



Volume 25



Majestic Isles News

December 2021



Issue 3



Cover by Gail Shatzkamer

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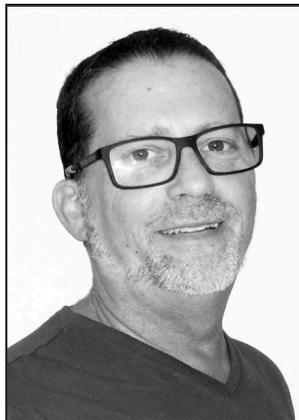
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**FINANCIAL
MANAGER**

Venita Ackerman

MANAGER'S CORNER

The budget was approved on October 20th, and copies will be mailed out soon to all residents. Coupons for 2022 HOA dues will also be mailed out to those who do not use the auto payment option.

A new air conditioner for the ballroom was approved by the Board and will be installed soon.

Since we instituted a new process for the annual election, I'd like to explain how this will work, and hopefully clarify any questions you may have. The Annual Meeting and announcement of the winners will be hosted electronically by Get Quorum on December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Residents had two choices on voting: electronically, through Get Quorum, or by a paper ballot you should have received in the mail. If you have not registered with Get Quorum to cast your ballot, you cannot change your voting choice at this time and must use the paper ballot.

Electronic voting: Two emails were sent out by Get Quorum on November 9th; each labeled the sender as "The Board of Directors of Majestic Isles." The first email had some errors in it, so please ignore it and use the email that was sent at 3:40 p.m.

This email had two portions. The first registers you for the online annual meeting, and the second is your ballot. You can vote at any time before the meeting. Or, if you'd rather, you will be able to vote live at the meeting on December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you missed the first email, you should have received a reminder email from Get Quorum.

Paper ballots: These were mailed out to all residents. If you are voting by paper ballot, you must submit it by 1 p.m. on December 9th. For those people who are wondering why we ended paper ballot voting hours before the start of the meeting, it is so we can submit the ballots to Get Quorum prior to the 6 p.m. meeting and complete the tally before the meeting starts. These paper ballots will be counted by a committee of five residents. If you voted with a paper ballot, you will be able to attend the online meeting by phone.

The electronic voting system is a new process for us all, and we are all learning together. If you have any questions about the election procedure, including how to vote via Get Quorum, please call us and we'll help you.

Thank you.

Jay Peskoff, Property Manager

Email: jpeskoff@castlegroup.com

Phone: 561-734-8738

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Edinger

The election for the Board of Directors takes place on Dec. 9th. I hope you participate by casting your ballot, whether electronically or on paper.

I would like to share with you the way our community, surrounded by so many new ones, maintains its value. The first thing someone sees is the landscaping on both the communal areas and the homes owned by everyone in the association; the visual appeal makes it apparent that this community cares. Also, the lighting in the evening on each street uses the latest LED technology, and each homeowner has been asked to leave their outdoor lighting on in the evening as a safety measure to curtail possible criminal activity. Our grounds contain three tennis courts, two pickle ball courts and two shuffle ball courts. We have a decent size outdoor pool that is cooled by refrigeration during the dog days of summer. We provide our residents with exercise (at no cost to participants) five days a week at the pool and indoors as well.

As to our clubhouse, which the community completely refurbished about two years ago, let me share the following. Within the clubhouse, we have a large entertainment room where lectures, movies, live shows, and New Year's Eve are four examples of the events that are planned for 2022. The room has a stage, stage lighting, and a modern sound booth. Off premises activities are in the planning stages and may include a boat ride or a trip to a casino.

Continuing down the first floor we have two rooms with tables and chairs to play Mah Jongg, cards, or sit and talk. There are two gyms, one for cardio and the other for weights. Mens' and ladies' rooms contain the usual facilities and a sauna and steam bath opening on or around December 1st. The property manager and the assistant property manager occupy the offices to complete the floor layout.

Moving to the second floor, reached by elevator or stairs, is a large room designated as a poker room. In addition, there is an Arts & Crafts room containing three kilns, a billiard room with two tables, bathrooms and a room for solitude,

designated as a library, with books to borrow or where residents can add to the collection on the shelves.

We are committed to Majestic Isles being a vibrant community, so we are asking both old and new residents to submit ideas of activities, new clubs, or anything that would bring people out to share experiences with other members of the community.

We charge residents one of the lowest annual dues in the surrounding area, if not the lowest. The Board never lets anything go in disrepair, maintains the grounds, and keeps our homes, considering their age, at the highest resale prices that can be realized.

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 up copies for your homebound neighbors! **SNOWBIRDS** can also find the current issue at MajesticIsles.com under the heading "Newsletter," and past issues are available for your enjoyment through the resident portal on the website.

FYI

Submitted by Jerry Fefferman

Effective October 24, 2021, MANDATORY 10-digit local dialing is required for all customers in the following area codes: 321 (Brevard County only), 352, 561 and 941. Necessary dialing changes for alarm customers in these area codes must be completed by October 24, 2021.



MI ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

By Steve Berry

Our first event, the Diamond/Streisand concert was a sellout. Everyone enjoyed a great show. During our last committee meeting, there were many suggestions, and below is a preliminary schedule of events we're planning. Some of the events are set and others are tentative, pending finalizing and scheduling. Details will be forthcoming. Here's what's on the slate as of now (for more details, see page 9):

New Year's Eve 2021: We're almost sold out with just a few seats available as of press time.

Sunday Music By The Pool (no charge)

November 14th: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with *Dan Murphy*

January 16th: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with *Bernie Daigle*

March 27th: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with *Warren Hill*

Movie Night At The Majestic Isles Cinema

Saturday, December 4th at 8:00 p.m. "Respect" – about *Aretha Franklin*, starring *Jennifer Hudson*

Other Planned Events - 2022:

Wednesday, January 5th: *Casino Outing*

Wednesday, January 19th: *Food Truck Event* (tentative)

Sunday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.: *Musical Bingo*

Sunday, February 6th at 7:30 p.m.: "The *Motowners*"

Sunday, February 13th: *Super Bowl Party*

Sunday, February 27th: *Intracoastal Boat Cruise*

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m.: Lecture by Dr. Robert Watson, a renowned presidential historian.

Sunday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m.: Live show, *Musical Memories* (tentative)

The committee is planning events to fill in the calendar with a diversity of entertainment. Our goal is to appeal to as many residents as possible. We welcome all suggestions.



