

ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD

Form DEF 14A

April 24, 2006

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF
THE U.S. SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
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**ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD.
1050 Caribbean Way
Miami, Florida 33132**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders
To Be Held May 26, 2006**

To the Shareholders of
ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (the Company) will be held at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, May 26, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency, 400 SE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida.

The Annual Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors to the Company s Board of Directors;
2. To ratify the selection of the Company s independent registered certified public accounting firm; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 17, 2006 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof. This proxy statement and accompanying proxy card are being distributed on or about April 26, 2006.

All shareholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person. Whether or not you expect to attend in person, the Company requests that you promptly fill in, sign and return the enclosed proxy card.

Bradley H. Stein,
Acting Secretary

April 20, 2006

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**ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD.
1050 Caribbean Way
Miami, Florida 33132
PROXY STATEMENT
FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
To Be Held May 26, 2006**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who May Vote

Holders of the Company's common stock, par value \$.01 per share, as reflected in our records on April 17, 2006, may vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2006, and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

As of April 17, 2006, the Company had 211,888,253 issued and outstanding shares of common stock. Each issued and outstanding share is entitled to one vote.

How to Vote

You may vote in person at the meeting or by proxy. We recommend that you vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the meeting. You can always change your vote at the meeting.

How Proxies Work

All properly executed proxies will be voted in accordance with the instructions contained thereon, and if no choice is specified, the proxies will be voted for the election of the directors named elsewhere in this proxy statement and for ratification of the selection of the independent registered certified public accounting firm. Abstentions are counted as present in determining the existence of a quorum but will not have the effect of votes in opposition to the election of a director or a no vote on proposal 2. Under New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules, if your broker holds your shares in its name, your broker is permitted to vote your shares on these items even if it does not receive voting instructions from you.

Matters to be presented

We are not aware of any matters to be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders other than those described in this proxy statement. If any matters not described in this proxy statement are properly presented at the meeting, the proxies will use their own judgment to determine how to vote your shares. If the meeting is postponed or adjourned, the proxies will vote your shares on the new meeting date in accordance with your previous instructions, unless you have revoked your proxy.

Vote necessary to approve proposals

Item	Vote Necessary
Election of directors	Directors are elected by a majority of the votes represented by the shares of common stock present at the meeting in person or by proxy.
Ratification of Independent Registered Certified Public Accounting Firm	A majority of the votes represented by the shares of common stock present at the meeting in person or by proxy is required for the ratification of the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm.

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Revoking a Proxy

Any proxy may be revoked by a shareholder at any time before it is exercised by giving written notice to that effect to the Corporate Secretary of the Company or by signing and submitting a later-dated proxy. Shareholders who attend the Annual Meeting may revoke any proxy previously granted and vote in person.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company has adopted corporate governance standards which, along with board committee charters and key committee practices, provide the framework for the governance of the Company. The corporate governance standards address such matters as director qualifications, director independence, director compensation, board committees and committee evaluations. The Company believes that the corporate governance standards comply with the corporate governance rules adopted by the NYSE. A copy of the corporate governance standards of the Company is posted in the corporate governance section on the Company website at www.rclinvestor.com and is available in print to shareholders upon written request to the Corporate Secretary, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, Florida 33132.

About the Board and its Committees

The Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Nominating and Director Affairs Committee and an Environmental, Safety and Security Committee. The functions of each of these committees are described below and a copy of the charter of each committee is posted in the corporate governance section on the Company web site at www.rclinvestor.com and is available in print to shareholders upon written request to the Corporate Secretary, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, Florida 33132.

The Board

The Company is governed by the Board and various committees of the Board that meet throughout the year. During 2005, there were five meetings of the Board, and a total of 21 committee meetings. Each of the Board members attended at least 75% of an aggregate of all meetings of the Board and of any committees on which he or she served. The corporate governance standards provide that, in addition to regularly scheduled Board meetings, non-management directors will hold two regularly scheduled meetings a year and the independent directors will hold one regularly scheduled meeting a year. The Chairman of the Nominating and Director Affairs Committee of the Board will preside at such meetings. There were two meetings in 2005 of non-management directors and two meetings of independent directors.

