



Volume 26

Majestic Isles News

January 2022



Issue 4



Cover by Gail Shatzkamer

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MANAGER'S CORNER

Here are some dates to keep in mind for the coming months:

- (1) January - February Hardwood and palm tree trimming
- (2) March Mulch
- (3) April Sidewalk power washing

I would like to thank the election committee for its help counting the votes for the Annual Election in December. Committee members were Arline Rutsky, Evelyn Harris, Steve Berry, Marilyn Chermak and Renee Stichel. This is my fifth year at Majestic Isles, and it was the first time over 300 people cast their ballots. I believe that the new electronic voting system contributed to the increased participation. So thank you all. And welcome to the newly elected members of the Board!

For those of you who still have your hurricane shutters up, notices to take them down went out on December 2nd. As a reminder, our community documents state that shutters can only remain up between June 1st and November 30th.

Please watch Channel 63 and/or read the weekly eblast for announcements regarding upcoming Board meetings in 2022.

Here is a resource you might find helpful in deciding about flood insurance: a home in the 1-in-100-year flood plain has a 26% chance it will flood at least once over the course of 30 years, based on statistical probabilities. Understanding these probabilities may help you decide if flood insurance is the right choice for you. You can find more information at [US Geological Survey Flood Probability](#).

We hope that everyone had a happy holiday season and wish you a great New Year!

Regards,

Jay Peskoff, Property Manager

Email: jpeskoff@castlegroup.com

Phone: 561-734-8738

*Happy
New Year*

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.

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.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Bob Edinger

By the time you read this, the annual election is over, and it is time to help new owners understand how and why we do things as a Board.

1. Financial matters

- (a) Contracts are not awarded to the cheapest bidder, but to the bidder the Board feels will do the right job for the community; price is always part of the consideration. Once a competent contractor proves themselves, we try to keep the contract price the same for the next few years or use the current rate of inflation as a guide, in the case of an increase in the contract price. Many contracts are for a period of three years at the same price. Castle Management, who manages several hundred properties including our own, has an extensive proven vendor list we access at times in the bidding process.
- (b) Every bill we pay has to be approved by three people before it is paid; the Property Manager first, then both the Treasurer and President. If any one of the three rejects the bill, it is not paid.
- (c) Our checking account is located at the financial headquarters of Castle. They prepare, sign, and send out checks for approved activities. The bank statements go to Castle and are reconciled by Castle employees.
- (d) Financial statements are prepared monthly by Castle’s qualified accountants and compared to our budget. We get their statements monthly.

2. Food

- (a) Food at the pool has always been an issue. The pool itself has a small footprint and is surrounded by trees and grass where insects abound. We have all seen the proverbial image of ants coming to a picnic, and that is why we only allow water at the pool.

- (b) We do however, bring food into the clubhouse if we sponsor an event such as food trucks, a barbeque or a meal for an event such as New Year’s Eve.

3. General concerns

- (a) Ours is a residential community in which the majority of people live here all year round. We are also an older community that has to keep up with the newer communities that have sprung up all around us, so we have installed LED lighting on our streets, we keep our communal areas nicely landscaped, pay attention to detail and leave nothing in disrepair. We have a modern clubhouse, outdoor activities we can take pride in, and other activities that we can afford and provide to our residents.
- (b) Our annual dues are one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in our immediate area.

4. Board Meetings, participation, and having a voice

- (a) Before COVID, we held our Board meetings in the clubhouse; these were usually attended by 15-20 people. Once we decided to use Zoom for these meetings, we have had 60-80 people attend, sometimes with multiple members of the household. Inclusion, inclusion, inclusion!!!!!!
- (b) We answer all questions that are posed that pertain to Association business.

5. Voting for new Board members

- (a) The Board felt it was necessary to try to get more people involved in the voting process this year. We surmised that the low voter turnout in recent years was partly due to homeowners that were not physically here, or sick in their homes.
- (b) Between paper ballots and Get Quorum (the computerized voting system) we had 308 households vote this year, the highest in Majestic Isles history. The people spoke.



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

By Maddie Rosen

Georgette and Georgeanna Mortellaro, 10733 Royal Caribbean Circle

Esta and Larry Gard, 5822 Grand Harbour Circle

Debra and Kyle Page, 10877 Royal Caribbean Circle



GOOD AND WELFARE

SYMPATHY

Condolences to the family of Harold Morrison.

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 with **Good and Welfare** as the subject or call (561) 877-8914. Acknowledgement of each email will be sent as verification of receipt.

2022 MAJESTIC ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Bob Edinger edingerhoa@gmail.com	President
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@gmail.com	Member-at-large
Joel Cohen jocoh11@aol.com	Member-at-large

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MELISSA DEJESUS
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<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>
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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 Freiburger Sally Galan
Insurance	Ken Keller
New Neighbors	Maddy Rosen

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

A PERSONAL PLEA FOR SAFETY

By Alene Kristal

Speaking from personal experience, making a left turn out of the gate onto eastbound Woolbright Road is tricky and dangerous. We've already experienced one fatality at this intersection, and my husband's car was recently hit and totaled by a car going over 65 mph in the same location. In the absence of a traffic light at the intersection, it is safer to go out the back gate, turn left on El Clair, and then turn left onto Woolbright at the traffic light.

We have stop signs in our community for a reason. It has come to my attention that many drivers ignore them, especially the signs on Imperial Seas Blvd. Please, spare another few seconds obeying the signs, will you? And on the same note, please obey the speed limit within the community. Many drivers have been seen doing over 50 mph – in a 25-mph zone!

A caution to all of you: when entering through the El Clair entrance, stop at the sign that says, "Gate closes behind each vehicle." Wait until the gate arm goes up and then make a full stop at the stop sign. Before turning, check your rear-view mirror to be sure that no one is following, and that the arm has come down. The reason for this warning is that several years ago, an incident occurred at another community in which a resident was followed through the gate and severely assaulted in his driveway.

Lastly, there are many occasions I drive down my street (Royal Caribbean) and find cars parked on both sides of the street. This is most common on the westernmost bend of the street and on weekends, so I can't call the office to report the offending vehicle. I ask you to be respectful of the rules, and if you have guests or caregivers, ask them to park in your driveway or on the appropriate side of the street for that month.

Thank you.

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COMMUNITY SAFE!**

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MI ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

By Steve Berry

Our first Movie Night was on 12/4 featuring Jennifer Hudson in "Respect." There was a great turnout, and everyone had a good time. We have finalized several events since last month, with more on the horizon. Resident suggestions have helped a lot. Below is the current lineup. For more details, watch channel 63, read on our website (www.MajesticIsles.com) or get your flyer in the clubhouse. **(For more details, see page 11):**

Casino Outing at The Isles of Pompano Beach

Wednesday, January 5th at 10:00 a.m. Don't miss the bus. It's filling up fast. Cost: \$25.00 pp

Movie Night at The Majestic Isles Cinema

Saturday, January 8th at 8:00 p.m.: James Bond is back in "No Time to Die." This is Daniel Craig's last outing as 007. Cost: \$3.00 pp

Story of "Funny Girl" Fannie Brice

Saturday, January 15th at 8:00 p.m.: Hear Randolph DelLago, the dynamic speaker of the Delray Playhouse, relate the story of this "original." Cost: \$15.00 pp

Jukebox Bingo

Sunday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.: Many prizes to win. Cost: \$15.00 pp

"The Motowners"

Sunday, February 6th at 7:30 p.m. A 10-piece troupe of singers and musicians. They play all those great songs of the 60s and 70s. This should be a sellout! Cost: \$35.00 pp

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m. It was a hit the last time we ran it. Our favorite teams might not be playing, but we still get amped up for the big game. Cost: \$5.00 pp

Professor Robert Watson

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Hear this exhilarating and world-renowned historian. This will sell out fast. Cost: \$15.00 pp

Intracoastal Boat Cruise

Sunday, March 13th: Date, Time & Price TBD.

Billy Joel Cabaret

Sunday, April 3rd at 7:30: Will be just as exciting and nostalgic as the Streisand/Diamond cabaret we held last year. This should be a sellout. Cost: \$5.00 pp.

Sunday Music By The Pool (no charge)

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

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

When an opportunity arises, we will add other events if possible.

Note: Flyers for all events might not be available yet. For the events that we expect a sellout: the first two weeks of the notice will be for residents only. After those two weeks elapse, if seats are still available, we will open the event to guests.

If you haven't been present at our events, we encourage you to talk to your neighbors who have. We're sure after speaking with them, you'll want to join the fun and entertainment.

Please, no cash, except for Movie Night. Make checks payable to: Majestic Isles Assoc. On the bottom of your check, note the event the check is for. If you require a handicap seat, indicate by writing "H" on the bottom of the check. Place your check in the Entertainment Committee box in the back lobby.



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PROPERTY TAX MATTERS

By Anne Gannon,
Constitutional Tax Collector



Our agency wants to help you accomplish your resolutions in 2022 by freeing up your time. With the many services we offer, we expect at some point you might need to schedule a visit to one of our service centers or perhaps call our office for assistance. Here are some tips to save you time.

Convenient Payment Options

We offer several convenient payment options, such as: online e-Check and credit card payments, U.S. mail, drop boxes located in each of our service centers, self-serve kiosks for vehicle registrations and wire transfers. However, we don't offer payments over the phone; please visit <https://www.pbctax.com/payment-options/> for more information.

