

**WINTER 2019
EDITION**

Official Newsletter of the Greater Atlantic City Concierge Association



A Letter From The President

Inside This Issue...

2018 Highlights
2018 Hosts & Events
Articles
Additional Events
Just Some Fun
Meet Your 2019
GACCA Board!

2019 is already shaping to be an exciting new year with more events, and new members, from all corners of the Atlantic City area. Our city is on the rise again, thanks to the many amazing businesses and organizations within America's Playground, many of whom have representatives within our Association. I couldn't be more honored to serve as your President, than I am right now.

As with years past, our Association has been able to support up-and-coming student professionals in the Hospitality and Business fields, with a scholarship funded by one of our most prestigious events, The At the Shore Wine Tasting Art Show. It is with these contributions that we are able to promote and honor students who truly embody what it is to be successful in our fields.

The 2019 Host Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, where we will celebrate and award the scholarship to the lucky students that have been selected. More than 93 students have received over \$73,400 over the past 10 years!

I would like to extend my thanks to our generous sponsors without whom this opportunity would not be possible. From ticket sales to the contributions made by the Artists, I thank you all for being able to participate in the scholarship of our student recipients, and for coming together as one Association for the betterment of the future of our city.

As for the rest of this elite organization, and to the Hospitality Scholarship Foundation and its Board, our teamwork is what makes this event so successful. May this year bring us the opportunity to grow, as well as catch a glimpse into the bright future ahead of us all.

Thank you again for all of your feverous work, and cheers to the New Year!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Miltner



So Much Happened in 2018!



"Atlantic City police say crime down in 2018..."

"2018 was a great year for boxing, MMA in Atlantic City..."



"Hard Rock & Ocean Resort rocked Atlantic City's hotel market in 2018..."

"Atlantic City's scores record \$400M meetings & conventions year in 2018..."

northjersey.com

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

"NJ Transit suspended service to both Princeton and Atlantic City in September..."



"Atlantic City, now a nine-casino town with last June's openings of Hard Rock and Ocean Resort, employed 26 percent more workers at the end of 2018 than the hotel resorts did in the previous year..."



"Revel sold -set to re-open by summer 2018..."



"Atlantic City Electric Named Cape Tech's 2018 Business Partner..."

A Million Thanks, 2018 GACCA Hosts!

January 15, 2018

The Palm

July 25, 2018

Chelsea 5 Gastro Pub

February 12, 2018

Escape AC

August 23, 2018

Villain & Saint

March 12, 2018

Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar

September 19, 2018

Hard Rock Café

April 24, 2018

Assaggio!

October 25, 2018

Roberts Steakhouse & Scores

June 27, 2018

Steel Pier

July 10, 2018

AC Aquarium & AC Cruises

November 11, 2018

AC Paint Ball

July 19, 2018

Made AC Chocolate

Bean to Bar

December 19, 2018

Flagship Blue Water Grille

January—The Palm



February — Escape AC



March — Cuba Libre



Another Year at The Palm with The GACCA

By Isabella Angjelo

January 16, 2018

On January 15, the time had come for the Annual Greater Atlantic City Concierge Association Get-Together, which was hosted by our home-base, the amazing Palm Restaurant. As usual, the night was filled with revelry, announcement, and great food. The Palm never ceases to amaze us with their culinary prowess, and this year was no exception.

We were greeted by our gracious host Anthony Romano, the General Manager of this Atlantic City staple, and his powerhouse team of wait staff. The night delved straight into the food, as we were greeted by Anthony and his team. The GACCA did something a little different this year than in years past, as instead of a sit-down meal where attendants stayed pretty much planted to their tables, we went with a cocktail reception, where all kinds of socializing, sipping, and delectable tasting was done. The food this year included much of the Palm's new Happy Hour fare. The dishes were all plated beautifully, and arranged on a long high-top table at the Palm's bar area. The food included an elaborate array of Italian Charcuterie, complete with pesto crustinis and an assortment of housemade sauces and jams, as well as fresh calamari, expertly seasoned clams, thick-cut Applewood smoked bacon, freshly made potato and sweet potato "mega" chips, and trays of mini burgers, cheesesteaks, and chicken parmesan sandwiches passed on serving trays. The Palm's new Happy Hour includes \$5 Sangrias, select cocktails, and more. As always, the fine dining at the Palm is to die for, and reservations are encouraged, so call 609-344-0483 for more information on their menu and to book your table.