The Company does not have a formal policy regarding the Board members attendance at the annual shareholders meeting. Because the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders was not held in conjunction with a Board meeting, Richard D. Fain was the only Board member who attended such meeting.

Committees of the Board

The Board has four committees. The following describes for each committee its current membership, the number of meetings held during 2005 and its mission.

Audit Committee

The members of the Audit Committee are William L. Kimsey (Chair and Financial Expert), Bernard W. Aronson and Gert W. Munthe. Each member of the committee is independent as defined under NYSE rules. See Director Independence.

The Audit Committee met eleven times in 2005.

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The Audit Committee is responsible for the oversight of:

the integrity of the financial statements of the Company;

the independent auditor's qualifications and independence;

the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent registered certified public accounting firm; and

the compliance by the Company with the legal and regulatory requirements in connection with the foregoing.

In furtherance of its purpose, the Audit Committee regularly reviews and discusses with management and the independent registered certified public accounting firm the annual audited and quarterly financial statements of the Company. The Audit Committee is also responsible for preparing the Audit Committee report required by the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which is included in this proxy statement under the heading "Report of the Audit Committee."

The Board has concluded that Mr. Kimsey qualifies as an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Kimsey also serves on the audit committee of three other public companies. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Kimsey's simultaneous service on these other audit committees does not and will not impair his ability to effectively serve on the Company's audit committee.

Compensation Committee

The members of the Compensation Committee are Bernt Reitan (Chair), Bernard W. Aronson, Laura Laviada and Gert W. Munthe. Each member of the Compensation Committee is independent as defined under NYSE rules.

The Compensation Committee met three times in 2005.

The Compensation Committee has overall responsibility for evaluating and approving the executive compensation plans, policies and programs of the Company, including the administration of the stock award plans and the granting of awards under the plans. Among other responsibilities, the Compensation Committee annually reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and sets compensation levels based on this evaluation. The Compensation Committee also annually reviews and sets the compensation levels of all other executive officers of the Company. The Compensation Committee is responsible for preparing the Compensation Committee Report required by the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which is included in this proxy statement under the heading "Report of the Compensation Committee."

Nominating and Director Affairs Committee

The members of the Nominating and Director Affairs Committee are Thomas J. Pritzker (Chair), Arvid Grundekjoen, Eyal Ofer and Arne Alexander Wilhelmsen. Each member of the committee is independent as defined under NYSE rules.

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The Nominating and Director Affairs Committee met four times in 2005. The Nominating and Director Affairs Committee assists the Board by identifying qualified individuals for nomination as members of the Board of Directors and of Board committees, recommending to the Board corporate governance guidelines, reviewing and making recommendations to the Board concerning Board committee structure, operations and board reporting, and evaluating board and management performance.

The Company has engaged in the past and may engage in the future third parties to identify or assist in identifying potential director nominees.

The Nominating and Director Affairs Committee does not have a formal policy on the consideration of director candidates recommended by shareholders because the Committee to date has not felt it necessary to adopt such a policy. Nonetheless, the Company has adopted procedures by which shareholders may communicate to the Board recommendations for director candidates. These procedures are set forth below under Proposals of Shareholders for Next Year.

In assessing candidates, the Committee considers the personal and professional ethics, integrity and values of the candidate and his or her ability to represent the long-term interests of the shareholders. The Committee also considers the candidate's experience in business and other areas that may be relevant to the activities of the Company, the applicable independence requirements and the current composition of the Board. Although the Shareholders' Agreement between the two principal shareholders of the Company limits the ability of the Committee to identify all candidates, the Committee is nonetheless committed to ensuring that all candidates satisfy the foregoing qualifications. For a description of the Shareholders' Agreement, see Shareholders' Agreement below.

Environmental, Safety and Security Committee

The members of the Environmental, Safety and Security Committee are William K. Reilly (Chair), John D. Chandris and Eyal Ofer. A majority of the members of the Environmental, Safety and Security Committee are independent as defined under NYSE rules.

The Environmental, Safety and Security Committee met three times in 2005.

