



Volume 24



# Majestic Isles News

MAY 2021



Issue 8



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**Editorial Policy**

*We welcome articles by residents, whether or not you choose to join the newsletter staff (which we'd love you to do). We reserve the right to reject material that may be inappropriate for any reason whatsoever. For example, we do not print letters to the editor or opinion pieces. The staff also reserves the right to edit for content, length, clarity and accuracy.*

**MANAGER'S CORNER**

Ed. Note: *Much of this article has been adapted from one that appeared in this column of the "Majestic Isles News" in 2014. If you are a seasonal resident who has already gone north for the summer, you may want to check with the person watching your house to make sure these matters are attended to well before hurricanes head this way. Those still here need to get an early start.*

Those who leave for the summer or take extended vacations need to prepare their homes for the upcoming hurricane season, which officially runs from June 1 to November 30.

If you're planning on leaving South Florida for more than a week or so, please take just a few minutes to tour your property inside and out to make sure it's secure and safe. In many cases, residents will not be returning until well into the 2021 hurricane season and it's essential that your home is hurricane-ready. Pick up all of the potted plants around the landscaping beds and remove all of the *tchachkes* from the beds and from your outside walls. If you have patio furniture out back, bring it into the garage. Several residents have attached a couple of eye bolts to their back wall to secure their patio table with the top placed against the wall. Full-time residents who have been here during hurricanes have seen first-hand the damage that can be caused by storm-caused flying debris.

Before you leave, it's a good idea to shut off the breaker to the water heater. Some people advocate turning off the water to your house, but others have experienced problems from taking this step—so do your research before deciding.

Check that *all* windows are securely locked. Pull (hard) on your sliding glass doors to make sure they're locked as well. You can purchase a sliding door locking bar from a big box store to place in the track to keep the door from opening, but a broomstick does the same thing.

And - please call Priscilla or me to let us know you're leaving. Make sure we have your emergency numbers.

Regards,

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**REMINDER**

Copies of this newsletter are available for pick up at three homes in the community, (10601 Royal Caribbean, 5875 Grand Harbour Circle, and 5760 Seashell Terrace) as well as outside the front door of the clubhouse. You can also find it at [MajesticIsles.com](http://MajesticIsles.com). You will find both current and past issues to peruse for your enjoyment.

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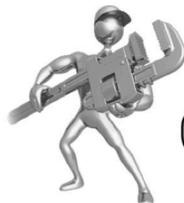
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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Bob Edinger

Here we are once again, looking forward to the time when things normalize. We know things will never go back to the way they were, and we are trying to predict the “new normal.”

We are slowly reaching the point in our community life when we may start welcoming guests to all outside activities. We are also working on a plan to open our clubhouse, paying special attention to adjusting the air circulation system’s ability to suppress COVID. Additionally, when we do open, we will be limiting capacity in the gyms for safety reasons, and users will be expected to cooperate with CDC guidelines.

Bear in mind that many communities in the immediate area have not yet reopened their clubhouses. However, as we look forward to opening our clubhouse, we welcome ideas from residents as to how we can derive the maximum benefit from our amenities, keeping in mind that we all have different tastes and interests.

We are looking forward to the seasonal renewal of our grounds and are eagerly anticipating the colorful new plantings around the clubhouse - the current landscape is over 20 years old!

One piece of good news is that home prices in our community have risen about 20% in the last year, which benefits us all. This increase in home values is attributable to many factors - the pandemic, the way in which individual homes are landscaped, how the common areas are maintained by the community as well as our amenities.

As of now, social distancing and masks are still recommended by the CDC. We on the Board take our responsibilities seriously and urge caution as we move slowly to whatever the “new normal” looks like. But, ultimately, it comes down to each of you being responsible for yourself and your adherence to CDC guidelines.

## 2021 MAJESTIC ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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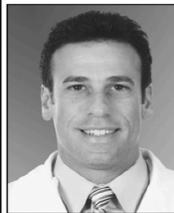
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**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS**

**By Maddy Rosen**

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**GOOD AND WELFARE**

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank my friends and neighbors in Majestic Isles who reached out to me to offer condolences upon the passing of my husband Harvey.

With gratitude, Ellen Nelson

*Please note: Notices are reserved for members of the Majestic Isles community. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Submit items to Gail Shatzkamer by email at [gailshatzkamer@gmail.com](mailto:gailshatzkamer@gmail.com) with **Good and Welfare** as the subject or call (561) 877-8914. Acknowledgement of each email will be sent as verification of receipt.*

**DUCK SAFETY**

**By Robin Backer**

Hi neighbors. I'm a new resident, and I'm a bit troubled because I've seen some people feeding bread to our ducks.

This is a problem because bread actually makes ducks sick. Moreover, uneaten and rotting bread pollutes the water and causes nasty surface algae, which kills fish and makes the water smell.

The ducks do like cut seedless grapes, cooked rice, birdseed, peas, corn, oats and chopped lettuce. So

# PROPERTY MATTERS

By Anne Gannon, Tax Collector



Several months ago, we launched the self-serve kiosks in a handful of Palm Beach County Publix stores and invited you to try them to process your vehicle registration. While we currently

have these kiosks in operation at five area Publix stores, our plan is to expand and launch several more throughout the county and bring this convenience to more Palm Beach residents.

If you plan to visit one of the Publix locations listed below, I encourage you to use one of the kiosks to process your vehicle registration and avoid having to make an appointment at one of our office locations. The kiosks are quick and easy and will provide you with your vehicle registration and sticker right then and there.

### Self-Serve Kiosk Locations

- Promenade Shopping Plaza, 9900 FL A1A Alt., Palm Beach Gardens
- Greenwood Shopping Center, 1700 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs
- Boynton Lakes Plaza, 4770 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach
- Addison Centre, 16130 Jog Rd., Delray Beach
- Garden Shops at Boca. 7060 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton



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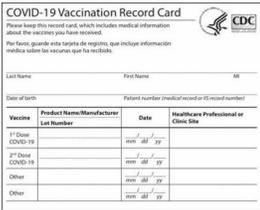
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# YOUR VACCINE CARD

Submitted by Alene Kristal



For now, the best way to show that you've been inoculated against COVID 19 is that simple white card you were given upon vaccination. Here's how to keep it safe.

As travel begins to rebound, you may find yourself required to present this card to multiple businesses. Cruise lines will require them, as will concert venues and catered events – any place that large crowds gather. There are already a number of vaccination “passport initiatives” underway that would make vaccination status easy to share digitally. While the technology is just emerging, you'll need to hang onto your card. Here are some simple suggestions about safeguarding it.

Start by taking a picture of it with your phone, so you'll have the information in your photo library, and emailing it to yourself as backup. Some people advocate laminating the card, so you can carry it around in your wallet. Some companies are offering free lamination services - Staples, Office Depot and Office Max.

There is some concern about lamination, however, as it will prevent information from future booster shots from being added. Alternatively, the future protocol may include a separate card for a booster shot. I personally think it's too soon to decide as we don't have sufficient information on what the future of booster shots will look like. But you decide.

Some destinations and cruise lines are requiring that travelers be fully vaccinated before traveling. Airlines do not currently require proof, but there is much talk in the industry about instituting that requirement.

And, perhaps best perk of all, businesses like Krispy Kreme are offering a free glazed donut when you provide your card, every day – a great incentive!

*Adapted from an article in “The New York Times,” April 4, 2021*

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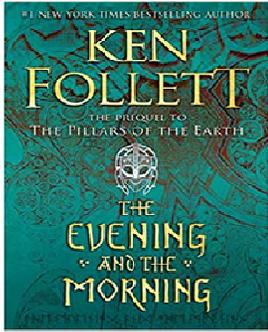
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## “THE EVENING AND THE MORNING” BY KEN FOLLETT

By Stan Kaish



Readers of a certain age may remember the old Ken Follett who wrote 22 high adventure thrillers about modern day wars, spies, and assassins. In 1989, the new Ken Follett emerged and published a 1,000-page historical novel called “The Pillars of the Earth” set in England around

the year 1100. I, along with several million others, read that tale of mere mortals struggling with primitive tools to build an historic cathedral worthy of their God. “The Pillars of the Earth” became a surprise best seller and remains Follett’s most popular book. It was followed by two more, thousand-page historical novels set in the same town, Kings Bridge, England: “World Without End” and “A Column of Fire.” I reviewed the latter here at the time. The book under consideration today is also set in Kings Bridge, but it is set in a time before any of the others and is billed as a prequel to “The Pillars of the Earth.” Its time span is precisely the ten years from 997 to 1007, about a hundred years before “The Pillars of the Earth” begins.

This decade occurred during the Dark Ages. And like all ages, there is an abundance of good guys and bad. Well, this slice of life has mostly bad. Power is shared by the nobles and the clergy and both are found in a family of brothers named Wynstan, Wigelm and Wilwulf. No one in the book seems to have a last name. Wynstan, the smartest of the lot, is the local Bishop, aspiring to become Archbishop. Wilwulf, known as Wilf, is the head man, or ealdorman of Shiring, a broad region of western England. His word is the law. Wigelm, the least bright of the brothers, collects the rent from the locals. In return the brothers provide security and spirituality.

