



# Star-Gazer

SEA LEVEL SECTION - MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.

Volume 38, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter, 2001

*from the editor*

**YOUR LAST CHANCE!**

*In the last issue I asked:*

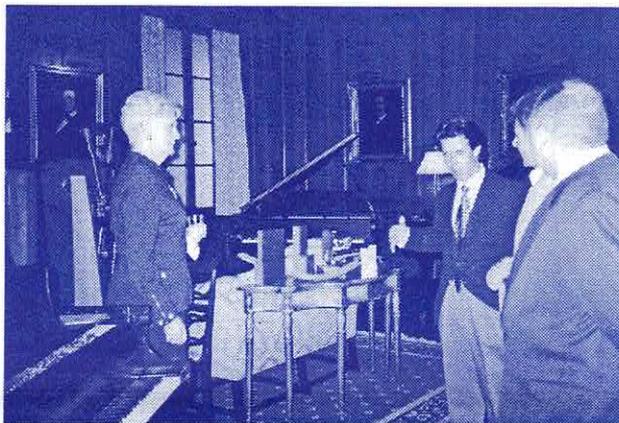
**GOT A VANITY PLATE?**

*I suggested that it might be interesting to share with other Club members how some of us might have individualized our cars with a particular Vanity Plate, possibly a plate that says something like GR8MB or some other cryptogram. or distinctive wording?  
(Cont.)*

## Mercedes-Benz and Steinway Piano, ... making beautiful music together.

The story of the Steinway is fairly well known; not so the connection between Daimler-Benz and Steinway.

On October 6th, Sea Level hosted a wine and cheese reception in the Rotunda at Steinway Hall in Manhattan commemorating the 113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of a contract between Gottlieb Daimler and William Steinway. On October 6, 1888, this document provided for



*Speaker Maryalice Ritzmann, Miles Chapin, Board Member & Event Organizer Jonah Berman and Sea Level President John Anaischik*



*Not Your Usual Tech Session!*

the manufacture of Daimler engines and products in the USA and the result was the "Daimler Motor Company" in New York City!

Our members and their guests were treated to a fascinating discussion by founder Henry Steinway's multifaceted great-great-grandson -- author, writer, actor Miles Chapin who explained Steinway & Sons' company history and

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# Welcome New Members

The following individuals have recently joined MBCA and more specifically are now members of the Sea Level Section. Please introduce yourself to these fellow Mercedes enthusiasts at our next event.

Ron Barnes	James Hegedorn	John Larkin	Stefan Reinhardt
John Bono	Scott Hockler	Hok Chiu Law	Jeffrey Roberts
Jennifer Bunce	Peter Hollyer	Tony Love	Martin Rosenbaum
David Costa	Jahreme Joesield	Richard Madison	Ben Santos
P. Christopher Cotronei	Jeff Joseph	Roger Mendes	Steve Schwartzapfel
Shon Ellis	Edward Kim	Gerald Murray	Leon Shim
Mark Gaetta	John Klein	Theodore Novak	Kenneth Urban
Michael Giuffrida Sr	Louis Kovach	John Nugent	Thomas Visleglie
	Peter Kropp	David Rappaport	

## Sea Level Officers & Staff

<b>President:</b>	<b>John Anaischik</b>	200 Floral Parkway, Floral Park NY 11001	(516) 775-3597
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Richard Weiss</b>	86 Kingsbury Road, Garden City, NY 11530	(516) 747-0679
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Muth</b>	411 9th Avenue, East Northport, NY 11731	(631) 261-5074
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bernie Berberich</b>	104 N. Howells Point Rd., Bellport NY 11713	(631) 286-8086
<b>Technical Advisor:</b>	<b>Louis Palumbo</b>	C/O Gullwing Motors, Inc. 100 Windsor Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501	(516) 742-3320
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>John Betsch</b>	Three Winchester Lane, Huntington, NY 11743	(631) 549-3564

## Members of the Board

John Anaischik	Bernie Berberich	Dr. Jonah Berman	John Betsch	Peter Busacca	Joseph Defilippe
Spencer Dworkin	Vincent Milo	Robert Muth	Creighton Phillips	Jerome Shapiro	Richard Weiss
		Viola Scarduzio (director emeritus)			