2021 MAJESTIC ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Jaffie snailsny@aol.com	1 st V.P.
Suzanne Skinner Garsuz89@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Jerry Ehrlich bronxguy1695@gmail.com	2 nd V.P.
Alan Stevens adstevens.ta@aol.com	Secretary
Ellen Nelson ellenelson@aol.com	Member-at-large
Joel Cohen jocoh11@aol.com	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 Freiberger Sally Galan
Insurance	Ken Keller
New Neighbors	Maddy Rosen

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

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH OUR WEBSITE

Submitted by **Gail Shatzkamer**
and **Alene Kristal**

Our website has been up and running for almost a year, yet a number of residents are still unfamiliar with it and how it operates. So we've put together a refresher on how to stay current on events and information in our community via the website.

On your laptop, desktop or phone, go to MajesticIsles.com. Once there, you will see a number of options to click on; the titles are self-explanatory. For example, if you click on Newsletter, you will find the latest copy of the "MI News;" the previous nine issues are available under the Residents' Portal.

In order for you to gain access to the Residents' Portal, you will have to submit a one-time sign up. You will receive an e-mail with your confirmation in reply, and thereafter you simply log in with your password.

If you click on "Contact," you will be able to electronically submit a request for additional information.

The Residents' Portal contains several sections you can access:

(1) Calendar - a schedule of events, meetings, etc. for the current and upcoming months;

(2) Weekly update, Newsletter and Channel 63. For the latter, you can scroll through at you own pace or, if you prefer, continue seeing it on TV; clicking on Newsletter will allow you to see the previous nine issues;

(3) Contact Forms: Electronically submit requests for work/maintenance, messages to the board of directors, general questions and suggestions and if there is a change in any of your information. You can expect a response within 24 hours (excluding holidays and weekends);

(4) Clubs, Committees & Activities: A listing with a contact person and phone number.

Also accessible under this section are MI Rules & Regulations, Board and Management contact information and an ARC Application.

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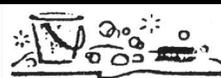
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BASEBALL FUN FACTS (1946-1968)

By Steve Berry



This is a continuation of last month's column. Here are some more goodies I found in the book, "The Great Baseball Players." When it was published, it included only those who played through 1968.

Paul "Big Poison" Waner

(1926-45): An all time leader in hangovers. When asked how he was ever able to hit the ball, he replied "I see three and hit the one in the middle."

Joe "Ducky" Medwick (1932-48): Playing for the Cardinals in the '34 World Series at Detroit, he hit a triple. While sliding into third, the fielder spiked him, resulting in a fight. When he returned to left field, the Tiger fans threw trash, lemons, tomatoes and heads of lettuce. Ducky said he knew why they threw stuff at him. He just couldn't figure out why they brought that stuff to the ballpark.

Johnny Vander Meer (1937-51): Playing for Cincinnati, he pitched back-to-back no hitters. He was the only player in history to accomplish that feat.

Luke Appling (1930-50): Played for the White Sox. Before a game in Washington, he asked owner Clark Griffith for a couple of free passes for his family but was turned down. To get even, during his first at bat, he fouled off the first 24 pitches thrown to him knowing that baseballs cost \$2.50 each, and then said, "That'll take care of the cheap SOB."

Phil Cavarretta (1934-55): Playing for the Cubs and White Sox, he is the only player ever to play against both Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron.

Joe "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio (1936-51): A lot can be said about Joe. Casey Stengel said it best. "Joe never threw to a wrong base in his career. And he was thrown out trying to take an extra base only once ... and the umpire was wrong on that one. He made the rest of the players look like plumbers." Said as only Casey can say.

Ken Keltner (1937-50): As a third baseman, he put an end to Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak. He fielded two screaming liners down the line and threw Joe out. Also, he was the first player to apply for unemployment insurance during the off-season.

Pete Gray (1945): An outfielder who only played in 77 games, all for the St. Louis Browns. He batted .277. What's the big deal? He only had one arm.

Pete Reiser (1940-52): A great hitter, but one of the unluckiest: 11 times carried off the field on a stretcher; in '42 he smashed into a wall and woke up in a St. Louis hospital. Two days later he singled in a winning run only to fall on his face rounding first and had to be carried off; in '47 while playing for the Dodgers, he ran into another wall and was paralyzed for 10 days; in the '47 World Series he fractured his ankle. Manager Leo Durocher said of him, "Reiser might have been the best ballplayer I ever saw. He had everything ... but luck."

Leroy "Satchel" Paige (1948-65): First pitched in the Negro League where records were not kept. Believe it or not, here are some "guesstimates": made 2,500 appearances in as many as 125 games per year, sometimes five to seven times a week. He won somewhere around 2,000 games and 50 to 100 were no hitters. In 1965 at age 59, playing for Charlie Finley's KC Athletics, he became the oldest man ever to play the game.

Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra (1946-65): Enough said.

Don Larsen (1953-67): Pitched for the Yankees in game two of the 1956 World Series. Staked to a six run lead, he gave up four walks and one hit in one plus innings and Casey gave him the hook. He came back after three days rest for game six and, as they say, the rest was history. He pitched the only perfect game in WS history.

Joe Nuxhall (1944-66): Just seven weeks shy of his 16th birthday, he is the youngest player ever to appear in a game.

Larry Jansen (1947-56): Remember the "Shot Heard Round the World" when Bobby Thompson's homer won the 1951 playoffs for the Giants, beating

(Continued on Page 11)



SAVE THE DATES



UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

(Flyers with more details available in the clubhouse)

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, December 4th: 8:00

"Respect"

Story of Aretha Franklin

Starring Jennifer Hudson

Admission: \$3 Pay at Door

Includes soft drink & snacks

Guests welcome!



MUSICAL BINGO

Sunday, January 23rd at 7:00

Admission: \$10 pp

20 Prizes: \$5 scratch off lottery tickets

Create your own tables of 8

First come, first served!

Guests welcome!



NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Friday, December 31st: 8:00

Still some seats available

\$65 pp

Guests are welcome

Pick up invitations in clubhouse



"THE MOTOWNERS"

Sunday, February 6th: 7:30

Live performance with

10 singers & musicians

All your favorite Motown songs

From the 60s & 70s

Admission: \$35 pp

Residents only until December 15th

After that date guests are welcome



CASINO OUTING

Wednesday, January 5th

Isle Casino, Pompano Park

Bus leaves 10:00 am

Returns 4:00 pm

Cost: \$25 pp

Get \$15 Free Play



SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 13th at 5:30

Enjoy the game (and ads) with

Friends and neighbors

BYOB & Food

MI supplies soft drinks & snacks

Admission: \$5 pp

Reserve tables...Guests welcome



FOOD TRUCK EVENT (Tentative)

Wednesday, January 19th at 5:30

Taste a variety of foods

Trucks will be in

clubhouse parking lot

Dine with friends in the ballroom



INTRACOASTAL CRUISE (Tentative)

Sunday, February 27th

Enjoy a casual waterway cruise

Cost: TBD

This event was a big hit in the past



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Baseball (Continued from Page 8)

the Dodgers? Everyone remembers the pitcher who threw the ball - Ralph Branca. The winning pitcher? Larry Jansen!

