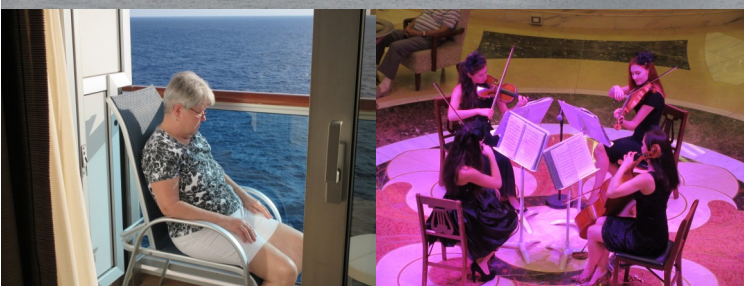


The Western Carabbean on The Royal Princess!

Smith Family Newsletter
February 2017- Page 1

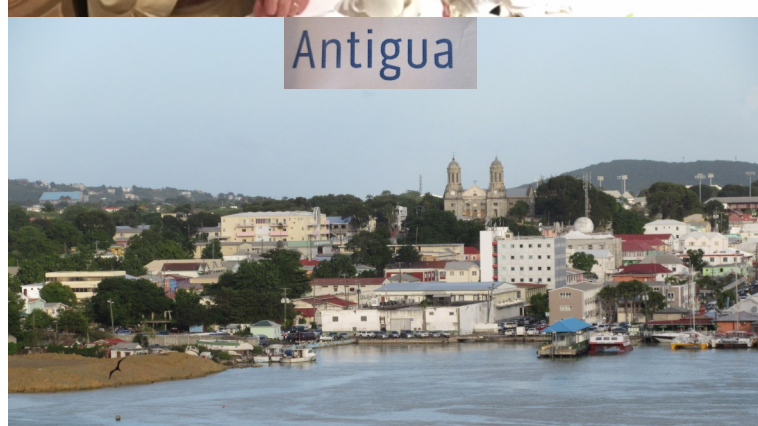
We'll get ready!! Don't know how long this newsletter will be as there is so much to share. This was a great cruise for a number of reasons; a great Cruise Line, perfect weather, making new friends on board, the hypnotic effect of the ocean, great entertainment, beautiful friendly islands, great food and I could go on. We left on the 29th of January, flying in to Fort Lauderdale, FL. Our stops included Antigua, then St. Lucia, then Barbados, St. Kitts, St. Thomas and finally Grand Turk. We flew back home on Wednesday, February 8th. To begin with, Fort Lauderdale is a major cruise port and the first picture shows only some of the ships in port. Bob & I just love sailing, it is so relaxing! We always get a room with a balcony which is a real plus. I just love looking out at the water with the sea gulls following the ship and an occasional whale. Bob took a picture of me staring at the water. The ship is beautiful and have added a few pictures highlighting this.



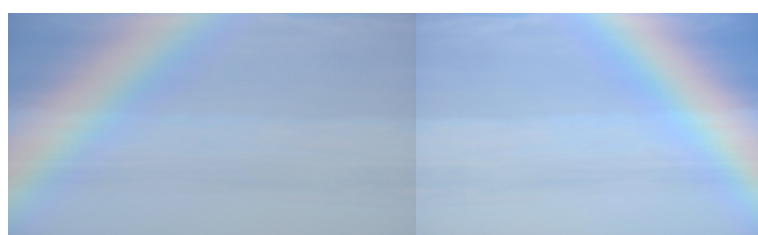
There is always something on board to grab your interest. One example above is one of the musical groups, where you can sit with your favorite drink and listen. At night there is a movie screen under the stars. We go up top, make ourselves comfortable on one of the reclining deck chairs and watch a movie. If you feel chilled, there are blankets available to pull over you. Oh...and pop corn, of course! By the way, Bob took the picture of the rainbow on the right.



Antigua



The picture on top is of Diane & Lou LeBlanc, our newest cruise friends. They are from Halifax, NS Canada. We were sitting at a table for 8, but the four of us were the only ones who showed up. Behind them, in the picture are some of our great dining room staff. We enjoyed dining together every night.



St. Lucia



Barbados



We took the first picture above as we sailed into port. I tried to get a sample of the terrain of each Island we stopped at, as there are differences. The only Island we toured was St. Kitts. The next picture was taken from the shops for us visitors, set up right at the dock. I thought it a neat picture with the Royal Princess as a back drop, and yes we did shop there. Barbados was next. Bob took this picture as we pulled in at dawn. This Island is more flat, as the first picture shows. The next picture shows the Royal Princess docked. We walked past the sugar cane shoots, which are still used in the export of sugar cane.

Smith Family Newsletter
January 2017 Page 2

St. Kitts



St. Kitts



Bob & I went on a tour of the Island, first by boat and then transferred to a train. The first picture on page 2, right side is one of the volcanos, followed by the deck of our tour boat, followed by Brimstone Hill (fortress). Page 3 top another picture of a volcano. Then the middle picture is an abandoned sugar cane farm. This last picture taken while we were on the train shows the meeting of the Atlantic waters and the Caribbean waters. St Kitts has an interesting early history dating back to 1493. There was much conflict over this island between the British and the French. The native peoples were killed and African slaves were brought in. The soil was a very rich volcanic soil, plus it was also rich in salt lakes. The Brimstone Hill Fortress is a United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization-World Heritage Site.

Smith Family Newsletter
January 2017 Page 3

St. Thomas



Grand Turk



Above are the last two islands. Notice the flatness of Grand Turk. You are seeing a very beach friendly picture next to the boat dock.

Now, I want you to meet, Jimmy, my newest friend! Isn't he adorable? He is an 8 month old monkey, we met on the dock at St Kitts. I really wanted to take him home! Bob said he didn't think Minnie and Gracie would be amused!! Hope you enjoyed the newsletter.

