

41°-74° CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC.

The Premier Association for Professional Women in Travel

Note from the President:

41°-74° CLUB YEAR 2025-2026

The 41°-74° Club of NY held the second *Open Meeting* of the new club year on *Thursday, October 9*, at Tony DiNapoli's (Third Avenue, NYC). Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by the President, Corrine Mutarelli and was attended by *30 industry professionals*, including members, auxiliary members and guests.

Members in attendance: **Karlene Angus-Smith, Joann Armine-Costagliola, Adele Black, Valerie Blasi, Cynthia Brown, Loretta Carson, Cathy Chiappa, Diane Curtis, Michele Fazio-Wels, Claire Gallagher, Suzanne, Halama, Denise Kahoud, Irene Markel, Susan Mirabito, Peggy Murphy, Corrine Mutarelli, Lisa Orlando, April Piazza, Iris Salazar, Ana Schuetz, Jackie Stevens, Astra Williams and Denise Womble.** Auxiliary Members in attendance: **Peter Mutarelli** and **Jeffrey Pawld.** Guests in attendance: **Julian Banegas** and **Willie Montano.**

Additional Meeting Highlights:

Special welcome and introduction to our four new members in attendance - **Cathy Chiappa, Claire Gallagher, Susan Mirabito** and **Lisa Orlando.** Followed by each attendee also introducing themselves, sharing their name, company affiliation and a brief description of their professional role.

- **Holiday Luncheon Update:** Plans for our much-anticipated *Holiday Luncheon* are well underway! We currently have *1 Diamond, 5 Platinum* and *8 Patrons* in sponsorships, as well as **145 confirmed seats.** Over 400 invitations were sent via Paperless Post to non-members on October 16th with the goal to close out the event by *mid-November* once the maximum of *200-seat* is reached.

Special thanks to **Michele Wels** and **Jackie Stevens** for their continued efforts in soliciting prizes for the event.

- **Membership Update:** Current membership count stands at *71 Members* (including 5 new joiners) and *32 auxiliary members* (including 5 new joiners).
- **October Sponsor:** A special *thank you* to **Adele Black** of *Affluent Hospitality*, who graciously sponsored the evening. Adele delivered a wonderful presentation highlighting the exceptional properties in her portfolio, including a special report on the island of Malta.
- **Upcoming Events:** After dinner, **Valerie Blasi** was invited to share details of our exciting upcoming social events:
 - **November 13th** - a social cocktail gathering at **Rosie Dunn's Rooftop** (729 Third Avenue, NYC), featuring a cash bar and complimentary appetizers;
 - **December 4th** - the annual **Dyker Heights Lights** outing, beginning at **Ramona Manzi's** home in Brooklyn, followed by a festive walk through the lights and dinner at **Annabelle's Pastaria.**
- **Raffle:** 50/50 raffle raised **\$220**, with one of our guests, **Willie Montano**, being the lucky winner and sharing the prize with the designated charity.

Dinner and networking followed with meeting adjourning at 8:00 PM.

Warm regards,

Corrine Mutarelli

President 41°-74° Club of New York, Inc.

Club Year 2025-26

"The Premier Association for Professional Women in Travel"



The 41°-74° Club of NY Making Strides **AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

Together We Made Strides!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate another shining example of *The 41°-74° Club of NY* spirit of teamwork and generosity!

On *Sunday, October 20*, our members came together at Central Park to participate in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk. Thanks to the enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of our members, friends and supporters, we surpassed our fundraising goal - raising a whopping **\$1,653.98**, far exceeding our target of \$1,000!

This achievement reflects not only our members' commitment to giving back but also the power of collective effort when we unite for a cause that touches so many lives.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated, participated and cheered us on. Every step taken and every dollar raised helps bring us closer to the World without breast cancer.

Let's keep this spirit of compassion and community going as we continue on our philanthropy initiatives!





The 41°-74° Club of NY Making Strides **AGAINST BREAST CANCER**



Let's keep this spirit of compassion and community going as we continue on our philanthropic year!

Sincerely,

Valda Balclute

Secretary 41°-74° Club of New York, Inc.

Club Year 2025-26

"The Premier Association for Professional Women in Travel"

Our Thoughts Are With Jamaica...