The Environmental, Safety and Security Committee assists the Board in its oversight of the Company's management concerning the implementation and monitoring of the Company's environmental, safety and security programs and policies. As part of its responsibilities, the Committee monitors the Company's overall environmental compliance on board its cruise ships and reviews safety and security programs and policies on board its cruise ships.

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Director Independence

The Company's corporate governance standards contain guidelines established by the Board to assist it in determining director independence as defined by the listing standards of the NYSE. The Company's corporate governance standards state that a majority of the Company's directors shall be independent directors under NYSE rules. The Board believes that directors who do not meet the NYSE's independence standards also make valuable contributions to the Board and to the Company by reason of their experience and wisdom, and the Board expects that some minority of its Board will not meet the NYSE's independence standards.

To be considered independent under the NYSE rules, the Board must determine that a director does not have any direct or indirect material relationship with the Company or any of its subsidiaries (collectively, the Royal Caribbean Group). The Board has established the following guidelines to assist it in determining director independence in accordance with those rules:

A director will not be independent if, within the preceding three years: (i) the director was employed by the Royal Caribbean Group, or an immediate family member was employed as an executive officer of the Royal Caribbean Group, other than in each instance as interim Chairman or interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO); (ii) the director or an immediate family member received more than \$100,000 in any year in direct compensation from the Royal Caribbean Group other than (A) director and committee fees, (B) pension and other deferred compensation for prior service, (C) compensation for former services as an interim Chairman or interim CEO, or (D) compensation to an immediate family member for service as a non-executive employee of the Royal Caribbean Group; (iii) the director was employed by or affiliated with the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm; (iv) an immediate family member of the director was affiliated with or employed by the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm as a partner, principal or manager; or (v) an executive officer of the Company was on the compensation committee of the Board of Directors of a company which employed the Company director as an executive officer, or which employed an immediate family member of the director as an executive officer;

The following commercial relationships will not be considered to be material relationships that would impair a director's independence: (i) if a Company director is an executive officer or employee of another company that does business with the Royal Caribbean Group and the annual payments to, or payments from, the Royal Caribbean Group are less than two percent or \$1,000,000 (whichever is greater) of the annual consolidated revenues of the company he or she serves as an executive officer or employee; (ii) if a Royal Caribbean director is an executive officer or employee of another company which is indebted to the Royal Caribbean Group, or to which the Royal Caribbean Group is indebted, and the total amount of indebtedness to the other is less than two percent or \$1,000,000 (whichever is greater) of the total consolidated assets of the company he or she serves as an executive officer or employee; and (iii) if an immediate family member of a director is an executive officer of another company that does business with the Royal Caribbean Group, and the annual payments to, or payments from, the Royal Caribbean Group, are less than two percent or \$1,000,000 (whichever is greater) of the annual consolidated revenues of the company the immediate family member serves as an executive officer;

A director will not be independent if: (i) the director is an executive officer or employee of another company that does business with the Royal Caribbean Group and the annual payments to, or payments from, the Royal Caribbean Group within any of the three most recently completed fiscal years exceed two percent or \$1,000,000 (whichever is greater) of the annual consolidated revenues of the other company; and (ii) an immediate family member of a director is an executive officer of another company that does business with the Royal Caribbean Group, and the annual payments to, or payments from, the Royal Caribbean Group within any of the three most recently completed fiscal years exceed two percent or \$1,000,000 (whichever is greater) of the consolidated annual revenues of the other company.

Each director must regularly disclose to the Board whether his or her relationships satisfy these independence tests. Based on these disclosures and other information available to it, the Board has determined

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that each of the directors is independent with the exception of Messrs. Fain and Reilly. Mr. Fain is not considered independent as a result of his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Reilly is not considered independent due to his consulting arrangement with the Company. See Proposal 1 Election of Directors Director Compensation Consulting Agreement with William K. Reilly.

Code of Ethics

The Board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all employees of the Company, including its executive officers, and our directors. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted in the corporate governance section on the Company web site at www.rclinvestor.com and is available in print to shareholders upon written request to Corporate Secretary, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, Florida 33132. Any amendments to the code or any waivers from any provisions of the code granted to executive officers or directors will be promptly disclosed to investors by posting on the Company website at www.rclinvestor.com.