Vic Wertz (1947-63): Playing for the Cleveland Indians in game one of the 1954 World Series against the NY Giants, he hit a 489 foot shot to deep center in the Polo Grounds. Sprinting towards the deepest part of the field, Willie Mays caught the ball over his head with fully extended arms. Without stopping, he swirled around and threw the ball back to the infield. The play is simply known as "The Catch."

Gus Zernial (1949-59): Who? Famous for introducing Joe DiMaggio to Marilyn Monroe. It's better than being known for nothing.

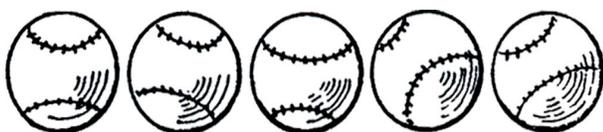
Eddie Mathews (1952-68): In 1953, he became the first cover of "Sports Illustrated." The only player to play for all three Brave franchises (Boston, Milwaukee and Atlanta).

Dale Long (1951-63): In 1956, he became the first player to hit homers in eight consecutive games. Joined only by two other players: Don Mattingly (1987) and Ken Griffey Jr. (1993).

Harvey Haddix (1952-65): In 1959, he pitched a perfect 12 innings. 36 men up, 36 men down. BUT ... he gave up an unearned run in the 13th and lost the game.

Mickey Mantle (1951-68): We remember his bad legs. But when he first started, he had speed to burn - going from home to first in 3.1 seconds. In 1951 he was inserted into the World Series. In the fifth inning of game two, while playing center, he stepped into a drainage ditch, wrenching his right knee. His speed was never the same.

This book is chock full of real, mind-blowing plays and stats as well as some of the most memorable, or not so memorable, plays.



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A PENNY SAVED

By Phyllis Cohen

If you are a music lover, you may be familiar with a sprightly piano piece by Beethoven entitled, "The Rage Over a Lost Penny." This agitated rondo was probably named to indicate the frenzy and urgency of someone searching for a misplaced cent piece. Nowadays, no one would find the title meaningful. Maybe if we called the movement "The rage over my lost investments with Bernie Madoff," or "The rage over the falling value of my house," we would generate some interest. After all, who cares about a lost penny? In fact, is there anything one could do with a penny or two, short of using it to pay some odd amount on a purchase?

It's true that growing up in the dark ages years ago you could use a penny or two and actually get something. There was still penny candy and gumballs into the 1940s vending machines that accepted pennies, and the proverbial "two-cents plain," a glass of unflavored seltzer supposedly available on New York's Lower East Side. You could weigh yourself for a penny on a scale in my father's drug store and buy penny post cards or two wooden kitchen matches to go with a single cigarette (that cost another penny or two).

All of this reminiscing is by way of introduction to my tale of my two-cent investment account at a major investing firm. Four or five years ago my husband closed out a brokerage account and between the timing of the closing and the writing of the check for the account balance, two cents accrued in the account. Two cents, rather irrelevant you would think. But don't forget who is managing your account. Not a human being who says, "Aha, let's clean this account up." No, it's a computer program that reads the information as an active, open account. Thus, for the last five years, a monthly account statement was generated, along with annual reports, updates on investment requirements, and distribution regulations. I figure that it cost the company \$500 or so over the last few years to mail us this information. A few weeks ago I came across these current statements and decided to speak to the account reps.

Now the only thing funnier than getting a monthly statement for two cents is trying to close an account containing two cents. If Jay Leno had performed the sketch of my closing of the account, NBC would have renewed his contract. The investment company wanted to deal only with the account owner, my husband, who is a bigger jokester than I am. He wanted a check for the two cents, something they were prepared to do. Would our bank accept a two-cent check, I wondered, or would it bounce back and involve another insane situation? I have to admit my husband was jerking the account representative around, so he promised not to cash the check -- but that would mean the account would still be open. I took over the discussion. And back we went to square one. Before the company would talk to me about the two-cent account, I had to provide all of the account security information, have my husband verify that I could speak on his behalf, and repeat everything on a recorded line. Turns out that we could just close the account and they had a charitable account into which they would deposit those two cents. (I restrained myself from requesting that they would save money by paying me to close the account.) Wheh! I was really worried about it by that time. With my three kids as beneficiaries, I could just envision the fights over the distribution.

Of course, the story is not over yet. We haven't received the closed account statement, but I am willing to bet that for the next year or, so we are going to be bombarded with letters addressed to "Dear valued client," urging us to reopen our account or to reconsider closing it. But more frightening is the thought that for five years, only the computer was monitoring this account. If some unscrupulous employee or hacker was looting idle accounts, no one would know, as long as a few cents was left in it. Didn't I see George Clooney do a movie like that?



MOVIES AND STREAMING

By Joan Sorkin



“News of the World” on *HBO* stars Tom Hanks as an ex-Confederate soldier forced to accompany a young girl over the Texas plains.

“American Rust” on *Showtime* is an interesting study of a police chief who has to decide whether to protect the son of the woman he loves or determine that he is guilty of murder.

“Maid” on *Netflix* is a true story of a single mother who turns to housecleaning to survive as she escapes an abusive relationship. The series is based on Stephanie Land's diaries.

“Everyone's Talking 'Bout Jaime” on *Prime* follows a young English gay boy who wants to be a drag queen.

“Yara” is an Italian movie on *Netflix*. It is about a missing girl in a small town and how DNA helps find her killer. This is also based on a true story.

“Minari,” on *Prime*, is a very slow-moving Korean movie for which Youn Yuh-jung won a best supporting actress award. It tells the story of a Korean American family who relocate to Arkansas in the 1980s to farm the land amid many hardships.

“Te Ata” on *Netflix* is a lovely story of a Choctaw Indian girl who is determined to keep her Indian culture alive and travels the United States to entertain with her native dances and stories. She attracts the attention of Eleanor Roosevelt and goes to the White House at the invitation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

“The Food Club” on *Prime* tells the adventures of three Danish older women vacationing at an Italian cooking school.

These are my picks for the month. I hope you



VIEW FROM ATOP A CAT TREE

By Winnie and Misha K



We were looking around our room (Mom calls it her office, but it's really our room) and noticed all

these toys around that we are just not interested in. Being cats, we're naturally picky, and we're very picky about what toys we play with. These uninteresting items are cluttering up what is really not a terribly large room – taking up space we could be using for play fighting or naps or cuddling together. So we asked Mom if she knew any cats who might like to play with these (*&#*) toys, and, after thinking about it, she said she did. In fact, she was scheduled to visit them (they're named Ian and Toula) and their mom Lynne the following week.

