



Meeting News

November 2008

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(Above) Standing in the ballroom of the new Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY

Ignite YOUR Imagination

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Bring a co-worker and a fire extinguisher! Don't miss out on the opportunity to register for our chapter's second annual Ignite Your Imagination on **Tuesday, November 18, 2008, in the brand new GE Theatre at Proctors, 432 State Street, Schenectady, NY from 1:30 to 6:00pm**. This half day program promises to shed light on the hottest and upcoming trends affecting YOUR industry.



In addition to a stimulating educational program, you will also get to see and experience this incredible venue that has multi-purpose space with 436 retractable theatre seats. This location has the iwerks Extreme Screen as well as state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. Complimentary parking for the event will be right next door.

Our Northeastern New York Chapter will be presenting burning topics that are so very timely right now in our industry. CEUs will be available.

Dear Members:

As Thanksgiving approaches and convention season slows, I hope that you all have a little bit more time to spend on yourselves which includes taking full advantage of your MPI membership and attending some of our upcoming events.

The uncertain economy certainly has us all thinking about what the future will hold for our industry. I have written in the past that our professional relationships and staying connected are more important now than ever. International recognizes that across the globe, many of our members may even be facing unemployment. They have offered to help by offering a six-month extension for any members who are unemployed and up for renewal. Keeping our members connected during these times shows our association's commitment to our industry and its members.

Please also remember that you have access to the International web site at: www.mpiweb.org where you will find all kinds of member resources, including **Career Connections**.

Please let us know if you need any additional assistance during these tough times.

Happy Thanksgiving and we look forward to seeing you at the November 18, Ignite your Imagination event at Proctor's GE Theatre!

- Carrie Hillenbrandt, CMP
MPI NENY President



Green Meetings In Action

It is not easy being green. How environmentally friendly are your meetings? Back by popular demand, this second series will feature a green panel including the **Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)**. The Syracuse CVB has taken the initiative to start a green state-of-mind for its destination and they will be sharing some of their insight with all of us.

MPI Virtual World Unveiled

Explore and learn the capabilities of a totally interactive virtual conference tool! Virtual Conferencing is one of the hottest new tools in the industry for everything from board meetings to huge general sessions to trade shows and job fairs. Project leaders, **Cindy Sullivan, CMP and Carrie Hillenbrandt, CMP**, will take attendees on a "tour" of the MPI Virtual World, and explain how YOU can and will be able to use this tool for your organization's meetings, participate as a vendor and/or recruit potential employees.



Forecasting for Tomorrow

Connecting the Dots to the Industry's Future, to paraphrase Yogi Berra, "Our future ain't what it used to be." **MPI Platinum Speaker, Joan Eisenstadt** will discuss topics such as Climate change, disasters, economic downturn, changing demographics, immigration are just a few of the world's concerns. These impact us individually and greatly impact our industry around the world.

What will the industry face in the future? How can you anticipate and manage the changes? How can you develop the core competencies that will be needed to work in the industry's future?

In addition to dynamite educational sessions, **Brian Palazzolo and his team at Classe Catering** will be providing all of the scrumptious food for our session breaks and networking reception. Brian is sure to have a sizzling menu for everyone to enjoy.

MPI NENY is currently seeking sponsors and exhibitors for this event. This is the only event where our chapter offers exhibit booths and our highest exposure for program sponsors. We will only be able to accommodate a few partners. **Don't you be left in the cold; if you want to be hot, hot, hot - sign up now!**

Sponsorships are still available! Please contact **Julie Ann Price, CMP** at JPrice@nysutmail.org

[Want to REGISTER? Click here to sign up today!](#)

Or visit us at www.mpineny.org

New Chapter Partnership Programs

MPI NENY is introducing our new Chapter Partnership programs. Finance Team members will be reaching out to regional and national organizations to partner with our chapter and members.

Why Become a Chapter Partner of MPI NENY?

