



# 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 New York* held its February Open Meeting on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the beautifully renovated *Waldorf Astoria* in mid-town Manhattan - *Many Thanks to David Martins of the Waldorf for his generosity and hospitality. The meeting was another tremendous success with 36 members, auxiliaries and industry guests in attendance.*

A *50/50 raffle* was conducted during the event, *raising USD 345.00*. I was fortunate to win the raffle and chose to *donate the full amount to the JoyJ Initiative*, the charity selected to benefit from funds raised at our meetings during this club year.

We were honored to welcome *JoyJ's Director, Leila Araiche*, who delivered a heartfelt and moving presentation about the organization's impactful work supporting homeless families throughout New York City.

The meeting was generously *sponsored by Kensington*, the award-winning tour company known for its expertly crafted, tailor-made travel experiences. *Leigh Sassone*, one of our valued auxiliary members, presented an informative overview of Kensington's diverse global destinations and customized tour offerings.

We look forward to our next meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the exquisite *Omni Berkshire Place* (21 E 52nd St NY 10022). *Claire Gallagher*, a valued member of the Club and representative of Omni Hotels, will serve as our sponsor. Please note that attendance is limited to 25 members and auxiliaries only (no guests) due to space constraints at the venue, so reserve your spot early!

On behalf of the entire *Board of Directors of the 41°-74° Club of New York*, I want to express my appreciation to the entire membership for all you do to continue to make our club *the Premier Association for Women in travel!*

*Warm regards,*

***Corrine Mutarelli***

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

*Club Year 2025-26*

*"The Premier Association for Professional Women in Travel"*

*OUR MISSION: Networking & Socializing in Action - Be Part of the Impact!*



## *February Meeting at the Reimagined Waldorf Astoria New York*

The 41<sup>st</sup>-74<sup>th</sup> Club of New York was proud to host its *February Open Meeting* at the legendary **Waldorf Astoria New York**, a property that has recently completed one of the most extraordinary transformations in hospitality history.

After an eight-year reimagination, the *Waldorf Astoria* has reopened not simply as a renovation, but as a rebirth. Once a 1,400-room hotel, the iconic landmark has been thoughtfully redesigned into an ultra-luxury **375-room property**, now offering some of the most expansive accommodations in New York City. **Entry-level guest rooms average an impressive 600 square feet**, the largest standard rooms in the city, setting a new benchmark for space and comfort.

For families and groups, the hotel offers unmatched flexibility with **190 connecting rooms**, including **17 two-bedroom** combinations and **17 three-bedroom** configurations. At the pinnacle of luxury, **five signature suites**, ranging from 2,500 to 5,000 square feet, offer **two- to four-bedroom layouts** designed for the most discerning travelers.

Wellness will soon reach new heights with the debut of New York City's **largest luxury hotel spa** - over 30,000 square feet - **in partnership with Guerlain**, anticipated to be one of the most significant spa openings of 2025. Culinary excellence is equally central to the Waldorf's revival, with dining concepts led by **Chef Michael Anthony of Gramercy Tavern**, alongside a refined Japanese dining experience that redefines the hotel's gastronomic legacy.

Yet beyond its remarkable physical transformation, the **Waldorf Astoria holds a powerful place in social history, particularly for women. It is widely recognized as one of the first luxury hotels to allow women to check in without a male escort and to dine alone**, breaking significant social taboos in the late 19th century. At a time when women's independence in public spaces was limited, this progressive stance quietly reshaped hospitality norms and expanded freedom for women travelers. For the 41<sup>st</sup>-74<sup>th</sup> Club of New York, the premier association of women in travel, hosting our meeting in a property with such a legacy carries special meaning. The Waldorf Astoria's early support of women's autonomy in travel and public life mirrors our Club's founding vision and ongoing mission to champion, connect and elevate women in the travel industry.

The Waldorf Astoria's storied history extends well beyond this important milestone. The original hotel opened in 1893 on Fifth Avenue before relocating to Park Avenue in 1931, making way for the construction of the Empire State Building. Culinary icons such as the Waldorf Salad and Eggs Benedict were born here. The hotel pioneered room service and was the first in New York City to feature electricity on every floor.

Hidden beneath the property lies **Track 61**, a private railway platform once used to discreetly transport dignitaries, including **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**. Over the decades, the Waldorf has hosted world leaders, royalty, celebrities and historic events, cementing its place as one of the world's most legendary hotels.

