

Majestic Isles News

April 2016

Volume 19

Issue 7

Majestic Isles Men's & Women's Clubs

Present Our

Parents' Day Celebration

An Outstanding Buffet Brunch

Great Entertainment

When: Sunday, May 1, 2016 10:30-2:00

Where: Broken Sound Country Club, Boca Raton, FL

Members: \$38 per person

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Questions: Joel Cohen 742-9695



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Paolo works with international and local buyers, sellers, and investors from Miami Beach to Boynton Beach. He has a true passion for real estate and shares my fondness for our community.

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*For photos, information
and back issues of our
newsletter (starting
with April 2008) check
out our website:*

www.majesticisles.com

The M.I. Newsletter is
financially self-sustaining.
All expenses are covered
by advertising revenue.

MANAGER'S CORNER

By the time you read this, the house painting will be coming to an end. This first quarter has been a busy one with all of the projects following each other. Thank you all for your patience and allowing the various vendors time and space to do their work for the beautification of the community.

Our landscapers, M&P went through and did what is called a hard trim of the plant material in front of most of the homes. Some residents were happy with the trim and some were not.

Hard pruning involves cutting the shrub off to a height of six to 12 inches above the ground and allowing it to grow back. The disadvantages of this type of pruning are that not all shrubs tolerate drastic cutting, and until the plant grows back you are left with an unsightly stub. Sometimes the green or the blooming flowers are cut in the process. The advantage of hard pruning is that the shrub rejuvenates quickly; nine times out of 10 the plant material grows back healthier than before. There are other advantages of trimming the landscape material in the front of the home: curb appeal, rodent control and safety.

This process also keeps the crew working in a controlled amount of time. M&P is working with the same number of people as they were 10 years ago even though there is more plant material. The goal is to keep the landscape material trimmed and tidy. Management is looking to work with M&P to get the landscaping to a controllable state, but more importantly, to make Majestic Isles aesthetically beautiful the way you all want it.

LoriAnn Perrone, LCAM, Property Manager

Highlights of March 17, 2016 B.O.D. Meeting

Minutes of the February 2016 meeting were approved at the March 17, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. The March minutes will be approved at the April meeting. (*Ed. note: To see the February 2016 minutes, which the M.I. News did not receive, ask at the office.*)

- The Engineer hired by the BOD read the sealed bids for the pool renovation. There may be a special meeting held to make a decision, so as not to delay the project further.

Note: Residents may request at the office a report of the 3/14/17 cash positions and Statement of Operations.

- A motion to approve TEM's proposal for five new gate arm operators, six new barrier LED arms and seven new loop detectors in the amount of \$18,274.75 passed by a 7-0 vote.
- A motion to rescind the vote to light the trees on Woolbright and El Clair Ranch Roads passed by a 7-0 vote.
- A motion to approve GRID Systems [a website for the HOA, to be set up by Castle Management] at \$1740 annually passed by a 7-0 vote.
- A motion to approve the installation of 2 pickleball courts on courts 3&4 in the amount of \$1000, to be maintained by our current tennis vendor Perry Sinett, at an additional \$25 per month passed by a 7-0 vote.
- A motion to purchase additional equipment as presented for the pickleball startup, not to exceed \$200, passed by a 7-0 vo

Rita Siegel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: WHO TO CALL FOR WHAT

The current responsibilities of the individual Board members are as follows:

President, Harvey Galan: Clubhouse
 1st Vice-president, Steve Bayer: Security, COBWRA
 2nd Vice-president, Iris Rothstein: Comcast liaison,*
 Painting Committee, Insurance
 Secretary, Duncan Hopwood: Recreational facilities
 Treasurer, Saul Siegel
 Member-at-large, Bill Broth: Landscaping
 Member-at-large, Mark Jaffie: Architectural Review
 Committee, Painting Committee

Phone numbers for Board members can be found on page 4 of the M.I. phone directory. Alternatively, you may put a note in the mailbox in the office.

* After you have called 1-800-Xfinity without results, call Iris Rothstein (732-0372) if you live on Royal Caribbean; Harvey Galan (742-8815) if you live on Cocowood, Island Reach or Grand Harbour; or Bill Broth (731-0323) if you live on Crystal Key, Emerald Cay, Seashell Terrace or Swaying Palm.

GOOD AND WELFARE

GET WELL

Mim Pestreich

SYMPATHY

To Claire Deveney on the death of Gerry Aaronson.

MESSAGES

Thank you, Majestic Isles friends and neighbors, for your cards, calls and visits while I was under the weather. They all helped to get me back on my feet.

Jack Greene

A sincere thank you to all for your caring cards and calls wishing me a speedy recovery.

Please note: We reserve the right to edit for length (30 word maximum) and clarity. Submit items to Elaine Jay by email at ElainJay@aol.com with Good and Welfare as the subject. Acknowledgement of each email will be sent as verification of receipt.



Safety in the Isles AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

by Steve Bayer

Here is your chance to avoid identity theft by securely destroying papers with sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card account numbers, etc.

Micro-Shred is an on-site document destruction and recycling company that specializes in secure destruction of sensitive papers. We will have their truck here in the clubhouse parking lot at 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 6th, for a community shredding event. They will only be here for 30 minutes, so please be on time. You will be able to see your papers shredded on their video monitor as they are destroyed.

Micro-Shred can process paper only (staples and/or paper clips are OK). Do not bring credit cards, CDs, DVDs, notebooks, sheet protectors or other plastic items.

Since the Majestic Isles Homeowners Association is subsidizing this event, there will be a charge of only \$2 per "box" for you. A standard box is 10" x 12" x 15" but you can bring your papers in any paper or plastic bags or in any size box. They will estimate the number of standard size "boxes" you are shredding to determine the price.

Full information is available on a flyer in the back lobby of the Clubhouse.

If you have any questions, please call Steve Bayer (737-0495).



COBWRA DELEGATES MEETING
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
 March 23, 2016 – Valencia Lakes

WELCOME

PRESIDENT MYRNA ROSOFF welcomed everyone, called for a quorum and led the Delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. **VALENCIA LAKES DELEGATE SY SHTAB** introduced **HOA PRESIDENT HELENE UNGER** who welcomed the Delegates and commended **COBWRA** for its interest and support of local schools.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Rosoff announced the following:

- **GL HOMES** has joined with **COBWRA** to strengthen the Soup Kitchen food collection program. **GL HOMES** will donate food cards in the amount of \$200 each month to support **COBWRA**’s effort.
- The members of the **AUDIT COMMITTEE** are **BRUCE COHEN, PHIL BARLAGE** and **STEPHANIE MELROSE**.
- The Executive Board has agreed to permit past presidents who have moved from the **COBWRA** area to continue to serve the organization.
- If a member community is having problems with its bulk communication company such as **COMCAST, HOTWIRE,** etc.. the complaints should be forwarded to President Rosoff via e-mail.

TREASURER’S REPORT

TREASURER WILLIAM SWAN announced that dues invoices will be going out shortly. He then presented the 2016/2017 Budget which was unanimously accepted by the Delegates.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Having received no floor nominations at the February 17 Delegates meeting, the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of officers, as reported last month, was unanimously accepted by the Delegates.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR STEVE OSEROFF reviewed **GL HOMES’** Development Order Amendment to construct a Chipotle Grill and Starbucks within the Canyon Town Center footprint. The proposal, which was recommended for approved by the Growth Management Committee and the Executive Board, was also recommended for approval by the Delegates.

FIRST RESPONDERS REPORTS

- **FIRE RESCUE 4th BATTALION CHIEF RICH ELLIS** reminded the delegates that they fight fires as well as respond to medical emergencies. **CHIEF DOUG McGLYNN** reminded everyone of the importance of the **YELLOW DOT PROGRAM** and distributed **100 YELLOW DOTS** with the corresponding brochure to be distributed within their respective communities.