The book opens with a decided breach of security. Enemies to all are the Vikings, a pagan society of warriors living in Normandy, who prey on communities across the channel. They mount a raid on the town of Combe early one morning and wipe out half of its residents and make off with

much of its property. Among those killed is the town’s principal shipbuilder, father to three sons who play significant roles in the story. Edgar is the youngest and smartest of them. He has inherited much of his father’s talent as a builder and is the main protagonist in the book. The brotherhood of nobles comes to Combe to assess the damage, and Wilwulf journeys on to Cherbourg, France to discuss defense against the Vikings with Count Hubert, the man in charge. There he meets Lady Ragna, Hubert’s daughter who, in addition to being beautiful and intelligent, becomes enamored of Wilwulf, and eventually becomes his bride. Meanwhile, Edgar’s mother, Mildred and her three sons, having lost all their shipbuilding tools in the Viking raid, are impoverished, and relocate to a farm in a town called Dreng’s Ferry that will eventually be renamed Kings Bridge, the site of the three Follett historical novels. But that renaming is some 800 pages away, and at the time of Edgar’s arrival, the town consisted of half a dozen one-room huts, a church and an alehouse.

There is an unsavory character named Dreng who owns the ale house and controls the ferry that brings people across the river and into the town. Dreng has two wives and a female slave named Blod who does household chores and whom Dreng rents out for sex to all comers. Not surprisingly, Blod is pregnant. Dreng also has a daughter named Cwenburg who gets married off to both of Edgar’s brothers (at the same time) while Edgar goes to work for Dreng, drawing on his boat building talents to build a new ferry boat.

And so, life for each was in a place that might have assured happiness. Ragna delivers a son and then two more twin boys. All is well, but a surprise awaits her. Unbeknownst to Ragna, Wilf had been married before to a lady named Inge and they had a son, Garulf. Our assumption would be that Inge must have died for Wilf to remarry. But the nobles of England had an alternative. A man could “set aside” his wife, and that’s what Wilf had done. Inge was still living in the community and still available to her former husband. When Ragna pressed him on the matter of fidelity to her alone, Wilf rejected the idea as an unreasonable constraint on his manhood.

**(Continued on Page 11)**

## VIEW FROM ATOP A CAT TREE

By Winnie and Misha K



Hello neighbors! It's spring and the birds are singing! We love watching them from our windowsill perch in Mom's office.



Thanks to the vaccines, school is in session again, and we want to introduce you to some famous felines you probably haven't heard about.

Meet **Humphrey** - a longhaired black and white cat, gainfully employed as Chief Mouser of 10 Downing Street, from 1989 to 1997. Humphrey shares this distinction with a long line of other cats who have received the official title of Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office. While one can infer what his duties entailed, Humphrey is special among his colleagues for being the subject of catnapping and murder rumors in the Parliament during Tony Blair's term.

**Unsinkable Sam**, also known as Oscar or Oskar, lived during the World War II era and supposedly survived three separate shipwrecks, one in the German Kriegsmarine and two in the British Royal Navy. On all three occasions, Sam was found clinging to a floating plank. Veering from astounding to unbelievable, Sam's story is one of the numerous enduring tales of survival from that tragic period of history. We don't know why he switched sides from the Axis to the good guys.

The **Demon Cat**, also known as D.C. in reference to both its name and where it is found, is a ghost cat that haunts the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The tale of its origin varies by who you ask. Some say the cat is the mother of a litter that was disturbed during construction of the Capitol. Others say it is the last, undead survivor of a colony of cats brought in to clear the rat population in a bygone era. Most sightings have taken place prior to national disasters, such as assassinations of public figures or stock market crashes, though skeptics claim the guards and groundskeepers who've spotted Demon Cat must've been drinking. You be the judge!

***A Time To Remember***




**Memorial Day**

***Memorial Day is a time to remember,  
to honor and show our respect  
for all the men and women  
who gave up their lives for the  
Country they fought to protect.  
Although we cannot picture  
all of their faces nor recognize  
each person's name,  
we give thanks today  
for all those United States soldiers  
who answered the call and came.***

*From the Internet*

### **Book Review (Continued from Page 10)**

But the real heavy in the picture is Bishop Wynstan, who is ruthless in his quest for power and wealth. First, he is far from celibate, but rather a regular at the local brothel. He is also a regular at the gambling table, betting counterfeit coins that he has forced Cuthbert the local jeweler to make. When the Sheriff and a monk named Aldred seek to expose him, the trial sees Wilwulf sitting as judge and jury. His brother, Wynstan, the intended defendant, throws the blame on the jeweler, who after all was the one actually producing the bogus coins. The punishment meted out – well - let's just say it sickened me to read it. So be warned. There is murder, kidnapping, rape and other intrigues designed to harm Ragna, Edgar, Aldred and the good guys seeking to find their way through this troubled decade in the Dark Ages. Author Ken Follet proves to be a very skillful guide.

## COP SHOWS 101

By Steve Karten

*(Adapted from an article by Paul Rudnick in "The New Yorker," March 2021)*

I've always been a fan of police dramas, and over the years have watched, suffice to say, MANY of them on TV. Recently, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine, my viewing of them has increased dramatically. Aside from our usual home-grown American versions, quite often Alene and I can be found watching cop shows from a number of other countries - The UK (always been a big favorite, perhaps as much as, or more, than the U.S.), France, Spain, Finland, Norway, Iceland, the Shetland Islands, Jersey, Australia, South Africa and perhaps a few more that I've forgotten.

No matter where these dramas come from, there seem to be certain precepts that always permeate the storyline.

- One can always hear the protagonist saying, at some point "I have to go, it's work," or "so you left him/her in that swamp/basement/etc. to die."
- The lead detective always has some serious personality quirk or flaw that drives her or his co-workers and family a bit crazy (e.g., he can only examine assembled evidence barefoot).
- Quite often, the main character is a troubled male detective whose marriage has deteriorated, or totally crashed and burned because he works too much, too often, and/or too hard.
- The divorced detective has one small child, limited visitation rights, and a contentious ex-wife who does her best to prevent him from exercising those rights. Also, these rights are usually limited to the one night where he doesn't show up or call because he's finally capturing a serial killer after a tense and violent standoff.
- Alternatively, the detective is a recovering alcoholic and due to his alcoholism, has an estranged adult child (usually a daughter) who exists only to have a rare dinner with her father, only to be interrupted by a cell phone call from a crime scene which requires his immediate presence. Note: there is no record of any formerly estranged adult child of a detective ever finishing an entrée in a restaurant.
- Almost always, there is an ex-wife who is so hurt that she can only be seen briefly through a screen door by the lead detective's partner, who is an over-worked mother, or a lesbian of color, or both.
- When the protagonist/lead detective is a woman, she will almost always wear her hair in a ponytail. This is the equivalent of a male detective's shoulder holster, or the pint of whiskey in his desk drawer or filing cabinet. She is also usually divorced, with teenage children and parenting problems.
- When the protagonist is a man, he will always wear a suit jacket and tie - except when the show is set in Scandinavia. Then he will wear a nubby sweater, facial scruff and bark commands at his staff, a group required by law to include a person of color and a young preppy guy.
- If the show is set in London, Wales, or Scotland, the locale and weather will be grim, gray, and depressing. Usually, suspects will be interrogated inside of a garage-type building, where welding is going on and no one ever smiles.
- Wealthy suspects will be interrogated in their country mansions, or townhouses, where they will usually say "we'd gotten back late, and there was blood on the floor in the foyer."
- If the program is set in France, the entire cast will be attractive.
- If the show is set in Scandinavia, the crime will always involve climate change.
- In America, the serial killer is most likely a person who suffered and survived an abusive childhood.
- A plethora of background information will be found on the internet by the resident fresh-faced office tech, or the walking, talking, partial Asperger type of office nerd who will rattle off the most recent information on the suspect robotically but with abandon.
- Any and all friends and relatives of the suspect will insist, "I haven't seen him/her in months," just before that person bolts out the back door into an alley.



