

~ MEDIA TRIPS ~

PACK YOUR BAGS

By ANDREA RADEMAN

We're all looking forward to the holidays but what comes right after that? If you're thinking, "a desperate need for a winter break," we hear you. To celebrate the relaunch of our Trip Committee (i.e., myself and — drum roll! — introducing IFWTWA board member and Trip Committee co-chair, Maralyn Hill) we've planned a "miracle" getaway for our loyal and cherished fellow members.

The miracle we refer to is Miracle Springs Resort and Spa, in Desert Hot Springs, California, whose generous owner has set aside a LIMITED number of poolside and pool view rooms for the exclusive use of IFWTWA members — and guests! — during the height of their very busy season.

They invite us to start off the new year (January 15 through January 18) luxuriating, soaking and sunning in their huge swimming pool, and seven surrounding whirlpools, each fed by hot springs mineral water, and graduated in size (from massive to intimate) and temperature (from cozy warm to not-for-sissies). What's more, these liquid oases remain open for your pleasure 'round the clock.

For those who wish to add a visit to the spa, our generous host is offering the choice of a gold facial, gentleman's facial, individually-calibrated combination

shiatsu, Swedish and deep tissue massages, or French formula body soaking. All of these treatments are carried out by the resort's impressive team of talented and dedicated therapists.

No doubt you'll work up an appetite. No problem — breakfast, lunch and dinner are all included. Aside from the elegant Joshua Tree Restaurant, we'll dine casually at Chuckwalla's Lounge off the main lobby and possibly take in the open air dining at the Miracle Springs Bar, overlooking the mineral pools.

Shoppers can share rides to the boutiques and tourist attractions of downtown Palm Springs, just 10 miles away. Walkers and joggers need go just two blocks to the start of several hiking trailheads into the Joshua Tree National Forest.

To help you with story ideas, we'll learn about the unique Desert Hot Springs water, a global phenomenon that varies from pure, cold springs to mineral hot springs. We'll also have a short presentation on L'Occitane products, which are used in the spa, and we're working with the host on possible outside activities.

The cost is just \$150 for IFWTWA members and \$200 for one adult guest. And, here's another miracle: if you send Patty your completed registration form (including where you may place a story, so we can submit it to our host for final approval) and payment before December 1, 2007, you are eligible for a \$50 DISCOUNT and ANOTHER \$50 DISCOUNT FOR ONE GUEST! That's \$100, less than the price of a fancy dinner!

How can we afford such a bargain? IFWTWA IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION, ESTABLISHED AND RUN BY WRITERS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF WRITERS. We can and do charge the bare minimum for membership fees and dues, while providing maximum services and benefits because our proceeds are only used to cover operating costs, not for personal financial gain.

Keep an eye on this space for more about this trip and imminent future announcements! (See Registration form next page – Patty Anis) 🌐



Miracle Springs Resort and Spa