View Payment Status Online

Did you know that you can check the status of your payment in five easy steps? **Step 1:** Visit our payment site. **Step 2:** Click the tab you wish to check the status of: Property Tax, Business Tax, Tangible Tax, Tourist Development Tax. **Step 3:** Click the drop-down menu to search by Name, Account number, Address, etc. **Step 4:** Once you find your information, click on the account number highlighted in blue. **Step 5:** Look at the right-hand side under the text that says "COLLECTION CART" to see your payment status.

Majestic Isles Little Theatre (MILT) Needs You!

By Ed Strauber and Barbara Portnoff



MILT is a club consisting of MI residents who come together to "Put on a Show" for our neighbors.

Community entertainment has provided enjoyment for our residents for almost 25 years. At this time, there is a great need for new residents to join us. If you have fresh, new ideas in the realm of theatre entertainment, and a can-do attitude, let's talk, and make it happen. If you have a particular talent or background in theatre, or just want to uncover the hidden talent that lies in all of us, please contact us.

If you would like to act in a play or skit (memorizing or reading), play an instrument, sing, lead a chorus, dance, write a script, learn to operate the sound, video, or lighting system, we need you and welcome you.

Also, we urgently need someone who can play the piano to accompany our singers for occasional performances (and rehearsals). We know you're out there, pianist, so please get in touch and join us. In fact, come join your friends, make new friends, and have fun.

Looking forward to meeting with you,

Ed Strauber, President
561-732-3344
harbestra@gmail.com

Barbara Portnoff, Artistic Director
561-200-0717
rockette10808@gmail.com

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BROOKLYN MEMORIES

By Joan Sorkin

As I stood watching the large oak tree standing in front of my house, a memory came back to me.

I was about nine years old and in an English class with a Miss Maltese. I can still see her face before me. She was most unattractive and very old - and very very strict. I was petrified in her class. She concentrated on poetry all year - or maybe that's how it seemed to me.

We had to memorize a poem each week. On Friday she would decide if you were to write the poem at your desk or recite it in front of the class. I would actually be sick to my stomach awaiting her decision. Standing in front of all my fellow students was the worst.

But through this horror, one good thing did happen. I actually started to appreciate poetry. The words of "Woodman, Spare That Tree" came back to me as I watched the branches being cut down:

Woodman, spare that tree
Touch not a single bough,
In youth it sheltered me
And I'll protect it now.

It goes on for three other stanzas, but I think we only memorized the first two. It was written in 1830 by George Pope Morris.

Did anyone going to school in Brooklyn in the 50s have similar memories?

**Hoping that 2022 is
a better year for
each and everyone
of us.**



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SAVE THE DATES UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

(Flyers with more details available in the clubhouse)

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, January 8th at 8:00
"No Time To Die"



Daniel Craig stars as 007

With Rami Malek

Admission: \$3.00 Pay at Door

Includes soft drinks & snacks

Guests welcome!

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: \$5.00 pp

Reserve tables...Guests welcome

STORY OF "FUNNY GIRL" FANNIE BRICE

Saturday, January 15th at 8:00

As Told By Delray Playhouse Artistic Director, *Randolph Dellago*,

Dynamic speaker/historian of Broadway Musicals

\$10:00 pp

Guests Welcome!

FOOD TRUCK EVENT (Tentative)

Wednesday, February 23rd at 5:30



Taste a variety of foods

Trucks will be in the clubhouse parking lot

Dine with friends in the ballroom

JUKEBOX 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!



GUEST SPEAKER: ROBERT WATSON

Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00

Renowned Historian & Speaker

Subject: TBD

\$15.00 pp

Residents only until January 15th

As of January 16th

Guests are welcome

"THE MOTOWNERS"

Sunday, February 6th at 7:30

Live performance with

10 Singers & Musicians

All your favorite Motown songs

From the 60's & 70's

Admission \$35 pp

1st Come, 1st Served



INTRACOASTAL CRUISE (Tentative)

Sunday, March 13th

Enjoy a 2-hour, casual waterway cruise. See marine life &

marvelous mansions

Cost: TBD



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MOVIES AND STREAMING

By Joan Sorkin



“Tick-Tick Boom” a musical now showing on *Netflix*, highly recommended by Alene Kristal, follows the creative pressures and friendships of a struggling artist, Jonathan Larson, the creator of “Rent.” The actor playing the protagonist never sang or played the piano professionally before this movie was made. It is directed by Lin Manuel-Miranda.

“Behind Her Eyes,” recommended by Michele and Ira Zaitz, is a psychological thriller about a single mother working as a receptionist in a psychiatry practice. She begins an affair with her boss and strikes up an unlikely friendship with his wife. *Netflix*.

“Power of the Dog” starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Kirsten Dunst is the story of two wealthy brothers who are co-owners of cattle ranch in Montana in the 1920s. When brother George marries a young widow, his brother (Cumberbatch) becomes abusive to her, leading her to become an alcoholic. Follow the rest of the story and see if you can figure out the unusual ending. *Netflix*.

“Tell it to the Bees” follows a single mother in a small English town, abandoned by her husband. She is aided by a local doctor and a friendship develops. *Amazon Prime*.

“Zero to Hero,” on *Netflix*, is an excellent feel-good movie. Set in Japan, an extraordinary boy, with his mother’s support, overcomes all odds and becomes a Para-Olympic champion.

These are some of my suggestions ... so many choices on *PBS*, *Netflix*, *Showtime*, *Amazon Prime*, etc. Find your favorites and then share them with me at poppyjoan@aol.com.



VIEW FROM ATOP A CAT TREE

By Lily K



Hi neighbors, Miss Lilybelle here (that’s what Mom calls me). I have several other names, but I won’t bore you with them. Besides which, they’re private between Mom and me. For some reason, Dad isn’t into being as silly as Mom about this, but that’s ok because I know he loves me – after all, he scratches my neck, and HE FEEDS ME.

So, what’s happening in our household? Well, the big news is that Dad had a bad accident in the large blue thing they drive, and that thing is dead. Can’t say I miss it as I hate riding in cars – they mean one thing, and that’s going to the vet, which I hate. I don’t like strangers touching me and doing weird things with cold metal thingies. I think they got another car but to me it’s as evil as the blue one.

I met somebody new this week. Her name is the same as my brother’s (!) – Misha – and she came to our house to cut our nails (I didn’t know that’s why she was there. If I had, I might have resisted.) I liked her because she wore cat socks and got down on the floor to introduce herself to me and talk for a while before picking me up. Usually, I HATE having my nails clipped but Misha was so cuddly and gentle I felt safe – and it was over before I knew it. I personally don’t care whether my claws are long or not, but Mom surely does. In fact, I know Mom is happier because now when I knead her, she doesn’t scream and push me off her.

Life here is really good. I get fed twice a day and have dry food to munch on whenever I feel hungry. I also get treats at 9 o’clock at night – yes, I can tell time, and remind Mom and Dad when it’s treat time every night. The only cloud on the horizon is that my brother Winnie likes to play fight with me, especially right before dinner. I don’t like this game at all and scream my head off when he tries it. Then Mom comes in and stops him. Guess she’s on my side!



COOKING CORNER

Submitted by Joan Sorkin



Greek Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms

Courtesy of Carolyn Casner,
"Eating Well Magazine," as
printed in the "Sun-Sentinel"

Makes 4 servings

- 3 TB extra virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 4 large portobello mushrooms, cleaned,
stems and gills removed
- 1 cup chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup chopped cherry tomatoes
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 TB fresh oregano

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine 2 TB oil, garlic, salt and pepper in small bowl.

Coat mushrooms with oil mixture and place in baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes.

Combine spinach, tomatoes, feta cheese and oregano and remaining oil. When mushrooms are softened, remove from oven and fill with spinach mixture. Bake another 10 minutes.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Submitted by Alene Kristal

Help all my friends gain 10 pounds so I look skinnier.

Tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

I will buy new clothes big enough to account for next year's holidays.

Consider taking up a new hobby such as procrastination. Or maybe later.

I will visit the grocery more often than restaurants, especially when free samples are being served.

I will exercise more self-control, though I already have a rule not to drink anything stronger than gin before breakfast.

New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.

Be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with either rum, vodka, or whiskey.

I will save some money for a rainy day. That way I can shop online instead of having to go to an actual store.

I resolve to be just a little bit nicer to people who do exactly what I want.

Stop hanging with people who ask me about my New Year's resolution.

Stop making lists, be more confident, and learn to count.

Start smoking to lose weight.

From the Internet

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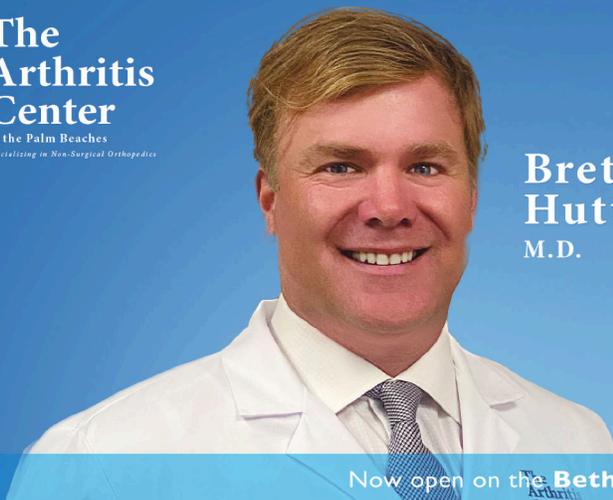
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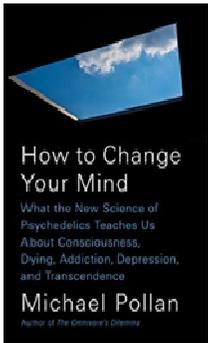
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“HOW TO CHANGE YOUR MIND” BY MICHAEL POLLAN

By Stan Kaish



Michael Pollan’s book, “How to Change Your Mind” is part historical, part clinical, and part autobiographical. It is the story of psychedelic drugs, illegal in our society 50 years ago, and now one of the most promising psychiatric treatments for behavioral disorders. It all began in 1938 when a Swiss

scientist working for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, seeking to develop a drug to stimulate circulation, invented lysergic acid diethylamide, mercifully known as LSD. Five years later, we are told, he accidentally swallowed some and realized “he had created something powerful, at once terrifying and wondrous.”

