



# Majestic Isles News

October 2021

Think Pink

Volume 25

Issue 1



OCTOBER

Breast  
CANCER  
Awareness

Cover by Gail Shatzkamer

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**Checks must be received no later than October 22, 2021**

**The lottery drawing will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm in  
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**Thanks to the Majestic Isles News staff for their  
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Alene Kristal

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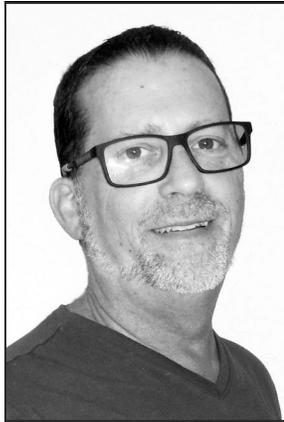
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**Editorial Policy**

*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**



Please be advised that you should have received, or will soon receive an email from a company named Get Quorum. Get Quorum will be handling the online voting process for our annual meeting. Please accept the invitation when you receive it. If you know someone in the community who does not currently receive emails, please have them reach out to Priscilla or me so that they can be added to our distribution list. We will also be setting up a computer in the clubhouse for those people who do not have access to a computer and would like to add themselves to the email list. For those people who still need to vote by paper ballot this will be offered as well.

Any resident who is interested in running for a seat on the Board should have already received a form to submit to the office.

As COVID continues to spike in Florida, we're hoping you are all taking the recommended precautions and staying safe.

Regards,

Jay Peskoff, Property Manager

Email: [jpeskoff@castlegroup.com](mailto:jpeskoff@castlegroup.com)

Phone: 561-734-8738

*Happy Autumn in Florida*



**REMINDER**

Copies of this newsletter are available for pick up on the table in the back lobby of the clubhouse as well as at the pool. Be sure to pick copies up for your homebound neighbors! **SNOWBIRDS** can also find the current issue at [MajesticIsles.com](http://MajesticIsles.com) under the heading "Newsletter," and past issues are available for your enjoyment through the resident portal on the website.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By Bob Edinger**

Where are we now? Good question. Let's start with a COVID update. A booster vaccine shot will be available soon for the people who have already had two shots. We are still relying on our residents to do the right thing by wearing a mask in the clubhouse. If you are in the gym or participating in an aerobics program inside, there is no need to wear the mask when involved in those activities. Unless we see a change in the COVID outbreak at Majestic Isles, we are not changing the existing guidelines.

Let's talk roofs. We tried to allow a patio homeowner the ability to change their half a roof without forcing their roof mate to do the same. Great idea, but no roofer will do it and provide the warranties we need. I have asked Jay to put together a roofing town hall meeting in person and on Zoom and invite some roofers to try to arrange a bulk contract at a reduced price.

Jerry Ehrlich is putting together some entertainment at poolside in the coming months including one at night. Details will follow.

Hats off to the "MI News" for sponsoring a comedic event for us. Don't forget to enter the raffle for two seats. (See Page 3 for info.)

We will be doing another Reserve Study in 2022 to determine the adequacy of our reserves to replace or repair major capital items such as the pool and our roads. Things are constantly changing and may require an increase in what we are putting away for a rainy day; this especially applies to the upcoming roof cleaning and painting in 2023, which will be paid for through the reserves.

Our new interim Board members Suzanne Skinner and Ellen Nelson are doing a great job. The community is lucky to have them.

Summer is coming to an end soon and hopefully so will the hot temperatures. The pool is maintained at the same temperature, if it heats, the chiller we have does its thing, so enjoy it.

I hope everyone had a happy holiday.



## 2021 MAJESTIC ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Bob Edinger <a href="mailto:edingerhoa@gmail.com">edingerhoa@gmail.com</a>	President
Mark Jaffie <a href="mailto:snailsny@aol.com">snailsny@aol.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.
Suzanne Skinner <a href="mailto:Garsuz89@hotmail.com">Garsuz89@hotmail.com</a>	Treasurer
Jerry Ehrlich <a href="mailto:bronxguy1695@gmail.com">bronxguy1695@gmail.com</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.
Alan Stevens <a href="mailto:adstevens.ta@aol.com">adstevens.ta@aol.com</a>	Secretary
Ellen Nelson <a href="mailto:ellenelson@aol.com">ellenelson@aol.com</a>	Member-at-large
Joel Cohen <a href="mailto:jocoh11@aol.com">jocoh11@aol.com</a>	Member-at-large

## COMMITTEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>
ARC	Ken Keller
Calendar	Ellen Nelson
Clubhouse	Mark Jaffie
COBWRA	Barbara Goodman
Comcast	Bob Edinger, Mark Jaffie, Alan Stevens
Compliance	Harvey Galan
Entertainment	Steve Berry
Finance	Barbara Wasserman
Grounds	Bob Frieberger, Sally Galan
Insurance	Ken Keller
New Neighbors	Maddy Rosen

*(If you wish to serve on a committee, call the committee chair. – Ed.)*

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## GOOD AND WELFARE

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your kind wishes of support on the passing of my life partner, Ira Friedenber.

Sincerely,

Rhoda Shenkman

Thank you, M.I. friends and neighbors, for your comforting phone calls, notes, donations, visits and food. You've truly helped get us through this difficult time.

Betty Wachtel and family

**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.

## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

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Leah and Leo Moskovits  
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Leah and Zev Wyler  
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## THANK YOU

**By Alene Kristal, Editor**

Here we are at the beginning of our 2021-2022 fiscal year, and I realized I hadn't thanked the staff of the "MI News" for all their hard work during the past year. And what a year it was.

We mastered the art of holding meetings on Zoom, despite some technological challenges. I personally missed the joy of our in person monthly meetings, which were always filled with camaraderie and vigorous discussion. We continued to work despite the stress of quarantining and fears of COVID, as well as the strain of remaining indoors for days at a time. While we managed to hold a few meetings in person, the rise of the delta variant sent us back to Zooming, with all its attendant glitches.

I'm proud to say we were all up to the challenges the year presented. I've been told the newsletter was a vital means of communication within our community in a time when communication was in short supply. I hope we succeeded in our mission of keeping the residents informed and entertained.

Special thanks go out to **Elaine Jay** and **Steve Berry** for successfully completing our advertising campaign which will net us a small profit every month. I'm also grateful to Steve Berry's son for including us in his Zoom account so that we could hold our meetings with ease.

And kudos to all our contributors who wrote interesting columns, and to my co-editors, **Betty Wachtel** and **Lois Kaish** who shared my burden of producing our monthly oeuvre. And where would we be without our intrepid cadre of proofreaders – **Edie Ballan**, **Elayne Rovner**, **Joyce Stoudermire**, **Claire Deveney**, **Ellen Nelson** and **Gloria Steingart**.

Also, a warm welcome to our new proofreaders **Venita Ackerman**, **Michelle Zaitz**, and **Marshall Deutsch**.

A special shout out goes to **Arlene Bloom** for her tireless efforts at laying out the issue each month, to **Gail Shatzkamer** for her awesome covers, and to **Jerry Fefferman** for his photographic skills.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the committee who are handling the comedy show we are sponsoring in

November – **Ellen Nelson**, **Joan Sorkin** and **Steve Berry**. They have been working hard at making this event successful.

It's an honor to work with you all.

**DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR LOTTERY TICKETS TO THE COMEDY SHOW BY OCT. 22 – ONLY \$5 FOR TWO SEATS!**

☆ ☆ ☆ — ☆ ☆ ☆

### A CALENDAR REMINDER

**By Alene Kristal**

We live in a community of 450 homes and much of the business in running this community has unfortunately been moved to the Zoom format.

As a concerned resident, I urge all of you to take note of the following dates and participate in these meetings to the extent you are able. Important decisions are made and announced at these meetings, and, as a firm believer in democracy, I believe that an informed citizenry is a crucial ingredient of this democracy. So please put these dates on your calendar!

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT OF MTG</u>
10/19	2 p.m.	2022 Budget
10/21	10 a.m.	Board Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆ — ☆ ☆ ☆



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## PROPERTY TAX MATTERS

By Anne Gannon, Constitutional  
Tax Collector



November 1 marks the start of the busiest time of the year for our team. We mail out over 615,000 property tax bills to owners of property across all 2,386 square miles of Palm Beach County. We are dedicated to ensuring this process goes smoothly for our clients, many of whom may be new to our community and unfamiliar with the discounts and payment options we offer.

Property tax payments can be made beginning November 1. We offer money-saving discounts ranging from 4% to 1% to clients who pay their taxes. Property taxes fund critical public services throughout our community and must be paid by March 31 to avoid delinquency.

We recommend that you pay online at [www.pbctax.com/pay-online](http://www.pbctax.com/pay-online) for the quickest processing time. You can access our website and payment portal 24/7, from wherever your work or travels take you! You can also pay by e-Check, a free electronic payment option. Be sure to have your bank account and routing numbers handy when paying online with e-Check.