The evening's guest speaker was none other than the owner of the event goliath Good Time Tricycle Productions, Jon Henderson. Good Time Tricycle are the masterminds behind the AC Seafood Festival, AC Beer and Music Festival, Knee High Knuckle Busters Midget Wrestling Championship, the AC Tattoo Expo, and more! The events they produce come just shy of \$18 million in economic impact in our area, and bring in over 125,000 people per year to the city with the festivals and events. After talking of his humble beginnings as a Concierge at Resorts Casino, Jon went on to address the state of our fair city. "I think we are on a precipice... I think we are at a point where we are going to overcome the hump..." Henderson stated. He attributed this to the GACCA and Concierges in general, saying that we are the ones bringing people back, showing people that America's Playground is in its revitalization stage. With Hard Rock opening at the beginning of Summer, the new Ocean Resort opening around the same time, and the entertainment, like that provided by GTTP, that will be waiting for tourists to experience when they visit our area this year, we are helping to bring this city back. As Jon eluded, we, as concierges, are a fatally optimistic group, and are ready to show the world again just how great our city truly is. The night was finished with thanks from the GACCA President, Jennifer Miltner to Jon, Anthony and The Palm, and the announcement of the 2018 At the Shore Wine Tasting Art Show hosted by the GACCA and the CRDA.

The Wine Tasting Art Show will be on February 7th at the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University from 5pm to 8pm. As always, local artists will showcase their pieces, with select works up for sale to be purchased by attendants. There will also be the tastings from local vineyards, breweries, and distilleries, with hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats served throughout the night. The show always features a silent auction, with baskets and prizes donated from local businesses all around South Jersey. The proceeds go to benefit hospitality and business students from Rutgers, Atlantic Cape Community College, Fairleigh Dickinson, and Stockton University, through the AC Concierge Association & the CRDA Foundation Hospitality Scholarship. Students from the schools will be there working the event, taking in the opportunity to network and mingle with AC professionals and politicians. Tickets are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door, and commemorative cups for the tastings can be purchased at the event. For more information and ticketing, call Josette Katz at (609) 516-1676 or Doreen Prinzo at (609) 449-7156.

I look forward to the grand new year ahead of us all in America's Playground. So go out and enjoy the city, ask your local concierge for things to do and places to see, enjoy an amazing meal at one of Atlantic City's gems, The Palm restaurant in the Tropicana, and as always... See You in Atlantic City and the Jersey Shore!

April — Assaggio!



May — Valentina's Trattoria



June — Steel Pier



Rockin' In AC!

By Olivia Wiggins

June 25, 2018

This coming weekend shall go down in history as the Boardwalk welcomes two new casino resorts. Both set to open just in time for the 4th of July weekend, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and Ocean Resorts will be unveiling their properties and with many great events in store! Opening the two casinos, especially simultaneously, should make a huge impact on our local economy and tourism district.

Hard Rock has already released a star studded line up of entertainment for the summer and well into the fall. Carrie Underwood will be the first to host her show in the all new Etes Arena, equipped to house 7,000 concert goers. The following day, world renowned rapper Pitbull will grace the same stage for his almost sold out show.

Ocean Resorts will be opening with a plethora of dining options, from casual to upscale. Bringing famous names like *American Cut* and Chef Jose Garces' *Amada* back into play is quite impressive and much anticipated. Even new projects like *Cereal Town* and *Topgolf* will be offering great dining outlets and fun entertainment. The Exhale Spa will also make a grand return to AC, housing the largest spa in our region and some of the worlds best yoga and fitness classes.

This weekend will be monumental for AC and it's residents. We are all hopeful to see nothing but more new development, with the opening of these properties. After all, the summer is OUR season, so what better time than now?