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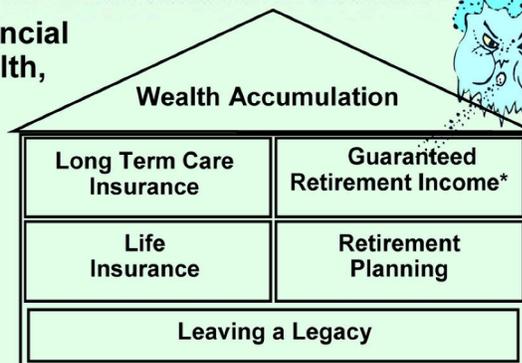
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## MOTHER STORIES

**By Members of the Newsletter Staff**

One of my mom's goals was to send my brother, four years my elder, and me off to school in the most comfortable manner. In the winter she actually put our socks on the radiator so our feet would be warm. During those hot summer nights, she made sure we had cold, wet washcloths to put on our foreheads to help us sleep as we didn't have air conditioning yet. One of my most indelible memories was about "the egg." On school mornings my brother usually arose before me, so he was first to be fed. Like any good Jewish mother, mine made sure we left the house with full bellies. And every morning she made a fried egg (she called it a bulls-eye egg) for my brother who seemed to never want it. Then she would just throw a pot cover over it on the plate and present it to me about 30 minutes later. I was the skinniest kid in school. Need I explain why? But mom never gave up. To this day my brother and I still speak of "the egg." – *Steve Berry*

My mom was an incredible human being, never letting adversity get her down. She suffered with uncontrollable Type 1 diabetes, but it didn't stop her from being a caring, loving, generous lady who lived life to the fullest. Every morning upon waking, she would go to her bedroom window, look out at the day, and say "thank you God for letting me live another day." That was her mantra. I think of you every day, mom, and love you to the moon and beyond. – *Ellen Nelson*

One of my daughters-in-law was horrified when I told her some of the things my mother used to say to me, such as "I could wring your neck," "I'm going to give you back to the Indians," or "You have to learn to do it (tie shoes, make bed et. al.) because I won't always be around to do it for you." Although I remember those things, I was never frightened or traumatized because I knew she was just momentarily displeased with my behavior or my resistance to learning whatever she was trying to teach me. I always knew she wouldn't give me away to anyone and she would never physically hurt me. What my daughter-in-law interpreted as a scary prophecy of death, meant to me that I would grow up and leave home. - *Betty Wachtel*

Mother /Daughter Date, 1954. Dedicated to the memory of my mother, Irene Glick.

My first clear memory of a Mother/Daughter outing is not quite what you would expect! I remember some of the details of our date very vividly, but only those that would be important to a very young child, mostly because I was a very young child, 3 ½ or 4 years old. I was wearing my favorite plaid dress, lace-trimmed white anklet socks (folded down, of course) and navy- blue Mary Jane shoes. Our destination wasn't the exciting part, it was how we were getting there: Trolley! We lived in the suburbs, so a trolley ride in Brooklyn was a big deal, and that first trolley ride should have been enough excitement for a little girl from the suburbs who had only ever travelled in her dad's 1950 DeSoto. It didn't quite turn out that way.

My mom and I walked from my grandparents' apartment to the trolley stop. After a few minutes, a man joined us at the trolley stop and after a few seconds my mother and this man recognized each other as old coworkers. This would have been unremarkable, except that the man sounded very strange to my little girl ears. I was used to accents because my grandparents all spoke broken English, but his was not an accent. As they spoke, I gripped my mother's hand tighter and tighter because this strange man with his strange way of speaking frightened me, and when the trolley finally came rolling down the track, I scrambled in while my mother said a hasty goodbye to her friend. Then I started to cry; and this is what happened next:

My mother told me that her friend was deaf...then she explained what that meant. She told me that when he was little, he had to go to a special school with other deaf children to learn how to "read lips" and how to speak. She explained that he had never heard anyone speaking and didn't know what we sounded like or even what he himself sounded like. My mother told me that when she first met him, she couldn't understand him either. I was so busy trying to digest everything that the trolley ride went completely unnoticed. The encounter made the day truly remarkable and I'm sure it's the real reason I remember my first Mother/Daughter date all these years later. – *Barbara Van Asselt*

**(Continued on Page 16)**

## ONIONS

By Joan Sorkin

I recently got a call from a neighbor in the early evening asking for an unusual item. Did I have an extra onion I could spare? Ready to make dinner, she found that the three onions she had in her pantry were spoiled. Of course, I was able to oblige. This got me thinking of the origin of onions.

Scientists believe that as far back as 5,500 years ago the onion was used extensively in Central Asia, Iran and West Pakistan. They were easy to grow in almost any soil, and very easy to store during the winter months. They prevented thirst and could be dried for later use. They also believed onions were a source of energy and had medicinal properties.

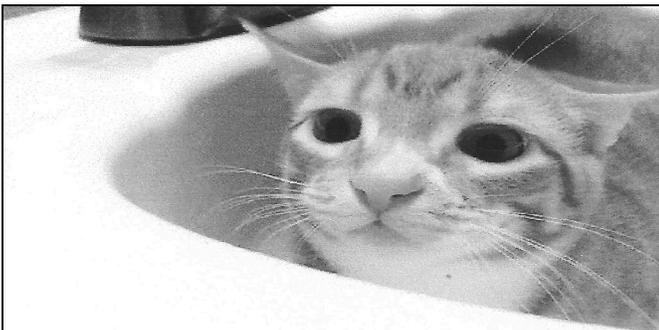
The Egyptians believed onions ensured endless life in eternity and were used in burial ceremonies. You could see images painted on tombs and they were used as offerings to the gods. Onions were also used in the mummification process.

Next time you start cutting up “just an onion” think back to their history and show some respect!

## Mother Stories (Continued from Page 15)

I never realized that my mother was a Zen master until this past year. As an adult, I would arrive at my parents’ house to visit in late afternoon and occasionally find my mom taking a nap and my dad reading the newspaper. Mom certainly earned the time to rest, having raised five children with an 18-year age span from oldest to youngest. I, being a Type A personality and never able to nap unless ill, asked how she managed what always eluded me. Her response was “I close my eyes and imagine a blackboard with the problems of the day. I erase them all, and with a clear mind, I can fall asleep.” It never worked for me until I decided to learn about meditation this past pandemic year. Lo and behold, my mother innately knew how to lower her stress before it ever became the “in” thing to do. This is just one of the many precious lessons that my mother taught me. – *Elaine Jay*

My sons started a Mother’s Day tradition early on. They would plan for our whole family to get together, have lunch and do some fun activity such as a museum, an interesting walk, a historical sight, or a show or a film. The one that sticks in my mind was in 2012 when my oldest grandchild was graduating from high school and leaving for college. We had lunch in New York City and visited the Museum of Natural History – three generations and something of interest for everyone! That was nostalgic because it was the last Mother’s Day that all 11 of us were there as the grandchildren gradually drifted off to college. – *Lois Kaish*



## Rules for the Cat

The cat is not allowed on the furniture.

Alright, the cat can go on the furniture, but NOT the kitchen counter.

OK, the cat can go on the kitchen counter too, just not when I’m preparing food. Deal?

Fine... The cat can go wherever it wants, whenever it wants as long as it doesn’t swat me in the face at 5:30 in the morning demanding to be fed.

The cat will be fed at 5:30 in the morning.

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## CHINESE SCHINDLER

Submitted by Alene Kristal



Ho Feng-Shan, “The Chinese Schindler,” was born in rural Hunan in 1901. Ho grew up poor. His mother was a devout Christian; his father, a Confucian scholar, died when he was seven. Helped by the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, Ho was educated at Yali College. Studying at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, he received his doctorate in political economy.

Ho then entered China’s diplomatic service. After being posted in Turkey, Ho was appointed First Secretary at the Chinese legation in Vienna in 1937. Following March 1938’s Anschluss, he was assigned the post of Consul-General. Fluent in German, he made friends with many Jewish intellectuals in Vienna.

In the wake of 1938’s Évian Conference - where only the Dominican Republic agreed to accept a significant number of Jewish refugees - Ho acted. Against the orders of his superiors, he started to issue visas to Shanghai to Austrian Jews for humanitarian reasons. He gave panicked Jews, fearing internment in concentration camps, visas with almost no questions asked. Eventually, tens of thousands of Jews fled Austria for Shanghai.

Some stayed in Shanghai for as long as 10 years, during and after the Japanese occupation, when they were segregated in Shanghai’s Hongkou District. Others left for eventual destinations ranging from Hong Kong and the Philippines, to Israel and the US. Ho continued his one-man crusade until he was ordered to return to China in 1940.

Eric Goldstaub, a 17-year-old Viennese Jew, was turned down by 50 consulates in Vienna before he went to the Chinese consulate, where on July 20, 1938, he obtained 20 Chinese visas for himself and his extended family. He died in Toronto at the ripe old age of 92.

Lilith Sylvia Doron met Ho while they both watched Hitler’s triumphant entry into Vienna in March 1938. When Doron’s brother, Karl, was arrested and sent to Dachau, he was released thanks to a visa issued on Ho’s instructions. Both she and her brother reached Palestine in 1939.

During World War II, Ho served on military and diplomatic missions to the Allied powers. After the Communist victory in 1949, he followed the Nationalist government to Taiwan, where he served around the world as an ambassador until 1973. In his memoirs, “My Forty Years as a Diplomat”, he explained his motivations during World War II as follows: “Seeing the Jews so doomed, it was only natural to feel deep compassion, and from a humanitarian standpoint, to be impelled to help them.”

Enemies in Taipei impugned Ho’s diplomatic service. But in 2001, Yad Vashem recognized him as “Righteous Among the Nations” for being among the first diplomats to issue visas that saved Jews from the Holocaust. In September 2015, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou commended Ho in a posthumous certificate of merit.

In the end, Ho saved many more Jews than Oskar Schindler.”