Enclosed with your property tax bill, you'll find information about our Installment Payment Plan (IPP). The plan allows clients to be billed in four payments during the year, with a discount of just under 4%. For the 2021 tax year, the deadline to enroll in the IPP was April 30, 2021. Starting November 1, you can enroll in IPP for the 2022 tax year. For more information about property tax, visit <https://www.pbctax.com/real-estate-property-tax>.

While many clients choose to pay online, some prefer to pay by personal check. Our payment processing center has state-of-the-art equipment that can open, scan and sort thousands of payments every hour. To ensure your payment is processed without delay, please make sure that all information is included on your check, as listed below. Personal checks can be rejected by our processing machines if information is missing, which can lead to delays in processing your

payment. Do not enclose paper clips, tape, staples or anything else in the envelope, as these items also delay processing times. Just enclose the payment stub and the check payment as instructed on your bill! ***Failure to follow these instructions can result in your payment being returned for correction, and discount ineligibility if the new payment is not received within the discount expiration date.***

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4. Fully write out the dollars and cents.
5. Include Property Control Number (PCN).
6. Sign your name.

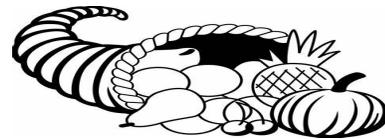
### Mail Your Property Tax Payment:

Use the pre-addressed envelope enclosed with your bill. Do not write anything additional on the envelope or use tape or staples to seal it. Affix correct postage and drop it in the mail!

OR

### Drop Off Your Property Tax Payment:

Each Tax Collector Service Center has a Drop-Box located in the lobby which is accessible without an appointment, Mon.-Fri., 8:15 a.m.–5:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Visit <https://www.pbctax.com/locations> for the Service Center nearest you.



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## COOKING CORNER

By Joan Sorkin



### GREENS, TOMATO & WHITE BEAN SOUP

- 1 Tb olive oil
- 1 yellow onion chopped (about 1 cup)
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 - 14 1/2 ounce can chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 - 14 1/2 ounce can diced tomatoes with juice
- 1/2 cup orzo or other small pasta
- 1 & 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 - 15 ounce can white kidney or cannelloni beans
- 4 cups chopped escarole or spinach (about 1 bunch)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In large pot over medium heat add oil, onions, garlic and sauté four minutes. Add broth, tomatoes, orzo, pepper and water.

Bring soup to a simmer and cook six minutes until pasta is soft. Add beans and greens and cook five minutes longer.

Serve with Parmesan cheese. Makes about four servings. 278 calories.

The original recipe called for 1/4 tsp crushed dried red pepper flakes. I don't use it, but you might want a little kick to it. ENJOY!

## NOTABLE OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 2 - Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi (1869-1948)
- Oct. 2 - Cordell Hull (1871-1955)
- Oct. 4 - Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893)
- Oct. 4 - Frederic Remington (1861-1909)
- Oct. 5 - Chester A. Arthur (1830-1886)
- Oct. 6 - George Westinghouse (1846-1914)
- Oct. 6 - Thor Heyerdahl (1914 - )
- Oct. 8 - Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973)
- Oct. 9 - John Lennon (1940-1980)
- Oct. 10 - Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
- Oct. 11 - Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)
- Oct. 13 - Molly Pitcher (1754-1832)
- Oct. 14 - William Penn (1644-1718)
- Oct. 14 - Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)
- Oct. 15 - Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- Oct. 15 - Lee Iacocca (1924 - )
- Oct. 16 - Noah Webster (1758-1843)
- Oct. 20 - Christopher Wren (1632-1723)
- Oct. 21 - Dizzy Gillespie (1917-1993)
- Oct. 22 - Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
- Oct. 25 - Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
- Oct. 26 - Hillary Rodham Clinton (1947 - )
- Oct. 27 - James Cook (1728-1779)
- Oct. 27 - Dylan Thomas (1914-1953)
- Oct. 28 - Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1995)
- Oct. 28 - Bill Gates (1955 - )
- Oct. 30 - John Adams (1735-1826)
- Oct. 30 - Emily Post (1872-1960)
- Oct. 30 - Admiral William Halsey (1882-1959)
- Oct. 31 - Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975)

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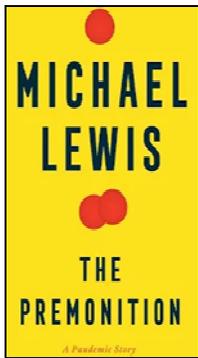
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## “THE PREMONITION” BY MICHAEL LEWIS

By Stan Kaish



Michael Lewis’ book “The Premonition” is about a familiar topic: the COVID pandemic. Did anyone in America have a premonition that a highly contagious disease would shut the country down for over a year and kill more than 630,000 people? And if they did, what did they do about it?

Oddly enough, our former president, George W. Bush had such a premonition. It wasn’t borne out of a sudden inspiration but rather resulted from his vacation reading of a book, “The Great Influenza: The Story of the Greatest Pandemic in History” by John Barry. In it, Barry describes the 1918 outbreak of Spanish flu, estimated to have killed 50 million people throughout the world and taken 500,000 American lives. That would be about a million and a half dead as a share of today’s population. Bush was alarmed. What if such a plague hit us again? Do we have any plans in place to deal with such a thing? When it emerged that the country had no plan in place to counter a pandemic, he ordered a physician in the Department of Homeland Security, Dr. Rajeev Venkayyev to prepare one. Venkayyev came back with a 12-page memorandum described by Lewis as a plan to get a plan. Good enough. Bush took it to Congress and got seven billion dollars and told Venkayyev to form a committee to pursue the matter in detail. He, in turn, called the relevant departments to provide members. Most were useless, but two stand out: Dr. Richard Hatchett, from the National Institutes of Health and Dr. Carter Mecher, from the Veterans Administration. Again and again, they come up as instrumental in gaining insights into what would be needed.

What emerged from this committee’s work in 2006 were the principles we have become accustomed to hearing in our own 2020 pandemic experience. 1) Rapid response is critical. Disease expands

exponentially. “If you took a penny and doubled it every day for thirty days, you’d have five million dollars; people couldn’t imagine disease spread any better than they could imagine a penny growing like that.” 2) Social spacing. In the absence of a vaccine, only by keeping people separated can you prevent contagion. Two controversial suggestions grew from this: close the businesses and close the schools. Nowhere are people more crowded together than in classrooms and on school buses. Neither would be done willingly. 3) Masks. Since spacing will be imperfect, masks might block transmission of an air-borne virus. 4) Testing to see where the virus is infecting people is vital.

Between the Bush administration when the principles of a response were formulated and the Trump administration when the COVID pandemic struck, the nation had experienced the H1N1 swine flu pandemic. It began in April 2009. By August 2010, the World Health Organization declared it to be over. It took 12,000 lives in the United States. Prior to that, in 2003, SARS had broken out and it too was short lived. These experiences provided a false sense of control inside the official agencies. But there were others who were not so easily sold, and it is these that populate the bulk of this book.

Richard Hatchett and Carter Mecher from the original committee that formulated the policy for dealing with pandemics in the Bush administration had remained in touch via email and had assembled a like-minded group of five additional doctors who had also served in various White House positions. They called themselves “The Wolverines.” Carter Mecher, the informally recognized leader of the group, was first to bring the Wuhan outbreak to the attention of the others. The Chinese announced only a handful of cases, which was met with skepticism among the Wolverines, but not the President. He announced when the first American case was diagnosed, “It’s one person in from China and we have it under control. It’s going to be just fine.”

Mecher and the Wolverines gathered whatever data they could, including clipping articles from the Chinese press and running them through Google  
**(Continued on Page 14)**

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### Book Review (Continued from Page 13)

Translate. It was noted that the Chinese were building a 1,000-bed hospital in Wuhan on an emergency basis. Then another one with 1,300 beds. Reported cases were growing. Wuhan was locked down. Then a cruise ship, *The Diamond Princess*, pulled into Tokyo Harbor with a raging epidemic on board. Based on data on the number of passengers, the number of cases, and the number of deaths, the Wolverines projected that the US population stood to suffer 330,000 fatalities. Sadly underestimated, but it was only early February of 2020. At the same time, the President was quoted as saying, "It's going to disappear - it's like a miracle - it will disappear."

We know, of course what happened. CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield rejected the word "pandemic." The CDC was awaiting more data, but they had no effective means of wide-spread testing. The program drafted during the Bush days for responding to a pandemic was very slow to be adopted. After all, this White House didn't recognize COVID as a pandemic.