THANK YOU TO OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA SUPPORTERS

- DIAMOND LEVEL:**
 - JFK Medical Center & JFK Emergency Care Services in Boynton Beach
- EMERALD LEVEL:**
 - Delray Medical Center
 - Florida Power & Light (FPL)
 - GL Homes
- RUBY LEVEL:**
 - Generously donated by an Anonymous Benefactor
- SAPPHIRE LEVEL:**
 - Bethesda Health: Bethesda Hospital East/Bethesda Hospital West
 - Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County
- Beach County**
 - Campbell Property Management
 - NuVista Living
- TOPAZ LEVEL:**
 - Allegro Senior Living
 - Academica
 - Boynton Health Care Center
 - Miller Land Planning/Preferred Builders

- **PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF’S SUBSTATION 6 OFFICER LT. BETH KRIVDA** reported that there are two groups of purse snatchers working parking lots in the area. They ride through the parking lot and snatch the purse while the shopper is walking to or from the car – then they drive away. It was recommended that women keep their purses away from the flow of traffic.

ELECTED OFFICIAL’S REPORT

- **MAYOR MARY LOU BERGER** stated that yesterday the **Board of County Commissioners** approved a ballot initiative to increase the sales tax by 1%.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR JOSEPH ABRUZZO

- Worked with Representative David Kerner to kill the Estoppel Bill which would have negatively impacted HOAs.

SENATOR JEFF CLEMENS

- Reported that a “Surprise Hospital Bill” that establishes a mechanism for putting unanticipated hospital bills through a dispute resolution process passed.

SENATOR MARIA SACHS

- Reported that she is conducting a Veterans Benefits Fair to enable veterans to better understand what they are entitled to as well as changes to the law regarding Veterans benefits.

REPRESENTATIVE LORI BERMAN

- Reported that the \$82.3 Billion budget passed.
- Spending per pupil is up 1%.
- No expansion to Medicaid spending.
- \$65 Million has been added to Mental Health spending.
- Three Constitutional Amendments will be on the ballot, one in August and two in November.

REPRESENTATIVE IRVING SLOSBERG

- Reported that our Delegation works closely together to stop bad legislation.

by Bruce Brodsky

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IT'S A SMALL, SMALL WORLD

Around 1958, **Helen Mai** and I, **Gloria Morrison**, worked in the office of a textile company at 1407 Broadway, Manhattan. We both left the company, took other jobs, and lost contact. In 2001, we were at a meeting in the clubhouse and I recognized Helen. It was good seeing each other and to catch up on our past and become friends again.

Gloria Morrison

At the March Men's Club meeting, a man I'd not met before introduced himself as **Marvin Yale**. "Yale," I said. "When I was a kid in the Bronx, I knew a guy named Mickey Yale." "That's me!" he replied. I remembered him well because he was a really good athlete. I didn't stand out as he did, and he did not remember me, but we still enjoyed comparing notes on our memories of life in Parkchester.

Jim Wachtel

If you have re-connected with someone you knew, we'd like to print your story. Please either email it to either Betty Wachtel (brwachtel@comcast.net) or to Phyllis Cohen (Floridaphy@aol.com) or leave it for us in the newsletter box in the back lobby.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY (GRAND) CHILDREN



I am proud to share some exciting news about my younger grandson, Jacob. He recently participated in a regional competition for National History Day and took home first place

for his category of documentary. The next stop for him, is Cooperstown where he will compete for the NYS championship. *Gloria Steingart*

My granddaughter attends college in California hoping to be a vet someday. But on weekends she volunteers with a group trying to rescue the endangered harbor seals threatened by changes in the environment and decline in fish populations. You can find her feeding the orphaned pups or soothing the stressed females. *Phyllis M. Cohen*

Send us a brief description of some unusual accomplishment or activity that your child or grandchild is involved with. Send to either Betty brwachtel@comcast.net or Phyllis @ floridaphy@aol.com

FLAVORS OF FLORIDA

By Donna Shaneson



Our local libraries provide wonderful programs, speakers, computer classes, art classes, etc. Read Happenings Magazine to keep up with what's going on in the library. I recently heard author Ronald Balsom speak of his books "Once We Were Brothers" and "Saving Sophie." It was a really terrific talk.

Complete information about our wonderful library system is available online at www.pbclibrary.org. provides all information about our library For information about Talking Books for the Visually Impaired, call 561-649-5846.

For all of you bird lovers, David Allen Sibley, who is considered one of the most important guides to bird identification has written "The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America". He will speak on Sunday April 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Hagen Ranch Road Library at 14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach. Call 894-7500 for further information. Don't miss it; walks at Green Cay will be much more fun.

Allison Breman is New York Times and USA Today's bestselling author of more than 20 thrillers. She has been awarded the Daphne Award. Her latest book is an exploration of the dark side of social media. She will appear at the Glades Road Branch on Wednesday April 13 at 2:00 p.m. Phone 482-4554 for more information. This library is located at 20791 95th Avenue, Boca Raton.

The Norton Museum of Art (www.norton.org) at 1451 South Olive Avenue is hosting Women Modernists of New York through May 15.

Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens on Jog Road in Delray Beach is presenting "Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo; Tradition in a Modern World from through May 8. Call 561-495- 0233 or go to www.morikami.org.

If you have questions about any of the items above, please call Donna Shaneson at 752-5516.



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Just wondering...

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhea...does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called holes?

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks?

JACK THE BIKE MAN

By Stan Kaish



Every year, for the last 17 years, usually around Christmas time, Jack Hairston has given away bicycles. How many has he given away? No one has an accurate count, but they must number in the tens of thousands by now. He gives them to poor children, he gives them to needy adults, he has shipped them overseas to places hit by storms. He stands ready to meet requests from those unable to afford their own pair of wheels.

Who is Jack Hairston? He's just some old guy in West Palm Beach who knows how to fix bikes and who seems to get a great deal of joy out of making people happy. The police give him bikes they have confiscated or found abandoned. Lost and founds give bikes left at bike racks. And people like you and me now know about him and he asks that we give him bikes that we have outgrown, or bikes our children have left behind. Most importantly, they don't have to be in working order. Jack and a group of volunteers working with him fix them up, test them out, and give them away.

There are no losers in the story of Jack the Bike Man, only winners. To see why you have to know the story as Jack tells it. It seems that at a point in 1999 Jack felt he had had it. His health was bad, he needed a walker to get around, he was depressed, and living alone. One day while Jack was sitting on the steps in front of his house a kid riding by fell off of his bike. "The brakes didn't work," he complained. As Jack tells the story, he painfully shuffled down, took a look, saw what was disconnected and fixed it for the kid. That would have been it if the kid hadn't sent his friends around with their bike problems and the friends other friends. The word spread, the media got wind of it; there's now a web page, a You Tube site, a bike shop and a world of accumulated good will.

Hairston invites us to donate either our old bicycles or cash that he can put toward needed parts, rent, tools and maintenance. The contact information is:

P.O. Box 17565
West Palm Beach, FL 33416
Tel: (561) 832-0072

Lee Katz (733-6702) has offered to collect used bikes in her garage and then call Jack the Bike Man.

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Mr. Schwartz's qualifications include:
Graduate of Univ. of Florida College of Law w/honors.
Graduated Cum Laude from Florida State University.
National Speaker on Estate & Tax Planning

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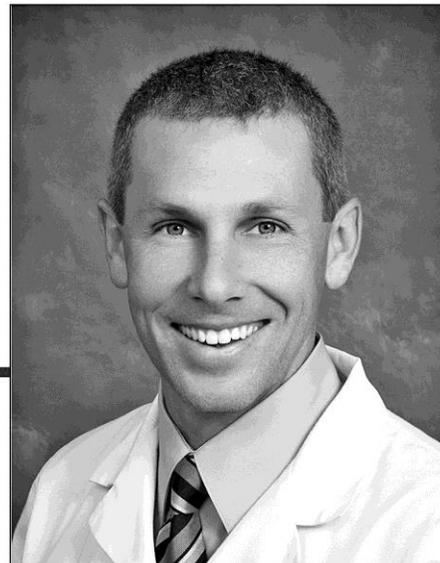


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PALM BEACH COUNTY TAX TIPS

The following information is taken from a newsletter circulated by the office of Ann Gannon, Palm Beach County Tax Collector

April is your last chance to sign up for a payment plan for your 2016 property tax bill. Below are the steps you should take if you still owe property taxes and our top tips and tricks to save time at our offices.