Mom said when she got to their apartment in Ft. Lauderdale, Toula and Ian hid for a while. After all, they hadn't seen Mom in over two years, so that's no surprise. But eventually Ian came out into the living room, where he and Toula have a playground on a carpet in front of the TV. Their mom Lynne put the new toys on their carpet and Ian started investigating them. After all, they did have our scent on them, so that was an issue he had to overcome. There was another cat mom there (Sadie's mom Linda) and Linda thought Sadie might like one of the toys Mom had brought, so she put it in her bag to take home.

After exploring for a bit, Ian decided he really liked his new toys and thought they were a fine addition to his playground. He especially liked the domed bed we can't use - it's too small for us. We are, after all, big guys, although many males of our breed are much bigger than we are. Anyway, Toula being a regular sized cat, crawled right in and made himself comfy.

It's been a few weeks now, and Mom told us that Toula has started playing with the new toys too and Sadie is enjoying her new one. Ian loves the domed bed. So I guess we did a mitzvah, right? Oh, and here's something weird that Mom reported. Lynne liked the toys because they matched her décor. Really???

COOKING CORNER

By Gloria Steingart



FRESH MANGO SALSA

- 4 ripe mangos, peeled and sliced
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 1 small fresh onion, minced
- 1 large red/orange bell pepper, chopped
- 1 green jalapeno (optional)
- 1-2 tbs fresh cilantro
- 2 tsp fresh lemon or lime juice
- 1 tbs sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder

Mix all ingredients together.
Serve with tortilla chips

AVOCADO CORN SALSA

- 1/2 avocado, diced
- 1/2 cup thawed frozen corn kernels
- 1 plum tomato, chopped
- 2 tsp chopped fresh cilantro
- lime juice
- salt

Combine the avocado, corn, tomato and cilantro in a bowl and stir to combine, sprinkle with lime juice and season with salt to taste.

Enjoy!

NOTABLE DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Submitted by Lois Kaish

- December 2 Georges Seurat (1859-1891)
- December 3 Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)
- December 5 Walt Disney (1901-1966)
- December 6 Alfred Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)
- December 7 Marie Tussaud (1761-1850)
- December 8 Eli Whitney (1765-1825)
- December 8 Diego Rivera (1886-1957)
- December 8 James Thurber (1894-1961)
- December 10 Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
- December 11 Fiorello H. LaGuardia (1882-1947)
- December 12 Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880)
- December 13 Mary Todd Lincoln (1818-1882)
- December 14 Nostradamus (1503-1566)
- December 14 James Doolittle (1896-1993)
- December 15 Alexandre Eiffel (1832-1923)
- December 16 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
- December 16 Jane Austen (1775-1817)
- December 16 Margaret Mead (1901-1978)
- December 17 John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
- December 21 Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)
- December 21 Josef Stalin (1879-1953)
- December 22 Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
- December 22 "Lady Bird" Johnson (1912-2007)
- December 23 Joseph Smith (1805-1844)
- December 23 Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989)
- December 24 Christopher "Kit" Carson (1809-1868)
- December 24 Howard Hughes (1905-1976)
- December 25 Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
- December 25 Clara Barton (1821-1912)
- December 25 Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957)
- December 26 Mao Tse-Tung (1893-1976)
- December 27 Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)
- December 27 Marlene Dietrich (1901-1992)
- December 28 Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)
- December 29 Pablo Casals (1876-1973)
- December 30 Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)
- December 30 Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)
- December 31 George C. Marshall (1880-1959)

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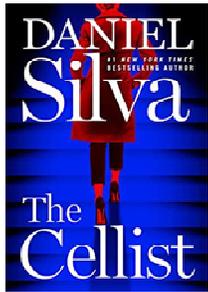
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“THE CELLIST” BY DANIEL SILVA

By Stan Kaish



Daniel Silva has been publishing books involving Israeli spymaster Gabriel Allon annually for twenty-one years. This year’s offering, “The Cellist,” kept to his mid-summer planned release date, but it was close. He tells us in an author’s note that the book was

nearly complete when the events of January 6 took place. “I resolved to include the near death of American democracy in my story of Russia’s relentless war on the West. I jettisoned my existing ending and rewrote much of my manuscript in a span of six weeks.” I don’t know what his planned ending was; the one he uses is most dramatic.

But let’s go back to the beginning of the story. Gabriel’s pal Victor Orlov is found dead at his desk in London. The white foam on his mouth and chin suggests poison and it turns out that papers he was reviewing were contaminated with Novichok, a Russian nerve agent. Orlov had been a Russian oligarch controlling steel and oil interests. Stripped of these by the President, he had become a mogul in publishing and one of his magazines, “Moskovskaya Gazeta,” is described as “a thorn in the side of the men in the Kremlin.” Hence, a motive to kill him.

Since Orlov saved Gabriel one day in a book gone by, he feels compelled to avenge him. Enter the title character, The Cellist, aka Isabel Brenner. Isabel is of a breed that is abundantly present in Silva’s novels: beautiful, brilliant and talented. But for a change, she’s not Jewish but German. She plays the cello with the skill of a concert soloist but passed on the opportunity to pursue artistic performance as a career and instead earned a degree in mathematics (at which she excelled) at Berlin’s Humboldt University and a master’s degree at the London School of Economics. She worked in the Zurich office of RhineBank AG, known to all as the world’s dirtiest bank. It earned this reputation primarily from its skill at turning tainted money into clean through an office known as The Russian Laundromat. And Isabel knows who killed Victor Orlov. She shares this information with Gabriel Allon.

Gabriel hatches a complicated scheme, far too complicated to describe here, that is designed to induce the killer to get involved in some highly profitable but illegal investments that, when exposed, will ruin him. Of course, the killer needs convincing and that is where Isabel the cellist comes in. Her connection to RhineBank gives her financial smarts. Her cello playing gives her musical smarts. And of course, her beauty and sex appeal make the killer smart, but in a dumb way. He craves an intimate relationship with Isabel.

The book could comfortably end with the killer’s financial downfall and just desserts, but there is the January 6 insurrection left to deal with. Silva handles it in two ways. As mentioned, he alters the story’s ending to embrace the influence America’s Presidential election controversy could have on his plot.

But more meaningful to me is his Author’s Note in which he makes the usual disclaimer that any relationship between his characters and real people is purely coincidental and then, in considerable detail, offers likenesses between the corrupt RhineBank in his story and Deutsche Bank in real life. In the novel, an unnamed American president is impeached twice but not convicted and falsely claims the election was stolen from him. He inspires an insurrection, telling his followers “they had to show strength and fight like hell.” In the Author’s Note, Silva spells out Trump’s activities and details the contents of the Mueller report. Let’s just say that the author’s political views are pretty clear, and many likenesses seem far from coincidental. Either because of, or in spite of these biases, I am pretty sure you will enjoy “The Cellist.”