More than 80% of Professional Planners have the buying power to approve or recommend facilities, select geographical locations and destinations, and product and services.

CONNECTIONS & EXPOSURE! You will get connected and increase visibility within the regional and national meetings industry

MPI Members BUY MPI!!!

Gain immediate access to the chapter membership list. Use this throughout the year to keep in touch.

Now is the time to buy MPI NENY! **This IS the opportunity to reach all members of MPI NENY.** Choose a partnership that is best suited for your organization. There are endless possibilities for Chapter Partnership and Event Sponsorship!

Contact **Adelynn Waldie**, VP of Finance at (518) 376-9213 or by email at awaldie@golfsaratoga.com for more information!

Special Events Showcase Member Input

REGISTRATION FEES

Members: \$30.00
Non-Members: \$40.00
Students: \$15.00

WHERE

Proctor's GE Theatre
432 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

PROGRAM AGENDA

Registration: 1:30 - 2:00 PM
Session A: 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Break: 3:15 - 3:30 PM
Session B: 3:30 - 4:00 PM
Session C: 4:05 - 5:00 PM
Reception: 5:00 - 6:00 PM

KINDLY RSVP

Monday, November 17, 2008



The Sagamore Resort Purchased

Lori Rehm promoted to Assistant Director of Sales

We're very excited about our new ownership and what it will mean for our community, our transient guests and of course our MPI market. We have a very strong and loyal following with MPI and we look forward to unveiling new changes at The Sagamore in the coming months. **As we move forward, Lori Rehm, assistant director of sales and I will be charged with providing that Sagamore service our MPI clients have come to expect.**

- **Kevin Rosa**
Director of Marketing and Sales
The Sagamore
518-743-6210
krosa@thesagamore.com



SAGBOLT L.L.C., owned by the Walsh Family who own and operate more than 100 hotels across North America, purchased The Sagamore Resort from Green Island Associates, Sagamore owner since 1985. The 70-acre resort which is considered the centerpiece of Lake George encompasses a 330-room historic hotel (built in 1883), condominiums and a golf course.

The Walsh Family brings four decades of experience and success in hotel development and operations to the company. One of the largest independent

Needed

The 2009 **MPI Special Events Showcase will be held on May 6, 2009.**

We are asking members for help in putting together a panel to address the topics of fundraising and sponsorships.

In this tough economy we could all use some tips on how to continue these types of events. If you feel you have expertise in either of these areas, please consider sitting on the panel.

If you are interested, please contact Kelly Deitz at 800-291-2629 no later than March 1, 2009.

We are looking for at least four participants. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Fun Facts

A little trivia to share around the dinner table this year!

Americans feast on 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the United States at Thanksgiving. That number represents one sixth of all the turkeys sold in the U.S. each year!

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be our national bird.

Domesticated turkeys cannot fly, however wild turkeys can fly up to 55 miles per hour over short distances.

Only male (tom) turkeys gobble. Females make a

privately owned hotel management companies in North America, it specializes in turning around non-performing resort properties in order to make them profitable long-term investments. The company recently completed a \$30 million restoration of Wentworth By the Sea Hotel & Spa in New Castle, New Hampshire, another historic hotel that spent many years trying to find a savior after falling on hard times. The Wentworth is now a leading contributor to the economy of the seacoast of New Hampshire and was recognized in January for its "authentic sense of place" on the inaugural National Geographic Traveler "Stay List of Hotels." The company has also restored the historic Bar Harbor Club and significantly upgraded the adjacent Harborside Hotel & Marina in Bar Harbor, Maine; and is in the process of a complete overhaul of the four-diamond Samoset Resort on the ocean in Rockland, Maine.