LSD is half the story. The other half predates it by thousands of years. Native people have long been taking plant-based drugs to induce visions as part of their religious rituals. Pollan focuses on a little mushroom containing what we call psilocybin. A banker sampled “a magic mushroom” and wrote an article in “Life Magazine” about the experience. Pollan suggests that this article brought awareness of the mind-changing drugs to the general public.

Meanwhile clinicians and researchers were studying LSD. This opened the door to considering psychoactive drugs in the treatment of mental illness. Psychotherapists added it to their treatment of problems such as depression, alcoholism, and anxiety. Systematic research into the use of psychedelics produced reams of data on the subject, soon to be filed away and forgotten.

You see, that wasn’t the whole story of the impact of psychedelics on society. The 1960s also saw LSD fall into recreational use. People began taking it for the mind-changing experience and the mind changing wasn’t always favorable. Reports of “bad trips” became common. And then Timothy Leary came on the scene. Some of you may remember the Harvard Psychology professor who became an evangelist for psychedelics. When Harvard placed constraints on his experiments with the drug, he announced that he was forming the International

Federation for Internal Freedom (IFIF) and would conduct research under that organization rather than Harvard. But Leary had more ambitious goals for the IFIF. He announced that he wanted to get as many Americans as he could to experience psychedelics and change the mindset of the country. Leary, who was eventually fired by Harvard, continued to preach recreational use of psychedelics. Their non-controlled use became the norm, and the occasional bad trips, breakdowns, and suicides brought notoriety to the subject. Popular pressure mounted for the law to do something. In May of 1966, the Senate held hearings. In October the FDA contacted all researchers studying psychedelics and ordered them to stop their work and shut down. And so a promising approach to treating mental disorders was lost, or at least misplaced for a while. So too were the decades of research records studies.

Sometime around 1990 a new generation of researchers quietly began to renew the study of the psychedelics. Pollan suggests that the generation that was dabbling in the drugs as youngsters had, by then, become the adults of the world. It took a while, but today, psychedelics and their role in treating people’s behavioral disorders are once again viewed as medically promising. The research on psychedelics undertaken during the earlier period and then forgotten was rediscovered and built on. Brain scans taken of subjects undergoing the psychedelic experiences have led to new theories on the physiology underlying their effects. Pollan offers a detailed discussion of this under the heading of the Default Mode Network. He also tells us what he experienced during three trips he took, each under a different drug.

There is a lot to be learned from “How to Change Your Mind.” The author interviewed many of the psychiatrists employing psychedelics, as well as sick and dying people who found a comforting peace of mind after this therapy, alcoholics who gave up drinking, smokers who stopped smoking. And, of course, some who didn’t.



RESILIENCE

By Michele Zaitz

Resilience definition: the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.

As I look back on my 55-year relationship with my husband, Ira, the one word that comes to me besides love and appreciation, is resilience.

We met when I was 15 years old and he was 18. We married when I was 19. What did we really know about life and responsibility? Not all that much for sure. We have faced challenges that we thought at times were insurmountable. Yet we just celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Speech therapy was my first REAL job. Ira started a mobile dog grooming business. In the early 1970s, speech therapists corrected “L’s, S’s and R’s.” I got bored. I had a passion for food, and Ira, being supportive as always, gave up his business and we took our “house deposit” and opened a gourmet take-out and catering business in Millburn-Short Hills, New Jersey. I got pregnant shortly afterwards with our son Adam. Ten weeks into my pregnancy, I noticed a twinge of pain in my left knee which escalated to paralysis which caused me to be bedridden by my fourth month. I had been the main cook in our new endeavor and now Ira was faced with the daily challenges of shopping, preparing and running the business. Talk about resilience!!

Tables turned when, at 45, Ira had a heart attack while we were working. Following the ambulance to the hospital was a déjà vu ... my dad passed away at 45 from a heart attack. We were luckier!!! Now I was faced with all the challenges of running the business and taking care of our then 13-year-old son. Three months later, Ira was diagnosed with bacterial endocarditis and needed open-heart surgery to replace his aortic valve. During that time, our son, Adam, was going to school out of district and I had to transport him to and from school, along with running the business and getting to the hospital to be with Ira. We were and still are fortunate enough to have a great support system. Friends and family stepped up to help us get done all that was necessary to keep standing. We were resilient (with a lot of help)!!!

As we approached our 50s, it became apparent that we would no longer be able to keep up with the pace of the business. It was very scary because we had no idea of the next step. I became a manager for Starbucks and did home instruction. Ira tried several food related jobs, which he was not happy doing. He decided to take a position with our local school district as a one-to-one assistant to a young man with multiple disabilities in a school for students with special needs. Shortly after, I joined him at the school as a Speech-Language Specialist. We were back to working together!

While we still faced many challenges of working and parenting and other family “stuff,” life was less turbulent for many years. But as we all know, life changes on a dime. On July 5, 2019, our beautiful boy was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). It was the worst news a parent can get, until on July 27, 2019, three weeks short of his 40th birthday, Adam passed away. Resiliency took a lot longer this time.

In November of last year (2020), Ira retired. We packed ourselves up and moved from New Jersey to Majestic Isles in December. Thanks to all the wonderful friends that we have made here and being part of our beautiful community, we are resilient! On Adam’s birthday in August of this year, we were able to raise a glass and celebrate the time we had with him.

We all face pain and challenges. It is how we deal with them that determines how we get through them. So, laugh when you can laugh!! Cry when you need to cry for as long as you need to, then stop, take a deep breath and look around our beautiful community and be resilient!

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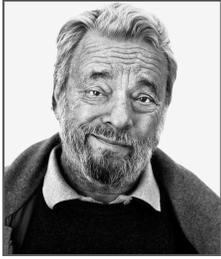
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SONDHEIM (RIP)

By Alene Kristal



One of the first things I asked my singing teacher in the mid 1980s was which Sondheim song I could learn first. She said, “you’re not ready for anything that complicated yet.” I was crushed.

I grew up on all the musicals of the '50s and '60s, but Sondheim intrigued, perplexed and fascinated me in a way no other composer/lyricist ever did. I loved the melodic nature of the songs and the emotion those other musicals expressed but was looking for something new.

Unfortunately, my teacher was right at the time. I wasn't vocally ready to sing Sondheim. His songs do not follow traditional musical themes, the songs were very “rangy,” he emphasized notes that evoked emotion but make no sense when spoken aloud, and, well, his songs are truly difficult for even the most experienced vocalist to sing. At his death, the actor Anna Kendrick tweeted, “I was just talking to someone a few nights ago about how much fun (and f—king difficult) it is to sing Stephen Sondheim.”

I write this, of course, from the perspective of a singer, a musical theater aficionado, and as an *homage* to the Broadway virtuoso who died just recently at age 91. His genius was evident from an early age; he was lucky to have been mentored by Oscar Hammerstein, who appreciated the young man's completely unique style – he excelled at mixing longing and ambivalence into clever, spiky, unexpected lyrics.

Here are a few of my favorite songs, in no particular order:

1. “Together, Wherever We Go” from “Gypsy” (1973)
2. “Comedy Tonight” from “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” (1962)
3. “Send in the Clowns” from “A Little Night Music” (1973)
4. “Something’s Coming” from “West Side Story” (1957)
5. “I’m Still Here” from “Follies” (1971)

6. “Losing My Mind” also from “Follies”
7. “Not a Day Goes By” from “Merrily We Roll Along” (1981)
8. “You Could Drive a Person Crazy” from “Company” (1970)
9. “Being Alive” also from “Company”

I’ve seen several Sondheim revues, and especially enjoyed Elaine Stritch’s when she sang her signature song “Ladies Who Lunch” (“Company”). Despite being an avid theater goer, I was slightly reluctant to see “Assassins” when it opened on Broadway – after all, who wants to see a play about famous killers? Yet the show was completely mesmerizing, musically telling the story of famous murderers. “The Ballad of Booth” was a mixture of grandiose poetry, self-pity, cogent criticism and vile racism that went a long way toward reminding audiences that they were in very good but frightening hands. It’s hard to fathom, but the song convinced the listener that these nefarious villains had redeeming qualities.

Ambivalence is a Sondheim hallmark theme and can be heard readily in such songs as “Sorry/Grateful,” (“Follies”), “Everyday a Little Death” (“A Little Night Music”) and “Getting Married Today” (“Company”). No one else captured love as he did - not as a prize, or as an ending, but as something fleeting, hungered for, impenetrable, and sometimes toxic. A typical example of the toxicity is “Unworthy of Your Love” from “Assassins,” in which John Hinckley and “Squeaky” Fromme sing poignantly about their ardor for Jodie Foster and Charles Manson.