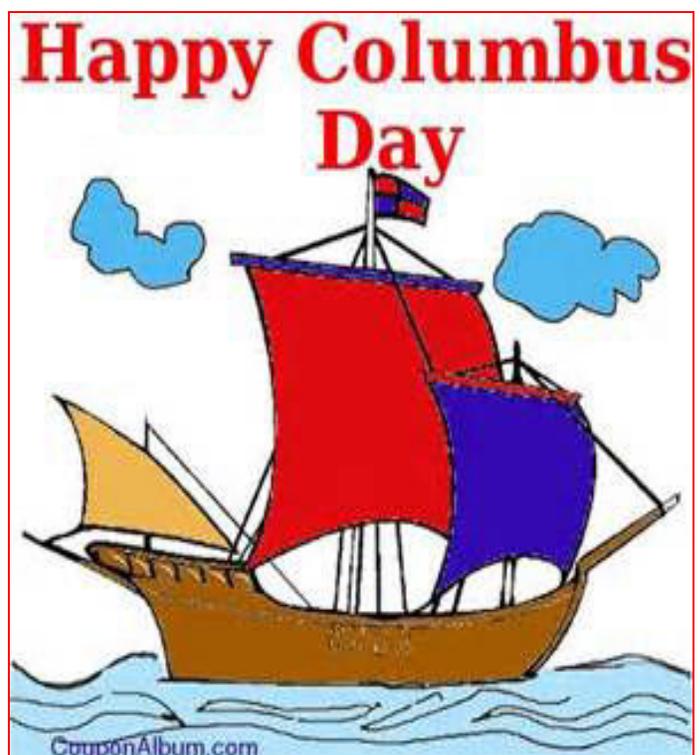
When the Trump administration assigned responsibility for countering the disease to the states, the Wolverines decided they needed a key state to set a standard for response. One member, Dr. Duane Caneva, thought he had just the person for that, and he was right. He contacted Dr. Charity Dean, at the time the Assistant Public Health Officer of California who herself had been worrying about the emerging storm. Caneva invited Dean to join their email circle. A lot of pages are devoted to Dr. Dean in "The Premonition." Author Lewis singled her out as one of the true heroes of the era when discussing the book on "Sixty Minutes." She persuaded Governor Gavin Newsom to shut down the state and impose the recommendations of the Bush era plan. She lined up an effective testing program developed by another of Lewis' heroes, Dr. Joe DeRisi, who had invented what he modestly called "this chip thing" which could identify viruses quickly. DeRisi's talents were recognized by the award of a MacArthur genius grant.

And so, we are where we are. The development of

the vaccines in record time is a story that will be told another time in other books. The emergence of the Delta variant leaves this a story whose end remains uncertain. My own premonition is that there are some interesting tales waiting to be told in the days ahead.



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## VIEW FROM ATOP A CAT TREE

By Lily K



Well, I did it! I got to the top of the cat tree and the view was spectacular! I now have a bird's eye view of the back yard, and can look

down on my brothers, subtly reminding them of my superior status. Their dominance of the cat tree is officially ended. I get up there at least once a day for a nap.

You may have heard about the cat who found its way onto the baseball diamond towards the end of a recent Yankees-Orioles game. The game came to a grinding halt as the players were in a quandary – should they go on with the game? As the cat tried to get her bearings, the crowd started to cheer for her, yelling “M.V.P.,” and all the men on the field, including the groundskeepers, focused on what she was doing. Watching her was like watching an Olympic athlete. The groundskeepers trotted impotently after her as she jumped onto the outfield wall and ran along it, trying to find a way out of the cacophony of the stadium. She eventually found her way to a gate, and exited the stadium. I was riveted watching her courageous progress.

So yes, I watch TV. Baseball is kind of boring because it's so slow, but I was riveted by the women's final at the US Open. Both players were teenagers (like me) and were pretty evenly matched. Mom, Dad and I were rooting for Leylah Fernandez because she had beaten so many former winners to advance to the finals. We were all a bit disappointed that she didn't win this match, but it was such an exciting game it didn't much matter. I loved following the yellow ball as it whipped across the court and was especially impressed with Leylah's finesse and shot placement. Personally, I think she needs to work out in the gym and build up her muscles and stamina so that she'll be a winner next time. The men's final was nowhere near as exciting, and I took a nap while Novak Djokovic got hammered in his historic attempt to win the Grand Slam.



## A DOG'S NEW LIFE IN MAJESTIC ISLES

By Mia Berry



Hello again Majestic Islers. My training saga continues. It's getting to the point where my parents finally understand that they have to adapt to my way of life. It's not just my way or the highway. I make plenty of compromises. We've agreed that I will not eat from their plates if they don't eat from mine. Anyway, here's where we stand with a few more essentials:

**Sleeping:** This was a good one. They were accustomed to going to bed around 10 or 11 o'clock. Yeah right! That doesn't work for me. I'm in at nine o'clock. A girl needs her beauty sleep. Then, they bought a bunch of different stuff to train me to sleep on, including a fluffy bed. Train me? Are they kidding? I taught them right out of the shoot. First night, I was in their bed and have been ever since. We compromised when I agreed not to train them to sleep on a cushion, on the floor in a corner of the room. I've also gotten them to understand that I have a routine before I finally lay still and sleep. They watch me as I lick and scratch the sheets, walk around under the cover and get a belly rub. Dad gets up very early while Mom likes to sleep later. As soon as Dad leaves the bedroom, I move into his spot. I'm Mom's alarm clock. When I lick her face, it's time for her to get up. It's my decision.

**Driving:** This is not my favorite activity. If I'm not in control, I get very antsy. I start by sitting in the back seat, but this is fleeting - after a minute or so I am resting on the console between them. What they don't know is that I'm studying how to drive. To keep me calm Mom says things like, “It's okay Mia. It's only a short one-hour ride.” Is she kidding me? In dog time that's seven hours. Since she never had a dog, I'd like to cut her some slack. She finally realized what dogs like to do in a car. Now she rolls down the window so I can stick my head out and let my tongue flap in the breeze.

We're making a lot of progress in the training process. I'll provide you with another update in the next issue.

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## GRANDMA & GRAMPA GO TO CAMP

By Barbara Van Asselt

### Back story

Back in the 1990s when my children were children, I worked in the office at a sleep-away camp in rural Pennsylvania. It was, and still is, common for parents to work at camp and barter their salary for their child's tuition. I loved camp and loved the many friends I made during the 10 years I worked there. To this day I have camp friends in Australia, Nepal, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic and across the USA.

### Story

While sitting on our lanai on a random day in March, a friend who I'd met at this camp over 20 years ago, said, "Why don't you both work at camp this summer?" My initial response was, "Seriously? I don't want to be anywhere with a few hundred campers (many under 12 years old), a few hundred counselors and a smattering of adults!" But, if you know me, you'll know that those thoughts quickly gave way to my curiosity and cabin fever, so I contacted the owner of the camp, who was very happy to hear from me. We had a few discussions about COVID protocols, camp restrictions and testing, accommodations for staggering dining times, outdoor dining, and mask requirements. We both felt confident that everything was in place to keep everyone as safe as possible, eventually accepted job offers and headed off for camp in June. Simon (my husband) was to be a driver, one of a very few people allowed off campgrounds, and I would work in the office. We would escape the heat and humidity of the Florida summer, I wouldn't have to cook for two months, and our dog Oliver was welcome at camp. It was a win-win for everyone. Camps were having a hard time finding staff due to all the restrictions, and we had been basically tethered to our house like everyone else for way too long. So a getaway was clearly in order.

The first few weeks of camp were busy for Simon, who was driving around winding country roads, bringing counselors to the nearest town to get COVID vaccinations (which was in everyone's best interest) and bringing PCR tests to labs. He

narrowly avoided hitting several deer and had to brake for a bear crossing the road, but luckily driving in Florida has sharpened his reflexes! Masks were a must the first few weeks, but as the first round, then the second round, and finally the third round of tests came back negative, the mask rules were relaxed. Random testing for everyone continued and the results kept coming back negative. Masks were finally abandoned, and we were part of an almost 600-person bubble. Kids could be kids, camp was as much fun as I remembered it, and I celebrated my 70th birthday with old and new camp friends. I started walking around the lake every day (four miles up and down hills), ate too many s'mores around the bonfire, assured parents that their kids were safe and happy, climbed a tree as high as a three-story building so I could ride on the zipline, and never forgot how very lucky we were to be there. Even Oliver loved camp and made a bunch of camp friends, some with two legs and some with four. We spent many evenings with a bottle of wine playing Rummikub, and when we could muster up four people, we even had a Mah Jongg game.

We had a truly wonderful summer in the most beautiful setting, made so many new friends, renewed old friendships...and we got paid! Sadly, for the parents, there would not be a visiting day, but every camper got an extended facetime call home. I'm pretty sure every camp owner and director sighed a huge sigh of relief when this summer ended without any COVID outbreaks. Not every camp was as lucky, and it could just as easily have happened to us.

