

Day 53 – At Sea – New Exploration Speakers – Neighbors – 18 Nov. 09: The day started with a partly cloudy sky, calm sea and temperature in the high 60s.

We worked part of the day writing the blog for Tauranga.

We also attended the lectures by the new Exploration Speakers who joined the ship in Auckland. The two speakers are Dr. Beth Foggin and Dr. George Losey.

Beth Foggin is a specialist in South Pacific destinations within the travel industry. She has taught college courses on the history and geography of the Pacific at the University of Montreal in Canada. Today Beth gave a presentation of Robert Lois Stevenson and his real-life Treasured Island of the South Seas. This was a nice preparation for our upcoming visit to Apia, Samoa where Stevenson spent much of his life and where there is a museum dedicated to that author's life and works.

George Losey is the other Exploration Speaker who gave a lecture today. His career has been primarily as a professor and researcher in zoology at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. He is an expert on the cleaning symbiosis in fish and sea turtles. His lecture today was about the coral reefs of the sea and how they cope with their environment.

About an hour before dinner we had our next door neighbors, Jean and Carol over for a little champagne. We chilled down the bottle given to us by our AAA Travel Agent, Wanda. We poured the bubbly and enjoyed getting further acquainted. Jean hails from Hawaii and Carol lives in Kentucky. We have enjoyed having them as neighbors and we enjoyed the get-together before dinner. Just before we broke up the party we took a picture of our little group, as shown on the right.

Unfortunately, Carol had her eyes closed but she is still recognizable. We'll get it right next time.



We will sail all night northeast to Tonga. We expect to dock tomorrow about 7am at Nuka Alofa in the Island Kingdom of Tonga. We have a tour scheduled and are looking forward to that.