Contacting Members of the Board of Directors

Shareholders who wish to communicate with non-management members of the Board of Directors can address their communications to the attention of the Corporate Secretary of the Company at its principal address or via email to corporatesecretary@rccl.com. The Corporate Secretary will maintain a record of all such communications and promptly forward to the Chairman of the Nominating and Director Affairs Committee (the Committee Chair), who presides at meetings of the independent directors, those communications that the Corporate Secretary believes require immediate attention. The Corporate Secretary shall periodically provide the Committee Chair with a summary of all such communications. The Committee Chair shall notify the Board of Directors or the chairs of the relevant committees of the Board of those matters that he or she believes are appropriate for further action or discussion.

INFORMATION REGARDING CERTAIN SECURITY HOLDERS**Principal Shareholders**

Unless otherwise stated, this table sets forth information as of February 10, 2006 about persons we know to beneficially own more than five percent of any class of our voting common stock.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount Beneficially Owned	Percent of Ownership
A. Wilhelmsen AS	42,966,472(1)	20.4%
Cruise Associates	33,281,900(2)	15.8%
Osiris Holdings Inc.	37,019,400(3)	17.5%
FMR Corp.	17,135,661(4)	8.1%
Oppenheimer Capital LLC and PEA Capital LLC	11,683,645(5)	5.6%
Barclays Global Investors, NA	17,486,419(6)	8.3%
Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust And Banking Company Limited	21,116,985(7)	10.0%

- (1) A. Wilhelmsen AS is a Norwegian corporation, the indirect beneficial owners of which are members of the Wilhelmsen family of Norway. The address of A. Wilhelmsen AS is Beddingen 8, Aker Brygge, Vika N-0118 Oslo, Norway.
- (2) Cruise Associates is a Bahamian general partnership, the indirect beneficial owners of which are various trusts primarily for the benefit of certain members of the Pritzker family and various trusts primarily for the benefit of certain members of the Ofer family. The address of Cruise Associates is c/o CIBC Trust Company (Bahamas) Ltd., Post Office Box N-3933, Nassau, Bahamas.

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- (3) Includes 33,281,900 shares owned by Cruise Associates, 3,000,000 shares owned by Osiris Holdings, Inc. (Osiris) and 737,500 shares owned by a subsidiary of Osiris. Osiris is a general partner of Cruise Associates and disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares beneficially owned by Cruise Associates. The address of Osiris Holdings Inc. is c/o L Estoril, 31 Avenue Princess Grace, MC 98000 Monaco.
- (4) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed by FMR Corp. on February 14, 2006 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, FMR Corp. beneficially owns 17,135,661 shares of common stock as of December 31, 2005. The address of FMR Corp. is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.
- (5) According to a Schedule 13G filed jointly by Oppenheimer Capital LLC and PEA Capital LLC on February 10, 2006 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Oppenheimer Capital LLC and PEA Capital LLC beneficially own 11,683,645 shares of common stock as of December 31, 2005. The address of both Oppenheimer Capital LLC and PEA Capital LLC is 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105.
- (6) According to a Schedule 13G/ A filed by Barclays Global Investors, NA on March 8, 2006 with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Barclays Global Investors, NA beneficially owns 17,486,419 shares of common stock as of February 28, 2006. The address of Barclays Global Investors, NA is 45 Fremont Street, San Francisco, California 94105.
- (7) According to a Schedule 13G/ A filed by Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust And Banking Company Limited on March 8, 2006 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust And Banking Company Limited beneficially owns 21,116,985 shares of common stock as of February 28, 2006. The address of Barclays Global Investors Japan Trust and Barclay Company is 45 Fremont Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

Security Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers

This table sets forth information as of February 10, 2006 about the amount of common stock beneficially owned by our current directors, the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table below, and the current directors and executive officers as a group.