And then came an unexpected bonus - our grandsons, ages 12 and 15, spent the summer at a camp about 20 minutes away from us. The older one, Zachary, cracked a tooth and our daughter arranged for us to pick him up from camp, take him to a dentist, explaining that we were working at another camp. The camp administration knew we were coming from a restricted, COVID-free setting. When I returned from the dentist to drop Zachary off, I was approached by one of the directors who offered us both jobs when our camp season ended. Of course, my grandson was standing there and I'm thinking that he might be totally horrified having  
**(Continued on page 17)**

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### Camp (Continued from Page 16)

his grandparents at camp, but he thought it was awesome! We finished at camp #1 on a Saturday, packed up the car, drove to camp #2, had a COVID test, and started on Sunday. Camp #1 was an all-boys sports camp full of jocks, #2 was a performance camp full of singers, dancers, musicians, actors, Broadway kids, circus performers and kids with rainbow hair!

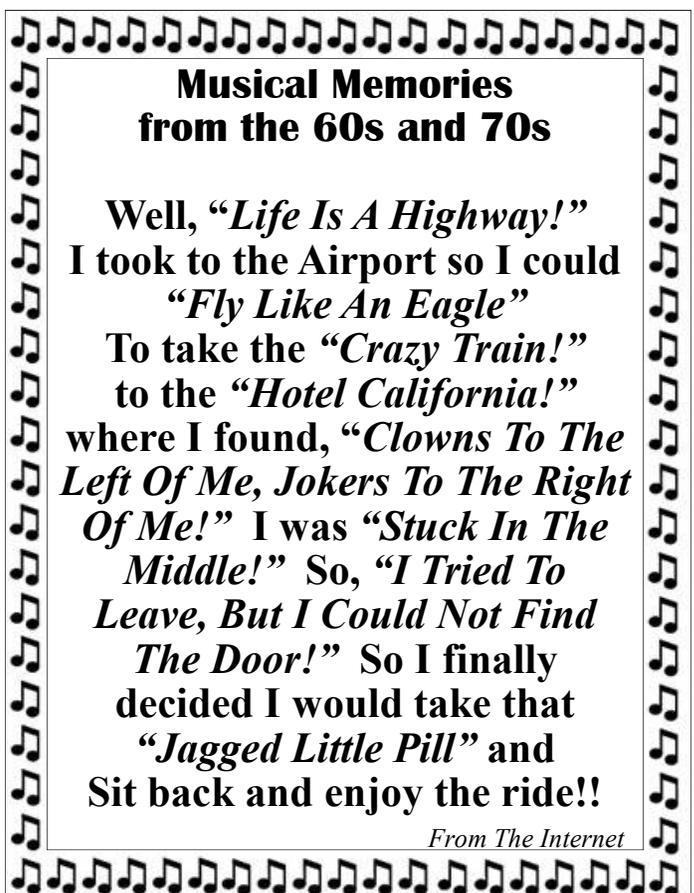
We were now part of a bubble of over 1,000 campers, counselors and adults. Our room was a little over a half a mile from the office, so my morning lake walks were replaced by walking to work and walking back to let Oliver out, then walking back to work and walking back to our room. While the food at camp #1 was ok, the food at camp #2 was delicious! The office at camp #1 was rustic, and at camp #2, the office was air-conditioned and heated. There was a coffee machine, microwave and refrigerator (what luxuries!). Other comparisons are difficult because the vibes at both camps were so completely different. We enjoyed them both.

As camp #2 was performance oriented, campers practiced, auditioned, and were chosen to participate in productions with professionals. One of the most memorable evenings was a performance with musicians from the New York Pops Orchestra led by their conductor Steven Reineke, and there were visiting musicians from other Broadway orchestra pits as well. We had performances from the Boston and Philadelphia Symphony Orchestras who regularly came up to camp every summer, and campers played along with them. What made it extra special was that I knew two of the campers who were chosen to play with the professionals; one was whom was my grandson's best friend from elementary and middle school.

There were also Broadway singers who performed with the orchestra, and campers who auditioned to sing with them. One day, Simon had to drive from camp into Manhattan at 5 a.m. to pick up a couple of people, and it turned out they were the Broadway singers (one from "The Lion King" and "Ain't Too Proud," the other from "Beautiful" and "Ain't Misbehaving"). Lucky man - he had a

private concert (through their masks) the whole way back to camp.

Both of our grandsons were in productions while we were there. One had a singing solo as Marcellus in a production of "The Music Man" and the other was the featured pianist in a jazz band performance. What a gift to see them in that environment and be able to experience their performances in such an exclusive setting. Not to mention what a treat it was to see them at meals and just passing by on a daily basis. We had no history at camp #2, so no relationships to renew, but our grandsons' presence made the experience priceless. Seeing them perform was truly remarkable, and knowing they were happy to have us there was just beyond anything we could have imagined when we set out from Island Reach Lane in the early morning of June 13. As for our future at camp, we will have a decision to make because we got offers to return to both camps next summer. Right now, though, we're still relishing our memories and are thankful that there was this amazing silver lining to a chipped tooth!



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**Well, "Life Is A Highway!"  
I took to the Airport so I could  
"Fly Like An Eagle"  
To take the "Crazy Train!"  
to the "Hotel California!"  
where I found, "Clowns To The  
Left Of Me, Jokers To The Right  
Of Me!" I was "Stuck In The  
Middle!" So, "I Tried To  
Leave, But I Could Not Find  
The Door!" So I finally  
decided I would take that  
"Jagged Little Pill" and  
Sit back and enjoy the ride!!**

*From The Internet*

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## A SUMMER MEMORY

By Phyllis Cohen

I spent part of a summer (now many years in the past) with my California grandchildren and my East Coast granddogs. Fortunately, everyone was now house broken, so we could enjoy the antics of both the four-legged and the two-legged youngsters without frequent dashes to the facilities or hasty clean-ups of “accidents.” The grandkids, who loved dogs and don’t own any, and the granddogs, who love kids, but don’t have any, quickly lapsed into a routine. The kids spent all their time trying to engage the puppies in activities and the dogs spent their time trying to avoid them.

In the hot, lazy days we spent in the city and at a Maine beach, I had a chance to observe the everyday life of my 21<sup>st</sup> century grandchildren. Like all modern kids, they have been schlepped, and schooled, and exposed to all the enrichments that a well-rounded child should have. So even the four-year-old swims, handles video games with ease and logs onto the computer. I’m sure he could program my VCR if I asked him. The older sister, nine going on twenty, can saddle and ride a horse, read two languages, and edit a DVD film on the computer. For most of the year, they have play dates and group sports and scheduled activities from the moment they wake up until they go to bed. But during this summer holiday, they spent hours rolling on the lawn with the puppies or taking them for walks, digging holes, making castles in the sand at the beach or collecting shells. All these activities were reminiscent of my own long ago summer days, with a glaring difference.

Neither of my grandchildren has ever experienced that enormous freedom that summer meant to city children when they were turned loose from the confines of school and were thrown into the street to live a life where the only rule was to go home for supper. That was summer in the decades before air conditioning, television, suburban isolation and two-income families changed society. A pair of clamp-on roller skates, skate key worn securely around one’s neck, was the preferred means of transportation. I never knew anyone, before I was a teenager, who had a two-wheel bicycle except the Western Union boy.

With a Spalden or Pinkie ball, a little girl alone or with a single playmate would spend hours playing “A my name is Anna”, bouncing and catching the ball through the alphabet and turning her leg over the ball on each part of the alphabetical jingle. Don’t ask me to demonstrate. Using the sidewalk blocks and a penny on a center line, you would play a game of “hit the penny” until someone had fifteen or twenty points, making up the rules as you went along. There was “stoop” ball, bouncing and catching the ball off the “stoop” or stairs until the landlady came out and chased you. If you had a nice big brick wall like the one alongside my father’s drug store, you could enjoy an endless game of handball. Of course, boys played stickball and other variations of baseball in pickup teams where the first picked kids had a real bat or glove or ball to offer.

There were long improvised tag games of “red light, green light,” “giant steps” and “Johnny, may I cross your river?” Not to be confused with “Johnny on a pony,” a sadistic male-only game that involved jumping over a crouching line of boys and hopefully breaking their backs. Boys and girls both played “hide and seek,” preferably as it got dark, and hid in dark alleys and doorways, deliciously scary at a time when the only monsters we knew were in the movies. A pesky little brother or sister could be left to hide long after the game was over.

The sidewalks were a canvas of chalk drawn hopscotch games, or “potsie” as we called it in my Brooklyn neighborhood. The preferred “potsie” or marker was an old leather or rubber heel begged from the neighborhood shoemaker. On hot July and August nights, the streets bathed in soft yellow light from streetlamps, the sidewalks were filled with strollers walking back and forth to neighborhood shops for cold sodas and ice cream cones and evening papers. Women sat outside on kitchen chairs chatting, grandmas leaned out upstairs windows, arms resting on pillows, calling for Mendy or Solly or Estelle or Janet. Vacation would never end. Do you remember?