TIME SAVING TIPS

- **Go online.** You can renew motor vehicle and boat registrations, pay business taxes and make driver license appointments at www.pbctax.com. You can also check and compare the current wait times at each of our offices for specific services. This includes driver licenses/ID cards, title transfers, property taxes and vehicle registration renewals.
- **Avoid peak hours.** Offices are busiest from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also from 4 p.m. until we close at 5 p.m. For the shortest wait, arrive before our offices open at 8:15 a.m. We also recommend visiting Tuesdays, Wednesday or Thursdays. Lines are usually longest at the beginning and end of the week and month.
- **Don't wait until the last minute.** Offices stop driver license services when wait times exceed hours of operation. Plan to visit early in the day. If you need to take the computer-based driving test, arrive before 3 p.m. to give yourself enough time to finish. Better yet, make an appointment at www.pbctax.com.

SAVE MONEY

- Did you know you may pay property taxes in smaller quarterly payments instead of one lump sum? If you prefer this option, act now! The clock is ticking on the April 30 deadline to enroll in our Installment Payment Plan. Participants make four payments with a discount of slightly under 4%. Installments are due by the last day in June, September, December, and March. Sign up at www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan.

SAVE STRESS

- 2015 property taxes are now delinquent. Pay now to avoid the annual tax certificate sale on June 1, 2016. A tax certificate is a lien on your property. It's created when someone else pays your delinquent taxes. If you fail to pay delinquent taxes within two years, the tax certificate buyer can file a Tax Deed Application. This begins the foreclosure process, where your property can be sold at public auction.

- Delinquent property taxes are charged a minimum of 3% interest plus advertising fees. We only accept cash and certified funds including bank draft, money order, cashier's check, or wire transfer. Delinquent taxes cannot be paid online.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know Palm Beach County's single largest taxpayer owed \$77.4 million in property taxes in 2015? Find out who our top 10 taxpayers are and how much they owed in our new 2015 Annual Report. This publication also shows where tax dollars went, agency achievements and future plans. For free copies, go to ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com. You can also obtain our free 2016 Tax Planner and Services Guide, a calendar book containing information about all Tax Collector service lines.

THE PROBLEM WITH HANDS-FREE

- April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Unfortunately, distractions are everywhere. Auto manufacturers include technology that allow us to make hands-free phone calls, update social media and dictate text messages. Hands-free is not risk free. Our agency prohibits Tax Collector employees from using phones behind the wheel when driving for business purposes. I encourage you to put your phone down as well.

Wishing you peace, good health and happiness on Passover and always.



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Another Book to Check Out: “Career of Evil” by Robert Galbraith

By Stan Kaish

Author J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books have been one of the greatest publishing stories ever. The first, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone,” written while Rowling was on welfare, was submitted to and rejected by 12 publishers. It was reluctantly published by a thirteenth who printed 1,000 copies and advised the author to get a day job since she was unlikely to make much money with children’s books. As most of us know, his estimate was wildly off the mark. That first Harry Potter book was eventually followed by six more. Four hundred million copies of these works were sold, movies followed, and ten years later, she came to be named the twelfth wealthiest woman in England by the Sunday Times. I think we must agree it would normally take a boy wizard to make that happen.

All that is old but interesting news. In 2013, a new author, Robert Galbraith, published a crime novel called “The Cuckoo’s Calling.” Reviews were generally favorable, if not enthusiastic, and some 1500 copies were sold during the early months. The main character was a private eye, a six foot three inch, kind of scruffy, over weight ex- soldier named Cormoran Strike, who had lost the lower part of one of his legs in Afghanistan and walked with a painful limp. We are also introduced to Robin Ellacott, who is sent by a temp agency to work in Strike’s office for one week and manages to linger on and on to eventually become a regular in the agency. By story’s end, the two have solved a murder, disguised as a suicide, to great public acclaim.

The “Cuckoo’s Calling” languished in 4,709th place on Amazon’s list on July 13, 2013. On the 14th, it shot to number one on Amazon’s ranking when it was revealed that the book was written by Rowling under the pseudonym “Robert Galbraith.” Rowling, seeking an objective evaluation of her new direction, had submitted it under that name, and was reported to be displeased at the revelation of her authorship. Nevertheless, the secret was out, and when a second Cormoran Strike mystery, “The Silkworm,” appeared a year later, it enjoyed best seller status as well. Finally, in 2015 “Career of Evil” was published by Robert Galbraith, and it is that book I review here.

The book’s opening pages find Strike’s detective agency in its best financial shape ever. Publicity concerning the major cases he solved in books 1 and 2 has brought him a flood of the more mundane, but nevertheless profitable, private eye work such as photographing philanderers and finding runaway mates. He and Robin are quietly enjoying prosperity, when a package addressed to Robin arrives, and when opened, turns out to contain a recently severed woman’s leg. Questions arise: whose leg is it, why was it sent, and why was it addressed to Robin? And, of course, the crucial question is, who sent it? Gradually the first three questions get answered, but the last remains.

Periodically the book offers a chapter dedicated to the thoughts of the sender. We are never told who it is, but we do see that he is a crazed serial killer with a long-held grievance against Strike. His intention is to pay Strike back by killing Robin, ideally getting the crime pinned on Strike, but at a minimum enjoying Strike’s anguish at Robin’s death.

Strike suspects the sender might be one of four criminals he has dealt with in the past. We are given the histories of each, whom he, Robin, and the police set out to find and investigate. The trails have grown cold, and it takes much time and many pages to track them down. The hunt takes us through the seedier, more corrupt, and brilliantly depicted elements of London’s denizens. There are side plots concerning Robin’s relationship to her fiancée, Matthew, Strike’s ambivalence about it, the financial pressures on the agency resulting from the publicity attending the leg’s delivery, and police antipathy toward Strike due to his one-upping them by solving the crimes in the previous two books. In short, there is a lot going on.

Whether it is too much is up to each reader. Personally, I could have used a hundred fewer pages and not felt deprived. But fans of the Harry Potter books know that Rowling does not stint on plot or pages.

I think interested readers would want to sample this second coming of J.K Rowling in her new guise. She is good at it. Perhaps too good.





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APRIL 15: Usually The Most Taxing Day of the Year

by Stanley Kaish

First, if you'll indulge me, a little poem.
The month of April brings many good things,
Like Easter and Passover and the beginning of spring.
The Boston Marathon is on an April day,
And it's National Poetry Month, by the way.
So why with all these good things in play,
Does T.S. Eliot in his Waste Land say,
"April is the cruelest month," as he assays
This world we live in, with obvious dismay.
T.S. never says it, but when you think it through,
It must be that in April, income tax is due.

Since this month contains our most widely observed holiday, 'National Pay Your Tax Day,' I set out to write an amusing article on the subject. In the process of looking into it, I came to an interesting conclusion. The most amusing thing about our income tax system is how much it is deplored. We laugh at the absurd complexity of the code. We laugh at the ruthless behavior the IRS is said to employ to collect taxes. We laugh at the dishonesty people employ in efforts to reduce the amount they are taxed. The humor of the subject of taxes lies in the futility each of us experiences in coping, and the irony expressed once we realize how futile our coping mechanisms are.

Let me give you a few examples of what I am talking about. Begin with Mark Twain, quoted as observing, "What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin." Similar in spirit is the anonymous critic who asked and answered, "What's the difference between a tax auditor and a Rottweiler? A Rottweiler eventually lets go." Then there is Jay Leno's quip, "Worried about an IRS audit? Avoid what's called a red flag. That's something the IRS always looks for. For example, suppose you have some money left in your bank account after paying taxes. That's a red flag." Will Rogers suggests, "Income tax has made liars out of more Americans than golf."