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Jamaican members, their families and anyone connected to Jamaica as the island faces devastation following the recent hurricane... We stand with you during this challenging time... Please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know how we can support you.

*Warmest Regards,
The 41'-74' Club*

SHARE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING: SUPPORT THE 4BRONX PROJECT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...

This holiday season, our club proudly stands with the 4Bronx Project, a grassroots organization providing food, clothing and essential resources to families within four Bronx shelters.

With recent funding cuts to SNAP and the federal shutdown affecting countless households, many families are enduring even greater financial strain than usual. The 4Bronx Project has stepped up by continuing to offer vital support to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Your generosity can make an immediate difference. Every donation, no matter the size, helps The 4Bronx Project deliver hope, nourishment and stability to families hit hardest by economic challenges.

At our upcoming holiday luncheon, please join us in supporting 4Bronx Cares and make this holiday season brighter for those who need it most!

*Thank you,
Astra Williams*

The 41'-74' Club of New York Philanthropic Chair

41'-74' Club of New York Book Club

*We will discuss "The Boxcar Librarian" by
Brianna Labuskes.*

Time: Monday, Nov 10, 2025 06:00 PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013581437?
pwd=IaMcuRsVGxoqLjBL64MzAPr4DKtlqC.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87013581437?pwd=IaMcuRsVGxoqLjBL64MzAPr4DKtlqC.1)

Meeting ID: 870 1358 1437

Passcode: 404683

*Our January 2026 book will be "The Amalfi Curse"
by Sarah Penner (Date TBA).*

Regards,

Roberta Long-Kelleher

The 41'-74' Club of New York Vice President



Save the Date!

Rosie Dunn's Rooftop
Social Event
Cash bar-Complimentary
Appetizers

41°-74° Club of NY
Special Event
Thurs, November 13th
5:30—7:30pm
Rosie Dunn's Rooftop
729 3rd Ave.
New York 10017
212-888-4679

RSVP:
vblasi@kimberlyhotel.com



2025-26 41°-74° Club Meetings/Events:

Thursday, November 13, 2025 - Social Cocktail Hour - Rosie Dunn's Rooftop, 729 Third Avenue NYC.

Thursday, December 4, 2025 - Special Event - Dyker Heights Lights - beginning at Ramona Manzi's home in Brooklyn, followed by a festive walk through the lights and dinner at Annabelle's Pastaria, 717 86th St, Brooklyn, NY 11228.

Friday, December 12, 2025 - Annual Holiday Luncheon

January 2026 - Special Spa Event - (details TBA).

Thursday, February 12, 2026 - Open Meeting - (venue TBA) - *Sponsored by Kensington Tours* - Representative Leigh Sassone.

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - Open Meeting - (venue TBA) - *Sponsored by American Cruise Lines* - Representative April Piazza.

April 2026 - Special Event - (details TBA).

Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Open Meeting - (venue TBA).

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - *Annual General Meeting and Elections* - (venue TBA).

Happy Birthday to our Dear Members
celebrating birthdays during the month
of November!

Bruno Bignozzi
Loretta Carson
Suzanne Halama
Justin Heckman
Susan Mirabito
Nancy Kay Streiter



May your day be filled with joy, laughter and everything you wish for!

Warmest wishes for a fantastic year ahead.
The 41°-74° Club of New York

FROM MEMBERS' DIARIES:

A Stopover in Colombia on My Way to Argentina
by Jackie Stevens, Member at Large

When I first touched down in Bogotá, Colombia, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. It was just a stopover on my way to Argentina — but from the moment I arrived, the city began to surprise me.

Even the drive from the airport caught my attention. There aren't many traffic lights here, yet traffic moves remarkably well. Instead of waiting at intersections, pedestrians cross the busy roads using elevated walkways that stretch gracefully over the streets. It's a clever bit of urban planning — people move freely, and so does the traffic.

The weather was the next surprise. Bogotá sits over 8,600 feet above sea level, so although it's close to the equator, it's anything but tropical. The air is cool, fresh, and crisp — the kind that makes you instinctively reach for a sweater. In my case, a coat too. (If you're anything like me, pack one! You'll thank yourself in the evenings.)