This essence of choice and ambiguity is what Sondheim gave to theater - the idea that there’s infinitely more contained within the tragicomedy of human experience than can ever be set to music and sung on a stage. “Into the Woods” is rife with songs that express this duality. “Sometimes people leave you / Halfway through the wood,” the Baker’s Wife sings in the finale of “Into the Woods.” “Do not let it grieve you / No one leaves for good.” If the moment feels oddly sentimental for a writer who’s such a cockeyed realist, it’s countered by Cinderella’s version of the line in an earlier song: “Others may deceive you/You decide what’s good.”

(Continued on Page 19)

Sondheim (Continued from Page 18)

It is said that Sondheim had little ego involvement in his work. If someone he respected said something didn't work, he wrote a new song that did. He was equally willing to revisit his earlier works and enthusiastically embrace new interpretations. For example, the original character at the heart of "Company" was a 35-year-old man whose friends were all encouraging him to give up his bachelor ways and find a mate. The revival of this musical just opened on Broadway - with one significant change - Bobby is now Bobbie, a 35-year-old unmarried woman.

Another Sondheim "revival" is on its way to movie theaters - "West Side Story" as reimagined by Steven Spielberg and Tony Kushner. Can't wait to see it! How can it improve on this classic?

The artist refused to repeat himself, finding inspiration for his shows in such diverse subjects as an Ingmar Bergman movie ("A Little Night Music"), the opening of Japan to the West ("Pacific Overtures"), French painter Georges Seurat ("Sunday in the Park with George"), Grimm's fairy tales ("Into the Woods") and even the killers of American presidents ("Assassins").

Six of Sondheim's musicals won Tony Awards for best score, and he also received a Pulitzer Prize ("Sunday in the Park with George"), an Academy Award (for the song "Sooner or Later" from the film "Dick Tracy"), five Olivier Awards and the Presidential Medal of Honor. In 2008, he received a Tony Award for lifetime achievement.

Another facet of Sondheim the man is that he was a mentor to many aspiring artists. You have only to watch "Tick Tick Boom" (playing on *Netflix* - watch it, it's fabulous!) to see how Sondheim's generosity and outreach to a struggling musical theater artist made an immense impact on his life. Sondheim also mentored Lin-Manuel Miranda on his musical, "*Hamilton*." Sondheim "worried that an evening of rap might get monotonous," but ultimately believed Miranda's attention to, and respect for good rhyming made it work.

In response to his death, numerous artists have written poignantly about how Sondheim reached out to them, offering to help with a project they were working on. This facet of his personality - a desire

to further the success of other artists, as well as the genre of musical theater itself - increases my admiration for the man he was and the impact he had on entertainment in the last half of the 20th century.

I've seen several interviews with Sondheim in the past few months, including an outing on the "Tonight Show with Stephen Colbert," and Sondheim's modesty is obvious. He seems unmoved by his fame, and instead talked about how he relied upon an enormous rhyming dictionary in composing many of his lyrics. He also spoke admiringly of the revival of "Company" and "West Side Story." In both cases, he approved the changes that were made and seemed thrilled they were putting a new slant on his previous successes. Another interesting fact: I've read that he had no romantic relationships until he was 60 years of age, and often had to consult others when writing love songs for his shows. Also, he had an extremely adversarial relationship with his mother and didn't attend her funeral.

All in all, I love Sondheim's work. His achievements were extraordinary and broke new ground in the theater. I even now sing along to CDs of his musicals (voice teacher be damned) and admire the man he was for all his contributions to the form of art that is my favorite - musical theater. He will be sorely missed. I wonder what will happen to the musical he was working on when he died. I hope someone steps forward to continue his work.

Thanks to the "Atlantic," "The New York Times" and the Internet for some of this material.

P.S. You can enjoy hearing some Sondheim music when MILT puts on a revue in March. Watch for the announcements!



FLOOD TIME IN NEW JERSEY

By Lois and Stan Kaish

We live in two geographic states: New Jersey and Florida. Lately, we have lived in two mental states as well: frantic and tranquil. Can you guess which geographic state pairs with frantic? Hint: it has to do with hurricanes and flooding. Wrong!! Despite Florida's location in the hurricane belt and its annual announcement of when hurricane season begins and ends, we have been visited by three hurricanes in New Jersey and, I am happy to say, none in Florida. The most recent New Jersey storm was named Ida. Our Florida friends ask, "How come you are so late getting here this year?" Blame Ida. She visited us on September 1st. We finished having repairs on the flood damage she caused on December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) and headed south a day later.

Ida was the latest encounter we had with storms visiting from Florida. There was the one the newscasters fondly called "Super Storm Sandy." That one hit New Jersey in October of 2012 and is on record as the most severe hurricane the state has ever experienced. They retired the name as a sign of respect. And well they should. It caused \$30 billion dollars' worth of property damage, killed 37 people and left two million households with no electricity for up to a week. We were one of the two million, but relieved to have suffered no flood damage from that one.

We couldn't say that about Hurricane Irene that hit us in August of the prior year. That one flooded our basement, up to five feet worth, and gave us a foot or so on the first floor of the house. When that happens, the drill is to cut out the lower half of the walls in the rooms affected, blow the cavities dry for a couple of days and replace what was cut out. Between FEMA and homeowner's insurance, we broke even on that one, but decided that maybe Flood Insurance would be a good idea.

And it was that history that prepped us for Ida. Here is our situation. When we moved into our house sixty years ago, it was part of a development that had been a farm and was across the street from a wooded area. Part of that wooded area had been cleared to make room for a playground, and with

one kid in hand and one on the way we picked a lot opposite the playground. Beyond the playground, too inconsequential to be considered, ran the Rahway River. Well, it is consequential to the Army Corps of Engineers that designs flood control projects and, as it turns out, we should have paid a little more attention.

Anyway, that recent night this last September, it rained, and it rained some more. The river rose and it entered the playground. Even though the playground is some six feet lower than our house, after a while the river was running in the street. Still about three feet lower than the house, but it had our attention. By ten o'clock the river had come up the remaining three feet of driveway, surrounded the house, and made it to the backyard. At that point water came in from all four sides. Not a trickle but a deluge that filled the basement, floated the washing machine and dryer, knocked out the furnace and water heater, turned over the worktable and drowned the freezer. In the house, water sought out walls, furniture and carpeting. Not just water, but muddy water.

What to do the next morning? Get someone to clean up the mud. Call the insurance company. Find someone to open the walls and then replace them. Think about it for a few days and then call the known companies that do that sort of thing, only to get the message, "We are not taking calls now because we already have more than we can handle."

And that is when the state of mind goes to frantic. It's now nearly four months later and time for a little tranquility.



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With the upcoming New Year I am providing several landscaping tips you can consider to boost your home's curb appeal.

Small landscape additions this coming year can add interest to your lawn and home without you spending a lot of money. To make an impression, plant a colorful bed of annual plants and add points of interest such as a small water feature, or a hanging, glazed pottery container with an assortment of flowering annuals such as wax begonias, impatiens, or crossandra. Orchids you may have received over the holidays can be attached to a tree. You can also plant a dying holiday poinsettia to your flower beds where it will revive.

I would like to suggest varieties of plants that flower several different times a year. These plants are the dwarf ixora shrub, the pin wheel jasmine shrub and the bougainvillea.

You can also add several varieties of shrubs that include: crotons, clusia, goldmound duranta and ilex. These plants do not flower but their colorful foliage and texture add highlights to the landscape plantings.

A water feature that can stand alone on your patio can add some relaxing sounds to the patio area and the surrounding areas. Some of the homes in the community have an atria that allows for a small in-ground pond with fish.

Another simple way to improve curb appeal is to add a couple of rocks to a planting bed. This type of formation tends to breakup the monotony of a planting bed. Different colors and the shapes of rock formations add to the beauty of a raised flower bed.

Another tip that I would recommend is creating a curved border edging for your planting beds, instead of straight edging. A serpentine curved border bed of plants will add more curb appeal and character to your planting beds than a straight bed of plants.

Layer your flower beds in several rows. The back row would be the plant with the tallest growth. As an example, the last row would be a permanent planting of Ti plants, in front of that, you might put a bed of dwarf ixora and the front row could be for annual bedding plants or maybe a few bromeliads.

Throughout our community, many residents have installed attractive outside decorative lighting. This added lighting has contributed to the visibility of the landscape. More importantly, the illumination of the added lights has provided increased safety along sidewalks and steps.

A final thought: Is it true that landscapers never provide you with a straight answer? Yes. "They always beat around the bush!"



REFLECTING ON FRIDA KAHLO

By Ellen Nelson



I recently went to the Norton Museum to see the Frida Kahlo exhibit. It was one of the most spectacular exhibitions I've seen in a museum, and I thought I'd share some information I gathered about her. The show runs through Feb. 6, 2022.

Reflecting on Frida Kahlo's life in 1995, the Mexican author Carlos Fuentes wrote: "Our bodies are broken in half. We are two nations...the unrepeatable woman called Frida Kahlo is broken, torn inside her own body much as Mexico is torn outside...Born with the revolution, Frida Kahlo both mirrors and transcends the central event of twentieth-century Mexico. She mirrors it in her images of suffering, destruction, bloodshed, mutilation, loss, but also in her image of humor, gaiety, *alegría* (joy), that so distinguished her painful life."

Today we admire Frida Kahlo as a revolutionary artist and feminist. Yet it was through physical and emotional adversity that her strength grew. She lived with the lingering effects of childhood polio, and in 1925 narrowly escaped death in a horrific bus accident that shattered her pelvis and spine. She began painting as a way to escape the pain she lived with daily.