And, of course, we know instinctively that "There will always be death and taxes; however, death doesn't get worse every year." Perhaps our cynicism is summed up by author Herman Wouk's observation, "income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today," topped

perhaps by the observation that "taxes with representation aren't so hot either."

On the subject of complexity, consider "The first U.S. tax code (1913) was 400 pages. It is now over 70,000 pages! The IRS sends out an average of 8 billion pages of paper every tax season. Just how much is that? Laid end-to-end, all those pieces of paper would wrap around Earth 28 times." Or "American taxpayers spend 5.4 billion hours (and \$200 billion) working to comply with federal taxes each year. That's a bigger yearly work force than it takes to produce every U.S. car, truck and van!" Are you finished laughing yet? No? That's understandable. If Albert Einstein is right that "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax," what chance do we have of getting it right?

Taxes aren't due this year until April 18. That's because we are celebrating Emancipation Day this year on April 15, a Friday, so we are emancipated from paying until the following Monday.

PET PATCH

By Molly



Dogs are just like human adults. As we get older, we change a bit – like most of my hair is gray now. And I've lost most of my teeth. But I can still eat! A couple of my Mom's friends asked her if she's going to get implants for me. Can you picture that? Sitting in a dentist's chair – open wide – and then ... I sure can't – it must be very expensive and I sure wouldn't want that.

The Easter bunny will be coming soon – he usually brings me candy, probably chocolate. That's my favorite, but I don't get much of it.

I'm so sad. My friend Jonim has gone to Doggy Heaven. I'll miss Jonim.

'Mom says "peak season" will be coming to an end soon. It's hard to believe that a lot of the Snowbirds will be going home soon. Have a safe trip home – see ya' next year.

SHH! DON'T SAY A WORD!

By Phyllis M. Cohen

So I see that Kim Kardashian is in the news again. All of her. Seems the self-promoted celebrity took it all off for a photo shoot creating a storm of remarks in that bastion of intellectual curiosity and debate, the social media. Apparently Sharon Osbourne also decided to appear in the buff in support of Kim's right to tell or show all. I was especially struck by the debate it roused on social media because just that same week, two friends had shared with me some stories about private matters that left me cringing and muttering, like the kids, TMI. Neither of them noticed me trying to dig a hole in the ground in which to bury myself to escape their revelations. And I blame it on my mother.

If my mother were alive today, she would be a big fan of the works of Mario Puzo and the television show, *The Sopranos*. Like the characters they depicted, my mother was a believer in the power of *Omerta*, the oath sworn by "family" members to keep crimes committed by the "family" secret from outsiders at all costs. Now I don't think the crimes she wanted to keep hidden were equal to the murder and mayhem these works portrayed (but who knows, she did believe in secrets) but her silence would have resisted Elliot Ness. Along with her usual instructions to her children upon leaving the house for any social occasion -- manners, clean hankies, etc. -- her final words always were, "Don't repeat anything that goes on inside our house." Looking back, it's easy to see why my mother wanted to erect this wall around our family life. This was an era when there was almost no privacy within the small apartments or homes we lived in. A neighborhood watch of gossipy women informed parents of every infraction committed upon the street or away from parental supervision.

But the main reason my mother was wrapped in this cone of silence was that old emotion of shame. It was terrible to have some bad deed committed by a family member (losing a job, drinking, dropping out of school, not making your bed were all more or less equally bad). But to have the neighbors or relatives know about it!

It's hard to see what stories I could have told as a child would have been interesting to outsiders. The big three topics of interest that captivate people were never discussed in my home: sex, sickness and death.

Sex and romantic love, as I knew about it through the MGM Technicolor movies, did not exist in Brooklyn

in the 1950's. Illness was never mentioned because that required a lot of "pooh-poohing" on the speaker's part, crossing of fingers, and warding off of the evil eye. The few times I heard the word "cancer" it was whispered, as if saying the word would invoke its presence. Death was not considered a topic to be brought up in front of children in our home.

But somewhere during the 1950's and 1960's, people's attitudes towards family privacy started to change. Everyone was to be more "laid-back," to let it all hang out, to communicate with their feelings. And television talk shows and books urged everyone to spill their guts. So now anytime of the day and night, you can treat yourself to a view of people who will cheerfully let you into their pigsty homes, regale you with their story of how they slept with their daughters' boyfriends, invite you to watch their undisciplined children run wild through their house, or share their tales of their crimes and passions. My question is, how does a participant in one of these media circuses show his or her face the next day in public after twenty million people have viewed their filthy underwear hanging in the living room, their three-year old cussing like a trooper or their revelations about their husband's penchant for wearing silk nighties. What can your neighbor or boss or son say to you when he or she meets you after your TV debut? "Your dog looked good!" Or better yet, "Lose my phone number."

Of course, the answer is that old bugaboo, shame, has disappeared along with carbon paper, typewriters and rotary phones. Sinning is still popular. But any fear of revealing it has now vanished. So along with us everyday sinners, politicians can lie with impunity, corporate executives can steal from their stockholders, and religious leaders and princes can have forbidden sexual dalliances and get away with it. It seems the more shame, the more gain. Ugh. They should have listened to my mother.



Stephen Karten



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STATE OF REALTY

By Stephen Karten & Alene Kristal



We find ourselves at a conference table in a lawyer's office in mid-town Manhattan for a closing of our apartment on the upper east side. As I sit there, I ask myself, why on earth are two seemingly bright people

paying us such a princely sum in cash, for this co-op? But who am I to look a gift horse in the mouth? Soon after, we are at another lawyer's office, closing on the new house we've purchased for near to the same price we sold the other property for, in a brand new, just recently constructed, beautiful, active, over 55, Toll Brothers community in central New Jersey (OMG, we are now part of "the bridge and tunnel crowd." We've moved from the sophistication of Manhattan to the wilds of NJ. We must be nuts!).

Fast forward: The year is 2012. We are at yet another conference table for a home closing; this time, for our house in Majestic Isles. Without going into all the gory details, by 2011 we had regretfully come to the conclusion that we needed to sell our dream home at Regency in Monroe Township, N.J. Needless to say, it was a bitter pill to swallow, but we knew we would survive. We were fortunate to be alive, healthy, in love, and moving to beautiful, sunny Florida, in a lovely community, looking forward to a bright future.

Why, you might ask, am I telling you all this? Real estate is a very mercurial commodity; perhaps a somewhat simplistic observation, but, nevertheless, true. Since moving to Majestic Isles, I got my Real Estate license, and started a new career. After learning the business, I'm finding that I'm having more fun than I thought I could still have while working. Wearing this new hat, I'm often asked how the market is progressing. Thus, here is my attempt to enlighten.

As the economy strengthens, property values are increasing. Home prices are moving up; much of which can be attributed to the fact that there is a shortage in inventory of houses for sale. At the current pace, the inventory of homes on the market stands at a four-month supply, while the norm is six to seven months.

As we all know, higher property values result in higher property taxes, a portion of which pays for our local schools. Thankfully, the Florida Legislature has

provided \$428 million in the state budget which is specifically aimed at lowering everyone's property taxes, while at the same time adding a line item to the budget supporting public schools. Hooray! Relief is in sight! No idea exactly when, though.

So what else do we have to look forward to?

Steady U.S. economic growth is projected to continue, lifting home sales moderately in 2016, both nationally and in Palm Beach County. But persistent inventory shortages will continue to drive home prices upward.

Caution: although we are still in a seller's market, November 2015 statistics showed signs that we are moving in the direction of a more neutral real estate market that favors neither seller nor buyer. The median sale price for single-family homes is leveling off, now fluctuating between \$285,000 and \$295,000.