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We all know that Florida experiences hot summers with rainfall and high humidity. Cooler, drier weather typically starts at the end of November and the average total rain-fall from late November until the end of February averages about two inches, with lower temperatures and humidity than during the summer. These conditions mark the post-hurricane season, a good time to redo your landscape. Below are some cool weather tips to help you renovate your landscape in the upcoming months.

**November** - Add fresh color to your landscape beds by planting winter annuals. Visit your local nursery. You will find on display colorful impatiens, pentas and wax begonias. If you are interested in growing vegetables in containers choose lettuce, spinach and carrots. If you are interested in growing roses, select the knockout variety. This variety is hardy in both the summer and the winter months. The knockout rose comes in red, pink, and yellow.

**December** - This month would be a good time to plant a hedge, a small tree or a small palm to enhance your property. A hedge of gold mound duranta, a flowering pin wheel jasmine or the foliage of crotons make an attractive display year around. A Eugenia topiary located at the house entry or along both sides or your garage entry would be inviting for guests. The robellini is a small palm that grows 10 feet high and can be seen growing for decades throughout South

Florida. It is one of the few palms that remains small, and it is incredibly wind tolerant. Friendly plants such as lantana attract humming birds, which migrate to South Florida at this time of year.

**January** - Be sure all your planted flowers, container vegetables, hedges and trees are receiving their needed irrigation. Plans should be made to apply seasonable layers of mulch to all planting beds. Mulch is used to retain soil moisture, control the growth of weeds, keep the soil cool and make the planting beds more attractive. In January, you may want to replace some of your dying annuals in order to retain winter garden color.

**February** - Enjoy the winter-blooming plants such as hibiscus. Also, now is the time to prune your bougainvillea. Remember, to keep it blooming, it must be planted in a sunny location and needs very little water. Also, over the winter season, look out for spider mites, very tiny insects that love the dry winter months to feed on your plants. The infected plants will grow slowly or have stunted growth.

For the upcoming cooler months, I have provided landscaping tips including recommended plantings. This will guide you on making any planned landscape renovations – but remember, wait until post-hurricane season, or in other words, until after November 30<sup>th</sup> to begin landscaping projects.

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## A BEAUTIFUL LIFE AFTER BREAST CANCER

By Barbara & Steve Berry



Our daughter Melissa is an eight-year breast cancer survivor (she prefers thriver). We experienced every moment of her journey and couldn't be prouder of how she turned lemons into lemonade, even creating her own

website [CancerFashionista.com](http://CancerFashionista.com). Her mantra is: "I jump out of bed every single morning knowing that I'm going to make at least one woman feel beautiful throughout her cancer journey ... and beyond." She just turned 50, and here's her story in her own words:

"According to my blog post calendar, I'm scheduled to write my 50th birthday post today. So here I am. 48 hours away from turning 50 years old.

The laptop is open, the coffee is hot, I'm seated at my desk ready to write it all down to share with all of you.

All week I've been playing it out in my head. I'll talk about how excited I am to embrace this new chapter. 50 is the new 40. The Golden Years. On and on.

But quite honestly, I'm simply happy to be here. Like silly happy. Grateful just to be here on planet Earth, with my two incredible daughters. Here to raise them and watch them grow into beautiful, smart, healthy successful young women.

This is pretty mind blowing to me because there were times that I truly believed that breast cancer would steal me away from them forever. Eight years ago when I was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer, I felt as though my perfectly planned life was unraveling right before my very eyes. An already fragile marriage took a huge hit from the devastating physical and emotional impact of this relentless disease. An unexpected bilateral mastectomy and breast reconstruction, total hair loss, weight gain, aggressive chemotherapy, mood swings from all the infusions and meds, depression and my inability

to work as much as I had been created the perfect storm. And someone that I could hardly recognize.

Needless to say, shortly after my treatment was completed, I had to face the end of a 19-year marriage. Without going into too much detail, there was no foul play. No dramatic story to share here. Our relationship was in trouble way before my breast cancer diagnosis. We simply didn't work anymore. It took me a long time to accept the new landscape of my life. And that was just the personal side of things.

Professionally, I was a hardcore fashion and beauty publicist through and through. Chemotherapy challenged my work ethic and I fought back hard. But I'm no superhero, and there were days that I simply couldn't do it. Thank goodness I had the most amazing work wife to absorb some of my responsibilities and who kept me on board until I was able to go full throttle again. I'll be forever grateful to her for that.

In retrospect, working when I could throughout my cancer treatment helped me to maintain my identity. However, as time went on, I began to grow my business (without even meaning to) for identifying cool and fabulous products to get us through breast cancer treatment (i.e., post-mastectomy bras, lashes, wigs, etc.). This soon took on a life of its own, and my cancer fashion business was born.

Early in the morning and late in the evenings when my PR work was done, the dishes were put away and my girls were tucked into bed, I'd share and connect on my blog as well as on my social media platforms. It felt like a blast of lightning (in a good way!) when I was able to help the newly diagnosed with my advice. I never experienced that kind of joy before...the feeling when you know you're making a direct impact on someone else's life for the better.

Then it hit me like a ton of bricks...that this is what I need to be doing full time. I slowly transitioned from public relations to breast cancer advocacy. As a result of my research and connecting with incredible experts, I've been inspired to take better care of myself than ever before. I meditate, workout and eat clean. But I also have lots of fun. I'm so grateful for my friends who contribute to this fun factor, including those of you who I have only met here online.

**(Continued on Page 22)**

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### A Beautiful Life (Continued from Page 21)

We're so lucky to have one another, and I can't stress the importance of community and connection no matter what kind of trauma you're going through.

Is breast cancer the best thing that ever happened to me? HECK NO! But I was fortunate enough to have a positive prognosis that allowed me to courageously turn a couple of big pages in my book. So how does it feel to turn 50? It feels PRETTY DAMN GOOD. I am not sure what the next 50 years will bring. We are living in such uncertain times. But what I do know is that I am

happy and proud to be here. And to be doing this kind of work. I hope my story helps shed perspective on change, and the power of adapting to a life that you didn't plan. Who knows, perhaps that's where the magic is...embracing the twists and turns that we never saw coming which then result in new relationships, friendships and career paths that bring us more happiness and success than we ever thought imaginable. I suppose the lesson here is to do the best we can even under the most devastating of circumstances...and trust that the universe will take care of the rest."

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## UNSUNG HEROES

By Steve Karten

In May of this year, the TV show “60 Minutes” aired a story...a double segment in fact...about “The Ritchie Boys,” a group which included heroic Jewish young men who were born in Europe, came to America, joined the Army during WWII, and were trained in intelligence gathering and interrogation. I had not heard of them prior to the airing of this program – and their story piqued my curiosity.

There are not many of the Ritchie Boys left and only a few were interviewed for the segment. All who are still alive are in their nineties. One of those featured, Guy Stern, was just a few months shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. After his army service, he earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University and went on to a career in academia.

Another, Paul Fairbrook, is 97. After his service, he became dean of the Culinary Institute of America. Another, Victor Brombert, now 97 years old, is a former professor of Romance Languages and Literature at both Yale and Princeton Universities. Many others of the group became highly educated, successful and famous. Just to name a few: novelist J.D. Salinger; former Governor of Rhode Island, John Chafee; Designer Oleg Cassini, and his newspaper columnist brother Igor; Chairman of Metromedia, John Kluge; Editor and Op Ed page creator of the New York Times, John Bertram Oakes; former U.S. Senator from Maryland, Ben Cardin; Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Schifter; grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt and David Rockefeller.

The Ritchie Boys saga started in the town of Cascade, Md., at an army base known as Fort Ritchie, which gave the group its name. Initially, they were an elite intelligence unit of approximately 15,200 servicemen. However roughly 2,200 (14%) of them were Jewish refugees, primarily from Germany and Austria and a few from Poland, France, Italy and other surrounding nations. They all had in common an awareness in the late 1930s that Herr Hitler’s minions were rapidly developing a method for the systematic killing of Jews, and that the chances of a Jew reaching old age were fast growing from slim to

none. Ergo, these men fled Nazi Germany and the territories that it controlled, leaving behind their homes, the countries they loved, and all things connected with their upbringing. Even more harrowing was the abandonment of their loved ones and not knowing their fate, or whether they would ever see them again.

