



Volume 25

Majestic Isles News

Summer 2022



Issue 10



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Cover by Gail Shatzkamer

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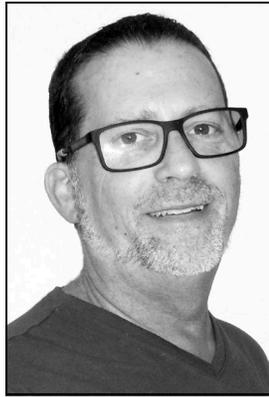
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Editorial Policy

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

MANAGER'S CORNER

I would like to share with you some information about issues that have recently come to my attention.

The pool has been repaired. It has been mentioned that the water seems to be cooler, but the temperature is kept at the same 85 degrees as previously.

It is projected that house painting will start between January and March of 2023. A plan is being developed to specify the number of homes to be done each year, with the goal of completing all homes within five years.

The budget for next year is being developed and meetings have been scheduled. The last one was held on July 25th and there will be another one on September 19th prior to completion of the budget. Residents may attend these meetings as observers only.

If residents want to make suggestions to the Entertainment Committee, they should contact Priscilla or myself by email. You are also welcome to attend meetings. Check the monthly calendar in the clubhouse for meeting dates.

We are working with Hulett to eliminate damaged hedges in the community.

We will be sending out the first notices for the Annual Meeting in late August or early September.

Plans for the November election of Board members are being formulated; there are four positions that will be open. We will be using GET QUORUM as we did last year. This online system eliminates the necessity for paper ballots, which many residents found to be a convenient way to vote. Those who do not have a computer will still be able to vote by paper ballot, but once you choose the online option, you will not be able to switch to a paper ballot. We will start working on this in August.

Regards,

Jay Peskoff, Property Manager

Email: jpeskoff@castlegroup.com

Phone: 561-734-8738

**REMINDER**

Copies of this newsletter are available in the back lobby of the clubhouse and in a box by 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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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD REGARDING “DIETARY RESTRICTIONS”

When we first came to this community, we saw that we had a diverse set of residents, and the diversity continues to this day. What is taking place in Majestic Isles right now is a division among residents based on the food we eat at events at the clubhouse. You heard us, “FOOD.”

When Majestic Isles was built 25+ years ago, the by-laws clearly stated that it was a non-sectarian community. One of the basic tenets of a non-sectarian community is that we respect the rights and beliefs of others but make no special arrangements for any group on religious grounds.

Obviously, the Board cannot order food to accommodate every dietary restriction of those attending an event, so we are continuing the community’s longstanding policy that discounted tickets be offered to those who will not be eating the food offered at that event. This arrangement has not been an issue in the past and our practice of offering a discount for an event at which food was served has had continued community support.

Unfortunately, the term “dietary restrictions” has become a call to arms by some. This is puzzling because those individuals who have had issues with food have always been welcome at any event in our community; they attended the event and just provided their own food.

While the Board is unanimous in its desire to continue this policy regarding dietary restrictions, we are distressed that some residents have created an unpleasant undercurrent in the community by claiming that the policy is new. On the contrary, this policy has not changed and anyone who believes that is mistaken.

We are open to discussing this matter with any resident. If you wish to explore this policy further, communicate with the Board by leaving a note in the office identifying yourself, and a member of the Board will get back to you to address your concerns.

The Board remains respectful of all the dietary needs in the community, and, we repeat, “ALL.”



2022 MAJESTIC ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jerry Ehrlich bronxguy1695@gmail.com	2 nd V.P.
Suzanne Skinner garsuz89@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Alan Stevens adstevens.ta@aol.com	Secretary
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Gail Shatzkamer gailshatzkamer@gmail.com	Member-at-large

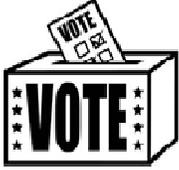
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COBWRA	Barbara Goodman
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Grounds	Bob Freiburger Sally Galan
Insurance	Suzanne Skinner
New Neighbors	Maddy Rosen

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

GET READY, SET AND VOTE!

By Claire Deveney



As a resident of Majestic Isles, you vote in **Precinct 8860, which is a new number** (it was 5028), and you vote at the South Tech Academy, 6161 Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach. You may also vote during the two-week Early Voting period or Vote-by-Mail (see instructions below). You should have received a new voter registration card in the mail in July.

THE PRIMARY is August 23, 2022. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You may only vote for candidates of the party in which you are registered. Voters registered with no party affiliation (NPA) are not eligible to vote in this primary election.

Early Voting: Monday, Aug. 8 through Sunday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Locations: There are 21 Early Voting Sites – the closest locations are: Hagan Ranch Road Library, 14350 Hagen Ranch Rd, Delray Beach and South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach. Check pbcelections.org for other sites.

VOTE BY MAIL:

Deadline to request a Vote by Mail ballot: Saturday, August 13 by 5 p.m. The rules for voting by mail have changed since the last election, so please be aware of the following:

The easiest way to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot is by going to the voting website pbcelections.org and following the instructions. You will need to supply your personal details, including your driver's license number, Florida ID card or the last four digits of your Social Security number. Alternatively, you can call the PBC Supervisor of Elections office at 561-656-6208 and ask for a vote-by-mail ballot or visit any PBC elections office. The closest office is at 345 S. Congress Ave, RM #103, Delray Beach. Make sure you use your mailing address, as ballots cannot be forwarded.

Vote-by-Mail ballots may be dropped off at any Early Voting Election site. These ballots are counted before other ballots, and the return postage is pre-paid.

GENERAL ELECTION: Tuesday, November 8, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Deadline to Register to vote is Tuesday, October 11.

Deadline to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot is 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Early Voting: Monday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 6, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Locations: The same 21 Early Voting Sites as noted in the left-hand column of this article.

To request a Vote-by-Mail ballot, follow the instructions in this article in the left-hand column.

CAVEAT: Some residents received an application to register to vote in the mail. If you are already a registered voter, please ignore this application. However, you can authenticate your registration status at pbcelections.org by clicking on "My Status" and filling out the requested information. Also, Florida statutes regarding Vote-By-Mail have altered the procedures for future elections. To receive a Vote-by Mail ballot for the 2023 and 2024 elections, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED to submit a new mail ballot request after November 8, 2022.

Questions about ballots: Complete and mail your Vote by Mail ballot immediately or as soon as possible upon receiving it. If you have questions regarding voter registration and Vote by Mail (Absentee) ballots, please contact Claire Deveney, Precinct Captain, 10800 Royal Caribbean Circle, on her cell phone at 561-504-3842. If you need a ride to the PBC Elections Office or help in dropping off your Vote-by-Mail ballot, call Claire.