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) grew up in Mexico City and became romantically involved with her future husband, Diego Rivera, in 1927 while she was still an art student. He was drawn to her innate skills as a painter who created insightful portraits and narratives. Kahlo developed a unique portraiture style based in part on the Spanish *ex voto* tradition of religious painting. They married in 1929.

Ten years later, they divorced, only to remarry a year later. In *Diego on My Mind*, 1940, Kahlo included a miniature portrait of Rivera on her forehead. Although diminutive, Rivera is undoubtedly present.

Frida Kahlo had a mixed heritage: her father was German and her mother was Spanish and indigenous Tehuana from Oaxaca, Mexico. Kahlo consciously constructed a *mestiza* persona, pairing Spanish colonial jewelry with traditional *huipil* blouses or Chanel haute couture with her indigenous jade necklace. She created a blended identity, simultaneously appropriating and reclaiming her cultures. One of her lovers, Nickolas Muray, took several photographs of Kahlo that became well known. In these portraits, Kahlo is a kind of modern "everywoman" who represents a concept of Mexican womanhood beyond just herself.

Kahlo lived most of her life in her family home, *Casa Azul*, the blue house; she and Rivera made it their home after their marriage. Although she lived a cosmopolitan life and traveled the world, she always returned to *La Casa Azul*. Within the privacy of its cobalt-blue walls they kept a menagerie of animals: monkeys, dogs, cats, a deer and a rabbit. More than just a home, *La Casa Azul* was a cultural hub for Mexico's artistic circles, where thinkers, politicians, patrons and artists gathered among the home's pre-Hispanic art and beautiful courtyard gardens for intellectual conversation and artistic exchange.

Home and family are at the center of Mexican life and culture. Everyday scenes – children playing in fields of sunflowers - and Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera surrounded by familiar objects in their house point to a deep reverence for familial relationships and the role of the home as a place that provides sustenance while nurturing community and identity.

Diego Rivera (1886-1957), born in Guanajuato, Mexico, was among the most famous and successful artists of the day, best known for his murals in Mexico and the United States. In 1931, he was only the second artist to be honored with a solo retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art (Henri Matisse was the first).

Frida Kahlo's art is iconic and instantly recognizable. This exhibit pays tribute to her unique style and talent and features more than 150 works in several rooms. There are many paintings and works on paper by Kahlo herself, as well as pieces by her husband, Diego Rivera. Book a ticket and don't miss this show.

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SHOULD A MACHINE MAKE MORAL JUDGEMENTS?

By Steve Karten

At the risk of being called a worrywart, a merchant of doom or a cynic, once again I write about a pet peeve of mine, Artificial Intelligence; a subject that has the definite potential of keeping me up nights.

At the University of Washington in Seattle recently, researchers at the Allen Institute for AI unveiled Delphi, a new technology that was created for the sole purpose of making moral judgements. When reading about this recently, a chill went up my much-beleaguered spine. For me, this is one of the scariest things I've ever come across in my lifetime. As far as I'm concerned, the development and advancements in AI are more dangerous than the Manhattan project, the development of the atomic bomb in the early 1940s.

I find that I'm in good company in this belief. Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and Elon Musk, founder of Tesla electric automobiles, both warn about the possible pitfalls of AI. Stephen Hawking, considered to be one of the greatest minds in the 20th, and early 21st centuries actually said: "that efforts to create thinking machines pose a threat to our very existence." He told the BBC: "The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race."

In addition, there is a long list of very prominent scientists who worry about AI. Amongst the many highly accomplished and respected scientists and great minds is Gary Marcus, a professor in the Department of Psychology at New York University; he is also the founder and CEO of Geometric Intelligence, a machine learning company later acquired by Uber. He said, "Once computers can effectively reprogram themselves, and successively improve themselves, leading to a so-called technological singularity or intelligence explosion, the risks of machines outwitting humans in battles for resources and self-preservation cannot simply be dismissed."

Another great mind, Jaron Lanier, computer scientist, composer, visual artist and author who is considered the founder of the field of Virtual Reality (what I like to call the precursor to the

"Star Trek" Holodeck), states his concern about AI development: "the fact that towards the end of the day, we'll have a huge mix of several brains working along the lines of a real brain. Such a complex intelligence could be tough to handle or control."

Yejin Choi, the leader of the Allen Institute's Delphi project, says "Delphi is a first step toward making AI systems more ethically informed, socially aware and culturally inclusive."

Delphi has its own website which anyone can log onto and ask an ethical question. Joseph Austerweil, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin, did just that and asked the machine if he should kill one person to save another? Delphi said "no." He then asked if he should kill one person to save 100 others; Delphi said he should. After that, he asked if he should kill one person to save 101 others? This time, Delphi said he shouldn't. How do you reconcile these two answers? The absurdity in this example clearly demonstrates a fatal shortcoming in this form of AI technology. Obviously, AI programming can be as flawed as those who write the code.

The most important question one must ask is, who gets to teach ethics to the world's machines? AI researchers? Project managers? Mark Zuckerberg? Tim Cook? Trained philosophers and psychologists? Government regulators? The last of these I personally find bone chilling - I've read George Orwell's novel "1984." And we all remember the disasters wrought by Hal, the all-knowing computer from "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Of course, much can be said of the benefits of AI. It can complete routine and difficult tasks with ease and can work around the clock, thus increasing productivity. AI also has enormous potential in the health care arena. It can be used to diagnose certain diseases or recommend a treatment plan for something already diagnosed. AI already assists physicians who are conducting surgical procedures; it's use will surely grow.

So much for the pluses. Then there are the minuses, the cons. AI development is enormously expensive. Although it is predicted that AI will cause gains in employment, it will cause losses as well. Most

(Continued on Page 27)



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NOTABLE JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Paul Revere (1735-1818)
January 1	Betsy Ross (1752-1836)
January 4	Louis Braille (1809-1852)
January 6	Joan of Arc (1412-1431)
January 8	Elvis Presley (1935-1977)
January 9	Carrie Lane Chapman (1859-1947)
January 11	Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804)
January 12	John Hancock (1737-1793)
January 14	Benedict Arnold (1741-1801)
January 14	Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
January 15	Martin Luther King (1929-1968)
January 17	Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)
January 17	Muhammad Ali (1942 -)
January 18	Daniel Webster (1782-1852)
January 19	Robert E. Lee (1807-1870)
January 19	Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849)
January 21	Ethan Allen (1738-1789)
January 22	Francis Bacon (1561-1626)
January 26	Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)
January 27	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
January 27	Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)
January 27	Samuel Gompers (1850-1924)
January 28	Henry Stanley (1841-1904)
January 29	Thomas Paine (1737-1809)
January 29	Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)
January 30	Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945)
January 31	Jackie Robinson (1919-1972)

**Shoutout to everyone
who can
still remember their
Childhood Phone Number
but can't remember the
Password they created
Yesterday.
You are my kind of people!**

Moral Judgments (Continued from Page 25)

likely, jobs that feature repetitive tasks will be at risk. Predictions are that many more jobs will be lost than those that are gained.

There are many more pluses and minuses one could elaborate on. I personally believe that the cons outnumber the pros. And here's the "biggie" for me: AI is only as intelligent and insightful as the individuals responsible for its initial programming. That means there could be a certain bias found within its programming when it's time to make an important decision. For example, in 2014, an active shooter situation caused people to call Uber to escape the area. Instead of recognizing the dangerous situation, the algorithm Uber used saw a spike in demand, so it decided to increase prices.

Another very big minus in my opinion is that AI can change the power structure of societies. Because it offers the potential to change industries and the way we live in numerous ways, societies will experience a power shift if AI becomes a dominant force. Those who create or control this technology are the ones who will be able to steer society toward their personal vision of how society should operate. It also removes the humanity (and conscience) from certain decisions, like the idea of having autonomous AI responsible for warfare without humans actually initiating the act of violence.

Now, one wonders why any person thinks that there is a value in having machines "learn" morality. In my view, reliance on such a system is a complete abrogation of one's responsibility as a human being to bring progress to the world and prevent disasters.

It's a very ticklish situation. AI is in its infancy, and much remains to be seen. With all this in mind, all I'll say at this point is ... be careful what you wish for.



SPALDEEN

Submitted by Jerry Ehrlich



This story is about a ball, the most wonderful ball ever invented. It's better than a baseball, or basketball, or football. It's better than any ball you can name.

It was gone for 20 years, but it is back now. It is called a Spaldeen, which might not mean anything to you unless you grew up on the east coast, preferably New York City, before 1979. I grew up in Da Bronx in the 1950s, and my childhood memories are filled with Spaldeens.

Starting in the 1920s, The Spalding Co. manufactured tennis balls at its home base in Chicopee, Mass. But production problems occurred, and there wasn't enough of the fuzzy stuff for the outside of the tennis balls. Some anonymous genius - and I used that word with reverence - got the idea to market the bright pink, unused rubber cores as the "Spalding High-Bounce Ball."

Because New York City people don't talk so good, they pronounced Spalding as "Spaldeen" as in, "Hey, Joey, you wanna play? I got a Spaldeen."

Spalding would box the Spaldeens and ship them down to New York City, where kids would buy them for a quarter each. And, my God, when you bought a brand new Spaldeen, the aroma alone would cause ecstasy; it was the smell of Bazooka bubble gum and summer, and all those legendary New York City Street games began and ended with Spaldeens. I'm talking about games you've heard about but might never have played -stickball, punchball, stoopball, hit the penny and a million others. When it came to inventing games with a Spaldeen, the only limit was your imagination. We didn't have baseball fields or any other kind of fields. We played on playgrounds-really slabs of concrete surrounded by cyclone fences-or we played in the street, using sewer covers as bases.

