

## **New Orleans – 29 March 2022 to 1 April 2022**

Our three couples gathered to celebrate Bonnie's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mary & Larry came from Wisconsin, Bob & Sharon from Georgia and Bonnie & Peter from Florida. It was a wonderful time of eating and sightseeing and great music too. We enjoyed much more time together to talk and laugh and reminisce about our childhood memories than ever before.

We all stayed at the "Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans" (2 Canal Street, New Orleans, 504 434 5100). They recently opened so everything was very clean and fresh. All the staff was wonderful and friendly. The Concierge even managed to get us reservations at the Restaurant "Oceana Grill".

The setting is right on the waterfront where the Riverboat is moored and central to the best part of NOLA, so within walking distance to just about everything.

### **Places we visited:**

**Preservation Hall** (726 St Peter) where we heard absolutely wonderful New Orleans old-time Jazz with a trombone, trumpet, saxophone, piano, bass and drums. It was an absolute delight.

**Thomas Mann Studio** (500 Napoleon Ave). He is a creative artist making jewelry, wall art, large works and paintings. He happened to be in his studio when we walked in, so got to have a guided tour through his creative spaces.

**National WW II Museum** (945 Magazine St). This is a must-see complex. It covers the history leading up to the war and events in both Europe and the Pacific during the war. It was very moving. The world nearly became a very dark place indeed.

**Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience** (818 Howard Ave – just 2 blocks from the WWII museum). This was a fun place to visit teaching the history of Jewish migration to the south and their contribution to what it is to be a "Southerner". It was an enjoyable place to visit. Shalom Y'all!

**Where we ate** (listing only what Bob & Sharon had). All were five-star in their own right. They are listed in the order in which we visited them. We were fortunate to have not one “dud” in the three days in New Orleans. But then, NOLA is known for its food.

**LUKE** at 333 St. Charles Ave

Had a delicious lunch of fried oysters and a cheese, bacon and onion flatbread. Sharon commented that the oysters were the best she had ever eaten.

**Oceana Grill** at 739 Conti St

Blackened Catfish Po-boy and Fried Catfish Platter. Both were absolutely delicious.

**Peche Seafood Grill** at 800 Magazine St

Baked drum w/ mushroom broth and jumbo shrimp w/ coconut, greens & rice cake. Both meals were prepared to perfection.

**Miss River** restaurant in the Four Seasons

The table shared:

Carved buttermilk-fried chicken

Emily’s famous red beans and rice

Creamed spinach

Vietnamese sautéed bok choy

Roasted sweet potato

All were delicious.

**Napoleon House** at 500 Chartes St.

Fabulous Muffuletta. Is better than the Central Grocery’s was!