Districts for our precinct are U.S. Congress: 22; State Senate: 26; State House: 92; County Commission: 5; School Board:3.

If you need to update your signature, please visit one of the elections offices or download a Voter Registration Application form at pbcelections.org. Complete the form and then mail it. The offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Remember, it's very important to get out and vote—in person or by mail!

GOOD AND WELFARE

THANK YOU

Thank you to my many friends and neighbors for your good thoughts and wishes during my illness.

Sandy Rosenhouch

*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.*

INFLATION JOKES

Submitted by Alene Kristal

My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

CEO's are now playing miniature golf.

Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.

I saw a Mormon with only one wife.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

A picture is now only worth 200 words.

When Bill and Hillary travel together, they now have to share a room.

Called to get the Blue Book Value on my car. They asked if my gas tank was full or empty.

I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Afghanistan, and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck.

From the Internet

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HOP ALONG FOR A THREE-DAY THEATRE TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

By Claire Deveney

My whirlwind trip to the Big Apple included three plays in two days and nights in June. Here's how I spent my time.

First Play: "Plaza Suite"

As a theatre lover, I was eager to see the best that Broadway had to offer. The hottest ticket, according to "The New York Times," was the revival of Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" starring the married couple Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker. The production consists of three one-act plays, and it all takes place – you guessed it - at The Plaza Hotel in New York City, Suite 719, in 1968 and 1969. I highly recommend you find a hard copy of the play to read and laugh yourself silly. It was a big hit when it first graced the stage in 1968, and the revival is as hilarious as the original. I had seen a version of this play decades ago and enjoyed it so much that I wanted to see it, and Broderick, again.

I hadn't seen Broderick, a favorite of mine, since his performance in "The Producers" years before, so this was my big chance. I bought my ticket seven weeks in advance, then booked a hotel near Times Square where I have stayed several times in the past, purchased my plane tickets and cleared my calendar. My theatre ticket was a bargain - \$250 – compared to the going rate of up to \$600 (!) and I had a terrific orchestra seat.

A noted source wrote: "Two world-class actors play three hilarious couples in this uproarious and piercing look at love and marriage from legendary playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner Neil Simon." The performance lived up to the reviews and then some – it was just grand!

Second Play: "The Music Man"

The revival of Meredith Wilson's legendary "The Music Man" stars musical theatre legends Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster. I saw it last January and so enjoyed this classic American musical with its headliner actor, singer and tap dancer Hugh Jackson that I felt I needed to see it once more. When I entered the theatre with my mask on (as is

required), I overheard a woman telling her friend that she was attending the show for the second time this season! Me too! When I had seen the show in January, I had traveled by Amtrak from Boston to NYC to attend the matinee, and despite the frigid weather, it was a truly exciting day.

Getting a ticket this time wasn't that easy since the show continues to run sold-out performances. I managed to get an orchestra row seat for \$247 (much less than the going rate). As they say in the theatre business, this show has legs and will likely have a long run – so get your tickets soon! Hugh Jackman will be taking some vacation time this summer so keep that in mind when buying your tickets.

Third Play: "Mr. Saturday Night"

Billy Crystal headlines this new musical comedy with a marvelous cast. He is fabulously funny, witty and brilliant. I think it's a must see. I hope PBS tapes this show and features it as it did with Crystal's last show "700 Sundays." My ticket was \$193 for yet another orchestra row seat.

I had a lovely pre-theatre dinner with my "adopted" 25-year-old granddaughter, Hayley Aaronson at a Times Square restaurant.

The third day of my trip I took it easy in the morning, went for a light lunch and took a cab to the partly renovated and gorgeous LaGuardia airport for my trip back home. My three-day, two-night visit to NYC to see three plays was a huge success. Broadway is always exciting and there are currently approximately 23 plays to see. Some neighbors and friends have been to see "Six" recently and loved it, so it's on my list.

In January, I plan to return to New York to see and hear world-class trumpeter Chris Botti and his band at the Blue Note Club. I'll also see at least two plays during that trip.

I have been visiting New York annually for about 45 years (except during COVID when theatres were closed), usually with my friend, Nancy Kilty, who lives in Lexington, Mass. On every visit I reconnect with friends and see the best plays I can get tickets to. In case you can't tell from what I've written, I really love New York.



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MOVIES/STREAMING

By Joan Sorkin



If you think all spies in WW II were males, catch “A Call to Spy” on *Netflix*. It will forever change your thoughts about spies in general, and demonstrates the bravery of many young women who

volunteered in England to fight the war.

“The Perfect Mother,” a new series on *Netflix*, tells the story of a daughter going to college in Paris who is accused of murder. Follow the lengths her mother goes to prove her innocence.

Edie Ballan recommends the *HBOMax* version of “Father of the Bride.” This remake of a familiar story is set in a Spanish family.

And if you think Adam Sandler only stars in silly comedies, sit back and enjoy his performance in “Hustle” on *Netflix*. The story follows a basketball scout and his new discovery.

“Hotel Portofino” is a new series on *PBS* that airs once a week. It is a period piece that takes place at a hotel in Italy that is struggling to stay in business, and features an array of characters that will hold your interest.

The Ballans also enjoyed “The Old Man” with Jeff Bridges on *FX*. I only watched the first episode but couldn’t stand the commercials; I also found it to be very violent. You decide for yourself.

“Operation Mincement,” recommended by Barbara Lader, is a fascinating true story shown on *Netflix* that details the elaborate plot the British intelligence service concocted to outwit the Germans during WW II.

Let me know your favorites; these are some of mine.



COOKING CORNER

By Michele Zaitz



The **Cooking in Majestic Isles** Cooking Club has shared many delicious recipes. One of the most popular is for Eggplant Appetizer and Crostini. This dish is great cold as an appetizer or may be used as a side dish. It can also be served over chicken or fish. We keep it in the house as a staple!!

EGGPLANT APPETIZER INGREDIENTS

1 medium eggplant, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 sweet onion, diced
28 oz diced tomatoes
1 teaspoon oregano
Salt & Pepper

DIRECTIONS

Place eggplant in a colander and sprinkle with salt. Let sit for 1 hour to drain.

Sauté onion in olive oil until lightly browned, add garlic.

Drain and add eggplant and sauté until tender.

Add tomatoes and oregano and heat through for 5-8 minutes.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

When using as an appetizer, crostini is the perfect accompaniment:

CROSTINI INGREDIENTS

Thin sliced baguette (Publix will do this for you)

DIRECTIONS

Lay out the bread slices on a cookie sheet that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Dab each piece with olive oil. Sprinkle it lightly with salt. Turn the bread and do the other side.

Preheat your oven to 400 and bake the crostini for 8-10 minutes.