According to market reports from Florida Realtors®, over 5,000 new listings hit the market in January, including 2,835 single family homes. Seller confidence is up, as it should be, as days on the market declined over the past year, and buyers paid 93.3% of original list prices for homes.

More specifically, here are some statistics for single family dwellings in Palm Beach County, comparing January 2015 to January 2016:

- a) closed sales are up 7.1%
- b) home prices have increased 4.1%
- c) the number of days on the market fell 15.4%
- d) the number of active listings fell 2%.

So, what are the property trends closer to home? In our own community, average prices were as follows:

	Aug. 2014 – Jan. 2015	Aug. 2015 – Jan. 2016
Villa	\$207,667	\$231,751
Free standing	\$285,000	\$296,334

Isn't this great news? Clearly, we are on the same trajectory as the national average, and we're doing much better than the county average.

The current picture shows that there are 10 homes in Majestic Isles now on the market, and 3 are pending and in contract. The average asking price is \$269,000, with Villas ranging from a low of \$219,000 to a high of \$277,700. Freestanding homes are, of course, higher priced (\$339,900 and \$375,000), as they tend to be on larger lots and have

Continued on page 23

START SPREADING THE NEWS, I'M LEAVING TODAY . . .

By Liz Hopwood



Start spreading the news, I'm leaving today . . .

I totally understand what Frank Sinatra meant when he sang, "if I can make it there, I can make it anywhere." I wish I didn't but, indeed, I do.

It was the fall of 2006 when my husband decided that we should visit his aunt and uncle on Long Island. We had been retired long enough to have traveled extensively and I was exhausted from having made the hotel and travel arrangements. We are supposed to be a team. We were going to visit his relatives; it seemed only fair that he should make the arrangements.

On many different levels, trust can be a fragile thing in a marriage. My trust of my husband's ability to make adequate travel accommodations ended in New York City. I cannot say that I was not forewarned as each time I asked, "Where are we staying?" there was no reply. I assumed his deafness was increasing exponentially. Regardless, I know my husband to be a romantic and I imagined that we were staying at the Trump Tower or some other fabulous hotel with tickets to see several plays after having completed the visit to Long Island. Wrong.

We emerged from the train system and I insisted upon walking to the hotel. I wanted to savor the flavor of New York City, a totally new experience, with all the traffic, buildings and people. The only reference my husband made to the hotel was that it was "just down the street . . . very close to the Kennedy Center," but I became silently anxious when he said that we would have our own private bathroom. While savoring the flavor of my experience and excitement, I thought to myself "What hotel room does not have a private bath?" All my silent questions were unambiguously answered when we stopped at the YMCA!!!! My savoring, soaring heart fell to my vagabond shoes.

Frantically I start calling hotels for other accommodations not caring about the cost. There

were no rooms available anywhere in all of NYC. I had forgotten that this was the fifth anniversary of 9/11. With each passing moment, the realization of being at the YMCA took on additional horrors. As my husband registered, he was passed linens which had a thread count of zero as they were made from cardboard. Looking at my fellow lodgers, not one of them spoke English nor were any over 25. As we got on to the elevator, my husband whispered that our private bathroom accommodation had been given to someone else and we would have to use the communal bathroom. Just when I thought nothing could get worse, I walked into the minuscule room which had a lockless door and saw the unstable bunk beds with cheap, hard green vinyl mattress covers. There was a very small 1972 black and white TV sitting on a tiny quivering table to go with the 1960 black table phone. I thought that if I killed my husband, there was just enough room to hold his cold standing body in the infinitesimal closet. Hearing that we are going to be "out in the city" did not relieve the pain of three days in this waste disposal site where I had become an unwilling hostage.

I was mortified when I had to go to the communal bathroom. Hair of various lengths and colors filled the shower drain; there were no paper toilet seat covers. Regrettably and with much embarrassment, I must admit that I stole toilet seat covers from Tiffany's where I had gone to purchase an expensive piece of jewelry to salve my wounded spirit and bleeding soul.

The nights were far from restful. One night the halls were filled with running and screaming middle school students who repeatedly barged into our room which had no lock. Much to my own irritation I had to get up to "herd" the students into their respective rooms threatening to call security (as if there were any) with each step. On 9/11, while getting dressed, we turned on the TV to CBS and saw every one of those middle school monsters that I had herded into their rooms angelically singing "God Bless America."

Before the trip I had casually mentioned that I wanted to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and to see Central Park. I had in mind a romantic carriage ride. My husband's city map indicated we could cut across the Park to get to the Museum. After hours of walking he declared the map "must not be drawn to scale." I felt like I was making the movie *The Out-*

Continued on page 23

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LIBRARIANS' TIPS ON FAMILY RESEARCH

By Ray Kozlin

Right after I finished last month's article about genealogical research, Mort Mazor had an article in the Boynton Forum about a presentation given at the Hagen Ranch Library by librarian Jayme Bosio.

Ms. Bosio identified the United States Federal Census, which the government started to take in 1790, as a valuable online source of information. In 1850, the census first listed every free person's name, rather than just the head of the household. The 1940 census is the latest census currently available to the public. Different questions are asked during each census, so it is important to check each one that is available.

The librarian also offered several other tips:

- **Vital records** (birth, death, marriage, divorce): "Many states did not start registering birth and deaths until the first part of the 20th century. A good source of birth and death records before that time was churches and other religious institutions. The clerk's office where your family lived may have records available online."
- **Arrival records:** (Ship manifests, border crossing records for those who came over from Mexico or Canada.) "There are over 300 official ports of entry, so don't stop with Ellis Island. Check the 1920 census for the date when your ancestor immigrated to the United States. Before 1906 any court of record had naturalization authority, so be sure to find out the date your ancestor was naturalized first."
- **"Obituaries** are rich in genealogical information, but not everyone had one published after their death. Check the local library where your ancestor lived. Many libraries have microfilm of the local paper and provide obituary services. Even if they do not have an obituary, you might want to check the newspaper for articles about your ancestor.
- **"National Archives** hold federal military records, as far back as the revolutionary war to the present. Types of records include draft registration cards, pension records and bounty land warrants. Where you look will depend on dates your ancestor served, whether officer or enlisted, among other topics.
- **"Court records** including wills, land records, guardianship records, naturalization records, and marriage records among others. If you have to go in person, try to get what you can from the Internet.

Check books and articles for transcribed records of wills and marriage records."

Many library books are available, including "The Everything Guide To On-Line Genealogy" by Kimberly Powell, "Genealogy On-Line Text To Connect" and "Genealogy On-Line For Dummies," both by Matthew L. Helm and April Helm.

As I mentioned in previous articles, the best bet would be to join a genealogy group or association, where they have big groups that may be researching the same area that you are.

Material that appeared in the Boynton Forum of Feb. 10, 2016 is reprinted with permission of that publication.

Reel Impressions "CONCUSSION"

By Edye Frankel



It's quite surprising to me that the issue of sports related concussions has taken so long to surface....but then when "sports mania" takes hold, little else matters.

Then, in walks a Nigerian immigrant who happens to be a doctor, and who soon became the NFL's worst nightmare. As he dissects bodies in the coroner's office, he observes the brain of Iron Mike Webster and then concludes that the head-butting on the field led to memory loss, dementia and his untimely death. He names the disorder chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and begins a crusade to warn players, pro and amateur, of a condition that could not be detected until after a patient's death. He manages to get the support of a few prominent people, but the protection of 'profits' for the NFL takes precedence.

The good doctor, Dr. Bennet Omalu (Will Smith) does not give up, even under threats of losing his job. The story is very gripping, and the acting of Will Smith is exquisite, even his mastery of the accent. This issue is such an important one.

When you see this movie, you will, undoubtedly be entertained, but most of all moved by how serious



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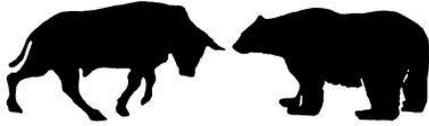


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INVESTORS DISCUSSION GROUP

By Bill Harris, facilitator



I don't believe it! The volatility in this market is absolutely astounding! When I left the USA on vacation to Israel two weeks ago, the DOW was approaching 16,000 in its continued fall towards last year's lows. **AAPL**, a stock that I own and closely watch was down to \$93 a share, just ripe for picking.