*Excerpted from an article in the “Algemeiner” by historian Harold Brackman, March 10, 2021; found on the Internet.*



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## THIS MONTH IN SPORTS

By Steve Berry



Well, NCAA college basketball ended with an impressive win by Baylor over Gonzaga. The NHL and NBA are back in full swing. MLB has just begun, so there's not much to report. However, I'm proud to report that, at this time, my N.Y. Mets are not in last place.

**5/1/04:** Giants' outfielder Barry Bonds sets MLB record for being intentionally walked four times during a 6-3 defeat of Florida in San Francisco.

**5/2/88:** Reds' manager Peter Rose is suspended for 30 days for pushing an umpire.

**5/3/80:** Giants' first baseman Willie McCovey hits his 521<sup>st</sup> and final home run.

**5/4/75:** Houston's Bob Watson scores baseball's one-millionth run of all time.

**5/5/69:** Milwaukee Bucks sign #1 NBA draft pick, star UCLA center Lew Alcindor, who later becomes Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

**5/6/88:** "Doughnut-gate" incident: N.J. Devils' coach Jim Schoenfeld tells referee Don Koharski to 'eat another doughnut you fat pig!' He is suspended.

**5/8/36:** Jockey Ralph Neves is unexpectedly revived after being declared dead after a fall. His wife faints when he returned to the track.

**5/10/91:** Oakland A's Jose Canseco is seen leaving singer Madonna's apartment. They probably weren't playing baseball.

**5/11/80:** Phillies' Pete Rose, 39, steals second, third and home in one inning.

**5/13/55:** Mickey Mantle hits three consecutive home runs of at least 463 feet.

**5/14/72:** In Willie Mays' first game as a N.Y. Met, he hits homer to beat the S.F. Giants.

**5/15/10:** At age 16, Jessica Watson becomes the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world.

**5/16/53:** Phillies' Curt Simmons gives up a single and then retires the next 27 batters in a row.

**5/17/83:** Stanley Cup Final, Nassau Coliseum: fourth consecutive title for N.Y. Islanders; they sweep the Edmonton Oilers in four games with a 4-2 score in the last game.

**5/18/72:** American basketball player John Sebastian makes 63 consecutive free throws while blindfolded.

**5/19/29:** Cloudburst causes stampede in Yankee Stadium, crushes two people to death.

**5/20/84:** Boston's Roger Clemens beats Twins, 5-4, for his first victory.

**5/21/84:** Brooklyn Dodgers score 15 runs in their first inning to beat Cincinnati Reds 19-1.

**5/22/70:** Yankees' Mel Stottlemyre sets record by walking 11 batters but wins 2-0.

**5/23/2018:** NFL owners approve new national anthem policy whereby players are required to stand if they choose to be on the field for pre-game presentations.

**5/24/40:** N.Y. Giants rip Boston Bees 8-1 in first night game at Polo Grounds.

**5/25/65:** Muhammad Ali knocks out Sonny Liston at 2:12 in the first round in Lewiston, Maine to retain his heavyweight title.

**5/26/93:** In Major League Baseball, Carlos Martinez famously hits a ball off Jose Canseco's head for a home run.

**5/27/81:** Mariners' Lenny Randle drops to his hands and knees in an attempt to "encourage" a slow roller to go foul. The umpire accuses the 3rd baseman of blowing the ball foul. Randle explained that he was merely yelling at the ball not to stay fair, initially convincing the ump until the Royals' manager, Jim Frey complains.

**5/28/57:** NL approves baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers' and N.Y. Giants' move to the west coast.

**5/31/15:** At age 92 +, Harriette Thompson is the oldest woman to complete a marathon.

*From the Internet*

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I live in Majestic Isles and taking care of your pet(s) would make me smile.

Whether away for a weekend, the day, or an hour, being a Pet Nanny is my superpower.



This month's article is addressed to those residents interested in low maintenance plants that will grow in our landscapes. This is especially important to those residents who may be away six months of the year when no gardening can be done. The term low-maintenance refers to a plant that does not require regular watering, pruning or spraying to remain healthy and have an acceptable aesthetic appeal. A low maintenance plant has limited fertilizer requirements, few pests and disease problems, and must be adaptable to south Florida's poor, alkaline, sandy soil. Many of these plants are native to our growing zone (10).

Provided below are a number of plants that were evaluated for their function or role and which can be grown successfully in our Majestic Isles landscape. The plants are categorized as perennials, annuals, shrubs and hedges, palms and cycads, flowering and shade trees, and ground covers.

Perennials are typically plants that live three or more years in south Florida. They often bear attractive flowers and can also be used as ground covers. The following are low-maintenance perennials that will survive the Majestic Isles landscape: crown of thorns, crossandra, pentas, plumbago, shrimp plant, kalanchoe and crinum lily.

Annuals are plants that typically live one year or less. Although most annuals require moist soil, the few listed below are still considered low maintenance in south Florida. Many annuals are cool season plants such as impatiens and wax begonias that will not tolerate the heat or the hot, humid conditions of summer. I have included only several of the more common summer drought

resistant annuals: portulaca, black-eyed susan, salvia, caladiums, snapdragon and coleus.

Shrubs and hedges are typically woody plants with several stems. A hedge is simply a row of closely planted shrubs planted together that form a border or boundary. Many of our boundary hedges such as ficus require periodic pruning to maintain proper form. My list begins with the low-maintenance shrub, the bougainvillea, followed by crotons, arboricola, buttonwood, ginger, dracaena, ti plant, podocarpus, pittosporum, shore juniper, cassia, thryallis, cocoplum, allamanda and ixora.

Palms and cycads are predominately tropical and subtropical evergreen trees. Palm stems are generally unbranched, bear a single growing point and are topped by a crown or funnel shaped leaves. Several species that grow in Majestic Isles are considered low maintenance except for regular fertilization and include: the sabal, queen, royal, foxtail, Canary Island date, washingtonia, carpentaria, fan, bottle, alexander and bismarckia palms. Cycads include: the cardboard palm (zamia), the sago palm and coontie.

Flowering and shade trees are woody plants that are usually very large and bear a single trunk. Flowering trees are those that are cultivars primarily for their showy flowers, whereas shade trees often lack significant floral displays. The low-maintenance flowering and shade trees growing in our community include live oak, mahogany, gumbo limbo, wax myrtle, buttonwood, bottlebrush, tabebuia, and the poinciana (yellow flowering species growing at the end of Imperial Seas Boulevard).

**(Continued on Page 23)**

## FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS

By Elaine Jay



**Roseate spoonbill.** Its name says it all. You will have no trouble identifying this infrequent visitor to our community. I have seen a lone visitor just a handful of times in Majestic Isles, but one spring

at Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands on Jog Road, I was fortunate enough to see a grouping of about 40.

The roseate spoonbill is a rather unforgettable sight, something like a fantasy cartoon character from a children's book. This wading bird is pale pink with brighter pink shoulders and rump and long pink legs and feet. It has a white neck, a partially feathered, yellowish-green head and red eyes. In addition to its fabulous coloring, this bird is unmistakable because of its long spoon-shaped bill.

These pink birds can be found wading through lakes, intracoastal waterways, swamps, tidal ponds and wetlands. They are social birds that nest in colonies with egrets, ibises and herons, often in mangroves or trees. They tend to put their nests in the shadiest part of the tree or shrub, up to 16 feet high. And, in case you want to try out for Jeopardy, it's good to know that a large group is not called a flock, but a "bow!" of spoonbills!

One of the keys to identifying birds is to observe their behavior. These Florida denizens are often mistaken by out-of-state visitors for the American flamingo, the model for the pink plastic yard ornaments of decades ago. While they both sleep standing up, often on one leg with the head tucked under a shoulder, their feeding behavior is quite different.

When seeking food, foraging spoonbills wade through shallow water, with their head down, the spoonbill halfway submerged and slightly open. They use a sweeping motion back and forth, and when a fish, insect or crustacean comes into the

beak, their powerful spoonbill snaps shut. There are touch receptors in their bill that help them feel their prey which they often swallow whole! Some of the crustaceans they eat contain pigments called carotenoids that help turn the spoonbills' feathers their rosy pink color.

Another key to bird identification is the size and shape. The spoonbill is a medium-sized bird, larger than a white ibis and smaller than a great blue heron. It has a football-shaped body, can grow up to 38 inches in length, and has a wingspan of up to 51 inches. At rest, its long neck is often curled into an S.

Spoonbills are usually silent, except at the breeding colonies, where they emit low uh-uh-uh sounds when alarmed or feeding. This is definitely not a songbird!

When these birds fly, they generally fly in groups. I don't know why the bird I observed made its flight alone to Majestic Isles on more than one occasion. They fly to and from feeding areas in long diagonal lines with slow and deep wingbeats, their legs and neck fully extended. When a group of foraging spoonbills spot a group of spoonbills flying overhead, they stick their necks and bills straight up into the air in a stance called "sky gazing."

They are found in southern Florida, Louisiana, coastal Texas, Latin and South America. There are six species of spoonbill in the world, but only the roseate has pink plumage. The roseate is the only spoonbill species found in the Americas and is native to Florida.