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FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS

By Elaine Jay



Red-Bellied

Woodpecker: We have wood-peckers here in Majestic Isles! In October, I caught sight of one, quarreling with a mockingbird, in a tree outside a neighbor's home. I had never seen this bird before. Not here. Not anywhere.

And, from the photo above, you can see that it makes quite an impression.

Standing 9.5 inches tall, with a wingspan of 17 inches, and weighing 2 to 3 ounces, the red-bellied woodpecker can be found year-round in the entire eastern half of the United States. From my research I've discovered that woodpeckers are rather remarkable! Here are some surprising facts that I've learned about them.

Red-bellied woodpeckers have strange feet. Most woodpeckers have feet with three toes facing forward and one toe back. But the red-bellied bird is zygodactylous, which means that they have two toes facing forward and two toes facing back. This setup allows them to easily climb or descend a tree trunk by vertically hopping, using their toes and strong tails for support. This is called "hitching" and also allows for sideward movement. They prefer to descend a tree tail first and head upright. No extra climbing equipment required!

Woodpeckers are drummers. If you've ever had a woodpecker living or nesting nearby, you know it. While their calls (*kwirr* sounds) are not exceptional, their drumming can definitely get your attention. This is the woodpecker equivalent of singing. Males drum steadily in early spring to claim their territory and to attract a mate. They will drum on hollow limbs, gutters, siding, utility poles or any other resonant material. Several years ago, one errant male selected a decorative column outside our clubhouse. He definitely succeeded in being heard and in making dents in the metal!

These birds don't get concussions. Even after all their head banging, how do woodpeckers survive

pecking every day, 19 times per second, 8,000 to 12,000 pecks per day? When the bird's beak strikes, its head stops moving at about 1,200 times the force of gravity (g). The NFL says that football players' concussions occur at 80 g. How can woodpeckers survive these repeated impacts?

Woodpeckers have impact-absorbing adaptations that other birds do not have. This includes thick spongy bone in the skull, strong neck muscles, beaks and tongue bones! In addition, they have less internal fluid surrounding the brain which helps limit the motion of the brain during impact. It's as if their skulls come equipped with a "crash helmet."

Woodpeckers have very long tongues for their overall size. The red-bellied birds can extend their tongue nearly three times the length of their beak. In addition, the tip of their tongue is barbed and sticky, making it easier for them to grab prey from deep crevices in trees.

When a woodpecker retracts its tongue, it is so long that it coils around the back of the skull inside the head. In fact, the tongue and its muscle actually start in the nostrils. It separates at the eyes and its two arms wrap completely around the woodpecker's skull, over the top and around back, joining again at the base of the lower beak. During drilling, this retracted tongue helps to cushion the woodpeckers' brain against the incredible g force of each peck. Materials scientists have actually been studying woodpeckers' skull anatomy to help researchers develop better protective head gear for humans!

They have excellent hearing. They can hear the sound of insects moving and chewing in the wood of a tree and know where to start pecking to get at their meal. Their diet is varied, dining mainly on insects and spiders, but also acorns, nuts and seeds. They will often store this food in cracks in trees and fence posts for a meal later in the year.

Woodpeckers have built in nose and eye protection. Special feathers cover their nostrils to prevent dust and splinters of wood from getting in. Bristly feathers surround their eyes. And retractable, translucent nictitating membranes protect their eyes like goggles!

(Continued on Page 23)

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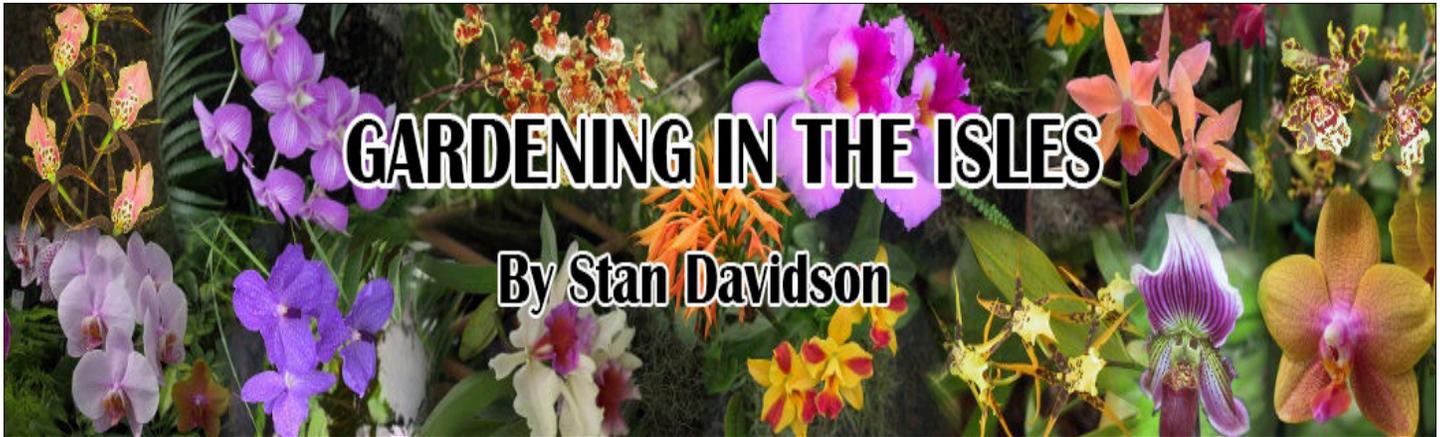


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Several plants in Majestic Isles show signs of dying from storm damage, pests, and diseases. These include many Areca palms located along Imperial Seas Boulevard and along the west side of our pool. These palms provide excellent privacy, security and mitigation of noise level. However, several Areca palms have succumbed to a fungal disease and have had to be removed. A successful replacement plant for the damaged/dying Areca palms is a shrub called *Clusia guttifer*, which, if properly trained and attended to, can achieve a height of 25 feet or more. Its thick and leathery foliage will add privacy and noise reduction wherever it is planted as a hedge.

The *Clusia* is a popular hedge (see photo below) in tropical countries and grows well in our south Florida climate. The plant produces healthy glossy foliage all year round in full sun exposure for six to eight hours daily. The plant requires regular irrigation to keep the roots hydrated so the plant can thrive in the heat and full sun. *Clusia* can tolerate some partial shade and is drought tolerant. However, regular irrigation is preferred to keep the roots hydrated.

Fertile soil with good drainage is the best soil for growth and retaining good soil moisture is essential. The first year of planting, irrigate at least twice a week.

In the Majestic Isles Zone 10 growing season, the minimum outdoor temperature that the plant will tolerate is usually between 30 degrees and 45 degrees. *Clusia* grows best in humidity over 50%.