Now, in the second week of March, the DOW has reversed direction, punching through 17,000, possibly on track to recoup the remaining 48% of its losses following the late August through early September 2015 market meltdown. **AAPL** is up 10%, from a new support level at \$93 a share, and analysts have set a target price of \$140 for its shares by year's end. With WTI crude down to \$37.50/bbl, it seems as if oil prices and the stock market have finally decoupled. The China doom and gloom phenomenon, that earlier this year fueled talk of a bear market and looming recession, seems to have been replaced by European joy and euphoria, spurring the market higher, irrespective of what the Fed did, might and might not do. In short, we seem on the verge of a resurgent bull market.

Could this be true? Will the market really be going up? Or will it go down again? Or will it go sideways? Of course it will. Regardless of which market trend we are in or which will potentially develop, we should invest only in those stocks with the proper valuation metrics, and of these, preferably those with a history of regularly growing their dividends. To diversify and reduce risk we should consider investing in mutual funds and sector ETFs. Don't chase the high-flyer "wannabes" whose momentum based on hype is all they have to sustain them before they crash and burn. To this end, our March 14 meeting was devoted to a "Back to the Basics" approach to picking stocks, preferably winners.

Our next meeting will be Monday April 11 at 4 PM in the upstairs card room. As to our agenda, I'll leave that up to you. **E-mail your suggestions to me by April 6 at gedoc11@me.com**
I'm sure our April 11 meeting, with your help, can be our usual fantastic mix of timely review, instruction

and discussion. Any questions as to Schedule D and its Forms 1099-INT, -DIV or -B can also be considered. Watch Channel 63 for an agenda update.

Disclaimer. — Opinions expressed above are those of the facilitator alone. Although the facilitator owns stock in Apple, Inc., he neither recommends nor disparages the purchase or sale of AAPL or any other equity without first doing your own research and conducting an independent due diligence investigation.

STATE OF REALTY

Continued from page 18

more square footage. In general, prices vary depending on location ie: water views, proximity to El Clair Gate, close to clubhouse, etc., garage size, and, most importantly, whether the kitchen or other rooms have been renovated.

If the foregoing asking prices are realized, the upward trend in our home values will continue. With the prices now being paid for homes in Palm Beach County at 93.3% of the listing price, sellers in Majestic Isles should be in excellent shape. However, just a word of advice should you care to put your house on the market, don't let these statistics carry you away to the point where you overprice your home. Even though the outlook is good, and getting better, we need to be realistic.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Continued from page 19

of-Towners. Exhausted, I hailed a taxi which took us three blocks, turned right and let us out. I had walked so much I was unable to enjoy the art institute.

Sensing my displeasure and disgust with this unbearable trip, my husband booked a night city tour which turned out to be the highlight, but my longed for fantasy trip was dashed. I did get to walk through the shops of Trump Tower but never saw a play. Someday I would like to see the real New York City - the one in all the movies. But I learned an invaluable lesson: if it is my fantasy, I need to arrange it myself. Although I love and trust my husband, he has never made another travel arrangement. He cannot believe I am putting this article in the newsletter. My regret is that it isn't going into The New York Times.

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Gardening in the Isles

By

Stan Davidson

Many times we observe unwanted plants growing out of control in our lawns. These plants are defined as weeds. The weed population germinates from poorly managed lawns and is spread from the wind, rain, animals, and landscapers not keeping mowers clean. Weeds affect the appearance of our lawns and can reduce curb appeal.

First and foremost is proper lawn management. Proper lawn management ensures a dense thriving turf that the weeds cannot out-compete. A thriving lawn shades the soil so that sunlight cannot reach the germinating weed seeds. A thick turf is like thick carpet fibers that minimize the physical space in a rug. In the case of a thick carpet, the dirt does not become embedded between the fibers. Likewise, a healthy lawn thickness prevents the weed from becoming established.

Next, what tools does one need to grow healthy grass? The first tool is the proper grass cultivar. (A cultivar is a plant that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding.) For several reasons, in most of south Florida, St. Augustine grass is planted. It performs well in our sandy soil and withstands the climatic conditions in Florida. Several different cultivars of St. Augustine grass are used in south Florida. In our community, we have extensively used the cultivar Floratam and, in some shady areas, Palmetto. There are several disadvantages to using St. Augustine turf grass. It does not remain green during drought conditions, it is susceptible to lawn funguses, and can have chinch bug damage during our hot summer months. Also, I hear complaints that the coarse blade texture of this grass is objectionable to some people, because it resembles crab grass.

Excellent “tools” to have in your lawn bucket are proper fertilization, pest control, mowing and irrigation. These important “tools” influence the overall health of turf grass and can reduce or increase its acceptance of stress, including weeds, disease and insects. An example of stress is turf grass damage due to compaction by automobile tires, especially when the soil is saturated with water. As a result, the grass cannot extract oxygen as well as it can under better growing conditions. Therefore, weed growth is encouraged.

Other lawn weed control tools include: hand- pulling of weeds (if only a few weeds are present), mowing at a proper height (3 inches), proper irrigation (1 inch of water a week), and applications of both pre- and post- emergent weed killers.

In the past, to maintain a healthy weed-free lawn, I have recommended that a lawn management program that is endorsed by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service be effected 4 times a year as follows:

- In February, apply a combination pre-emergent granular lawn fertilizer and weed killer
- In May, apply a granular lawn fertilizer
- In July-August, apply a granular fertilizer in combination with pest/disease control
- In November, apply a combination post-emergent granular lawn fertilizer

Happy Gardening!

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THE GRUDGE REPORT

(UNCENSORED, UNBIASED, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS YOU WILL NOT FIND IN ANY OTHER NEWSLETTER)

Flash from our snoopy, invasive, roaming reporter who has been secretly recording news items in many places where our residents gather and talk.

POLITICS, POLITICS

In a behind closed door session in the clubhouse, our political action committee met to discuss a pre-election discussion involving candidates from all parties. Tempers flared when a proposal to serve food to the attendees was met with protests over whether offering pastrami to Democrats or roast beef to Republicans was racial or religious profiling. A compromise solution to offer quiche or sushi was dismissed as elitist that only college graduates would appreciate. The green team suggested that only organic, free range, fair trade, locally grown items be offered on recyclable paper goods. At midnight it was finally agreed that food purchased no further away than the nearest Publix would suffice. No teabags, however, would be available and water in paper cups was to be the sole beverage.

ROMANCE, ROMANCE

Romance is in the air with our *Younger Than Spring Time Club* suggesting we set up a speed dating party. Considering the average age of the residents, the speedier the better. However, it was agreed that instead of the 15 to 20 minutes usually allowed for couples to switch partners, a half hour would be permitted to accommodate creaky back and sore knees that make going from table to table difficult.

LOST AND FOUND

On Wednesday, March 28 a Silver alert was issued by the Florida State Police when a tour boss from our community with 27 octogenarian gamblers failed to return from a day spent at the Hard Rock Gambling Casino. The tour bus company located the driver and bus at the Golden Corral parking lot in YeeHaw Junction. The driver explained that several of the men had hit small jackpots and were anxious to try their luck in Atlantic City. Everyone else went along for the ride. One of the wives contacted later by phone declared they would all return when their money and/or underwear ran out. (And they did).

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Resident artist and seamstress, Mary B, has devised a fabulous tote bag to take along to restaurants to bring home leftovers in lieu of those infamous doggy bags. The glamorous bag in a variety of beautiful fabrics is insulated with separate compartments and looks so much like a Gucci bag that you can snag your leftovers in the fanciest place without raising eyebrows. Good for toting to the movies too, so you can sneak in your own candy and soda pop. A man bag version will soon be available for the thrifty guys in our community.