These unmistakable birds were very common in parts of the southeast until the 1860s. However, they were virtually eliminated from the United States by plume hunters seeking feathers for use in women's hats, fans and clothing decoration. In the late 1800s there were only a few dozen nesting pairs in the U.S. The birds made a comeback in the early 1900s after a concerted effort to control plume hunting through passage of state and federal laws. But they are still vulnerable today. This is why they are protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are designated a threatened species by Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule.



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## MOVIES AND STREAMING

By Joan Sorkin



*PBS* has started a wonderful series on Ernest Hemingway in three episodes written and produced by Ken Burns.

“Shtisel” is back for another season on *Netflix*. It is a terrific continuation of the series, with outstanding performances by the entire cast.

“Resistance,” a new film on *Netflix* stars Jesse Eisenberg as Marcel Marceau during World War II. If you only knew Marceau as one of the world’s best mimes, watch this to see his extraordinary role in saving Jewish children during this horrific period.

“Summerland,” on *Showtime*, recommended by Rita Dick, tells the story of a woman recluse during World War II forced to take in a young boy evacuated from England.

“The Good Traitor” on *Prime*, highly recommended by Claire Deveney, is the story of a Danish diplomat who is able to convince President Roosevelt to use Greenland as an American base during the war. This film has a charge of \$7.99 which Claire feels is worth the price of admission. You judge for yourself.

A new film on *Netflix*, “Concrete Cowboys” starring Idris Elba, explores a father and son relationship set against the backdrop of Philadelphia’s Fletcher Street. A little-known fact even among native Philadelphians, black cowboys lived and raised their horses there.

Try the new Liam Neeson movie, “Made in Italy,” on *Netflix*, recommended by the Kristal/Karten household. It’s a story about a father and son whose relationship has been strained by the death of the mother. The son is played by one of Neeson’s real life sons, Michéal Richardson. In an interview on “Graham Norton” (*BBC*), both actors acknowledged the emotional challenges of making this movie as it hit so close to home. Their performances are thoughtful and nuanced – caveat, it’s a bit of a tearjerker. And the setting, in the Tuscan countryside, is a great pandemic substitute for a trip to Europe.

## The Journey of a Mother

Submitted by Arlene Bloom

A mother is more than a memory. She is a living presence. Your mother is always with you.

She’s the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she’s the smell of certain foods you remember, and the perfume that she wore.

She’s the cool hand on your brow when you’re not well, and she’s your breath in the air on a cold winter’s day.

She’s the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, and the colors of the Rainbow.

She is Christmas/Chanukah morning.

Your mother lives in your laughter, and she is crystallized in every tear drop.

A mother shows every emotion...happiness, sadness, fear, jealousy, love, hate, anger, helplessness, excitement, joy, sorrow...and all the while, hoping and praying you will only know the good feelings in life.

She’s the place you came from, your first home, and she’s the map you follow with every step you take.

She’s your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy; but nothing can on Earth can separate you. Not time, not space...not even death.

*From the Internet*

## Gardening (Continued from Page 20)

Ground covers include a diverse group of unrelated plants that are used to cover areas of ground for aesthetic purposes, for example, in shady places where grass will not grow. Low-maintenance ground covers include bromeliads, mondo grass, liriopse, blue daze, purple queen and purslane.

Remember, locating “the right plant in the right place” is of utmost importance in creating a healthy, low-maintenance landscape.

*Happy Gardening!*



## COOKING CORNER

By Joan Sorkin



This was a recipe in our first Majestic Isles Cookbook edited by Audrey Hausman. She was a wonderful baker and I have made this many times over the years. If you find yourself with very ripe bananas, peel them, put them in the freezer, take them out and defrost them to make this delicious banana bread.

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup butter  
 1 cup sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1 1/2 cups flour  
 3/4 tsp salt  
 3 ripe bananas mashed  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 2 tsp vanilla extract  
 1/2 cup nuts chopped (optional)

In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs and continue beating until fluffy. Add in the dry ingredients, alternating with the bananas. Stir in the vanilla and nuts, if you're using them. Pour the batter into a greased loaf pan and bake at 325 for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack.

## WD-40

Submitted by Alene Kristal



Do you know what WD-40 stands for? The name is a reference to the phrase "water displacement perfected on the 40<sup>th</sup> try!"

The product was first used (by Convair, an aerospace contractor) to protect the outer skin of the Atlas Missile against rust and corrosion.

Afterwards, company founder Norm Larsen experimented with putting WD-40 into aerosol cans and selling these cans to the public; WD-40 first appeared on shelves in San Diego in 1958 and quickly took off from there.

In 1961 the first full truckload order for WD-40 was filled in response to the disaster needs of the victims of Hurricane Carla along the U.S. Gulf coast. WD-40 was used to recondition flood and rain damaged vehicles and equipment, and in 1968, goodwill kits containing WD-40 were sent to soldiers in Vietnam to prevent moisture damage on firearms and help keep them in good working condition.

In 1969 Rocket Chemical was renamed after its only product, WD-40. In 1973, the company went public and the stock price increased by 61% on the first day on the market.

Since that time, the WD-40 brand has grown by leaps and bounds, and is now virtually a household name, used in numerous consumer and industrial markets such as automotive, manufacturing, sporting goods, aviation, hardware and home improvement, construction and farming.

The most interesting piece of WD-40's history is the uses for the product, now numbering in the thousands. Some of the more unusual uses include the bus driver in Asia who used WD-40 to remove a python snake, which had coiled itself around the undercarriage of his bus, or when police officers used WD-40 to remove a naked burglar trapped in an air conditioning vent. And you thought it was just for fixing squeaky door hinges!

*From the Internet*



## MAY IN HISTORY

**Submitted by Lois Kaish**

**May 1, 1707** - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland, including Wales, which had been part of England since the 1500s. The United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**May 2, 2011** - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden.

**May 4, 1886** - The Haymarket Square Riot occurred in Chicago.

**May 4, 1970** - At Kent State University, four students were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on students protesting President Richard Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia.

**May 5th** - Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

**May 5, 1865** - Decoration Day was first observed in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating soldiers' graves from the Civil War with flowers.

**May 5, 1893** - The Wall Street Crash of 1893 began, the worst economic crisis in U.S. history up to that time.

**May 7, 1945** - In a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces, thus ending World War II in Europe.

**May 8, 1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war.

**May 10, 1869** - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah.

**May 10, 1994** - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa.

**May 14, 1607** - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.

**May 14, 1804** - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest.

**May 14, 1796** - The smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner,

**May 14, 1942** - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.

**May 17, 1875** - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

**May 17, 1954** - In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of public schools denies black children "equal educational opportunity. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

**May 18, 1804** - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France.

**May 18, 1980** - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State.

**May 20, 1862** - President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.

**May 20, 1927** - Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis, attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris.

**May 20, 1932** - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

**May 21, 1881** - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton.

**May 22, 1972** - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow.

**(Continued on Page 26 )**

## THINGS MY MOM TAUGHT ME

By Barbara Berry

Lessons learned from mothers usually stay with us for our lifetime. Sometimes we even pass along these jewels of wisdom to our kids. Here are a few:

### TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning!"

### SHE TAUGHT ME PRAYER

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

### ABOUT TIME TRAVEL

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

### SHE TAUGHT ME LOGIC

"Because I said so, that's why."

### SHE TAUGHT ME FORESIGHT

"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

### SHE TAUGHT ME IRONY

"Keep laughing and I'll give you something to cry about."

### ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF OSMOSIS

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

### ABOUT CONTORTIONISM

"Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"

### ABOUT STAMINA

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."

### ABOUT WEATHER.

"It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

### HOW TO SOLVE PHYSICS PROBLEMS

"If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming towards you, would you listen then?"

### ABOUT HYPOCRISY

"If I've told you once, I've told you a million times - don't exaggerate!"

### THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

## ABOUT ENVY

"There are millions of less fortunate children in the world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

## THANKS, MOM!!

*From the Internet*



## May History (Continued from Page 25)

**May 22, 1947** - Congress approved the Truman Doctrine, assuring U.S. support for Greece and Turkey to prevent the spread of Communism.

**May 24, 1844** - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. to Baltimore.

**May 25, 1787** - The Constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia with delegates from seven states forming a quorum.