Our February gathering was more than a networking event. It served as a reminder that progress in hospitality - and in our profession - has always been driven by those willing to challenge convention and open doors for others.

**We extend our sincere appreciation to the Waldorf Astoria New York for welcoming our Club** and for sharing in an evening that celebrated both innovation and heritage.

Networking in action truly makes an impact, strengthening our community while honoring the pioneers who paved the way.

## Save the Date!

*41°-74° Club of New York Book Club*

**“The Little Provence Book Shop”**

*by Gillian Harvey*

**Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2025 06:00 PM EST**

*Join Zoom Meeting at*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83463238619?pwd=I9f4M3eqD732hPZb7cfJlmcvI73sw2.1>

**Meeting ID: 834 6323 8619**

**Passcode: 817561**

*Upcoming Book Club Selections:*

*May, 2026: “Daughter of Egypt” by Marie Benedict*

*July, 2026: “The Astral Library” by Kate Quinn*

*Regards,*

**Roberta Long-Kelleher**

*The 41°-74° Club of New York Vice President*

**41°-74° CLUB OF NEW YORK  
- OPEN MEETING -  
MARCH 12, 2026**



**OMNI**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

**March 12, 2026 @5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Omni Berkshire Place, 21 E 52 St, New York City,  
NY 10022, USA**

\*\*\*Spaces are limited - reserve your spot today @<https://www.4174club.org/upcoming-events>\*\*\*

### **2025-26 41°-74° Club of New York Meetings and Special Events:**

**Thursday, March 12, 2026** - Open Meeting - Omni Berkshire Place NYC - **Sponsored by Omni Hotels** - Representative Claire Gallagher.

**Thursday, April 16, 2026** - Special Event - (details TBA).

**Thursday, May 14, 2026** - Open Meeting - Fushimi NYC - **Sponsored by Delta Vacations** - Representative Lisa Orlando.

**Thursday, June 11, 2026** - **Annual General Meeting and Elections** - Arte Cafe NYC - **Sponsored by American Cruise Lines** - Representative April Piazza.

### **ASTA New York City Chapter Summer Gala**

**Auxiliary Past President of the 41°-74° Club of New York, Ralph Vasami, calling fellow members and auxiliaries to Save the Date for the upcoming New York City ASTA Summer Gala**

**The event will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at Mulino's at Lake Isle, 660 White Plains Rd, Eastchester, NY 10709**

*All members and auxiliaries of the 41°-74° Club of New York are warmly invited to attend this highly anticipated industry gathering*

*Additional details will be shared as it becomes available. For updates, please visit the official ASTA New York City website at: <https://www.astanyc.com/>*

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



*Mary Beth O'Connor*

*Trish Sanzone*

*Sharon Ulrick*

*Shawn D. Johnson*

*Jeffrey Pawid*

*Ralph Vasami*

*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*

### *Call for New Members & Auxiliaries*

*The 41°-74° Club of New York invites qualified travel professionals and industry partners to join our growing community. As the premier association for women in travel, our strength comes from engaged members, who are committed to advancing our industry together.*

*We encourage all members to recommend colleagues and emerging leaders who would benefit from - and contribute to - our mission.*

*Our three-pillar mission remains at the heart of everything we do:*

*Philanthropy. Networking. Professional Development.*

*Together, we can continue to grow, strengthen our impact and build an even more powerful future for women in travel.*

*For membership information, please contact the Membership Committee led by **Roberta Long-Kelleher**, The 41°-74° Club of New York Vice President*



## FROM MEMBERS' DIARIES:

*The inaugural flight to Palm Springs on United Airlines and tour of Palm Springs by Michele Fazio-Weis, Member at Large*

We were most graciously hosted by the **Palm Springs (PS) Tourist Board**, who wined and dined us at a wide variety of PS hotels and restaurants. We flew out on United Airlines inaugural flight from Newark Airport, nonstop to Palm Springs. Upon arrival we were taken to a lovely outdoor lunch at **Farm Palm Springs**, a lovely eatery where we sat outside and enjoyed the warm sun as well as great food. After lunch we were off to **JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa**, which was our home base for the next 4 days. Our room was large and lovely, overlooking their pools and ponds. Dinner was at the hotel's private dining area, where we arrived via an evening boat ride.