Immigration, however, was an experience of its own. It moves steadily, but when a few flights land at once, it can stretch into hours. My best advice: use the restroom before you get in line, bring a book or download a good phone game, and summon all your patience. You'll need it — but it's worth it.

I stayed at the Novotel Parque 93, a lovely spot about 45 minutes from the airport. The neighborhood, Parque 93, quickly became one of my favorite areas — walkable, full of restaurants, and alive with local energy.

On my first morning, I layered up, grabbed my bag, and — of course — my umbrella. (Being British, leaving without one feels like tempting fate. It's our version of an American Express card: never leave home without it!).

The city immediately impressed me with its energy. Despite its altitude and chill, Bogotá buzzes with warmth — not from the weather, but from its people. Cyclists glide through traffic in every direction; it's clear this is a city that loves its bicycles.

If you ever take the funicular, avoid Sundays if you can. It's half-price that day, and since Colombians work six days a week (a 48-hour workweek!), Sunday is everyone's chance to rest, explore, and enjoy — which means long lines everywhere.

I joined a private tour with Hidalgo from Impulse Travel, who was nothing short of fantastic. He brought Bogotá's history to life, from its colonial roots to its modern reinvention. After visiting the Gold Museum, we stopped at a small local restaurant he recommended — I had fish and plantains for about five dollars, a meal simple and satisfying, just the way I like it.

What struck me most about Bogotá was its art. Beautiful murals decorate almost every wall, each one telling a story. Once considered graffiti, these works are now celebrated as city art. Artists who were once chased away are now commissioned by shop owners to beautify their walls — a transformation that not only brightens the city but protects it. I'd seen something similar in Guadeloupe, where murals tell stories of history and resilience, but Bogotá's version has its own proud heartbeat.

We walked through old neighborhoods, their architecture whispering tales of centuries past, and ended up in Bolívar Square. It reminded me of St. Mark's Square in Venice, pigeons and all — though perhaps fewer than before, or maybe I'm imagining it.

In the Pacífica area downtown, I had another local meal — hearty, flavorful, and absolutely delicious. There's something about eating local food in the heart of a bustling city that makes you feel like you truly belong there, if only for a moment.

One of the highlights of my visit was the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá, about an hour from Bogotá. It's an awe-inspiring underground cathedral built within the tunnels of a salt mine — about 1,800 meters below the surface. The Stations of the Cross are carved in salt along the way, leading you through soft-lit chambers that open into a breathtaking cathedral. I put my camera away several times, realizing no photo could capture what my eyes were seeing. If you go, go early and on a weekday. I visited on a Wednesday morning and was leaving just as the crowds began pouring in. Sundays are especially packed since it's the only day most locals have off.

Colombia is a country that never stops surprising you. Did you know there's a Lost City in the north — their own version of Machu Picchu? Or that they mine some of the world's finest emeralds, the same ones you see on cruise ships labeled "Colombian Emeralds"? They're the real deal.

After two short days, it was time to say goodbye to Colombia. But I left with a deep sense of admiration and curiosity. I learned so much — about its people, its art, its resilience, and its beauty.

There's still so much more to explore: the grasslands of the north where you can go on a Colombian-style safari and see their own "Big Five," the Amazon rainforest in the south, and the beaches of Cartagena to the north.

Colombia wasn't just a stopover — it became a story, one that I'd love to continue someday.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women make the vast majority of travel decisions!

Women are pivotal to shaping the travel industry. From deciding which destinations to visit to booking the trip, they make 82% of all travel decisions, according to Skift Research's 2024 The Woman Traveler report. Women also travel more frequently than men – the same Skift report stated that 64% of travellers globally are female. So, as female travellers increasingly lean towards women-only tours, the travel industry is leaning with them.

Over the last few years, the Adventure Travel Trade Association has seen a 230% increase in the number of travel companies catering specifically to women. Meanwhile, existing operators are expanding their product ranges. For those already in operation, bookings are on the up. Responsible Travel has seen an 18% increase in interest for its women-only holidays over the last three years. And Intrepid Travel, one of the biggest operators in this space, saw a 59% increase in bookings for its Women's Expeditions in 2024 compared to the year before. But what exactly is driving this growing trend?

