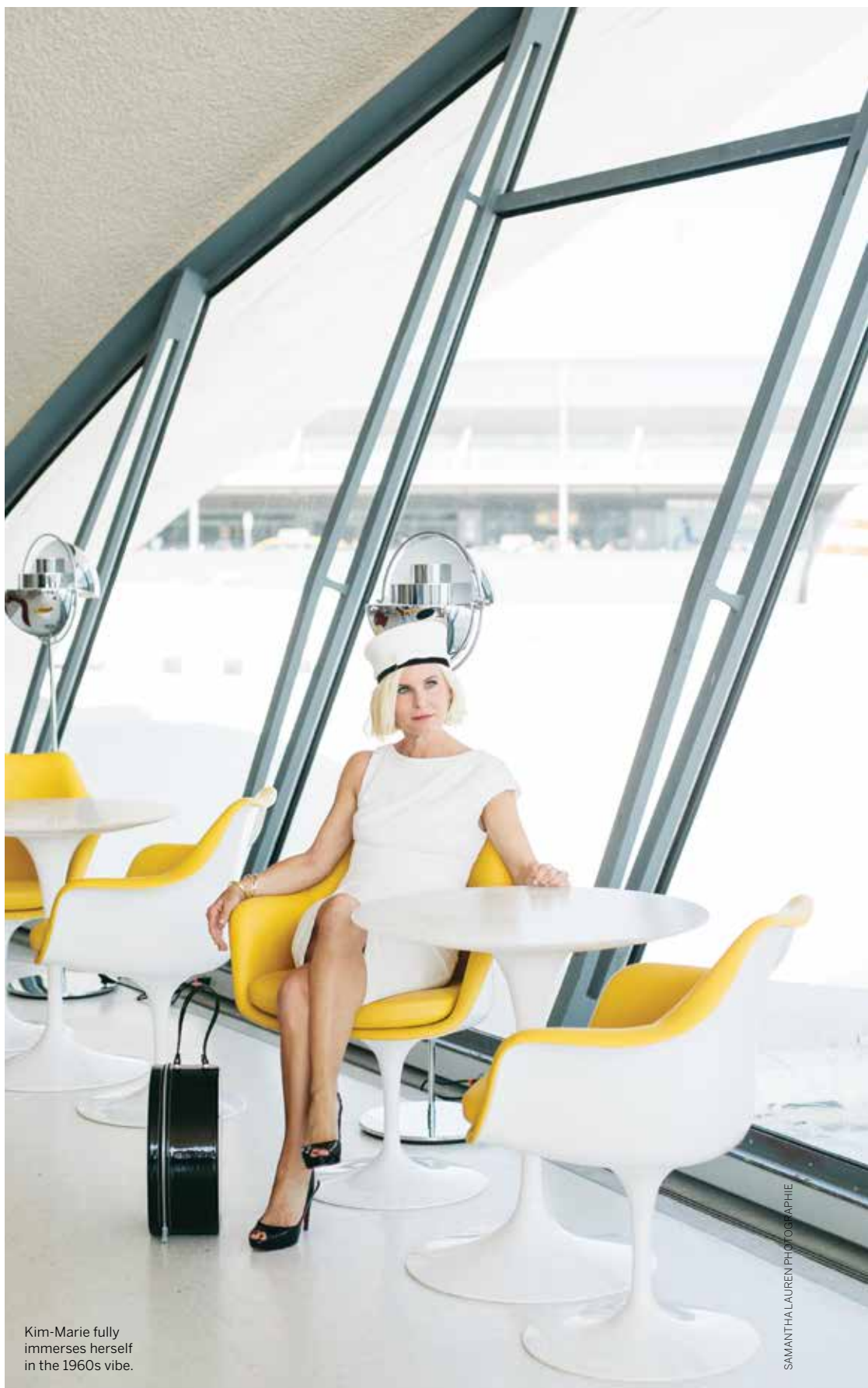


TAKING FLIGHT

THE LONG-AWAITED **TWA HOTEL** RECENTLY OPENED ITS DOORS, BUT DOES IT LIVE UP TO ALL THE HYPE?

The opening of the retro chic TWA Hotel at JFK has been more anticipated than a new musical from Lin-Manuel Miranda. Media coverage was exuberant leading up to the recent soft open. Guests can finally enjoy a “Come Fly With Me” cocktail (complete with swizzle stick) in the Sunken Lounge, where similarly boisterous crowds awaited the Beatles’ arrival in 1965. The project has been the dream of politicians, developers and historians alike. When a hotel is being called “sexy” and “a piece of mid-century magic,” it can be hard to measure up. I recently spent a night in a runway-view room, taught my son to dial a ten-cent pay phone, and did a thorough review of the food and drink.

If you’re having Kodachrome fantasies of white-gloved staff whisking away your bags while simultaneously mixing you a swell martini, you’re not alone. No one could be faulted for expecting room service and a concierge at a hotel described as both boutique (it’s not,



Kim-Marie fully immerses herself in the 1960s vibe.

SAMANTHA LAUREN PHOTOGRAPHIE

Greenwich Sentinel



At the *Greenwich Sentinel* we have great respect for *Greenwich Magazine*. Most of us have been reading it, and looking for our photos in it, since we were in our twenties. Our publications share similar missions, to celebrate Greenwich. We know that our hometown is unique and wonderful.