The hotel's chef was on hand to provide an amazing array of foods, wines and liquors.

They even had one of our favorite Italian Amaro on hand for an after dinner treat.

The next morning it was off to the Thomson Palm Springs for breakfast and a brief tour of their beautiful hotel in the heart of downtown.

After breakfast we enjoyed a guided hike in Indian Canyons. Dinner was at the Hotel Paseo, a small, boutique hotel that was really nice. We sat outside and enjoyed their buffet and toured the Airstream camper that was once a rentable room.

Saturday, I was off to the BMW Performance Center, where we raced around their autocross course in a variety of 600 plus horse power M class cars. This was really fun and a great place for a bachelor party, or a business booster.

I then went on The Red Jeep tour, hosted by Desert Adventures in the San Andreas mountain area - spectacular views and rock formations you won't see anywhere else.

Dinner was at the Parker Palm Springs, a beautiful hotel with lots of history, including being on the property, formerly owned by Gene Autry, famous cowboy movie star of the 30ies, 40ies and 50ies. His house still stands on the property and is available to rent. Their grounds are beautiful and expansive, and they are hosts to the Hollywood elite.

Our final morning before the flight home was spent in The Spa at Séc-he, owned by the local Indian tribe. The spa offers natural hot springs, which they have operated since the early 1900s. The facility is amazing, offering quite a list of options including cold plunges, private hot baths, jacuzzi spas, a beautiful pool area with food and beverage service, as well as a well equipped gym. Of course, a variety of massages and other treatments are available also.

I could, probably, go on, because it is quite a facility!

In closing, our first visit to Palm Springs wont be our last. The area is beautiful, the weather cannot be beaten, the food is great, and the people are very welcoming!

CAPRICE TRAVEL AGENCY



## FROM MEMBERS' DIARIES:

*Ghana in February: Daily Stories from an Unforgettable Journey by Jackie Stevens, Member at Large*

**Reflections from Ghana: A Journey That Lasts**

Some trips stay with you long after you return home and Ghana was one of those unforgettable journeys. Throughout February, I am sharing my experiences in daily reflections, capturing the sights, sounds and stories that made this trip so meaningful.

You're invited to follow along and experience the journey with me:

- Watch on YouTube: **Daily Reflections from Ghana**  
([https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXpE3TWZRwaQbbA8xK7KifPqggK7ox7Y9&si=HAFRWK\\_jFIUGYH8x](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXpE3TWZRwaQbbA8xK7KifPqggK7ox7Y9&si=HAFRWK_jFIUGYH8x))
- Watch on Facebook: **Follow the Series**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/share/17m5X9t1US/?mibextid=wwXlfr>)

**I'd love for you to join me in exploring the culture, beauty and unforgettable moments of Ghana!**



*black-history-month*



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Luxury Travel Trends: Where the World's Most Discerning Travelers Are Heading Next* by **Sharina Muñoz**, CEO & Luxury Travel Advisor, **Adventures D'or**

*In the world of luxury travel, staying ahead isn't just about knowing where to go—it's about understanding where the world's most sophisticated travelers will be before the crowds discover it.*

*2026 is shaping up to be a pivotal year. We're seeing a decisive shift toward authenticity, transformational experiences and destinations that offer both exclusivity and substance. The travelers I work with are moving beyond the 'been there, collected that' mentality—they want to be moved, challenged and connected to places in meaningful ways.*

*What follows are three destinations I'm watching closely for 2026. Each represents a unique opportunity for the discerning traveler: emerging luxury infrastructure, cultural authenticity, optimal timing, or that rare combination of exclusivity and genuine discovery. These aren't predictions—they're strategic recommendations based on real-time intelligence from the field.*

### **1. Puglia, Italy - ITALY'S BEST-KEPT SECRET EMERGES**

**Why It's Trending:** While Tuscany and the Amalfi Coast buckle under overtourism, Puglia—Italy's heel—is experiencing a sophisticated awakening. This sun-drenched region offers everything discerning travelers seek: authentic masserie (fortified farmhouses) converted into intimate luxury hotels, UNESCO-listed trulli villages, a dramatic coastline rivaling anywhere in the Mediterranean, and a farm-to-table culture that predates the trend by centuries. Major luxury brands are finally investing here, while Puglia retains its unspoiled character. 2026 marks the inflection point—established enough for comfort, undiscovered enough for authenticity.