YOU BETCHA!

The Palm Beach County Gaming Commission has agreed to allow slot machines in the clubhouse after a petition from some of our residents confirmed that they were the last members of a famous Indian tribe, the Canarsie Indians and thus were entitled to run an Indian gambling concession. Six slot machines will be installed and the money from the gambling concession will be allotted to the indigent elderly as well as the tribal members. Originally, it was believed that there were about 15 to 20 remaining Indians but since the concession was awarded, almost 400 have come forward.

THE DOUGHNUT HOLE TOUR

Our intrepid travel group, *the Adventurers* is planning a super fired tour to Canada which will combine sightseeing with frequent stops at Canadian pharmacies to allow the purchase of cut-rate prescription drugs for seniors who have exhausted their benefits. There will be no tours of doughnut shops as first assumed.

MORE FOOD!

In response to repeated requests from residents to have some type of food service at the pool and club house, *the Bored Directors* have authorized the entry of food trucks every day that will offer various types of food, from sushi to tacos to hot dogs. They're popular in Miami and big cities and now residents will have even more of an opportunity to indulge in cholesterol, salt and sugar as they eat around the world as well as around the clock. The exercise class will expand to two hours a day. An additional cardiac defibrillator will also be purchased. *April Fool from the resident April Fool. PMC*

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MAJESTICS BOWLING LEAGUE Spares and Strikes

By Joyce Stoudermire

HIGH GAME

HIGH SERIES

Week 22 – MEN:

Bob Wolff	182	Ken Ramnarine	447
Ken Ramnarine	164	Bob Wolff	418
Jerry Elefson	162	Jerry Elefson	417
Michael Neikrug	162		

Week 22 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder	141	Estelle Snyder	386
Joyce Stoudermire	139	Ilene Gross	381
Ilene Gross	138	Joyce Stoudermire	351

Week 23 - MEN

Ken Ramnarine	207	Ken Ramnarine	570
Marty Ratiner	168	Michael Neikrug	433
Michael Neikrug	166	Marty Ratiner	428

Week 23 – WOMEN

Ilene Gross	166	Ilene Gross	477
Carol Stevens	150	Carol Stevens	360
Toni Kohn	145	Toni Kohn	359

Week 24 – MEN

Ken Ramnarine	214	Ken Ramnarine	595
Bob Wolff	198	Bob Wolff	481
Steve Herbin	163	Steve Herbin	420

Week 24 – WOMEN

Ilene Gross	178	Ilene Gross	432
Natalie Herbin	163	Eselle Snyder	387
Joyce Stoudermire	148	Natalie Herbin	385

Week 25 – MEN

Michael Neikrug	209	Michael Neikrug	494
Steve Herbin	175	Steve Herbin	473
Marty Ratiner	164	Marty Ratner	459

Week 25 – WOMEN

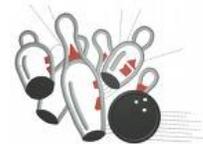
Ilene Gross	149	Ilene Gross	435
Natalie Herbin	148	Natalie Herbin	423
Joyce Stoudermire	142	Joyce Stoudermire	404

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN HIGH SCORERS:

Ken Ramnarine 207 (week 23) and 214 (week 24); Michael Neikrug 209 (week 25); and Bob Wolff 198 (week 24).

Carol Stevens 150 (week 23); Ilene Gross 178 (week 24); and Natalie Herbin 163 (week 24).

Happy Bowling!



SINGLES

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermack

Here we are in April, and we are still talking about the events of the past year. We keep going forward and we have lots of plans for the future.



We are looking forward to our April pot luck dinner and games afterwards. All members are preparing great meals; however, we should say some are preparing and some are buying great meals.

We have appetizers, main dishes and side dishes and of course we are having wonderful desserts. We also are bringing our favorite drinks. We do not know how we will play our games we will be so full. Thanks to Doris Robin, Linda Kessler and their committee.

In May, we are looking forward to our annual trip to Harrids Ballet and the superb dinner at the Kee Grill. This event will be opened to non-members once we see how many tickets we can purchase.

Because of a conflict with another club's trip, our Marco Island trip will have to be postponed. However, we will wait patiently until summer. For June and July, we are looking into the available shows. As usual we wish you all a healthy, happy month until we write again.

SOCIAL CLUB

by Arlene Koch

The Social Club's 2016 Series ended with "Modi" on March 26 and contracts have been signed for the 2017 Series. January 28 we will have a terrific singer, Daniel Panetta, accompanied by a trio. Singer, Carolyn Smylie and comedian, Don Gavin, will be entertaining us on February 25 and March 25 we end the series with four dynamic singers, "Flashback Four." The price remains the same \$75 p.p. for the 3 shows and \$30 p.p. for each individual show. Forms for the series are in the back lobby.



Our next meeting on April 3, we have booked the Boynton Beach Community High School Chorus. Please sign up and come and enjoy the evening with the voices of this outstanding group,

Future programs for the Social Club are: April 16 with a show featuring singer and comedian Elissa Solomon and Gene Merolo - \$15p.p. We will have a Memorial Day Party on May 30 with Larry Brendler and singer providing the music. We will have kosher food available. Watch Channel 63 for more information. On October 29, Luisa Lubell and guest will be doing a tribute to Sarah Brightman. Please mark your calendars for these Social Club programs.

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SATURDAY, MAY 7, At the height of the Cold War in 1960, the downing of an American spy plane and the pilot's subsequent capture by the Soviets draws Brooklyn attorney James Donovan into the middle of an intense effort to secure the aviator's release.

NOTE: We show our films with closed captioning. *The film descriptions are taken from the Netflix website.*

MEN'S CLUB

By Joel Cohen

Please note that the \$20 Men's Club dues are now overdue. We would appreciate it if you would drop your check off at the clubhouse mailbox.

We are still reviewing options for this season and are considering a casino trip in Feb. and possibly another in April.

There is another casino trip we might consider. It is the casino boat from Riviera Beach. It goes out for five hours and offers a buffet lunch and some play money. The cost is \$36 per person. We will keep you informed.



MAJESTIC ISLES TRAVEL CLUB

By Doris Davidoff



In March we visited the beautiful Fairchild's Tropical Botanic Gardens in Coral Gables. We could not have ordered better weather. The Travel Club's record of rain-free trips continued.

Everyone enjoyed the one-hour guided tram tour, where we learned a lot about the history of the Gardens and information about many of the flowers and plants we saw. After our tram tour of the gardens, we enjoyed lunch in their café.

After lunch, we returned to our motorcoach for the ride to FAU's library for a presentation of their unique books exhibits. They have some fascinating books that don't always look or act like typical books. It's hard to describe these books, but we were all very impressed with some of the creativity of the creators.

Our next trip is an overnight excursion that will feature a Murder Mystery Dinner Train. This is a fun-filled experience that everyone should enjoy. The dates are May 11-12. Check Channel 63 and the flyers in the back for the full information and reservation form for this trip.

We are planning a fall trip to Branson, where had a wonderfully successful trip there a few years ago. Many have requested that we go back there again.

We are investigating several possibilities for future major trips. We have had requests for Hawaii, which would be a cruise with a couple of days before the cruise on Oahu. Another request is to do another riverboat cruise.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other trips as they are developed. Come to our quarterly meetings, watch Channel 63 and look for our flyers in the back lobby of the Clubhouse. Our next meeting will be on April 10 at 11:00 A.M. The Travel Club is open to all Majestic Isles residents and their friends and relatives, Email dorisdav@aol.com to be added to our email list. There is no membership fee to belong to the Travel Club.

WOMEN'S CLUB

By Joyce Milbauer, President

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our wonderful Chinese luncheon at the clubhouse. We anticipate a wonderful time afternoon for all attendees!



