

An Ode to Love
by Jo Anne Bander

This is a tale of love and romance
Set in the U.S. equivalent to France
It was here Super Bowl weekend twenty one years ago
That a real love boat voyage began for Jeanne and Joe.

While New Orleans connects them by sentiment and place of birth
It is also its rich history and texture like no other on earth
Jazz in the air, smells of magnolias, seafood and chicory
Shops filled with candles, masks, beads, antiques and chicanery.

Where but here can one think of such imagery
As Ecstasy, Paradise, Inspiration and Destiny
And find oneself emerged in one quick beat
Yet still feel part of Carnival's fleet?

Joe makes ships the backdrop for others to stage their dreams
New Orleans is the setting for their own fantasy themes
Here they are carnival royalty on grand floats
Most other times they are the designers of Carnival boats.

Joe the creative genius, Jeanne his inspiration, his muse
A couple whose company we always choose
They enrich our lives with their special joie de vivre
And loyalty to family, friends and community.

We toast you dear Jeanne and Joe for gathering us here
From places too many to mention both far and near
So we can raise our glasses high to say
Thank you for sharing New Orleans, yourselves and your special day.

Happy Twentieth Anniversary.

December 31, 2003