Take One...
AC Aquarium &
AC Cruises

July was Epic!



...Take Two...

Made AC Chocolate
Bean to Bar



...Take Thre!!!

Chelsea 5 Gastro Pub

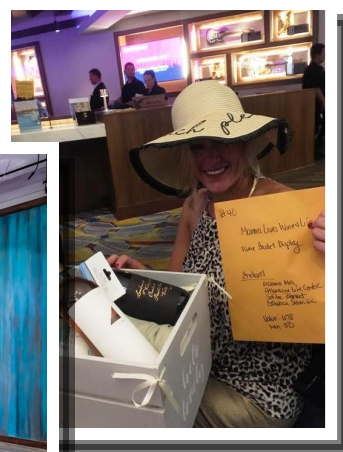


Greater Atlantic City
CONCIERGE  ASSOCIATION

August — Villain & Saint



September — Hard Rock Café



October —

Roberts Steakhouse & Scores



The Inside Scoop

By Lisa Handt Fagan

August 14, 2018

As a 22-year resident of Atlantic County, board member of the Greater Atlantic City Concierge Association (GACCA) and veteran marketer of all things Atlantic City and beyond, I know a thing or two about a thing or two to do in Atlantic City. I spend an inordinate amount of time telling people the best the city and the area have to offer. One of my favorite things to do around here (and in general) is to stuff my face full of AC's edible goodness. There's a lot to chew on, but here's a small taste:

Breakfast @ Jon & Patty's/637 Asbury Ave/Ocean City : If you're looking for a quaint breakfast bistro with friendly service and high-quality food at affordable prices, make your way here 12 months a year! We've enjoyed everything from omelets to breakfast sandwiches to pancakes perfect for kids. Be sure to save your coffee consumption until you get there. Jon & Patty's has a wide variety of specialty coffees from their coffee bar as well as a killer regular cup 'o Joe. Open for lunch and dinner, too. Check out the hours and menu at jonandpattys.com.

Lunch @ Hard Rock Cafe or LandShark Bar & Grill: There ARE a million places in AC to eat lunch, but you can't beat the quality and consistency of these two giants. If you want the best burger anywhere – order the Legendary Burger from Hard Rock Cafe. At LandShark, I usually overdo it on the appetizers and can't finish my lunch. However, the Shrimp Tacos or Crab Cake Sandwich fit perfectly with the seaside resort. Both venues have the best views in town, usually offer live entertainment and live up to their themes in terms of the atmospheric vibe. Check out hours and menus at hardrock.com/cafes/atlantic-city and atlanticcity.landsharkbarandgrill.com

Dinner @ Iron Room: The Iron Room is hands down one of the city's best kept secrets AND best meals I have ever had anywhere. Forget the fact that it has award-winning wine, whiskey and spirits (it IS a modern-day speakeasy) the menu breaks all of the rules. However, Chef Cronin appeases every taste with menu selections like Foie Gras Raviolis or his spin on the classic Southern Fried Chicken. Get there by 5:30pm to enjoy a \$29 prix fixe menu which is not so fixed. All four courses allow choices to suit every palate. With reasonable dinner prices, a quaint newly-remodeled dining area and weekly food and drink specials, it's a culinary wonder and AC Must-See! Hours and menu are at ironroomac.com.

Dessert @ MADE: I'm almost out of room literally and figuratively, but if you can squeeze dessert in...you've got it **MADE**. Check out AC's only chocolate bar. And by bar, we mean bar. Yes, they sell homemade chocolate bars, but be sure to try a specialty cocktail while you watch the chocolate being...ummm **MADE**. Get it? This concept was created by one of AC's most celebrated pastry chefs, Deb Pellegrino, and her husband Mark.