**May 26, 1940** - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.

**May 30, 1783** - The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first daily newspaper published in America.

**May 30, 1922** - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel Chester French.

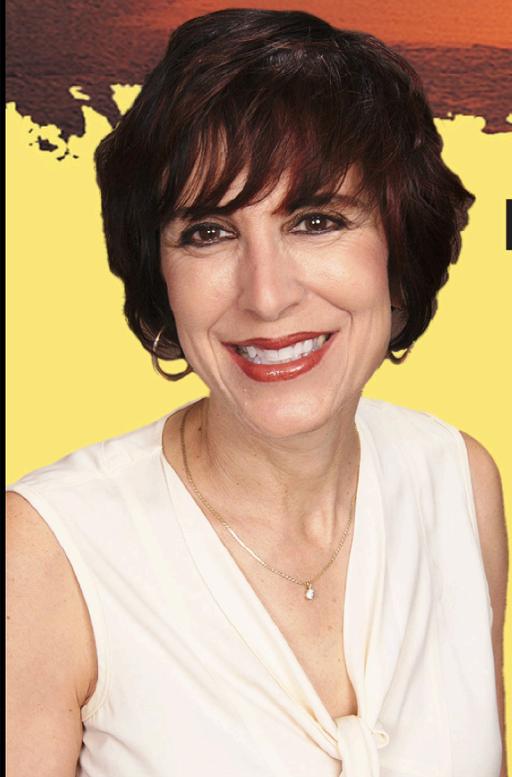
*From the Internet*



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## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY AROUND THE WORLD**

**By Lois and Stan Kaish**

While many like to refer to special days of celebration throughout the year as “Hallmark holidays,” the origin of Mother’s Day dates back to before the card company was even established.

Following the death of her beloved mother in 1905, Anna Jarvis sought out a way to honor both her mother and all mothers everywhere. On the second anniversary of her mother’s death, Jarvis held a service in her mother’s tribute at church.

The history of Mother’s Day begins on May 10, 1908, despite it not yet being an official holiday that year. The day was marked by small events in Grafton, West Virginia, and celebrated in Philadelphia, where Anna Jarvis resided. At the church where her mother taught Sunday School, Jarvis sent 500 white carnations - her mother’s favorite - to be worn by the sons and daughters in their mothers’ honor.

Anna Jarvis spread the word of Mother’s Day by writing countless letters and creating campaigns to draw attention, both in the US and around the world. It became a full-time pursuit, and the holiday was officially approved by Congress in 1914.

However, within years of her hard work trying to establish Mother’s Day as a recognized holiday, Anna Jarvis took on a new pursuit to end Mother’s Day, feeling it had become too commercialized. She fought and petitioned against the floral industry, greeting card companies, the United States Postal Service and charities that used the holiday for fundraising. Jarvis was not as successful in ending Mother’s Day as she was with creating it. Though it would likely pain her to know, today she is still regarded as the “Mother of Mother’s Day.”

### **Mother’s Day Around the World**

Despite Anna Jarvis’ efforts to end the holiday she first created, Mother’s Day in the US is widely recognized as a day to put mom on a pedestal. While the American tradition of Mother’s Day often includes showering mom with bouquets of flowers, pampering gifts of sweet-smelling soaps, lotions and candles, and imbibing mimosas (along with a toast) over a hearty brunch spread, Mother’s Day around

the world doesn’t always look the same. From the date to the festivities, Mother’s Day celebrations around the world are a testament to moms everywhere and unique to each country’s culture.

### **Mother’s Day - UK**

Anna Jarvis may have thought she was ahead of the game in honoring moms on a special day, but the United Kingdom reigns supreme in the history of Mother’s Day, with dedicated days dating back to the 17th century. Held on “Mothering Sunday,” which takes place the fourth Sunday of Lent, Mother’s Day UK honors not only British moms but also the Virgin Mary. Mothering Sunday began centuries ago as a day when Christians traveled to their mother church (the main church or cathedral of the area) to worship, and children working away from home were given a day off to visit their mothers. Today, moms are pampered much like those on this side of the pond, but the day often includes a traditional simnel cake - a spiced cake made with dried fruit and topped with marzipan balls.

### **Mother’s Day - India**

Rich in culture and traditions, India is known for its famous festivals taking place all year long, with many being days-long events filled with feasting, donning colorful clothing and applying bold powdered hues. Celebrated on the second Sunday in May, India’s Mother’s Day festivities are similar to the US traditions. Children present cards to their mothers as well as prepare her favorite foods. In addition, Indian Hindus have long held a festival in October called “Durga Puja,” which celebrates the goddess Durga, also known as the “Divine Mother.” During this 10-day celebration, people fast, feast and pray in addition to singing, dancing and performing cultural dramas.

### **Mother’s Day - Poland**

Called “Dzień Matki,” Polish Mother’s Day history dates back to 1923 in Krakow, though the celebration didn’t really take off until the years following World War II. It is now annually celebrated on May 26, with schools hosting special events where children present their moms with sheets of paper known as “laurki,” decorated with

**(Continued on Page 30)**

## NOTABLE MAY BIRTHDAYS

Submitted by Lois Kaish

- May 3 - Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- May 3 - Golda Meir (1898-1978)
- May 5 - Karl Marx (1818-1883)
- May 5 - Nellie Bly (1867-1922)
- May 6 - Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
- May 6 - Robert E. Peary (1856-1920)
- May 7 - Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
- May 8 - Harry S. Truman (1884-1972)
- May 9 - John Brown (1800-1859)
- May 11 - Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
- May 11 - Martha Graham (1893-1991)
- May 12 - Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)
- May 14 - Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736)
- May 14 - Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788)
- May 19 - Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969)
- May 19 - Malcolm X (1925-1965)
- May 19 - Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965)
- May 21 - Theodore Herzl (1860-1904)
- May 22 - Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
- May 22 - Laurence Olivier (1907-1989)
- May 25 - Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
- May 26 - Isadora Duncan (1878-1927)
- May 28 - Jim Thorpe (1888-1953)
- May 29 - Patrick Henry (1736-1799)
- May 29 - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)
- May 30 - Peter the Great (1672-1725)
- May 31 - Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

*From the Internet*



## Mother's Day (Continued from Page 29)

flowers and special messages of love. Mother's Day is an official holiday in Poland, so shopping and eating out isn't an option. When family members come to visit their mothers and grandmothers, the festivities are held at home and gifts given include flowers and cake.

## Mother's Day - Ireland

The history of Mother's Day in Ireland is similar to that of its UK cousins, with the holiday falling on "Mothering Sunday" or the fourth Sunday of Lent. In the same way as the UK, domestic service meant many children lived away from their families, and Mothering Sunday was a day when they returned home, also known as "going-a-mothering." When visiting, children often brought a "mothering cake" to add to the festive day. The simnel cake is as popular in Ireland as it is in the UK, but more modern times mean any baked good paired with spring flowers is an excellent Irish way to honor your "mam."

*From the Internet*

## Mother's Day at Majestic Isles

Last year, Mother's Day was a little bleak in Majestic Isles. The pandemic was upon us and we had little to offer in defense. With many of us in that vulnerable age of 65+ - many very plus - our children celebrated the holiday by worrying about us. They did this despite the past President telling them they didn't have to, and that he would take care of it. If you are reading this, you are still here.

This should be a happier Mother's Day. The pool has its new furniture. Most of us have vaccination cards. And the stores are overwhelmed with their toilet paper inventories. So, happy Mother's Day, everyone. And remember. Ain't no hood like the MOTHERHOOD.





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## SINATRA AND HIS JEWISH CONNECTION

Submitted by Steve Karten



Here are some lesser-known facts about old Blue Eyes. He wasn't Jewish, but....

- He used to joke that he knew Yiddish better than Italian, the language of his grandparents who emigrated from Italy.
- The singer was a Catholic, but at the same time was friends with Jews since childhood in New Jersey.
- Frank's mother often left her son in the care of a Jewish neighbor, Mrs. Golden, who could only talk to the child in Yiddish. And among dozens of prestigious awards, one of the most precious gifts Sinatra had was a small mezuzah, presented by the same neighbor - Mrs. Golden.
- As he became rich, he thanked his Jewish nanny, Mrs. Golden, by buying her a quarter of a million dollars of Israeli bonds.
- In 1942, when Information about Nazi crimes against Jews finally came to America, Sinatra bought hundreds of medals commissioned with the image of Saint Christopher (Christian martyr) on one side and the Star of David on the other; he handed these medals out at his concerts.
- In 1943, he joined the national tour "We Will Never Die," a four-month dramatized performance in six cities hosted by Ben Hecht to draw public attention to the Holocaust.
- In 1944, Sinatra insisted that his Jewish friend, Mani Sachs, be a godfather at the baptism of his son, despite loud protests by a Catholic priest.
- In the late 1940s, he left his golf club, which did not accept Jews, and defiantly became a member of another golf club, the Jewish one.
- One day, Sinatra overheard a reporter call someone a "Jewish bastard" at a party. Frank immediately knocked him down with a hook to the jaw.
- There's a 1945 short film, "The House I Live In," in which Sinatra sings a song with the following lyrics: "The children in the playground,

the faces that I see, all races and religions, that's America to me." According to the script, the hero witnesses the beating of a Jewish boy by teenagers. After protecting the boy, the hero turns to the bullies and says "Remember, suckers, racial and religious differences have no meaning, except for Nazis and fools like you." Commenting on the film, Sinatra stated that children themselves are not to blame for racial and religious intolerance; "Children hear their parents talk about McGinty or Ginsberg and think there must be something bad about being a Catholic or a Jew."