The number of shares beneficially owned by each named person or entity is determined under rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount Beneficially Owned(1)	Percent of Ownership(2)
Bernard W. Aronson	96,741	*
John D. Chandris	61,741	*
Richard D. Fain	2,028,016(3)	1.0%
Adam M. Goldstein	169,639	*
Arvid Grundekjoen	31,741	*
Daniel J. Hanrahan	50,890	*
William L. Kimsey	9,741	*
Laura Laviada	91,741	*
Luis E. Leon	61,060	*
Gert W. Munthe	21,741	*
Eyal Ofer	121,741(4)	*
Thomas J. Pritzker	296,349(4)	*
William K. Reilly	44,591	*
Bernt Reitan	654	*

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Brian J. Rice	40,981	*
Arne Alexander Wilhelmsen	42,968,213(5)	20.4%
All directors and executive officers as a group	46,078,412(3)(4)(5)	21.8%

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- (1) With respect to each beneficial owner, shares issuable upon exercise of his or her options that are exercisable on or within 60 days of February 10, 2006 are deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the number of shares and percentage of common stock owned. Includes the following shares of common stock for which the following persons hold options exercisable on or within 60 days of February 10, 2006: Mr. Aronson, 96,035; Mr. Chandris, 61,035; Mr. Fain, 790,436; Mr. Goldstein, 120,271; Mr. Grundekjoen, 11,035; Mr. Hanrahan, 46,575; Mr. Kimsey, 9,035; Ms. Laviada, 91,035; Mr. Leon, 45,606; Mr. Munthe, 21,035; Mr. Ofer 96,035; Mr. Pritzker, 66,035; Mr. Reilly, 41,035; Mr. Reitan 413; Mr. Rice, 35,843; Mr. Wilhelmsen 1,035; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 1,532,494. Includes the following restricted stock units held by the following persons for which the restrictions lapse on or within 60 days of February 10, 2006: Mr. Fain, 10,312; Mr. Goldstein 4,365; Mr. Hanrahan 2,422; Mr. Leon 8,901; Mr. Rice 2,642; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 28,642.
- (2) An asterisk denotes less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.
- (3) Includes 247 shares held by Mr. Fain's daughter, 646,970 shares issued to a trust for the benefit of Mr. Fain, and 571,412 shares owned by Monument Capital Corporation as nominee for various trusts primarily for the benefit of certain members of the Fain family.
- (4) Does not include 33,281,900 shares held by Cruise Associates.
- (5) Includes 42,966,472 shares held by A. Wilhelmsen AS. Mr. Wilhelmsen disclaims beneficial ownership of those shares.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

In February 2005, the Company ceased to be a foreign private issuer for purposes of U.S. securities laws. As a result, each of the Company's directors, executive officers and holders of 10% or more of the Company's common stock (each a reporting person) became subject to Section 16 of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) and the requirement to file Forms 3, 4 and 5. Based upon a review of Forms 3 and 4 filed since the Company last made such a disclosure in its proxy statement distributed in connection with the 2005 annual meeting, all reporting persons filed on a timely basis the reports required by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act with the exception of one change in beneficial ownership report on Form 4 filed by Mr. Fain relating to a quarterly distribution of stock to a trust for the benefit of Mr. Fain in connection with his employment with the Company. This report has subsequently been filed.

Shareholders Agreement

A. Wilhelmsen AS and Cruise Associates are parties to a Shareholders Agreement dated as of February 1, 1993 as amended (the Shareholders Agreement) and, pursuant thereto, have agreed upon certain matters relative to the organization and operation of the Company and certain matters concerning their respective ownership of the Company's voting stock. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, Wilhelmsen and Cruise Associates have agreed to vote their shares of common stock in favor of the following individuals as directors of the Company: (i) up to four nominees of Wilhelmsen (at least one of whom must be independent); (ii) up to four nominees of Cruise Associates (at least one of whom must be independent); and (iii) one nominee who must be Richard D. Fain or such other individual who is then employed as the Company's chief executive officer.

Of the persons nominated for election at the 2006 Annual Meeting, Wilhelmsen has nominated Arvid Grundekjoen and Cruise Associates has nominated Bernard W. Aronson. Of the remaining directors, Wilhelmsen nominated Gert W. Munthe, Bernt Reitan and Arne Alexander Wilhelmsen, and Cruise Associates nominated Laura Laviada, Eyal Ofer and Thomas J. Pritzker.