"We are pleased to add the historic Sagamore Resort to our collection of distinctive properties," said Tom Varley, Vice President Operations in making the announcement. "Like Wentworth By the Sea Hotel & Spa, the Samoset Resort, the Harborside Hotel & Marina/Bar Harbor Club, Chateau Champlain Montreal, The Lake Louise Inn, Alberta and The Deerhurst Resort, Ontario, The Sagamore is an authentic jewel of a hotel, with a great sense of place. It has stood as a storied part of the Adirondacks experience for more than a century and our goal is to polish that past to ensure that The Sagamore can be enjoyed by many more generations to come. The Sagamore's future will be assured when we take the steps needed to preserve the past while meeting the needs of the 21st century. We are proud to step up to the opportunity and appreciate the good reputation the staff has built over the years."

How MPI is Supporting Our Members, Chapters and Community

During these financially challenging times, our chapters and members are looking at MPI for support. Attached is a quick document you can use to learn how MPI is here for you! These talking points are segmented to identify programs MPI is offering to support the chapters, members and the industry.

Some highlights from this document include:

- MPI's assistance during hard economic time
- Six month extension at renewal for unemployed members
- Recruitment, renewal and cancellation campaigns
- Incentive pricing for planners at the MeetDifferent Conference

Click the link to download ----> [Chapter Leadership Talking Points](#)

National Virtual Meeting Planning Company, Meeting Industry Experts, Inc.

Former CEO of Site Solutions Worldwide opens new virtual meeting firm

Brigitte Connors, a global meeting planning and hospitality professional, formerly CEO of Site Solutions Worldwide, announces the opening of a new virtual meeting planning and hospitality-mentoring firm headquartered in Niskayuna, NY. Meeting Industry Experts Inc. (MIE) has assembled a team of some of the most experienced and respected meeting planners in the country to provide its clients with multiple conference planning and hospitality mentoring services.

clicking noise. The famous gobble is actually a seasonal mating call.

The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed in at 86 pounds – about the size of a German Shepherd! (But turkeys are normally not used as police animals.)

A turkey under 16 weeks of age is called a fryer. A five to seven month old turkey is called a roaster.

Turkeys can drown if they look up when it's raining!

A turkey's field of vision is 270 degrees--one of the main reasons they're able to elude some hunters.

The average age of the Mayflower passenger was 32. The oldest Mayflower passenger was 64.

There was no milk, cheese, bread, butter or pumpkin pie at the original Thanksgiving Day feast.

Contrary to popular belief, the Pilgrims did not have big buckles on their clothing, shoes, or hats.

President Abraham Lincoln established the original date for our National Thanksgiving Day celebration in 1863.

Congress did not declare Thanksgiving a national holiday until 1941.

The average person consumes 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day. (Now that's

“The excitement about this engaging concept in the meetings industry has been energizing,” explains Ms. Connors. **“Our goal is to engage our combined talent and experience working with national and international conferences in multiple market segments (government, corporate and association), while our meetings industry professionals assist in cultivating and mentoring the hospitality sector.** The meeting industry is faced with many cultural and economic changes as is most industries. It is time to cross pollinate these two industries to improve the awareness that meetings can bring multiple cultures together in one place to network and share business ideas that result in a better economy as long as we work together as one industry.” Meeting Industry Experts Inc. is creating an environment of constant learning while planning conferences. These experienced professionals have formed an “MIE Advisory Board” consisting of industry veterans that have experience planning meetings from 10-30,000 attendees for such companies as United Nations, US Navy, General Electric, National Brain Tumor Association, SEMI, Nano Technologies and is in discussions with other organizations, both large and small, domestic and international.

MIE plans to capitalize on its staff's depth of multiple career knowledge forming a platform of constant learning and problem solving. Meeting Professionals and hospitality Executives will collaborate to better manage and execute multiple industry conferences by drawing upon feedback from both the planners that plan and the hotels that execute. MIE also assists in interviewing prospective hotel executives by applying their years of firsthand experience to the hiring process.

To learn more, contact MPI Member Brigitte Connors, Meeting Industry Experts, Inc. at (518) 280-8937 or bconnors@meetingie.com.