The new zeitgeist

A pioneer in the industry since 1982, US-based operator AdventureWomen has been offering women-only, small-group tours to everywhere from the polar regions to Asia and Africa for over 40 years. Hot on its heels is Wild Women Expeditions, which has been running since 1991, focusing on remote locations. Female-led travel, then, is hardly new. But women-only tours have undeniably moved from a niche space to becoming part of the zeitgeist more recently.

Money has a lot to do with it, according to Claire Copeman, founder of Adventure Tours UK. "More and more women now have the financial independence to be able to do their own thing," she explains. The data seems to back it up. Women are now on average wealthier than ever, according to one recent report by investment bank UBS. And while the overall gender pay gap remains, research from the Centre for Social Justice suggests that it has been reversed for Gen Zers in the UK, with women now earning, on average, £2,200 more per year than men.

But there's also been an increase in the desire to travel. When you look at Google Trends data between June 2020 and June 2025, there's been a 600% increase in global searches for 'travel companies for solo female travellers', and a 200% increase for 'solo trips for women', among other similar search queries.

Crucially, though, not all solo female travellers are going it completely alone – many are instead joining group tours, independent of their friends and family. Virtuoso, a network of companies specialising in luxury and experiential travel for individuals and groups, says that as of 2024, 71% of its solo travel customers are women.

Potential cost savings is one reason why solo female travellers are turning to group tours. In a survey of its members, community platform Solo Female Travelers found that 71% of women were reluctant to go on their first solo trip because they're worried about the higher costs. Safety is another factor, as cited by 59% of respondents to the same survey. That's hardly surprising when, statistically speaking, women are far more likely to be victims of headline crime than men.

Although mixed group tours address both of these concerns to a certain extent, for some female travellers, women-only journeys add an extra layer of security. Take Carli Korik, volunteer at online community Girls Who Travel. Having travelled both on her own and with groups, she found that women-only tours took away some of the 'unknowns' that come with being in mixed company. "Spending a week or two in close quarters with men you don't know just means you have to be more aware, which is fine – as women we all do that without thinking," she explains. "But it's a huge relief not to have to think twice about who you're sitting with on the bus or if you need to cover your drink. It's not just about avoiding something bad happening. It's about being able to let your guard down."

Making connections

Safety isn't the only reason to choose a women-only tour. "Women are seeking experiences that feel deeply meaningful – and often, that's in the company of other women," says Deborah Calmeyer, founder and CEO of luxury specialist Roar Africa.

That was certainly the case for former coffee shop owner April Seals-Partner, who booked her trip during a stressful period of her life. "I chose a women-only tour because I wasn't looking for just another getaway – I was seeking sisterhood," she explains. "In mixed-gender spaces, the subtle emotional safety that sisterhood offers often gets diluted. In a women-only space, vulnerability is healing and conversations go deep – fast. We laugh louder and hold space for one another in a way that's simply unmatched." That first experience was so transformative, in fact, that Seals-Partner went on to start her own female-led travel firm, Radiant Escapes, so more women could have the same experience.

DID YOU KNOW?

Continued...

For Josie Prior, a HR manager who attends women-only retreats annually, being able to connect with other women and having the mental and physical space to reset was part of the appeal. "I chose female-only groups as I was searching for answers from other women," she says. Without sisters to turn to, women-only retreats became a vital place for the female-led conversations that were missing from her daily life. "We spoke about the menopause, empty nesting, you name it. Some opened up about subjects they couldn't talk to their friends about," Prior explains. "As we didn't really know each other, there was no judging."

Candid conversations

Women-only tours can also open up more meaningful travel experiences in other ways. For Intrepid, a driving force behind the launch of its Women's Expeditions back in 2018 was that societal norms in destinations like the Middle East meant interactions with locals were often limited when there's a mixed group. The travel firm created its first women-only tours to Morocco, Iran and Jordan — places that have traditionally been more conservative. These tours now include India, Nepal, Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

On these trips, female travellers and their hosts are given more chances "to have candid conversations about their daily lives", says Joanna Reeve, Intrepid's UK and Ireland manager. By being part of an all-female tour, guests also get the chance to enter women-only spaces that would otherwise be off-limits. You might go swimming at a women-only beach in Saudi Arabia, for example, or visit a woman's home in India.