More at Morton's

By Lisa Handt Fagan

October 17, 2018

I had the pleasure of dining with Morton's Sales & Event Manager, Linda Bruckler, last week at Morton's in one of the private dining rooms with the Atlantic City Restaurant Networking Group – a group of events planners from top notch AC restaurants such as The Palm, Starr Restaurants, Carmine's, etc. What you need to know about this group is that they know how to throw the most exquisite private parties on the continent for any size or occasion. If one cannot accommodate your needs, they refer you within the network to be sure your event is a total success. This unlikely group of friends and colleagues are actually competitors who can help you book your holiday parties right now. However, the real point of this article is not what we talked about but rather...what we ate! First, let me state the obvious: Morton's service is superb. Our servers took exceptional care of us anticipating every need before we even knew we had it. First course was Hors Oeuvres of Crab, Spinach & Artichoke Dip served with toasted French Bread Croustons as well as Shishito Peppers grilled to perfection with a light dipping sauce. Next up, Bite-Sized Wedge Salads served with Tomato, Egg, Bacon Bits and Blue Cheese Dressing. The most amazing thing about these items was that we could simultaneously fill up on them but not be too full to eat more. For the main course, we were treated to the Filet Mignon Trio: Sauce Au Poivre, Béarnaise and Blue Cheese Butter. This trio is only 530 calories and melts in your mouth, so just don't count the calories! By the way, I don't even eat red meat, but I made the rare exception for these midwell bites on this particular evening. No regrets.



This main course was accompanied by Truffle Cauliflower Mash and Sautéed Green Beans. All of this followed by a Dessert Trio of Mini Cheese-

cake, Double Chocolate Mousse and Fresh Seasonal Berries with whipped cream. You know it was ridiculously delicious, but what you really need to know is that many of these items are available on the daily Bar Bites Menu starting at just \$7. Of course, there is a full menu including beer, wine and cocktail pricing online. Let's be honest, Morton's is a premium steakhouse that we cannot all afford all the time. It's perfect that they provide this very hearty menu at very reasonable prices, so put this on your schedule after work or an event one night. The Bar Bites menu is available Sunday – Friday from Open – 6:30pm and 9pm – Close. If you are looking for a more elegant night out and are ready to experience the best Morton's has to offer, don't miss A Taste of Two Legends on Saturday, October 27. This event celebrates the 40th anniversary of Morton's with the one and only Napa Valley Mondavi's. Attendees will enjoy world-class wines from four Mondavi generations, including exclusive library wines and new projects not yet available to the public. Courses include Reception, Seafood, Amuse Bouche, Beef, Cheese and Dessert. Tickets are available on Eventbrite or Mortons.com for \$300 per person. Morton's The Steakhouse is located inside Caesar's Casino Hotel on Pacific Avenue in Atlantic City. Hours of operations are Monday – Saturday 5pm – 11pm and Sunday 5pm – 10pm. To make reservations call 609-449-1044 or go to mortons.com/atlanticcity.

November — AC Paint Ball



December — Blue Point Grille



Additional Events...