Having been born in Germany, Austria and close surrounding areas, they were fluent in the language, and spoke unaccented German like a native (which many were). Additionally, they were totally familiar with the culture and its many nuances. This gave them the advantage of exuding a sense of familiarity which was much more easily accepted by the POW’s they had to interrogate. They were better qualified than some of their peers not only because they knew the German language and understood the German mentality and behavior, but the POW’s culture was also one they grew up with and understood better than the American-born soldiers. Their familiarity with Germany and their training in interrogation techniques and counterintelligence provided them an immense advantage over their captives and led to their extracting significantly more important and valuable information from them.

Another of their primary missions was to find ways to break the morale of their SS prisoners; as native Europeans and Germans, these men were uniquely suited to plumb the minds of their Nazi captives. They also worked along the front lines at strategic levels, analyzing German forces and plans, and studying ways to demoralize the enemy.

While all the foregoing is certainly interesting from a historical perspective, what struck me most forcibly was the special degree of courage it took these young men to return to a Europe in which they faced dual dangers – not just as members of the combat forces on the front lines, but the chance that their Jewish heritage would be discovered, leading to their immediate death or the perils of a concentration camp.

As reported on “Sixty Minutes,” the Ritchie Boys’ initial training gave no hint as to what their contribution could and would be to the war effort. In fact, in the end, their contribution was extraordinary. Incredibly, they were responsible  
**(Continued on Page 24)**

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## 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. Preceptor
  - a) teacher
  - b) forefather
  - c) king
  - d) antagonist
2. Gormless
  - a) obese
  - b) translucent
  - c) stupid
  - d) unstructured
3. Mountebank
  - a) charlatan
  - b) authority
  - c) maestro
  - d) conspirator
4. Vitiate
  - a) blend
  - b) tarnish
  - c) avenge
  - d) prohibit
5. Pabulum
  - a) food
  - b) paudit
  - c) requisition
  - d) iconoclast
6. Imprimatur
  - a) skillful
  - b) enjoyment
  - c) naiveté
  - d) approval
7. Pusillanimous
  - a) angry
  - b) bellicose
  - c) contentious
  - d) spineless
8. Cynosure
  - a) schism
  - b) continuation
  - c) focus
  - d) conclusion
9. Obstreperous
  - a) disgusting
  - b) unruly
  - c) colorful
  - d) nasty
10. Sententious
  - a) poetic
  - b) indirect
  - c) preachy
  - d) dim

**(See Answers on Page 26 )**

## Ritchie Boys (Continued from Page 23)

for most of the combat intelligence gathered on the Western Front. Significantly, the Ritchie Boys are often credited with contributing to an early end to WWII.

The existence of the unit and its mission were unknown until the 21st century. Until then, this information was classified because of the unit's astounding success and effectiveness against Hitler's war machine. The Department of Defense wanted to keep their methods secret in case they were needed again. So for decades, the survivors couldn't discuss their work with outsiders until it became declassified in the year 2000. Many of them stayed in touch with each other over the years, sharing a camaraderie based on their shared experiences, their mutual fears of discovery during their wartime service, as well as their enormous successes in defeating a country that destroyed six

## I'm So Old That

I have dialed a rotary phone, listened to music off an 8-track tape, watched a black and white TV with foil on the rabbit ear antennas, and went through a whole day without taking a picture of myself.



## STUFF WE DID BACK IN THE DAY

By Steve Berry

I grew up during the 1950s and 60s in Flushing, Queens, NY. We lived in a co-op apartment complex called Mitchell Gardens which consisted of about 10, six-story buildings where my brother and I shared a bedroom. Since it was a brand-new complex, there were many young families like mine who had moved in. In my building alone there were about eight kids just my age. We were able to entertain ourselves inside the building as we hung out on the staircase and played in the basement. Aah, the basement! In addition to the laundry room, the milk machine and incinerator room (our garbage used to be burned) we had a bike room where we could ride around on Schwinn and Huffy bikes. The basement was long and narrow and had a lot of nooks and crannies in which to play hide and seek, tag or just race each other up and down.

In the back of the building was a parking deck where we played handball against the building wall and stickball between the row of parked cars and the building. It was also where, in the summer, a hose with a showerhead was hung from the side of the building to serve as a shower to keep us cool. On one side of the building was a playground with swings, a seesaw and a sliding pond. It also had monkey bars and a sand box; I don't know if they're still there today.

While we were still a bit too young to stray from home and wanted to play baseball, we went to "the green field." It was a hilly patch of turf situated between our building and the outside garages. It was about 30 feet wide by 100 feet long. Home plate was the sewer. The pitcher would stand in front of the building wall and the only real area to hit the ball to was to left field. Here is where I learned how to become a "pull hitter." We also played "tagging up" on this field. Someone would throw the ball to the outfield and the runner on third base would try to tag up and score. The race was on between the runner and outfielder throwing the ball. The catcher would try to tag the runner before he reached home plate (the sewer).

This was my world until I reached the ripe old age of about 10. Kids were allowed to cross a few streets and walk several blocks from home without

supervision; it was a much simpler time. Three blocks away a new elementary school was built, P.S. 214, which was for grades kindergarten through eighth grade. There was no such thing as a junior high school or middle school back then. More importantly, the elementary school had a school yard, which became a concrete mecca of basketball courts, softball field, handball courts and space for games we dreamed up ourselves. We even played touch football on the concrete playground. Ouch! It was also the time when my parents asked where I was going, the answer was always "out"...which covered almost everything. On weekends we would go to the school yard early in the morning and not return home until it was past dark and too late to play anything.

Some of the games we played (the games might have had different names in different neighborhoods) were punch ball (with a Spalding or a Pensie Pinkie), stickball, softball (with the "Clincher"), running bases, kick the can (soccer with a soda can) and roller hockey.

When we weren't playing in the school yard, we played ball on empty lots. We played baseball on an almost grassless field littered with rocks and broken glass. The bases were rolled up jackets or cardboard cutouts. My position was shortstop and every groundball was a possible life changing experience. If the ball hit a rock I could get hit in the head or throat. I also had to protect my special place so that a bad hop wouldn't affect my chances of having kids when I grew up. We used the baseballs until there was nothing left to hit. When the seams opened up and the ball started to unravel, we would tape the seams over with electrical tape.

We also had a sandlot football team, the Jaguars, and we played against other neighborhood teams. One of our invented football drills was called "Larry the Lib." It was named after Larry Libertore who was a tough 138 lb. quarterback/defensive back (he played both positions) who played for the University of Florida in the early 1960s. Here's the drill: one guy would run against the rest of the team and try to break through. Painful, but character building. We were a bunch of characters.

**(Continued on Page 26)**

## MOVIES AND STREAMING

By Joan Sorkin



“Modern Love” on *Prime* is in its second season and features little vignettes of love stories based on “New York Times” columns.

“Best of Enemies” on *Prime* is the true story of 1971 racial problems in Durham, N.C. It is a feel-good story of redemption.

“Queen” is an Indian film on *Netflix* about a young girl left at the altar just before her wedding. She decides to go on her planned honeymoon to Paris alone and finds herself. I enjoy the Indian films, even with subtitles. They gave you a little insight into Indian life.

“Misha and the Wolves” on *Netflix* is an interesting documentary detailing a young woman's escape to the woods during the Holocaust. Stick with it as all is not what it seems to be.

“The Chair” is a new series on *Netflix* - season one is just finishing - starring Sandra Oh as the new chairman of a college English Department. It needs more time to develop, but it seems to be interesting.

“Click Bait” is a limited series on *Netflix* with an unusual story that will keep you guessing until the end with its many twists and turns.

“Railway Man” on *Prime*, recommended by Alene Kristal, is the true story of Eric Lomaz, a prisoner of war during WWII in Japan. Starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, it chronicles how the horrors of Lomaz's imprisonment torture him long after the war. Spoiler alert – it has a very surprising ending.

“Mine” on *Netflix* is a new Korean series that reminds me of “Succession.” It is about a very wealthy successful family, focusing on all their jealousy and intrigue. The women are fantastically beautiful and size 5's, and wear the most exquisite clothes. I enjoy it just to see the interesting outfits.

These are my personal recommendations. They may not be yours. Share some of your favorites. I'd love to hear about them.

## Stuff We Did (Continued from Page 25)

Other games the guys played were stoopball, box ball, red rover, Johnnie-on-the-pony, red light/green light, monkey-in-the-middle, steal the bacon, scully (with bottle caps), hit the penny and ringolevio. The girls preferred hopscotch (sometimes called potsie but I don't know why), jump rope and double dutch. My “gang” was a bit loony. One of our crazier games was imaginary tug-of-war across a street. With half of us on each side of the road we would wait for a car to come by and then yell “pull” as if we were tugging on a rope. It would freak the driver out. It was probably not the safest game but, at that age, we thought we were invincible.

By the time we were teenagers, the school yard served another purpose, after dark. That's when we first started hanging out with girls.