- In 1947, Frank Sinatra participated in a benefit concert in support of the Zionist movement. He spoke at a Hollywood Bowl action rally that drew 20,000 supporters.
- In 1948 he even helped in the illegal delivery of weapons to Israel. Teddy Kollek bought a shipment of heavy weapons and asked the star for assistance. Kollek needed to pay the captain of a ship a cash bribe to smuggle the weapons out of New York harbor, but knew he was being watched by the FBI because the U.S. was party to an arms embargo of all parties in the conflict. Kollek left the hotel on the appointed day carrying a satchel and was followed by the agents; Sinatra left through another entrance with a paper bag containing the money and paid the captain. Sinatra told his daughter Nancy: "It was the beginning of a young nation. I wanted to help - I was afraid they might fail." Sinatra considered helping Zionism to be "the right thing to do."
- In 1962, the eleven-time Grammy winner gave seven concerts in six Israeli cities, handing over the proceeds for the construction of the International Youth Center in Nazareth, which was named after the singer and was intended to become a symbol of Jewish-Arab coexistence. (Forty years later, nine people were killed by a Hamas attack at the center.) Sinatra's tour of Israel fell on Independence Day- "Mr. Blue Eyes" was seated next to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan at a ceremony.
- In 1970, under Sinatra's patronage, a million dollars were raised for the construction of the student center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and in 1978 the center was named after the singer.

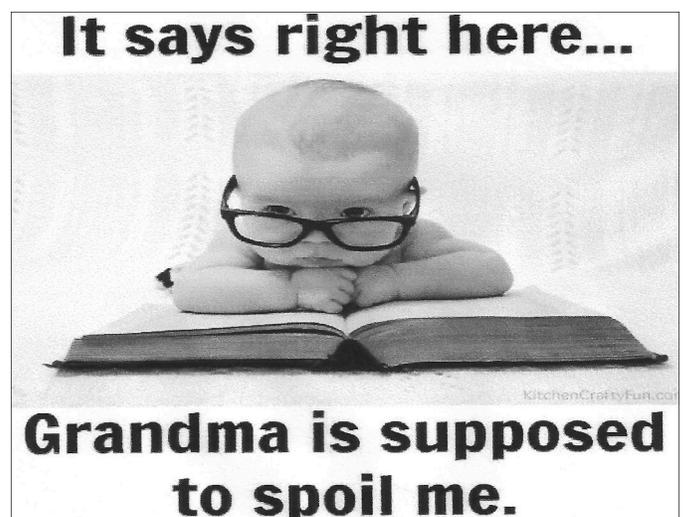
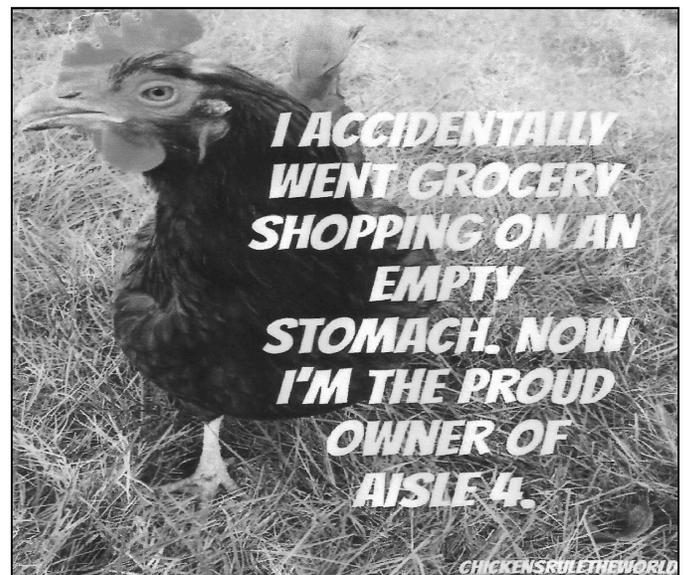
**(Continued on page 34)**

### Sinatra (Continued from Page 33)

- Sinatra first met Simon Wiesenthal in 1979 when he told the Nazi hunter that “he was his hero for many years.” When he learned that the Simon Wiesenthal Center was trying to make a documentary, Sinatra told them, “Although I’m not Jewish, the Holocaust is important to me,” and offered the project \$100,000. He also became a member of the Center’s Board of Trustees. In the months that followed, Sinatra appeared four times on behalf of the Center, raising \$400,000 to fund the film “Genocide,” which won an Oscar for best documentary in 1981.
- In 1976, a Hollywood banquet honoring Sinatra organized by the American Union of Friends of the Hebrew University raised \$1 million to build a student center on the campus of Mount Scopus. In 1978, the university named the Frank Sinatra International Student Center in his honor. On July 31, 2002, the Cafeteria Center was the site of a terrorist bombing by Hamas. Nine people were killed and nearly 100 were injured.
- In 1995, Sinatra celebrated his 80th birthday with various appearances, including a trip to Israel on his private jet with several close friends, including Lee Iacocca and Walter Matthau. About 100 people spent time with him in Eilat, after which they toured Jordan and Egypt.
- Citing the singer’s support for Israel, the Arab League in Cairo banned Sinatra’s recordings and films in October 1962. The league said in a statement that Sinatra was “involved in the distribution of Israeli films and bonds, and that he is making efforts to raise funds to be sent to Israel.” The ban was lifted with the signing of the Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1979.
- In 1964, Sinatra was officially barred from entering Lebanon because of his “moral and material support for Israel.”
- In 2014, NBC News reported that Sinatra’s CD collection had been exhibited at an office in Beirut but was later banned for “Zionist tendencies.”

- In December 2018, Sotheby’s auction in New York sold personal belongings of Frank Sinatra and his wife Barbara. Art, jewelry, books and other items were sold for \$9.2 million, twice the amount asked. The proceeds were earmarked for the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center. Frank and Barbara created this non-profit organization in 1986 to support victims of child abuse.
- Among the personal items of “Mr. Voice” on display at the world-famous auction was a handmade kippah, owned by Frank Sinatra, with embroidered notes and the inscription “Frank.” It was sold for \$9,000. It is not known who made this kippah, but the description of the lot emphasized that throughout his life Sinatra sympathized with Jewish values.

*From the Internet*



## VOCABULARY QUIZ

Submitted by Alene Kristal  
(From Merriam-Webster)

In this era of seemingly endless self-quarantining, it's more important than ever to keep your brain active. A few of these words were new to me, and quite challenging! See if you can find the best synonyms below.

1. Vituperate
 

a) energize	b) berate
c) exaggerate	d) placate
2. Indefatigable
 

a) slovenly	b) enervated
c) proper	d) tireless
3. Bellicose
 

a) repellant	b) alluring
c) warlike	d) constructive
4. Probity
 

a) misanthropy	b) virtuousness
c) mendacity	d) emergence
5. Picayune
 

a) triviality	b) long-winded
c) gilded	d) adventurous
6. Expiate
 

a) skillful	b) lose vigor/ health
c) renounce	d) make amends for
7. Recidivism
 

a) sadness	b) instability
c) relapse	d) uncertainty
8. Adventitious
 

a) accidental	b) best
c) regular	d) useful
9. Benign
 

a) accidental	b) childlike
c) harmless	d) feverish
10. Parsimonious
 

a) resentful	b) stingy
c) quarrelsome	d) wasteful

(See Answers on Page 38)

## BOOK TALKS

By Claire Deveney



The May Book Talks discussion of “H is for Hawk” by Helen Macdonald will be led by Allan Topolosky. We’ll meet via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21 at 2 p.m. This book selection is an international bestselling memoir by a British author published in 2014. It won the Samuel Johnson prize and Costa Book of the Year award among other honors.

Here are some reviews of the book:

“In some traditions, hawks are considered spirit messengers to a world beyond, and Macdonald comes to understand that part of her bond with Mabel was her desire ‘to fly with the hawk to find my father; find him and bring him home.’ But as Mabel matures into a confident hunter, she brings Macdonald a different kind of discovery: that grace resides in the most unlikely places — and that moving forward means leaving some things behind.” -- *The New York Times Book Review*

"Had there been an award for the best new book that defies every genre, I imagine it would have won that too. . . Coherent, complete, and riveting, perhaps the finest nonfiction I read in the past year." -- Kathryn Schulz, *New Yorker*

The author is the focus of a PBS NATURE episode made in 2017 entitled “H is for Hawk: A New Chapter.” You may watch it on TV or on your computer. This is a great series, by the way.

At our April meeting, we will make a decision on whether or not to hold a Book Talks meeting on Wednesday, June 16 at 2 p.m. We will also decide whether to meet over the summer or to resume September 22.

An email notice of the May meeting will be sent to 32 Book Talks members in mid-month and a day before the meeting with the link to Zoom. These notices include the link that will enable you to sign on to the meeting. To add your name and email address to our members list, please email [cdeveney@comcast.net](mailto:cdeveney@comcast.net). Contacts for Book Talks are Claire Deveney, 742-7869 and Allan Topolosky, 301-335-2288.

## HISTORY OF THE MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER

By Ed Strauber



Majestic Isles Little Theater is commonly known as MILT. "MILT's aim is to provide entertainment for our residents from the talent within our community." This message was written by our own Sylvia Fefferman in Volume One of the "Majestic Isles Newsletter" back in July of 1997. Since that time, our mission has remained the same. We are a club that encourages participation in various activities relating to theater. This includes singers, dancers, actors, writers, directors, stage managers, prop and costume designers, sound and audio people, and so much more.