For a fast-growing privacy fence, the shrubs should be planted about five feet apart to leave enough space between the shrubs to allow the thick leathery plant foliage to spread out and flourish.

Will pests or disease affect the health of this plant? Generally, the *Clusia* is free from plant diseases. The plant is very hardy, as long as it has full sun or partial shade. Some scale insect infestation can occur, but can be easily controlled with an oil-based insecticide.

Residents can observe a hedge of *Clusia* growing on the left side of our gated pool entrance.



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Woodpeckers (Continued from Page 18)

Woodpeckers' beaks don't wear down. Despite a lifetime of pecking, their chisel shaped beak remains intact. Their beak cells regenerate on a continual basis, so they can survive, eat and nest during their 4 to 12-year life span.

Woodpeckers are monogamous throughout the breeding season. Preferring to make their nests in dead trees or dead limbs of live trees, occasionally the same pair may nest in the same tree year after year. However, mating pairs typically excavate a new cavity each year, placing the new one beneath the previous year's nest!

Woodpeckers recycle. They lay their eggs on the bed of wood chips left over after excavation. When nesting, males choose the site first and begin the work. They then try to attract a female by calling and tapping on the wood around or inside the cavity. When a female accepts, she taps along with the male and helps to finish the job.

Red-bellied woodpeckers are solitary creatures.

During breeding season, though, you may see pairs or several individuals together. If you do, feel knowledgeable by referring to them as a "descent" of woodpeckers.

They really do have a (faint) red belly. Many American woodpeckers have some red on their heads. The "red-headed" woodpecker's entire head is red. But our "red-bellied" species has a red cap and faint blush-colored smudges on its chest and belly. You just have to catch sight of these birds in flight to spy the pale red coloring!

In doing research for these bird articles, I've been awed by the variety, beauty and complexity of birds. I hope that you have been as well. Today we are approaching a critical juncture. In the last 50 years, North America has lost nearly 3 billion birds, a decline of 29 percent. Scientifically speaking, birds are considered "indicator species", animals used to infer the health of the entire ecosystem. They need our protection and our help now so that future generations may also hear their songs and gaze in wonder at the beauty of birds on the wing.

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DECEMBER IN HISTORY

Submitted by Lois Kaish

December 1, 1919 – Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman in the British House of Commons

December 1, 1942 - Nationwide gasoline rationing goes into effect in U.S.

December 1, 1955 - Rosa Parks sets off a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama

December 2, 1939 - New York's LaGuardia Airport opens

December 3, 1967 – World's first heart transplant in South Africa

December 4, 1998-International Space Station Assembly begins

December 5, 1933 - Prohibition comes to an end

December 6, 1865 – The 13th Amendment to the U.S. constitution was ratified abolishing slavery

December 6, 1877 – At his laboratory in West Orange, NJ, Thomas Edison demonstrated his newly invented phonograph

December 7, 1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbor

December 8, 1941 - US enters World War II

December 10, 1948 - Universal Declaration on Human Rights by United Nations

December 11, 1936 - King Edward VIII abdicates to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson

December 11, 1946 - UNICEF established

December 11, 1997 - 150 countries at a global warming conference agree to Kyoto Protocol

December 12, 1901 - Marconi sends first wireless transmission over 2000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from Poldhu in Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada

December 13, 2003 - Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. forces at a farmhouse in Adwar

December 14, 1972 - Last Men to Walk on the Moon

December 15, 1939 – “Gone With The Wind” premieres

December 15, 1944 - Glenn Miller killed in a plane crash

December 17, 1903 - Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful man-powered airplane flight

December 19, 1997 - The movie “Titanic” opened in American theaters

December 19, 2008 - General Motors and Chrysler bailed out

December 21, 1913 - First Crossword puzzle published in “New York World”

December 23, 1947 - Bell Labs demonstrates the world's first transistor radio

December 23, 2006 - United Nations Security Council unanimously imposed sanctions against Iran over its failure to halt uranium enrichment with Resolution 1737

December 24, 1865 - A group of Confederate veterans convenes to form the secret society, the “Ku Klux Klan”

December 24, 1968 - Apollo 8 orbits the moon, becoming the first manned space mission to achieve the feat

December 24, 2009 - The Senate passes health care reform bill

December 26, 1947 - A severe snowstorm covers the northeastern part of the U. S., burying New York City under 25.8 inches of snow in 16 hours

December 27, 1932 - Radio City Music Hall opened in New York City

December 28, 1945 - US Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

December 30, 2006 - Saddam Hussein hanged in northern Baghdad for crimes against humanity

December 31, 1879 – Thomas Edison's first demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, NJ

A LITTLE SILLINESS GOES A LONG WAY

Submitted by Alene Kristal

My oldest and dearest friend had a motto she lived by: "a day without silliness is a day wasted." So, in her honor, I present some silliness to brighten your day. It's a poem by Lewis Carroll from "Alice in Wonderland."

From the Internet

The Walrus and the Carpenter

The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright -
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done -
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun."

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No birds were flying overhead -
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:
"If this were only cleared away,"
They said, "it *would* be grand!"

If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year,
Do you suppose," the Walrus said,
"That they could get it clear?"
"I doubt it," said the Carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear.

"O Oysters, come and walk with us!"
The Walrus did beseech.

"A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,
Along the briny beach:
We cannot do with more than four,
To give a hand to each."

The eldest Oyster looked at him,
But never a word he said:
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,
And shook his heavy head -
Meaning to say he did not choose
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat -
And this was odd, because, you know,
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,
And yet another four;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more, and more, and more -
All hopping through the frothy waves,
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Walked on a mile or so,
And then they rested on a rock
Conveniently low:
And all the little Oysters stood
And waited in a row.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes - and ships - and sealing-wax -
Of cabbages - and kings -
And why the sea is boiling hot -
And whether pigs have wings."

"But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,
"Before we have our chat;
For some of us are out of breath,
And all of us are fat!"
"No hurry!" said the Carpenter.
They thanked him much for that.

(Continued on Page 30)



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THANKSGIVING – A HISTORY LESSON – BEYOND THE MYTHS

Submitted by Alene Kristal

The truth we should have been taught. Part one. Yes, by the time you read this, the holiday will have passed, but it's still worth thinking about.

The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves by the term "Pilgrims." They referred to themselves as "saints." The use of the name Pilgrim came from a statement made by William Bradford upon the travelers' departure on their journey from Leiden. He stated "they knew they were pilgrims" meaning they were on a journey with a religious or moral purpose. Reference to the group as Pilgrims did not come into usage until around 1800, and the term encompassed the Separatists and the Strangers who traveled with them.