The virtue of a Spaldeen, besides that you could whack it a mile, was that it didn't break things. You hit Mrs. Smith's Olds 88 with a Spaldeen, no big deal. No broken glass, no broken mirror, no

broken nothin! Of course, Mrs. Smith would come running down her steps, screaming, "I'm gonna tell your mutha." I apologize, Mrs. Smith, wherever you are.

I mostly played in the school yard of P.S. 82. And every kid would come to the yard with a Spaldeen in his back pocket. If someone had a stick, we'd play stickball. The stick was an old broom handle or a dowel from the closet.

We'd draw a box on the wall and pitch to it, and if the batter hit it over the fence, it was a homer.

We'd play handball with the Spaldeen, and sometimes we'd go to a friend's house for stoopball. A kid would throw the ball at the steps in front of someone's house, and as the ball sailed - you get the idea.

But the king of Spaldeen games all over New York City was punchball. You'd toss the ball over your head. You'd swing down overhand as if you were serving a tennis ball. And then you'd punch it with your closed fist. Guys could hit it 200 feet, long fly balls that seemed to never come down. The puncher would be running around the bases-painted squares on the playground grimy concrete while the outfielders ran like mad after the Spaldeen.

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIEND-WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER END!"

Anonymous

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JANUARY IN HISTORY

Submitted by Lois Kaish

January 1, 1776 - During the Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 1, 1863 - Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln which freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

January 1, 1892 - Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.

January 1, 1942 - Twenty-six countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their opposition to the Axis powers and confirming that no single nation would make a separate peace.

January 1, 1959 - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba.

January 1, 1975 - During the Watergate scandal, former top aides to President Nixon were found guilty of obstruction of justice.

January 1, 1979 - China and the U.S. established diplomatic relations, 30 years after the founding of the People's Republic.

January 3, 1924 - British Egyptologist Howard Carter found the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen.

January 3, 1959 - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state.

January 3, 1993 - President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the Start-II (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of each country's long range nuclear weapons.

January 5, 1925 - Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female governor in the U.S.

January 5, 1972 - President Richard Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle.

January 6, 1941 - President Franklin Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union address asking for support for the lend-lease program aiding Allies fighting the Axis powers. Roosevelt also defined

four essential freedoms worth defending: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

January 7, 1714 - A patent was issued for the first typewriter.

January 7, 1999 - The first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years began to decide whether President Clinton should be removed from office.

January 8, 1959 - Charles de Gaulle took office as the first president of France's Fifth Republic.

January 8, 1964 - President Lyndon Johnson declared the War on Poverty during his State of the Union message.

January 8, 1982 - The American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Company was broken up. AT&T gave up 22 local Bell system companies, opening the U.S. telephone system to competition.

January 8, 1987 - The Dow Jones industrial average first topped the 2,000 mark.

January 10, 1776 - "Common Sense," a 50-page pamphlet by Thomas Paine, was published.

January 10, 1863 - The world's first underground railway service opened in London.

January 10, 1878 - An amendment granting women the right to vote was introduced in Congress. The amendment didn't pass until 1920, forty-two years later.

January 10, 1920 - The League of Nations officially came into existence with the goal of resolving international disputes, reducing armaments, and preventing future wars. The U.S. did not join due to a lack of support in Congress.

January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report.

January 12, 1932 - Hattie W. Caraway, a Democrat from Arkansas, was appointed to the U.S. Senate to fill the term of her deceased husband. Later in the year, she became the first woman elected to the Senate.

(Continued on Page 32)

History (Continued from Page 31)

January 13, 1898 - French author Emile Zola published "J'Accuse" which led to the vindication of Alfred Dreyfuss.

January 13, 1990 - Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the first African American governor in the U.S.

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II, following which Roosevelt announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

January 17, 1773 - The ship *Resolution*, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 20, 1942 - During the Holocaust, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS, convened a conference in Berlin to coordinate the "Final Solution" (Endlösung) in which the Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons.

January 21, 1954 - The *USS Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched.

January 21, 1976 - The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2).

January 22, 1901 - Queen Victoria of England died after reigning for 64 years, the longest reign in British history.

January 22, 1973 - Abortion became legal in the U.S. as the Supreme Court announced its decision in the case of *Roe vs Wade*.

January 23, 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell was awarded her M.D. by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, thus becoming America's first woman doctor.

January 24, 1848 - The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal.

January 25, 1959 - An American Airlines Boeing 707 made the first scheduled transcontinental U.S. flight, traveling from California to New York.

January 27, 1945 - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.

January 27, 1973 - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended.

January 28, 1915 - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress.

January 28, 1986 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

January 29, 1919 - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition) was ratified.

January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany.

January 30, 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated.

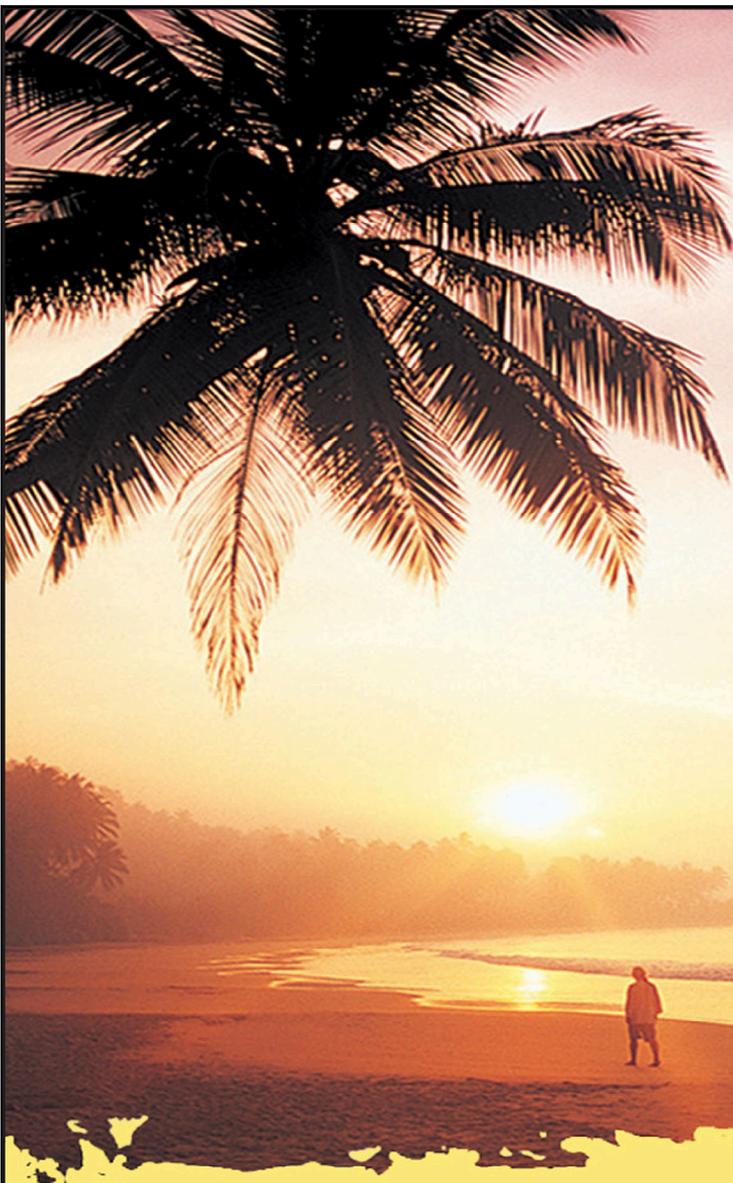
January 31, 1943 - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II.





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LENA BRYANT'S LEGACY

Submitted by Alene Kristal



This Jewish fashion pioneer changed the way women dressed and did business.

Lena Himmelstein, a 16-year-old Jewish orphan from Lithuania, arrived alone in New York City in 1895. Lena sewed

dresses. She married David Bryant, a Russian Jewish immigrant, and had a baby boy, Raphael.

David died suddenly a month after Raphael was born. Lena would hold him on her lap while she sewed late into the night.

She was very successful and opened her own shop in 1904. The bank loan misspelled her name as Lane. She didn't correct the error and kept Lane Bryant as her business name.

In 1907, Lena designed one of the first ever maternity dresses. At the time, pregnant women were rarely seen in public. But a generation of modern, working women wanted the freedom to wear comfortable clothes during pregnancy. Lena designed an elastic-waisted maternity dress for a pregnant customer. An instant hit - it became her bestselling item.

Lena married Albert Maslin in 1909. He ran Lena's business while she focused on design. They had two children together, Theodore and Helen.

When the "New York Herald" broke conformity and ran an ad for Lena's maternity clothes in 1911, her supply sold out the next day. To reach customers, Lane Bryant started one of the first mail-order catalogs. It became one of the nation's most popular catalogs.

Lena then designed stylish, plus-sized clothing, revolutionizing the way American women dressed. She and Albert opened the first Lane Bryant store in Chicago in 1915, appealing to women of all sizes. Within 50 years, there were 100 Lane Bryant stores across the U.S.

When Albert died in 1923, Lena pioneered new ways of doing business. Her workers had employee
(Continued on page 37)

WIT & WHIMSY

Submitted by Betty Wachtel

Do you find yourself wearing a lot of clothing from L.L. Bean? Do you need to avoid too many glasses of wine or too much coffee, because if you don't, you'll find yourself awake at 3 a.m., unable to fall back asleep? Do you sometimes genuinely enjoy the music they play at the dentist's office? I hate to break it to you, but this means you're probably "A Person of a Certain Age."

