

**Day 21 – At Sea – Barbara Haenni – Donations for Samoa - 16 Oct. 09:** The day started with a calm sea, partly cloudy and temperature in the mid 70s. The humidity was low so it was very comfortable to sit on the verandah at various times during the day.

**Chris Ritchie:** At 11am we went to a lecture by Exploration Speaker, Chris Ritchie. He discussed how in the mid 1700s the European rulers and public were just becoming aware of the South Sea Islands and the Polynesian people. An author by the name of Jean Jacques Rousseau promoted the idea that European culture was corrupted and the “natural human state”, such as the Polynesian “noble savage”, was best. There was an interest in getting to know more about the Polynesian culture so some of those people were brought to Europe. Most of these efforts led to disaster for the transplanted Polynesian who died of European diseases. One notable exception from the island of Raiatea was a man named Omai. He survived among the Europeans and became well known among the upper class of London for his calm and distinguished demeanor. He was the iconic image of the “noble savage” but there was no rush by Europeans to adopt the “natural human state”. He eventually returned to his people in Raiatea where he was successful because of his knowledge of some European technology. He lived out his last years in relative comfort in Polynesia.

**Joe Snyder:** In the afternoon at 2pm a second Explorations Speaker, Joe Snyder, talked about the similarities and differences between Australian and American histories. One major difference in the histories of the two nations was that America was born in a Revolutionary War and they had a major Civil War to ensure that the states stayed united. There was a huge frontier in America that fostered a culture of individualism and minimizing government interaction with the lives of citizens. On the other hand, Australia has had a peaceful domestic history, evolving from a British colony to an independent nation, without war. The early colonial British and then the Australian national governments were seen as necessary tools to achieve the goals of the citizens. One result of these differences is that Australia is more left leaning politically than the United States.

**Barbara Haenni:** Yesterday we met the Amsterdam Port Guide, Barbara Haenni, while walking in Rarotonga and we invited her to drop by our stateroom today for a glass of wine before dinner. Today Barbara came by and we had an enjoyable conversation for about an hour before dinner. She will complete this cruise with us on December 3 and then have about a month off before reporting back to the Amsterdam



for the 2010 Grand Cruise around the World. We took this picture above while she was visiting.

**“Kruisen” Along:** The daily program that we find in our mailbox each morning often has little tidbits of information that we find interesting. Recently there was an article about the origin of the word for what we are doing now which is “cruising”. It turns out “Cruising” comes from the Dutch word “Kruisen,” which means “to cross”. While pirates were searching for treasure ships to plunder, they would sail a zigzag route moving through the shipping lanes. This criss-cross pattern became known as cruising. Obviously this form of sailing was not done on schedule, so many years later yacht owners borrowed the word and applied it to any carefree pleasure sea voyage.

**Samoa Relief Effort:** Our next port of call is in America Samoa. Some parts of Samoa have been devastated by a recent tsunami triggered by an earthquake. Tonight the Cruise Director, Bruce, thanked the Amsterdam passengers who have donated articles of clothing to a collection of relief articles being made on the Amsterdam. In addition to donations by passengers, Holland America is donating over \$15000 worth of linens and other household items to assist the survivors of the disaster on Samoa.

Tomorrow we dock in Pago Pago, America Samoa at about 7am. We have a half day tour scheduled. We are hoping the earthquake and tsunami damage is as minor as we have heard in the reports so far.