

Southwest Region Holds Reunion at Sea

Thirty-two Syntex Syva Alumni Association members and guests participated in the 2004 reunion of the SSAA Southwest Region aboard the MS Monarch of the Seas, part of the cruise fleet of Royal Caribbean International. The 4-night cruise sailed from the Port of Los Angeles on March 29 with ports of call in San Diego, Catalina and Ensenada, BC, Mexico.

SSAA cruisers enjoyed many of the features offered onboard ship as well as on shore. The big production shows starring the ship's singers and dancers scored high marks with many cruise participants. Another entertainment favorite for some was the Dueling Pianos. Of course, the reunion group applauded the seemingly never-ending abundance of excellent food onboard. San Diego offered some the chance to meet friends and family members while the ship was in port. On Catalina Island, the old Casino Ballroom, venue for many of the big bands of the '30s and '40s but now a museum, was a popular destination. South of the border, Ensenada provided numerous interesting shopping, sightseeing and dining attractions.

Eighteen participants checked into the Los Angeles Harbor Sheraton Hotel in San Pedro the night before the cruise. They joined for dinner and a "mini" pre-reunion at the Whale and Ale British Pub.

As with all the region's reunions, the best part of the cruise was the chance to spend time and exchange stories with long-time friends. A special reception in the Viking Crown Lounge, 14-decks high, provided the perfect setting for news and views. Attending this eighth reunion were: **Christa Basch & Bob Hill; Betty & Bill Ebersold; Sue (Bassett) & Joe Fitzpatrick; Dick & Joyce Haskitt; Odie Hudalla & John Ontiveras; Carolyn & Jerry Lyon; Skip & Olivia Mattson; Mike & Cynthia Miglioranzi; Dick & Helen Rogers; Clair & Rita Sater; Bob & Winnie Schlossareck; Shelly & Norm Schwartz; Dean & Trudy Stubblefield; Virgil & Brenda Thompson; Jay & Barbara Tressen; and Russ & Judith Wilks.**