And then there's the emotional support you get, particularly on active or adventurous trips. Copywriter and keen hiker Kim Merritt experienced this on a women-only trip to Mongolia with WHOA Travel. She says: "When one woman was having a particularly tough go, our guide rallied us together to cheer her up. When I was struggling to climb a steep incline, our guide taught me how to do it more efficiently." There was no judgement, just lots of encouragement.

The ripple effect

The UN's latest Global Report on Women in Tourism revealed that women make up 54% of the global tourism workforce. At the same time, there's burgeoning evidence that trips supporting women-owned businesses have wider, positive economic and social implications. Various studies have shown that women-owned businesses are more likely to create positive social impact, whether that's through creating jobs for other women or by supporting those in their community. In this context, it's not hard to imagine that women-only tours will have an increasingly important role to play in responsible tourism.

Anecdotally, it's already possible to see the benefits of women-only tours in play. Intrepid, for example, provides employment opportunities for women by incorporating locally led experiences into all of its Women's Expeditions and many of its other tours. "This helps to ensure tourism dollars are going directly to local women, which helps to support them, and often their families and wider communities too," says Reeve.

Currently the tour operator is the largest employer of female tour guides in both India and Morocco, and it's looking to increase this further. It also supports charities that help local women through its tours. On its Women's Expedition to India for example, guests visit the Sherries Hangout in Agra, which offers employment opportunities and support to survivors of acid attacks.

On a smaller scale, Roar Africa has hosted a roving Women's Empowerment Retreat around the African continent since 2019. Through it, educational opportunities, scholarships, exchange programmes and funding for critical conservation and women's health initiatives have all been created, according to Calmeyer.

Whether intended or not, it seems those choosing specialist women-only tours achieve a rare combination: a meaningful journey that's not only good for them, but also beneficial to society at large. And in a world where our travel decisions can hugely impact the local communities we meet, that can only be a good thing.

This Is an Open Space – Specifically Left Blank for Your Story!

*Do you have a story to tell, an experience to share, or exciting news about your company? This space is for **YOU!***

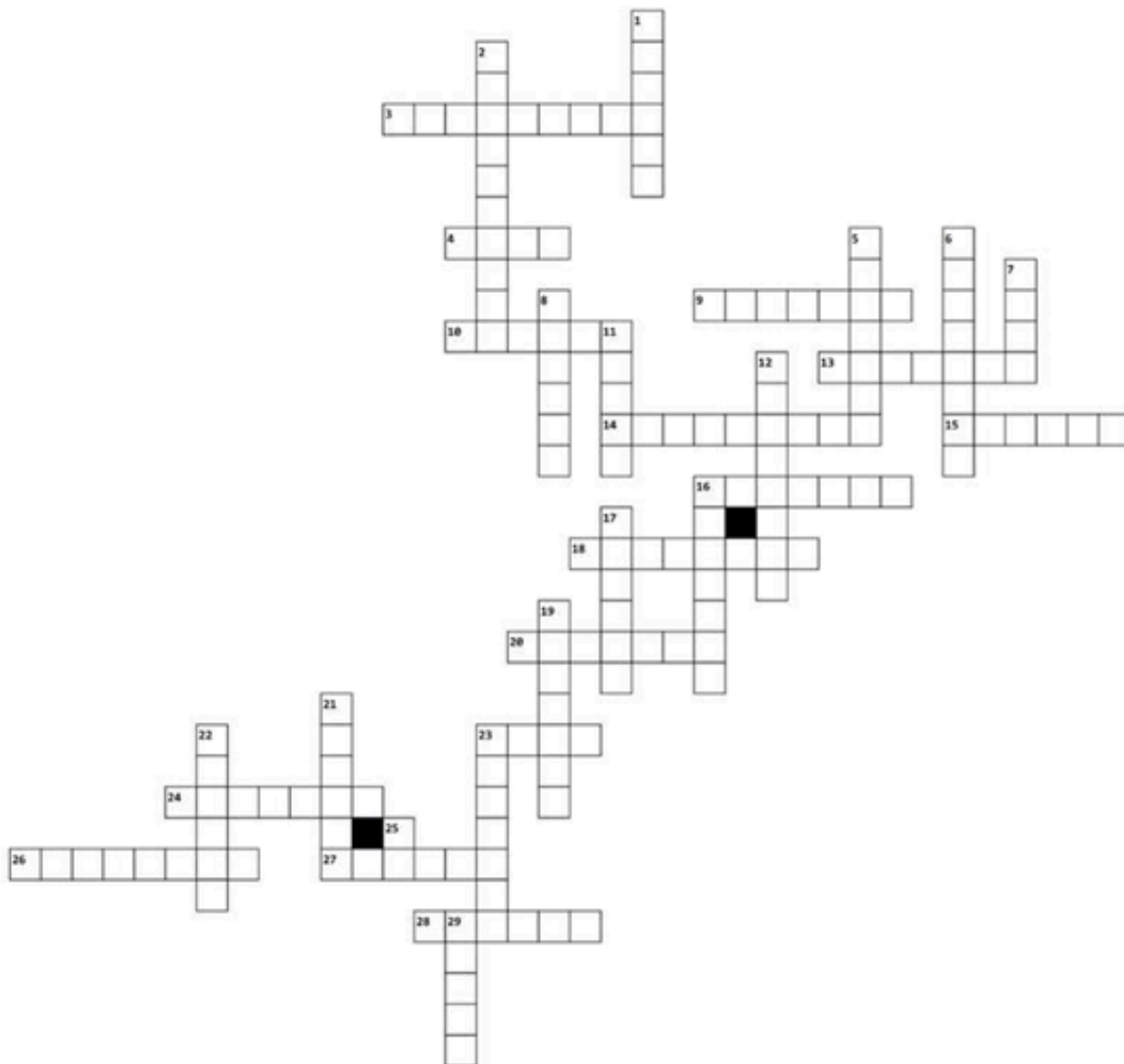
*The **METEOR** of the 41°-74° Club is your platform to connect, inspire and promote within our vibrant community of travel professionals. Whether it's a memorable trip, an educational insight, a personal milestone, or an update from your business, your contribution adds color, energy and inspiration to our pages.*