## Northeast Regional Vice President

Roy O. Kuck  
67 Terrylynn Drive  
Angola, NY 14006-1243

**Changes of Address:** Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909; 1-800-637-2360; or [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

**Member Marketplace:** Sea Level members may place a no-charge ad in the *Star-Gazer* for an M-B or related item by mailing necessary information to the Editor. Advertisement Deadlines: January 15<sup>th</sup> (February Edition) April 15<sup>th</sup> (May Edition) July 15<sup>th</sup> (August Edition) October 15<sup>th</sup> (November Edition)



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## President's Message

Dear Members,

In light of our nation's recent tragedy, the Board Members remain mindful of the wounds we have endured as citizens of this great nation and of those members whose losses are very great.

We have at least 200 members who reside in Manhattan and many others who commute there each day. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are mourning and those who continue to work to bring closure to many segmented lives.

On a business level, I would like to share with you my visit with our Technical Director, Louis Palumbo, of Gullwing Motors, Inc. in Mineola. I learned that he has operated this business for over 25 years servicing Mercedes-Benz and other luxury European vehicles. Lou's past experience included his work as the

chief mechanic in a franchised Mercedes-Benz dealership prior to the establishment of his own business. Lou offers an alternative, for those members whose cars are out of the manufacturer's warranty, with all of the detail of a franchised dealer's service center. Lou offers both 60,000 and 90,000 mile maintenance services along with four wheel alignment and New York State inspection. Lou also extends a 10% discount on genuine Mercedes parts to Club members and will always entertain questions about Mercedes-Benz vehicles. His operation has the latest computer links to the most up-to-date Mercedes-Benz procedures and Lou works with the restoration projects.

**Thank you Lou for an informative visit to the Gullwing**

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ... making beautiful music together:

*(Continued from page 1)*

origins of the relationship between Steinway and Daimler, including Steinway's manufacture of engines for boats and automobiles. Attendees were able to tour Steinway's showrooms which contained the original wooden workbench of Miles Chapin's great great grandfather and scores of beautiful pianos of various styles, woods and colors.

We were also fortunate to hear Maryalice Ritzmann of Mercedes-Benz USA Classics Center present a slide show describing the origins of the Mercedes brand name during this year of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At the end of this exceptional evening, members and their guests enjoyed a fonder appreciation of the art, design and fine craftsmanship of the products of both Mercedes-Benz and Steinway.



*Miles Chapin, Jonah Berman and Sea Level  
President John Anaischik*

You have one more chance to submit your special plate wording for inclusion in our next issue.

If you send me either a picture or even just the wording of your "vanity plate" with the year/model of the M-B that it's on, we will share them with other Club members

This is your chance to get some recognition of your ingenuity by people who appreciate M-B's. (this is also a subtle test to see if you're reading the Newsletter)

See you at the Holiday Party.

John Betsch  
ed.

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Motors facility!**

On a historical note, some of our members enjoyed a visit to Steinway Hall on Saturday, October 6th. A visit to this show place on 57<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan was an overwhelming experience filled with history, music, beauty, and grace. I felt as if I were back in Florence, the cultural center of Italy! The main hall was decorated in green and beige marble from Greece and Italy. The sterling silver and crystal chandelier is an exact replica of the one in Buckingham Palace. Two grand pianos, one in white and the other in ebony, crowned Steinway Hall.

We had the opportunity to walk amidst the Steinway pianos appreciating the craftsmanship, the detail, and their gift of music. We were treated to a performance by Dr. Joan Levine who did not realize she had a captivated audience!

Miles Chapin, the great great grandson of Steinway, shared his family history and genealogy of his grandfather's legacy. Mr. Chapin was a dynamic speaker who energized us with his deep family pride and factual knowledge of the history of Steinway pianos.

Ms. Maryalice Ritzmann of Mercedes-Benz, USA informed us of the history of

Mercedes-Benz and the business relationship between Gottlieb Daimler and Steinway.

On a personal note, I would like to add that my nephew, Captain Brian Leich, of the United States Marines visited us from Quantico, Virginia that weekend and was in awe of Steinway Hall and the excellent presentations given by both speakers. Because he is such a history buff, he truly appreciated this event and talked about it for the remainder of the weekend.