TAKE A PEEK AT THE HISTORY OF LAKE WORTH

Submitted by Claire Deveney

Lake Worth Beach, previously named Lake Worth, is a city in east-central Palm Beach County located about 64 miles north of Miami and a short drive from our homes in Boynton Beach. The city's name is derived from the body of water along its eastern border known as the Lake Worth Lagoon, which was named for General William J. Worth, who led the United States Army forces during the last part of the Second Seminole War.

Lake Worth Beach is situated south of West Palm Beach, southeast of Lake Clarke Shores, east of Palm Springs, and north of Lantana, while a small section of the city also partitions the town of Palm Beach. The 2010 census recorded a population of 34,910, which increased to 42,219 in the 2020 census.

While archaeological evidence indicates that the Jaega inhabited nearby areas thousands of years ago, Samuel and Fannie James, an African American couple, became the first known settlers in modern-day Lake Worth Beach in 1885, filing a homestead claim on 187 acres.

Fannie James operated the Jewell Post Office from 1889 to 1903 to serve the few residents who lived between Lantana and West Palm Beach. A land development scheme by Bryant & Greenwood in the 1910s allowed buyers to receive a parcel of land if they purchased a lot in present-day Greenacres. Consequently, the population increased from 38 in July 1912 to 308 only five months later.

The town of Lake Worth was incorporated in June 1913. Thereafter, the city grew rapidly during the 1920's land boom and in the decades following World War II. Residents voted to change the official name to Lake Worth Beach in 2019.

Today, Lake Worth Beach is a city featuring several neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places - College Park and Old Lucerne - while the downtown area also has dozens of buildings that are part of the Historic Old Town Commercial District. The city is one of the most ethnically and racially diverse municipalities in Palm Beach County.

Several cultural events are hosted there annually, including a street painting festival, several ethnic festivals, and Palm Beach Pride, one of the largest LGBTQ+ pride festivals in Florida.

John Prince Memorial Park is a distinct feature of this city. It covers roughly 726 acres and most of it is located on the western and northern shore of Lake Osborne. Some of the facilities at the park include a new five-section dog park called Lake Woof, pavilions, park ground structures, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, boat/canoe/kayak launches, an outdoor fitness center, and a campground. The park is located adjacent to the Lantana Airport and was named for the former county commissioner John Prince. Mr. Prince got developers and the state to donate more than 1,000 acres of land in the 1930s and 1940s, all of which became the park, Palm Beach State College's Lake Worth campus and the Lantana Airport. John Prince Park is believed to be the second oldest county park in Florida.

From Wikipedia

LEONARD SCHWARTZ
MANAGING PARTNER

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PARAPROSDOKIANS

Submitted by Alene Kristal

Paraprostdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or larger discourse is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader to reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists; Winston Churchill was a big fan.

- 1) Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- 2) Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- 3) If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- 4) War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
- 5) Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- 6) They begin the evening news with "Good Evening," then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- 7) To steal ideas from someone is plagiarism. To steal from many is called research.
- 8) In filling in an application, where it says, "In case of emergency notify:" I put "DOCTOR."
- 9) I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- 10) Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they look sexy.
- 11) A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.
- 12) I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- 13) Nostalgia isn't what it used to be. Nor is there any future in it.
- 14) Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- 15) Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.
- 16) I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

And my personal favorite:

- 17) I am not arguing with you, I am explaining why you are wrong.

From the Internet



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AUGUST IN HISTORY

Submitted by Lois Kaish

August 1, 1944 - Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary. “[I] keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren't any other people living in the world.” Anne died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on March 15, 1945, at age 15.

August 1, 1944 - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets.

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the copy of the Declaration of Independence.

August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October 12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.

August 4, 1962 -South African apartheid opponent Nelson Mandela was arrested and eventually sentenced to life in prison. A worldwide campaign to free him resulted in his release on February 11, 1990, at age 71 after 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a nonracial democracy to South Africa. In April 1994, black South Africans voted for the first time electing Mandela the President of South Africa.

August 4, 1964 -Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were found murdered and buried in an earthen dam outside Philadelphia, Mississippi.

August 5, 1861 – President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3% tax on incomes over \$800, as an emergency wartime measure during the Civil War. However, the tax was never actually put into effect.

August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima by the American B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*.

August 6, 1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act suspended literacy, knowledge and character tests as well as poll taxes designed to keep African Americans from voting in the South. The Act was renewed by Congress in 1975, 1984 and 1991.

August 9, 1945 - The second atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki.

August 9, 1974 -Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal.

August 11-16, 1965 - Six days of riots began in the Watts area of Los Angeles, triggered by an incident between a white member of the California Highway Patrol and an African American motorist.

August 13, 1961 -The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West.

August 14, 1941 - After three days of secret talks, the Atlantic Charter was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Charter, a foundation stone for the later establishment of the United Nations, set forth goals for the nations of the world.

August 14, 1945 -V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

August 15, 1969 - Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960s.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Alaska at Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

(Continued on Page 26)



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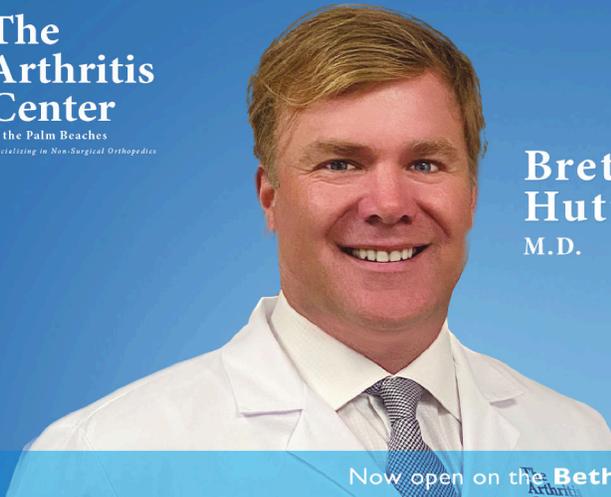
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BURROWING OWLS

By Randee Golder



Meet Buddy, a burrowing owl (species: *Athene cunicularia floridana*). He has been visiting us on Royal Caribbean Circle for about the past month or two. He can usually be spotted sitting on a mailbox post around 9:30 –10:00 in the evening in the area of 10741/10745 Royal Caribbean Circle. If you see him, be careful

not to spook him. He is somewhat shy, although you can walk by without disturbing him.

Burrowing owls are considered an endangered species in Florida and are protected. Their breeding season is from February through July. They primarily eat insects, especially grasshoppers and beetles. They also prey on small lizards, frogs, snakes, birds and rodents.