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PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Directors Standing for Election

The Board of Directors is currently divided into three classes. The current term of office of directors in Class I expires at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The Board has proposed to nominate the three nominees described below, each of whom is currently serving as a Class I director, to be elected for a new term of three years and until his successor is duly elected and qualified. Upon the election of the nominees named below, there will be a total of eleven directors consisting of three directors in Class I and four directors in each of Class II and Class III. The election of each of the nominees to the Board of Directors requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting.

Each of the nominees has consented to serve as a director. If any of them become unavailable to serve as a director, the Board may designate a substitute nominee. In that case, the persons named as proxies will vote for the substitute nominee named by the Board. The Class I directors standing for election are:

Bernard W. Aronson, 59, has served as a Director since July 1993. Mr. Aronson is currently Managing Partner of ACON Investments, LLC. Prior to that he served as international advisor to Goldman, Sachs & Co. From June 1989 to July 1993, Mr. Aronson served as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. Prior to that, Mr. Aronson served in various positions in the private and government sectors. Mr. Aronson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Aronson serves as a director of Liz Claiborne, Inc., Global Hyatt Corporation and Mariner Energy Incorporated.

Richard D. Fain, 58, has served as a Director since 1981 and as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since 1988. Mr. Fain is Chairman of the International Council of Cruise Lines, an industry trade organization. Mr. Fain has been involved in the shipping industry for over 25 years.

Arvid Grundekjoen, 50, has served as a Director since November 2000. He serves as Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Anders Wilhelmsen & Co. AS, the management company for the companies owned by A. Wilhelmsen AS, and serves as Chairman of the supervisory boards of Statkraft AS and Creati AS. Mr. Grundekjoen has previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Anders Wilhelmsen & Co. AS.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR.

Directors Continuing in Office

Class II Directors

The following Class II directors are serving for a term ending in 2007:

William L. Kimsey, 63, has served as a Director since April 2003. Mr. Kimsey was employed for 32 years through September 2002 with the independent public accounting firm Ernst & Young L.L.P. From 1998 through 2002, Mr. Kimsey served as the Chief Executive Officer of Ernst & Young Global and Global Executive Board member of Ernst & Young and from 1993 through 1998 as the Firm Deputy Chairman and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Kimsey also serves on the board of Western Digital Corporation, Parsons Corporation, Accenture, Ltd. and NAVTEQ Corporation. Mr. Kimsey is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Gert W. Munthe, 49, has served as a Director since May 2002. Since September 2002, Mr. Munthe has served as managing partner of Ferd Private Equity, a private equity company that focuses on mid-cap companies in the technology area. From 1994 through January 2000, Mr. Munthe was a director of Alpharma, Inc., a life science company active in animal health and generic pharmaceuticals, and served as its Chief Operating Officer from 1998 until 1999 and as its Chief Executive Officer in 1999. From 1993 through 1998, Mr. Munthe was the President and Chief Executive Officer of NetCom, a leading wireless telecommunication operator in Norway that was listed on the Oslo and London Stock Exchanges. He served in the Royal Norwegian Navy and was previously with McKinsey & Co.

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Thomas J. Pritzker, 55, has served as a Director since February 1999. Mr. Pritzker is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Global Hyatt Corporation and The Pritzker Organization LLC. He is a partner in the law firm of Pritzker & Pritzker. Mr. Pritzker is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Bernt Reitan, 58, has served as a director of the Company since September 2004. Mr. Reitan is an Executive Vice President of Alcoa Inc. and is the Group President for the Global Primary Products division, with responsibility for the strategic management of Alcoa Inc.'s alumina refineries and primary aluminum smelters worldwide and associated businesses, such as metal purchasing, trading and transportation. Mr. Reitan joined Alcoa Inc. in 2000 as general manager of Alcoa World Alumina & Chemicals and was named president of Alcoa World Alumina & Chemicals in January 2001. In July of that year, he was elected a vice president of Alcoa Inc. In January 2003, he was appointed President, Alcoa Primary Metals. In November 2004, he was named an Executive Vice President of the company. Before joining Alcoa Inc., he was employed for 20 years in a number of positions with Elkem ASA in Norway. Mr. Reitan serves on the board of the International Primary Aluminum Institute and holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the Technical University, Trondheim, Norway.