**Thank you, Dr. Jonah Berman, for coordinating this event at Steinway Hall and giving us the opportunity to experience first hand the business relationship between these two great entrepreneurs!**

Finally, as a reminder to all of our members, our Holiday Celebration will take place on Sunday, December 2nd at the Bonwit Inn in Commack. There will be a gift for everyone present and special gifts with the Mercedes-Benz logo for door prizes. We have always enjoyed a delicious lunch in the company of very good friends and we look forward to sharing this holiday time with you.

With my best regards,  
John A. Anaischik

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## Diagnosing a Devilish Angel

**Q:** On a recent trip, the trouble lights on my dashboard flickered and went on and off for about 10 minutes. Not the usual array of red and yellow, mind you, but blue.

I replaced the alternator, battery and voltage regulator. The electrical system checked out fine. My mechanic said he never heard of blue warning lights. I read the owner's manual and there was not one single reference to blue lights.

Help us. Are we going nuts?

*Read on for the answer to this puzzle*

**Dear Bob:** Just a day ago, I sent you a letter describing some problems I had with blue lights flashing on the dashboard of my car.

The mystery was solved recently. The culprit was a crystal guardian angel that my wife insisted on hanging from the rear view mirror.

Sunlight coming through the blue-tinted top of my windshield was filtered through the crystal angel and focused on the dashboard indicator lights. Another good reason not to hang anything from that mirror.

-reprinted from CARS, the Bob Sikorsky column in *NEWSDAY*.

## Can a Car Show be Popular?

What is a Popular Car Show? Is it one that has many friends, or one that many people like? Could it be voted best dressed, or most likely to succeed, or best looking – is that why it's a popular car show? Could be. At our Popular Car Show on August 19 at Pindar Vineyards in Peconic, each participant was given a class sign with a designated number for their car. This color sign identified the assigned category



for judging. Each person attending was given a pack of official ballots for each of the ten classes and they carefully reviewed the field to 'note their vote' for the most popular car in each category. Could call it a trial by jury, as it's your peers doing the voting! It was a sight to see the "judges" with their color-coded ballots swarming around the days entries.



On this particular day winner's included:

<b>Ronald White</b>	Classic Coupe
<b>John Hendricks</b>	Classic Sedan
<b>Dean Johnson</b>	Modern SL
<b>Susan Anaischik</b>	Modern Sedan
<b>Bernie Berberich</b>	Diesel
<b>Richard Weiss</b>	SUV/Station Wgn.

Other Class winners were **Dolores Betsch, Hans Giest, Priscilla Sedita, and Stuart Selip.**

The Most Popular Car Award was presented to **John Betsch.**

## M-B Marketplace



**1967 230SL** Automatic, both tops, Brown with Cognac. 79,000 miles. Restored \$18,000. negotiable  
Call **TOM GRILLI @ 516-798-0090**

**1973 450SLC** 117,000 miles. Sunroof, new exhaust system, some rust, could use seat covers. Asking \$2,900.

**1971 250C** 98,000 miles. Dark Green with Tan M-B Tex  
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# Fall Historical Rallye held on October 21st

Rallye Masters **Creighton Phillips** and **Joe DeFilippe** provided the following hint on their route instructions: *Look carefully, be aware of all historical signs.* These few words added to the excitement of the route. At least one rallyist had a little trouble. Let me demonstrate with a few examples:

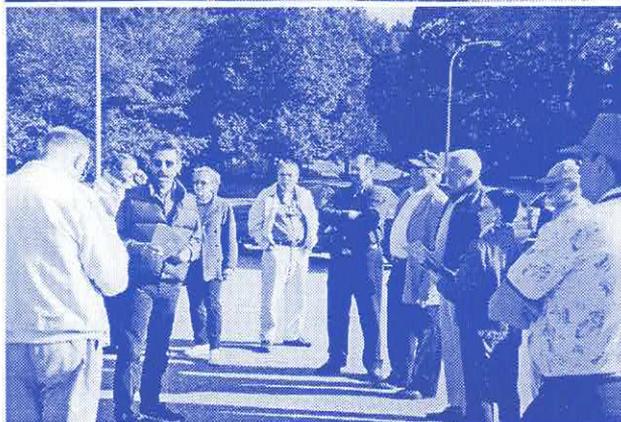
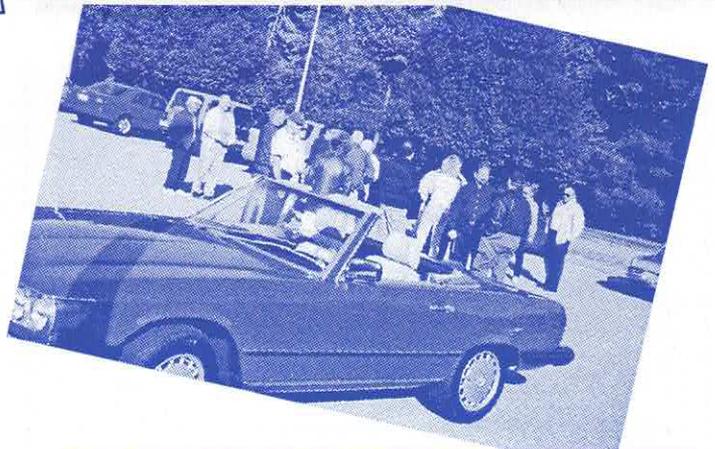
**Question:** Where did Teddy Roosevelt spend his Sundays? **Answer:** Fire Island.

**Question:** When was the Jarvis Fleet House built? **Answer:** When he got the mortgage.

**Question:** What did our 16th President say? **Answer:** I should stay away from tech stocks.

This rallyist will remain anonymous except to say it's a Board Member. Others fared a bit better in their answers to include, the following:

- 1st Place** Paulette Mandarino, Driver  
Frank Mandarino, Navigator
- 2nd Place** Jerry Shapiro (D)  
Harry Faustmann (N)
- 3rd Place** Dean Johnson (D)  
Debbie Weiss (N)
- 4th Place** Julian Fischgrund (D)  
Adelaide Attard (N)





# Sea Level Section Holiday Party

**BONWIT INN - Commack, NY**

**12 - 4:00PM**

**Cost: \$25. per person**

Join us for Sea Level's Annual Holiday Party at the Bonwit Inn. Come join fellow Mercedes enthusiasts and enjoy a four course served luncheon with a choice of three entrees. A cash bar is available.

*A gift for every attendee!*

*Win one of the many Door Prizes!*

## **Sunday, December 2nd**

As is our custom, please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the **Toys for Tots Program** on Long Island coordinated by the US Marine Corps.

**DIRECTIONS:** The Bonwit Inn is located at the intersection of Commack Road and Vanderbilt Parkway in Commack. Using the LIE, Exit 52 going east, or Exit 53 going west. Go north on Commack Road. Using Northern State Parkway, Exit 43 and go south on Commack Road.

To: Richard T. Weiss  
86 Kingsbury Road  
Garden City NY 11530  
(516:747-0679)



Yes, I will be attending the Sea Level Holiday Party. I am enclosing a \$25 per person check (payable to MBCA).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. of People in my Party \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP with check  
required by November 25th**



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Sea Level Section  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.  
J. F. Betsch, Editor  
Three Winchester Lane  
Huntington, New York 11743-2152

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**HOLIDAY PARTY  
DEC 2nd**

## STAR-GAZER

### UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 10th	<b>Sea Level Concours d'Elegance</b> Duck Walk Vineyard, Water Mill
June 16-19	National: Gemutlichkeit 2001, Michigan
Sunday, July 15th	<b>Museum Caravan</b> Antique Car Museum, Mattituck
July 18-21	National: StarTrack: Pennsylvania
Sunday, August 19th	<b>Winery Picnic, Tour &amp; Popular Car Show</b> Pindar Vineyards, Peconic
August 4-7	National: Tri-O-Rama, Virginia
Saturday, October 6th	<b>Sea Level Reception commemorating the Daimler-Steinway Union 113th Anniversary</b> Steinway Hall, Manhattan
Sunday, October 21st	<b>Fall Rallye</b> Starting: Nassau County Museum of Art
Sunday, December 2nd	<b>Holiday Party</b> Bonwit Inn, Commack