They tend to burrow in low grassy areas. If you see a burrow, which looks like an angled hole in the ground about a foot deep, be careful not to disturb it. Do not use pesticides near the burrow. If you find a burrow, it will help if you install a perch nearby for the owls to use.

We don't know where Buddy's burrow is. If you see it, please let the Association or Randee Golder know so we can take steps to protect it.

A FAMOUS POEM WORTH REREADING: "DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT"

Submitted by Steve Karten

"Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.

Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Dylan Thomas

From the Internet

Even though it is a bit early, our next issue does not come out until October; and we did not want to miss wishing our Jewish neighbors...

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Happy Labor Day

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The Dog Days of Summer are upon us. We notice that many of our flowering annuals are wilting and withering in the Florida heat. We go outside less often due to the summer heat and thus have a tendency to be less attentive to our annual flowering plants and perennial plants. However, good landscape maintenance includes regular fertilization, watering, pruning and weeding during the summer months.

Many of our flowering plants and especially those grown in containers crave care, especially fertilizing. The combination of our typically sandy soil and the leaching of nutrients by watering, leaves the plants without the capability of storing large amounts of nutrients, particularly nitrogen for greening and potassium for good root structure. Control-release fertilizers such as Osmocote and Dynamite are both costly; however, the slow-release nutrients contained in these soluble fertilizers do provide food for many months in lieu of weekly/monthly applications of soluble fertilizers like Miracle Grow.

Established beds in your landscape should be watered on an “as-needed basis.” Wilting stress due to the lack of water will reduce the flowering on many plants, especially those grown in containers like New Guinea impatiens. The frequency of watering is dependent upon the amount of rainfall and the community-based watering system, but daily watering may be required for some summer annuals growing in containers in full sun exposure.

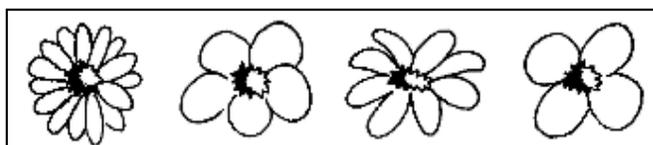
If possible, always water your plants in the early morning hours, rather than in the afternoon or evening. This helps to reduce fungal stem and leaf disease. If we have very little rainfall, it is advisable

to wash the foliage on your annuals and perennial shrubs with a strong steam of water to remove unwanted pests such as spider mites, aphids and mealy bugs.

Good pruning practices can also help keep your flowers and shrubs blooming continuously. It’s best to remove dead and dying flowers as soon as they deteriorate to stimulate further plant growth. This horticulture practice, known as “dead heading,” prevents the plant from producing seeds or becoming unruly.

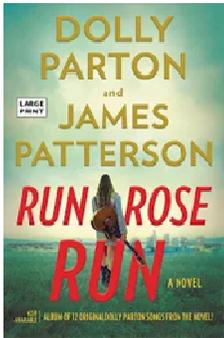
It is a lazy summer day. We can just lay back and gaze out our windows or enjoy the natural beauty of our lawns, ponds, and landscape from our air-conditioned homes. Not only do our lawns and trees provide beautiful, lush scenery, but they provide oxygen and filter pollution around our community. Our lawns also release oxygen and provide moisture in the air from evaporation. Do you remember the pleasant aroma emanating from a recently mowed lawn? A well-maintained lawn is a beautiful sight (thanks to our landscaping company) and a neglected one detracts from whatever it surrounds. Even some residents not particularly interested in ‘Gardening in the Isles’ will enjoy gazing at a lush green lawn!

During the summer months when you are gardening, remember: “A garden always gives back more than it receives.” *Have a wonderful summer of gardening!!*



“RUN ROSE RUN” BY DOLLY PARTON AND JAMES PATTERSON

By Stan Kaish



James Patterson must be among America’s most prolific authors. He has had his name on more than 200 books. I say had his name on, rather than has written that number because, in addition to his many solo efforts, he has engaged at least twenty co-authors. Typically, the book covers display Patterson’s name

in large, bold letters, at least the size of the title, and the co-author down below where the footnotes sometimes appear. The co-author usually does most of the writing following the detailed 70-page or so plot outline Patterson has provided.

There are exceptions to this hierarchical ordering, and this month’s book is one of them. When the co-author is a greater celebrity than Patterson, he or she gets top billing. Note that the first author listed on the cover is Dolly Parton. President Bill Clinton also got top billing on the covers of the two books which he partnered with Patterson. Which brings to my mind the question of who does the writing when the co-author is not a writer?

But enough about rank and order. Let’s get to Dolly.

The book opens with an impoverished AnnieLee Keyes hitchhiking into Nashville. She has little in her pocketbook, but all kinds of music in her head. Her goal is to have a career as a country-western performer, singing original songs that she has written. Catchy lyrics have long been second nature to her, and God has gifted her with a heavenly voice and face to match. She just needs an opportunity to put them all on display. So, with no money for a room, she sleeps on the grass in a local park and makes the rounds of the local bars, seeking a bartender who will agree to letting her sing for a hamburger and some chips in return. Nashville is filled with wannabe country singers, and it is hard to get a break. But she persists and returns to a bar called The Cat’s Paw where she finally wears down a bartender named Billy. She

goes to the stage and starts singing some of the songs that she had written, and conversations stop, the guys at the pool table in back hold up their game and attention focuses on her as she wows the audience. When she’s finished, they call her back. When she says I have no more of my own songs they say, “sing them again.” That night, AnnieLee Keyes was a smash hit.

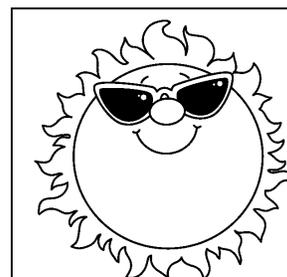
In the audience was Ethan Blake, a local musician and part time employee of retired country singer and music legend, Ruthanna Ryder. Ethan persuades Ruthanna to come to the Cat’s Paw to hear this sensational unknown singer perform. Ruthanna too is impressed, decides to take AnnieLee under her wing and do what she can to promote her career. And she can do plenty. Ruthanna gets her a manager, arranges for her to record one of her songs which quickly finds big play on the country music radio stations, arranges a nationwide tour, interviews, wardrobes, the works. It’s a simple story of a career rocketing into orbit. Sort of “A Star is Born” without the drunk husband.

Is that all there is? Unfortunately, it almost is. But there is a little more.

AnnieLee had a life that she was running away from when we first encountered her.

She refuses to talk about it and lies to everyone about her past. She even lies about her name, as the title of the book suggests. But the hostility, and the men bearing that hostility, follow her, threaten her, attack her physically, and almost kill her, despite her new status as a popular artist.