Taste of the Northeast

Recipe: Caramel Apple Brulee

Frank Vollkommer

Executive Chef
Saratoga National Golf Club

Our recipe for this month comes from **Chef Frank Vollkommer**, Executive Chef, **Saratoga National Golf Club**. Chef Vollkommer is an award winning chef who has obtained the coveted designation of Certified Master Pasty Chef from the American Culinary Federation.

His career has included teaching positions at two major culinary schools, The Culinary Institute of America and New England Culinary Institute, and as Corporate Executive Chef and Consultant for Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate.



a lot of turkey!)

Destination CMP



To get to the next level you need your CMP designation. Don't Delay!

Visit www.mpineny.org for more information!

Upcoming Exam Deadlines
February 25, 2009 for
July 2009 Exam

CMP Study Group Classes

Take advantage of this Members' Only benefit and prepare yourself for the upcoming exam by attending the sessions! Contact **Heidi Longton, CMP** for a full schedule at hlongtoncmp@verizon.net.

The study group sessions for the January 2009 exam have begun!

Please visit the CIC website for information on exam locations and costs associated with each application or registration.

Exam materials and applications are available for download at: www.conventionindustry.org

**Welcome,
New Members!**



Jessica Vollkommer

Executive Pastry Chef
Saratoga National Golf Club

Also creating magnificent desserts at Prime at Saratoga National is **Jessica Vollkommer**.

This Chef Vollkommer is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America where she also served as coordinator of the Apple Pie Bakery Café, the retail face of the Baking and Pastry degree program.

She has extensive restaurant experience gleaned in Chicago and more recently was Bakery Manager for Weis Markets in Lancaster, PA.

Chef Frank Vollkommer says of the Prime at Saratoga National, "Our company philosophy has always been about creating a great dining experience through excellent service and exceptional food. To contribute to that experience we cook seasonally, and when possible with local ingredients. The qualities of those ingredients always inspire and shine through when we create."

It's apple season in upstate New York, so go get some really fresh ingredients and share a moment with some top chef's from Prime at Saratoga National.

Caramel Apple Brulee



1 quart heavy cream
4 oz sugar
1 vanilla bean, seeds scraped
1 cinnamon stick
Combine and scald. Allow to steep, covered for a 1/2 hour.

8 oz egg yolks
4 oz sugar
Combine eggs and sugar, not before cream has steeped.
Temper egg yolks with 1/2 of cream, add egg mixture back into cream.

1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 Tbs vanilla extract
Add to above and strain through a chinois



Katherine Ellen King

Sr. Event Planner
Classe Catering Ltd.

kathy@classecatering.com

Referral: **Cathleen McConney**

BJ Mikkelsen

Pandaw River Cruises

bj@pandaw.com

Rhonda Phillips

Professor (Convention, Meeting
Planning, Event Tourism)

SUNY Plattsburgh

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Nancy Reece

Marketing & Event Planner
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Lindsay Anne Sprague

Event Manager
The Selva Group

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Jennifer Jacobson

Sales Manager
Universal Orlando

jennifer.jacobson@universalorlando.com

Don't wait to get involved!

Boost your career and increase
your network by joining the
premier meeting industry
association today!

[Download the MPI
Membership Application Today!](#)

We Want You!

Bake at 200°F in a flat 1/2 sheet tray lined with plastic wrap until set. Chill brulee and then freeze. Cut out circles of desired size and place onto of caramel apple rings.

-Leslie Forbert Miller

Director of Sales

Residence Inn by Marriott ~ Saratoga Springs

Sales office: 518-886-0656

leslie.miller@marriott.com

Am I Green Yet?

Industry Specific Standards and Certification Set the Bar



A common question often asked is "What do I have to do to have a Green Meeting"??? "If I use china rather than paper, would that make my meeting green?" "How about if I choose a venue that recycles and has established a towel and linen re-use program? - **am I green yet?**"

The question as to what types and how many green practices truly define a Green Meeting has been a burning issue for planners and suppliers alike. The notion of sustainability has made a clear shift from the fringes of the Meetings industry and has moved into its new found place among mainstream best practices as both business and government make their commitments to corporate social responsibility.