**Best Seasons:** May-June and September-October are perfection—warm Mediterranean days, fewer crowds, and the shoulder season reveals the real Puglia. June brings cherry season and a vibrant countryside. September offers harvest season, outdoor dining weather, and the sea still warm from summer. Avoid July-August when Italian families descend on coastal areas.

**New Luxury Properties:** Masseria Torre Maizza (Rocco Forte) has unveiled new suites and a nine-hole golf course (opening May 2026). Borgo Egnazia continues expanding with additional luxury villas, while San Domenico Golf—one of Europe's finest resorts—is debuting new coastal suites (June 2026). The crown jewel: Aman is developing a clifftop property near Polignano a Mare for late 2026, their first in southern Italy. Several restored masserie are also opening as boutique properties with 4-8 rooms—the ultimate in privacy.

**Signature Experiences:** Private trulli tours in Alberobello with architectural historians, exclusive access to family-owned olive oil estates (some producing for 200+ years), cooking classes with Michelin-starred chefs using ingredients from the property's gardens, and private yacht charters along the dramatic coastline from Polignano to Santa Maria di Leuca. Don't miss: bicycle tours through the Valle d'Itria past ancient olive groves and wine estates, and private after-hours access to the baroque churches of Lecce.

**Sharina's Note:** Puglia rewards slow travel. I recommend basing yourself in one luxury property and exploring daily rather than hotel-hopping. My preferred routing: 4 nights Valle d'Itria (Borgo Egnazia or Six Senses) with 3 nights on the Salento coast. Book for September 2026—harvest season, wine festivals, and the region at its most authentic. I can arrange private access to working olive oil mills and family-run wineries.

### **2. Hokkaido, Japan - BEYOND THE POWDER: JAPAN'S WILD NORTH**

**Why It's Trending:** While overtourism plagues Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan's northernmost island remains blissfully undiscovered by most international travelers. Hokkaido is having a moment: world-class winter sports infrastructure, a burgeoning farm-to-table movement that rivals Copenhagen, and luxury properties that finally match the destination's quality. The 2026 Sapporo candidacy for the 2034 Winter Olympics has accelerated development without compromising the island's wild character. This is Japan for travelers who've already done Japan—more dramatic, more remote, more authentic.

**Best Seasons:** Winter (December-March) for legendary powder skiing at Niseko, but insiders know summer (June-August) is extraordinary—lavender fields, coastal cycling, volcano hiking, and seafood at its peak. Autumn (September-October) offers fiery foliage and harvest season. Each season is distinct and exceptional.

**New Luxury Properties:** Aman Niseko (opening December 2026) will reset luxury ski standards with hot spring-fed onsens in every residence. Azumi Setose, from the team behind Amanemu, opens summer 2026 on the Shakotan Peninsula—11 rooms, each with ocean views and private rotenburo. Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono is also debuting (January 2026) with ski-in/ski-out access and a two-Michelin-star kaiseki restaurant.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Continued...

**Signature Experiences:** Helicopter access to untouched backcountry powder with certified guides, private sea urchin diving with female ama divers (a dying tradition), farm visits with Hokkaido's innovative agricultural pioneers, and exclusive sake tastings at boutique breweries. Summer brings rare opportunities: cycling the Shiretoko Peninsula (UNESCO World Heritage), brown bear viewing with naturalists, and lavender farm hot air ballooning.

**Sharina's Note:** Niseko is no secret anymore, but most visitors never leave the resort. The real Hokkaido requires a car and expert guidance. I can arrange culinary-focused expeditions across the island—fishing villages, mountain farms, hidden hot springs. It's a completely different experience. Book Aman Niseko early; they prioritize existing Aman guests for reservations.

### 3. Rwanda - AFRICA'S LUXURY RENAISSANCE

**Why It's Trending:** Rwanda has emerged as Africa's most sophisticated luxury destination—a remarkable transformation from its tragic past. Known as the 'land of a thousand hills,' Rwanda combines world-class gorilla trekking with genuine luxury infrastructure, political stability, and a commitment to conservation that rivals Costa Rica. Kigali is Africa's cleanest, safest capital city, and the country's focus on high-value, low-impact tourism has created an environment where ultra-luxury thrives. With new flight connections and properties opening, 2026 is Rwanda's moment. It's also the perfect extension for those booking Micato's new 2026 safari programs in East Africa.