MILT encourages talented members to display their talents and broaden their experience. Many or even most of us have little experience in theater. MILT provides programs to uncover the dormant talent that lives in all of us and does so in a friendly way. No member need feel pressured to perform any of the duties. And we appreciate a supportive audience to cheer those on stage.

So how and why did this all start some 24 years ago? It was the best of times back in 1996. Majestic Isles was being built and folks were coming from N.Y., P.A., N.J., Canada, points west and more. They were coming to Florida to start a new lifestyle and found this lovely development called Majestic Isles. Not too large and not too small, just right. Some people were relocating for work, some were semi-retired and others just plain RETIRED. But they all seemed to have one overriding motivation - to enjoy Florida weather, the outdoor lifestyle, and most of all, the social life the community had to offer. In fact, MILT is an offshoot of the original Social Club. There was excitement in the air, people meeting people, making new acquaintances and forging alliances with others of similar interests. The number of clubs formed boggles the mind. Whether it was tennis club, a bridge club, or a club to raise money for charity, if there was an interest, a new club was formed.

My wife Harriet reminded me how MILT began. It all started with a small group of people singing for

fun every Monday night around the baby grand piano at the home of Selma Friedman, a former music teacher. At that time, the clubhouse was still under construction. As the story goes, the singing group were having so much fun, someone exclaimed "let's put on a show." Do these words sound familiar? Anyone remember the movie "Babes in Arms" with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland? Of course, in the movie's next scene, the entire cast knew their song, dance or speaking part perfectly. But we were just mortals. It took us weeks to learn our parts. But we did it, and the show went on!

A committee was soon formed by Fred Stein, Ziggy Friedman, Al Silverman and so many others that that I hesitate to try to name all of the leaders of this new club named MILT. The first show was called "A Little Bit of This and A Little Bit of That" and was performed on two nights on January 31 and February 1, 1998 - to a full house each night. The first half of the show was acting, and the second half was music. The production was based on an original script about a couple, new to Florida, who were already getting calls from their children to visit. As they say, "the rest is history."

MILT went on to produce numerous musicals, revues, plays, poetry readings, and script-in-hand productions over the years, and the Sing for Fun group kept singing until Selma's passing a few years ago. Happily, residents have continued to be attracted to the idea of formulating an entertaining idea that is worth performing and putting that thought into action. It can be a lot of fun. Try it, you'll like it!

I can't wait to meet our old and new neighbors face to face again in our beautiful clubhouse, and hear someone say, "Let's put on a show!"

For more information, please call Ed Strauber, 732-3344 or Barbara Portnoff, 200-0717.

*Ed. Note: As a member of Sing for Fun, I can say that it was one of the best activities I participated in in MI. I'd love to see it get going again, but we need a pianist! Volunteers??*



## THE WAY IT WAS – THE SOCIAL CLUB BEGINNINGS \*

By Sylvia Fefferman

About a year before our clubhouse was built, a grassroots plan became the focal point for organizing contact with newcomers. In the fall of 1996, there were about 25 families living in the community. The first social outing was arranged by resident David Grossman and was well attended. Following this get-together, Lee Katz, another homeowner, thought about an idea to get people acquainted with one another. Lee contacted Selma Friedman to help formalize a social group.

Ziggy Friedman, Selma's husband, was asked to act as a spokesperson, and so began our Social Club. The first meeting took place in late fall, 1996, in a rented room at the South County Civic Center in Delray Beach. It was there that the homeowners agreed to form the Majestic Isles Social Club (MISC), with Selma and Ziggy Friedman appointed as co-presidents.

The purpose of the club was to develop social activities for the residents. During the early stages, the group had informal meetings, primarily to solicit suggestions and to plan future parties and outings. On November 1, 1996, the club held its first Halloween party at the South County Civic Center, attended by residents and future residents.

Majestic Isles rang in 1997 with its first New Year's Eve party at the Holiday Inn in Boynton Beach. Once again, there was a lot of participation and good feelings by the revelers. With the success of these two events, people joined committees and planned future activities that included a dinner/theater party on the Ramblin' Rose, an air boat ride and tour of the Everglades, and a picnic at a county park.

The highly anticipated opening of the clubhouse occurred on April 1, 1997. Residents now had a place to meet for their social activities as well as to discuss issues concerning the community. Ziggy Friedman was elected president for the second and third years. Meetings were held monthly. Bylaws were established, as were annual dues.

Joan Baron started MISCMATCH, an acronym for Majestic Isles Social Club Meet At The Club House, to introduce people as they moved into the

community. Two offshoots of the group were Sing for Fun, led by Selma Friedman, and a Welcome Committee, led by Sandy Levine. The proceeds from the first show performed by the residents, entitled "A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That," became the seed money to start the Majestic Isles Little Theatre (M.I.L.T.).

Money accrued from dues and show profits were returned to the community as gifts. The social club had been generous with donations of a refrigerator, freezer and the original audio equipment. Subsequently, MISC contributed new kitchen cabinetry, a replacement defibrillator, and a projector. The latter gift enabled the club to show movies each month, an activity which met with much success. In the ensuing years many residents contributed to the accomplishments and popularity of the MISC.

Sometime in the last two years, the social club morphed into the entertainment and events committee.

*\* This is a revision of an article originally written by the author and published in an early issue of the "M.I. News."*

## WANTED – TENNIS PLAYERS

By Stan Kaish



There was a time within memory that Majestic Isles' tennis courts were teeming with players. The signup sheet in the back lobby contained 20 names of men eager to play. Women, too, had their days when a dozen or more turned out. Not so anymore.

Nowadays the same four or five guys come out at 9:30 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to play doubles. And one of the guys isn't even a guy. Sundays used to see a number of women and a few men playing a very social game. The inability to accommodate friends from neighboring communities has reduced the number of players so the ladies' game is no longer viable. The days of spring will see the snowbirds taking flight, and the last remnant of Majestic Isles tennis may disappear.

SO, if you have any interest in playing for an hour or so during the week please call Marshall Deutsch at 736-3135 to let him know.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

By **Bobbie Rosenfeld**



We seem to be filling our COVID time trying to keep up with and process the constantly shifting of events that shape and reshape our understanding of the world around us. The News and Views concerns range from very local (M.I.), to state and national to worldwide concerns – starting, of course, with COVID.

On the COVID front, we talked of the World Health Organization's investigation into the source of the Wuhan virus.

The fear of variants took center stage, with Spring Break and the anticipation of ensuing spikes. We've been seeing people without masks, and that scares us.

We look forward to the time when enough MI residents have been vaccinated and the air conditioners have been thoroughly cleaned so that the Board will reopen the clubhouse.

The American Recovery Plan sparked discussion, with some concerned about welfare states and people not working if they got free money. Everyone understands recovery will take a long while, and that negative stories will pop up during said recovery. We also took note that Jeff Bezos' ex-wife's donated \$53 million to various charities and foundations to help in the recovery. WOW!!!!

Immigration issues came up again, regarding COVID transmission, with some participants blaming the Democrats for the current situation while others blamed the Trump administration for undoing our normal systems of response. Some said that President Biden needs to say it's a crisis.

Many in the group think that our schools should be doing a better job of teaching American History, and that Civics, specifically teaching about the three branches of government and the way government works, should be restored to the school curriculum.

Rising sea levels are a worldwide problem, and one that has a strong impact on Florida. Many waterfront homes are already losing their frontage and much of Florida could eventually be under water. Another worldwide problem that impacts Florida is the build-up of plastic waste in the oceans and landfills.

With climate change, there is talk of declaring the start date of hurricane season as mid-May or earlier, rather than the June 1 date that has been in effect for many years.

In discussing environmental questions, many questioned why the Sunshine State has so few solar-powered homes.

We spent time talking about the proposed changes in the M.I. by-laws., only to learn that the Town Hall at which the changes were to be discussed was cancelled. We had questioned who the lawyer represents, the board or the residents. I think no one felt ready for the by-laws discussion.

Residents were reminded to use our home alarms for protection. Also noted were computer and phone scams directed at older adults. We all need to avoid giving credit card information unless we have initiated the email or call.

A variety of other issues were also mentioned, among them unions and telemedicine. Many expressed their belief that workers shouldn't be forced to join unions. Most participants expressed a preference for meeting with doctors in person.

From Bobbie: My thanks to Barbara Lader for taking notes and writing up the last meeting of the month, which I could not attend.

If you would like to be added to the list of residents who already receive the link to our Zoom meetings, please call Irene Solomon.



### ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

(From Page 35)

1. Vituperate: (b) berate
2. Indefatigable: (d) tireless
3. Bellicose: (c) warlike
4. Probity: (b) virtuousness
5. Picayune: (a) triviality
6. Expiate: (d) make amends for
7. Recidivism: (c) relapse
8. Adventitious: (a) accidental
9. Benign: (c) harmless
10. Parsimonious: (b) stingy

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