Separatists (Pilgrims) believed in a complete break from the Anglican Church of England.

Puritans, who settled the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed in purifying and changing the Church of England but not in total separation.

Strangers were non-church members or Anglicans who traveled with the Pilgrims and Puritans to make a profit for the men who sponsored the costs of the trips and settlements. One of the Strangers was a man named Stephen Hopkins who was on his second trip to America. His first trip ended in a storm-caused shipwreck near Bermuda. Shakespeare used that event as the basis for his play, "The Tempest."

Pilgrims left for America from Leiden, Holland. They had fled England and settled in Leiden because Holland had a liberal policy of religious tolerance.

Pilgrims had lived in Leiden for around nine years. They left Holland because their children were becoming too Dutch in their customs, and the parents were adamant about retaining their English identity.

Pilgrims also were restricted to working lower paying jobs in Holland. Most worked as weavers, wool carders, tailors, shoemakers, or printers and were city dwellers. The women may have had experience in kitchen gardening, but men had

extensive farming experience, and none had wilderness survival training.

The Pilgrims attempted to make arrangements for their journey themselves or through Dutch brokers. Unknown to them, the Dutch government was actively working against the Pilgrims' success.

The Pilgrims' chosen destination was the area around Manhattan. The Dutch had first traveled to that area in 1609 and founded a trading post at Ft. Orange in New York in 1614. They did not want competition.

Manhattan was considered part of Virginia at this time.

The Pilgrims finally arranged to travel on the Dutch berthed ship the *Mayflower* and on the *Speedwell*.

The captain of the *Speedwell* was secretly working with the Dutch government to impede the Pilgrims. He had the ship fitted out with masts that were too large for the size of the ship. When rigged at full sail, the masts straining against the hull caused the hull to open with leaks. The captain used this excuse to remain in England with half of the travelers and a large portion of their supplies.

Only half of the passengers on the *Mayflower* were Pilgrims. The rest were strangers put on board by the financial backers of the voyage. Their job was to find ways to make a profit for the financial backers. There were 102 passengers and 30 crew on board the ship. Only 50 were Pilgrims from Leiden.

Delays caused by weather, repairs to the ships and purchasing supplies greatly delayed the onset of the trip. Passengers were not allowed off the ship, so they had to survive on supplies purchased for the voyage. Some food supplies were also sold to pay for the cost of repairs.

The late delay led to the voyage lasting over 60 days. Few supplies were left to sustain the settlers until their eventual spring crop was harvested or they found food on shore.

The *Mayflower* was blown off course by the rough weather. They approached land but could not get close enough to debark because of the rough seas. They finally found a sheltering harbor near the end

(Continued on Page 30)

Poem (Continued from Page 26)

“A loaf of bread,” the Walrus said,
 “Is what we chiefly need:
 Pepper and vinegar besides
 Are very good indeed –
 Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,
 We can begin to feed.”

“But not on us!” the Oysters cried,
 Turning a little blue.
 “After such kindness, that would be
 A dismal thing to do!”
 “The night is fine,” the Walrus said.
 “Do you admire the view?”

It was so kind of you to come!
 And you are very nice!”
 The Carpenter said nothing but
 Cut us another slice:
 “I wish you were not quite so deaf -
 I've had to ask you twice!

It seems a shame,” the Walrus said,
 “To play them such a trick,
 After we've brought them out so far,
 And made them trot so quick!”
 The Carpenter said nothing but
 “The butter's spread too thick!”

“I weep for you, the Walrus said:
 I deeply sympathize.”
 With sobs and tears he sorted out
 Those of the largest size,
 Holding his pocket-handkerchief
 Before his streaming eyes.

“O Oysters,” said the Carpenter,
 “You've had a pleasant run!
 Shall we be trotting home again?”
 But answer came there none -
 And this was scarcely odd, because
 They'd eaten every one.

Thanksgiving (Continued from Page 29)

of Cape Cod. Anchor was dropped on November 11, 1620. The following day was the Sabbath, so no one debarked until November 12, 1620.

The Cape Cod area was not unknown to the ship's crew or to the passengers. Fishing ships from France, Portugal, Spain, and England had been fishing off the coasts of Maine, Newfoundland and the area since the beginning of the 1500s. Trade with Native Americans also began at that time. Native tribes up and down the Atlantic coast were aware there were Europeans long before the Pilgrims arrived.

The Pilgrims and the Strangers realized that their survival depended upon their ability to work together in their new home. The Pilgrims' dream of being a completely separate community died before they left the *Mayflower*.

The Mayflower Compact was signed by all men capable and healthy enough to do so, on board the *Mayflower* before anyone was allowed to go ashore. The original document was lost, but three similarly worded documents survive. The agreement was a covenant to combine themselves into a civil body politic to enact laws to govern the colony. The laws were to be determined by a vote of the men of the colony.

The Compact was not a religious agreement, nor were laws to be determined by the group's minister.

The Pilgrims had left England because King James imposed his beliefs on everyone through the Ecclesiastical Courts. Holland observed a separation of church and state.

The Pilgrims acknowledged their time in Leiden by deciding that marriage was a civil right not a religious rite. They found no basis in scripture to support the involvement of a minister in marriages.

Pastor John Robinson, religious leader of the Pilgrims in Leiden, in his farewell address to those traveling to America, strongly cautioned them to create a government based upon civil consent not divine decree. Because of the Strangers among them, survival was dependent on everyone's submission to laws drawn up by elected officials.

The civil compact provided the basis for secular government in America..

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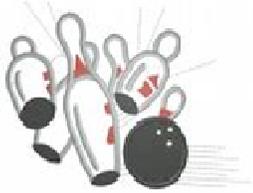
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MAJESTIC BOWLING LEAGUE

Spares and Strikes

By Joyce Stoudermire



HIGH GAME

Week 2-- MEN:

Howard Siegel 163
 Rosenhouch 160
 Neikrug 157

Week 2 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder 160
 J. Stoudermire 146
 Issy Elefson 143

Week 3 -- MEN

Jerry Elefson 165
 Howard Siegel 159
 B. Numeroff 149

Week 3 -- WOMEN

Estelle Snyder 150
 Ilene Gross 132
 J. Stoudermire 129

Week 4 – MEN

K. Ramnarine 178
 B. Rosenhouch 168
 Howard Siegel 160

Week 4 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder 136
 Ilene Gross 135
 M. Spinner 134

