

# Delightful, Delicious, Delovely CRUISE SHIP SPEAKING

By Jeff Davidson



After 9 cruises as guest SPEAKER in 6 years, in which I traded my programs for a marvelous vacation I've found a proper mindset helps ensure CRUISE SPEAKING success.

- **1.** Be ready for the unexpected. Although you're the guest speaker, red carpet treatment is unlikely. It would be wonderful if there were no lines or hassles, and all you had to do was simply show your papers for a few seconds and board the ship. What you may encounter is hour-long lines, shuffling papers, and other events that could dampen the cruise experience before the cruise even starts. **Stay bouyant!**
- **2.** The ship's staff may or may not be helpful. On my latest cruises the staff people were open and friendly which seemed their natural dispositions. They listened closely, and got things right the first time-what a pleasure! This experience is not necessarily the norm, however. **Be**

SHARING IDEAS Feb/Mar 2000

**resilient!**

- **3.** A good Cruise Director makes your voyage a relative breeze. I have encountered multi-talented people with unsurpassed communication skills - a bonus. Many are good at coordinating a wide variety of activities—others have 'nary a clue'. **Stay flexible!**
- **4.** Most ships offer a daily "newspaper." Some are 4 to 8 pages and contain everything a guest would need to know (if they took time to read it). If you receive such a newsletter, all the better for you. **Stay alert!**
- **5.** The room where you speak may be excellent or far less than so. On too many ships, unbelievably, the stage is flanked by exits to the left and right. To enter -or- exit- you are visible to everyone already seated, and visible to those performing. What a distraction! A few ships have better lounge and showroom layout with doors in the back. Thus people coming and going during performances are less disruptive. **Stay focused!**
- **6.** Convey your appreciation in serving as guest speaker on the cruise. Dilligent efforts, planning, and attention to detail pay off in terms of actual delivery of your presentation, quality of experience for passengers at sea. Like any other program, you will be booked for paid speaking from people in the audience for other occasions, and you will be invited back again to speak on the cruise line!

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