If the above sounds like a thin plot, I agree. I’m afraid “Run Rose Run” is not one of Patterson’s best offerings. One dividend, however, is several pages of new song lyrics, tacked on at the end, that must be part of Dolly Parton’s contribution.



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IT'S THE PHONE'S FAULT

By Anonymous

I am so embarrassed. I was supposed to be somewhere this morning and I FORGOT! I NEVER FORGET! Did you ever tell someone that you would be there at “x” time and then just FORGET? I am SO embarrassed. It’s very scary. When I make a promise, I’m ALWAYS the first one to show up. Not this time. But I just want you to know that it was NOT MY FAULT. It was the fault of my mobile phone. I set a reminder on my cell phone to ring one half hour before the time I was supposed to show up and I never heard the phone ring! Why? No, it’s not because I may need hearing aids. It’s because my phone was sitting on the kitchen counter next to my water bottle and I was in the bedroom cleaning my closet.

I contend it’s the fault of the phone. I never heard it. How could I? You would think that, if a phone reminder was not answered, some techie, somewhere, would figure out that, perhaps, the ringtone volume needed to be increased. Makes sense to me. It’s the phone’s fault! If this were a very high-end, “highfalutin” phone with all the bells and whistles that the “none-of-your-business how old I am” users could easily figure out how to program without having to take a *You Tube* class, and that wouldn’t cost two arms and a leg, the phone would probably know what I’m thinking.

I see some of you are shaking your heads and smiling. What did you say? Been there, done that? Oh, thank you; now I don’t feel so silly.

A VIEW FROM ATOP A CAT TREE

By Lily, Winnie & Misha K



Howdy neighbors! We don’t know about you, but we’re staying indoors in this hot summer and enjoying the a/c. In the spirit of full disclosure, we don’t ever go outside anyway because it’s against the house rules and there are icky creatures out there that we do not want to encounter. Plus, we’d need flea and tick protection and who wants meds when they’re not necessary? No thank you!

We had a very interesting visitor a few weeks ago, Mom’s sister, aka Aunty Lulu. She is definitely a cat person, although she doesn’t have one now. She told us that she is a godmother (don’t ask what this means – we don’t understand it at all) to a black cat named Eugene who lives with her friend Barbara. She showed us pictures.

Anyway, she was the first house guest we’ve had since we came to live here, and it was a huge success. First of all, there was an extra set of hands to pet us, scratch our necks and another lap to nap in. We – even skittish Lily – took to her right away and sat with her and Mom the whole time she was here. She was warm and fuzzy, and we miss her. We hope she comes back!

The only problem with her visit was that she slept in OUR ROOM, on OUR BED, and she kept the door closed the whole time she was here! She told us she didn’t want our cat hair on her clothes and bedding. At first we were insulted, but she was so nice we got over it and decided to forgive her.

The best thing about her visit is that she made Mom laugh a lot. They talked for elebenty-million hours and drank a fair amount of alcohol as well. Mom had explained to us that she and her sister hadn’t always gotten along, so this visit was a real game changer for her, as the relationship was clearly healed. We’re all in favor of anything that makes Mom happy, especially because she sings a lot more around the house. Yay Aunty Lulu!



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CULTURAL EVENTS

Submitted by Helene Riffle

Fabulous but sometimes easy to miss are the programs and events sponsored by the Cultural Council for Palm Beach. Here are a few examples to whet your appetite. Some programs are free, and some have a nominal charge, but most require tickets or a reservation (excluding festivals, which are free). Enjoy!

Art of the Hollywood Backdrop

Boca Raton Museum of Art, exhibit running through Sunday, January 22, 2023. **Schedule & Tickets** (\$10-\$12) Call 561-392-2500 ext. 228. Exhibit open on Wednesdays through Sundays.

In almost every feature film of Hollywood's golden age, from "North by Northwest" to "Ben-Hur" to "The Sound of Music," painted backgrounds had the task of convincing moviegoers that what they are seeing was real. These matte paintings are at once intended to transport the audience and yet remain unseen for what they really are.

Art of the Hollywood Backdrop introduces the master scenic artists of Hollywood's golden age through original, monumental MGM backdrops. These artists worked anonymously, never receiving screen credit. It is now time to recognize them for the masterful illusions they made.

Panther Ridge

Through Saturday, December 31, Panther Ridge Conservation Center. **Tickets** \$15 child, \$30 adults. Call 561-795-8914. Purchase tickets online at pantherridge.org/tours. Open every day. 2143 D Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470.

Panther Ridge Conservation Center is home to over 20 cats of nine different species, and a guided tour allows you to get up close and personal with the diverse resident panthers. Expert guides personally navigate you through each exhibit, making sure your experience is a memorable one.

On this tour, you gain in-depth knowledge about South Florida's panthers as well as conservation efforts to help protect them right here in South Florida. The tour lasts approximately one hour,

giving you ample time to explore this new facility, ask questions, and meet our fabulous feline residents. It's suggested you bring a camera, comfortable clothes, sun protection, and walking shoes.

FESTIVALS IN THE PALM BEACHES

One of the best ways to soak in the sights, sounds and flavors of The Palm Beaches is through any one of the dozens of annual festivals for arts, film, music and more. For a current and complete list of upcoming festivals, be sure to visit palmbeachculture.com/festival. Here are just a few of those you could attend:

FALL FESTIVALS

Downtown Delray Beach Thanksgiving Weekend Art Festival, artfestival.com.

Juno Beach Craft Festival on the Ocean, artfestival.com.

WINTER FESTIVALS

Art Boca Raton: nextlevelfairs.com/artbocaraton.

ArtiGras Fine Arts Festival: artigras.org JUPITER

Artfest By the Sea: artfestbythesea.com, JUNO BEACH

Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival: Palmbeachjewishfilm.org COUNTY-WIDE

Downtown Delray Beach Art Festival: artfestival.com.

Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition: elmaroliveiraivc.org BOCA RATON

Festival of the Arts Boca: festivaloftheartsboca.org

Palm Beach Book Festival: palmbeachbookfestival.com WEST PALM BEACH

Palm Beach Fine Craft Show, Feb. 17-19, 2023: palmbeachfinecraft.com WEST PALM BEACH

Palm Beach International Fine Art Fair: WEST PALM BEACH

Palm Beach Poetry Festival: palmbeachpoetryfestival.org DELRAY BEACH

(Continued on Page 26)

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I'LL SEND YOU A POST CARD

By Phyllis M. Cohen

I'm getting ready to take an exciting trip this summer, so I'm not sure I'll be able to keep in touch with you and write my regular column while I am away. See, I'm not doing the usual thing: cruise or visit the kids or exotic tour. Frankly, my husband is a bit of a crotchety traveler, and those other kinds of vacations are getting old hat. I mean, I love my kids, but how many times can I sit through a tape of "Dora the Explorer" with my four-year-old grandson or shiver through another Massachusetts "summer?" And those cruises, with the endless changes of clothes and trips to remote island locales, complete with native shopping and Walmarts! Even those exotic trips to remote places, Antarctica, Fiji, Machu Pichu, have become dreary. Just try being the center of attention upon return when you start talking about taking one of those far-out and expensive trips, and you'll start hearing people say, "Oh, yeah, I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro last summer without a guide, or "we went white water rafting on a crocodile infested river." And who could top that 70-year-old Carnival cruise line passenger who killed a mugger when his vanload of fellow seniors was waylaid by robbers on a shore excursion?