On Sunday May 1 we will be having our annual Parents' Day Party at Broken Sound Country Club in Boca Raton. We will have a lovely buffet Lunch for members and guests. The cost is \$38 for members and \$45 for non-members and guests. There will also be an entertainer.

June 1-2, 2016: There will be an overnight bus trip to Ft. Myers. There is a signup sheet in the back of the club house. More details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: September 12, 2016: We are planning a trip to Costume World. We will keep you updated as the time gets closer!

If you have not done so already, Please put a \$15 check in the Women's Club mailbox for your 2016 dues.

BOOK TALKS

By Judy Markowitz

MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON



Join us for a book talk on Elizabeth's Stroud's newest book, "My Name is Lucy Barton" on Wednesday, April 13 at 2 p.m at the clubhouse. Claire Deveney will be our presenter.

Note the earlier date for this book talk because of the holidays. Everyone welcome.

MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER March 12 & 13, 2016

By Selma Friedman



“Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike,” a comedy by Christopher Dureng, was a huge success for a well-deserved cast, director Edd Bloom, Assistant Director Barbara Portnoff, and assistant Roberta Jaffie. That was a monumental undertaking insofar as dialogue that required memorization, but it all came together beautifully as these six pros took hold of their characters and made them come alive with all their personality quirks, deep-seated fears and self-doubts. The dialogue was truly funny and they went after every laugh, even adding some openly physical accompaniment to enhance the lines. They are all to be commended: Marilyn Chermak, Francine Gitto, Isabel Lubchansky, Iris Rothstein, Lenny Schwartz, and Ed Stauber.

After the curtain calls, Ed Stauber acknowledged Edd Bloom and Barbara Portnoff saying, “Thank you for a great job.” May we add “Thank you for a great job to the entire cast.”

We welcome and appreciate the Production Staff, the unsung heroes, several of whom are new to participation in M.I.L.T.: costumes and props, Francine Gitto, Gerry Herman, Harriet Kutner, and Judy Zied; Stage Manager, Mark Jaffie; Publicity, Art, and Program, Doris Davidoff, Jerry Fefferman, and Ray Kozlin; Sound Effects, Ed Strauber; Sound, Ed Mordis; Lighting, Marty Baron and Ed Gerard; Production Set, Marty Baron; Cast Photographer, Stan Rothstein; Videographer, Ira Schneider; Dressers, Nancy Levitan and Ellie Rogg; Play Coaches and Readers, Seena Calder, Jacquie Hasko, Gerry Herman, and Roberta Jaffie; Ticket Committee, Helen Benowich and Marilyn Broth. If any M.I.L.T. member would like to participate in any upcoming show or workshop, just contact any board member. It’s Fun!

Many thanks as always to the hospitality committee. Ladies, your efforts and smiles are always appreciated.

My closing remark to all participating in this great show – as Dr. Spock said, “Be well and prosper.”

HADASSAH

By Ellin Goldstein



The Hadassah board will meet on Monday April 11, at 10:30 a.m. Note the earlier date. The next general meeting will be Monday, April 18 at 12:30 p.m.; note the time and date. The speaker, Doris Davidoff, will speak about “English is fun, but very confusing.” Remember: doors open at 12:30 p.m. for coffee and.... There will be no charge at the door. Bring a dollar for the lucky buck drawing.

Elaine Grossman has not yet announced a place for the April 17 dine-around, but will let us know as soon as arrangements are finalized. Elaine continues to collect kippot and tallitot.

Rosh Chodesh will be observed Friday April 8 at Morikami Picnic area at 10:00 a.m.

Bricks are still being sold for \$18 each, with the money going toward the completion of the Sarah Wetsman tower. Call Lee Katz for more information.

We are also still selling personal listings and ads for the upcoming Hadassah Calendar. Call Beverly Jaffe for further information or to obtain the forms. Remember all forms should have been handed in by the end of March.

Continue working on making donor for next year. Donor has been raised to \$180 for a member to be invited. Any guest will cost an additional \$180 in donor credit.

See you at the meeting.

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PAP CORPS

By Renee Stichel

Here we are again, and we are very proud to say our February meeting was a fabulous success, thanks to all you wonderful members and our excellent entertainment. For those who missed our movement therapist, he was not only informative for seniors, he was extremely funny. Thanks to our board for all they do to make our meetings so successful and again thanks to Selma for her choice in entertainment. She has not missed a beat yet.

In March, we saw the musical *Chicago* performed by high school students and everyone said they were as good as professionals. What a wonderful afternoon.

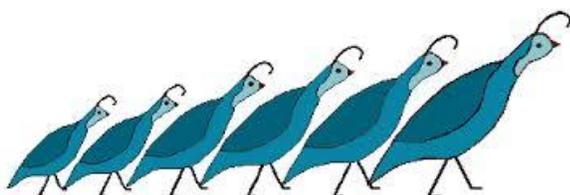
We expect our March game and lunch afternoon to be a tremendous success as we sold out!!! Thanks to all our members and family and friends for the prizes. The great food will be catered by Flakowitz and, in addition, we will have a nice selection of snacks to enjoy while we are playing.

April will be our annual membership appreciation meeting where we always serve our Chinese food catered by the Bamboo Wok. This is for members only so get your dues in before April 14th. We intend to have lots of fun and show our appreciation to all our members.

In May, we end our season with the delicious desserts from our marvelous board. Coffee and tea will be served for your pleasure with our delicacies and you will be entertained as well.

Thanks to all our members and others for supporting us in our fight to rid cancer from our vocabulary...keep supporting PAP..

Renee, Marilyn, Ellie



PICKLEBALL @ MAJESTIC ISLES

By Jerry Ehrlich



By the time you get to read this article, two pickleball courts will have been installed on courts 3 and 4 tennis courts. The board of directors approved this on the March 17 board meeting. We thank all seven board members, who said yes to the courts.

The pickleball courts will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays. Stay tuned to channel 63 as to when lessons will begin. Please remember to wear tennis sneakers when you play. Please sign up in the back lobby if you would like to take a lesson. The cost will be \$5 per person for a morning lesson.

Ed Strauber, Jerry Elefson, and I are very excited to get started making this sport grow in our community.

See You On The Courts....

A VERY BIG THANK YOU
to
LOIS KAISH
and
ALENE KRISTAL
For their editorial help
with this issue

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ACTIVITY CALENDAR

April 2016

APRIL

2	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Movie Time	(p, h)
3	Sun	9:30 a.m. 7:30p.m.	Men's Club Social Club	Breakfast Meeting	(f, h) (f, h)
4	Mon	3:00 p.m.	News n Views	Discussion	(f, h)
5	Tues	11:00 a.m.	Calendar	Meeting	(f, h)
6	Wed	11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Sing for Fun Board of Director's Chess Club	Meeting	(f, h) (f, h)
8	Fri	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Newsletter Singles' Meeting	Meeting Pot Luck Dinner	(f, h) (f, h)
10	Sun	11:00a.m. 7:30 p.m	Travel Club MILT	Meeting Workshop	(f, h) (p, h)
11	Mon	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m	News n Views Board of Director's Investment Group	Discussion Workshop Discussion	(f, h) (f, h) (f, h)
13	Wed	11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Sing for Fun Neighbor 2 Neighbor Book Talks Chess Club	Library Discussion	(f, h) (f, h) (f, h) (f, h)
14	Thurs	12:00 p.m.	PAP Corps	Meeting	(p, h)
16	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Show Time	(p, h)
17	Sun	12 noon – 7 p.m.	Hadassah	Dine-a-round	(p, a)
18	Mon	12:30 p.m.	Hadassah	Meeting	(f, h)
20	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		(f, h)
21	Thurs	2:00 p.m.	Board of Director's	Meeting	(f, h)
25	Mon	3:00 p.m.	News n Views	Discussion	(f, h)
27	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		(f, h)

Watch channel 63 for additions, cancellations, or changes in date or time.

For additional information, please contact an officer of the appropriate club,
not the Majestic Isles Office.

f = free, p = paid, a= way, h = home

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