**Best Seasons:** June-September (long dry season) offers the best gorilla trekking conditions—easier hiking through the forests. December-February (short dry season) is also excellent and less crowded. The shoulder months of May and October can be magical with lush landscapes, though afternoon rain is possible. Gorilla permits are available year-round, but book 6-12 months in advance.

**New Luxury Properties:** One&Only Nyungwe House (opening April 2026) brings their signature ultra-luxury to the rainforest with canopy walks and chimpanzee trekking. Singita Kwitonda Lodge continues to set the standard in Volcanoes National Park with their conservation-focused luxury. The newest addition: Wilderness Safaris is opening Bisate Reserve (June 2026), their most ambitious reforestation and gorilla conservation project yet, with just six villas. & Beyond is also developing a Lake Kivu property for late 2026 with overwater villas.

**Signature Experiences:** Mountain gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park (only 1,000 permits issued annually)—one of the planet's most profound wildlife encounters. Golden monkey tracking, canopy walks through Nyungwe Forest (one of Africa's oldest rainforests), visits to Dian Fossey's research center and grave site, and cultural experiences with reformed poachers now working as conservationists. Don't miss: helicopter transfers between parks for aerial views of the dramatic volcanic landscape, and visits to the community Cooperatives supported by luxury lodges.

**Sharina's Note:** Gorilla permits (\$1,500 per person) sell out 6-12 months in advance for peak season. I secure these early and recommend 2-3 treks to maximize your chances of extended encounters. Rwanda is an ideal 4-5 day extension before or after a Tanzania or Kenya safari—I'm offering new Micato safari programs for 2026 that seamlessly combine countries. The One&Only is filling quickly for the opening season.

### The Strategic Advantage

These destinations represent more than travel trends—they're strategic opportunities. Each offers something increasingly rare in luxury travel: the ability to be among the first without sacrificing comfort, safety, or sophistication. The window for this combination is always limited. 2026 bookings are already underway for the most sought-after properties and experiences. If any of these destinations resonates with your travel aspirations, the time to begin planning is now. Many of the hotels and experiences mentioned have limited inventory—particularly the newly opened properties and expedition vessels.

## MEMBER UPDATES

*Affluent Hospitality*

*Affluent Hospitality* is proud to announce its newest client, **the Middle East Travel**, offering an extensive range of destinations across the Middle East - from iconic cultural hubs to emerging leisure markets.

All programs are managed through carefully selected local DMCs and coordinated by a dedicated in-house product development team, ensuring consistent quality, competitive pricing and reliable delivery.

Travel advisors can earn **15% commission on FIT bookings and 20% on groups.**



## MEMBER UPDATES

*Rubys Travel*



**Do you need a Global Entry Card?**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers are coming to RubysTravel!

Apply for a Global Entry Card TODAY, and take your interview at RubysTravel on May 5, 2026

Space is limited so please contact Ruby at [GlobalEntry@RubysTravel.com](mailto:GlobalEntry@RubysTravel.com) or call 973-696-(RUBY)7829

### *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, please email to: [4174ny@gmail.com](mailto:4174ny@gmail.com) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.\*\*\*

*Our strength as a Club comes from staying connected: sharing ideas, celebrating achievements and supporting one another beyond our in-person events. We invite **all Members** to follow and engage with us on:*