✨ Let's make this newsletter truly ours – together!

*****To submit your story, spotlight, or company feature, please email to: 4174ny@gmail.com for inclusion in an upcoming issue.*****

In Between Mapping Trips: Take a Break with Our “United” Crossword

Untitled



METEOR

ACROSS:

3. Island known as the birth place of Rihanna
4. Train system in Japan
9. Famous for cigars and cars
10. Shared by Haiti and Dominican Republic
13. Known for the Great Pyramids
14. Where the Amazon Rainforest is
15. Known for the Pitons
16. Known for tango and beef
18. Spoken in Haiti
20. City in the UAE with futuristic skyscrapers
23. Hosted the first African Olympics in 1960
24. Caribbean cruise port also known as "The Friendly Island"
26. Wall in China seen from space
27. Covers most of North Africa
28. Nation off Africa's east coast , known for lemurs

DOWN:

1. New York statue
2. Famous pre-Lenten festival
5. Abbreviation for Los Angeles
6. In Tanzania that's Africa's tallest
7. Of Canals in Italy
8. Waterfall on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe
11. Caribbean island known for its colorful waterfront and pastel buildings
12. Spoken in Brazil
16. Famous for Fjords and Northern Lights
17. Kenyan wildlife conservation area
19. With Cape Town and Kruger National Park
21. Country in the Pacific famous for volcanoes and beaches
22. Structure in Paris
23. City of Jamaica
25. Territory in the Caribbean made up of three main islands
29. Dish often associated with Jamaica

From the Archives: This is the full story of how 41-74 got its name

When the founders of the club gathered in 1937 to choose a name, they wanted something that would truly represent New York – something distinctive, modern, and clever. During the lively discussion, one of the women suggested playing the “numbers game” that was popular at the time.

“What if we used New York’s latitude and longitude?” she proposed.

The idea immediately caught everyone’s attention. But there was just one problem – no one in the room knew the city’s exact coordinates. Determined to get it right, one of the members telephoned the New York Public Library for the answer.

Moments later, she returned with the figures: 41 degrees north, 74 degrees west.

The group loved it. It was unique, meaningful, and tied directly to the city they called home. And with that quick call, the 41°-74° Club of New York was born – a name that has proudly represented generations of professional women in the travel industry ever since