At The Shore Wine Tasting & Art Show

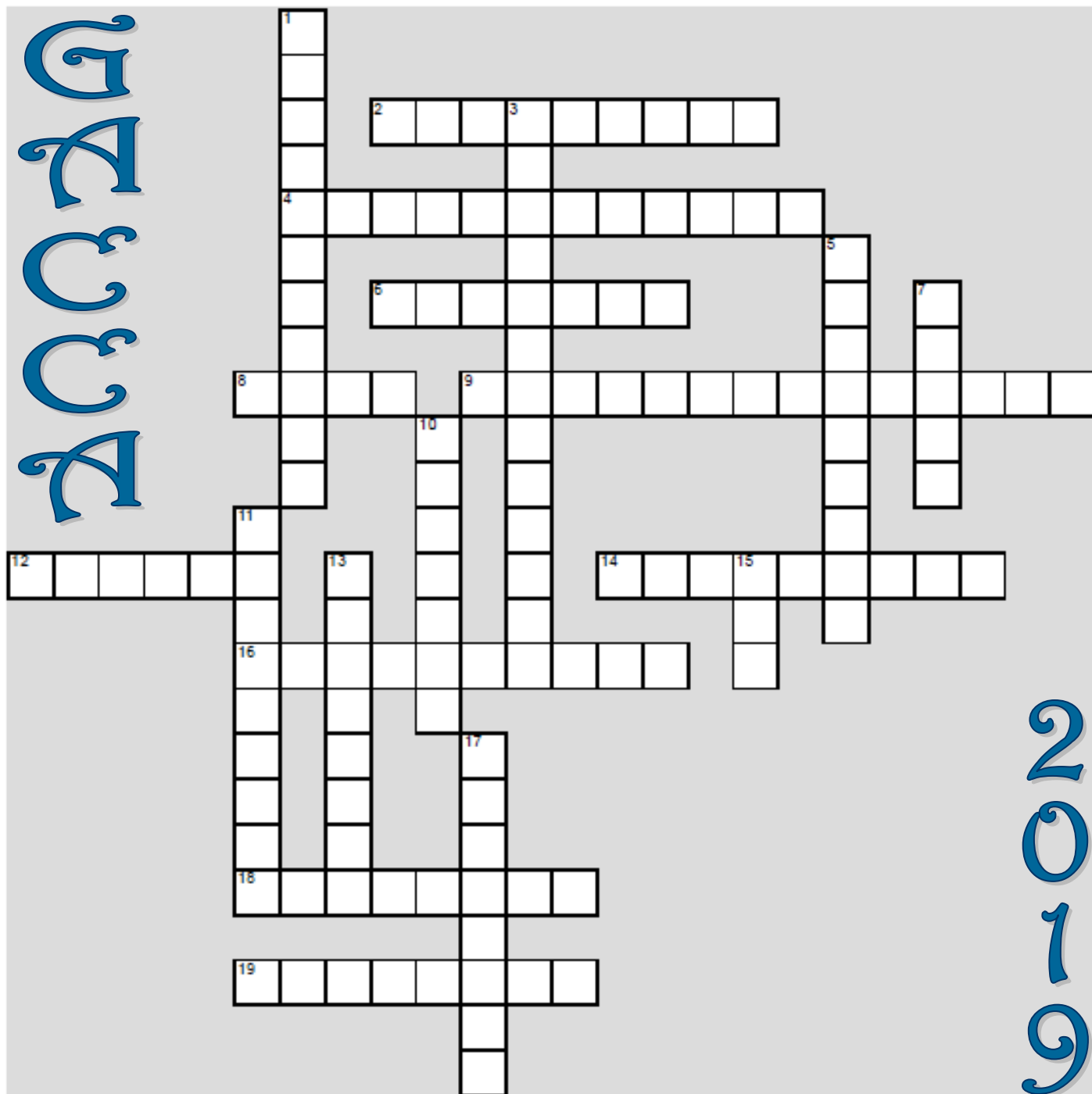


Legends in Concert

Host & Spirit of Hospitality Awards



ACCA



2019

Across

- 2 AC amusement park
- 4 Inspiration for Monopoly
- 6 Holiday traveler
- 8 "Sideways" beverage
- 9 AC famed boardwalk offering
- 12 The house always wins.
- 14 Evening entertainment
- 16 Formal gathering
- 18 Horton, Babar and Lucy to name a few.
- 19 Much desired absence from work

Down

- 1 Empowered product of Atlantic City
- 3 The provision of hospitality
- 5 The first ever built in the United States, having opened on June 26, 1870.
- 7 1980's series, "China ____"
- 10 Even as a loser, he's better!
- 11 Modern hospitality staffer
- 13 Typical Florida forecast
- 15 "Boardwalk Empire" ailer
- 17 Multiple fish tanks under one roof

Meet The 2019 GACCA Board Members!



Jennifer Miltner
President



Gail Marrandino
Vice President



Christine Adams
Treasurer



Moira Kirkpatrick
Secretary



Julio Driggs
Social Director



Jeanine Osendowski
Membership Director



Lisa Handt Fagan
Philanthropist



Judy Brenna
Communications Director



Vonnie Blake Clark
Past President / Advisor



Doreen Prinzo
Past President / Advisor



“...And when things start to happen,
Don't worry. Don't stew.
Just go right along.
You'll start happening too.

OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
Who soar to high heights.

You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest...

...So be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
Or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!”

- Dr. Seuss

2019
Let's
Do
This!