Picture this: You're out to dinner with a group of friends and the check comes. Inevitably, you'll find that no one has change for a \$20, or worse, no one has any cash at all. (I don't know why no one could find time to stop at an ATM when they knew they would have to pay for dinner.)

Or, much to your horror, one of your friends will offer to pay with her credit card and say you can simply Venmo her your share of the bill. The only problem? You don't have Venmo. You could offer to give her cash, but your friend will look at you like you've just offered to pay her during the colonial era with a promissory note. PayPal? Forget about it. That's like offering a testimonial about someone on Friendster. Maybe you'll start asking yourself why you need to adopt this new platform. What's wrong with good, old-fashioned cash or credit cards?

Congratulations, you are now officially "Why do I need Venmo?" years old.

Even if you no longer know about the cool up-and-coming bands or you are not an early adopter of the latest technology (but you are an early riser!), there are some benefits to getting older - like the fact that you can easily rent a car or that you don't have to show ID to prove you're old enough to purchase a bottle of moderately priced bourbon once a year at the liquor store. You might even have a 401(k). Maybe you feel more comfortable in your own skin and more confident about who you are. Perhaps you finally found the one brand of pants that fit you consistently. (If so, please share what they are, particularly if they're available at a reasonable price point and you're on the pear-shaped side.) Numerous studies have shown that many people get
(Continued on page 37)

STATES AND WHAT THEY ARE FAMOUS FOR

Submitted by Lois Kaish

ALABAMA ... Was the first state to have 911; started 1968.

ALASKA ... One out of every 64 people has a pilot's license.

ARIZONA ... Is the only state in the continental U.S. that does not follow Daylight Savings Time.

ARKANSAS ... Has the only active diamond mine in the U.S.

CALIFORNIA ... Its economy is so large that if it were a country, it would rank seventh in the entire world.

COLORADO ... In 1976 it became the only state to turn down the Olympics.

CONNECTICUT ... The Frisbee was invented here at Yale University.

DELAWARE ... Has more scientists and engineers than any other state.

FLORIDA ... At 874.3 square miles, Jacksonville is the largest city in the U.S.

GEORGIA ... It was here, in 1886, that pharmacist John Pemberton made the first vat of Coca-Cola.

HAWAII ... Hawaiians live, on average, five years longer than residents of any other state.

IDAHO ... TV was invented in Rigby in 1922.

ILLINOIS ... Has a governor in jail, one pending jail, and is the most corrupt state in the union!

INDIANA ... Home to Santa Claus, Indiana, which gets a half million letters for Santa every year.

IOWA ... Winnebago RVs get their name from Winnebago County. Also, it is the only state name that begins with two vowels.

KANSAS ... Liberal, Kansas has an exact replica of the house in "The Wizard of Oz."

KENTUCKY ... Has more than \$6 billion in gold underneath Fort Knox.

LOUISIANA ... Has parishes instead of counties because they were originally French church units.

MAINE ... It is so large that it covers as many square miles as the other five New England states combined.

MARYLAND ... The Ouija board was created in Baltimore in 1892.

MASSACHUSETTS ... The Fig Newton is named after Newton, Massachusetts.

MICHIGAN ... Fremont, home to Gerber, is the baby food capital of the world.

MINNESOTA ... Bloomington's Mall of America is so big, that if you spent 10 minutes in each store, you'd be there almost four days.

MISSISSIPPI ... President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear here - that's how the teddy bear got its name.

MISSOURI ... The birthplace of the ice cream cone.

MONTANA ... A sapphire from Montana is in the Crown Jewels of England.

NEBRASKA ... More triplets are born here than in any other state.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ... Birthplace of Tupperware, invented in 1938 by Earl Tupper.

NEW JERSEY ... Has the most shopping malls in one area in the world.

NEW MEXICO ... Smokey the Bear was rescued from a forest fire here in 1950.

NEW YORK ... Is home to the nation's oldest cattle ranch, started in 1747 in Montauk.

NORTH CAROLINA ... Home of the first Krispy Kreme doughnut.

NORTH DAKOTA ... Rigby, North Dakota, is the exact geographic center of North America.

OHIO ... The hot dog was invented here in 1900.

OKLAHOMA ... The grounds of the state capital are covered by operating oil wells.

OREGON ... Has the most ghost towns in the country.

PENNSYLVANIA ... The smiley emoji :) was first used in 1980 by computer scientists at Carnegie Mellon University.

RHODE ISLAND ... The nation's oldest bar, the White Horse Tavern, opened here in 1673.

(Continued on Page 37)

States (Continued from Page 36)

SOUTH CAROLINA ... Sumter County is home to the world's largest ginkgo farm.

SOUTH DAKOTA ... Is the only state that's never had an earthquake.

TENNESSEE ... Nashville's Grand Ole Opry is the longest running live radio show in the world.

TEXAS ... Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. The hamburger was invented in Arlington in 1906.

UTAH ... The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened here in 1952.

VERMONT ... Montpelier is the only state capital without a McDonald's.

VIRGINIA ... Home of the world's largest office building, The Pentagon.

WASHINGTON ... Seattle has twice as many college graduates as any other state.

WASHINGTON, D.C. ... Is the first planned capital in the world.

WEST VIRGINIA ... Had the world's first brick paved street, Summers Street, laid in Charleston in 1870.

WISCONSIN ... The ice cream sundae was invented here in 1881. Also, the American water spaniel was created there and is the state dog.

WYOMING ... Was the first state to allow women to vote.

From the Internet

Always find a reason to laugh. It may not add years to your life but it will surely add life to your years.

From the Internet

Lena Bryant (Continued from page 35)

benefits, rare in the early twentieth century. They enjoyed health insurance, pensions, disability, life insurance and profit sharing.

After World War II, Lane Bryant stores became drop-off and distribution centers for needy people in Europe, including Holocaust survivors living in Displaced Persons camps.

Lena insisted that Lane Bryant replace the wardrobe of any customer who experienced a natural disaster.

Lena was active in supporting American Jewish causes, including the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the NY Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. She died in 1951 at the age of 71. Her children continued Lane Bryant's ethos of stylish fashion for all. Lena's legacy is a testament to her values and her determination to help others less fortunate than herself.

From the Internet

Wit & Whimsy (Continued from page 35)

happier as they get older and find their stress, fear, anger, sadness and anxiety lessen. (Maybe their IBS even goes into remission!) As Ben Franklin said (I think), "With age comes wisdom" (although Oscar Wilde clarified, "With age comes wisdom, but sometimes age comes alone.")

In addition to becoming "Why do I need Venmo?" years old, you just might find that you've become "hurt yourself putting on your pants" years old, "saw something you had as a kid in an antique store" years old, or maybe even "I can get down low, but I can't get back up again" years old. In which case: Welcome to the club. The members of this club go to bed early, wearing comfortable pajamas and reading a good book.

It's really not so bad.

This essay is excerpted from "I Am 'Why Do I Need Venmo?' Years Old: Adventures in Aging" by Janine Papp Annett '96 From "Barnard Magazine" Fall 2021

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NEW ACTIVITIES CLUB

By Leah Polin

Listed below are plans for new activities which will begin at Majestic Isles in January 2022. Many more are on the drawing board. See below to express your interest in future clubs/activities/programs.

The first sessions of some of the proposed classes will serve as an orientation session for 30 minutes. All classes are in the clubhouse.

GLITZ AND GLAM BEADING

Leader/Teacher: Venita Ackerman
Monday, January 10th at 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Second Monday of the month

Geared for beginners, but with modifications made for more advanced students. Attendees of the initial class be provided with supplies at no cost, and supply lists will be provided for future classes. Limited to 15 participants.

RECIPES GALORE

Leader/Teacher: Michele Zaitz
Monday, January 17th at 7:00-7:30 p.m.
Bi-monthly on Monday nights

A fun class for men and women to share cooking tips and demonstrate different recipes. Students will participate in the food prep. Limited to 15 participants.

CANASTA FOR BEGINNERS

Edie Ballan and Lois Kaish
Tuesdays, January 11,18, 25 at 7-9:00 p.m.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Teacher: Ronnie Miller-Katz
Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26
First session 7:00 -7:30 p. m. (7-9 thereafter)

The class will include theory, techniques, and an overview of supplies needed to create your own watercolor masterpiece. Short demonstrations will also be part of the instruction. Limited participants.

SEWING FOR BEGINNERS

Teacher: Letitia Dahan Forspan
January 18th at 7:00-7:30; future dates to be determined by the class participants.

Taught by a renowned evening gown designer, the class for beginners to advanced students will teach the basics of working a sewing machine and creating a skirt, apron, or other simple garment. Advanced students will be guided individually. The introductory session will include suggestions for securing a sewing machine for those who don't own one.

In addition, if you are interested in any of the following, please contact:

Edie Ballan, 561-733-4992, ieballan@comcast.net
Leah Polin, 847-899-8620, leahpolin@icloud.com.

Include your preference for day or night classes.

Mah Jongg for beginners

Zumba or line dancing

Games, i.e., Scrabble, Dominoes, Rummikub

Weird Word Games

Technology classes

Travel club

SINGLES CLUB

By Marilyn Chermak and Renee Stichel

The Singles Club is back!!!! On December 5th we held our opening meeting in our beautiful clubhouse ballroom and had a pizza and salad dinner paid for from our membership dues. We all agreed that the meal was delicious and plentiful, and leftovers were taken home.