Most of our games disappeared with the next generation of kids. Sports had to be organized and cost a lot more money than our parents had spent on us. For our kids to play with friends, we parents would often have to arrange play dates and drive the kids to their friends' homes. The fields they played on were manicured and glass free. I guess that's progress. But I wouldn't swap the stuff I did as a kid with what my kids did for all the money in the world. Happier times, remember?

## ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

(From Page 24)

1. Preceptor: (a) teacher
2. Gormless: (c) stupid
3. Mountebank: (a) charlatan
4. Vitiate: (b) tarnish
5. Pabulum: (a) food
6. Imprimatur: (d) approval
7. Pusillanimous: (d) spineless
8. Cynosure: (c) focus
9. Obstreperous: (b) unruly
10. Sententious: (c) preachy



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I do not live in the five boroughs or on the Island or Upstate.

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But I am a New Yorker.

I am a New Yorker  
Whatever took me out of New York:  
Business, family or hating the cold  
did not take New York out of me.  
My accent may have faded and my pace may have slowed  
But I am a New Yorker.

I am a New Yorker  
I was raised on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade  
and Rockefeller Plaza,  
The Yankees or the Mets (Giants or Dodgers)  
Jones Beach, Rye Beach, Rockaway Beach or one  
of the beaches on the sound.  
I know that "THE END" means Montauk  
Because I am a New Yorker.

I am a New Yorker  
When I go on vacation, I never look up.  
Skyscrapers are something I take for granted  
The Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty  
are part of me.  
Taxis and noise and subways and "get outta heah"  
don't rattle me  
Because I am a New Yorker.

I am a New Yorker  
I was raised on cultural diversity before it was  
politically correct.  
I eat Greek food and Italian food, Jewish and  
Middle Eastern food and Chinese food  
Because they are all American food to me.  
I don't get mad when people speak other languages  
in my presence  
Because my relatives got to this country via Ellis  
Island and chose to stay.  
They were New Yorkers.  
People who have never been to New York have  
misunderstood me  
My friends and family work in the industries,  
professions and businesses that benefit all  
Americans.

My firefighters died trying to save New Yorkers and  
non-New Yorkers.

They died trying to save Americans and non-  
Americans

Because they were New Yorkers.

I am a New Yorker  
I feel the pain of my fellow New Yorkers.  
I mourn the loss of my beautiful city  
I feel and dread that New York will never be the  
same.

But then I remember:

I am a New Yorker.

And New Yorkers have:

Tenacity, strength and courage way above the norm,  
compassion and caring for our fellow citizens  
Love and pride in our city, in our state, in our  
country, intelligence, experience and education par  
excellence, ability, dedication and energy above and  
beyond

Faith--no matter what religion we practice

Terrorists hit America in its heart

But America's heart still beats strong

Demolish the steel in our buildings, but it doesn't  
touch the steel in our souls

Hit us in the pocketbook; but we'll parlay what we  
have left into a fortune.

End innocent lives leaving widows and orphans, but  
we'll take care of them

Because they are New Yorkers.

Wherever we live, whatever we do, whoever we are  
There are New Yorkers in every state and every city  
of this nation.

We will not abandon our city

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We will not abandon the beauty, creativity and  
diversity that New York represents

Because we are New Yorkers

And we are proud to be New Yorkers.

## REMEMBER THE WTC

Author - Vincent Pasquale, Maspeth, NY



*From the Internet*

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## SEEN ANY MONEY LATELY?

Submitted By Claire Deveney

Can you name whose photograph is on U.S. currency dollar bills? See if you can match the left column to the right column.

One Dollar	Grover Cleveland
Five Dollar	Ulysses S. Grant (front) U.S. Capitol (back)
Ten Dollar	Benjamin Franklin (front) Independence Hall (back)
Twenty Dollar	Abraham Lincoln (front) Lincoln Memorial (back)
Fifty Dollar	Alexander Hamilton (front) U.S. Treasury bldg. (back)
Hundred Dollar	George Washington (front) Seal of the United States (back)
Five Hundred Dollar	Andrew Jackson (front) The White House (back)
One Thousand Dollar	William McKinley

**Little known facts:** Source: [Investopedia.com](https://www.investopedia.com).

There are still 1.2 billion \$2 notes in circulation.

A \$500 or \$1,000 bill may be worth more than its face value. The \$500 bill was discontinued in 1969 and last printed in 1945. The \$1,000 bill was discontinued in 1969 and there are 165,372 \$1,000 bills in existence.

The \$5,000 bill was recalled in 1969, and there are fewer than 400 \$5,000 bills in existence.

The \$10,000 bill was the largest denomination ever to be printed for public consumption.

Collectors cannot legally hold a \$100,000 bill.

**(Answers are on Page 36)**



## IT'S CLOUDY

Submitted by Alene Kristal

You can celebrate being out of lock down by looking at the clouds and observing how they drift across the sky. And although humans have been staring at clouds for millennia, climate change has altered their predictability considerably.

Scientists categorize clouds into major types based on shape, how high up in the sky they are and whether they produce precipitation. So here's your guide to the major types of clouds - and don't forget to find animal shapes while you're looking!

**CUMULOUS:** the classic fluffy white clouds whose tops look like cauliflowers.

**STRATUS:** If the sky is gray and overcast and you can't really see individual clouds, you're actually looking at a stratus cloud. They hang low in the sky in a layer and don't usually produce rain. Layers of these clouds at higher altitudes are called **ALTOSTRATUS**.

**STRATOCUMULOUS:** they form a lumpy or patchy gray layer like a bunch of cumulous stuck together. **ALTOCUMULOUS** are similar puffy, rippled clouds higher up in the sky.

**NIMBOSTRATUS:** If it's a rainy gloomy day, you're probably under one of these clouds. They are mid-level, dark gray and usually cover the sky thickly enough to blot out the sun; they produce constant rain or snow.

**CUMULONIMBUS:** these are massive clouds which produce thunderstorms and often extend approximately 40,000 feet into the sky. Rain and ice begin to form in them, causing a dark grey color. They are dense and complex and may cause thunder, lightning, strong winds, heavy rain, hail and sometimes tornadoes.

**CIRRUS:** these are the highest clouds in the sky and are thin and wispy; they are made up entirely of tiny ice crystals and are formed by high winds that blow the ice crystals into strands.

**CIRROSTRATUS:** a thin layer of cloud that can cause the sun to have a halo.

**CIRROCUMULOUS:** small puffy clouds very high up in the sky which appear on sunny days.

*From "The New York Times" 7/25/ 2021*

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## OCTOBER IN HISTORY

**Submitted by Lois Kaish**

**October 1, 1908** - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

**October 1, 1938** - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia.

**October 1, 1949** - The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

**October 1, 1979** - After 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama.

**October 3, 1863** - President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

**October 3, 1974** - Frank Robinson was hired by the Cleveland Indians as baseball's first African American major league manager.

**October 3, 1990** - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited.

**October 4, 1957** - The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit.

**October 6, 1927** - The first "talkie," "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson opened in New York.

**October 6, 1928** - Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek became president of the Republic of China upon the introduction of a new constitution.

**October 6, 1973** - The Yom Kippur War started as Egypt and Syria launched attacks on Israeli positions on the East Bank of the Suez and the Golan Heights.

**October 6, 1981** - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (1918-1981) was assassinated in Cairo.

**October 7, 1985** - Palestinian terrorists seized the Italian passenger ship *Achille Lauro*, threatening to blow it up if Israel did not free 50 Palestinian prisoners. Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly wheelchair-bound American, was murdered.

**October 8, 1871** - The Great Fire of Chicago

**October 8, 1918** - During WWI in France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin C. York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132.

**October 8, 1993** - The U.N. General Assembly lifted economic sanctions against South Africa following the end of racial apartheid.

**October 12, 1492** - After a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas.

**October 13, 1775** - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

**October 13, 1884** - Greenwich, England was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

**October 14, 1947** - U.S. Air Force Capt. Chuck Yeager became the first to break the sound barrier.

**October 14, 1964** - Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

**October 16, 1701** - Yale University was founded in Killingworth, Connecticut.

**October 16, 1859** - Fanatical abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harper's Ferry with about 20 followers.

**October 16, 1916** - The first birth control clinic in America was opened in Brooklyn, New York, by Margaret Sanger.

**October 16, 1946** - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.

**October 16, 1995** - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

**October 17, 1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne and his army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.

**October 18, 1945** - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders.

**October 19, 1781** - The British Army, led by General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown. The war between  
**(Continued on Page 34)**

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## A FEW OF MURPHY'S OTHER LAWS

Submitted by Alene Kristal

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone in California would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
13. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
14. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

*From the Internet*

**Be grateful that no  
matter how much  
chocolate you eat  
your earrings  
will still fit!**

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## October in History (Continued from Page 33)

Britain and its American colonies was ended. The final peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783.

