

## Employee Newsletter

March 2010



### 2009 Tommy Star Award Winner:

#### Jasmine Grant

Congratulations to the Ritz Carlton's Director of Housekeeping Jasmine Grant, the 2009 Tommy Star Award Winner in the category of Hotel Supervisor of the Year. Grant holds a Bachelors of Science

degree in Hotel, Restaurant Institutional Management from Norfolk State and a Masters Degree in Hospitality & Tourism from Virginia Tech. She has worked at various Ritz Carlton hotels for the past 12 years. "That my peers and employer thought enough about me and my work to nominate me is a humbling and phenomenal experience, said Grant. It was awesome to receive this award in the presence of my parents because it allowed me to publicly recognize and show my appreciation for all their hard work and sacrifice." In addition to being committed to her career, Jasmine is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Exemplifying the organizations' mission of service and community enrichment, she has been actively in their programs addressing domestic violence, child abuse and political awareness. Dearest to her heart is the Delta Gems project which mentors teenage girls in etiquette, college prep, physical fitness and social awareness. She's also an active member of Faith Christian Fellowship Church Alive in Christ.

Congratulations again on this well-deserved achievement.

### Doumeng Named Hotelier of the Year

Richard Doumeng, Chairman of the HTA Board of Directors and Managing Director of Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, received the 2009 Hotelier of the Year Award, presented by the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association. Doumeng is the 4th Virgin Islander to receive this distinction and also holds the honor of being part of the only father & son duo bestowed with this honor. Dick and Joyce Doumeng received the award in 1988. Other VI recipients include Lorette Resch (Island Beachcomber) and Betty Sperber (King Christian Hotel). "For more than twenty years, Richard has been a leader and champion of the region's tourism and hospitality industry, said Beverly Nicolson Doty, Commissioner of Tourism. For our islands, Richard is recognized as a community leader who consistently fosters communication and pioneers best practices for our destination's hospitality community. I applaud the CHTA for bestowing this prestigious award on Richard Doumeng."

Congratulations to Richard Doumeng on this much deserved achievement.



### Disabilities Training

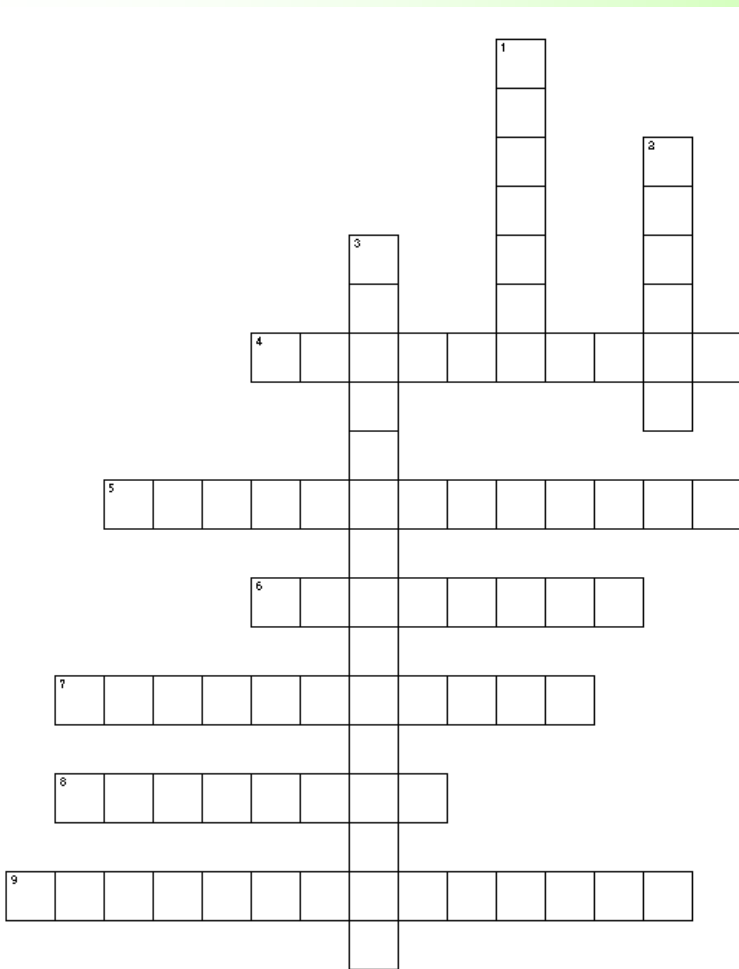
All managers are invited to a training session on the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, from 9:00-1:00 pm in the Hotel & Tourism Association Conference Room. The training will provide an overview of best practices in interacting with people with disabilities in respectful and meaningful ways. Specifically, it will address how the ADA is important, compliance, benefits, and Misconceptions. The training, led by Sabrina Leonce and Eucil Worrell, HR managers at the Westin St. John, is free to members and \$25 for non-members. To register, contact Canika John at 774-6835.



## VI Culinary Team Prepares for Competition

The 2010 VI Culinary Team is busy preparing this year's **Taste of the Caribbean** Competition. The event offers culinary teams from around the Caribbean an opportunity to show off their cooking, baking and mixology talents. During competition, teams create amazing dishes based on a mystery basket of Caribbean ingredients. The team includes: David Benjamin (team manager) of the Ritz Carlton, Dennis Vanterpool of the Frenchman's Reef Marriott, Joshua Vilain of Bacchus on St. Croix; Brians Wishbauer of Café Amalia, Ashley Allen of Ken's Food Mobile, pastry chef Kunal Chakrabarti of the Ritz Carlton, and bartender Joshua King of The Ritz Carlton. In the past, the team has brought home numerous Silver medals

but this year they are shooting for Gold. The competition will be held in Puerto Rico June 4-6, 2010.



### Across

- 4 Place where you'll find tents
- 5 Activity for catching game fish
- 6 Mode of transportation that lands in the water
- 7 Relationship between guest and host
- 8 Annual celebration featuring parades, calypso competitions, etc.
- 4 Another word for hotels, motels, B&B's

### Down

- 1 Popular fleshy fish
- 2 Location where boats dock
- 3 Annual employee recognition event

## Recycling Makes Good Sense

Recycling involves processing used products into new materials to prevent waste of things that can be reused, in addition to helping to protect the environment. Nowadays, just about everything is recyclable—aluminum cans, plastic containers, glass, tires, old computers, etc. In the Virgin Islands, one of the major items being recycled is aluminum cans. Be a part of the solution and also earn a few extra dollars by saving empty cans in a plastic bag. Once your bag(s) are full, take them to Sanitary Trashremoval Services (775-3670) for processing. They currently pay \$.20 per pound of cans. Another way of doing your part in saving the environment is using recyclable shopping bags. Instead of taking the plastic bags from your favorite supermarket, walk with your own bag to pack your groceries. Worldwide, an estimated **4 billion plastic bags end up as litter each year**. Tied end to end that's enough to circle the earth 63 times. **Plastics are forever!** Plastics do NOT biodegrade. Rather, they photodegrade. a process, where sunlight breaks down plastic into smaller and smaller pieces. Get involved by following these few tips.

## We Want to Hear From You

Did you find the information in this newsletter valuable and interesting? Is there something you'd like to have featured? Let us know how we can make this newsletter better. Send your thoughts to the Hotel & Tourism Association, 4002 Raphune Hill, St. Thomas, VI 00802. You can also email us at [admin@virgin-islands-hotels.com](mailto:admin@virgin-islands-hotels.com). Your input is valuable.