So when I read an ad in the AARP bulletin for a different kind of trip, I jumped at the chance. First of all, you don't pack any clothes or travel supplies. This is a really distant trip, no puny 12,000 miles round trip or 18 hours on a plane. There's no security line at the airport or hassle with tickets, boarding passes and hotels. There is a downside, however. There are no private rooms, no bathroom facilities, either inside or outside, and you have to share a cabin with five or six other people, men and women.

There is an arduous application process, but I am pretty sure I aced it. I had enough college and graduate school (albeit not in any of the areas they were interested in), but I had more than enough life experience to overcome any of the prejudices of the people selecting candidates for the tour. The program is NASA's *Seniors in Space* project, and the idea came to fruition after the successful trips of an old timer in space, John Glenn. As I understood it, NASA has consistently been recruiting the wrong

kind of person for these long space journeys. I knew I was right after reading about the young woman astronaut who "flipped out" and attempted to kidnap her rival in a love triangle. They have been recruiting these super genius intellects or ace flyboys, when in reality, all of those people are the kind they need to get the darn bucket of bolts up in the air and to keep it orbiting. The passengers inside need other skills, and as I told them, I have all of them.

First of all, you need to be able to coexist in a really small space for a week or ten days. Did the NASA types ever try to cruise on an inside cabin on FF deck on the cruise ship *Last Chance* or stay seven nights at Disney World in an Econo Lodge with three kids under age five? Talk about training. And the adult diapers that are part of the uniform, do I have to spell it out? As for weightlessness, I've been waiting my whole life for that to happen, and no dieting involved. And who better than a nit-picky grandma to keep after the other passengers about the pesky debris and trash floating around in the cabin? You know my motto, "If you don't clean your room, you don't get supper." And those great meals in a squeeze tube ready to eat. You can leave your dentures home on this trip.

More importantly, think how the presence of an older woman on the trip will help defuse some of the apparent sexual tension on board. I admit I like the idea of hanky, but it's the panky part that's getting harder and harder to handle. And how do you tell the astronauts from the astronettes when everyone is wearing the same outfit, including a helmet? And I am well equipped to handle any mechanical emergencies that may arise. After all, I am a veteran driver of a '61 Plymouth Valiant that was notorious for its sticky automatic butterfly choke that would not function unless I held it open with a pencil when I started the car on cold mornings. Admittedly, the sight of me, eight months pregnant leaning over the engine of my car on a ten-degree morning in Massachusetts invariably caused at least one or two chivalrous male drivers to rush to my aid, but I always managed to start that rascal myself. And since I've had more than enough experience with a

(Continued on Page 26)

August History (Continued from Page 14)

August 17, 1978 - The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans, Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman. Starting from Maine on August 11th, they traveled over 3,000 miles in 137 hours, landing about 60 miles west of Paris.

August 19, 1934 - In Germany, a plebiscite was held in which 89.9 percent of German voters approved granting Adolph Hitler additional powers, including the office of president.

August 26, 1883 - One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa.

August 8, 1963 - The March on Washington occurred as over 250,000 persons attended a Civil Rights rally in Washington, D.C., at which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now-famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

August 29, 1991 - Following the unsuccessful coup of August 19-21, the Soviet Communist Party was suspended, thus ending the institution that ruled Soviet Russia for nearly 75 years.

Cultural Events (Continued from Page 23)

The Palm Beach Show: palmbeachshow.com WEST PALM BEACH

South Florida Fair and Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc.: southfloridafair.com WEST PALM BEACH

South Florida Garlic Fest: garlicfestfl.com LAKE WORTH BEACH

West Palm Beach Arts Festival: armoryart.org

Post Card (Continued from Page 25)

recalcitrant computer, I am sure I can fix any of those problems on the ship. Reboot, or if all else fails, a good kick has been known to help.

I'm scheduled for an in person in depth interview this month at the Kennedy Space Center. My son is convinced I'll be accepted. After all, he says, I've always been spacey.

This article is reprinted from an earlier edition of the "MI News."



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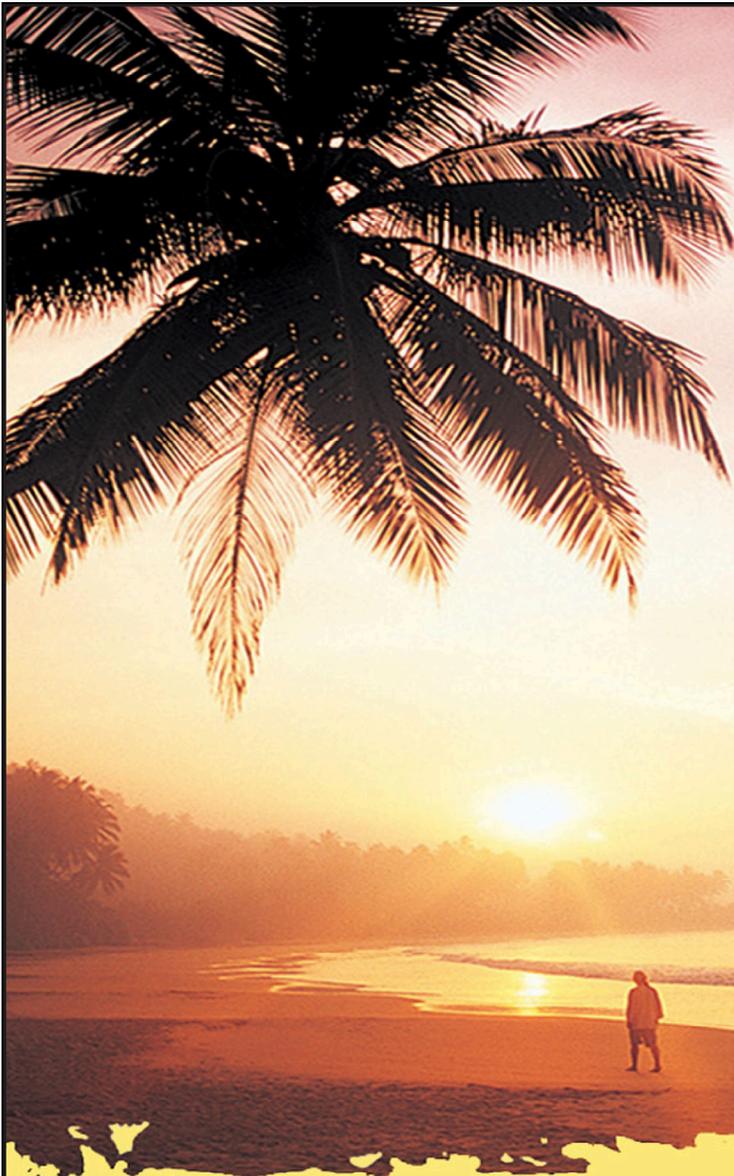
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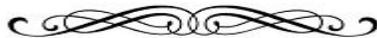