Class III Directors

The following Class III directors are serving for a term ending in 2008:

Laura Laviada, 55, has served as a Director since July 1997. Ms. Laviada sits on the board of several public and not-for-profit companies in Mexico, including Telmex, and Grupo Financiero Inbursa, as well as Pro Mujer (an organization that provides micro credit for women in Mexico) and the Museum of San Ildefonso. Recently, Ms. Laviada participated with a group of investors in acquiring a controlling stake in Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico which operates 12 airports in Mexico's Pacific region, including those in Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara, Los Cabos and Tijuana. Ms. Laviada is also actively involved in the restoration and development of Mexico City's downtown area. Prior to 2000, Ms. Laviada was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Editorial Televisa, S.A. de C.V., the largest Spanish language magazine publisher in the world with 40 titles distributed throughout 19 countries.

Eyal Ofer, 55, has served as a Director since May 1995. Mr. Ofer has served as the Chairman of Carlyle M.G. Limited since May 1991.

William K. Reilly, 66, has served as a Director since January 1998. Mr. Reilly is the Founding Partner of Aqua International Partners L.P., an investment group that finances water and renewable energy companies. From 1989 to 1993, Mr. Reilly served as the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has also previously served as the Payne Visiting Professor at Stanford University's Institute of International Studies, president of World Wildlife Fund and of The Conservation Foundation. He is Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund and of the Board of Advisors to the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, and also serves on the board of trustees of the American Academy in Rome and the Packard Foundation. He serves as a director of E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company, ConocoPhillips and Eden Springs Ltd.

Arne Alexander Wilhelmsen, 40, has served as a Director since May 2003. Mr. Wilhelmsen is a member of the board of directors of A. Wilhelmsen AS and other companies affiliated with A. Wilhelmsen AS and has held since 1995 a variety of managerial positions with such entities. In 2005, Mr. Wilhelmsen was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Anders Wilhelmsen & Co. AS, the management company for the companies owned by A. Wilhelmsen AS. From 1996 through 1997, Mr. Wilhelmsen was engaged as a marketing analyst for the Company and since 2001 has served as a member of the board of directors of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line AS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company that is responsible for the sales and marketing activities of the Company in Europe. Mr. Wilhelmsen has a Masters of Business Administration from IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland.

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Director Compensation

Directors who are Company employees do not receive any fees for their services as directors. Each non-employee director receives an annual retainer of \$45,000 and \$1,200 for each Board meeting attended in his or her capacity as director and \$1,200 for each committee meeting attended. The Chair of the Audit Committee receives an additional annual retainer of \$20,000, the Chair of the Compensation Committee receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000 and the Chairs of the Nominating and Director Affairs, and Environmental, Safety and Security Committees receive an additional annual retainer of \$6,000. Other members of the Audit Committee receive an additional annual retainer of \$10,000 and other members of the Compensation, Nominating and Director Affairs, and Environmental, Safety and Security Committees receive an additional annual retainer of \$3,000. The foregoing fees are subject to a cap of \$100,000 per year per director. Fees received by a director may be deferred in whole or in part under the Deferred Compensation Plan for the Board of Directors. Non-employee directors are reimbursed for travel expenses for meetings attended.

At the discretion of the Board, each non-employee director is eligible to receive an annual grant of equity awards with an aggregate value on the date of grant equal to \$70,000. Two-thirds of this annual grant is awarded in the form of restricted stock units and one-third is awarded in the form of options to purchase the Company's common stock. Directors are encouraged to accumulate ownership of at least \$100,000 of the Company's common stock by 2008, including the value of restricted stock units.

The Company believes that it is critical for the Board members to understand and appreciate its product and customers and wants to encourage them to cruise. Therefore, the Company provides Board members with one passenger cabin, upon request, on a complimentary basis. Immediate family traveling with Board members will receive a family rate of \$40 per person per day. Non-family guests of Board members may purchase the cabin of their choice at a 25% reduction of the lowest available fare at time of booking.