The issue of what a Green Meeting actually is and how Green is "Green enough" has been a point of confusion and conversation among us. **A recent study indicates 34% of planners are implementing Green event initiatives in 2008.** The time has come where clear standards are called for.

At MPI's World Education Congress held in Las Vegas this past August, I learned that much needed clarification will very soon be in place. At the call of the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency), the Convention Industry Council's APEX and ASTM International - one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world- have been jointly working with the input, expertise and dedication of a committee of stakeholders, the "Green Meetings and Events Practice Panel" (GMPEP). This group has already committed and been working diligently on the ambitious undertaking of the standardization process. Along with that will come... drum roll please...yes... **Green Meeting Certification!**

The new standards will roll out in three phases (for lack of better description, let's call them "light green", "medium green" and "darker green"). The "light green" standards are slated to be ready for rollout as early as April, '09! The three phase implementation is intended to give planners, organizations and suppliers the chance to reasonably attain certification, catch up if necessary, and maintain certification through growth over time rather than an immediate implementation of



**Are you creative?
Innovative? Motivated?
Are you ready to make a
difference?**

Join a Chapter Committee Team Today! If you are interested in learning more about Chapter Teams, please contact any of the following:

VP MEMBERSHIP

Gina Mintzer, CMP, Director of Sales
Albany County CVB
518.434.1217 x301
gmintzer@albany.org

VP EDUCATION

Julie Ann Price, CMP, Manager, Travel & Conference Svc.
New York State United Teachers
518.213.6000 x6625
jprice@nysutmail.org

VP ADMINISTRATION

Cindy Sullivan, CMP, Sales Manager
The Saratoga Hilton
518.693.1002
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VP MARKETING / COMMUNICATIONS

Vanessa LaClair, CMP, Membership Services & Events Coordinator
Independent Power Producers of NY
518.436.3749
vanessa@ippny.org

VP STRATEGIC PLANNING

Doug McPhee, CMP, CMM
Experient
518.895.8320
doug.mcphee@experient-inc.com

VP FINANCE

Adelynn Waldie, Golf Services
Saratoga National Golf Club
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the highest level of standards which would be too difficult for many to meet at once.

So now the burning question is “How do we begin to prepare for the standards and work toward green certification in the meantime?” Here is what you can do to get started.....

Begin by determining your commitment, individually and organizationally – are you looking for the “seal of approval” or do you have a deeper commitment to the issue?

Be Realistic – what is feasible for you and your organization as it is now, 6 months from now, year from now, etc. Your efforts should make sense and fit you and your organization’s needs and resources both now and down the road. As the saying goes... *You can eat an elephant but only one bite at a time.*

Use existing standards as a guide.... A good one would be the **BSI 8901** – this is the British standard for sustainable events. This standard was created in the UK and is on its way to becoming an international standard.

Consider Participating in APEX’s GMEP Process – There is more information on the CIC website at www.conventionindustry.org

Change the World – You have the opportunity to pioneer significant earth changing practices. How many people can say that at the end of the day?!

Remember, we are all in this together so as always, if you have questions, ideas, want feedback, please contact me. I would love to hear from you.

Michelle Scott, CMP
Gatherings by Design, LLC
msscott@gatheringsbydesign.com

Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!
Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday

MPI NENY would like to wish all of its Members and Non-Members a very Happy Thanksgiving!



Stay safe and stay warm!

Got News?

We'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail your announcements to [Vanessa LaClair](mailto:Vanessa.LaClair@mpi.org), CMP, VP Communications.



Click here: [Production Schedule](#) to view the 2008-2009 MPI NENY Newsletter Production Schedule.

If you are having trouble viewing this newsletter with graphics, please visit www.mpineny.org to download a PDF version.

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