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COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

Submitted by Edie Ballan

- #1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
 - #2 - "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
 - #3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
 - #4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
 - #5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
 - #6 - "On time" is when you get there.
 - #7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
 - #8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
 - #9 - Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
 - #10 - Growing old should have taken longer.
 - #11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
 - #12 - You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.
- ... And one more:
"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.



NOTABLE AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- August 1 - Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)
- August 1 - Herman Melville (1819-1891)
- August 3 - Ernie Pyle (1900-1945)
- August 4 - Louis Armstrong (1901-1971)
- August 4 - Raoul Wallenberg (1912-1947)
- August 4 - Barack Obama (1961 -)
- August 6 - Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)
- August 6 - Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)
- August 7 - Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971)
- August 10 - Herbert Hoover (1874-1964)
- August 11 - Alex Haley (1921-1992)
- August 12 - Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959)
- August 13 - Annie Oakley (1860-1926)
- August 15 - Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)
- August 16 - T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) (1888-1935)
- August 16 - Menachem Begin (1913-1992)
- August 17 - Davy Crockett (1786-1836)
- August 18 - Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)
- August 19 - Orville Wright (1871-1948)
- August 20 - Bill Clinton (1946 -)
- August 22 - Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
- August 25 - Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
- August 27 - Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973)
- August 27 - Mother Teresa (1910-1997)
- August 28 - Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)
- August 29 - Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- August 29 - John Locke (1632-1704)
- August 30 - Mary Shelley (1797-1851)
- August 30 - Roy Wilkins (1901-1981)

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IRV'S BLOG

By Irv Ballan

The following is a slightly edited copy of a blog written by one of our neighbors.

Friday was pay day. As usual, just before noon, I received the anticipated weekly little brown envelope at my desk where I worked at Kling Photo Corporation. My job at Kling was to answer customers' questions concerning their product line of cameras and lenses. My weekly gross pay was \$65. The tax deductions that were listed in ink on the back of the envelope came to \$5.31. Two twenties, a ten, a five, four singles and some change that made up the balance of my net pay were all stuffed neatly into that little envelope.

With that cache of money, I was able to join my co-workers for lunch at a German restaurant, or was it Pete's on Irving Place around the corner from East Twenty-first Street? The restaurant was located in a converted brownstone and featured stark white napkins and tablecloths. I remember that it was quite impressive. The specialty of the day was filet of sole, which included two vegetables, coffee and dessert, all for \$.75. I left a generous tip of a quarter.

Those were the good old days, even though I didn't know it.

I was fresh out of the military, newly married, and we paid a whopping \$53.50 a month for an apartment in the Brooklyn section of East New York. With my wife's matching salary, we were able to furnish our apartment, buy groceries from the Key Food supermarket across the street (when rib eye steak sold for \$.69 a pound), and travel to the city was only 15 cents each way. Still, we had enough left over at the end of the week to have dinner out, every Friday night.

We didn't own a credit card, neither did anyone else, and, as I recall, there was no need for a checking account since we lived across the street from the local branch of the Williamsburg Savings Bank. The bank gave us free money orders because we had deposited the money from our wedding gifts into a savings account.

We were able to pay our Con Edison, Brooklyn Borough Gas, and Bell Telephone bills at the bank as well. It was that simple.

Bell Telephone installed our phones on the wall in the kitchen and on the nightstand in the bedroom. But we had to wait for a private line, and listening in on our party line was a no-no.

Eventually our phone line was converted to a private line for a small additional fee. Our exchange was Hyacinth, like the flower, and we were charged for each and every call, including long distance. There was no 911, and any call out of our area was considered long distance. Calling from Brooklyn to the Bronx was definitely a long-distance call. We had to dial 211 for long distance service, 411 for information and 0 for Operator for anything else. Yet it all seemed to work.

Some time afterwards, I got my first credit card. It was a Mobil gas card. Then came a card called CMCP, which stood for Chase Manhattan Charge Plan. Then came Visa, Mastercard, Amex, and finally, a checking account.

Williamsburg, being a savings bank, didn't issue checking accounts, so I went to First National City; they told me that I had to use the name Irving, because Irv is a nickname. My lawyer friend Marvin was nice enough to get a court order changing my name legally from Irving to Irv.

For my new driver's license, the clerk at the Motor Vehicle Bureau couldn't understand why someone would change their name from Irving to Irv. Same thing goes for the bank. But they finally relented. This was all before my first cell phone and first computer.

**They say kids ask the most questions...
Nope it's us, after 50. Read the list.**

- 1. Why did I come into this room?**
- 2. Where are my glasses?**
- 3. What's my password?**
- 4. What was I going to say?**
- 5. What's her name?**
- 6. Did I take that pill already?**
- 7. Where is my cell phone?**
- 8. How did I get that bruise?**
- 9. Do I have an appointment today?**
- 10. Am I forgetting something?**

FOREIGN WORD PLAY

Submitted By Betty Wachtel

1. Mencelek (Indonesian)

You know that old trick where you tap someone lightly on the opposite shoulder from behind to fool them? The Indonesians have a word for it.

2. Faamiti (Samoan)

To make a squeaking sound by sucking air past the lips to get the attention of a dog or child.

3. Gigil (Filipino)

The urge to pinch or squeeze something that is irresistibly cute.

4. Yuputka (Ulwa)

A word made for walking in the woods at night, it's the phantom sensation of something crawling on your skin.

5. Zhaghzhagh (Persian)

The chattering of teeth from the cold or from rage.

6. Vybafnout (Czech)

A word tailor-made for annoying older brothers -it means to jump out and say boo.

7. Fremdschämen (German); Myötähäpeä (Finnish)

The kinder, gentler cousins of Schadenfreude, both these words mean something akin to "vicarious embarrassment."

8. Lagom (Swedish)

Maybe Goldilocks was Swedish? This slippery little word is hard to define, but means some-thing like, "Not too much, and not too little, but juuuuust right."