Consulting Arrangement with William K. Reilly

The Company has a consulting arrangement with Mr. Reilly under which it pays him \$300,000 a year in consultancy fees in exchange for his providing services with respect to, and overseeing, the Company's environmental programs. As part of his responsibilities, Mr. Reilly serves on the Grants Committee of the Royal Caribbean Ocean Fund. This consulting arrangement is subject to review and renewal each January.

Certain Transactions

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company paid the Global Hyatt Corporation \$1,939,000 for accommodations it provided to our vacation customers and for our use of hotel facilities for corporate functions. In addition, Company employees stay from time to time at Hyatt Hotels when traveling for work-related purposes and the Company reimburses the employees for such costs. The Company paid Red Sail Sports \$648,000 to provide Caribbean shore excursions to our cruise passengers. Mr. Thomas J. Pritzker, one of the Company's directors and shareholders, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Hyatt Corporation and is affiliated with Red Sail Sports.

During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company paid an affiliate of A. Wilhelmsen AS \$225,900 for recruiting the Company's Norwegian crew. Mr. Arne Alexander Wilhelmsen is a director of A. Wilhelmsen AS and Mr. Arvid Grundekjoen is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of an affiliate of A. Wilhelmsen AS. Both Mr. Wilhelmsen and Mr. Grundekjoen are directors and shareholders of the Company.

In 2005, the Company participated in a consortium with other parties that submitted a bid to acquire the concession to develop and operate the Galata Cruise Port in Istanbul, Turkey pursuant to a competitive bid tender by the government of Turkey. After the consortium tendered the bid, the government cancelled the bid tender. If the consortium had been awarded the bid, the Company would have participated in the venture with a 20% interest and an affiliate of the family of Mr. Eyal Ofer, one of the Company's directors and shareholders, would have participated with a 21% interest.

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During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company paid Drinker Biddle & Reath \$195,618 for legal services. The father of Mr. Adam Goldstein, President of Royal Caribbean International, is a partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath.

In 2005, the Company paid Out of the Blue Advertising \$594,000 for advertising and marketing services. A son-in-law of Mr. Richard Fain, Chairman and CEO of the Company, was employed as a graphic artist by Out of the Blue Advertising during a portion of 2005.

**PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered certified public accounting firm for the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has served as the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm for over 15 years. A representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to questions from the shareholders and to make a statement if the representative desires to do so.

Although ratification by the shareholders of the appointment of the independent registered certified public accounting firm for the Company is not legally required, the Board believes that such action is desirable. If the shareholders do not approve this proposal, the Audit Committee will consider selection of another accounting firm for 2006 and future years.

Aggregate fees for professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 were:

	2005	2004
Audit fees	\$ 1,461,489	\$ 1,651,375
Audit related fees	46,000	42,000
Tax fees	69,820	213,002
All other fees	1,500	1,400
Total	\$ 1,578,809	\$ 1,907,777

Pursuant to the terms of its charter, the Audit Committee shall approve all audit engagement fees and terms and all non-audit engagements with the independent registered certified public accounting firm. The Chairman of the Audit Committee also has the authority to approve any non-audit engagements with the independent registered certified public accounting firm but must report any such approvals to the Committee at its next meeting. Our Audit Committee was not called upon in the years ended December 31, 2005 or 2004 to approve, after the fact, any non-audit, review or attest services pursuant to the pre-approval waiver provisions of the auditor independence rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The audit fees for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 were for professional services rendered for the annual audits of our consolidated financial statements, statutory audits required by foreign jurisdictions, quarterly reviews, issuance of consents and review of documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, the audit fees for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 included services related to the audit of internal control over financial reporting in connection with our compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The audit related fees for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 were for the audits of employee benefit plans.

Tax fees for the year ended December 31, 2005 were for services performed in connection with international tax compliance. Tax fees for the year ended December 31, 2004 were for services performed in connection with income tax compliance, consulting and tax research services, assistance with tax audits and expatriate tax services.

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The Audit Committee has considered and determined that the services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are compatible with maintaining PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE 2006 FISCAL YEAR.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with its charter, the Audit Committee of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (the Company) is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the integrity of the Company's financial statements; the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the independent auditor's qualifications and independence; and the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent registered certified publi