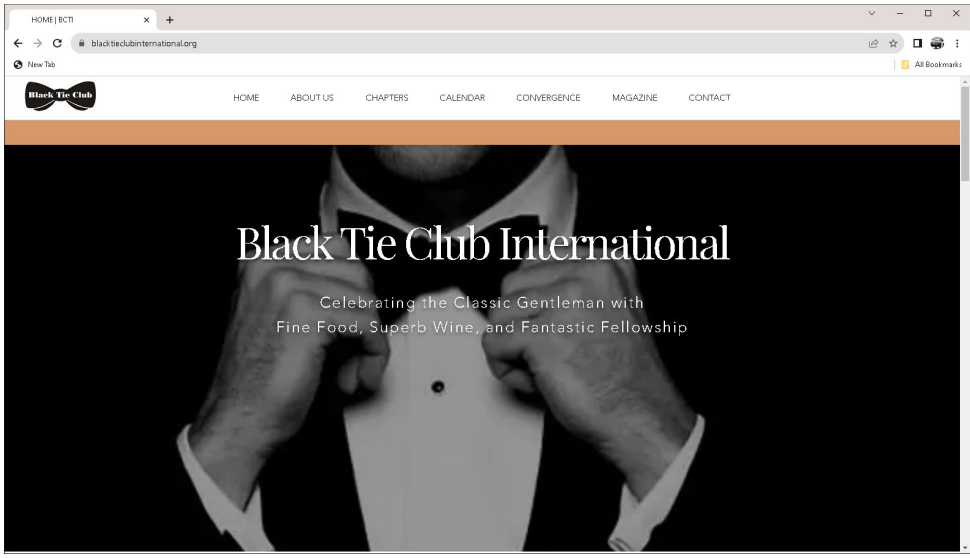
BTCI sends out periodic postcards to keep you informed about upcoming events hosted by our local chapters and the International Club. They also serve as a friendly reminder to visit our website for the latest events, browse the calendar, and catch up on the newest issue of our magazine.

You should have received a postcard (like the one shown on the left) from BTCI through the US or Canadian Postal Services in September 2026. If you did not, we do not have your address (or the address we do have is incorrect or incomplete). If that is the case, please inform your chapter president that BTCI does not have your proper address and have him update the master roster.

Bookmark our Webpage!

And don't forget to check out our webpage for:

- ★ The most current up-to-date calendar for Convergences and Chapter events
- ★ The latest as well as past magazines
- ★ Special Travel Series
- ★ Club history and all things Black Tie



https://www.blacktieclubinternational.org/