9. Pålegg (Norwegian)

Sandwich Artists unite! The Norwegians have a non-specific descriptor for anything – cheese, ham, jam, Nutella, mustard, herring, pickles, Doritos - you name it - you might consider putting into a sandwich.

10. Layogenic (Tagalog)

Remember in "Clueless" when Cher describes someone as "a full-on Monet ... from far away, it's OK, but up close it's a big old mess?" That's exactly what this word means.

11. Bakku-shan (Japanese)

Or there's this Japanese slang term, which describes the experience of seeing a woman who appears pretty from behind but not from the front.

12. Seigneur-terraces (French)

Coffee shop dwellers who sit at tables a long time but spend little money.

13. Ya'arburnee (Arabic)

This word is the hopeful declaration that you will die before someone you love deeply, because you cannot stand to live without them. Literally, may you bury me.

14. Pana Po'o (Hawaiian)

"Hmm, now where did I leave those keys?" he said, pana po'oing. It means to scratch your head to help you remember something you've forgotten.

15. Slampadato (Italian)

Addicted to the UV glow of tanning salons? This word describes you.

16. Zeg (Georgian)

It means "the day after tomorrow." OK, we do have "overmorrow" in English, but when was the last time someone used that?

17. Cafune (Brazilian Portuguese)

Leave it to the Brazilians to come up with a word for "tenderly running your fingers through your lover's hair."

18. Koi No Yokan (Japanese)

The sense upon first meeting a person that the two of you are going to fall in love.

19. Kaelling (Danish)

You know that woman who stands on her door-step (or in line at the supermarket, or at the park, or in a restaurant) cursing at her children? The Danes know her, too.

20. Boketto (Japanese)

It's nice to know that the Japanese think enough of the act of gazing vacantly into the distance without thinking to give it a name.

I defy you to pronounce any of these properly –but then again, who will know??

BOOK TALKS SUMMER READING LIST

By Claire Deveney, Allan Topolosky and
associate Book Talk members



- 1) "The Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis
- 2) "The Magnolia Palace" by Fiona Davis
- 3) "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest" by Suzanne Simard
- 4) "The Arbornauti: Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us" by Meg Lowmah
- 5) "Florence Adler Swims Forever" by Rachel Beanland
- 6) "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett
- 7) "The Reading List" by Sarah Nisha Adams
- 8) "Have You Seen Luis Velez?" by Catherine Ryan Hyde
- 9) "The Paris Apartment" by Lucy Foley
- 10) "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
- 11) "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict
- 12) "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict
- 13) "Mistress of the Ritz" by Melanie Benjamin
- 14) "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post: A Novel" by Allison Pataki (2022)
- 15) "With Prejudice" by Robin Peguero
- 16) "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom
- 17) "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger
- 18) "The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz and a Village Caught in Between" by Michael Dobbs
- 19) "The Exiles" by Christina Baker Kline
- 20) "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult
- 21) "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult
- 22) "The Wish" by Nicholas Sparks
- 23) "The Return: (Pulitzer Prize Winner) Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between" (2017) by Hisham Matar
- 24) "The Judgement of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism" by Ross King (2007)
- 25) "The Clifton Chronicles" by Jeffrey Archer (7 book set) "Only Time Will Tell," "Best Kept Secret," "The Sins of the Father," "Cometh the Hour," "Mightier than the Sword," "Be Careful What You Wish," "Unknown Binding."
- 26) "Run, Rose, Run" by Dolly Parton and James Patterson
- 27) "James Patterson" by James Patterson
- 28) "Sooley" by John Grisham

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NEWS AND VIEWS

By **Bobbie Rosenfeld**



What a strange, scary time it has been since I last wrote. Major changes have occurred in our country, which seems to have become a different place overnight. We have covered so much over the past month and a half - too much to really give voice to all of it.

The Supreme Court has accounted for a lot of time and energy in our discussions this time. The end of *Roe v Wade* has all but destroyed the sense of privacy we have enjoyed and counted on in our lives. Countless other rights are now at risk as well. The gun legislation passed seems to be the opposite of what most Americans wanted, especially after the Uvalde shootings (and later the 4th of July shooting in Highland Park). The Court then went on to issue two decisions favoring religious rights, which in our minds went against the separation of church and state in our Constitution, (favoring the right of a coach to pray in midfield after a game and then saying certain funding rules allow money to go to religious schools.) The next monumental decision took power from the federal government to help control clean air and returned more power to the states to control the air quality, (thereby giving industry more power to limit efforts to clean air). All of these changes appear to go against what Americans want right now, and we appear to be on a roller coaster. Most feel we are going backwards with these changes, and women are feeling less empowered and truly more like "Handmaidens." With food and gas prices rising, freedom seems remote in the USA, and not what the American dream is supposed to be all about. We seem unable to learn from history, and efforts to unite our country seem to separate us further. We are heading toward fifty separate sets of laws with no universal laws for all of us to follow. For our group, this is a time of deep discontent.

We did manage to include various other discussions in our meetings. The Jan. 6 hearings have captivated many of us, with a few being bored. Most feel that the hearings are covering a lot of information and are well done. We also are interested in hearing from

Ginny Thomas, and concerns were raised regarding recent Supreme Court nominees lying to senators about *Roe v Wade* to get on the court.

We spoke of the Ritchie Boys, the Jewish fighters who went back to Europe during WWII to help the war efforts. They were Europeans who immigrated to America, knew European languages and went behind enemy lines to help fight the Nazis. Their stories became public as the information on this secret group has recently been declassified.

We spoke of inflation problems, and how rising costs will affect infrastructure. Also, COVID is returning with new variations and high contagion rates.

We discussed the fact that several rabbis and their congregations are suing the government over the abortion ruling on the grounds that it interferes with the Jewish religion, which approves abortion for a woman at risk in a pregnancy. Her life counts. We covered the Para-Olympics and Hershell Walker's hitherto unknown children.

We also discussed the Republican plans for the next election to have "poll watchers" and attorneys general in states to monitor Democratic votes with efforts to intimidate and suppress them. We were upset over the Uvalde and Buffalo shootings and decried the police lack of action in Uvalde. We noted that the funeral home that made the coffins for the children did so free of charge to the stricken families. We also noted that Prime Minister Bennett dissolved the Israeli government and will be setting up new elections. Also, for the first time ever, Putin defaulted on his loans. And this just touches on the topics we discussed.

The months ahead will be busy with primaries and elections. We will follow the sham charges against Brittney Griner in Russia, the war in Ukraine, and watch as fifty states grapple with changing laws and standards in America. Join us for our in-depth discussions on Mondays at 3 P.M.



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