**October 21, 1879** - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, keeping it lit for over 13 hours.

**October 21, 1967** - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C.

**October 24, 1861** - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington.

**October 24, 1945** - The United Nations was founded.

**October 27, 1904** - The New York City subway began operating, running from City Hall to West 145th Street, the first underground and underwater rail system in the world.

**October 27, 1978** - The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

**October 28, 1636** - Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in America, was founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**October 28, 1886** - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

**October 28, 1919** - Prohibition began in the U.S.

**October 29, 1929** - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed in America, lasting until the outbreak of World War II.

**October 31, 1941** - Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work.

**October 31, 1984** - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated.



## BOOK TALKS

By Claire Deveney



Claire Deveney will lead a discussion of the next Book Talks meeting on “Anything is Possible” by Elizabeth Strout on Wednesday, October 20 at 2 p.m. in the clubhouse. Any change of location will be posted on channel 63. Strout is a #1 “New York Times” best-selling author and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for “Olive Kitteridge.”

Here’s what reviewers had to say about this book:

“In *Anything is Possible*, Elizabeth Strout explores the whole range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of people struggling to understand themselves and others. Here are two sisters: one trades self-respect for a wealthy husband while the other finds in the pages of a book a kindred spirit who changes her life. A grown daughter longs for mother love even as she comes to accept her mother’s happiness in a foreign country. And Lucy Barton returns to visit her siblings after 17 years of absence. ...*Anything is Possible* confirms Strout as one of our most grace-filled, and graceful writers.”  
--- *The Boston Globe*

“Strout is a master of the story cycle form...She paints cumulative portraits of the heartache and soul of small-town America.” --- *National Public Radio*

“This is a book that earns its title. Try reading it without tears, or wonder.” ---*USA Today*

“In her latest work, Strout achieves new levels of masterful storytelling.” ---*Publishers Weekly*

“Strout returns to the Midwestern hometown of her childhood, touching off a daisy-chain of stories narrated by those who knew her – memories of trauma and goodwill, resentments small and large, and the ever-widening gulf between haves and have-nots. Strout, always good, just keeps getting better.” ---*Vogue*

Next month’s Book Talks selection, “Only Time Will Tell” by Jeffrey Archer, will be presented by Allan Topolosky on Wednesday, November 17 at 2 p.m. in the clubhouse.

**(Continued on page 36)**

## NEWS AND VIEWS

By Bobbie Rosenfeld



What a busy and eventful summer the world has offered us. With so much change going on in America and in the world, there is too much to cover in detail in this article.

We spent a good bit of time discussing COVID-19 and the issues in Florida of schools and masking, especially the governor’s policy on punishing schools that fail to follow his rules on no-mask mandates. This issue continues to bounce around the courts. And, as we go to press, the death rates in Florida continue to climb.

The pullout from Afghanistan, and how it was conducted, had opinions flying. Lots of feelings came up on all sides, along with expressions of pain and sorrow. We also talked about infrastructure, and foreign issues from Cuba to Haiti to Israel. We mentioned the flights of Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos, and if and how such flights are important to mankind now. We discussed the confederate statues coming down (Robert E. Lee), and why being a confederate hero doesn’t make you an American hero. Another topic was the rise of anti-Semitism and white supremacy in Europe. We also took note of the job increase in July and August - some 850,000 jobs.

We touched on a number of trends and issues we saw emerging in the last few months, e.g., the census and the fact that there are now relatively fewer whites and how this might affect the political system; how college students have become addicted to online gaming; Simone Biles’ Olympic journey; the increase in evictions throughout the country and the future effects of this phenomenon; and we noted that psychedelics have now become mainstream.

We also looked at the limited respect Americans seem to have for our leaders – and how we are so divided and polarized. Speaking of leaders, we also commented on Israel’s new leader, Naftali Bennett, and the emerging news that Arab countries are moving toward doing business with Israel; no doubt, this will have major effects in the Arab world.

**(Continued on page 36)**

### PAP CORPS

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermak



Our 2021 Football Mania ticket sales have closed and now we await the excitement of the winners! Many, many thanks to Ed and Enid Gerard,

Ed Strauber and Jerry Elefson for all their hard work, and all our supporters whose ticket purchases made it such a successful event! We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming 17 weeks of winning ticket announcements.

The wine and hors d'oeuvres event scheduled for Thursday, October 28 in our clubhouse has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 27. We look forward to an event of delicious foods, continuous flowing wine and great entertainment without the concerns of COVID!

The Pap Corps continues to have a significant impact on South Florida and the cancer research community. Over the years, the Pap Corps has donated over \$110 million, including an historic 10-year \$50 million pledge to cancer research. Annually, the Pap Corps donates over \$3.6 million to Sylvester Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. All funds are used for groundbreaking cancer research and to bring in world-renowned cancer researchers to work on eradicating all forms of cancer. All the funds raised remain here locally and impact cancer patients in our own backyard. If you are currently a Pap member, we thank you for your support. If you are not, and would like to join our mission, please contact Stella Grottalio for further information.

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- Tribute Cards - Harriet Strauber and Nadine Ehrlich
- Donations - Fran Silling

With much appreciation for all you do.

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**Answers to the "Money Quiz" from page 30**

|| \$1 George Washington; \$5 Abraham Lincoln; \$10 Alexander Hamilton; \$20 Andrew Jackson; \$50 Ulysses S. Grant; \$100 Benjamin Franklin; \$500 William McKinley; \$1,000 President Grover Cleveland. ||

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### Book Talks (continued from page 35)

Majestic Isles Book Talks regularly meets the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the clubhouse, October through June. An email notice of the October meeting will be sent to 32 Book Talks members, as well as a reminder a day before the meeting with a link to Zoom, if that becomes necessary; you just have to click on the link to join the meeting. To add your name and email address to the list, please email [cdeveney@comcast.net](mailto:cdeveney@comcast.net). Contacts for Book Talks are Claire Deveney, cell: 561-504-3842, and Allan Topolosky: 301-335-2288.

### News and Views (Continued from page 35)

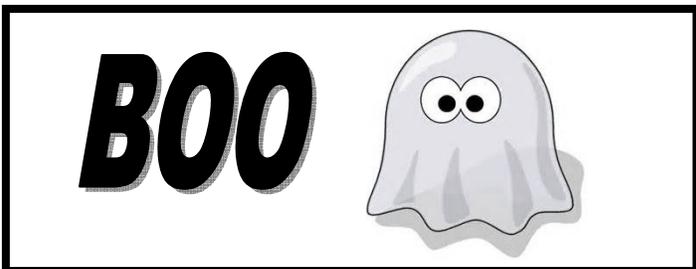
Our last major discussion relates to News and Views itself. We are considering some format and time changes, and whether to return to Zoom during this fraught time. We also feel that a review of our practices might be helpful. While we want a diversity of ideas and thoughts, some in our group seem to feel that questioning an idea implies a criticism of the person expressing that idea. More discussion on this subject clearly needs to take place. Please consider joining us to discuss things fully so our meetings can continue to inform us about all the ideas that abound in our community. There is always more to learn about each other and our world views. Look for Irene Solomon's emails for more information.

**TENNIS**

**By Marshall Deutsch**



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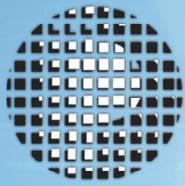
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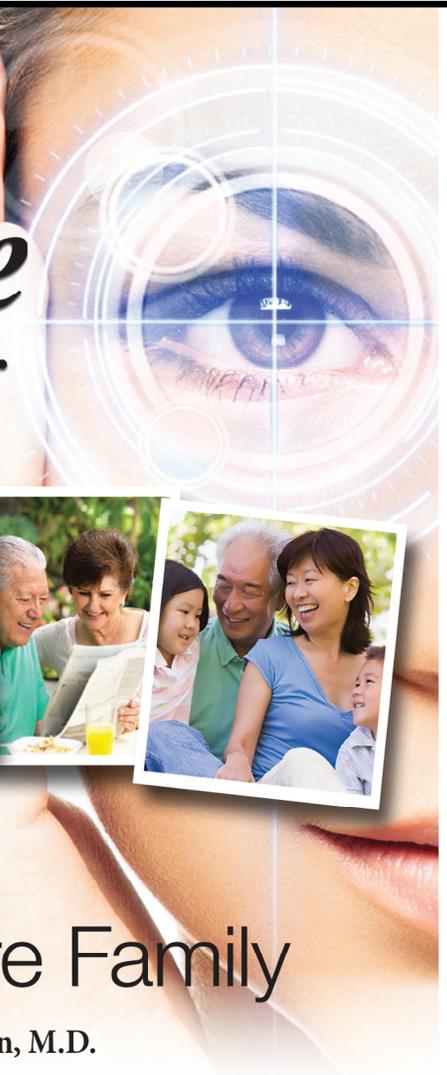
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