Week 5 – MEN

M. Neikrug 188
 K. Ramnarine 171
 Jerry Elefson 153

HIGH SERIES

Howard Siegel 419B.
 Jerry Elefson 411M.
 M. Neikrug 396

Estelle Snyder 388
 J. Stoudermire 381
 Issy Elefson 327

Jerry Elefson 433
 Howard Siegel 416
 B. Rosenhouch 408

J. Stoudermire 375
 Estelle Snyder 365
 Issy Elefson 358

K. Ramnarine 447
 Howard Siegel 428
 Jerry Elefson 418

J. Stoudermire 382
 Ilene Gross 377
 Estelle Snyder 349

M. Neikrug 500
 K. Ramnarine 458
 Howard Siegel 403

Week 5 – WOMEN

M. Spinner 154 J. Stoudermire 402
 Estelle Snyder 149 Estelle Snyder 396
 J. Stoudermire 141 Ilene Gross 360

Week 6 – MEN

H. Siegel 172 H. Siegel 418
 K. Ramnarine 161 K. Ramnarine 406
 Jerry Elefson 155 Alan Stevens 371

Week 6 – WOMEN

J. Stoudermire 144 J. Stoudermire 408
 Ilene Gross 130 Ilene Gross 382
 Issy Elefson 123 M. Ramnarine 317

Week 7 – MEN

B. Numeroff 200 B. Numeroff 545
 M. Neikrug 170 Fred Neikrug 447
 Fred Neikrug 170 M. Neikrug 429

Week 7 – WOMEN

J. Stoudermire 154 J. Stoudermire 414
 Ilene Gross 133 M. Spinner 352
 M. Spinner 131 N. Herbin 350

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCORERS:

Men: Howard Siegel, 163 (week 2), 160 (week 3), 172 (week 6); Bob Rosenhouch, 160 (week 2), 168 (week 3); Jerry Elefson, 165 (week 3); Ken Ramnarine, 178 (week 4), 171 (week 5), 161 (week 6); Michael Neikrug, 188 (week 5), 170 (Week 7); Fred Neikrug, 170 (week 7); Bob Numeroff, 200 (week 7).

Women: Estelle Snyder, 160 (week 2), 150 (week 3); Michele Spinner, 154 (week 5); Joyce Stoudermire, 154 (week 7).

REMINDER -- If your friends or family are interested in joining us, please call Alan Stevens at (561) 336-4223.



BOOK TALKS

By Claire Deveney



Claire Deveney will lead the next Book Talks meeting discussing “The Last Thing He Told Me” by Laura Dave; the meeting is on Wednesday, December 15 at 2 p.m. at the clubhouse.

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

“A gripping mystery about a woman who thinks she’s found the love of her life—until he disappears.

“Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his beloved wife of one year: *Protect her*. Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers—Owen’s sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey.

“With its breakneck pacing, dizzying plot twists, and evocative family drama, *The Last Thing He Told Me* is a riveting mystery, certain to shock you with its final, heartbreaking turn.” - *Amazon*

“Laura Dave turns the scorned wife into a hero... It may start with a lost husband, but this thriller is also an ode to found family.” - *The New York Times Book Review*

We are grateful to Suzanne Skinner for leading the November Book Talks discussion of “Only Time Will Tell” by Jeffrey Archer on Wednesday, November 17. Suzanne stepped in for Allan Topolosky, co-chairman of Book Talks.

Next month, Allan will lead our discussion of “The New York Times” bestseller “The Exiles” by Christina Baker Kline, on Wednesday January 19 at 2 p.m.

Majestic Isles Book Talks regularly meets the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., October through June, in the clubhouse. An email notice of the December meeting as well as a reminder a day before the meeting will be sent to Book Talks members. To add your name and email address to the list, please email cdeveney@comcast.net. Contacts for Book Talks are Claire Deveney, 561-504-3842, and Allan Topolosky, 301-335-2288.

MEN’S CLUB

By Joel Cohen

I am making this final request regarding the Majestic Isles' Men's Club. We need a few of you to volunteer to run the Club. As it stands now the club is in limbo. If we can't get some volunteers the Men's Club will cease to exist.

Thank you for your consideration.
Joel Cohen

TENNIS

By Marshall Deutsch



THE TENNIS GROUP continues to seek new players. We play “doubles tennis” three times a week, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Marshall Deutsch at (561) 736-3135. Come on out!!

**AH YES, REMEMBER
THAT THERE IS A REASON FOR
EVERYTHING AND
FOR EVERYTHING
THERE IS A REASON.
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THEY WERE PUT THERE
INTENTIONALLY TO PROVIDE
PLEASURE TO THOSE WHO
NEED TO FIND MISTAKES.**

NEWS AND VIEWS

By Bobbie Rosenfeld



The News and Views group continues to try to cover events we care about, but no written report can be infused with the enthusiasm and passion we feel in the thick of our discussions.

One of the major issues we discussed was immigration problems and the huge numbers coming to the United States. California, Florida, and Texas are getting the largest number of immigrants, most of whom arrive from Mexico.

We talked about Merck's new oral medication to treat COVID-19, and other treatments in the pipeline. We also mentioned that pressure from pharmaceutical reps that could possibly determine which medication doctors prescribe.

We took note of Colin Powell's death from COVID-19 complications, and his attributes that set an example for all Americans.

Most of us present had something to say about the new recommendation against starting a daily aspirin dosage after age 60. There are some who need it medically but others who have never taken it at all.

We wandered into a long discussion of career choices made by right and left leaning citizens. We talked of the various socio-economic, political and ethnic factors that influence career choices. It was a provocative discussion.

At two consecutive meetings, we examined the story of the Spanish River High School administrator who had stopped the Holocaust from being taught. First, we learned that he had been rehired, then a week later we learned a judge overruled the rehire, so he will not return to his position.

That discussion led to talk of the new Texas law requiring teachers to teach both sides of an issue.

As we spoke of filibuster, infrastructure and voting rights, some in the group said that they feel as though our government is not working very well now, and hasn't for some time. Many are fearful of our divisions and know we are two Americas now. Unity may be a thing of the past.

The accidental shooting death on the movie set of "Rust" came up and we went into the legal and civil risks for all connected with the incident. A discussion of N.Y.C. police, 2000 or more, walking off the job over vaccine requirements, followed. We noted that the governor of Florida invited them to come to Florida to work.

A last point of interest we covered was a segment on "60 Minutes" on oil spills in Louisiana and the Gulf. An oil rig owned by a large local corporation collapsed and the spill was ongoing. The good news is that several inventive individuals devised new machinery that is capable of sucking up tons of water and oil and separating the oil out faster than ever before. This oil is now sold as reclaimed oil, which has many industrial uses, and our waterways are becoming cleaner. At least some positive things are happening.

Come add your voice to ours by joining us on Mondays at 3 p.m. in the clubhouse.

LEONARD SCHWARTZ
MANAGING PARTNER

MELISSA DEJESUS
OFFICE MANAGER

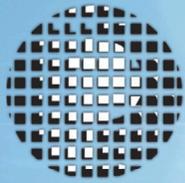


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