*--> LinkedIn - "4174 Club of New York"*

*--> Facebook - "41-74 Club of New York"*

*--> Instagram - "4174clubny"*

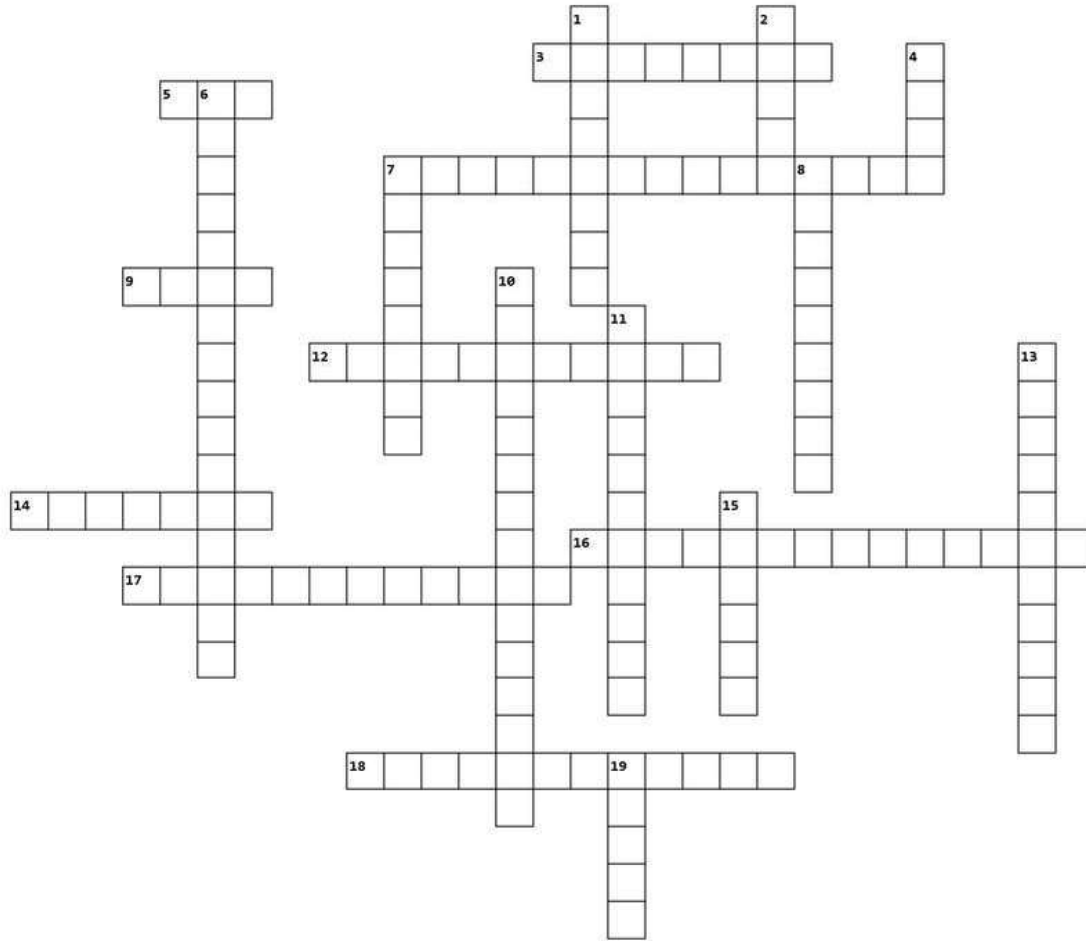
*Also, it enables you to stay up to date on upcoming events, industry highlights, philanthropic initiatives and moments that matter.*

*Your voice, your presence, and your participation help amplify the impact of the 41°-74° Club of New York. Join the conversation, share the journey and help us continue building a powerful, connected community.*

✨ *Follow us. Engage with us. Grow with us!*

*Stay Connected. Stay Inspired. Be Part of the Movement!*

## In Between Mapping Trips: Take a Break with Our Crossword marking the *Black History Month*



### ACROSS:

3. Black History month is in this month
5. This color represents blood in black history month
7. Black history month's month in the US was chosen based on Frederick \_\_\_'s and Abraham \_\_\_'s birthday
9. \_\_\_ Bridges was one of the first black kids to go to a white school
12. The name of a famous speech MLK gave
14. \_\_\_ Tubman helped people escape slavery through the underground railroad
16. Known as the father of Black History Month in the US
17. First woman to be vice president
18. The \_\_\_ proclamation was an official order that Abraham Lincoln issued that freed slaves in the US

### DOWN:

1. \_\_\_ Banneker was a black man who helped plan out Washington DC and pleaded for the abolition of slavery
2. This color represents growth in black history month
4. \_\_\_ Baptiste was known as the founder of Chicago and translated many languages for many groups of people
6. \_\_\_ Freeman was the first black woman to sue for her freedom
7. Frederick \_\_\_ became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York
8. \_\_\_ Colvin was the first woman to refuse changing their seat on a bus
10. The black history month theme of 2023
11. To separate different kinds of people based on something about them
13. Laws that segregated black people
15. This color represents prosperity in black history month
19. The association that started Black History Month