We discussed future plans and decided upon dinner at Josie's Restaurant on January 16th. They offer a happy hour, which is not only drinks, but food as well, which is less expensive than a regular dinner. We welcome other singles into our club to have some fun, meet new friends and go to new places.

In February we are going to the Delray Playhouse to see the show "Respect," a musical, and of course, we will dine out; we are not sure where yet, but it will be someplace enjoyable. We always have fun and good times together.

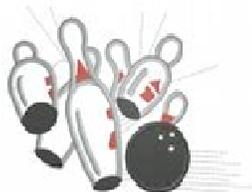
Come join us - yearly dues are only \$15.00 and are used to fund any parties we have.

To all our friends and residents of MI, we wish you and yours a healthy happy and peaceful new year.

MAJESTIC BOWLING LEAGUE

Spares and Strikes

By Joyce Stoudermire



HIGH GAME

Week 8-- MEN

M. Neikrug	210	M. Neikrug	552
B. Numeroff	199	B. Numeroff	538
Fred Neikrug	154	Fred Neikrug	441

Week 8 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder	145	Estelle Snyder	402
J. Stoudermire	138	J. Stoudermire	352
Carol Stevens	121		
M. Spinner	121	M. Spinner	341

Week 9 -- MEN

Fred Neikrug	158	Fred Neikrug	425
Jerry Elefson	149	K. Ramnarine	421
Howard Siegel	146	Howard Siegel	420

Week 9 -- WOMEN

J. Stoudermire	137	J. Stoudermire	380
M. Spinner	133	Estelle Snyder	367
Ilene Gross	132	Ilene Gross	361

Week 10 – MEN

Howard Siegel	202	B. Numeroff	492
B. Numeroff	193	Howard Siegel	492
K. Ramnarine	171	K. Ramnarine	428

Week 10 – WOMEN

J. Stoudermire	167	J. Stoudermire	391
Estelle Snyder	143	Estelle Snyder	386
Natalie Herbin	130	Natalie Herbin	343

Week 11 – MEN

B. Numeroff	181	B. Numeroff	517
K. Ramnarine	169	Fred Neikrug	433
Fred Neikrug	159	K. Ranmarine	432

Week 11 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder	159	Estelle Snyder	391
Issy Elefson	149	J. Stoudermire	370
Ilene Gross	138	Ilene Gross	359

Week 12 – MEN

K. Ramnarine	171	K. Ramnarine	472
B. Numeroff	171	B. Numeroff	456
Mark Jaffie	148	Mark Jaffie	381

Week 12 – WOMEN

Carol Stevens	138	Carol Stevens	381
J. Stoudermire	135	J. Stoudermire	366
M. Ramnarine	135	Estelle Snyder	359

Week 13 – MEN

B. Numeroff	189	B. Numeroff	471
K. Ramnarine	180	K. Ramnarine	459
Steve Herbin	162	Steve Herbin	458

Week 13 – WOMEN

M. Spinner	156	Estelle Snyder	412
J. Stoudermire	154	J. Stoudermire	411
Estelle Snyder	151	M. Ramnarine	366

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCORERS:

Men: **Michael Neikrug** 210 (week 8); **Bob Numeroff** 199 (week 8), 193 (week 10), 181 (week 11), 171 (week 12), 189 (week 13); **Howard Siegel** 202 (week 10); **Ken Ramnarine** 171 (week 10), 169 (week 11), 171 (week 12), 180 (week 13); **Steve Herbin** 162 (week 13).

Women: **Estelle Snyder** 145 (week 8), 143 (week 10), 159 (week 11), 151 (week 13); **Joyce Stoudermire** 167 (week 10), 154 (week 13); **Issy Elefson** 149 (week 11); **Michelle Spinner** 156 (week 13).



NEWS AND VIEWS

By **Bobbie Rosenfeld**



As I was out of town for most of our meetings this past month, I will focus on the meeting I attended. We had some new members who were warmly welcomed, and they were full of vigor in bringing up and participating in the topics we discussed. Irene led off with a discussion of the meaning of the eight candles we light for Hanukkah, and what they represent, leading to a hope for Peace.

Of course, the Omicron variant was of major concern as we assessed this new plague variant. We touched on mandates and the “refusenicks” in American life and expressed hope that we’ll be free of this disease at some point. We discussed the rising prices caused by the pandemic, including our homeowners’ policies. Also, we all find it annoying to have to now dial an area code when making local phone calls.

We took a long look at the shooting in the Michigan school, and all agreed the shooter’s parents should be held accountable for their behavior or lack of it. We also noted that California allows the snatch and grab thieves to be prosecuted for their crimes, despite their youth. I feel personally outraged by some political people posting pictures for Christmas of their families, including small children, holding rifles.

We noted the death of Robert Dole, a true hero and an honorable man who now lies in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

We had a good discussion of the desire to explore space and the efforts underway to begin public travel in space. Pros and cons were covered, apart from costs, and most agree humankind will explore because that is its nature.

Roe vs Wade came up and there was agreement that the law faces a sad outcome, which most of us are not happy about. The court faces a negative public response which may taint its reputation for years to come. The threat of political control of the court has reared its head in a way that does not accord with the views of the majority of the public. Join us for further discussions on Mondays at 3 p.m. Your thoughts are welcomed.

BOOK TALKS

By **Claire Deveney**



“The Exiles” by Christina Baker Kline will be discussed at the next Book Talks meeting led by Allan Topolosky on Wednesday, January 19 at 2 p.m. at the clubhouse.

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

“The author’s ability to weave fact with fiction, tragedy with moments of hope, and the everyday with the universal will leave you immersed, wanting more. You’ll open this novel because of history, read on because of the story, and close it knowing more about your own life, right here, right now.” – *New York Journal of Books*

“A powerful story of suffering and survival. Masterful.” – Heather Morris, author of “The Tattooist of Auschwitz.”

Stan Kaish will lead the February 18th meeting with a discussion on “The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz and a Village Caught in Between” by Michael Dobbs. The March 16th book selection is “The Stranger in the Lifeboat” by Mitch Albom.

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 January meeting will be sent to Book Talks members as well as a reminder a day before the meeting. To add your name and email address to the list, please email cdeveney@comcast.net. Contacts for Book Talks are Claire Deveney, cell 561-504-3842, and Allan Topolosky, 301-335-2288.

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!!

PAP CORPS

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermak



The Majestic Isles Pap Corps is very proud to be one of over 50 chapters raising funds for the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of the Miami Health System. Because of their National Cancer Institute designation, their team of experts and the clinical trials they offer give them unmatched opportunities to make a difference. They provide innovative treatments to adult and pediatric patients.

Sylvester by the numbers! 71st NCI-designated cancer center in the country; one of two NCI-designated cancer centers in Florida; 365 physicians and scientists devoted exclusively to cancer care and research; 1,650 patients participating in 251 clinical studies; nine treatment facilities across South Florida; \$50.5 million funding for 310 active cancer projects.

We welcome all to our opening Wine and Hors D'oeuvres event on January 27 at 3:00 p.m. in our beautiful clubhouse ballroom. It will include a delicious array of food, continuous wine, and great entertainment. A reservation of \$15 per person is required. Please place checks in the Pap mailbox in the back lobby of the club house.

All of us are looking forward to our Brunch/Card Party at the Fountains Country Club on January 12 at 11:00 a.m. Many thanks to all our guests who patiently waited through all our rescheduling due to Covid-19!

Much appreciation to all who planted a pinwheel in their garden! A special note of thanks to Barbara Berry and Gail Schatzkamer whose great efforts made the sale such a success!

We continue selling beautiful greeting cards (see Harriet Strauber or Nadine Ehrlich). For birthday greetings, see Myrna Bader; and for a gift of a donation to Pap, see Fran Silling.

To each and all, a Happy and Beautiful New Year!! We are very grateful to all our supporters and donors and hope that one day through our support for research we will see a world without cancer!

MILT

By Ed Strauber



On Sunday November 4th, Majestic Isles Little Theatre (MILT) presented a humorous 1950's radio play about Artificial Intelligence (robots featured prominently!). A fun time was had by all, and it was wonderful to see so many of you in attendance – it warmed our hearts to see the room was full. Our cast and technical department included Marilyn Chermak, Steve Heinman, Roberta Jaffie, Sherwin Larit, Deborah Lurie, Barbara Portnoff, Iris Rothstein, Stan Rothstein, Ira Schneider, Steve Shifnadel, Estelle Snyder, Gloria Steingart, Ed Strauber and Bob Wolff.

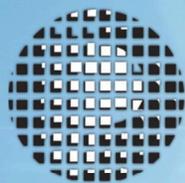
On Sunday, December 19th, MILT offered an in-depth documentary film (originally on PBS) called "Miracle of Miracles." The film chronicled the story of how "Fiddler on the Roof" came to be made, how it became a cultural landmark unlike any other, and why it is still relevant today. One big takeaway from the show is that "Fiddler" is still performed daily in many non-English speaking countries around the world and is especially popular in Japan!

On Sunday evening, January 9th (2022), we are pleased once again to present our own Dr. Harvey Vetstein. We have enjoyed and appreciated his lectures for many years. His presentations are always both educational and entertaining at the same time. Don't miss it!

MILT is always looking for new residents to participate. Come join us, make new friends and have fun. We look forward to meeting and greeting you all at our next MILT event.

For further information, please call Barbara Portnoff, 561-200-0717 or Ed Strauber, 561-732 3344. See you at the theater!

N.B. For those who missed our November 14th presentation or would just like to see it again, it is available on YouTube. Search "Majestic Isles," then select "X-1 performed by Majestic Isles Little Theater Group."



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