Yet, even here, we see how stressful, full lives can overwhelm the calmest disposition. No one wants to be judged for their worst moments, so this February let's show each other and the world a little extra warmth and remind everyone why Greenwich and our residents are so special. February is home to Valentine's Day (14) and Random Acts of Kindness Day (17). In this spirit, here are our anonymous friend's updated *Acts of Kindness*.

27 ACTS of KINDNESS

Help others to be the hero of their own story.

Ask the name of your mail carrier, coffee server, waitress/waiter, valet attendant, the person at the front desk, etc. and use their name.

Never, ever use the phrase, *do you know who I am?*

Send a hand written thank you note.

Put your phone away and be an active listener.

When you think a nice thing about someone, say it out loud.

Email or write to a former teacher who made a difference in your life.

Tell your child that you really like spending time with them (and be prepared to answer when they ask why).

Avoid interrupting others when they are speaking.

Refrain from honking your horn unless it is a safety issue.

Send flowers.

Support and cheer for our local everything: retailers, scouts, paper, magazines, schools, teams, lemonade stands, and charities. It matters.

Use those email & social media muscles to be nice and messages of gratitude and use that LIKE button.

Be excited for other people's successes ... out loud.

Be the hero of your story.

Always hold the door or elevator for the next person.

Each month pick up one extra of everything when you grocery shop and drop it off at Neighbor to Neighbor.

Ask *how can I help?*

Laugh more. Laugh louder.

Each night fall asleep thinking about the best thing that happened that day.

Purchase extra dog or cat food and drop it off at the animal control center on North Street with some old tennis balls.

Say please, thank you, and you're welcome.

Smile... greet! New smiles at someone while making eye contact.

Let the person in line behind you go ahead of you if they are in a hurry or with children or just have a few items.

When you're ready to unload your temper on someone, especially in the service industry (like bartenders and cashiers), say a prayer for them instead.

If you have time, let the other driver have that parking space ... even on Greenwich Avenue.

If you can, say yes.

#GreenwichPride

PRO TIP

The only tube open connects the hotel to JetBlue Terminal 5. Check the map, and if you're departing from any other terminal, you'll have to take AirTran. We learned this the hard way (and missed our flight, which seems impossible when you wake up with a view of the airport).



“a piece of mid-century magic”



there are 512 rooms) and full-service. There's no bell staff to help at arrival, and the front desk was lightly staffed during my stay. Guests check themselves in on a touchpad and even make their own keys, but the gentleman behind the desk was more than happy to stow my luggage until my room was ready.

What the hotel lacks in high-touch service, it more than makes up for in its near perfect re-creation of the golden age of travel. In the guest rooms you can recline in authentic Eames chairs while making free international calls on a vintage rotary phone. Original furniture from Saarinen, Mies van der Rohe and others can be found throughout the hotel as well as wonderfully kitschy touches like *LIFE* magazines from the 1960s. The iconic flight tubes featured in the movie *Catch Me if You Can* have been re-created and allow you to go directly from the hotel into JetBlue's Terminal. »



SAMANTHA LAUREN PHOTOGRAPHIE

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1

Book a runway-view room; nothing compares to watching planes pull up to the foot of your bed at night. **You'll never hear the engines though, the windows are the second-thickest glass walls in the world** (second to the U.S. Embassy in London).

2

Though the rooms are small, the beds are fabulously plush and comfortable. You won't find a stock coffee machine, but **each room features a martini bar custom built from walnut, glass, mirrors and brushed brass** and is stocked with Moët & Chandon Imperial Brut Champagne, Hennessy V.S.O.P Privilège Cognac, and the Belvedere Martini with Belvedere Vodka. **A runway-view room starts at around \$300 per night.**

3

Just need a place to nap when your flight is delayed? **Partial and full-day stays are offered from \$149.** If you prefer to work out your anger over being stuck at the airport, snag a pass to the fitness center for just \$25.

4

Reservations are needed to eat at the Jean-Georges Paris Café or to **grab a cocktail inside the Connie, a restored sixty-year-old airplane known for breaking the transcontinental speed record.** It's the ultimate spot to snap



“...recline in authentic Eames chairs while making free international calls on a vintage rotary phone.”



an epic photo in one of the original pilots' seats. She's parked just behind the hotel and accessed by the original push up staircase. There's a live radio feed from one of JFK's air traffic control frequencies.

5

Forget SoHo House. The infinity edge pool and observation deck overlook some of JFK's busiest runways including the Bay Runway, which once served as the backup landing strip for the Space Shuttle. **Come winter, the pool will be heated to 100 degrees, turning it into a “pool-cuzzi.”**

6

Hotel guests don't need to make a reservation to dine at The Pool Bar (but they're recommended). **Non-hotel guests can make reservations to order refreshments and swim in the pool between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.** This is the best reason to pack a swimsuit in your carry-on—should your flight be delayed, console yourself poolside with a cocktail. **The Pool Bar serves food from a full kitchen and cocktails including The Runway (a martini served with a flight wings pin) and the Summertime Lemonade (vodka, lemonade and mint).** The Pool Bar also hosts private events.

The take away? I'd give it a few months to work out growing pains; not all the eateries are open and details like wastebaskets in guest rooms were overlooked in the original opening. Unless they change the business model, this is a fun and fabulous hotel—just not a luxury one.

The Nathaniel Witherell

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